

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



2606 PRIVATE

**J. J. McCALLAM**

**3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS**

**9TH MARCH, 1917 Age 24**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. J. McCallam is located in Grave Plot # 218  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## John Joseph McCALLAM

John Joseph McCallam was born at Charters Towers, Queensland around 1891. He was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Littlemore Siding, Boyne Valley Line, Queensland when he enlisted on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 with the Mining Corps of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2606 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his uncle – Mr John Young of Littlemore Siding, Boyne Valley Line, Queensland. Pte McCallam was transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneer Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the A.I.F. on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1916.

Pte John Joseph McCallum embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, 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.

Private John Joseph McCallum was marched in from Australia to Larkhill.

Private John Joseph McCallum was admitted to Hospital on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1917 for observation, seriously ill, as it was not yet determined his illness.

A Telegram was sent to Mr J. Young, noted as next-of-kin, on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1917, stating that Pte John J. McCallam had been admitted to Fargo Military Hospital with a severe illness. A similar Telegram was sent again on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1917. On the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 a Telegram advising that Pte John McCallam was progressing favourably was sent to Mr John Young.

Private John Joseph McCallum died at 9.40 p.m. on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from a Duodenal Ulcer.

A death for (Male) McCallum, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private John Joseph McCallum was buried on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 218 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private J. J. McCallam is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

Pte John Joseph McCallam was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. It appears that the next-of-kin listed for Pte McCallam was only a friend, not a blood relative & in response to a letter from Base Records sent on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1921 – Mr Young replied that he was certain that the parents of the late Pte McCallam were dead & that he never heard of any brothers & sisters. The British War Medal, Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were sent to the “Untraceables Section”.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Joseph McCallam – service number 2606 as being 24 years old & served with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Australian Pioneers. No family details are listed.

A War Pension was applied for by John Young - relationship to Late Pte John Joseph McCallum was stated as “None”. The War Pension application was rejected on the grounds that “the claimant is not considered to be a dependent within the meaning of the War Pensions Act.”

(49 pages of Pte John Joseph McCallam’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*

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## Newspaper Reports

### CASUALTY LIST – 284TH LIST

#### QUEENSLAND - DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte J. J. McCallam

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 31 March, 1917)*

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### STATUTORY NOTICE TO NEXT OF KIN

RE JOHN JOSEPH McCALLAM, late of Brisbane, in the State of Queensland, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that all persons claiming, to be next of kin of the above named John Joseph McCallam, late of Brisbane, in the State of Queensland, deceased, who died on or about the Sixth day of March, 1917, A.D., at Fargo, England, are hereby required to forward proof of their relationship to the PUBLIC CURATOR, Brisbane, on or before the Twenty-fifth day of April, 1918. And that after the expiration of the last mentioned date the Public Curator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims of which he shall then have had notice.

Dated this Fifteenth day of February, 1918.

R J. S BARNETT, Official Solicitor to the Public Curator, Brisbane.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Thursday 21 February, 1918)*

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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 at Durrington War Graves 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, to Mr J. Young advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte J. J. McCallam had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken. Mr Young had already received several packages containing the personal belongings of the late Pte McCallam.

Pte J. J. McCallam does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte J. J. McCallam's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)