

**Cambridge City Cemetery,
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2429 SERJEANT

R. J. TRIGG

29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

29TH DECEMBER, 1917 Age 27

Robert John TRIGG

Robert John Trigg was born at Warrnambool, Victoria on 20th February, 1890 to parents James Frederick & Jessie Trigg (nee Cubbage).

Robert John Trigg attended Dennington State School, Victoria.

Jessie Trigg, mother of Robert John Trigg, died in 1898.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Stratford, Victoria listed Robert John Trigg, Labourer, of Alberton West. His father James Frederick Trigg & stepmother Sarah Trigg were also listed at Alberton West.

James Frederick Trigg, father of Robert John Trigg, died on 24th March, 1912 in Sale, Victoria.

The 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917 & 1919 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Yarram Yarram, Victoria listed Robert John Trigg, Labourer, of Alberton West.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Yarram Yarram, Victoria listed Robert John Trigg, Farmer, of Alberton West.

Robert John Trigg was a 26 year old, single, Farmer when he enlisted on 21st August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2429 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his brother – G. W. Trigg, West Alberton, Victoria. Robert Trigg stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been a member of the Gelliondale Rifle Club.

Private Robert John Trigg was posted to 19th Depot Battalion at Geelong, Victoria on 18th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 13th January, 1916.

Private Robert John Trigg embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 14th March, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements. He was appointed Corporal (Voyage Only) & disembarked at Suez on 15th April, 1916.

Corporal (Voyage Only) Robert John Trigg reverted to rank of Private on 16th April, 1916

Private Robert John Trigg was appointed Corporal (E.D.P. – Extra duty pay) on 31st May, 1916.

Corporal (E.D.P. – Extra duty pay) Robert John Trigg proceeded overseas from Alexandria on 5th June, 1916 per *Franconia* with 8th Training Battalion.

Corporal (E.D.P.) Robert John Trigg reverted to rank of Private on 17th July, 1916.

Private Robert John Trigg was attached to School of Instruction at Tidworth, Wiltshire for Duty on 29th July, 1916.

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 Robert John Trigg was On Command at Jellabad Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 9th September, 1916.

Private Robert John Trigg was appointed Corporal (E.D.P. – Extra duty pay) on 10th September, 1916.

Corporal (E.D.P.) Robert John Trigg reverted to rank of Private on 5th October, 1916.

Private Robert John Trigg was appointed Corporal (E.D.P. – Extra duty pay) on 6th October, 1916.

Corporal (E.D.P.) Robert John Trigg was marched out to N.C.O. School at Tidworth on 8th January, 1917. He was marched in to 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 14th February, 1917 from N.C.O. School at Tidworth.

Corporal (E.D.P.) Robert John Trigg reverted to rank of Private on 24th January, 1917.

Private Robert John Trigg was promoted Corporal on 24th January, 1917 by authority of G.O.C., A.I.F. Depots in UK.

Corporal Robert John Trigg was appointed Acting Sergeant on 24th January, 1917.

Acting Sergeant Robert John Trigg proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 13th March, 1917 from Infantry Draft Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire. He was marched in to No. 5 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples on 14th March, 1917. Acting Sergeant Robert John Trigg reverted to the rank of Corporal on 14th March, 1917.

Corporal Robert John Trigg was marched out to his Unit on 17th March, 1917 & joined 29th Battalion in the Field on 18th March, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Corporal Robert John Trigg was detached for duty with 8th Infantry Brigade Headquarters on 30th May, 1917. He returned to 29th Battalion on 15th August, 1917 from 8th Infantry Brigade Headquarters.

Corporal Robert John Trigg was to be Sergeant from 30th August, 1917, vice 971 Sergeant F. A. Tonkes to 8th Training Battalion.

Sergeant Robert John Trigg was wounded in action on 22nd October, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 23rd October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to knee, arm & cheek. Sergeant Trigg was transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd October, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train No. 36 on 24th October, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 25th October, 1917. Sergeant Trigg was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Pieter de Coninck* on 29th October, 1917.

29th Battalion

The 29th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria on 10 August 1915. Having enlisted as part of the recruitment drive that followed the landing at Gallipoli, and having seen the casualty lists, these were men who had offered themselves in full knowledge of their potential fate.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916.

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In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line, allowing the British front to be advanced. The Germans, however, made selected stands to delay this advance and the 28th Battalion was involved in defeating a counter-attack at Beaumont on 23 March. The battalion subsequently missed the heavy fighting to breach the Hindenburg Line during the second battle of Bullecourt as the 8th Brigade was deployed to protect the Division's flank. The only large battle in 1917 in which the 29th Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 29th Battalion

Near MOLENAARELSTHOEK

22nd October, 1917:

1 am to 2 am – Enemy shelled position intermittently with 4.2" and 77 mm shells.

4.15 am to 4.50 am – Enemy shelled front line heavily with 77 mm guns

5.40 am to 6 am – In reply to our barrage, enemy shelled position heavily with 4.2" and 77 mm shells.

6 am to 10 am – Enemy shelled front and support lines intermittently

12.50 pm to 1 pm – “ “ “ “ “

4 pm to 5 pm – Enemy fired 2 salvos of 5.9" shells at front line.

5.30pm – Enemy fired 30 H.E. shrapnel over position.

5.45 pm to 6.30 pm – *Enemy shelled whole sector very heavily in response to our barrage. One Lewis Gun damaged.*

7 pm to 9.45 pm – *Intermittent shelling by enemy*

10 pm to 11.30 pm – *Light rain*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant Robert John Trigg was admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England on 29th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to knee.

Mr J. W. Trigg, of West Alberton, Victoria, brother of Sergeant Robert John Trigg, was advised by Base Records on 21st November, 1917 that Private R. J. Trigg had been admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, England on 29th October, 1917 suffering from gunshot wounds to knee and forearm, severe.

Mr J. W. Trigg, of West Alberton, Victoria, brother of Sergeant Robert John Trigg, was advised by Base Records on 27th November, 1917 that Private Robert Trigg was "*now dangerously ill will furnish progress reports.*"

Mr J. W. Trigg, of West Alberton, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 13th December, 1917 that Private Robert Trigg was still progressing favourably.

Newspaper item - *Gippsland Standard and Alberton Shire Representative*, Victoria – 18 January, 1918:

SOLDIERS' LETTERS

We have before us a letter from Sergeant Trigg, written to this office on Nov. 3rd, whose death from wounds was recently recorded. He wrote: — I thought I would drop you a line just to let you know that I got wounded on October 22nd, at Ypres, in the knee, arm and face. I am progressing as well as possible, but don't think I will be much use for some time, as my knee got a good crack. It is simply hell pure and simple; what with conditions of country and shell fire we have been through something. We left the Somme early in June, and after a good spell just outside St. Omer we shifted up into Belgium, and hopped over on September 26th. Got all objectives and gave Fritz a good hiding. We suffered a good many casualties. We went in three times after that, and it was in the last time I stopped one. I put in six days in a Canadian Hospital in France. When fit to travel was moved to England, and am in a hospital at Cambridge. N. C. Lovelock, who used to work in the Co-op. store, Yarram, was wounded on September 26th, and is at Birmingham. Xmas is very nearly on us again, and will be over ere you get thin, so although perhaps a little late. I will wish you and all Gippsland friends a Merry Xmas and bright and prosperous New Year. Fred. Clavarino. who used to work at your Foster branch, is alright. His brother was wounded. I haven't heard how Vic. Pryor is. The last I heard of him was that he was alright. Pat Sexton of Stacey's Bridge was alright about a month ago. I met one of the Birds from Hedley at Ypres.

Sergeant Robert John Trigg died on morning of 29th December, 1917 at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

A Post Mortem was held on 31st December, 1917 by Captain W. Malden, Pathologist: "*Thin man, right leg amputated – upper third of femur, clots from recent haemorrhage in stump. Femoral artery tied. Pus in hip joint. Thorax – Lungs - a few septicaemia petechial on surface. Heart very pale, valves normal. Abdomen – intense pallor of all abdominal organs otherwise normal.*" Cause of death - from wounds received in action – gunshot wound to left knee & Septicaemia Haemorrhage.

A death for Robert J. Trigg, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Sergeant Robert John Trigg was buried at 3 pm on 2nd January, 1918 in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England – Plot number C.3559 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sergeant Robert John Trigg - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass fittings. The*

deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag. Firing Party and Bugler were supplied by No. 5 O.C.B. (Australian Cadets) stationed at Cambridge. Pallbearers were supplied by the R.A.M.C. 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by friends. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Hospital Chapel. 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.

Names of relatives or friend present at the funeral – Friend – Miss Stephen, Australian Red Cross, Newnham College, Cambridge.

Base Records contacted The Officer i/c Records, A.I.F. Headquarters, London, England on 15th May, 1918 “With reference to the late No. 2429, Sergeant R. J. Trigg, 29th Battalion, it is noted that Army Form B 209OA quotes the number of his grave as “3449” where a Burial Report from your Office dated 5/1/18, stated “3559”. Kindly advise which number is correct”. A reply was received in August, 1918 stating that the correct Grave number was “3559”.

Base Records contacted Mr J. W. Trigg, of West Alberton, Victoria in November, 1921, stating that he was registered on the records of the late Sergeant Robert John Trigg as the next-of-kin. Base Records then asked if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself & specifically “are his father and mother living, and has he any brothers older than yourself (stating the eldest)” due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mr Joel W. Trigg, Pound Road, Yarram, replied to Base Records in December, 1921 stating that he was the eldest surviving brother & their father & mother were both dead. “There are no nearer blood relatives.”

Sergeant Robert John Trigg was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Trigg’s eldest brother – Mr J. W. Trigg, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Robert John Trigg – service number 2429, aged 27, of 29th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James F. and Jessie Trigg.

Sergeant R. J. Trigg is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 116.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. J. Trigg is remembered on the Alberton Shire Soldiers' Memorial, also known as the Yarram War Memorial, located on Commercial Road, Yarram, Victoria.



Alberton Shire Soldiers' Memorial / Yarram War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

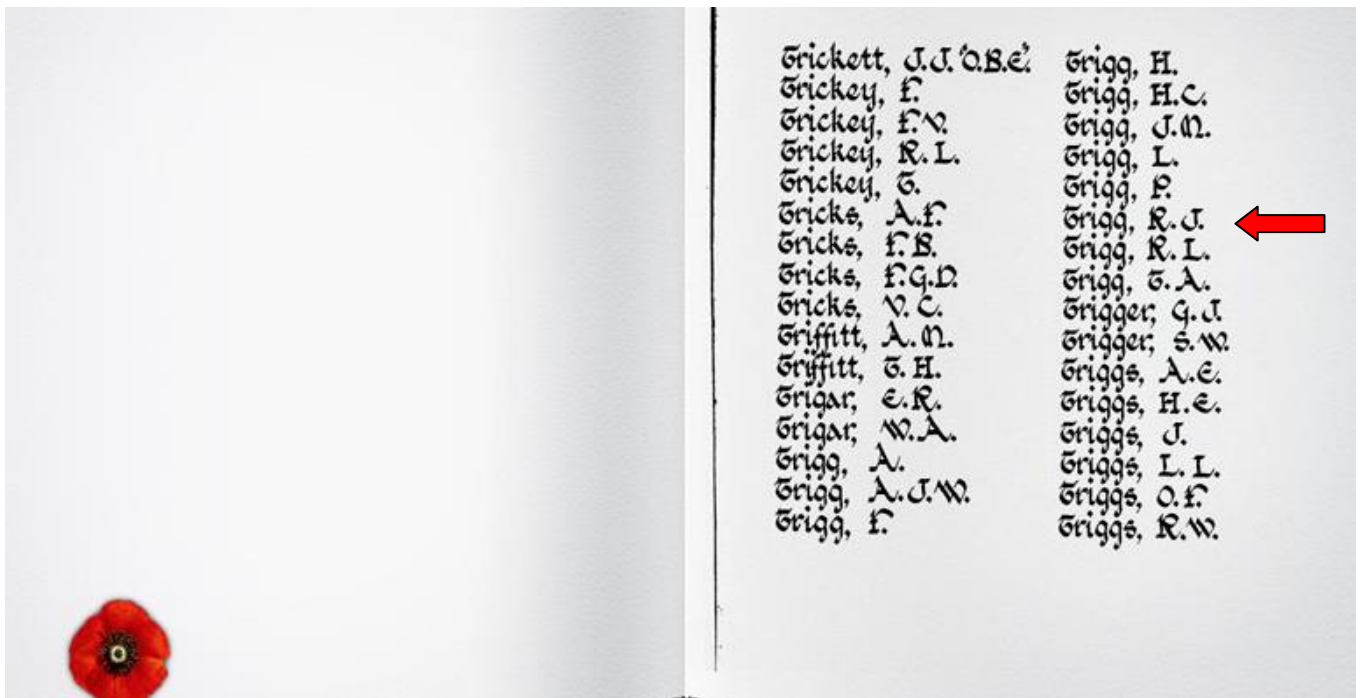
Sergt. R. J. Trigg is remembered on the Woodford – Bushfield Commemorative War Memorial, located in Mechanics Institute Park, Woodford, Victoria.





Woodford – Bushfield Commemorative War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

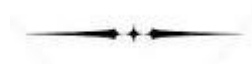
R. J. Trigg is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(82 pages of Sergeant Robert John Trigg'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





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA14321

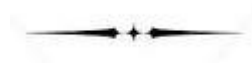
Robert John Trigg



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA14320

Robert John Trigg



Newspaper Notices

PERSONAL

Mr Joel W. Trigg, West Alberton, has received word that his brother, Sgt. R. J. Trigg, has been admitted to the 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, suffering from severe gunshot wounds in the knee and forearm.

(Gippsland Standard and Alberton Shire Representative, Victoria – 28 November, 1917)

SERGT. R. TRIGG

Miss R. Trigg, of Wangoom, received word on Monday that her nephew, Sergt. Robert Trigg, had been admitted to hospital suffering from severe wounds to forearm and knee. Sergt. Trigg is the eldest son of the late James Trigg, of Farnham, and enlisted at Yarram, Gippsland, where he had resided for several years.

(Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 28 November, 1917)

PERSONAL

Word came recently that Sergeant R. J. Trigg, of West Alberton, was dangerously ill. Latest tidings say he is progressing favourably.

(Gippsland Standard and Alberton Shire Representative, Victoria – 12 December, 1917)

TWO CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN DETAILS SHOWN

WOUNDED

Pte R. J. Trigg, W. Alberton (sev.)

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 December, 1917)

DEATH

TRIGG – On 29th Dec., 1917, in First Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, of wounds received in France on 29th Oct., Sergeant Robt. John Trigg, West Alberton, dearly beloved eldest son of late James and Jessie Trigg. Age 27 years 11 months.

(Gippsland Standard and Alberton Shire Representative, Victoria – 9 January, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

TRIGG – On 29th December, died of wounds received in France, Sgt. Robert Trigg, eldest son of late James and Jessie Trigg, of Farnham, and loving brother of Joel and Arthur Trigg, of Yarram, Gippsland, aged 28 years.

“He crowned his life by sacrifice.”

(Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 9 January, 1918)

AUSTRALIA'S ROLL OF HONOUR

378th and 379th CASUALTY LISTS

DIED OF WOUNDS

Trigg, Sergt. R. J., W. Alberton

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 January, 1918)

DEATH

TRIGG – On active service, Sergeant Robert John Trigg, West Alberton, eldest son of late James and Jessie Trigg. Age 27 years 11 months.

He was standing on the troopship

As he waved his last farewell;

He did his share of fighting,

And like a soldier fell

'Tis sad yet 'tis true, but we cannot tell why,

The best are first that are called upon to die.

-Inserted by his sister Mary Trig, and his step-mother.

(*Gippsland Standard and Alberton Shire Representative*, Victoria – 16 January, 1918)

HEROES AT THE FRONT



SERGT. R. J. TRIGG

Sergeant R. J. Trigg died of wounds in the First Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, on 29th December. He was a native of the Dennington district, where his father (the late Mr. J. Trigg) resided until about 12 years ago, when he removed to Gippsland. Sergeant Trigg was engaged in farming pursuits with his two brothers at West Alberton, when the war broke out, and in July, 1915, he enlisted, leaving his brothers in charge of the farm. After undergoing training for just over six months in camp, he left for Egypt in March. Two or three months later he was transferred to England, to the training battalion, and in the schools got his lieutenant's certificate, and afterwards reached the rank of

sergeant. In March, 1917, he was sent to the firing line, and remained in the trenches, till receiving the fatal wound last October. The deceased soldier was a champion rifle shot, having won several medals, and at the time of enlistment he was secretary of the Gelliondale Rifle Club. He was also secretary of the West Alberton Sports Club, and in other ways took an active part in the life of the district. He has numerous relatives in this district.

(Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 9 February, 1918)

War News and Notes

An in memoriam service, May 12th, for Sergeant Robert John Trigg, of West Alberton, was conducted by Rev. C. J. Walklate, at Yarram and Stacey's Bridge. R. J. Trigg was born near Warrnambool, on February 20th, 1890. The eldest son of James and Jessie Trigg, he received a godly training from his parents. During ministry of Rev. Chapman, he became society steward at West Alberton, on death of his father. He learned to testify as to his Christian experience at Rev. Johns' Bible-class at Stacey's Bridge, and was placed on trial as a local preacher in July, 1915. He enlisted in August, 1915, and sailed for Egypt March 13th, 1916. His diligence and ability secured his promotion to sergeant. He passed his examination for rank of lieutenant in England, and proceeded to France. In the onslaught at Bapaume ridge, he was wounded with shrapnel in left knee, on October 29th, 1917. After much suffering in hospital in France and Cambridge, his leg was amputated. Unexpectedly he sank and passed away on December 29th, 1917. Letters of sympathy and admiration were received by his brothers in Gippsland from ladies in Cambridge who had visited his bed side. Dr. Barber, Methodist chaplain, Cambridge, visited him constantly, and wrote of his Christian strength. A determined soldier and a faithful witness for Christ passed to his eternal reward.

(Spectator and Methodist Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 June, 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)

Serjeant R. J. Trigg does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge (known locally as Newmarket Road Cemetery) contains 1,019 Commonwealth War Graves – 186 from World War 1 & 833 from World War 2.

The 1st Eastern General Hospital, with 1,173 beds, was posted to Cambridge during the First World War, initially at the Leys School and Trinity College, later in huts. The First World War burials in Cambridge City Cemetery are mostly in two plots, one in the southern part of the burial ground, known as the Dominion Plot, and the other on the northern boundary. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western border of the Dominion Plot, while in the centre of the other is a memorial cross of Portland stone which was erected by private subscription. The Second World War graves are also mainly in two War Graves Plots with a few others scattered throughout the cemetery. The general Service plot was established in 1940, and the Air Force plot in 1942 for the burial of casualties from the Air Force stations set up in the eastern counties during the war. These included Bomber Command bases in Lincolnshire and fighter stations in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Stone of Remembrance, which was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder in July 1951, stands near the centre of the Air Force plot. Cambridge City Cemetery contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 829, (inclusive 3 unidentified), from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains four non-war service burials and ten war graves of other nationalities.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Photo of Serjeant R. J. Trigg's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.



(Photo by Len – Find a Grave)



Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)



Entrance to Cambridge City Cemetery & Map (below) (Photos by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

Cambridge City CEMETERY

