

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2723 CORPORAL

J. C. MONSON

51ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 45

His Duty Nobly Done

John Christian MONSON

John Christian Monson was born in Christchurch, New Zealand on 6th December, 1874 to parents John (Johannes Olai Monsen) & Mary Monson (nee Robertson).

John Christian Monson attended Christchurch College, New Zealand.

John Christian Monson came to Australia when he was 15 years old, according to information supplied by his widow, for the Roll of Honour.

John Christian Monson married Laura Tomsey Creech on 18th September, 1899 at Menzies, Western Australia. John & Laura Monson had the following children:- Dorothy Louise Monson (born 1900 in Perth, Western Australia); John Kelvin Monson (born 1903 in Kookynie, Western Australia); Ronald Austin Monson (born 21st February, 1905 in Kookynie, Western Australia); Olive Beryl Monson (born 16th October, 1906 in Kookynie, Western Australia); Allan Desmond Monson (born 23rd June, 1908 in Kookynie, Western Australia) and Eric Vivian Monson (born 1910 in Kookynie, Western Australia; death registered in 1910).

The 1906 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Coolgardie, subdivision of Kookynie, Western Australia listed John Monson, Miner & his wife Laura Monson, Home Dutied, living at "Champion G. M. Coy".

John Christian Monson was a 42 year old, married, Carpenter (his widow listed his occupation as Miner & other training as Clerk) from Westonia, Western Australia when he enlisted on 16th July, 1915 at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2723 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife, Mrs Laura Monson (legally separated; son Kelvin Monson) of North Perth, Western Australia. John Monson stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served in Senior Cadets Victoria.

Private John Christian Monson was posted to 15th Depot for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 16th October, 1915.

Private John Christian Monson embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 2nd November, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private John Christian Monson was allotted to and proceeded to join 51st Battalion from 28th Battalion at Zeitoun on 3rd March, 1916. He joined 51st Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 3rd March, 1916.

Private John Christian Monson was appointed Lance Corporal at Serapeum on 6th April, 1916.

Lance Corporal John Christian Monson proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on *Ivernia* on 5th June 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 12th June, 1916.

Lance Corporal John Christian Monson was promoted to Corporal on 24th August, 1916 while in France.

Corporal John Christian Monson was wounded in action in France on 3rd September, 1916. He was admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 8th September, 1916 with gunshot wounds to leg & shoulder. Corporal Monson embarked from Rouen for England on 13th September, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian*.

51st Battalion

The 51st Battalion was raised in Egypt in the first week of March 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 11th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 11th, the 51st was predominantly composed of men from Western Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the newly-formed 4th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 12 June 1916, the 51st moved into the trenches of the Western Front within a fortnight. It fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm in August and September, and suffered casualties equivalent to a third of its strength in both of the attacks (14 August and 3 September) it launched. After Mouquet Farm, the battalion saw out the rest of the year, alternating between front-line duty, and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

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Corporal John Christian Monson was admitted to University War Hospital, Southampton, England with gunshot wounds to left leg (amputated) & gunshot wounds to shoulder.



University War Hospital, Southampton

Corporal John Christian Monson died on 15th September, 1916 at University War Hospital, Southampton, England from wounds received in action in France - gunshot wounds to left leg (amputated) & gunshot wounds to shoulder.

A death for J. C. Monson, aged 33, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Southampton, Hampshire, England.

Corporal John Christian Monson was buried on 18th September, 1916 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number N. 364 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Corporal John Christian Monson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Monson's widow - Mrs L. Monson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal John Christian Monson – service number 2723, aged 45, of 51st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Mary Monson; husband of Laura I. Monson, of 154 Barker Rd, Subiaco, Western Australia.

Corporal J. C. Monson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 153.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Monson is remembered on the Westonia Roll of Honour, located in the Old Westonia Hall, Wolfram Street, Westonia, Western Australia.



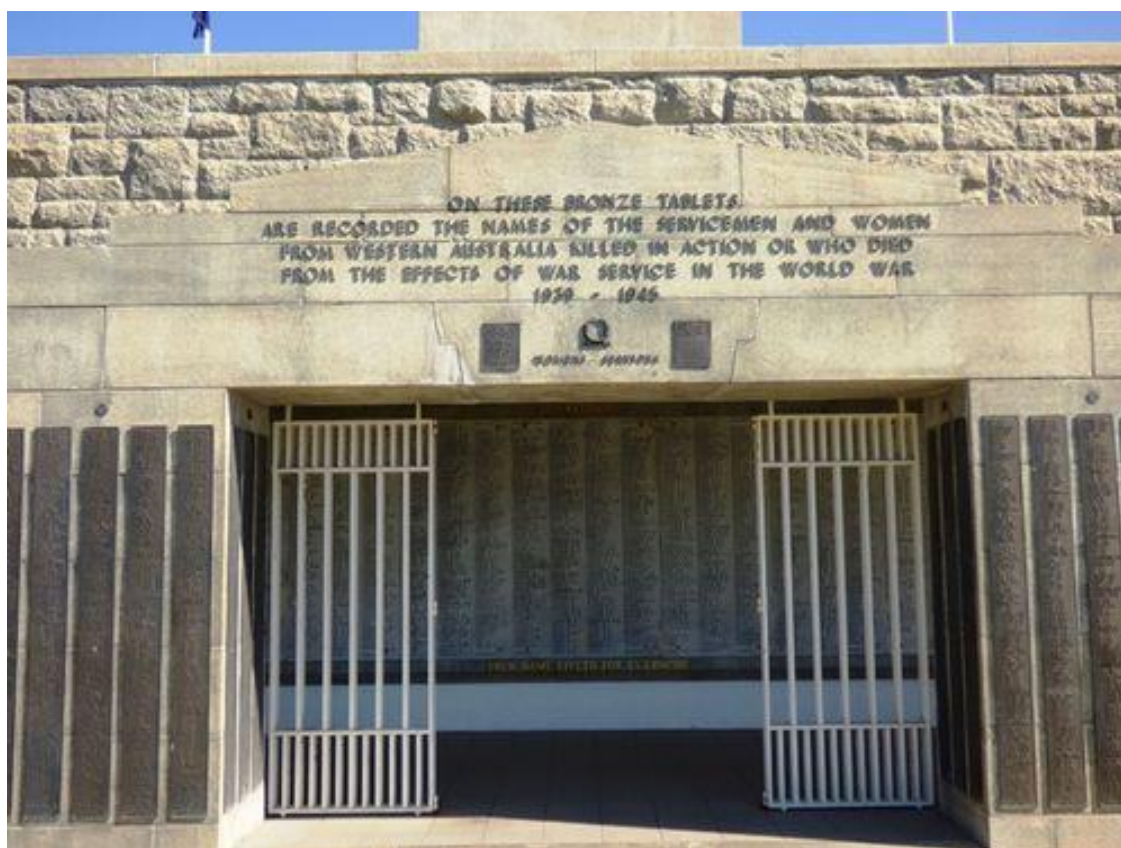
Westonia Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Father Ted Doncaster)

The Western Australia State War Memorial is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)

(23 pages of Private John Christian Monson'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

NEWS AND NOTES

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Bankruptcy Notices – The following bankruptcy notices are gazetted:- First meeting and public examination: John Christian Mosen, Kookynie, miner, February 14.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 28 January, 1911)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

231st LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Corporal J. C. Monson (North Perth)

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 13 October, 1916)

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)

Corporal J. C. Monson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

His Duty Nobly Done

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Corporal J. C. Monson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.





Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery