

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6462 PRIVATE

W. C. GILCHRIST

10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 40

Dearly Loved

Sadly Missed

By His Loving Wife

Sisters And Brothers

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. C. Gilchrist is located in Grave Plot # 178
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

William Carson GILCHRIST

William Carson Gilchrist was born at Renfrew, Scotland on 18th February, 1877 to parents Robert Sharp Gilchrist & Letitia Gilchrist (nee Drennan).

The 1881 Scotland Census recorded William C. Gilchrist as a 4 year old living with his family at 102 High Street, Renfrew, Renfrewshire, Scotland. His parents were recorded as Robert Gilchrist (aged 35, Clothier employing 3 Men, 3 Boys & 4 Girls) & Letitia Gilchrist (aged 35, born Ireland). William was one of 4 children recorded on this Census – Isabella (aged 5), then William, James D. (aged 3) & Annie M. (aged 3 months). Also listed was Margaret Carson – listed as a Boarder (aged 16, born Ireland, Dressmaker)

William Carson Gilchrist arrived in Melbourne, Australia when he was around 10 years old on 17th September, 1887 from Glasgow on the *Locksley*. His father – Robert Gilchrist was aged 40 when the family arrived in Australia.

William Carson Gilchrist was a 39 year old, single, Tailor's Traveller from Clare, South Australia when he enlisted on 13th June, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6462 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his sister - Isabella Sharp Napier of Milton Road, New Zealand. William was serving with the Clare Rifle Club at the time of enlistment & had done so for 1 year.

William Carson Gilchrist, aged 39, married Lucy Carter, aged 33, on 15th July, 1916 at Roseneath, Woodville in the district of Port Adelaide, South Australia.

Pte William Carson Gilchrist was promoted to Corporal from 1st – 22nd October, 1916 & Acting Corporal from 23rd October, 1916.

A/Cpl. William Carson Gilchrist embarked from Adelaide* on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 23rd October, 1916 (* discrepancy – Service record states he embarked from Melbourne on 21st October, 1916) & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th 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.

A/Cpl. Gilchrist's rank reverted back to Private on 29th December, 1916. Pte William Carson Gilchrist was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington Camp, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1916.

Pte William Carson Gilchrist was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 2nd February, 1917 with Bronchitis – severe.

Pte William Carson Gilchrist died at 7.15 a.m. on 6th February, 1917 of Bronchitis. From information provided by Pte Gilchrist's wife – Lucy Gilchrist for the Roll of Honour – Pte Gilchrist died of "Bronchitis & Medical neglect"

A death for Male Gilchrist, aged 39, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte William Carson Gilchrist was buried on 9th February, 1917 in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 178.

Pte William Carson Gilchrist requested in his Will, dated 16th October, 1916, that all his real & personal estate to his brother – James Drennan Gilchrist of Clare, Clothier, upon the following trusts – to pay his 2 sisters the sum of fifty pounds each; all personal effects such as furniture, books, pictures, wearing apparel, ornaments, rifle, bicycle, watch and chain to his 2 brothers – James Drennan Gilchrist & John Gilchrist – equally among them; all the rest of his real and personal estate to his dear wife. James Drennan Gilchrist was appointed sole executor.

Private W. C. Gilchrist is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 59.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

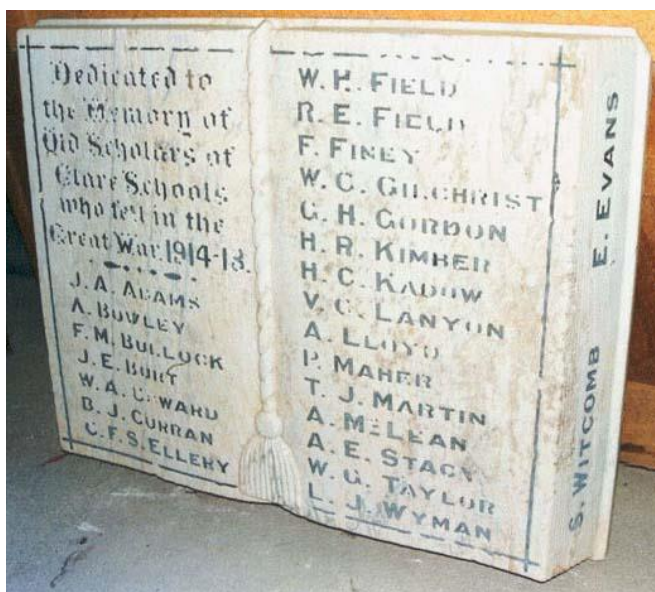
W. C. Gilchrist is also remembered on the Memorial Arch (left pillar) at the northern entrance to the Clare Sporting Oval, South Australia.



(Photos from SA & NT War Memorials)



W. C. Gilchrist is also remembered on the original monument for Clare Schools now located in the National Trust Museum located at the corner of Neagles Rock Road & Bennys Hill Road, Clare, South Australia.



(Photos from SA & NT War Memorials)

W. C. Gilchrist is also remembered on the new Clare Schools Monument located in the Soldier's Park at the corner of Pioneer Street and Christison Avenue, Clare



(Photos from SA & NT War Memorials)

Pte William Carson Gilchrist was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Gilchrist's wife – Mrs Lucy Gilchrist of Barberton (December, 1921 & January, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Carson Gilchrist – service number 6462 as being 40 years old & served with 10th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Robert Sharp Gilchrist and T. Drennan Gilchrist; husband of Lucy Gilchrist of Hawkstone St, Carlisle, Western Australia. Born at Renfrew, Scotland.

(50 pages of Pte William Carson Gilchrist'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

FAREWELLS to SOLDIERS

On Friday evening last there was a large attendance at the Clare Town Hall to bid farewell to Corporal F. Ellery, Quartermaster-sergeant W. Gilchrist, and Privates J. Reardon and Smith, who will be soon leaving for the front,. The Mayor (Mr. J.D. Gilchrist) presided, and in a nice speech made reference to the good qualities of the departing soldiers, wished them God speed and a safe return. Other speakers were the Rev. T. V. Charlton, the Rev. S. J. Martin, and Councillor J. Bails, J.P., who also made reference to the good qualities of the departing soldiers. On behalf of the Society of Christian Endeavor Mr. Martin presented Corporal Ellery with a radium wristlet watch, and eulogised his behaviour as a Christian and a man. On behalf of the Cheer-Up Society Mrs. Christison, who referred to the good work being done by that society, presented each soldier with a parcel containing useful gifts. Corporal Ellery and Quartermaster-Sergeant Gilchrist briefly thanked the speakers for their kind remarks and the donors for the gifts. During the evening a chorus was rendered by the Cheer Up girls, and songs by Sergeant Solomon and Mr. C. O. Scott.

On Saturday evening the employes of Mr. J. D. Gilchrist gave a farewell to Quartermaster-sergeant W. C. Gilchrist. All the old employes of the firm in the district and friends were invited, and a very enjoyable time was spent, games, &c. and a supper being provided. Mr. Elliott Williams in a neat speech on behalf of the employes presented the departing soldier with a wristlet watch. Quartermaster-sergeant Gilchrist replied in characteristic style. At the conclusion the ladies were not to be denied and each in turn gave osculatory evidence of their regard for the departing soldier.

At the close of the evening service at the Clare Presbyterian Church on Sunday last, opportunity was quietly taken to say good-bye to two church members, Quartermaster-sergeant W. C. Gilchrist and Private A. McLean, who are shortly leaving for the front.

Mr. Gilchrist has for many years taken an interest in the work of the church, having held the offices of treasurer, secretary, and teacher in the Sabbath school, and also a member of the board of management, besides helping in many other good ways. Kindly references were made by the Rev. T. V. Charlton on behalf of the church generally, on behalf of the session by the clerk, Mr. D. McKenzie, the board of management by Messrs. Taylor and Lew-cock, and the Sabbath school (in the absence of the superintendent) by Mr. R. Bunter. On behalf of the members, the Rev. Charlton presented Quartermaster-sergeant Gilchrist with a handsome gold albert. Quartermaster-sergeant Gilchrist feelingly responded.

(Northern Argus, Clare, South Australia Friday 14 July, 1916)

MARRIAGES

GILCHRIST – CARTER

On July 15, at the residence of J. Drennan, Esq., J.P., Roseneath, Woodville, S.A. (bridegroom's uncle), by Captain Chaplain Davies, Qmt-Sgt. W. C. Gilchrist, A.I.F. to Lucy, second daughter of Henry Carter, Esq., Crystal Brook, Barberton, Midland Railway.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia Friday 25 August, 1916)

273rd CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA – DIED OF ILLNESS

6462 – Pte W. C. GILCHRIST, Barberton (Feb. 6)

(The Register, South Australia Tuesday 20 February, 1917)

OUR FALLEN HEROES – BIOGRAPHICAL

LATE PTE W. C. GILCHRIST

The death is announced of Pte. W. C. Gilchrist, of Clare, from sickness. He was one of the best known soldiers from the northern town. Born in Renfrew, Scotland, he arrived in South Australia by the Loch Sloy, which was wrecked off Kangaroo Island some years later. He went to reside at Clare in 1887, and received his education at the public school. He had held several important

positions in the district. He was Past Chief Ruler of the Rechabite Lodge, Treasurer of the Presbyterian Church, and Secretary and a teacher of the Sunday school.



THE LATE PTE W. C. GILCHRIST

(The Register, South Australia Friday 23 February, 1917)

PERSONAL

Letters of administration have been granted in the estate of the late Private W.C. Gilchrist, of Clare (who died while on service in England) valued at £600.

(Northern Argus, Clare, South Australia Friday 28 September, 1917)

FOR THE EMPIRE – OUR ROLL OF HONOUR

DIED FROM ILLNESS

Pte W. C. Gilchrist, Clare

(Northern Argus, Clare, South Australia Friday 30 November, 1917)

(Northern Argus, Clare, South Australia Friday 8 February, 1918)

(Northern Argus, Clare, South Australia Friday 2 May, 1919)

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)

Pte W.C. Gilchrist does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dearly Loved Sadly Missed By His Loving Wife Sisters And Brothers

Photo of Pte W. C. Gilchrist's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)