

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2237A PRIVATE

J. MC CABE

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

24TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 31

James McCABE

James McCabe was born on 19th October, 1887 at Charters Towers, Queensland to parents Thomas John & Catherine May McCabe (nee Macpherson).

James McCabe married Annie Doane on 13th June, 1911 in Queensland.

Births were registered in Queensland for the following children of James & Annie McCabe: Doris Ellen McCabe (born 31st December, 1911); James Thomas McCabe (born 1st July, 1914; died 2nd July, 1914).

James McCabe was a 28 year old, married, Lengthsman from Sadd's Lane, Charters Towers, Queensland when he enlisted on 17th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Annie McCabe, Sadd's Lane, Charters Towers, Queensland.

Private James McCabe was posted to 4th Reinforcements of 25th Battalion on 17th August, 1915.

Private James McCabe, Service number 2237, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Armada* (A26) on 18th September, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.

25th Battalion

The 25th Battalion was raised at Enoggera in Queensland in March 1915 as part of the 7th Brigade. Although predominantly composed of men recruited in Queensland, the battalion also included a small contingent of men from Darwin. The battalion left Australia in early July, trained in Egypt during August, and by early September was manning trenches at Gallipoli.

At Gallipoli the 7th Brigade reinforced the depleted New Zealand and Australian Division. The 25th Battalion, however, had a relatively quiet time because the last major Allied offensive had been launched, and turned back, in the previous month. It left the peninsular on 18 December 1915.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James McCabe joined 9th Battalion at Habieta on 28th February, 1916. (Note: One Statement of Service form & Purport Card recorded he was transferred from 25th Battalion to 9th Battalion on 4th March, 1916; another recorded date as 28th February, 1916).

Private James McCabe proceeded from Alexandria on *Saxonia* on 27th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916.

A birth was registered in Queensland for Edna May McCabe (born 17th May, 1916), daughter of James & Annie McCabe.

Private James McCabe was wounded in action in France on 23rd July, 1916. He was admitted to 24th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 24th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right Eye. Private McCabe was transferred to Calais on 1st August, 1916 & embarked for England on Hospital *Ship Newhaven* the same day.

9th Battalion

The 9th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Queensland, and with the 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

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After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. It was split to help form the 49th Battalion and bought up to strength with reinforcements. In March 1916 the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley. The 9th Battalion attacked on the extreme right of the line and it was during this action that Private John Leak won, with the bayonet, the battalion's only Victoria Cross.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 9th Battalion

CONTALMAISON – 22nd July, 1916 – For particulars of operations see attached report.

Report on Operations carried out by 9th Infantry Battalion commencing 19th July and concluding 0400 25th July, 1916;

On 21st July orders were issued for the 1st Aust. Divn. To attack the enemy's defences surrounding the village of POZIERES on the night 22nd/23rd. The 1st Infantry Bde. was allotted the left sector, the 3rd Inf. Bde, the right sector and the 9th Bn was given the right flank of the 3rd Bde. Sector.

....

Our casualties during the three operations were 3 Officers killed, 2 Off. Missing (believed killed) 8 Off. wounded.

54 O.R. killed 63 O.R. missing and 263 O.R. wounded. Total 393.

ALBERT – 26th July, 1916 – Passed through ALBERT about daybreak and bivouaced on the outskirts.....

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James McCabe was admitted to Military Hospital, Frenshaw Hill, England on 2nd August, 1916 with G.S.W. to left Eye (as recorded on Casualty Form – Active Service & Statement or Service form. The Hospital Admissions form had recorded admitted with "G.S.W left eye but this was crossed out & replaced with "right eye"). He was transferred to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot on 8th August, 1916. Private McCabe was admitted to 2nd London General Hospital on 18th August, 1916 with Intramacular (?) haemorrhage.

Base Records advised Mrs Annie McCabe, Sadds Lane, Charters Towers, Queensland on 16th August, 1916 that her husband Private James McCabe had been wounded.

Private James McCabe was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital on 9th November, 1916 from 2nd London General Hospital with G.S.W. to right Eye. He was discharged to duty on 3rd March, 1917. Private McCabe was transferred from 9th Battalion Infantry to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital on 3rd March, 1917 as Staff. (Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he was detached for duty from 9th Battalion on 3rd March, 1917 to No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford).

Private James McCabe was admitted as a patient to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 27th August, 1917 with V.D. 20 (Prostitute). He was discharged to duty on 4th September, 1917. Total V.D. period – 9 days.

Private James McCabe was admitted as a patient to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 8th September, 1917 with Haemorrhoids. He was discharged to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford – Staff on 19th September, 1917. Private McCabe was marched in to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital on 20th September, 1917.

Private James McCabe was on strength of 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England on 25th February, 1918. (This was usually reported when there had been no movements or injuries, illness etc for a period of time).

Private James McCabe was admitted to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 25th March, 1918, as a patient, with Urethritis. He was transferred to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on the same day.

A death was registered in Queensland for Doris Ellen McCabe (died 29th March, 1917), daughter of James & Annie McCabe.

Private James McCabe was discharged from 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford on 11th April, 1918. He was marched in to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 13th April, 1918.

Private James McCabe reported sick on 11th November, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 12th November, 1918 with Influenza (The Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted on 9th November, 1918). His condition was reported to be dangerously ill.

Private James McCabe died at 05.30 am on 24th November, 1918 at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England from Influenza. (The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Influenza for last 16 days. Double Broncho Pneumonia Died 5.30 am 24.11.18.*")

A death for James McCabe, aged 32, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Dartford, Kent, England.

Base Records advised Mrs Annie McCabe, Sadds Lane, Charters Towers, Queensland on 26th November, 1918 that Private James McCabe had been admitted on 9th November to Third Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England with Influenza. A further notification sent on 26th November, 1918 advised that Private James McCabe was "*dangerously ill. Progress report expected.*"

Private James McCabe was buried on 28th November, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 182376.

From the burial report of Private James McCabe - *Coffin was good - Plain Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral, Firing Party, Bearers and Bugler being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by beautiful flowers sent by:- Friends at Abbey Wood; Matron and Sister, 3rd Aus. Aux. Hospital, Dartford; Hospital Staff, 3rd Aus. Aux. Hospital, Dartford and Friends, 19 Park Road, Dartford. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. D. B. Blackwood MC, A.I.F. Headquarters, officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. The Administrative Headquarters were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral – A party of comrades from the 3rd Australian Aux. Hospital, Dartford followed the remains to the cemetery.

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Bray, C/o Mrs W. W. Smith, Ladds Lane, Charters Towers, Queensland on 6th April, 1923 advising that the site of the grave of the late No. 2237A Private J. McCabe, 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital was now officially registered as Plot 4 Row G Grave 7 in Brookwood Military Cemetery.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference - IV. G. 7. Private James McCabe now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

[Note: At some stage Private James McCabe had the letter "A" added to his Service number (from 2237) to 2237A. This usually occurred due to a duplication of Service numbers when being transferred from one Battalion to another. In Private McCabe's case it is not recorded when the "A" was added but would have probably been when he joined the 9th Battalion from 25th Battalion.]

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private James McCabe contains a letter from the Red Cross, dated 6th June, 1918, to 1702 Private W. J. McCabe, 55th Australian Infantry Battalion, Stuttgart, Wurtemberg, Germany which reads:

- "*Dear Pte McCabe, In answer to your enquiry for your two brother J. and T. McCabe. We are able to give you news of your brother James – he is now on duty at one of our Hospitals in England and quite well, so you need not worry about him. He cannot tell us anything of your other brother T. McCabe but is pretty certain he never enlisted and is still in Australia. We have let James know you are asking about him and hope he will write to you.*"

Another letter is located in the Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private James McCabe from 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford which reads:

- "*DEATH – No. 2237A Pte McCabe James, 3rd A.A. Hospital, Staff, died here at 5.30 am November 24th 1918. He was admitted to Hospital and was a patient in B. 18 as from November 9th 1918. Major Meveridge (C. of E. Padre) attended him during his illness and Sister McKinnel in charge of Ward looked after him. Everything possible was done for him and Major Ryan was the Medical Officer in attendance. He died from*

Pneumonia following an attack of Influenza with which he was admitted. He got on well at first, but became low when Pneumonia set in, He was practically unconscious for five of six days, prior to his death and left no messages. Next of kin, Wife:- Dadd's Lane, Charters Towers, Queensland."

On Wednesday November 27th 1916, his body was taken from 3rd A.A. Hospital, to Dartford Railway Station on Motor Ambulances, the coffin being wrapped in Union Jack. The Hospital Band lead the way and played the "Dead March in Saul" with muffled drums. The Staff, including the C.O. of the Unit, Lieut. Colonel Sutherland, Officers and men, marched at the slow march in rear of ambulance to pay their respects to their late and popular comrade. The body was conveyed to London that afternoon, and the following day to Brookwood, where he was buried in Cemetery there, the burial taking place at 1.25 pm. No. 13766 L/Corporal Davis A.A. of this Unit, and five others, proceeded on Thursday to Brookwood and were the mourners representing this Unit. He told me of burial. It rained heavily during the afternoon. The firing party and Pall Bearers were supplied by Headquarters, and a fine volley was fired over his grave and "Last Post" sounded by bugler. Chaplain Major Blackwood of Tasmania (who is returning to Australia shortly) carried out the burial service and Lance Corporal Davis speaks exceptionally well of the way in which he carried out the service. There were about sixteen funerals that afternoon, including South Africans, Canadians and Tommies. He was the only Australian buried that afternoon, and was the last in order but the first to be conveyed to Cemetery, so that it was a fine sight as they marched past the different regimental firing parties. Four very nice wreaths were supplied as follows:- One from his Staff Comrades, one from the Matron and Sisters of the Hospital, one from "Friends at Abbeywood" and one from "A Friend in Dartford," the two latter bearing no names, but just as above."

Base Records wrote to The Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, Department of Repatriation, Brisbane, Queensland on 28th December, 1922 requesting "... any later address for Mrs A. McCabe, widow of the late No. 2237A Private J. McCabe, Australia Army Medical Corps, than:- Sixth Avenue, Townville, Queensland as a communication forwarded to her at that address has been returned to this office unclaimed."

The Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, Department of Repatriation replied to Base Records on 4th January, 1923 advised: "...I desire to advise that this lady remarried, her present name being Mrs Annie Bray; the only address recorded at this Office is: Sixth Avenue, Sth Townsville, Queensland." (A handwritten note at the bottom of the letter reads: "Try her at this a/d. The name may make a difference.")

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Bray, Sixth Avenue, South Townsville, Queensland on 26th January, 1923 requesting to know "...whether communications addressed as this will reach you, as I desire to be in a position to dispose of war medals, etc. issuable of account of the service of the late No. 2237 Private J. McCabe, Australian Army Medical Corps."

Mrs A. Bray replied to Base Records on 13th February, 1923 advising "you can send all letters and parcels to Mrs A. Bray c/- Mrs W. W. Smith, Sadds Lane, Charters Tows and I will be sure to receive them. Private J. McCabe being my first husband."

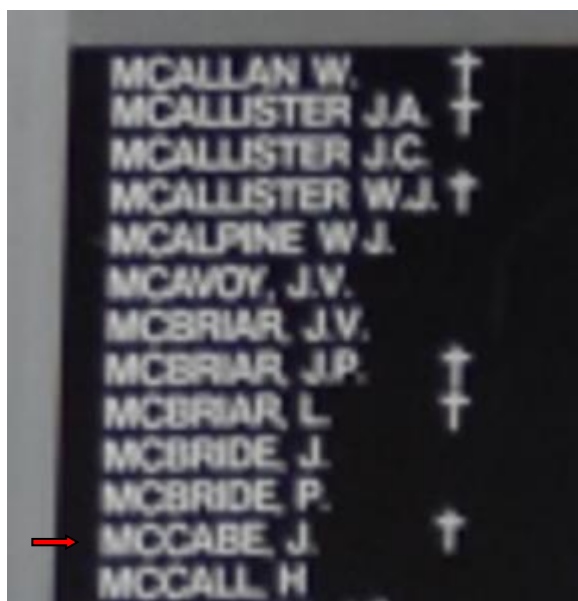
Private James McCabe was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private McCabe's remarried widow – Mrs A. Bray, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921; was returned & redirected in March, 1923. The Plaque sent March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James McCabe – service number 2237A, aged 31, of 3rd Aux. Hospital, Australian Army Medical Corps. No family details are listed.

J. McCabe is remembered on the Charters Towers Wall of Remembrance, located in former RSL Club, Prior & Hewett Streets, Charters Towers, Queensland.



Charters Towers Wall of Remembrance (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



The Charters Towers War Memorial, located in Gill Street, Charters Towers, Queensland does not list individual names.



Charters Towers War Memorial (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Kevin McSweeney)

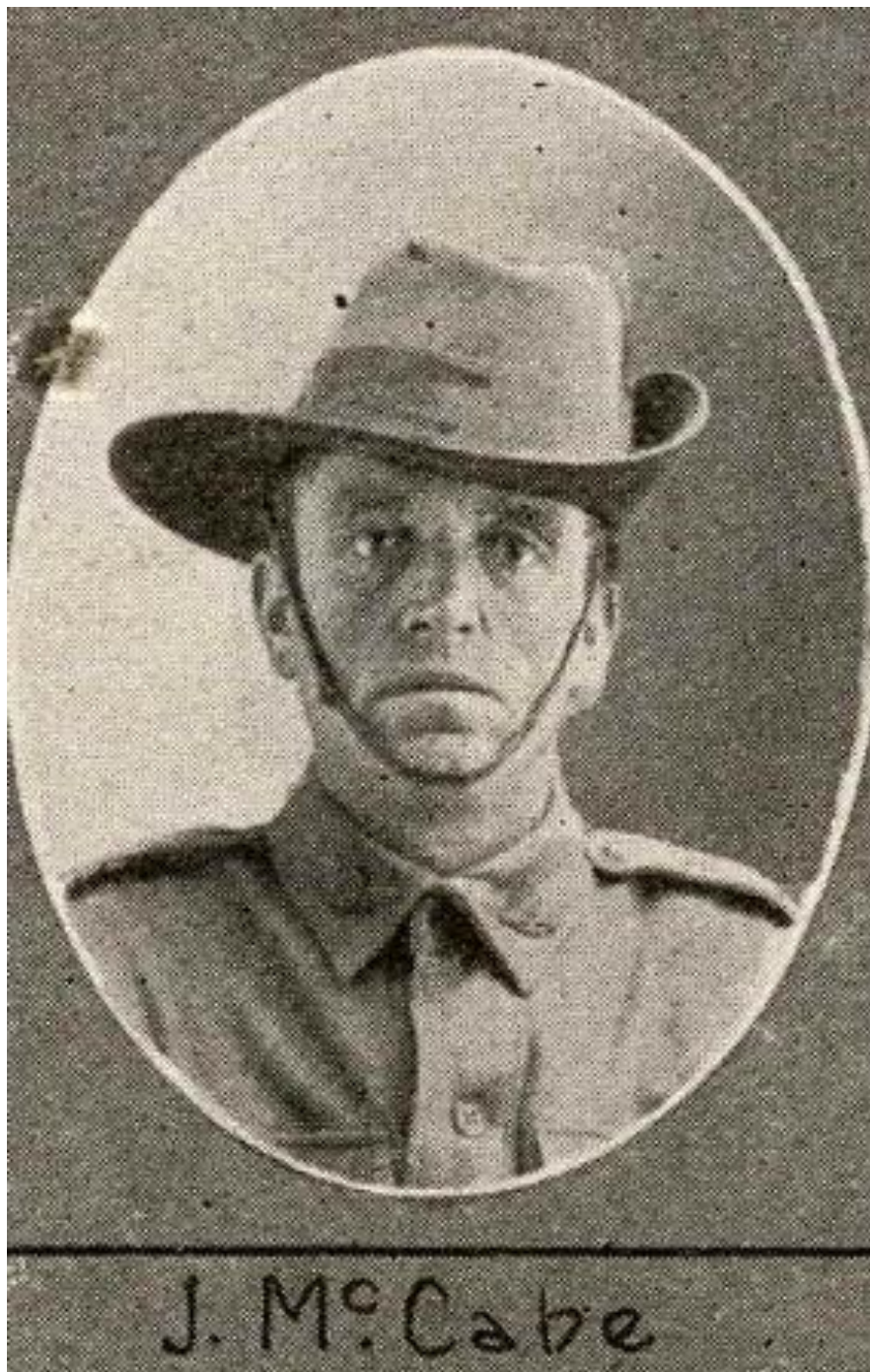
Private J. McCabe is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

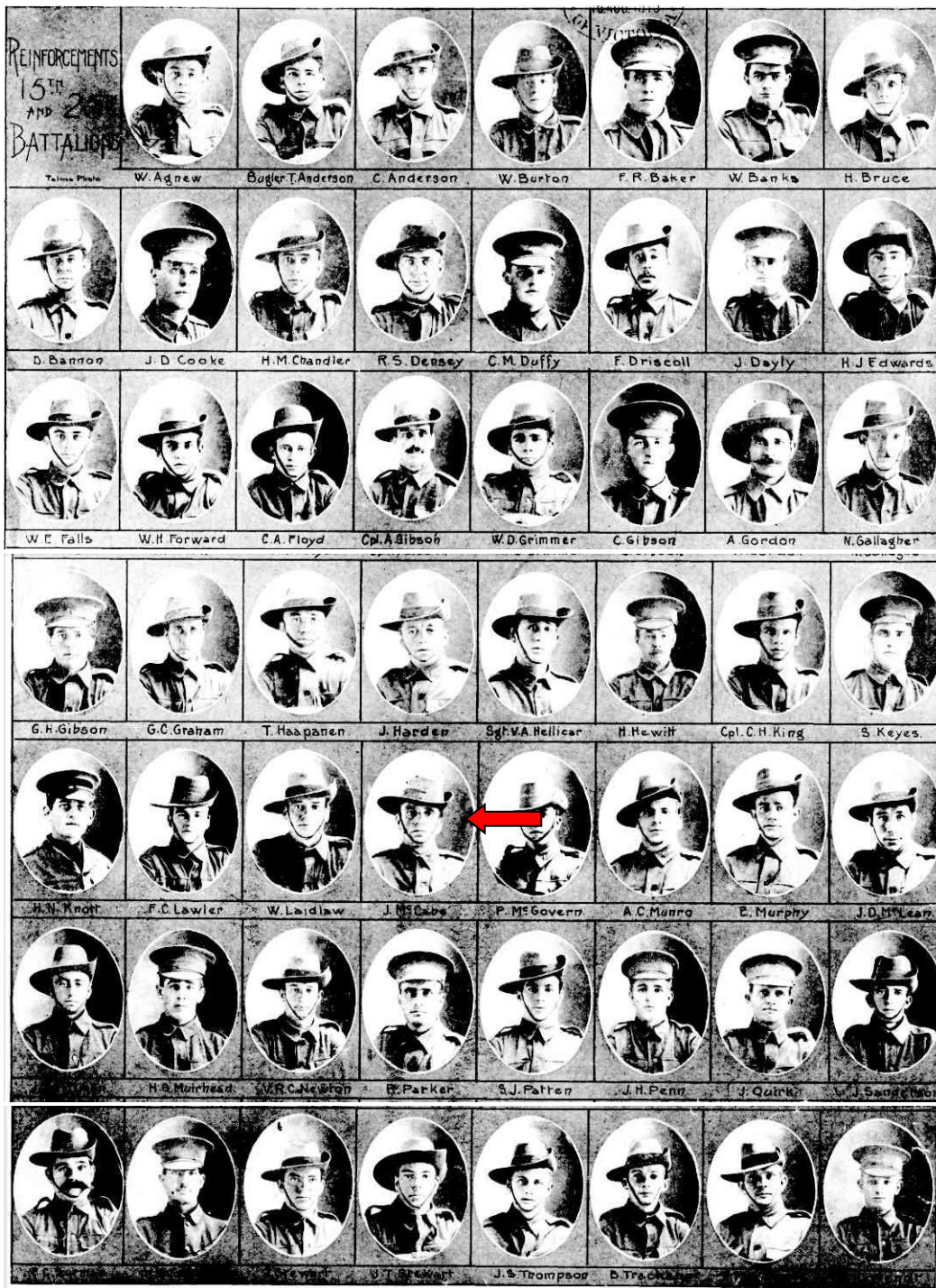
(68 pages of Private James McCabe's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



(The Queenslander Pictorial – 14 August, 1915)

Newspaper Notices



(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 14 August, 1915)

HEAVY AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

The 202nd and 203rd casualty lists issued to-day, embrace 1789 names, including killed in action 209, died of wounds 44, died from other causes 11, wounded 1304, prisoners of war 4. Among the names included are:-

Pte J. McCabe, Charters Towers, wounded.

(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 31 August, 1916)

THE LATE WAR

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman W. T. Mitchell), received a telegram from the military authorities stating that Private James McCabe died from influenza on the 24th November. Canon Saxon conveyed the sad news to his wife who resides in Sadd's Lane. Private McCabe prior to enlisting was employed in the railway department.

(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Queensland – 3 December, 1918)

DEATH OF PTE JAMES McCABE

Official advice has been received stating that Pte James McCabe had died from influenza on 24th November. Pte McCabe was a married man and leaves a wife and one child to mourn their loss, one child having died since he has been at the front. He enlisted here on 23rd August, 1915, and prior to enlisting had been a railway employee. Canon Saxon was the bearer of the sad news to the late soldier's wife, who resides in Sadd's Lane.

(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 3 December, 1918)

Roll of Honour

ILL

James McCabe, Charters Towers

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 9 December, 1918)

CASUALTIES

LIST No. 451

Died Other Causes -...J. McCabe, Charters Towers

(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 14 December, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private J. McCabe does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



Brookwood Military Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.

Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private J. McCabe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

