

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**21112 GUNNER**

**R. L. G. URQUHART**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**3RD OCTOBER, 1918 Age 33**

*His Duty Nobly Done*

## Robert Leslie Gibson (Bob) URQUHART

Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was born at Preston, Victoria in 1884 to parents Donald and Mary Sibbald Urquhart (nee Morris).

Mary Sibbald Urquhart, mother of Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart, died in 1899 in Western Australia.

The 1910 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Swan, subdivision of Collie, Western Australia, listed Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart, Hewer, of Collie.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Dampier, subdivision of Wyndham, Western Australia, listed Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart, Teamster, of Hall's Creek.

Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was a 30 year old, single, Labourer from Port Darwin, Northern Territory when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 24th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 21112 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Donald Urquhart, of Collie, Western Australia.

Private Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was posted to "D" Company, 7th Depot Battalion on 10th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to Field Artillery Reinforcements on 2nd January, 1916 with the rank of Gunner. Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was posted to 35th Battery, 9th Brigade Field Artillery on 12th April, 1916.

Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 11th May, 1916 with the 9th Field Artillery Brigade, 35th Battery & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th 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.

Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was transferred from 9th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) to 3rd D. T. M. (Divisional Trench Mortar) at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 30th September, 1916.

Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart proceeded overseas to France from 3rd A. D. T. M. Bty on 23rd November, 1916.

Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was detached to 3rd D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) on 7th February, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from detachment on 14th March, 1917.

Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was attached to 3rd D.A.C. on 21st April, 1917 & rejoined from detachment on 20th May, 1917

Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was written up for a Crime on 3rd September, 1917 – "*When on active service conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline in that he at Grand Mauillet on morning of 3rd September, 1917 neglected to carry water, after being warned to do so.*" He was awarded 4 days F.P. No. 2 (Field Punishment) & forfeited 4 days' pay.

Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was reallocated to No. 6 Australian M. T. M. (Medium Trench Mortar) Battery on reorganisation on 15th February, 1918.

Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was written up for an Offence on 4th July, 1918 - "*W.O.A.S. (When on active service) conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline in that he at the Div. Rfct. Wing on 1/7/18 absented himself from Parade after it having been checked & just prior to the drift moving off in order to secure a lift in a lorry.*" He was awarded 10 days F.P. No. 2 (Field Punishment).

Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was on leave to England from France from 12th June, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from leave on 1st July, 1918.

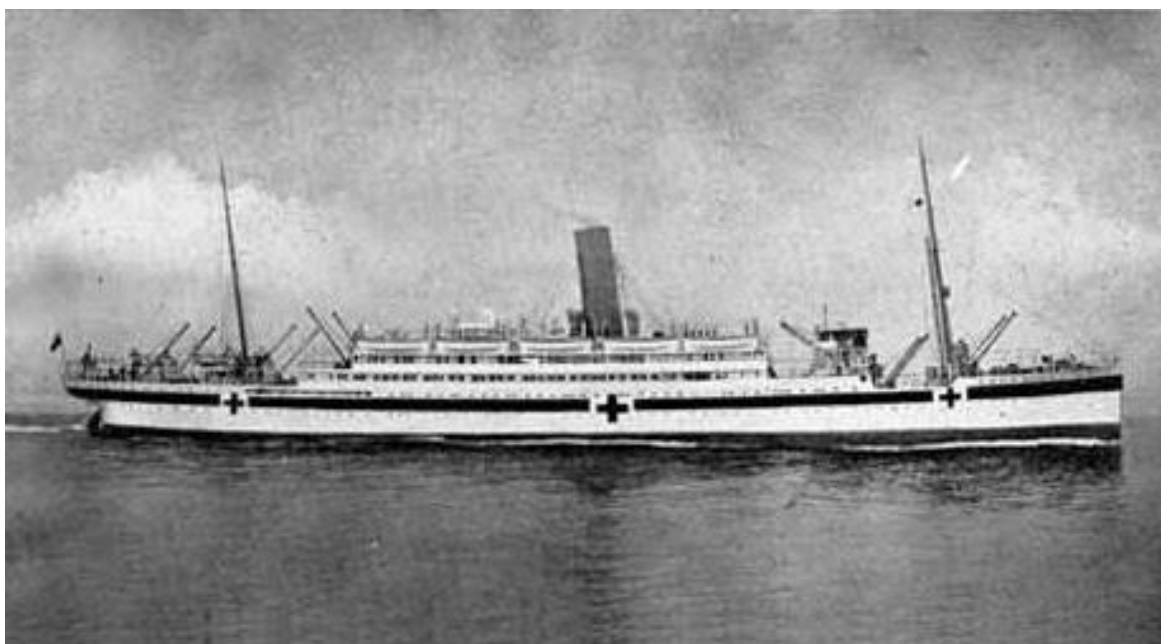
Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was wounded in action on 29th September, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 1st October, 1918 with gunshot wounds to chest. Gunner Urquhart embarked for England wounded on 2nd October, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Essequibo*.

#### War Diary – 6th Australian Medium Trench Mortar Battery

*29th September, 1918 – Parade at 7.30 am. 3 Offrs 8 N.C.O.'s and 30 OR's proceeded up the line with the intention of manning captured enemy guns. When within about a hundred yards from our front line a hostile shell fell amongst them killing Cpl. Tams, Gunrs Fletcher & Westaway also wounding A/Sgt Sheehan Bdr Dyke Bdr Barnes and Gnr's Urquhart, Mercer, Hurst and Scott. Weather squally.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart died on 3rd October, 1918 at Sea on board the Hospital Ship *Essequibo* from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wound to back, paralysis & syncope.



**Hospital Ship *Essequibo***

A death for Robert L. G. Urquhart, aged 35, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was buried on 7th October, 1918 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number N. 409 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, bearers and Bugler being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and borne to the graveside, where the burial service was conducted by the Rev: Forbes and the Last Post was sounded. 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.*

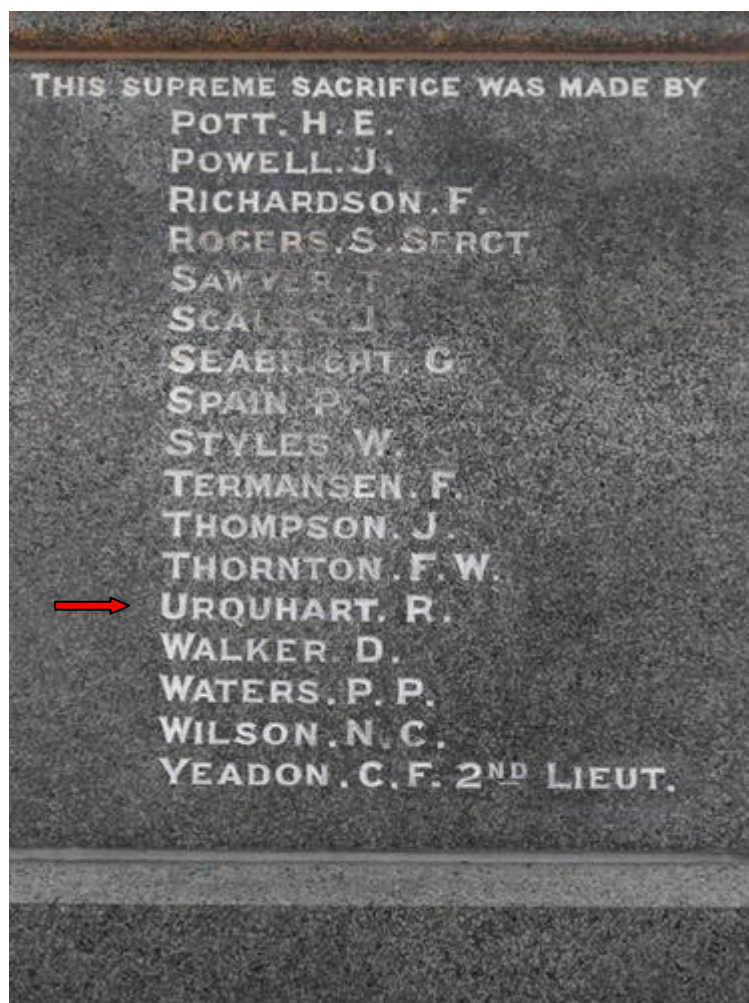
Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Urquhart's father – Mr D. Urquhart, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart – service number 21112, aged 33, of Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Donald and Mary Sibbald Urquhart, of 48 James St., Perth, Western Australia.

R. Urquhart is remembered on the Darwin Cenotaph, located in Bicentennial Park, The Esplanade, Darwin, Northern Territory.



**Darwin Cenotaph** (Photos from Monument Australia)



Gunner R. L. G. Urquhart is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(63 pages of Gunner Robert Leslie Gibson Urquhart'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**

### **DEATHS**

URQUHART – Died of wounds, October 3rd, 1918, in France, Gunner Robert Gibson Urquhart, second son of Donald Urquhart, Louis-street, Claremont, beloved brother of Mrs J. C. A. Mann, Piesse-street, Boulder.

*(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 14 October, 1918) & (Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 15 October, 1918)*

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### **KILLED IN ACTION**

URQUHART – Died of wounds, France October 3, 1918, Gunner R. Urquhart, after three years' service, second son of Donald Urquhart, Louis-street, Claremont; brother of Mrs P. C. A. Mann, Boulder; D. M. (returned), Mrs E. E. Dunstan, Ormond (on active service) and Lyla.

His duty done.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 14 October, 1918) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Aust.– 18 October, 1918)*

## **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

Died of Wounds

Gnr. R. L. G. Urquhart (Claremont)

*(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 24 November, 1918)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Anzac Heroes**

URQUHART – In loving memory of Gunner R. L. G. (Bob) Urquhart, who died of wounds on October 3, 1918.

Inserted by his loving father, brothers and sisters.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 6 October, 1919)*

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### 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)*

Gunner R. L. G. Urquhart does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*His Duty Nobly Done*

## 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

This cemetery was used for many years for military burials from the Royal Victoria Hospital. The graves include those of 721 casualties from the First World War and 36 of the Second World War, comprising servicemen and women from the following countries:

|                |     |                 |    |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|----|
| United Kingdom | 558 | Undivided India | 5  |
| Australia      | 49  | Belgium         | 15 |
| Canada         | 42  | Poland          | 1  |
| New Zealand    | 12  | Austria         | 1  |
| South Africa   | 6   | Germany         | 68 |

The Cross of Sacrifice alongside this plot was erected after the First World War.

THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION  
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE  
OF THESE GRAVES

**Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire** (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)





Photo of Gunner R. L. G. Urquhart's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.





**Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery**