Fort Pitt Military Cemetery,

Rochester, Kent

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

22927 DRIVER

E. R. McCOMB

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

9TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 20

Lead Kindly Light

Ever Remembered

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Ernest Richardson McCOMB

Ernest Richardson McComb was born at Frankston, Victoria on 6th June, 1896 to parents Thomas Kerr McComb & Harriet McComb (nee Bentick).

Ernest Richardson McComb attended the State School at Frankston, Victoria.

Ernest Richardson McComb was a 20 year old, single, Horse Trainer from Carr Street, Frankston, Victoria when he enlisted on 26th November, 1915 with the 8th Field Artillery Brigade, 1st Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 22927 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr T. K. McComb, of Carr Street, Frankston, Victoria.

Private Ernest Richardson McComb was posted to 23rd Battalion at Royal Park on 4th January, 1916. He was transferred to Field Artillery Reinforcements as Gunner on 8th January, 1916. Gunner Ernest McComb was transferred to 8th Field Artillery Brigade, 1st Reinforcements on 1st April, 1916.

Gunner Ernest Richardson McComb embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 20th May, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th July, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Gunner Ernest Richardson McComb was marched out to Larkhill, Wiltshire from Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 2nd August, 1916.

Gunner Ernest Richardson McComb was transferred to 3rd D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) on 4th October, 1916 & mustered as Driver on 5th October, 1916.

Driver Ernest Richardson McComb proceeded overseas to France on 24th November, 1916.

Driver Ernest Richardson McComb was taken to Hospital sick on 29th November, 1916 with appendicitis. He was transferred from Divisional Rest Station to Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 1st December, 1916. Pte McComb was trasnefrred & admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 2nd December, 1916. He embarked for England from Boulogne on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 3rd December, 1916 with appendicitis.

Driver Ernest Richardson McComb was admitted to Military Hospital, Chatham, Kent, England on 4th December, 1916 with appendicitis. The Hospital report states that "*During convalescence had attacks of headache (acute) & vomiting at intervals of 4 or 5 days. Very severe attack on 8.1.17 & suddenly collapsed & died."* Post Mortem found a "*small cystic __ ___ in anterior edge of liver & a secondary cystic abscess in right lateral of brain which was cause of death."*

Driver Ernest Richardson McComb died at 2 am on 9th January, 1917 at Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham, Kent, England from Pneumonia & Appendicitis.

A death for Ernest McCoombe, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Medway, Kent, England.

Driver Ernest Richardson McComb was buried on 12th January, 1917 in Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent, England – Plot number 1429 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Driver Ernest Richardson McComb was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver McComb's father - Mr T. K. McComb, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

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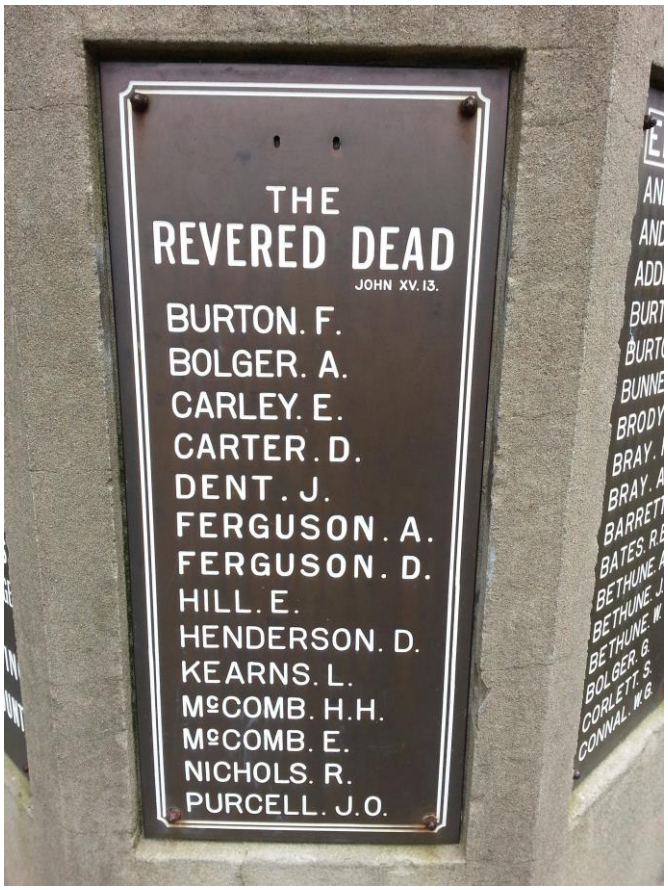
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Ernest Richardson McComb – service number 22927, aged 20, of 3rd Div. Ammunition Col., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Thomas Kerr McComb and Harriet McComb. Native of Frankston, Victoria, Australia.

E. McComb is remembered on the Frankston Primary School War Memorial, located at Davey Street, Frankston, Victoria.

Frankston Primary School War Memorial *(Photos courtesy of Frankston Primary Museum)*



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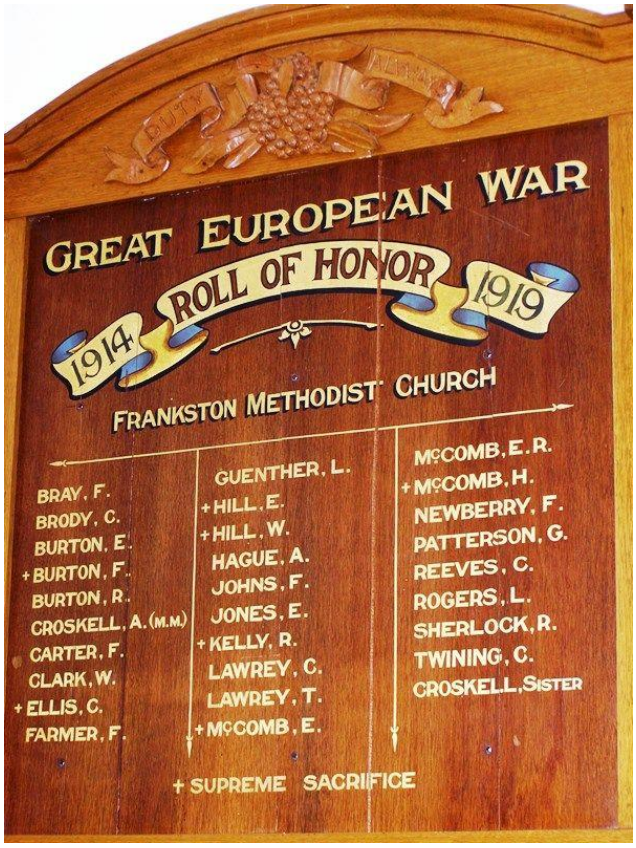
E. R. McComb is remembered on the Frankston Honour Roll which is located at Frankston RSL, 183 Cranbourne Road, Frankston, Victoria.

Frankston Honour Roll *(Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)*

E. McComb is remembered on the Frankston Methodist Church Honour Roll, located in Frankston Uniting Church, 16-18 High Street, Frankston, Victoria.



Frankston Methodist Church Honour Roll *(Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)*

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E. McComb is remembered on the Frankston War Memorial (original) which is located at Civic Centre, Davey Street, Frankston, Victoria.

Frankston War Memorial (original) *(Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)*

ENLISTED		ENLISTED		ENLISTED	
ALLEN H.	CHANDLER L.C.	DICKSON R.	GRIFFITHS B.	KELSO A.D.	McINTOSH J.R.
ANDREWS D.	CHEYNE C.A.	DONOGHUE R.M.	GRIMWADE H.T.	KENNEDY S.	MITTEN R.
ANDREWS J.	CHINERY C.A.	DOWER L.N.	GRIMWADE H.W.	KEOCH W.	MONOCUE T.P.
ASHMORE A.A.	CHINERY J.H.B.	DOWNS D.	GUENTHER L.	KERR A.O	MUDAY A.
ASHMORE H.E.	CLARK W.	EDDIE A.	GULLETT H.S.	KING S.	MURPHY C.
BALCKE C.	CLEMENTS C.W.	ELLIOT D.	HAGUE A.	KNIGHT	MURPHY C.T.
BARRETT E.	CONNAL W.G.	FAIRNIE R.C.	HANTON W.M.	LAMBERT J.	NICHOLLS T.H.
BARTLETT T.N.	CORLETT C.S.	FISHER W.	HAMMOND E.C.	LAWREY C.H.	OATES P.O.
BARTRAM C.C.	COVINGTON H.F.	FLOOD B.E.	HARDIMAN J.	LAWREY T.J.	O'NEILL C.
BATES R.B.	COWAN R.	FLOOD T.P.	HARLEY F.	MACKIE L.	OPIE E.
BATTERHAM C.	COWEN A.	FULTON NURSE	HAY F.H.	MADDEN C.	PARKER W.C.
BAXTER F.J.	COXALL R.	GABRIEL F.C.	HEARPS L.	MALCOLM L.	PATTERSON C.
BAXTER L.C.	CREIGHTON C.	GABRIEL H.C.	HEATH C.H.	MARSH S.J	PAYNE W.S.D.
BETHUNE W.	CROSKELL A.P.	GABRIEL L.	HENDERSON D.	MARTIN W.	PECK A.
BOLGER C.C.	CROSKELL STR.	GERECHWITZ A.	HESSELMAN C.	MAXWELL C.	PECK H.
BORNE C.E.	CUMMINS H.	CLEDHILL F.	HILL A.C.	MAY E.C.	PECK R.
BOWES L.	CUTHBERT J.C.E.	GOODWIN A.F.	HILL E.	MAY S.H.	PEEBLES NURSE
BRAY A.	DAMEN C.	GOODWIN E.J.	HOGAN C.	McCOMB E.R.	PEEBLES R.E.
BRAY F.	DAVIES C.	GOODWIN H.R.	HOLLAND W.H.L.	McCOMB H.H.	PICKING D.
BRODY C.	DAVIS R.	GOULD F.A.	IRELAND W.	McDONALD D.	PIDGEON S.A.
BUNNEY C.	DAWBORN R.	GOULD T.P.	JARDINE R.E.	McDONALD F.	PLUMMER F.
BURTON E.	DEAN R.	GRANT C.	JOHNDAHL H.W.	McKENZIE R.	POLGLASE L.
BURTON F.	DENNIS H.	GRAY R.F.	JOHNDAHL V.R.	McILROY R.	PURDY A.R.
BURTON R.	DENYER S.C.	GRICE C.	JONES E.	McINDOE H.	RANKIN
CADLE NURSE	DIAL R.H.	GRICE C.	JONES E.	DAMEN C.	JOHNS J.F.

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E. R. McComb is remembered on the Avenue of Honour Monument, Nepean Highway, Frankston, Victoria. An avenue of trees was planted in July, 1918 to commemorate those who served in World War One. In the 1960`s due to road widening, the trees were removed and a memorial was erected at the northern and southern ends of the avenue.

Avenue of Honour Monument, Frankston *(Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)*

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Driver E. R. McComb is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(47 pages of Driver Ernest Richardson McComb'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) & National Archives

Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

McCOMB – On the 9th January, 1917 at Fort Pitt Hospital, London, Ernest Richardson, dearly beloved youngest son of Thomas and Harriet McComb, "Wyahala," Kars Street, Frankston, aged 20 years.

Sadly missed.

McCOMB - On the 9th January, 1917 at Fort Pitt Hospital, London, Ernie, dearly loved brother of Ted, Les, Mrs Roy, Mrs F. Mitchell, Mrs H. Garrood, Mrs T. McGreal, Ettie and Ada, aged 20 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 January, 1917)

General regret was expressed in Frankston on Saturday when it became known that word had been received by the parents of Private Ernie McComb that he had succumbed to an attack of appendicitis followed by pneumonia, in England. "Ernie" was a general favourite and being a native of Frankston was known by all. He was not a very strong lad and was refused three times before finally being accepted, but he had made up his mind to go and "do his bit" for his country and nothing would stop him. We sympathise sincerely with his parents in ther sad loss.

(*Mornington Standard*, Frankston, Victoria – 20 January, 1917)

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AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

266th AND 227th LISTS

Died of Illness

Dvr. E. R. McComb, Frankston

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 23 January, 1917)

BEREAVEMENT CARDS

Mr and Mrs T. K. McCOMB and Family desire to express grateful appreciation to their many friends for cards, visits, letters, telegrams, and verbal expressions of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement, the death of their son and brother, Ernest, on active service. Wyahla, Kars street, Frankston.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 February, 1917)

Gunner E. R. McComb,
3rd Sec. 4th Aust. Div. Corps
Amm. Col.
Serving in France.

(*Graphic of Australia*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 August, 1918)

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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 E. R. McComb does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Lead Kindly Light

Ever Remembered

Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent, England

Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent contains 289 identified Commonwealth War Graves.

During both wars there were naval and military establishments in the neighbourhood of Rochester, and some fishing and shipping at the port.

Fort Pitt Military Cemetery contains a plot of 266 First World War graves. The 25 Second World War graves (two of them unidentified) are north of the plot. All save two of them are together in a group.

(Information & photos from CWGC)

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Photo of Driver E. R. McComb's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent, England.

(Photo courtesy of Kyle Tallett)

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Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent

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