

**St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cemetery,
Rivelin, Sheffield, South Yorkshire**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2439 PRIVATE

L. J. WHITBREAD

48TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH SEPTEMBER, 1916

Leslie John WHITBREAD

Leslie John Whitbread was born on 2nd February, 1892 at Bagots Gap, Kapunda (near Allendale North), South Australia to parents Alfred Templeton Whitbread and Elizabeth Whitbread (nee Fudge).

Leslie John Whitbread was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from Kapunda, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 8th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2439 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Whitbread, of Kapunda, South Australia.

Private Leslie John Whitbread was posted to "E" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 8th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 16th October, 1915 then transferred on 1st November, 1915 to 1st Depot Battalion. Private Whitbread was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 16th Infantry from 1st December, 1915. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 32nd Battalion on 1st January, 1916.

Private Leslie John Whitbread embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on RMS *Mongolia* on 9th March, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.

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.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie John Whitbread was taken on strength of 48th Battalion at Serapeum on 19th April, 1916 from 32nd Battalion.

Private Leslie John Whitbread proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 2nd June, 1916 on H.M.T. *Caledonia* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 9th June, 1916.

Private Leslie John Whitbread was wounded in France on 5th August, 1916 & shell shock. He was admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 7th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left shoulder (mild). Private Whitbread embarked for England on 10th August, 1916 from Boulogne on Hospital Ship *Cambria*.

48th Battalion

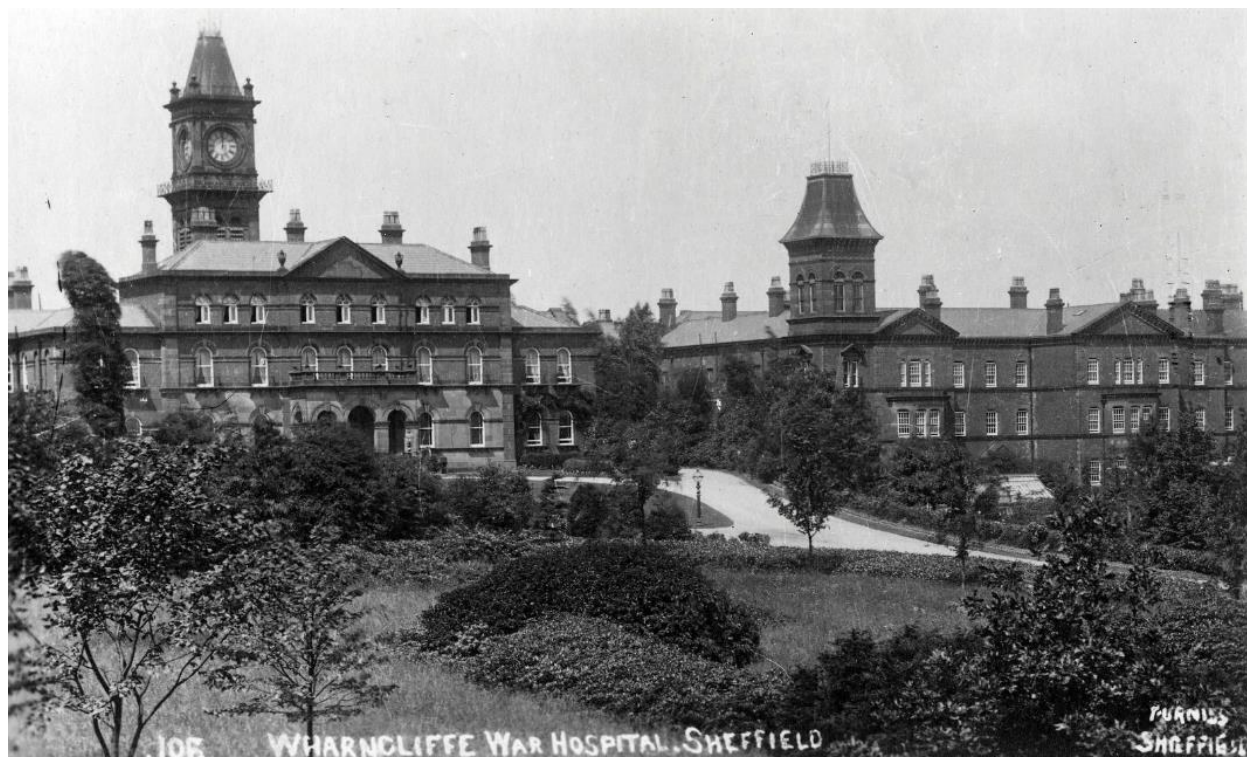
The 48th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Roughly half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 16th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 16th, the men of the new battalion hailed mainly from regional South Australia and Western Australia. The new battalion formed part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division. It became known as the "Joan of Arc" (the Maid of Orleans) battalion because it was "made of all Leanes" - it was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ray Leane, his brother was the adjutant, and several other relatives were scattered throughout the battalion.

The 48th's first major battle on the Western Front was Pozieres. Here, it was tasked with defending ground captured in earlier attacks by the 2nd Division and entered the firing line on two separate occasions - 5 to 7 and 12 to 15 August. During the former period the battalion endured what was said to be heaviest artillery barrage ever experienced by Australian troops and suffered 598 casualties. A diorama at the Australian War Memorial depicts the battalion's experience at Pozieres. Before it had recovered from the trials of Pozieres, the 48th was also required to defend ground captured during the battle of Mouquet Farm.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie John Whitbread was admitted to Wharncliffe War Hospital, Sheffield, England on 10th August, 1916.

Private Leslie John Whitbread was reported as dangerously ill at Wharncliffe War Hospital, Sheffield, England on 22nd August, 1916. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Haemorrhage after removal of f.b. was stopped by plugging the wound. Eight days later pneumonia set in & was fatal on 10th day.*" (Note: "f.b." = foreign body)



Mrs Elizabeth Whitbread, Kapunda P/O., Sth Australia, mother of Private Leslie John Whitbread, was advised on 8th September, 1916 that Private L. J. Whitbread had been admitted to 13th General Hospital on 7th August, 1916 suffering from a gunshot wound in the shoulder.

Mrs Elizabeth Whitbread, Kapunda P/O., Sth Australia, mother of Private Leslie John Whitbread, was advised on 4th September, 1916 that her son was dangerously ill.

Private Leslie John Whitbread died on 6th September, 1916 at Wharncliffe War Hospital, Sheffield, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. left shoulder & Lobar Pneumonia.

A death for Leslie Whitbread, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Wortley, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

Private Leslie John Whitbread was buried on 8th September, 1916 in St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Rivelin, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England – Cemetery Reference – St. Joseph's. Y106 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Leslie John Whitbread contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Adelaide to obtain details of his death and burial. A letter was written by the Matron of Wharncliffe War Hospital, Sheffield, England which reads: "*Rep: dangerously sick, reported wounded then reported D/W and pneumonia 6.9.16 – Pte Leslie John Whitbread 2439 was admitted to the Wharncliffe War Hospital on August 10th 1916, with gun-shot wound of left shoulder. A foreign body (piece of shell) was removed after X Rays, but secondary haemorrhage occurred, and was followed by pneumonia, of which he died on September 6th 1916. The remains were interred in Grave Ea 18. St. Patrick's Section, St. Michael's Cemetery, Rivelin, Sheffield on September 9th 1916. Full personal details were sent to his Mother at the time of his death.*"

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Whitbread, Post Office, Kapunda, South Australia in November, 1921, stating she was registered on the records of Private L. J. Whitbread as the next-of-kin but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself 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.

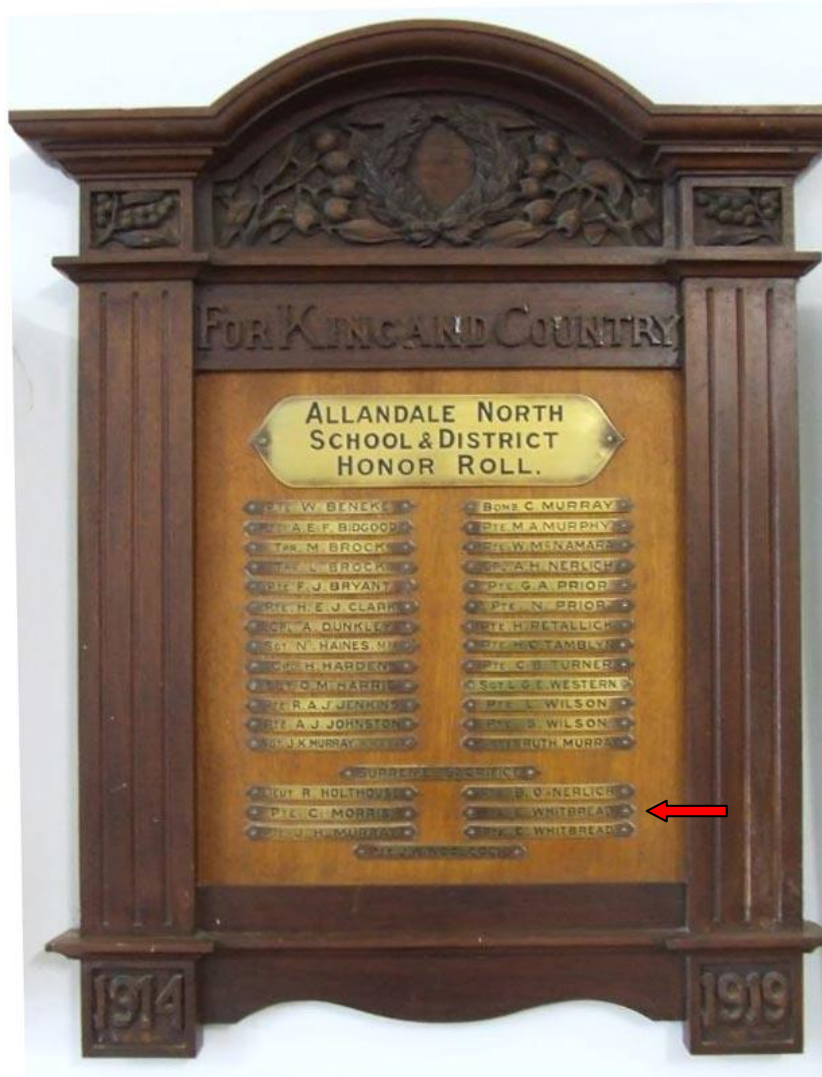
No reply was received by Base Records so in August, 1922 they contacted Headquarters, 4th District Base stating they had contacted Mrs E. Whitbread, mother of the late Private Leslie John Whitbread, to ascertain if the father of the late Private was alive but had not received a reply. Base Records asked 4th District Base to contact the War Gratuity Section of the District Finance Office.

The Base Commandant, 4th District Base replied to Base Records, Victoria on 5th September, 1922 stating that Mr Alfred Whitbread, father of the late soldier, was still alive & his address was c/o Post Office, Kapunda, S.A.

Private Leslie John Whitbread was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Whitbread's father – Mr A. Whitbread, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent 25th October, 1922 & Plaque sent 12th October, 1922).

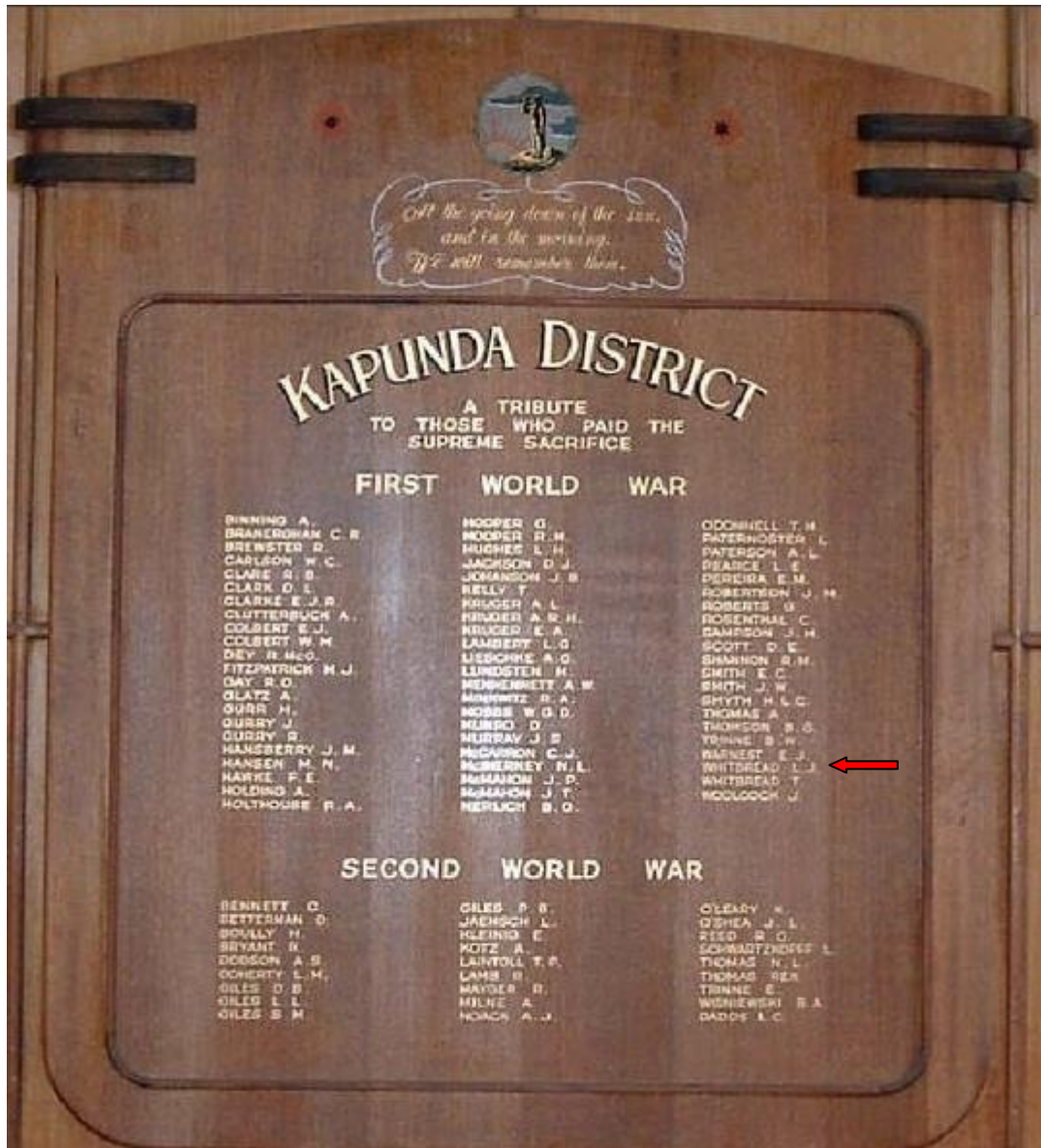
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie John Whitbread – service number 2439, of 48th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alfred and Elizabeth Whitbread, of Kapunda, South Australia.

Pte L. Whitbread & his brother Pte E. Whitbread are both remembered on the Allandale North School & District Honor Roll, located in the Kapunda RSL Memorial Clubrooms, Mildred Street, Kapunda, South Australia.



Allandale North School & District Honor Roll

L. J. Whitbread is remembered on the Kapunda District Roll of Honour located in the Kapunda RSL Memorial Clubrooms, Mildred Street, Kapunda, South Australia.



Kapunda District Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride)

L. Whitbread & his brother E. Whitbread are remembered on the Kapunda Cenotaph, located at South Terrace and Kapunda Street, Kapunda, South Australia.





Kapunda Cenotaph

L. J. Whitbread is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. 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)

Private L. J. Whitbread is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 147.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private L. J. Whitbread is remembered on the Wharncliffe War Hospital Roll of Honour, which at the time of researching (2021) was currently not on public display. It is stored at Sheffield Museum.

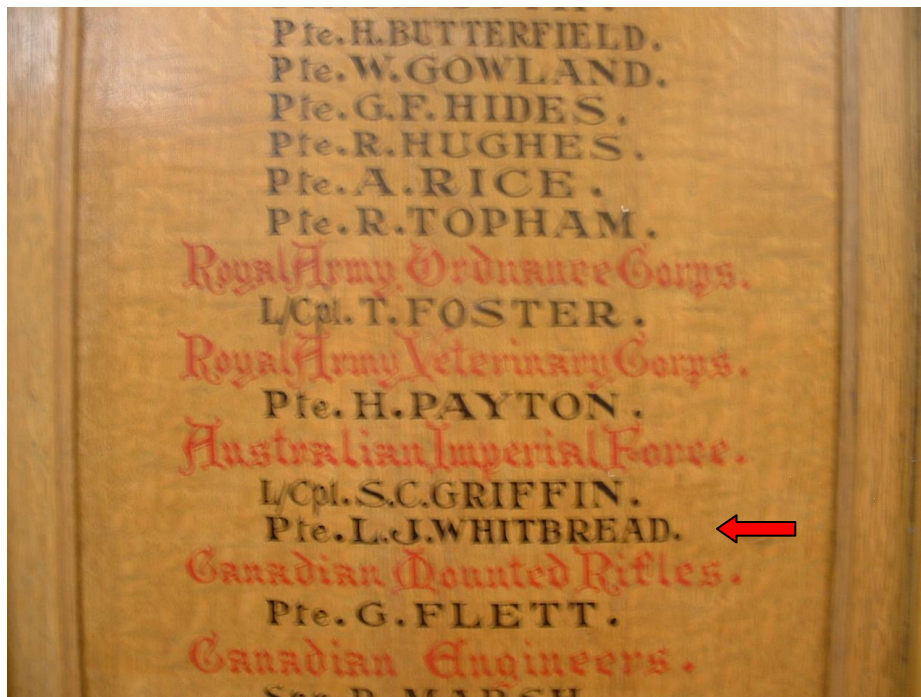
From "A History of Middlewood Psychiatric Hospital 1872 – 1972" by F. T. Thorpe:

"In commemoration of the hospital war effort a roll of Honour was made in the hospital's carpentry shop and measured some twenty feet long and six feet high. It bore the names of soldiers who died whilst in the Wharncliffe War Hospital and in the centre of the panel was a list of the eight members of the asylum staff who lost their lives. The completed panel is on the wall at the rear of the hospital church"

In the centre of the Church Sanctuary a stained glass window was placed bearing the figure of St George with the legend - "To the Glory of God in the memory of those who fell in the Great War of 1914 - 1918"



(Photos from Sheffield History Forum – Guest Trefcon)



2 Australians listed – Lance Corporal S. C. Griffin & Private L. J. Whitbread

(51 pages of Private Leslie John Whitbread'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



Connected to Private Leslie John Whitbread:

Older brother – Private Edward Whitbread – Enlisted 8th June, 1915 as a 27 year old Labourer. Embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on 2nd September, 1915 with 10th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements. Died of wounds 25th July, 1916. Buried Puchevillers British Cemetery, France.





THE LATE PTE. L. J. WHITBREAD.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 22 September, 1916)



Newspaper Notices

GONE INTO CAMP

The following is a list of names of the men who went into camp on Wednesday:-L. J. Whitbread....

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 September, 1915)

BIOGRAPHICAL

THE LATE PTE L. J. WHITBREAD

KAPUNDA, September 22 – The late Pte L. J. Whitbread, who died on September 9 from wounds received in France on August 7, was the fourth son of Mr and Mrs A. Whitbread, whose second son was killed in action on July 25. He was born near Kapunda. Prior to enlisting he was engaged in farming pursuits on the Watalunga Estate. He sailed on March 16.

(*The Journal*, South Australia – 23 September, 1916) & (*The Register*, South Australia – 23 September, 1916)

& (*Observer*, South Australia – 30 September, 1916) With Photo

217th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WOUNDED

Pte L. J. WHITBREAD, Kapunda

(*Observer*, South Australia – 23 September, 1916)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear boy, No. 2430. Private Leslie John, 48th Battalion, who died of wounds received in France, September 6, 1916, aged 24 years, the fourth beloved son of A. and E. Whitbread, Kapunda, R.I.P.

He left behind him aching hearts

That loved him very dear.

Ones that never shall forget

His memory written here.

In a soldier's grave he lies sleeping,

One of earth's bravest and best,

In our hearts we shall miss him for ever.

Though we know he is only at rest.

The midnight stars are gleaming

On a grave we'd love to see,

Where sleeps without dreaming,

Lies our darling Leslie

Every leaf will fade and die,
Every rising sun will set.
But you, our darling Les,
We never shall forget.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents, brothers, and sisters.

WHITBREAD – Private L. J. (Les), died of wounds received in France, September 6.

Though death divides, fond memory clings.

-Remembered by his loving Aunt Annie and Uncle John Fudge.

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of my dearest friend, Private L. J. (Les) Whitbread, WHO died of wounds received in France, September 6.

There are griefs that cannot find comforts
And wounds that can never be healed;
There are sorrows so deep in our hearts
That cannot be half revealed.

-Sadly missed by his sad but proud friend, D. E. (Doll) Moritz.

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear brother, Les, who died of wounds received in France, September 6, 1916. So dearly loved, so sadly missed. – Inserted by his loving sisters, Annie and Lily, Glen Osmond.

The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 September, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Private L. J. Whitbread, who died on 6th September, 1916, from wounds received in France, R.I.P.

Silently the shadow of evening
Gather around our lonely door;
Silently they bring before us
A face we shall see no more.
Only a package of letters
Is all that we have to see
Of our dear son and brother,
Who died for his country.
The letters were sent from the trenches,
But the hand of the writer is cold,
But the name on each letter
Is written in letters of gold.

-Inserted by his loving mother, father, brothers and sisters, Kapunda.

The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 September, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear brother Les, who died of wounds, September 6, 1916. To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die. – Inserted by his loving sisters, Annie and Lily, Glen Osmond.

WHITBREAD – In loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Private L. J. Whitbread, who died on 6th September, 1916, from wounds received in France, R.I.P.

Silently the shadow of evening
Gather around our lonely door;
Silently they bring before us
A face we shall see no more.
Only a package of letters
Is all that we have to see
Of our dear son and brother,
Who died for his country.
The letters were sent from the trenches,
But the hand of the writer is cold,
But the name on each letter
Is written in letters of gold.

-Inserted by his loving mother, father, brothers and sisters, Kapunda.

The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 September, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear brother Les, who died of wounds, September 6, 1916. So dearly loved, so sadly missed. – Inserted by his loving sisters, Annie and Lily.

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private L. J. Whitbread, who died on 6th September, 1916, from wounds received in France, R.I.P.

With patience great you bore your pain;
Your time had come to die,
And we who love you, Leslie dear,
Will meet you by-and-by.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters, Kapunda.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 September, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private L. J. Whitbread, who died on 6th September, 1916, from wounds received in France, R.I.P.

With patience great you bore your pain;
Your time had come to die,
And we who love you, Leslie dear,
Will meet you by-and-by.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters, Kapunda.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 September, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private Leslie Whitbread, No.2139. A.I.F., who died of wounds on September 6, 1916.

Suddenly just in a moment, the Lord of life did come,
And lifted him out of the cloudlands into the light of home.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Will

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Leslie John Whitbread, who died of wounds, September 6, 1916. R.I.P.

He went with the hope of returning
Along with his comrades so brave;
But with many a hero he's Sleeping
In an honoured soldier's grave.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters, Kapunda.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 September, 1920) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 September, 1920)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Les, who died of wounds, September 6, 1916. R.I.P.

In England's graveyard lies a soldier,
That grave we shall never see;
May some tender hand in that distant land,
Lay flowers on his grave for me.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers, Kapunda.

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 September, 1922)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Leslie Whitbread, died of wounds, September 6, 1916. R.I.P.

A silent thought, a secret tear,
Still keeps his memory ever dear.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters, Kapunda.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 September, 1924)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Leslie Whitbread, died of wounds, September 6, 1916. R.I.P. -Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters, Kapunda.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 September, 1925)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

WHITBREAD – Pte L. J. Whitbread, 48th Battalion, who died of wounds on 6th September, 1916.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 September, 1925)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Les, who died of wounds on the 6th September, 1916.

His memory, still so sweet and dear,

We treasure with our love sincere.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters and brothers, Kapunda.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 September, 1926) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 September, 1926)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

WHITBREAD – Pte L. J. Whitbread, 48th Battalion, who died of wounds on 6th September, 1916.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 September, 1926)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Les, who died of wounds 6th September, 1916.

Deep in our hearts is a memory,

Of one we shall never forget.

-Inserted by his loving mother and father, brothers and sisters, Kapunda.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 September, 1927) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 September, 1927)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

WHITBREAD – Pte L. J. Whitbread, 48th Battalion, who died of wounds on 6th September, 1916.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 September, 1927)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WHITBREAD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Leslie, who died of wounds 6th September, 1916.

R.I.P.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters, Kapunda.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 September, 1928)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

WHITBREAD – Pte L. J. Whitbread, 48th Battalion, who died of wounds on 6th September, 1916.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 September, 1928)

****Notices were also placed in 1929, 1930.....**

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)

Private L. J. Whitbread does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Rivelin, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England

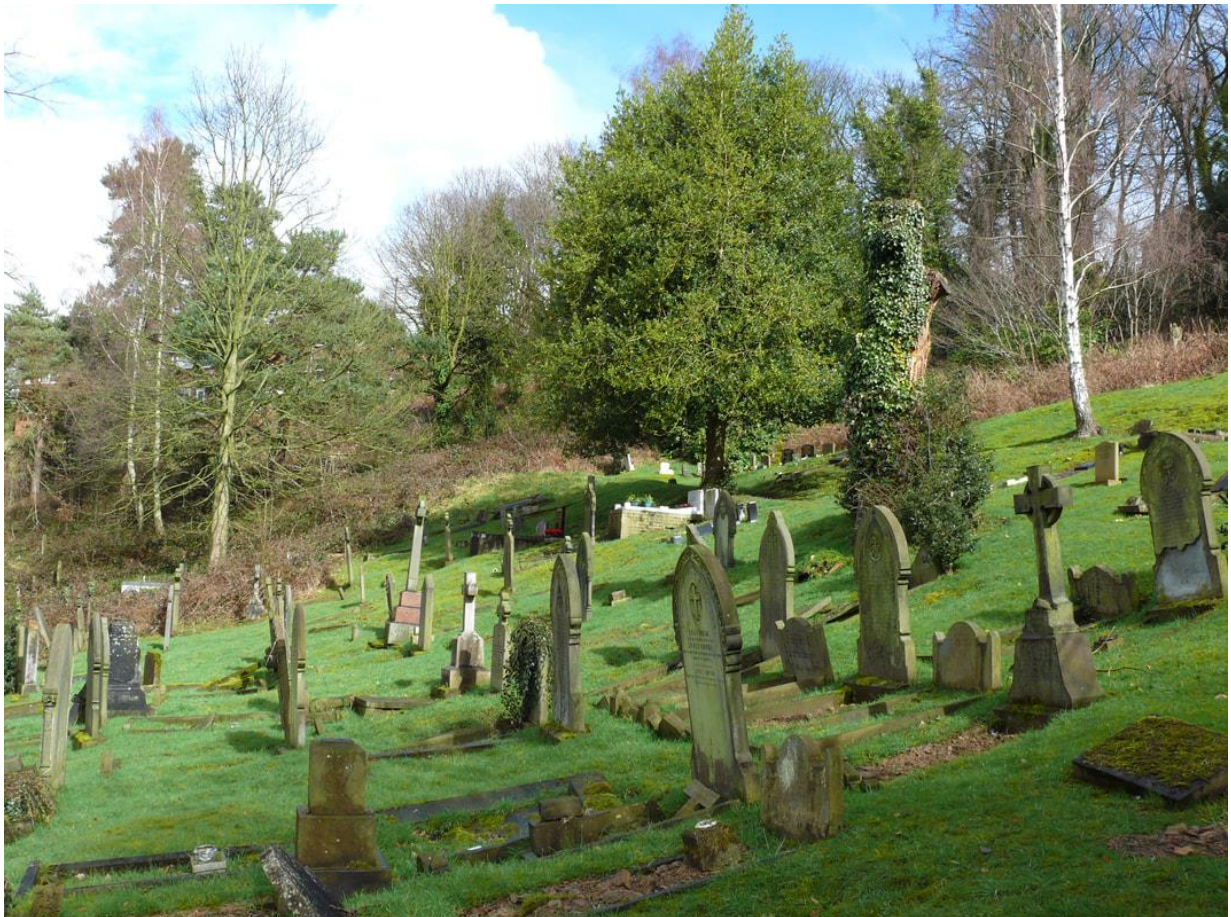
St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Rivelin, Sheffield contains 31 Commonwealth War Grave Commission burials – 25 from World War 1 & 6 from World War 2.



(Photo from St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery website)



St. Michael's Church & Cemetery (Photo by Diane E – Find a Grave)



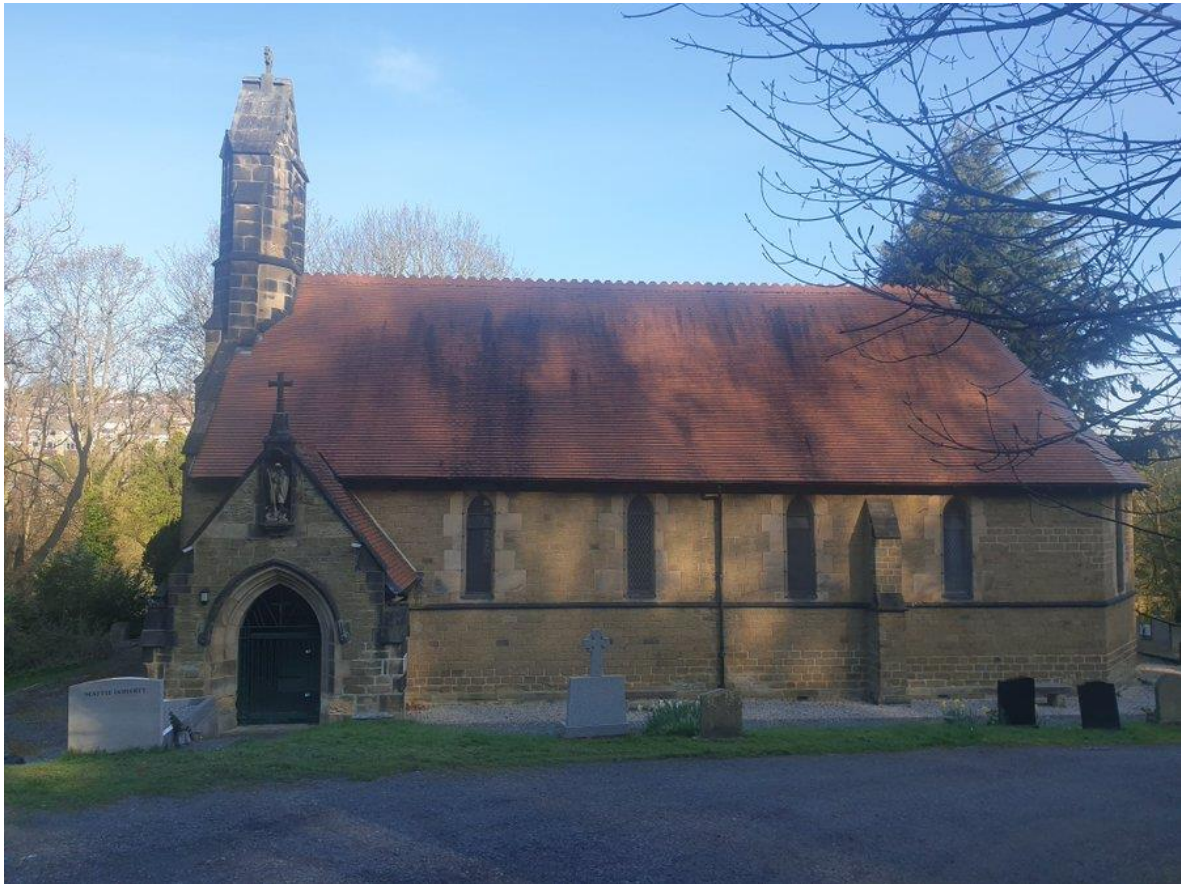
(Photo from St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery website)

Photo of Private L. J. Whitbread's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Rivelin, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England.



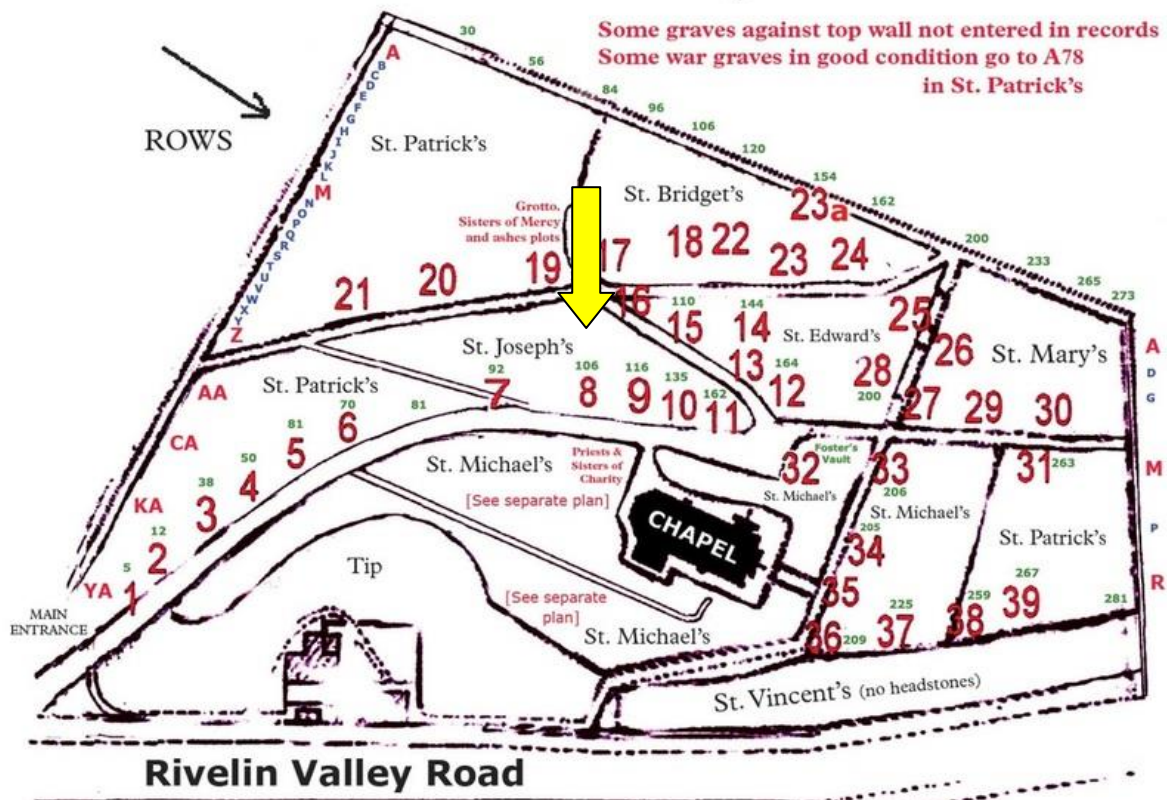
(Headstone photos courtesy of Wayne Bywater - Twitter)





(photo courtesy of Wayne Bywater - Twitter)

St. Michael's Cemetery – Rivelin



(Photo from Joe Maker – Find a Grave)