

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4525 PRIVATE

G. J. B. ROYCE

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH MAY, 1918 Age 22

*Younger Son Of
Major J. H. And Mrs Royce
Of Osborne, W.A.*

"Resurgam"

Gladstone John Berry ROYCE

Gladstone John Berry Royce was born at Malvern, Adelaide, South Australia on 21st October, 1896 to parents James Hamilton Royce and Elizabeth Harriet Royce (nee Dunlop).

Gladstone John Berry Royce attended Modern School, Perth, Western Australia.

Gladstone John Berry Royce was a 19 year old, single, Clerk (listed as an Accountant by his father for the Roll of Honour) from Beverley, Western Australia when he enlisted on 1st February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4525 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – John Hamilton Royce, of Beverley, Western Australia. Gladstone Royce stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with 87th Battalion Senior Cadets & was still serving. As Gladstone John Berry Royce was under the age of 21, both parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. J. Hamilton Royce & E. H. Royce signed their consent.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was posted to 48th Depot on 1st February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Signal School on 3rd February, 1916 then transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 16th March, 1916.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 31st March, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce embarked from Alexandria on H.T. *Scotian* on 10th May, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles France on 18th May, 1916.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was taken on strength of 28th Battalion in France on 2nd August, 1916.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was sent to Hospital on 13th September, 1916. He was admitted to 10th Casualty Clearing Station on 14th September, 1916 with Pleurisy then transferred to Ambulance Train on 15th September, 1916. Pte Royce was admitted to No. 2 Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 15th September, 1916. He embarked from Boulogne, France for England on 16th September, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick*.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was admitted to Kitchener's Hospital at Brighton, England on 16th September, 1916 suffering from Pleurisy. He was transferred & admitted to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, England on 12th October, 1916. Pte Royce was discharged from Hospital to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 18th November, 1916. The Hospital Admission form states that Pte Royce had been out of bed for 1 month, his chest was clear & he was medically classified as B1A Grade I. He proceeded on furlough from 22nd November, 1916 & was to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham on 6th December, 1916.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was marched out from No. 4 Command Depot at Weymouth to Wareham on 6th December, 1916.

The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Pte Royce was posted to No. 2 Command Depot at Wareham. He was medically classified on 11th December, 1916 - "Chest now clear but complains of pain in lumbar muscles" – B1 A2 (fit for overseas training camp in three to four weeks). Pte Royce was medically classified on 20th December, 1916 as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks) & again on 10th January, 1917, 18th January, 1917, 26th January, 1917 & 6th February, 1917 – all as B1A3. Pte Royce was medically classified on 15th February, 1917 as B1 A4 (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit) but classified as B1 A3 on 19th February & again on 1st March, 1917.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was transferred to 70th Battalion from 28th Battalion & was taken on strength of 70th Battalion at Wareham on 23rd March, 1917.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was transferred from 70th Battalion at Wareham on 15th May, 1917 to 61st Battalion at Windmill Hill on 16th May, 1917.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was transferred to 16th Infantry Brigade Headquarters from 61st Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 24th July, 1917.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was transferred to 28th Battalion on 19th September, 1917 & marched out to 69th Drafting Battalion.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from Overseas Draft at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 14th October, 1917. He was admitted to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 15th October, 1917 from England. Pte Royce proceeded from 2nd A.D.B.D. on 18th October, 1917 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 28th Battalion in the field on 20th October, 1917.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce proceeded on leave to Paris on 11th March, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion from Paris Leave on 18th March, 1918.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was wounded in action in France on 9th May, 1918. He was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 10th May, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 61st Casualty Clearing Station on 10th May, 1918 with gunshot wounds to thigh. Pte Royce was transferred to Ambulance Train on 10th May, 1918 & admitted to No. 9 U.S.A. General Hospital at Rouen on 11th May, 1918. He embarked for England from France on 12th May, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Carisbrooke Castle*.

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 28 July and 6 August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division returned to the south in October, where the 28th Battalion took part in confused and costly fighting to the east of Flers, in the Somme Valley.

For many of the major battles of 1917 the 28th found itself in supporting roles. At the second battle of Bullecourt, the 28th provided reinforcements who were nonetheless involved in heavy fighting. The 28th went on to attack as part of the third phase at the battle of Menin Road, capturing its objectives in seven minutes, and was in reserve during the capture of Broodseinde Ridge. The battalion was also in reserve for the battle of Poelcappelle on 9 October, but, with the attack floundering in the mud, it soon became embroiled in the fighting.

In April 1918, the 28th fought to turn back the German spring offensive and, from 8 August participated in the joint British and French offensive that marked the beginning of Germany's defeat. The Battalion was prominent in the fighting to secure crossing points over the Somme River around Peronne, and in the advance beyond Mont St Quentin. The 28th's last actions of the war were fought as part of the effort to break through the Beaulieu Line in the first week of October 1918. The first members of the battalion began returning to Australia in January, and the 28th was disbanded in March 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 28th Battalion

9th May, 1918 – Divisional Reserve:

Weather – Bright, Warm.

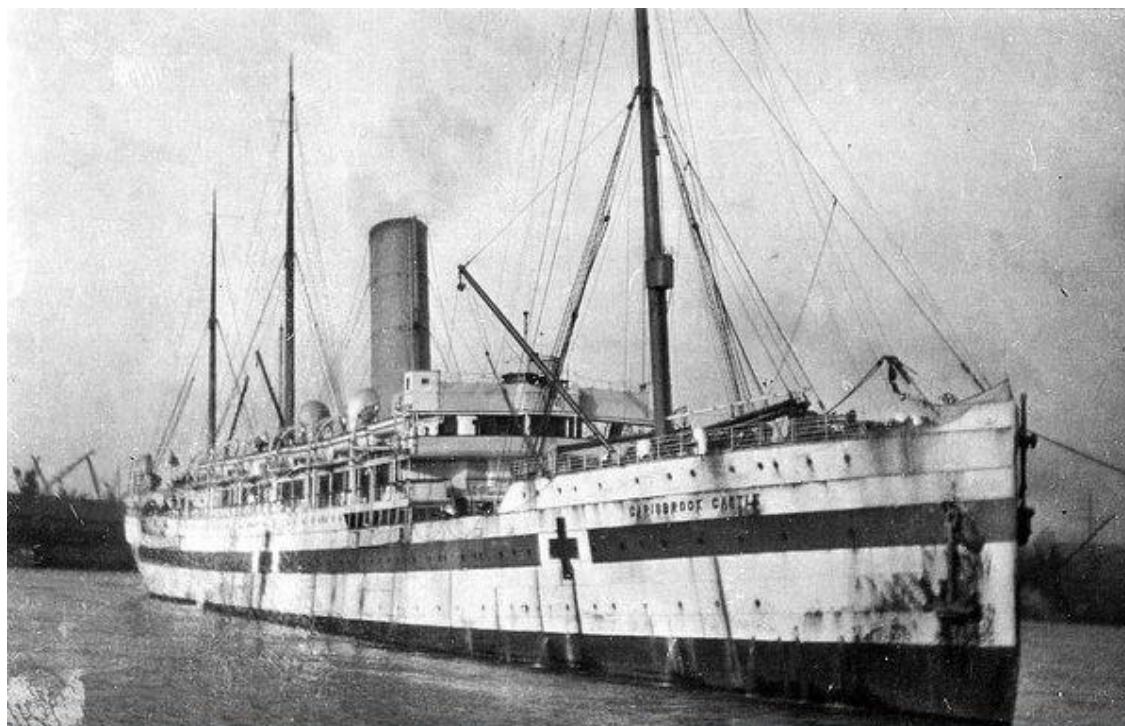
Artillery – At about 7.20 pm the enemy commenced shelling our lines. Some fell close to our bivvies. The first shell falling close to Headquarters wounded Lieut. B. T. Kell and 6 other Ranks.....

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce died on 14th May, 1918 on board Hospital Ship *Carisbrooke Castle* while in port at Southampton, England from wounds received in action - gunshot wounds to left thigh & exhaustion. Pte Royce's body was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 14th May, 1918.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Gladstone John Berry Royce contains a letter from the O.C. Commanding Troops, H.M.A.T. "Carisbrook Castle", Southampton which reads: "*Died of Wounds 14-5-18 – 4525 Pte Gladstone John Berry Royce – 28th Battn., was embarked at Le Havre on 13-5-18 as a severe cot case. He was*

suffering from a severe wound of one of his thighs but was quite comfortable and in fairly good condition until about mid-night when has gangrene (a form of extremely rapid mortification) set in with heart failure. A consultation was held and everything possible done, but he died of Exhaustion a few hours later. He was seen by the Chaplain before he died and I believe gave him messages to his parents to whom I know the Chaplain wrote. He was not buried at sea but landed at Netley Hospital where I believe he is buried.”



Hospital Ship Carisbrooke Castle

A death for G. Royce, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Southampton, Hampshire, England.

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was buried on 17th May, 1918 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number C.E. 1949 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Gladstone John Berry Royce - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack. Gun Carriage, Bugler and Pallbearers were present. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Gladstone John Berry Royce contains a request from the Perth Bureau to make enquiries as he had been reported to have died on board the Hospital Ship Carisbrooke Castle on 14th May, 1918 yet “we are informed by the cable from Perth that a cable message has been received from him dated 16.5.18 from a field post office.” The Adjutant of 28th Battalion wrote the following reply: “Re Pte Royce. We beg to state that prior to being wounded, Pte Royce wrote out a message on a cable form. When he was being taken away, wounded, he handed this form to a member of the Battn., asking him to send it for him, as he, and everyone else, thought he had only a slight wound. Apparently there was some delay before the message was despatched from the Fld. Post Office, and in the meantime, Pte Royce had died.”

Private Gladstone John Berry Royce was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Royce’s father – Mr J. H. Royce, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Gladstone John Berry Royce – service number 4525, aged 22, of 28th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James Hamilton Royce and Elizabeth Harriet Royce, of Osborne, Western Australia.

Private G. J. B. Royce is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 114.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. J. B. Royce is remembered on the Perth Modern School Honour Roll, located in Perth Modern School, Roberts Road, Subiaco, Western Australia.



Perth Modern School Honour Roll (Photo by Linton)

Gladstone John Royce is remembered on the Perth Modern School War Memorial, located at Perth Modern School, Roberts Road, Subiaco, Western Australia.



Perth Modern School War Memorial (Photos by Gordon Stuart)



G. J. B. Royce is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which 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

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



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names *(Photo by Gordon Stuart)*



28th Battalion Roll of Honour names

(51 pages of Private Gladstone John Berry Royce'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

Mainly About People

Mr and Mrs J. H. Royce, of Beverley, received notification on Saturday that their youngest son, Signaller Gladstone Royce, of the 28th Battalion, has been killed in action.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 21 May, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

ROYCE – Died of wounds in France on May 14, Signaller Gladstone J. B. Royce, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. H. Royce, of Beverley. Victorian papers please copy.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 23 May, 1918) & (*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 31 May, 1918)

WAR CASUALTIES

On Saturday last Mr and Mrs J. H.. Royce, of Beverley, received official notification of the death on May 14 from wounds received in France of their younger son, Signaller Gladstone J. B. Royce, aged 21 years.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 24 May, 1918)

SOLDIERS' NOTES

Mr J. H. Royce, the State Schoolmaster at Beverley, has received the sad news of the death of his youngest son Gladstone, at the Front, who was killed in action.

(Eastern Districts Chronicle, York, Western Australia – 24 May, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

ROYCE – Died from wounds on May 14, at The Royal Victoria Hospital, London, Gladstone, the dearly beloved youngest son of Major and Mrs Royce. Aged 21 years.

(The Beverley Times, Western Australia – 25 May, 1918)

LOCAL ITEMS

On Saturday last Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Royce received word from the military authorities of the death of their youngest son, Signaller Gladstone Royce, which occurred at the Royal Victoria Hospital, London, on 14th inst., from the effects of gunshot wounds in the left thigh, received in action in France. Deceased, who was 21 years of age, entered upon active service with the 28th Battalion two years ago last February. The bereaved parents and family have the heartfelt sympathy of a host of friends in their sad bereavement.

(The Beverley Times, Western Australia – 25 May, 1918) & (Camp Chronicle, Midland Junction, W. Australia – 30 May, 1918)

St. Mary's Anglican Church

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

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A vote of condolence with Mr Royce and his family upon the death of Mr Gladstone J. Royce at the Front, was carried in the usual way, on the motion of Mr E. Powell, seconded by Mr Norton.

(The Beverley Times, Western Australia – 25 May, 1918)

Beverley State School

EMPIRE DAY

The public portion of the Empire Day celebration arranged for yesterday at the Beverley State School, including the unveiling of the ex-Scholars Memorial Board was eliminated from the programme on account of news of the death of Signaller Gladstone Royce, youngest son of the Head Teacher.

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(The Beverley Times, Western Australia – 25 May, 1918)

W.A. Casualties

At the Fighting Fronts

409th OFFICIAL LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Gladstone John Berry Royce, Beverley

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 15 June, 1918)



Private Gladstone John Berry Royce *(Photo from VWMA)*

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)

Private G. J. B. Royce does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Younger Son Of Major J. H. And Mrs Royce

Of Osborne, W.A.

"Resurgam"

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 Private G. J. B. Royce's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.





Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery



Netley Military Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*