

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



687 PRIVATE

J. T. WEHRMANN

32nd BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3rd NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 28

*UNTIL THE MORN BREAKS
AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J T Wehrmann is located in Middle Row
Grave Plot # 4 of Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery*

John Thomas Wehrmann was born in July, 1889 at Snowtown, South Australia to parents William Anderson & Ernestine Wehrmann. He was a Labourer, married & aged 26 from Mt Gambier, South Australia when he enlisted in August, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion of the Australian Army. 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. John Thomas Wehrmann had married Amelia Grace Jackway on 31st December, 1912 at Mount Gambier, South Australia.

Pte Wehrmann embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Geelong (A2)* on 18th November, 1915 & disembarked at Suez on 18th December, 1915.

Pte Wehrmann was admitted to hospital in Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt on 10th March, 1916 with mumps & discharged to rejoin his unit on 21st March, 1916.

On 17th June, 1916, Pte Wehrmann & his Battalion embarked from Alexandria for active service in France & disembarked at Marseilles on 23rd June, 1916.

On 30th October, 1916 Pte Wehrmann was wounded in action with gun-shot wounds to the left thigh, arm & chest. He was transported back to England from Calais, France on 9th November, 1916 for convalescence.

Pte Wehrmann was reassigned to duty with the 3rd Command Depot at Hurdcott, in the Salisbury Plain area in Wiltshire in March, 1917.

Pte Wehrmann was admitted to Group Hospital at Hurdcott on 31st October, 1917 then transferred to the Military Hospital at Fovant on 2nd November, 1917.

Pte 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. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Pte John Wehrmann was buried on 8th November, 1917 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. From the burial report of Pte Wehrmann – Coffin was Elm (polished) with Brass Furniture. He was buried with a Military Funeral.

Pte John Thomas Wehrmann requested in his Will, dated 4th November, 1915, that all his property he bequeaths to his wife – Amelia Grace Wehrmann.

A War Pension was granted to Pte Wehrmann's widow – Amelia Grace Wehrmann in the sum of £2 per fortnight as from 8/1/1918. John Thomas Wehrmann had 2 children –John Walter Wehrmann born 1913 & Marjorie Rae Wehrmann born 1915 .

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

Pte J T Wehrmann is also remembered on the National War Memorial on North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia (Panel 6 (Passchendaele) column 2).

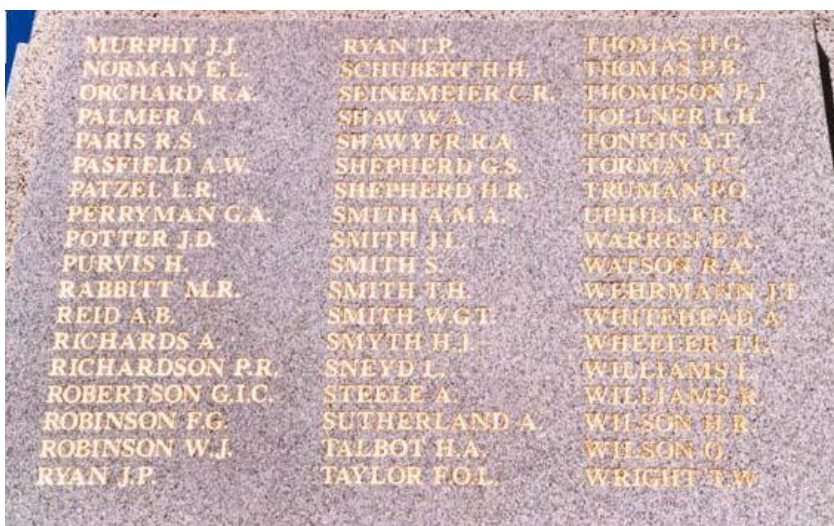


(Photo from Wikipedia – by Bilby)

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



Vansittart Park War Memorial



Pte 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 Pte Wehrmann's widow – Mrs Amelia Grace Wehrmann.



(54 pages of Pte J T 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

oooOOOooo

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 wnded).

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

©Wiltshire OPC Project/Cathy Sedgwick/2012

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)

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)

Pte Wehrmann does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte J T Wehrmann's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey