

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2655 DRIVER

JOHN GIBSON ROSEMOND

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

2ND SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 26

He Gave His Life

For His Country

John Gibson (Jack) ROSEMOND

John Gibson Rosemond was born at Leichhardt, Sydney, New South Wales in 1891 to parents Joseph and Sarah Jane Rosemond

John Gibson Rosemond attended Canterbury Public School, Sydney, NSW.

John Gibson Rosemond was aged 24 years & 8 months (Embarkation Roll has his age as 49), single & a Confectioner (listed on Embarkation Roll & Attestation Papers as a Driver) from George Street, Canterbury, NSW when he enlisted on 1st September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2655 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Joseph Rosemond, George Street, Canterbury, NSW.

Driver John Gibson Rosemond was posted to 7th Field Company, Engineers, A.I.F. on 1st September, 1915 for recruit training.

Driver John Rosemond embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Suffolk (A23)* on 30th November, 1915 with the 7th Field Company Engineers.

Australian Engineers in the First World War

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Driver John Gibson Rosemond was written up for being Absent without Leave from 9.15 am to 12 noon (2 ¾ hours) on 27th January, 1916 at Serapeum. He was awarded a forfeiture of 1 days' Pay.

Driver John Gibson Rosemond embarked for overseas from Alexandria per Minneapolis on 14th March, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 19th March, 1916.

Driver John Gibson Rosemond was written up at Marseilles, France for disembarking from Troopship without Orders on 20th March, 1916 & being Absent from Parade. He was awarded a forfeiture of 3 days' Pay on 25th March, 1916.

Driver John Gibson Rosemond was on Leave to England from 30th June, 1917 & rejoined 7th Field Company, Engineers on 13th July, 1917.

Driver John Gibson Rosemond was sent sick to 29th Casualty Clearing Station on 14th July, 1917 – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was transferred to No. 2 Ambulance Train on 17th July, 1917 & admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France the same day. Driver Rosemond was diagnosed with Leukaemia & was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *St. George* on 22nd July, 1917.

Driver John Gibson Rosemond was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 24th July, 1917 with Leukaemia.

Driver John Gibson Rosemond died at 8.50 pm on 2nd September, 1917 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from Spleno-medullary Leukaemia & Asthenia.

A death for John Rosemond, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Wandsworth, Greater London, England.

Driver John Gibson Rosemond was buried at 1.30 pm on 6th September, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179, 728.

From the burial report of Driver John Gibson Rosemond - *Coffin was good – Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Party and Bearers being supplied by the South African Regiment stationed at Farnborough. A service was conducted at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. R. G. Crawford, Presbyterian Minister, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. The "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. and of the South African Regiment. No relatives were present at the funeral. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Rosemond, George St., Canterbury, NSW on 29th March, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row F Grave 20.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. F. 20. Driver John Gibson Rosemond has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Driver John Gibson Rosemond contains a letter from Matron, 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England which reads: *"Rosemond, Pte J. 2655. "Died of wounds" Was in Hospital for some little time. He got worse very suddenly and died within a few days, he did not suffer much. He unfortunately had no friends here but we did all we could for him."*

Mr J. Rosemond, George St., Canterbury, NSW, father of the late Driver John Gibson Rosemond, wrote to Base Records on 17th September, 1917 stating: *"I have been notified by the Defence Dept that my son Driver J. Rosemond No 2655 7th Field Co. Engineers died of wounds 1/9/17. In Casualty List 15/9/17 p[ublished in Evening News & Herald 17th inst. it stated died of illness 2/9/17. I would feel grateful if you could furnish me with correct information, as to where & cause of death."*

Base Records replied to Mr J. Rosemond on 24th September, 1917 stating that No. 2655, Driver J. Rosemond had died at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England on 2/9/17, of Splino Medullary Leukaemia.

Driver John Gibson Rosemond was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Rosemond's father – Mr J. Rosemond, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

Thomas Gibson Rosemond, of 13 Kingston St, Haberfield, signed a Statutory Declaration on 10th March, 1923 stating *"That I am the eldest surviving brother of the late No 2655 Driver J. Rosemond 7th F.C.E. who was not married. That both the parents of the late soldier are deceased."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver John Gibson Rosemond – service number 2655, aged 26, of 7th Field Company, Australian Engineers. He was the son of Joseph and Sarah Jane Rosemond, of "Rosemond" George Street, Canterbury, New South Wales.

Driver J. G. Rosemond is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 24.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Rosemond is remembered on the Canterbury Public School War Memorial, located in Canterbury Public School, 44 Church Street, Canterbury, Sydney, NSW.



Canterbury Public School War Memorial

(Photo above from War Memorials Register NSW; below from AWM – Places of Pride)



BURTON C.	POOLE C.
COWARD G.	QUICC C.
CROCKFORD C.	ROSEMOND J.
CROCKFORD A.	SCHUTE N.

(58 pages of Driver John Gibson Rosemond'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

MINIATURE RANGE OPENED

The official opening of the Dulwich Hill Rifle Club's Miniature Rifle Range took place on Saturday afternoon, and in spite of the threatening weather the function was most successful.....

In the evening a farewell social was held in the Masonic Hall, Dulwich Hill, in honor of the following members of the club who have enlisted for active service:- W. W. Dunk, J. Rosemond.....

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 14 September, 1915)

OFF TO THE WAR

Private John Rosemond, of Canterbury, prior to leaving for the front, was entertained by a large number of friends at Abbotsford, and presented with useful gifts.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 21 October, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

ROSEMOND – Died of wounds, September 1, 1917, John ("Jack"). Inserted by his loving parents and sister.

ROSEMOND - Died of wounds, September 1, 1917, John ("Jack"). Inserted by his loving sister, Mrs G. J. Bennett.

ROSEMOND - Died of wounds, September 1, 1917, John ("Jack"). Inserted by his loving brother, T. G. Rosemond, Abbotsford.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 September, 1917)

WAR CASUALTIES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Mr J. Rosemond, George-street, Canterbury, has been notified that his son, Driver J. Rosemond, has died of wounds. He was on active service for two years.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 September, 1917)

Latest Casualties

338TH LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Dvr J. Rosemond, Canterbury

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 21 September, 1917)

On Active Service

ROSEMOND – In loving memory of Driver Jack Rosemond, who gave his life for his country, September 2, 1917, two years on active service. Inserted by his loving parents, sisters, and brother.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 2 September, 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 John Gibson Rosemond does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Gave His Life For His Country

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.



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 (Photo from CWGC)



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 Driver John Gibson Rosemond's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo by Neil Bright - 2020)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

