

**Holy Trinity Churchyard,
Hoghton, Lancashire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



15733 SAPPER

JOSEPH SHORROCK

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

21ST OCTOBER, 1918 Age 34

He Sleeps In Peace

Awaiting The Long Reveille

Joseph SHORROCK

Joseph Shorrock was born at Hoghton, near Blackburn, Lancashire, England on 23rd July, 1883 to parents Thomas and Jane Shorrock (nee Ward). He was baptised on 19th August, 1883 in the parish of Hoghton, Lancashire. His father – Thomas Shorrock was listed as a Blacksmith & the family lived at Hoghton,

The 1891 England Census recorded Joseph Shorrock as a 7 year old Scholar, living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at 27 East Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Thomas Shorrock (Blacksmith, aged 32, born Withnell, Lancashire) & Jane Shorrock (aged 30, born Houghton, Lancashire). Joseph was one of four children listed on this Census (all born Hoghton, Lancashire) – Elizabeth E. (Scholar, aged 9), then Joseph, William (Scholar, aged 5) & Albert (aged 2).

The 1901 England Census recorded Joseph Shorrock as a 17 year old Apprentice Blacksmith, living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at 27 East Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Thomas Shorrock (Blacksmith, aged 42) & Jane Shorrock (aged 40). Joseph was one of six children listed on this Census – Elizabeth E. (Cotton Weaver, aged 19), then Joseph, William (Cotton Weaver, aged 15), Albert (Cotton Weaver Half Time aged 12), Emma (aged 9, born Blackburn, Lancashire) & Lettuce (aged 2, born Blackburn, Lancashire).

The 1911 England Census recorded Joseph Shorrock as a 27 year old Blacksmith, living with his parents in a 6 roomed dwelling at 15 East Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Thomas Shorrock (Retired Blacksmith, aged 52) & Jane Shorrock (aged 50). Thomas & Jane Shorrock had been married for 28 years & had 7 children, with 1 child being deceased. Joseph was one of six children listed on this Census – Joseph, then William (Plate Layer – Railway Co., aged 25), Albert (Weaver - Cotton Mill, aged 22), Elizabeth Shorrock (married, Weaver - Cotton Mill, aged 29), Emma (Ring Winder – Cotton Mill, aged 19) & Lettice (Cotton Weaver – Cotton Mill, aged 13). (Also listed but crossed out & her aged listed under the column for Children who have died – Jane Ann Shorrock – aged 4).

Joseph Shorrock had served with 4th East Lancashire Territorials in England for 5 years.

Joseph Shorrock was a 32 year old, single, Blacksmith from Sydney (Postal address on *Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force* given as 32 Newington Road, Marrickville, Sydney), NSW when he enlisted at Bathurst, NSW on 6th March, 1916 (Attestation Papers have the date of 20th February, 1916 crossed out) with the Field Company Engineers – October Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 15733 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Thomas Shorrock, of 15 East Street, Blackburn, England. Joseph Shorrock stated on his Attestation Papers that had been apprenticed with Yates & Thomas, at Blackburn, Lancashire as a Blacksmith for 7 years.

Joseph Shorrock was posted to "A" Company, Depot Battalion at Bathurst on 20th February, 1916. He was transferred to "A" Company, 20th Battalion at Liverpool, NSW on 19th April, 1916 then transferred to 9th Field Engineers on 18th May, 1916. Joseph Shorrock was transferred to Engineer Reinforcements 2nd M.D. on 27th May, 1916.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 31st October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

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.

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)

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was marched in from Australia with Reinforcements to Australian Details 6 & 7 Camps at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 10th January, 1917.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was marched out to Engineers Training Depot at Brightlingsea on 19th January, 1917.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from Brightlingsea on 20th March, 1917.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 21st March, 1917. He was marched out to 2nd Division Engineers on 7th April, 1917 & taken on strength of 7th Field Company Engineers on 8th April, 1917.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was sent sick to Hospital in France on 1st August, 1917. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 7th Canadian Stationary Hospital with Orchitis. Sapper Shorrock was admitted to 58th Scottish General Hospital at St. Omer, France on 1st August, 1917. He was transferred on 9th August, 1917 to No. 7 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne, France with Orchitis (non VD). Sapper Shorrock was transferred to No. 10 Convalescent Depot on 11th August, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to 25th General Hospital at Ecault, France on 13th August, 1917 with Scabies. Sapper Shorrock was transferred back to No. 7 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 14th August, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 39th General Hospital, Havre, France on 17th August, 1917. He was discharged to Base Details on 11th October, 1917.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) from Hospital on 11th October, 1917. He was marched out to join his Unit on 30th October, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in Belgium on 1st November, 1917.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was wounded in action in Belgium on 3rd November, 1917. He was taken to 6th Canadian Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to right thigh then transferred to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Sapper Shorrock was transferred to Ambulance Train 16 on 4th November, 1917 & admitted to 14th General Hospital at Boulogne, France. Sapper Shorrock was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth* on 8th November, 1917.

War Diary – 7th Field Company, Australian Engineers

Location for 1st November, 1917 - Hq & 2 sectns YPRES. I.14.a.4.3. 2 sectns BELLEWARDE FARM. I.12.a.6.0. 100 inf attached. MUD LANE DUGOUTS I.12.c.0.8 2 offs. WESTHOEK RIDGE J.1.d.7.0.

3rd November, 1917 – Nos 3 and 4 sectns & 85 inf attached. Maintaining duckwalks, reconstructing mule track looking after dumps and stores and transporting stores.

Nos 1 and 2 sections Improving pill boxes BELLEWARDE FARM. 35 bunks (Total) installed, drainage effected, pill boxes cleaned, shelters (4) cookhouses (2) evacuated and roofed. Duckwalks laid and tracks made between pill boxes and to main duckwalk. Heavy shelling in vicinity, Sapper SHORROCK wounded.

6 sappers assisting with Company stables.

Nos 3 section & 27th Bn Inf party moved to 5th Fld Coy A.E. Horse lines.

No 4 section & 28th Bn party moved to billets in YPRES.

All works handed over to 5th Field Company A.E. and work taken over from 6th Field Company A.E. "in rear" area.

(War Diary Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was admitted to Central Military Hospital at Chatham on 8th November, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to right thigh. He was transferred to No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital, at Dartford, Kent on 28th December, 1917. Sapper Shorrock was discharged for furlo from 4th January, 1918 & was to report to Sutton Veny on 18th January, 1918.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was Absent without Leave from furlo on 18th January, 1918.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 22nd January, 1918. He was medically classified as B1A2 (fit for overseas training camp in 3 or 4 weeks). Sapper Shorrock was medically classified on 27th February, 1918 as B1A4 (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit).

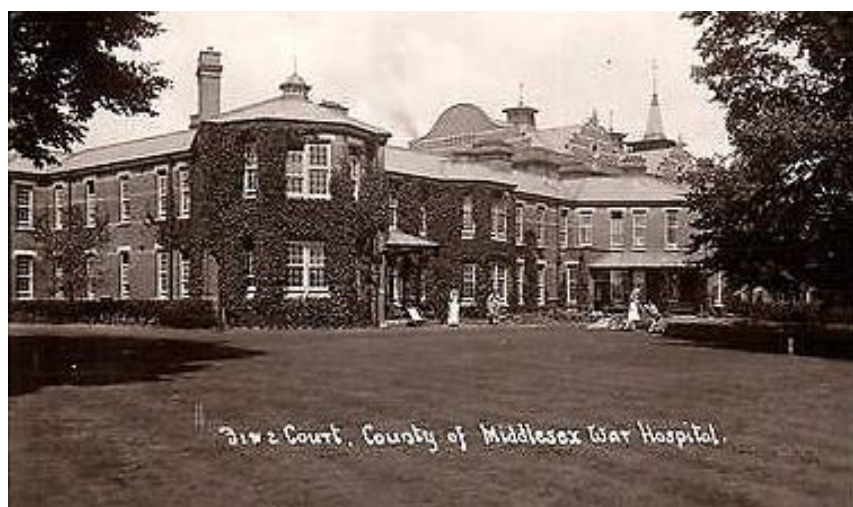
Sapper Joseph Shorrock was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 29th April, 1918. He was marched out to Engineers Training Depot at Brightlingsea on 10th May, 1918.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was written up for an Offence while posted at Brightlingsea – *“Failing to obey Camp Standing Orders in that he absented himself from Isolation Lines whilst suffering from VD.”* He was awarded 14 days FP No.2 (Field Punishment) on 15th July, 1918.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was admitted to General Military Hospital, Colchester on 23rd July, 1918 with Delusional Insanity.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was transferred on 26th July, 1918 to Norfolk War Hospital with Delusion of Insanity Acute.

Sapper Shorrock was transferred to County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, St. Albans on 26th September, 1918.



Sapper Joseph Shorrock died at 3.20 pm on 21st October, 1918 at County Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, St. Albans, England from General Paralysis of the Insane. (Note – there is some inference in Sapper Shorrock’s file that his correct date of death was 23rd October, 1918 not 21st October, 1918. All his Army Forms show the date of death as 21st October, 1918 it is only first mentioned in a letter dated 29th January, 1919 from Base Records to The Under Secretary, Public Works Department, Sydney who had written to confirm Sapper Shorrock’s death. The letter reads in part: “No. 15733 Sapper Joseph Shorrock, 7th Field Company Engineers, is reported as having died from general paralysis at County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, St. Albans, England on 23/10/18. Previous cable advise stated the date of death as 21/10/18, but official documents now to hand show correct date as 23/10/18.” The Admissions to Hospital form which is completed by the Officer in Charge of the case has the following details – *“Pupils unequal; speech slurred; paresis of lower legs; habits dirty; development of abscesses; emaciation (?) died 21-10-18.)*

A death for Joseph Shorrock, aged 35, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was buried on 28th October, 1918 in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Hoghton, Lancashire, England – Plot number (New Ground, south of Church) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sapper Shorrock - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths sent by relatives and friends. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. Dymmock, officiated at the graveside. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Relatives & friends present at the Funeral – Father, Mother, Brother and Two Sisters, Brother-in-Law, Uncle.

Joseph Shorrock requested in his Will dated 17th July, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to William Shorrock, Rooty Hill Post Office, NSW. Australia.

Sapper Joseph Shorrock was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Shorrock's father - Mr T. Shorrock, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent to England November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper Joseph Shorrock – service number 15733, aged 34, of 7th Field Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of Thomas and Jane Shorrock, of 15 East St., Blackburn, Lancs, England. Born at Hoghton.

Sapper J. Shorrock is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 25.

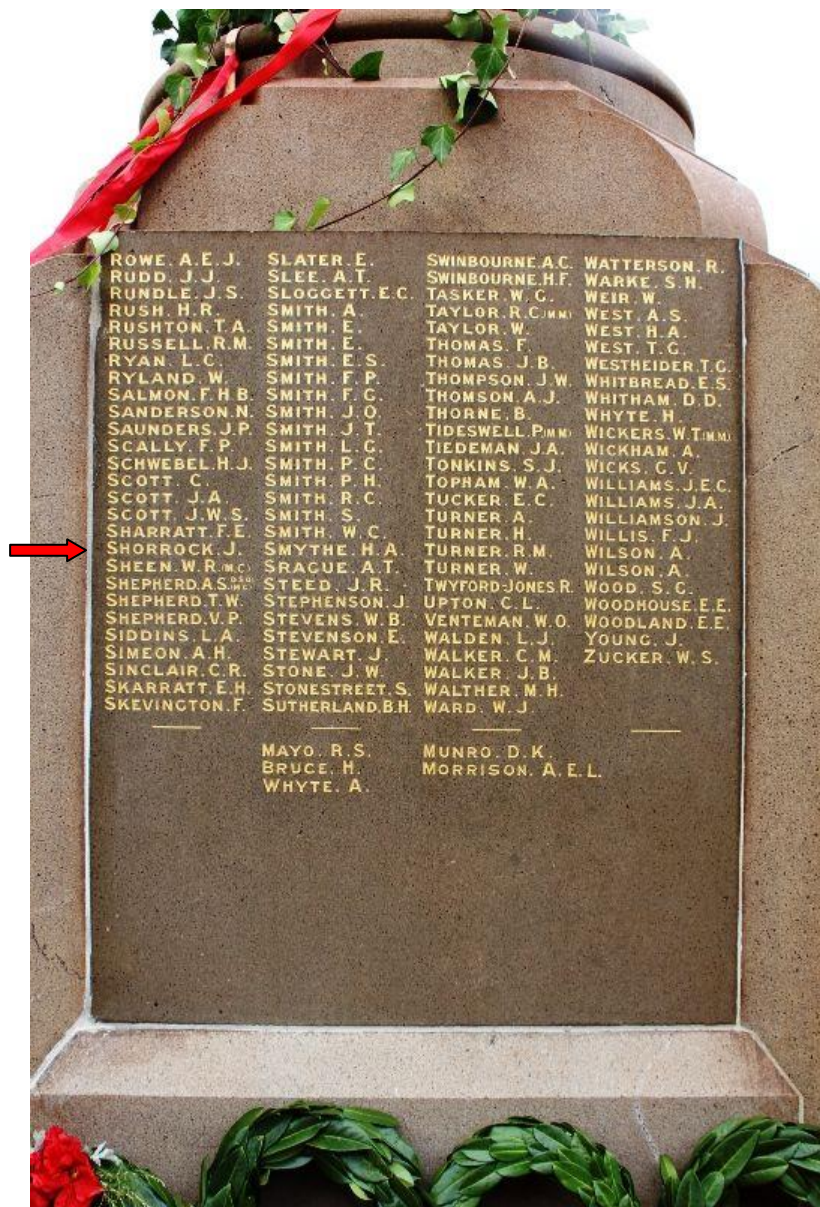


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Shorrock is remembered on the Marrickville War Memorial, which is located outside the Town Hall, Marrickville Road, Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.



Marrickville War Memorial (Above from Register of War Memorials in NSW & below Monument Australia)



(60 pages of Sapper Joseph Shorrocks' 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



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)

Sapper Joseph Shorrocks does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Sleeps In Peace Awaiting The Long Reveille

Holy Trinity Churchyard, Hoghton, Lancashire, England

Holy Trinity Churchyard, Hoghton contains 4 Commonwealth War Graves – 3 relating to World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



Holy Trinity Churchyard, Hoghton, Lancashire *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Sapper Joseph Shorrocks's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Houghton, Lancashire, England.

