

**Compton Chamberlayne
War Graves Cemetery,
Wiltshire, England**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



687 PRIVATE

J. T. WEHRMANN

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 28

*UNTIL THE MORN BREAKS
AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY*

John Thomas WEHRMANN

John Thomas Wehrmann was born in July, 1889 at Snowtown, South Australia to parents William James Anderson & Ernestine Wehrmann.

John Thomas Wehrmann married Amelia Grace Jackway on 31st December, 1912 at Mount Gambier, South Australia.

John Thomas & Amelia Grace Wehrmann had 2 children – John Walter Wehrmann, born 7th April, 1913 & Marjorie Rae Wehrmann, born 17th January, 1915.

John Thomas Wehrmann was a 26 year old, married, Labourer from Mt Gambier, South Australia when he enlisted in August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 687 & his religion was Salvation Army. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs A. G. Wehrmann of Francis Street, Mt Gambier, South Australia.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was posted to “G” Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 20th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to “B” Company, 32nd Battalion on 16th October, 1915 as Bandsman.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Geelong (A2)* on 18th November, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion & disembarked at Suez on 18th December, 1915.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance at Tel-el-Kebir on 10th March, 1916 with Parotitis then transferred the same day & admitted to 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt on 10th March, 1916 with mumps. He was discharged to his unit on 21st March, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 21st March, 1916.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 on *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles on 23rd June, 1916.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was admitted to 8th Field Ambulance on 14th July, 1916 with synovitis of right knee. He was transferred to D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 15th July, 1916. He was discharged to duty on 21st July, 1916 from 5th D.R.S. & rejoined his Battalion on 23rd July, 1916.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was wounded in action on 30th October, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Anzac D.S. on 30th October, 1916 with G.S.W. (gun-shot wound/s) to the left leg, arm & chest. Private Wehrmann was transferred & admitted to 18th General Hospital at Camiers, France on 31st October, 1916. He was invalided to England from Calais, France on 9th November, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Cambria*.

32nd Battalion

The 32nd Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Mitcham, on the outskirts of Adelaide, on 9 August 1915. Only two companies were raised from South Australian enlistees - another two were formed in Western Australia and joined the battalion at the end of September. The battalion sailed from Adelaide on 18 November 1915.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt, and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916. The 32nd Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19 July 1916, having only entered the front-line trenches 3 days previously. The attack was a disastrous introduction to battle for the 32nd - it suffered 718 casualties, almost 75 per cent of the battalion's total strength, but closer to 90 per cent of its actual fighting strength. Although it still spent periods in the front line, the 32nd played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.

(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 32nd Battalion

30th October, 1916

4.30 pm Strength – 34 Off. 1818 O.R.

Heavy rain. Enemy artillery barrage. Our artillery replied. Communication trenches falling in through shelling and natural subsidence of soft clay through rain.

2 OR W 3 Hosp

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was admitted to Norfolk & Norwich Hospital at Thorpe, Norwich, England on 9th November, 1916 with G.S.W left thigh "slight". He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, England on 22nd November, 1916.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 14th December, 1916 from Harefield.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 22nd March, 1917 from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was temporarily attached to Headquarters on 24th March, 1917 & detached to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott from Headquarters the same day,

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was medically classified as B1 A4 (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit) on 30th July, 1917 while posted at No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott. He was medically class as A3 (fit for overseas training camp, to which transferred for hardening, prior to rejoining unit overseas) on 25th September, 1917.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was medically classified as B1 A1 (fit for light duty only – 4 weeks) on 28th September, 1917 & again on 29th September, 1917 while posted at No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was medically classified as B1 A2 (fit for overseas training camp in 3 – 4 weeks) on 25th October, 1917 while posted at No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was sent sick to Group Hospital at Hurdcott on 31st October, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 2nd November, 1917.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann died at 2.55 a.m. on 3rd November, 1917 at the Military Hospital at Fovant. A Post-mortem examination was conducted & the cause of death was found to be from a Cerebral Abscess.

A death for John T. Wehrman, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was buried on 8th November, 1917 in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Middle Row, Grave Plot # 4. From the burial report of Private Wehrmann – Coffin was Elm (polished) with Brass Furniture. He was given a Military Funeral.

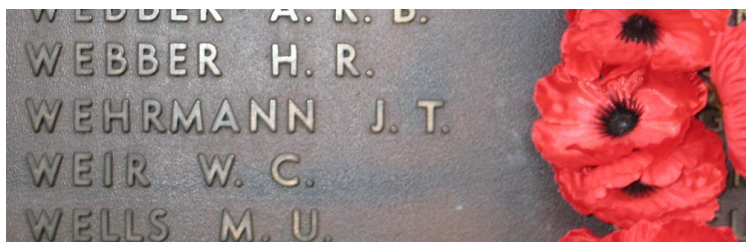
Private John Thomas Wehrmann requested in his Will, dated 4th November, 1915, that all his property be bequeathed to his wife – Amelia Grace Wehrmann.

A War Pension was granted to Private John Thomas Wehrmann's widow – Amelia Grace Wehrmann in the sum of £2 per fortnight as from 8th January, 1918.

Private John Thomas Wehrmann was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll (November, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (October, 1922) were sent to Private Wehrmann's widow – Mrs Amelia Grace Wehrmann.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Thomas Wehrmann – service number 687, aged 28, of 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the husband of A. G. Wehrmann, of Webb Street, Mount Gambier, South Australia.

Private J. T. Wehrmann is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 121.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private J. T. Wehrmann is also remembered on the National War Memorial on North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia (Panel 6 (Passchendaele) column 2). The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide *(Photos by Bilby)*

J. T. Wehrmann is remembered on the Mount Gambier War Memorial, located in Vansittart Park, Commercial Street West and Wehl Street, Mt Gambier, South Australia. (Left pedestal top)



Mount Gambier War Memorial (Photos from AWM -Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(54 pages of Private John Thomas Wehrmann's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09291.498

John Thomas Wehrmann



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Mrs Wehrmann received a cable from her husband, Priv. J. T. Wehrmann, on Monday last informing her that he had been wounded. The cable was sent from England and stated that he was doing well. Priv. Wehrmann was a band member of the local corps of the Salvation Army.

(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, Sth Australia – Saturday 25th November, 1916)

PRIV. J. WEHRMANN DIES OF WOUNDS

Commandant Butler, of the Salvation Army, received an official telegram this afternoon, asking him to convey the sad news to Mrs John Wehrmann, of Mount Gambier, that her husband had died on November 3, but the cause was not stated. Pv Wehrmann was member of the Salvation Army Band when he enlisted. He leaves a widow and two young children.

(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, Sth Australia – Friday 9th November, 1917)

CORPORATION OF MOUNT GAMBIER

The Town Council met on Friday evening....

REPORTS

The Mayor referred to the reported deaths of Mount Gambier soldiers at the front. Two had been reported in the previous two days, that of Private Wehrmann and Private Mutrie, both married men with families. It was a matter for great regret.

At the Mayor's request, the councillors stood as a token of respect.....

(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, Sth Australia – Tuesday 13th November, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

362nd CASUALTY LIST – SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died of Illness

687 Pte J. T. WEHRMANN, Mount Gambier (3/11/17, pr, rep wned).

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Tuesday 4th December, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WEHRMANN – In loving memory of Private J. T. Wehrmann, who died from wounds received in France on November 3, 1917.

Good was his heart, his friendship sound,
Peaceful in mind, beloved all round;
Always so thoughtful, loving and kind,

Few in this world his equal to find.

God has called a hero home.

-Inserted by H and V Gurney, Mount Gambier.

WEHRMANN – In loving memory of Private Jack Wehrmann, who died November 3, 1917 of wounds received in France.

We, who loved you, sadly miss you,
As there dawns another year;
And in lonely hours of thinking,
Thoughts of you are ever dear.

-Inserted by his sorrowing wife and children Wal and Rae.

WEHRMANN – In fond memory of Private J. T. (Jack) Wehrmann, who died November 3, 1917 of wounds received in France.

We cannot always understand the Master's rule;
We cannot always do the tasks He gives in life's
hard school;
Yet we are learning by His grace to solve them
One by one,
And when we cannot understand to say "Thy
Will be done."

-Inserted by D.H.G. and B. Hastings

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Saturday 2nd November, 1918)

THE SALVATION ARMY PEACE FAIR

The annual fair to supplement the funds of this season's Self Denial Appeal was held on Wednesday and Thursday last in the Salvation Army Hall.....At this juncture little Ray Wehrmann, the daughter of one of the corps' bandsmen, who, for his country, had made the supreme sacrifice, ascended the platform and presented the Mayoress with a tastefully arranged bouquet.....

(*Border Watch*, Mount Gambier, Sth Australia – Tuesday 14th October, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my friends, Dan T Hetherington, who died in France on June 11, 1917, and Jack T Wehrmann, who died in England on November 3, 1917.

They fought, but not for love of strife,
They struck but to defend;

They stood for liberty and truth,
Soldiers to the end.

They died as they lived, manly, unselfish, and brave; ever remembered by pal, A.E.

(*Border Watch*, Mount Gambier, Sth Australia – Tuesday 4th November, 1919)

MOUNT GAMBIER FALLEN SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

THE HONOURED DEAD

With a view to compiling a complete list for the memorial of Mount Gambier and district soldiers who fell in the recent Great War the Committee attach all the names in their possession and request that corrections, or additions.....be notified.....

J. T. Wehrmann (2nd last name)

(*Border Watch*, Mount Gambier, Sth Australia – Tuesday 7th February, 1922)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

WEHRMANN – Pte J. T. Wehrmann, of 32nd Battalion, died on 3rd November, 1917.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Wednesday 3rd November, 1926) & (*The Register*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Thursday 3rd November, 1927)

APPROACHING MARRIAGES

LITTLE-WEHRMANN

The marriage of Rhoda, third daughter of Mr and Mrs L. J. Little of Glencoe, to John, only son of Mrs and the late Mr J. T. Wehrmann, of Mt Gambier, will be celebrated in the Salvation Army Citadel on the 27th April, at 3 p.m. Relatives and friends are cordially invited to the ceremony. No reception.

(*Border Watch*, Mount Gambier, Sth Australia – Tuesday 23rd April, 1940)

Amelia Grace Wehrmann's headstone in Mount Gambier (Lake Terrace) Cemetery, Mount Gambier, South Australia.



In Loving Memory

Of

Amelia Grace

Loved Wife Of The Late

Pte J. T. Wehrmann.

Devoted Mother Of

John & Rae.

Passed Away 5TH Dec. 1957

Aged 63 Years

At Rest

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 at Compton Chamberlayne 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)

Private Wehrmann does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY*

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves all from World War 1. Of these 28 are of Australian Soldiers.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



Left & right of Cemetery with central Plinth (Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



Photo taken from back of Cemetery looking towards the Entrance (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Photo of Private J. T. Wehrmann's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



(Photo taken c March, 1919)

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Compton-Chamberlyne, each marked by a cross.

Back row, left to right: 55821 Private (Pte) Alfred Alwin Dreckow, 32nd Battalion (Bn), died 19 October 1918; 3712 Pte Thomas Cass, 10th Bn, died 17 August 1918; 3764 Pte William Joseph Arnold, 31st Bn, died 2 July 1918; Captain Roy Allan Sillar, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 30 June 1918; 1993A Pte Sydney Ross, 18th Bn, died 31 May 1918.

Front row: 1666 Sergeant Percy Robert Knowles, 9th Australian Light TM Battery, died 30 January 1918; 1995 Pte Thomas James Skipper, 51st Bn, died Fovant Military Hospital 7 January 1918; **687 Pte John Thomas Wehrmann, 32nd Bn, died 3 November 1917**; 3462 Pte William Joseph Park, 60th Bn, died 23rd September 1917; 1725 Pte William Ernest Riley, 60th Bn, died 22 May 1917.

Compton Chamberlayne War Grave Locations



British Soldier



Irish Soldier



Australian Soldier

Front Row	Grave		Middle Row	Grave		Back Row	Grave
<i>Public</i>	1		Oliver	1			1
<i>Public</i>	2		Knowles	2		<i>Public</i>	2
	Haywood	3		Skipper	3		Turner
	Gilbert	4		Wehrmann	4		Evans
	Le Tisser	5		Park	5		Dreckow
	Jones	6		Riley	6		Cass
	Cook	7		Turnbull	7		Arnold
	Pairman	8		White	8		Sillar
		9		Howard	9		Ross
	Norris	10		Tull	10		Finn
	Lintott	11		Snell	11		McCarthy
	Redman	12		Ferrow	12		Trengove
<i>Public</i>			<i>Public</i>				13
<i>Public</i>			<i>Public</i>				14
<i>Public</i>						Walsh	15
							16
						Hooper	17
							18
						Larkin	19



Compton Chamberlayne War Graves (Photo from CWGC)