

# Bulford War Graves



*Lest We Forget*

## World War 1



**28407 GUNNER**

**F. J. WEBB**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**30TH JANUARY, 1917 AGE 18**

*To Him We Loved So Well*

*They Miss You Most*

*Who Loved You Best*

## Frederick John WEBB

Frederick John Webb was born at Narre Warren, Victoria in 1898 to parents Frederick John & Amelia Webb (nee Webb).

Frederick John Webb was an 18 year old, single, Blacksmith's Striker from Richmond, Victoria when he enlisted on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 with the 14th Field Artillery, 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 28407 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr F. J. Webb of 49 Type Street, Richmond, Victoria. Frederick Webb stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 years with Senior Cadets at Richmond & was still serving.

Gunner Frederick John Webb embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 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 Webb was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire from Australia on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Gunner Webb was marched out from Reserve Brigade at Larkhill to Reserve Brigade at Bulford, Wiltshire on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Gunner Webb was sent sick to Fargo Hospital on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 with Influenza. He was reported seriously ill with Pneumonia on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1917. He was transferred to Military Hospital at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Gunner Frederick John Webb died at 8 p.m. on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at Lucknow Isolation Hospital (which was a ward in Military Hospital), Tidworth from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. He was aged 18 years & 10 months.

A death for Frederick J. Webb, aged 18, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Gunner Frederick John Webb contains a memo stating cause of death was Pneumonia at Tidworth Hospital. A letter from The Matron of Military Hospital, Tidworth reads: "*He was admitted to this Hospital in 28.1.17 in an unconscious state suffering from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. He never regained consciousness and died 30.1.17. He was buried at Bulford Cemetery 2.2.17 in Grave No. 1 North East Corner, Reserve Plot for A.I.F. Sister who nursed him has written his relatives twice since he died so probably they will have had the letters by this time.*"

Gunner Frederick John Webb was buried on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1917 in Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire - Grave No. 1 Australian Reserve Section (CWGC Plot number 3. I. I.) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Gunner Frederick John Webb 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 Gunner Webb's father – Mr F. J. Webb (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent June, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Frederick John Webb – service number 28407, as being 18 years old & served with 14<sup>th</sup> Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Frederick John and Amelia Webb, of 102 Webb St., Fitzroy, Victoria.

Gunner F. J. Webb is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 18.



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

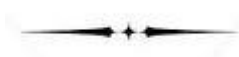
The Richmond War Memorial, located in Barkly Gardens, Coppin Street, Richmond does not contain any individual names.



**Richmond War Memorial** (Photo by Graeme Saunders – Monument Australia)

(37 pages of Gunner Frederick John Webb'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**

### **THE 272<sup>nd</sup> CASUALTY LIST**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Gunner F. J. Webb, Richmond

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – Saturday 17 February, 1917)*

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#### **DEATHS ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

WEBB – On the 30<sup>th</sup> January, at Tidworth Hospital, England, four weeks after landing, Gunner F. J. Webb, beloved eldest son of F. and A. Webb, 49 Type-street, Richmond, loved brother of Alice, Leo, Doris, Sylvia, Stanley and little Reggie, aged 18 years and 10 months.

Though I am far away, dear brother,  
And your grave I have never seen;  
I am always thinking of you,  
As you used to think of me.

-Inserted by his loving sister, Alice Webb.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – Saturday 17 February, 1917)*

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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 in Bulford Church Cemetery. 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 F. J. Webb does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*To Him We Loved So Well*

*They Miss You Most*

*Who Loved You Best*



Photo of Gunner F. J. Webb's Headstone at Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)*





**Bulford Church Cemetery** *(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)*