

**Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery,
Bristol, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3421 PRIVATE

J. ROACH

53RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH AUGUST, 1916

R.I.P.

Jack ROACH

John J. F. Roach was born to parents Timothy & Delia A. Roach (nee King). His birth was registered in 1895 in the district of Glebe, Sydney, NSW.

Jack Roach was a 20 year old, single, Labourer from Milford Street, Hurlstone Park, NSW when he enlisted on 29th August, 1915 at Warwick Farm, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3421 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs D. Roach, "Wodonga" Milford Street, Hurlstone Park, NSW. As Jack Roach was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. D. A. Roach, mother of Jack Roach, signed her consent. (A death was registered in 1908 in the district of Marrickville, NSW for Timothy Roach).

Private Jack Roach was posted to 11th Reinforcements of 3rd Battalion for recruit training.

Private Jack Roach embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 2nd November, 1915 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Jack Roach was allotted to & proceeded to join 53rd Battalion at Zeitoun on 16th February, 1916 from 1st Training Battalion. He was taken on strength of 53rd Battalion on 16th February, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir from 3rd Battalion.

Private Jack Roach was written up for a Crime while posted at Tel-el-Kebir on 4th March, 1916 – Absent from 9 am on 4th March, 1916 to 9 pm on 4th March, 1916. He was awarded 3 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Jack Roach was sent to Hospital on 7th March, 1916. He was admitted to 14th Field Ambulance on 7th March, 1916 with V.D.S.C. then transferred the same day to 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir. Private Roach was transferred to No. 4 Hospital Train on 8th March, 1916 & admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Abbassia on 8th March, 1916. He was discharged to Dermatological Quarantine Details on 17th April, 1916.

Private Jack Roach was assigned a Regiment Number of 3421A (usually due to duplication of numbers) on 9th April, 1916.

Private Jack Roach joined 1st Training Battalion from Hospital on 24th April, 1916. He was marched out to his Unit on 2nd May, 1916 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on the same day.

Private Jack Roach was marched in to Overseas Base at Tel-el-Kebir on 3rd May, 1916 & posted to 1st Training Battalion.

Private Jack Roach embarked from Alexandria on 19th June, 1916 on *Royal George* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th June, 1916.

Private Jack Roach was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 20th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to face. Private Roach was transferred to Ambulance Train then admitted to 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France with GSW left cheek & fractured left Clavicle (severe). He embarked on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* for England on 29th July, 1916.

53rd Battalion

The 53rd Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 1st Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 1st, the 53rd was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Sydney. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

The battalion arrived in France on 27 June 1916, entered the front line for the first time on 10 July, and became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, at Fromelles, on 19 July. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster. The 53rd was part of the initial assault and suffered grievously, incurring 625 casualties, including its

commanding officer, amounting to over three-quarters of its attacking strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 53rd Battalion

Trenches – 19th July, 1916

11.00 – Heavy bombardment by our guns on Enemy trenches and equally heavy bombardment by enemy on our own trenches and communications. Casualties by 15.00 – about 50.

16.00 – 54th Bn took over & joined the left 300 yds of our trenches and Bn closed in on its original front of 300 yds with Right on River LAIES – A & B Coys (Capt Thompson and Murray) in front line – C & D Coys (Maj Sampson & Capt Arblaster) in support trenches.

17.43 – Battn moved to attack in four waves ½ Coy of both A and B in first and second wave – ½ Coy of both C & D in third & fourth waves. Bn HQ with fourth wave.

First wave moved out from our trenches at 5.43 pm followed at 100 yd distance by second wave, lay down near German wire till 6 pm then charged followed by third & fourth waves (C & D Coys). Took German first and second line trenches & rushed in parties about 200 yds further on to hold back enemy's bombers who were counter attacking on front and right flank, while the remainder proceeded to consolidate the position on the German 1st & 2nd line trench. Trench(?) was obtained with the 54th Bn on our left but no-one could be found on our Right.

Trenches – 19th – 20th July, 1916

The line was held throughout night against violent attacks, until orders were received (about 9am) from OC 14th Bde to retire from position won - our Right flank being in the air, enemy had already turned it & established themselves in their 1st line trenches in rear of our Right.

About 09.30 – Retired ___ with very heavy loss, covered by fire from own front line.

Battn went into action with

Officers 28 other Ranks 823

	<i>Officers</i>	<i>OR</i>
<i>Killed</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Wounded</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>343</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>228</i>

(Note as known on 26th July)

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Jack Roach was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England on 30th July, 1916 with GSW left Collar Bone & Shoulder fracture (severe). The Hospital Admissions form records that Private Roach was admitted to GSW to left shoulder, fractured Scapula & Clavicle. “*Extensive wounds. Gas Gangrene. Died of Exhaustion & Sepsis.*”

Private Jack Roach died on 14th August, 1916 at 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England from wounds received in action in France – GSW to chest & septicaemia.

A death for John Roach, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Jack Roach was buried in Cemetery of Holy Souls (Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery), Bristol, England – Plot number E.1. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Delia Agnes Roach, "Wodonga" Melford St., Hurlstone Park, NSW, mother of the late Jack Roach, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 5th November, 1918.

Communications regarding the details of the burial of the late Private Jack Roach were sent to his mother – Mrs D. Roach, "Trelawney", Ross Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW in April, 1917.

Private Jack Roach was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Roach's mother – Mrs D. Roach, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs D. Roach, "Linister", Walton Street, Coogee, Sydney, NSW, mother of the late Private Jack Roach, on 20th July, 1923, a memorial card and photographs depicting the Cross erected in the soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery where the remains of her son, the late Private J. Roach was interred. A copy of the "Western Daily Press" containing an article referring to the Anzac Day Pilgrimage made to the graves of the Fallen was also sent under separate cover. The items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs D. Roach, "Linister", Walton Street, Coogee, Sydney, NSW, mother of the late Private Jack Roach, on 23rd September, 1924, photographs of the Anzac Day Pilgrimage to the graves of Australian Soldiers on 25th April last at Arnos Vale Cemetery where the remains her son was interred. These items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs D. Roach, "Linister", Walton Street, Coogee, Sydney, NSW, mother of the late Private Jack Roach, on 29th July, 1925, photographs depicting the Cross erected in the Soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery where the remains her son was interred along with a memorial card and press cutting descriptive of Anzac Day Pilgrimage to the graves of Australian Soldiers on 25th April last. These items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs D. Roach, "Linister", Walton Street, Coogee, Sydney, NSW, mother of the late Private Jack Roach, on 20th August, 1930, a copy of the "Western Daily Press" containing an article referring to the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of her son, the late Private J. Roach was interred. The Newspaper item had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. Roach – service number 3421, of 53rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. Roach is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 158.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J.J.F. Roach is remembered on the Hurlstone Park WW1 War Memorial (Euston Memorial), located in Euston Road, Hurlstone Park, Sydney, NSW.



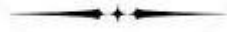
Hurlstone Park WW1 War Memorial (Euston Memorial) (Photo from War Memorial Register NSW)



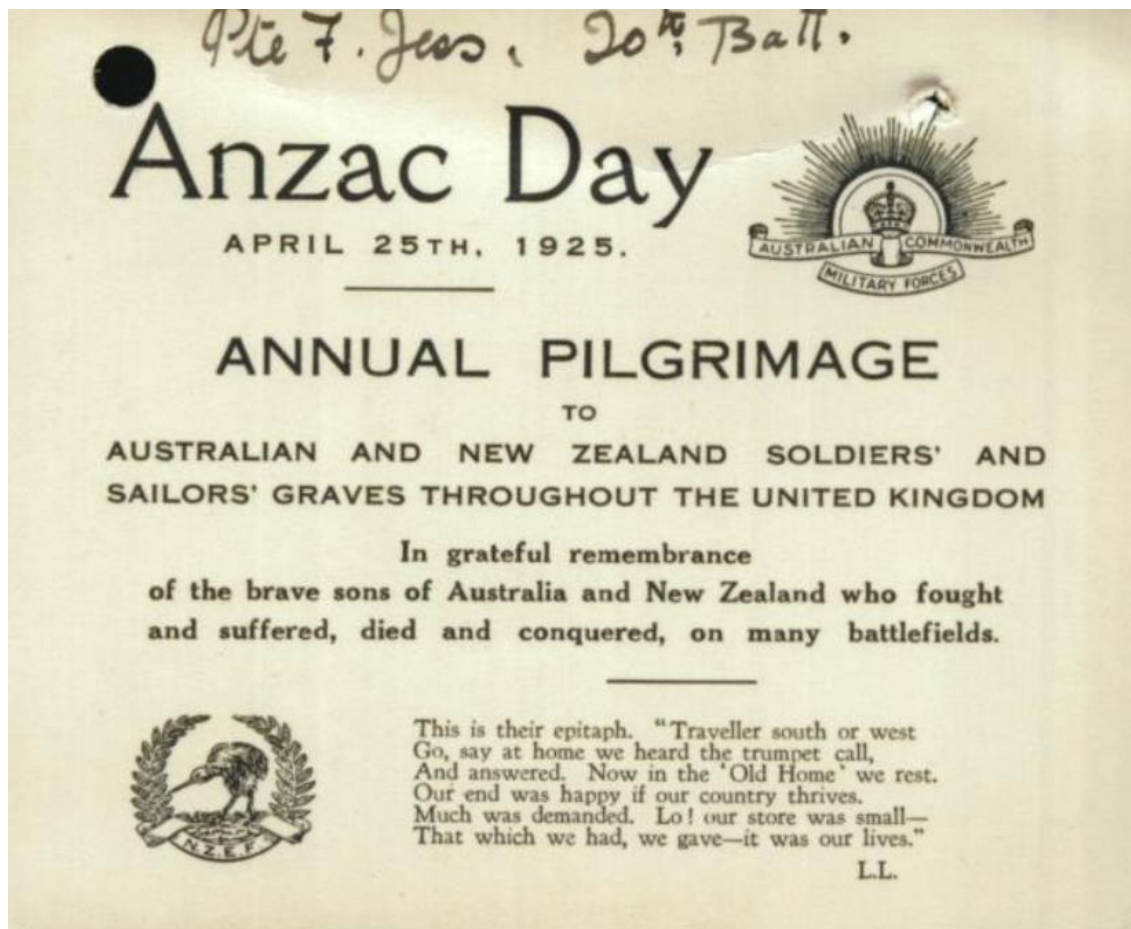
(Photo from CHP RSL Sub Branch)

(75 pages of Private Jack Roach'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



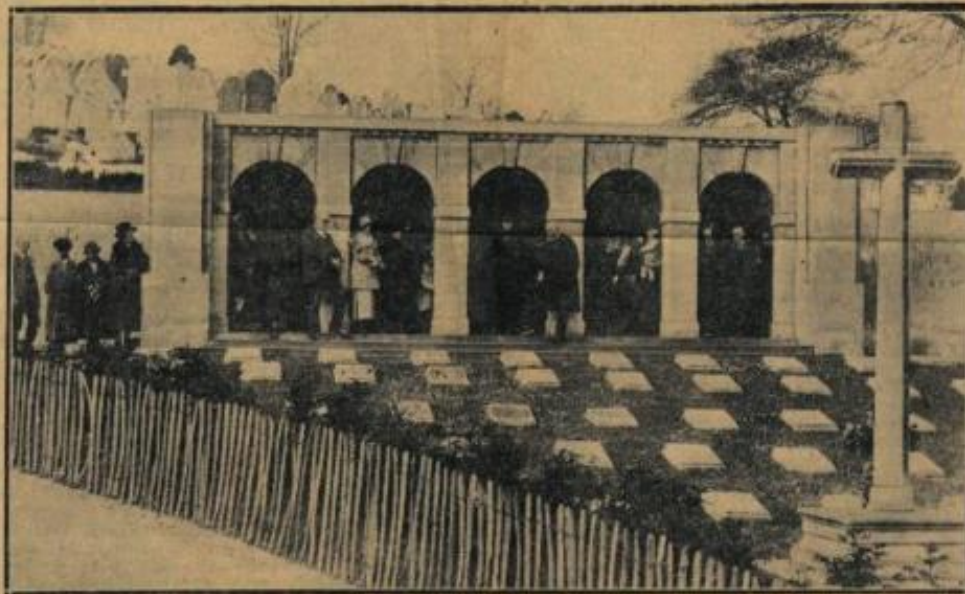
The following items were located in the Service Record file of the late Private Frank Gordon Jess, also buried in Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery. They had been sent to the late Private Jess's father in 1925 by Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England but were returned to Base Records as unclaimed. The items included an Anzac Day Memorial Card, photograph of the then Imperial War Graves Commission headstones of the Australian Soldiers, photograph of the Cross located in the soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery & a copy of the "Western Daily Press" from 27th April, 1925, describing the pilgrimage to the graves of the Fallen. Similar items would have been sent to Private Jack Roach's next of kin.





Y. APRIL 27, 1925.

GALLIPOLI DAY COMMEMORATION



THE SOLDIERS' CORNER, ARNO'S VALE.

Each year, on the 25th of April, a service of remembrance is held for those who died in Bristol of war wounds, and are buried in Soldiers' Corner, Arno's Vale. On Saturday, in the beautiful sunshine of a typical English spring morning, there assembled many who were associated with hospital work in Bristol for overseas troops, Bishop's Knoll, which, as most people know, was given over as a war hospital from 1914 to 1918, was represented by Mr E. E. Bush (Commandant), Mr and Miss Philp, Mrs Herapath, the Misses Nora and Doris Burt, Miss Vera Savile, Miss Goldsmith, Miss Stafford Jones, Miss Fenne, the Misses Spofforth, Miss Thursfield, Mr E. C. Philp, and Mr A. G. Powell. Mrs E. E. Bush was away from Bristol, and Miss Hall-Houghton and others were unavoidably absent. Miss Laing, another devoted worker at Bishop's Knoll, took a wreath to the one Australian soldier who was buried at Greenbank Cemetery.

Most of these present brought flowers. Mr E. E. Bush placed a very beautiful emblem—the work of one of the Bishop's Knoll sisters—at the foot of the cross in the "Corner," and Mr Philp contributed a wreath of daffodils. Spring flowers there were in plenty, a postman in uniform contributing a bunch of wallflowers, and other sympathetic folk adding their tender tributes.

Bishop Clifford, in his short address, said: "We are gathered here on this 10th anniversary of Gallipoli day to reverently and affectionately commemorate our brethren from various parts of the British Empire who, after having valiantly fought and honourably suffered in the Great War, were brought to this city of Bristol and here breathed their last breath. We laid their bodies in the earth at this spot, and here they rest in hope till the Day of Resurrection. We gratefully cherish their memory. We renew it to-day, and will never allow it to pass from our mind and heart. God's mercy and peace be with them, as is our affectionate regard, and may that great cause for which they gave their lives be ever upheld and prosper and ever honoured among men of goodwill."

Prayer was said, and this simple service which will so greatly comfort the relative was over.



MR E. C. PHILP AND MR R. E. BUSH PLACING WREATHS ON THE CROSS.

Newspaper Notices

MORE CASUALTIES N.S.W. LOSSES

191st LIST

Dangerously ill

Pte J. ROACH, Hurlstone Park, also wounded

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 10 August, 1916)

SUN TOBACCO SCHEME

Private Jack Roach, of Hurlstone Park, writes from France, expressing appreciation for the cigarettes sent him through "The Sun" fund.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 24 August, 1916)

CASUALTIES

The 212th and 213th lists of Australian casualties were issued last night....

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte J. ROACH, Hurlstone Park

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 16 September, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

ROACH – Pte Jack Roach, of Hurlstone Park, died of wounds received in France, Aug. 14, aged 21. May Jesus and Mary have mercy on his soul. Inserted by his loving auntie, Peggy, of Enmore, cousins, Mary, Winnie, Delia, Jack, Maggie, Jim and little Strove.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 19 September, 1916)

ALL ABOUT PEOPLE



The late Private Jack Roach

Private Jack Roach, son of Mrs Roach, "Wadonga" Melford-street, Hurlstone Park, died of wounds on August 14. He was employed at Garden Island when he enlisted, and left for the front last November. Mrs Roach has received a letter from a French chaplain, who stated that he attended her son on the battlefield. R.I.P.

(The Catholic Press, Sydney, NSW – 28 September, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

ROACH – Severely wounded in France, on July 19, died on August 14, 1916, at Bishop's Knoll Hospital, Bristol. Private Jack Roach, aged 21 years, son of Mrs Roach, of Wodonga, Milford-street, Hurlstone Park.

What happy hours we once enjoyed,
How sweet his memory still,
But he has left an aching heart
This world can never fill.

Sadly missed by his loving mother, also his sisters and brothers, Marjorie, Eileen, Ted, Stan., and Vin.

Sweet Jesus have mercy on his soul.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 8 November, 1916)



PTE. J. ROACH,
Hurlstone Pk.—Died Wounds.

(*Sydney Mail*, NSW – 6 December, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

ROACH – In loving memory of Private Jack Roach, of Hurlstone Park, who was wounded at Pozieres, July 19, 1916; died August 14, 1916' ever remembered by his loving auntie and cousins, Mary, Winnie, Delia, Maggie, Jim and little Jack, also Jack on active service. Inserted by Mrs Connaughton, Petersham. Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, have mercy on his dear soul.-R.I.P.

(*The Catholic Press*, Sydney, NSW – 15 August, 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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 28th July, 1921, to Mrs D. Roach, Vincentville, 47 Cobar Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late Private J. Roach, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private J. Roach does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

R.I.P.

Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bristol, England (also known as Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery)

The cemetery was begun in 1856. During both wars, there were a number of military hospitals at Bristol and the city was the depot of the Gloucestershire Regiment. During the Second World War there were also a number of Royal Air Force stations and prisoner of war camps in the area. Bristol (Arnos Vale) Roman Catholic Cemetery contains 52 First World War burials, mostly of men who died at the local hospitals, particularly the 2nd Southern General and the Beaufort, many of whom were landed at Avonmouth from hospital ships from the Mediterranean. Forty of the graves form a war plot, marked by a screen wall bearing the names of the dead. The cemetery also contains 11 Second World War burials and ten Belgian and Portuguese war graves.

(Information from CWGC)





Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery (Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)



Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery (Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private J. Roach's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bristol, England.



(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)



Australian World War 1 CWGC Headstones in Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery

Private J. Roach – Front row

(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)