

**Grantham Cemetery,  
Grantham, Lincolnshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**561 PRIVATE**

**J. A. SALMON**

**AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS**

**2ND APRIL, 1917 Age 28**

*Though Death Divides*

*Fond Memory Clings*

## John Allen SALMON

John Allen Manasseh Salmon was born at Beeac, Victoria in 1888 to parents William & Eliza Ann Salmon (nee Allen). (His birth was registered in the district of Birregurra, Victoria, however for the Roll of Honour, his father recorded that John Salmon was born at Pennyroyal, Victoria).

John Allen Salmon attended the State School at Weering, Victoria.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Corangamite, subdivision of Beeac, recorded John Allan Salmon, Farmer, of Weering. His parents William, Farmer & Eliza, Home Duties, were also listed at Weering.

The 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Corangamite, subdivision of Beeac, recorded John Allan Salmon, Farmer, of Beeac. His parents William, Farmer & Eliza, Home Duties, were also listed at Beeac.

John Allen Salmon was a 28 year old, single Farmer, from Hillside, Beeac, Victoria when he enlisted on 29th September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 561 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Salmon, Hillside, Beeac, Victoria.

Private John Allen Salmon was posted to Machine Gun Depot at Seymour on 13th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 4th Machine Gun Company.

Private John Allen Salmon embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT Orsova (A67) on 6th December, 1916 with the 4th Machine Gun Company, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 17th February, 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0787

**Members of the 9th Reinforcements, 4th Machine Gun Company, (4MGC) grouped informally on the wharf, waiting to embark on the troopship HMAT Orsova (A67).**

*On the first deck of the ship several civilians stand and watch the soldiers on the wharf. Behind the soldiers at the back is a sergeant wearing a peaked cap. Second row, third from right seated, 561 Private (Pte) John Allen Salmon, farmer of Beeac, Vic.*

*Pte Salmon died of Cerebral Spinal Meningitis on 2 April 1917 at Belton Hospital, Grantham, England aged 28 years.*

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.

Private John Allen Salmon was marched in from Australia to No. 6 & 7 Camp & Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917.

Private John Allen Salmon was marched out from Australian Details at Perham Downs on 23rd February, 1917 & marched in to Australian Machine Gun Training Depot at Belton Park, Lincolnshire, England on 24th February, 1917.

Private John Allen Salmon was sent sick to Belton Hospital, Grantham on 9th March, 1917.

Private John Allen Salmon died at 10.15 pm on 2nd April, 1917 at Belton Military Hospital, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

A death for John A. Salmon, aged 28, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Grantham, Lincolnshire, England.

Private John Allen Salmon was buried on 4th April, 1917 in Grantham Cemetery, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England – Plot number Grave No. 31 Section 4 Blue 2 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte John Allen Salmon - *Coffin was good, polished Elm with a Military Funeral. The deceased had every possible attention and had he recovered he would probably have had permanent mental trouble.* (Note – the last sentence regarding “permanent mental trouble” was not conveyed to the parents.)

Base Records contacted Mr W. Salmon, “Hillside”, Beeac, Victoria, registered as the next-of-kin of the late Private J. A. Salmon, in April, 1920 to advise that Pte Salmon’s remains had been exhumed from Grave No. 31, Section 4 Blue 2 & had been re-interred in Grave number 13 B, Section 15 of the same Cemetery. Mr Salmon was advised that *“This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”*

Private John Allen Salmon was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Salmon’s father – Mr William Salmon, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Allen Salmon – service number 561, aged 28, of 4th Coy., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of William and Eliza Salmon, of Hillside, Beeac, Victoria, Australia.

Private J. A. Salmon is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 179.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. A. Salmon is remembered on the Beeac Methodist Church Honour Roll, located in St. Andrew's Uniting Church, 53a Main Street, Beeac, Victoria.



**Beeac Methodist Church Honour Roll** (Photo from Victorian Heritage Council)

J. A. Salmon is remembered on the Beeac War Memorial, located at Main \* Lang Streets (Colac-Ballarart Road), Beeac, Victoria.



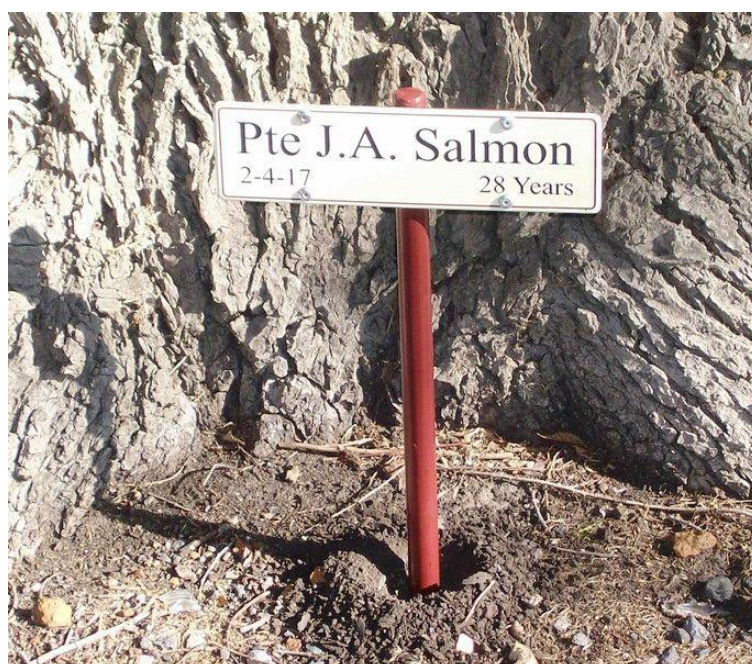
**Beeac War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/ Sandra Brown)

Pte J. A. Salmon is remembered with a tree on the Avenue of Honour – Wallace Street, Beeac, Victoria. There are 2 Avenues of Honour in Beeac – Coulstone Street & Wallace Street.

*The ceremony of planting a tree in memory of each of the Beeac soldiers who died in World War One took place in Wallace Street on the 7th July 1917. The idea of the planting of the trees was conceived by the Patriotic Committee. The names of whom the trees represented were read out by the President of the Committee, Mr Stephens and the trees were numbered. (Colac Herald, Victoria -, 11th July 1917)*



**Avenue of Honour – Wallace Street, Beeac** (Photos from Monument Australia –Graeme Saunders/Dawn Missen)



(40 pages of Private John Allen Salmon'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**

### **COLAC DISTRICT HONOR ROLL**

#### **VOLUNTARY ENLISTMENTS CONTINUED**

Salmon, John Allen, Beeac

(*The Colac Herald*, Victoria – 27 October, 1916)

---

### **DIED ON SERVICE**

SALMON – On 2nd April, 1917, at Belton Hospital, Grantham, England, Pte John A. Salmon dearly loved youngest son of William and Eliza Salmon, "Hillside, Beeac, and loved brother of Will, Maud and Albert; aged 28 years.

Just when his life was brightest,  
Just when his hopes were best;  
He was called from this world of sorrow,  
To a home of eternal rest.

(*Colac Reformer*, Victoria – 17 April, 1917) & (*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 April, 1917)

& (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 April, 1917)

---

### **DEATHS**

SALMON –Died on active service on 2nd April, 1917, at Belton Hospital, Grantham, England, Pte John A. Salmon dearly loved youngest son of William and Eliza Salmon, "Hillside, Beeac, and loved brother of Will, Maud and Albert; aged 28 years.

Just when his life was brightest,  
Just when his hopes were best;  
He was called from this world of sorrow,  
To a home of eternal rest.

(*The Colac Herald*, Victoria – 18 April, 1917)

---

### **THE 288th CASUALTY LIST**

The Victorian names are:-

#### **DIED OF OTHER CAUSES**

Private J. A. Salmon, Beeac

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 25 April, 1917)

---

## **DIED ON SERVICE**

SALMON – In sad and loving memory of Private John Allen Salmon, of 4th Machine Gun Company, who died of illness at Belton Hospital, Grantham, England, 2nd April, 1917, youngest beloved son of William and Eliza Salmon, Hillside, Beeac, and loving brother of Will, Maud and Albert; aged 28 years.

He bore his pain, he bore it well,  
And what he suffered none can tell;  
Peacefully sleeping, resting at last,  
His weary sufferings past.  
Sleep on dear and take thy rest,  
They miss you most who loved you best.  
Sadly missed.

SALMON – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Pte John Salmon, who died in Belton Hospital, Grantham, England, April 2nd, 1917.

No loved one stood around him,  
To catch his last faint sigh,  
Or whisper just one loving word,  
Before he closed his eyes.

-Inserted by his uncle and aunt, J.S., S.A., and cousins, P.A. and O.A.

*(Colac Reformer, Victoria – 30 March, 1918)*

---

## **DEATHS**

### **DIED ON SERVICE**

SALMON – In sad and loving memory of Private John Allen Salmon, of 4th Machine Gun Company, who died of illness at Belton Hospital, Grantham, England, 2nd April, 1917, youngest beloved son of William and Eliza Salmon, Hillside, Beeac, and loving brother of Will, Maud and Albert; aged 28 years.

He bore his pain, he bore it well,  
And what he suffered none can tell;  
Peacefully sleeping, resting at last,  
His weary sufferings past.  
Sleep on dear and take thy rest,  
They miss you most who loved you best.  
Sadly missed.

*(The Colac Herald, Victoria – 3 April, 1918)*

---

## **DIED ON SERVICE**

SALMON – In loving memory of my dear cousin, Private John Salmon, who died at Belton Hospital, Grantham, England, April 2nd, 1917.

He who lives within the grave is deserving of men's praise;  
In death as in life he is loved by all for his manly ways;  
He was a man who dared to stand for what he thought was right;  
Now he has given his life; he prized honor more than might.

-Inserted by Reenie Hyne, Wilson-street, Colac.

(*Colac Reformer*, Victoria – 4 April, 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*)

Private J. A. Salmon does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Though Death Divides Fond Memory Clings*

### **Grantham Cemetery, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England**

During the First World War there were machine gun camps and depots at Belton Park, on the Lincoln Road, and at Grantham a 620 bed military hospital. Most of the First World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but a number of Australian and New Zealand machine gunners are buried together in Section 15. During the Second World War there was a Royal Air Force station at Grantham and there is a small group of RAF graves in Section 17. Other Second World War graves are in a small war graves plot in Section 19, opposite the town's memorial to the civilian war dead, and the remainder are in various other parts of the cemetery. The Cross of Sacrifice is near the eastern side of the cemetery, between sections 2 and 3 and serves as a central memorial to the service men of both wars buried here. Grantham Cemetery contains 55 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 58 from the Second. There is also one Dutch war grave. There are 5 Australian Graves in this Cemetery.

(*Information from CWGC*)





**Grantham Cemetery** (Photos by Roger Sayer)





*(Photo by Roger Sayer)*



**Grantham Cemetery – Australian Plot** *(Photo courtesy of Stephen Stapleton)*

Photo of Private J. A. Salmon's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Grantham Cemetery, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy Adam Gadd 2021)*

GRANTHAM CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM

WARRAWBY ROAD NG31 9DT

