

**Locksbrook Cemetery,
Bath, Somerset, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3612 DRIVER

J. McClymont

1ST AUSTRALIAN BDE. H.Q.

9TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 42

John McClymont

John McClymont was born at Cowra, NSW in 1874 to parents Andrew & Sophia McClymont (nee Border).

Andrew McClymont, father of John McClymont, died at Cowra, NSW on 1st January, 1898.

John McClymont was a 40 year old, single, Labourer (Plate Laying Ganger) from Cowra, NSW when he enlisted at Holsworthy, Sydney, NSW on 6th October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3612 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs S. McClymont, of Rose Cottage, Cowra, NSW.

Private John McClymont was posted to 20th Battalion on 6th October, 1915 for recruit training.

Private John McClymont embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 17th December, 1915 with the 20th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

Private John McClymont was allotted & proceeded to join 2nd Battalion from 5th Training Battalion at Zeitoun on 14th February, 1916. He joined 2nd Battalion at Tel el Kebir on 14th February, 1916.

Private John McClymont was sent to Field Ambulance at Serapeum on 7th March, 1916 then transferred & admitted to 1st Casualty Clearing Hospital at Serapeum on the same day. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Stationary Hospital at Ismailia on 7th March, 1916 with V.D.G. Private McClymont was transferred to No. 4 Hospital Train on 8th March, 1916 & admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Abbassia. He was discharged to duty on 18th March, 1916 Overseas Base. Private McClymont was discharged from Overseas Base to his Unit on 25th March, 1916.

Private John McClymont proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) at Alexandria on Troopship *Transylvania* on 29th March, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916.

Private John McClymont was sent to Hospital on 26th April, 1916. He was admitted to No. 26 General Hospital at Etaples, France on 26th April, 1916 with V.D.G. Private McClymont was transferred on 28th April, 1916 & admitted on 29th April, 1916 to No. 9 Station Hospital at Havre, France with N.Y.D. – slight (not yet determined). He was discharged on 18th June, 1916.

Private John McClymont was taken on strength of 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples from Hospital on 20th June, 1916. Private John McClymont was promoted to Acting Sergeant on 13th July, 1916 with extra duty pay. He ceased to draw extra duty pay of Acting Sergeant from 26th July, 1916.

Private John McClymont was taken on strength of his Battalion (2nd) in France on 27th July, 1916

Private John McClymont was detached for duty at 1st Infantry Brigade Headquarters from 7th October, 1916. He was transferred to 1st Infantry Brigade Headquarters on 17th October, 1916 & was mustered as Driver from 17th October, 1916.

Driver John McClymont was sent to Hospital sick on 13th August, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Field Ambulance on 13th August, 1917 with haemorrhoids than transferred to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Driver McClymont was transferred to Ambulance Train No. 17 on 15th August, 1917 & admitted to 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital on the same day with Piles. He was transferred & admitted to 7th Convalescent Depot at Boulogne, France on 18th August, 1917 but then transferred & admitted to 39th General Hospital at Havre, France on 20th August, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Driver McClymont was transferred & admitted to 2nd General Hospital at Havre on 22nd September, 1917 with Diabetes. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Essequibo* on 25th September, 1917.

Driver John McClymont was admitted to Bath War Hospital, Somerset, England on 26th September, 1917 with Diabetes Mellitus. He was reported a seriously ill on 6th October, 1917.

Driver John McClymont died at 11.15 am on 9th October, 1917 at Bath War Hospital, Somerset, England from Diabetes Mellitus, Exhaustion.

A death for John McClymont, aged 43, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Bath, Somerset, England.

Driver John McClymont was buried at 3 pm on 12th October, 1917 in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England – Grave No. 2440 Blue PP. From the burial report of Driver John McClymont - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Party being supplied by the Army Service Corps stationed at Bath (under the command of Lt. Bullock). Band, part of mourners and 30 Australian patients from the War Hospital, Bath were also in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack". A service was held in the chapel prior to the interment by the Rev. L. Clough. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside Wreaths were sent from the Matron and Staff of the Hospital, and Australian Comrades. Memorial will be erected by Australian comrades.*

A letter from Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, to Base Records, Melbourne, in July, 1918 reads: "*Late 3612 Dvr McClymont, J. 1st Bde Hqrs, late 2nd Bn, A.I.F – The Municipal Corporation of the City of Bath, which is the Burial Authority for the Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, has very generously placed at the disposal of the A.I.F. in the finest part of the Cemetery a little Australian plot of 8 graves free of charge. Prior to this the local Undertaker who was charged by the Hospital upon instructions of these Headquarters to procure a separate single grave in virgin soil made a selection in a portion of the Cemetery that did not appeal to the representative of these Headquarters who attended the funeral. Accordingly, after discussion with our representative the Corporation offered us the little Australian plot which has been appreciatively accepted.*

The Town Clerk and Superintendent of the Cemetery further undertook that, subject to our obtaining the necessary licence from the Home Office, the Cemetery Authority would exhume the body of McClymont from the unsuitable position in which it was buried and re-inter it in the Australian Section.

The licence having been readily accorded, the Corporation has now carried their promise into effect, and the new grave section and number are "Pink ground C.H. 63." It will be appreciated if the grave No. and grave site on Burial Report No. 330, and your other records, may be amended accordingly."

Driver John McClymont is now recorded by CWGC as being buried in Plot number C.E. 91 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Driver John McClymont contains a request from the Red Cross to correct a report previously sent "... *Head Quarters report that he died 9.10.17 in Bath War Hospital of diabetes Mellitus Exhaustion, You reported to us that he was transferred to Horseferry Road 17.10.17. Will you please reply saying which is the correct report & if he died will you kindly send us details of his sufferings and death.*" The Registrar of Bath War Hospital replied: "*Pte McClymont was admitted to Bath War Hospital on 26.9.17 and died 9.10.17 from disease mentioned (Diabetes Mellitus Exhaustion). We regret the error I our previous communication. We cannot give any particulars as to his sufferings, as the Sister in Charge of his ward has now left the Hospital.*"

Base Records had contacted Mrs S. McClymont, 36 Mona Street, Auburn, NSW in 1921 & wrote to her again in November, 1921 stating that her letter of 17th October, concerning the affairs of the late Driver J. McClymont did not answer their question "...*before I can be in a position to properly dispose of the late soldier's war medals, etc., it will be necessary for you to definitely state whether his father still survives or not.*" (War Medals were awarded in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.) A handwritten reply on the original letter sent to Mrs S. McClymont reads "*My husband & father of the late Dvr J. McClymont has been dead 20 years.*"

Driver John McClymont was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver McClymont's widowed mother - Mrs S. McClymont, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. McClymont, 36 Mona Street, Auburn, NSW in July, 1933: "*Through the kind instrumentality of Mrs Crowle of 2 Johnstone Street, Bath, England, I am again forwarding you as next-of-kin of the late No.3612 Driver J. McClymont, 1st Infantry Brigade Headquarters, a copy of the "Bath and Wilts Chronicle and*

Herald” featuring this year’s Commemoration Service on Anzac Day at Bath (Locksbrook) Cemetery, which I trust comes safely to hand.” [See examples below after headstone photo.]

Mrs McClymont wrote to Base Records in August, 1933 to thank them & Mrs Crowle for her great kindness in sending a copy of the *“Bath and Wilts Chronicle and Herald”*.

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. McClymont, “Buini”, Hillcrest Street, Homebush, NSW in June, 1935 & again in June, 1936 with the same letter: *“With further reference to the burial of your son, the late No. 3612 Driver J. McClymont, 1st Infantry Brigade Headquarters, I am forwarding under separate cover at the request of Mrs Crowle of 2 Johnstone Street, Bath, Somerset, England a copy of the “Bath and Wilts Chronicle and Herald” featuring the Pilgrimage and Commemoration Service held on the occasion of last Anzac Day at Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, which I trust comes safely to hand.”*

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. McClymont, “Buini”, Hillcrest Street, Homebush, NSW in August, 1937 *“With further reference to the report of burial of the late No. 3612 Driver J. McClymont, 1st Inf. Brigade Headquarters, I am forwarding under separate cover a copy of the “Bath and Wilts Chronicle and Herald” featuring the Pilgrimage and Commemoration Service held on the occasion of last Anzac Day at Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, which has been received through the kind instrumentality of Mrs Crowle of 2 Johnstone Street, Bath, Somerset, England, for transmission to next-of-kin of the abovenamed soldier.”* (Note the above letter has the following handwritten: *“Copy forwarded 5/7/38”*)

A slip of paper in the Service Record file for Lance Corporal Frederick James Gilbey has the following: *“Bath Herald”* Newspaper of 26th April, 1924 Despatched to N.O.K. 11.7.24” & the following dates *“Again 25.6.27” “Again 5.7.1928”*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver J. McClymont – service number 3612, aged 42, of H.Q. 1st Australian Brigade. No family details are listed.

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



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. McClymont is remembered on the Cowra & District Honour Roll, located outside Cowra Services Club, 101 Brisbane Street, Cowra, NSW.



Cowra & District Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



John McClymont is remembered on the St. Peter's Presbyterian Church Roll of Honour, located at St. Peters Church, 50 Macquarie Street, Cowra, NSW.



St. Peter's Presbyterian Church Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

(50 pages of Driver John McClymont'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

Newspaper Notices

COWRA'S ROLL OF HONOUR

PRIVATES

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McClymont, J.

(Cowra Free Press, NSW – 16 February, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

The late Pte Jack McClymont

Just as we were going to press Rev. James Barr informed us that he had received word that Pte Jack McClymont, of the 1st Infantry Brigade Headquarters, late of the 20th Battalion, had died of illness on 9th inst. The young soldier, who was a son of the late Andrew and Mrs. McClymont, of Mulyan, was a native of Cowra and a fine athletic type of manly Australian. Prior to enlisting he was in the Railway Dept. We join with the many friends of the bereaved mother and family in tendering our sincere sympathy.

(Cowra Free Press, NSW – 17 October, 1917)

Return Thanks

MRS McCLYMONT & Family desire to return sincere THANKS to their many friends for kindness and messages of sympathy in their late sad bereavement through the death of her son and their brother, Private J. McClymont.

(Cowra Free Press, NSW – 27 October, 1917)

350th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Dvr JOHN McCLYMONT, Cowra, 9/10/17

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 6 November, 1917)

FUNERAL OF AN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER

The Late Driver John McClymont

We extract the following from an English paper, the Bath "Herald," of October 13th last :—" The funeral took place yesterday at Locksbrook cemetery, with military honors, of Driver John McClymont, 1st Brigade Headquarters, 2nd Battalion Australian Imperial Forces, he being the first Australian soldier to be interred in the cemetery. He died on Tuesday at the Bath War Hospital, having been an inmate since September 26th, suffering from diabetes. The deceased's mother lives in Cowra, New South Wales, Australia, and he attested at Holdsworthy, N.S.W., on October

6th, 1915. He was 42 years of age. The Rev. Ledger Clough, Trinity Presbyterian Church, officiated. The band of the A.S.C. attended (under Bandmaster Woodruff), a firing party, under Sergt. Scott, was provided by the A.S.C., and about 50 soldiers were also present, under Lieut. Bullock, A.S.C. The "Last Post " was sounded by Trumpeter Holloway, A.S.C. (Transport). The coffin was covered by the Union Jack. The chief mourner was Warrant-Officer Yeomans, Australian Administrative Headquarters, London, and there also attended a number of the deceased's wounded Australian comrades from the Bath War Hospital. There was a floral tribute from the deceased's Australian comrades, and an everlasting wreath from the inmates of No. 2 Ward, Bath War Hospital. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Small & Son, Midland Bridge Road."

(Cowra Free Press, NSW – 5 January, 1918)

HONORING THE BRAVE

Streets Named after Soldiers

A Good Move by the Municipal Council

It will probably be remembered that some little time ago the local Municipal authorities decided to name new streets after prominent soldiers and those who had given up their lives for their country. This was recently done in connection with several West Cowra thoroughfares, when the names Nicholls (Sergt. Geo. Nicholls, M.M.), Shelley (Lieut. Eric Shelley, M.M.), Judd (Capt. Lyn. Judd, M.M.), Haig (General Sir. Douglas Haig), and Bramall (Pte A. Bramall) were conferred upon them.

At last night's meeting the following streets at Newtown, Mulyan and West Cowra were named :- Copson (Pte G. Copson), Dowell (Corpl E. Dowell), McClymont (Pte J. McClymont), Hope (Pte C. Hope), Hood (Ptes J. and A. Hood), Beattie (Ptes A. and H. Beattie), Wilson (Pte W. Wilson), Derwin (Pte C. Derwin), Stinson (Sergt. W. Stinson), Evans (Sergt. C. Evans). All of the soldiers in the last mentioned list and one in the first have made the supreme sacrifice, and it is indeed fitting that their names should be perpetuated in such a manner.

(Cowra Free Press, NSW – 20 March, 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)

Driver J. McClymont does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England

Bath (Locksbrook) Cemetery contains 90 First World War graves, 44 of which (mainly from the war hospital) form a plot. The 32 Second World War graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. There are 7 Australian War Graves from World War 1.

(Information & War Graves photo below from CWGC)



War Graves in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

www.banes.photography



www.banes.photography

Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath (Photos by Colin Peachey – Find a Grave)

www.banes.photography



www.banes.photography

Photo of Driver J. McClymont's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England.



(Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave)



World War 1 War Graves in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath (Photo by Rwendland)

ANZAC CEREMONIES IN LOCKSBROOK CEMETERY

ANZAC DAY AT BATH (Eng.)



Scene at Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, where a service was held over the graves of Driver McClymont and Pte F. Gregory, on Anzac Day. Among those present were Chaplain H. W. and Mrs. Doudney. The lady who forwarded the photo, states that the men commemorated at Bath were South Australians.

Scene at Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, where a service was held over the graves of Driver McClymont and Pte F. Gregory, on Anzac Day. Among those present were Chaplain H. W. and Mrs Doudney. The lady who forwarded the photo. States that the ,men commemorated at Bath were South Australians.

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 July, 1918) (courtesy of Bill Durrant)

ANZAC PILGRIMAGE IN BATH



Sunday last was Anzac Day, the fifth anniversary of the landing of the 29th Division in Gallipoli. The above picture depicts the scene at Locksbrook Cemetery, where wreaths and flowers were laid on the graves of the Anzacs who died in the Bath War Hospital. All photos "Bath Weekly Chronicle"

(Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Somerset, England – 1 May, 1920)

FALLEN ANZACS

IMPESSIVE SERVICE AT LOCKSBROOK CEMETERY

Sunday was Anzac Day, the fifth anniversary of the landing of the 29th Division in Gallipoli, and it was fittingly celebrated by memorial services in many churches in honour of the officers and men who fell in that desperate enterprise. Wreaths and flowers were placed on the graves of Australians and New Zealanders who died in England, and there was a simple, yet impressive service at Locksbrook Cemetery, where the seven brave Anzacs who died in the Bath War Hospital. It had been organised by Mrs Crowle, to whom had been given many beautiful flowers for placing on the graves. The Rev. W. H. Edwards, of Combe Down, conducted a brief memorial service and gave an address, in which he recalled the gallantry of our overseas soldiers. The hymn, "Peace, perfect peace," was feelingly sung.

Among those present were the Rev. H. W. and Mrs Doudney, Miss Frean, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Meyer, Miss West, Mrs, Miss and Master Crowle, Miss Millard, Mr Eyres, Mrs Parker, Miss Stoward, Miss Symons, Mr Dawson, Mr Smith, Miss Mills etc.

Mrs Crowle informs us that she hopes to form a committee of resident Australians and other, whose object will be to see that in future the Anzac Day Pilgrimage Day is better organised in Bath. Copies of the paper containing a report of the in memoriam service will be sent to the relations of the fallen men in Australia and New Zealand.

(Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Somerset, England – 1 May, 1920)

Reports of the Anzac Day Ceremonies held at Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath were noted in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Bath, Somerset, England for the following years:

1921, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1945

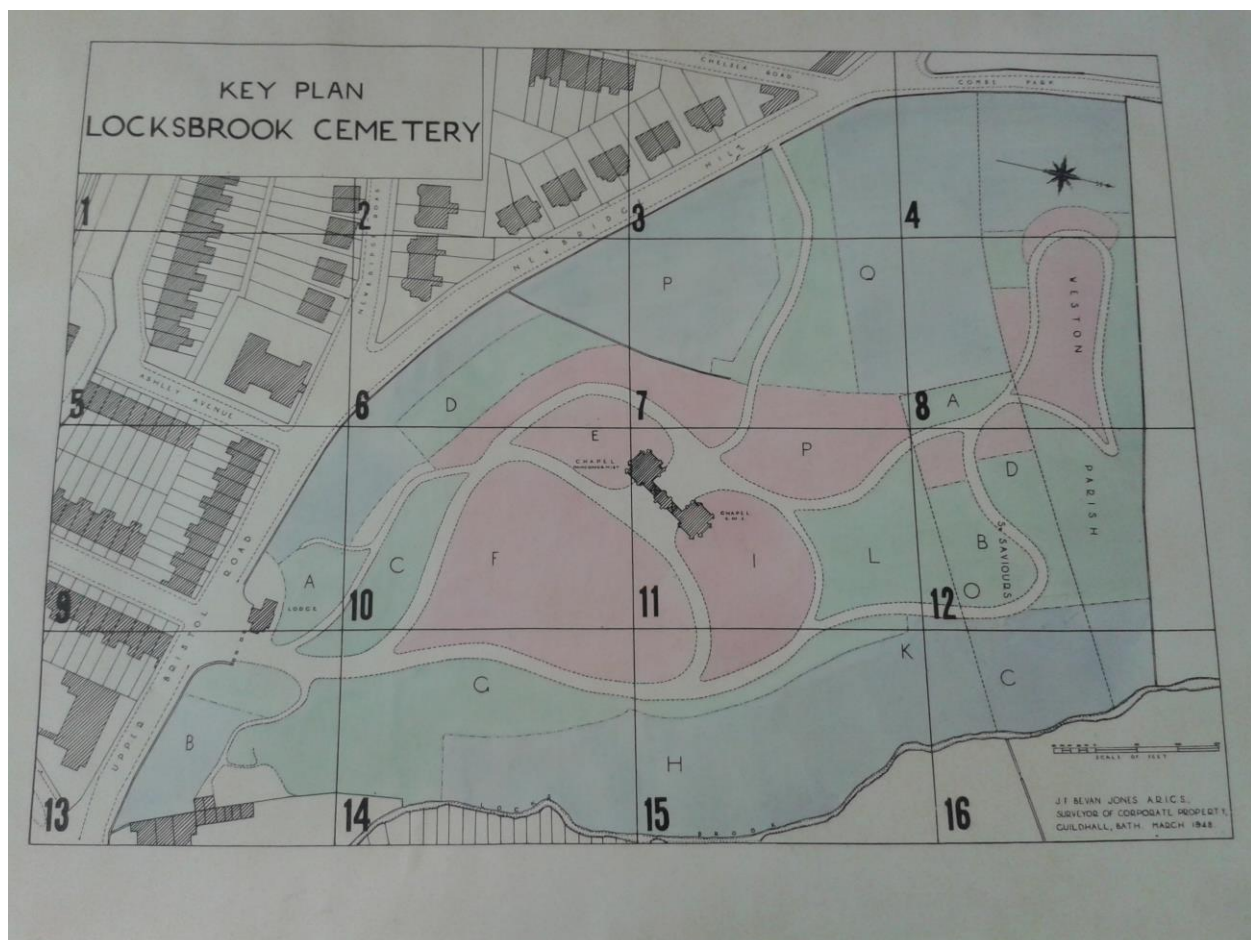


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00374.001

Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath – 25th April, 1935 – Anzac Day Ceremony

A crowd of civilians and servicemen listen to an address by a Minister at an Anzac Day service in the Churchyard Cemetery at Locksbrook.



(Photo by Mike Clark – Find a Grave)