



## 3917 Private Andrew Shirwood Douglas Gibson

Andrew Ross Shirwood Douglas Gibson was born at Stranraer, Wigtonshire, near Glasgow, Scotland around 1875, to parents Andrew & Margaret Dorman Gibson (nee Boyes).

The 1881 Scotland Census records Andrew Gibson as a 6 year old living with his family at 23 Greenvale Street, Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Scotland. Also listed were his parents - Andrew & Margaret Gibson (both aged 28 years), & brothers – William (aged 8) & James (aged 3). The family arrived from Glasgow, Scotland to the port of Mackay, Queensland, Australia aboard the Scottish Wizard on 5th June, 1883. Andrew was listed as 6 years old.

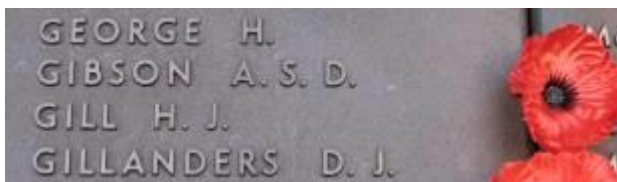
The 1903 Electoral Rolls for Mackay, Queensland record Andrew Ross Sherwood Douglas Gibson, a farmer, living at Mt. Blackwood. Andrew married Maria Louise Grace Jordan in 1904 in Queensland. Births were registered in the following years with father as Andrew Ross Shirwood Douglas Gibson & mother Maria Louisa Grace Gibson (nee Jordan):- 1904 – William Douglas Henry Gibson (died 1905); 1906 – James Shirwood Fredrick Gibson; 1908 – Lawrence Stanley Gibson (died 1911); 1909 – Margaret Grace Mary Jane Gibson

A death was registered for Andrew Gibson's wife - Maria Louisa Grace Gibson (nee Jordan) in 1910 in Queensland. The 1913 Electoral Rolls for Mackay, Queensland record Andrew Sherwood Douglas Gibson living at Racecourse & his occupation was farmer. He was a 39 year old, widowed, farmer from Finch Hatton, Mackay, Queensland when he enlisted on 6th March, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 31st Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3917 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Robert Boyes Gibson of Farleigh Estate, Mackay, Queensland.

Pte. Andrew Sherwood Douglas Gibson embarked from Brisbane on H.M.A.T. Seang Choon (A49) on 19th September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th 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 Andrew S. D. Gibson was marched in to "C" Company, 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Rear-guard on 15th December, 1916.

He was admitted sick to Fovant Hospital on 27th December, 1917. Private Andrew S. D. Gibson died at 9.35 p.m. on 7th January, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Broncho - Pneumonia. A death for Andrew S. D. Gibson, aged 40, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. He was buried on 10th January, 1917 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

Private A. S. D. Gibson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 118.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private A. S. D. Gibson is also remembered on the Mackay WWI Cenotaph 1914–1919 located in Jubilee Park, Alfred Street, Mackay, Queensland.



(Photos from Queensland War Memorial Register – Glen Hall, Mackay Historical Society)



Private A. S. D. Gibson is also remembered on the Mackay Old Town Hall Honour Board located in Old Mackay Town Hall foyer, Sydney Street, Mackay, Queensland.



(Photos from Queensland War Memorial Register – Glen Hall, Mackay Historical Society)



Pte. A. Gibson is also remembered on St. Paul's Uniting Church WW1 Honour Board 1914 – 1918 located in St. Paul's Uniting Church, 25 MacAlister Street, Mackay.

(Photo from Queensland War Memorial Register – Glen Hall, Mackay Historical Society)



Pte. A. S. D. Gibson was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte. Gibson's son – James F. Gibson (September, 1921 & July, 1922). A letter from Pte. Andrew Gibson's brother, dated 25th April, 1921, in a reply to Base Records regarding the eldest surviving next-of-kin, advises that the late Pte. A. S. D. Gibson has 2 children living – James Gibson, the eldest & Margaret Gibson.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Andrew Gibson – service number 3917, as being 40 years old & served with 31st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Andrew and Margaret Dorman Boys (should be Boyes) Gibson. Born at Stranraer, Wigtonshire, Scotland.

37 pages of Pte. Andrew Shirwood Douglas Gibson's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

## Newspaper Reports

THE ROLL OF HONOUR  
QUEENSLAND - Died of Illness  
A. S. D. Gibson, Mackay; 7th January 1917

**The Brisbane Courier, Queensland, Tuesday, 23 January 1917**

## 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 St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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 28th June, 1921, to Master J. Gibson advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte. A. S. D. Gibson 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.

Pte. A. S. D. Gibson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte. A. S. D. Gibson's  
CWGC Headstone at  
St. Edith's Churchyard,  
Baverstock, Wiltshire. (Photo  
courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)

