

**Highgate Cemetery East,
Highgate, Greater London, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1999 PRIVATE

JOHN WILLIAM CHAPMAN

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND JUNE, 1918 Age 23

“Until The Day Break”

John William CHAPMAN

John William Chapman was born at Borstal, Rochester, Kent, England in 1895 to parents Andrew Charles & Mabel Mary Chapman (nee Pollaky). His birth was registered in June quarter, 1895 in the district of Medway, Kent. (Rochester was a Parish in Medway Registration District).

The 1901 England Census recorded John W. Chapman as a 5 year old, living with his family at 105 Fairbridge Rd, Upper Holloway, Islington, London, England. His parents were listed as Andrew C. Chapman (Grocer/Shopkeeper, aged 36, born Alton, Hants) & Mabel M. Chapman (aged 31, born Paddington, London). Also listed was John's younger sister – Lillian C. M. Chapman (aged 4, born Upper Holloway, London).

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – John William Chapman came to Australia when he was 15 years old. Andrew Chapman (Farm Hand, aged 46) & John Chapman (Farm Hand, aged 15) were passengers on S.S. *Wilcannia* which arrived in Melbourne, Victoria on 22nd February, 1911 from England.

[The 1911 England Census recorded Mabel Chapman (General Grocery Shop Keeper, aged 41) & her daughter Lillian Chapman (At School, aged 14) living in 86 Station Road, Forest Gate, West Ham, Essex, England in a 5 roomed dwelling. Mabel listed she was married & had been for 20 years. She had 4 children in total – 2 having since died.]

John William Chapman was a 21 year old, single, Factory Hand (listed as a Cheesemaker in information provided for the Roll of Honour) from Tumberumba (as listed on Embarkation Roll), via Wagga Wagga, New South Wales when he enlisted on 9th August, 1915 at Cootamundra, New South Wales with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Andrew Charles Chapman, care of J. W. Bonnington, Lillimur, Dubbo, New South Wales.

Private John William Chapman was posted to Recruits from 9th August, 1915. He was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 30th Battalion from 30th December, 1915.

Private John William Chapman, Service number 1999, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Ballarat* (A70) on 16th February, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 23rd March, 1916.

Private John William Chapman proceeded from 8th Training Battalion at Zeitoun on 1st April, 1916 to join 30th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 30th Battalion at Ferry Post on 1st April, 1916.

Private John William Chapman embarked from Alexandria on 16th June, 1916 on *Hororata* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private John William Chapman was evacuated sick on 1st December, 1916. He was admitted to 39th Casualty Clearing Station with Bronchitis then transferred & admitted to 1st Anzac M. D. Station with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis on 1st December, 1916. Private Chapman was admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 4th December, 1916 with Bronchitis. He was transferred to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 18th December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 5th Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 22nd December, 1916.

30th Battalion

The 30th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Liverpool in New South Wales on 5 August 1915. Most of its recruits hailed from the Newcastle region and other parts of country New South Wales, but almost an entire company was composed of former RAN ratings from Victoria.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916. The 30th Battalion's first major battle was at Fromelles on 19 July 1916. It was tasked with providing carrying parties for supplies and ammunition but was soon drawn into the vicious fighting. Following Fromelles, the battalion was rotated in and out of the front line along with others in the brigade, but played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John William Chapman was marched out from 5th A.D.B.D. to England on 13th February, 1917 as "P.B." (Permanent Base duties). He was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 17th February, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Private John William Chapman on 22nd February, 1918 (Note: Stamp is dated "22 Feb 1916" but should read 1918 as it recorded to origin of disability as "April 1916") at No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset, England. His disability was listed as Deformed Feet. The disability had originated in Egypt in April, 1916. *"Was went back from France on account of inability to march due to Hammer Toes and enlargement of left metatar phalangeal joint. Six months service in France at the front."* The Medical Board found that Private John William Chapman was permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service.

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 & Dorset. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Private John William Chapman was detached for duty with 1st A.D.H. (Australian Dermatological Hospital) at Bulford, Wiltshire on 31st March, 1917.

Private John William Chapman was written up for an Offence while posted at Bulford – Disobedience of Orders in *"not having blankets folded as ordered"* on 25th April, 1917. He was awarded 7 days confined to Barracks by Colonel K. Smith on 26th April, 1917.

A Re-Classification was completed by a Medical Board at Bulford on 3rd October, 1917 for No. 1999 Private J. W. Chapman, 30th Battalion & the finding was still permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service.

A Re-Classification was completed by a Medical Board at Bulford on 8th January, 1918 & again on 3rd April, 1918 for No. 1999 Private J. W. Chapman, 30th Battalion & the finding was still permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service.

Private John William Chapman reported sick to Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 4th May, 1918 with *"Appendicitis ?"* then was transferred to Fargo Military Hospital on 5th May, 1918.

Base Records advised Mr A. C. Chapman, care of J. E. Bonnington, Lillimur, Dubbo, NSW, on 6th June, 1918 that Private John Chapman was seriously ill. Another update was received on the same day advising that Private John Chapman had been admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 5th May with Appendicitis Bolitis.

Private John William Chapman died at 2.30 am on 22nd June, 1918 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Phthisis Pulmonalis. A Telegram from Fargo Military Hospital to Administrative Headquarters advised of the death & that *"Mother present at hospital."*

A death for John W. Chapman, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private John William Chapman was buried at 2 pm on 26th June, 1918 in Highgate Cemetery East, Greater London, England – Grave number 33012 Section Square 144 Private Consecrated Ground.

From the burial report of Private John William Chapman - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths. Gun Carriage, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were in attendance. Prior to the interment a service was held by Chaplain Redhead in the Chapel at the Cemetery. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral: Mother - Mrs Chapman, 46 Alverstone Road, Manor Park, London. Sister – Miss Chapman, Brother-in-law – Mr & Mrs Varrelmann. Nephew – Cpl Varrelmann, "Higher Drive", Purely. Cousin – Miss Andrews, Bagshot, Surrey.

Private John William Chapman's burial place is now recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number 144.33012 and he has a shared Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for John William Chapman contains a letter from the Matron, Military Hospital, Fargo, Salisbury Plain which reads: *"Re Pte Chapman, he died in this hospital on June 22nd 1918. The cause of death was phthisis. The body was sent home to his mother, Mrs Chapman, 46th Alverstone Rd., Manor Park, London, E. 12. for burial at Highgate New Cemetery, London, on June 27th."*

Private John William Chapman requested in his Will dated 10th August, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to Mr Andrew Charles Chapman, c/o J. Bowler, Esq., The Willows, Holbrook.

The 2nd Military District advised Base Records on 5th July, 1918 that *".....Mr A. C. Chapman, next of kin of the late No. 1999 Private John William Chapman, 30th Battalion, is now residing at 33 Stanford Avenue, Preston Park, Brighton, England."*

Several letters were sent between Base Records, Administrative Headquarters, London, 2nd Military District, Sydney, New South Wales, Mr Andrew Chapman (father of the late Private John William Chapman) & Mrs Goldsbrough, 28 Crescent Street, Manly, Sydney, New South Wales between December, 1918 & December, 1919.

Just prior to enlisting apparently John William Chapman had left with Mrs Goldsbrough in Sydney a tin box containing his (pre-military) personal effects. Mr Andrew Chapman, father of the late Private Chapman, requested that the tin box (held by Mrs Goldsbrough) with his son's personal effects be sent to England where he now resided. A Special Inquiry Officer was sent to Mrs Goldsbrough's address in Manly & interviewed her regarding the tin trunk. She advised that the trunk was locked & had been told it only contained clothing. Mr Chapman had applied for his son's military personal effects which had been sent to Australia as Mr Andrew Chapman had resided in Australia. Mr Chapman had requested that the personal effects be returned to England along with the tin box.

Base Records were advised on 14th August, 1919 by 2nd Military District that the personal effects of the late No. 19999 Private J. W. Chapman had been forwarded from Mrs Goldsbrough to his father Mr Chapman, Copers Cope Road, Beckenham, Kent, England. Mr A. C. Chapman, 16 Kempshott Road, Streatham, wrote on 18th September, 1919 the *".....Mrs Goldsbrough wrongly informed the Defence Department as the contents of my late son's box as there is no clothing of any description in the same box it only contains a Bible, letters, Photos, etc and thing that he wished to keep....."*

Private John William Chapman was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Chapman's father – Mr A. C. Chapman, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 but to be returned for issue in London & Plaque to be issued in London November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John William Chapman – service number 1999, aged 23, of 30th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mrs Chapman, of 16 Kempshott Rd, Streatham, London.

Private J. W. Chapman is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 116.

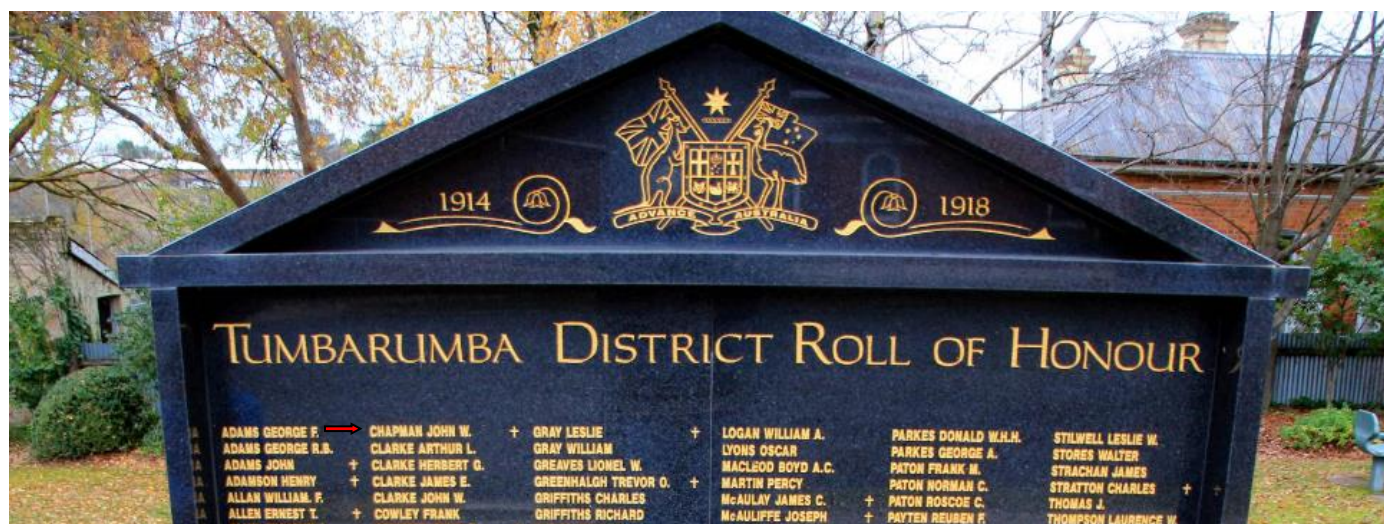


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

John W. Chapman is remembered on the Tumbarumba War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Bridge & Winton Street, Tumbarumba, NSW.



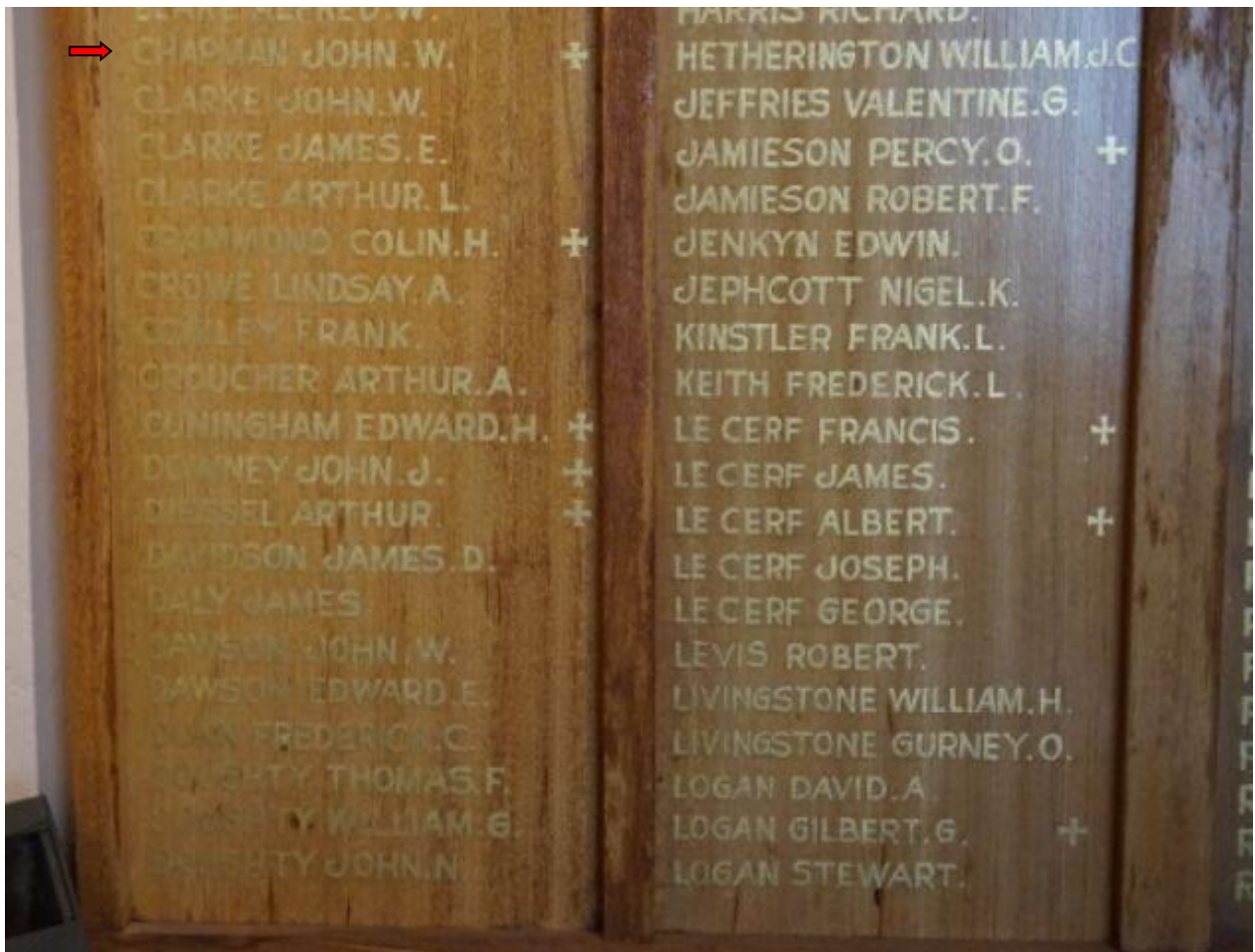
Tumbarumba War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



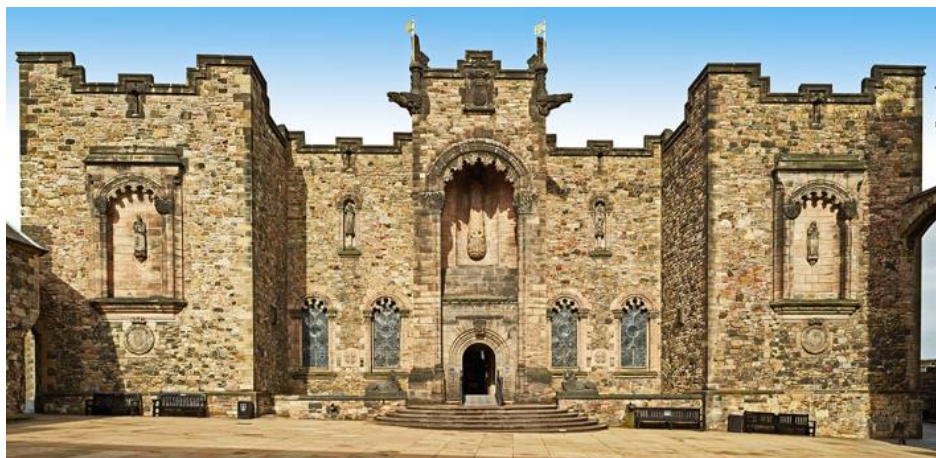
John W. Chapman is remembered on the Tumbarumba District Roll of Honour, located in Tumbarumba Visitor Centre, 10 Bridge Street, Tumbarumba, NSW.



Tumbarumba District Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia)

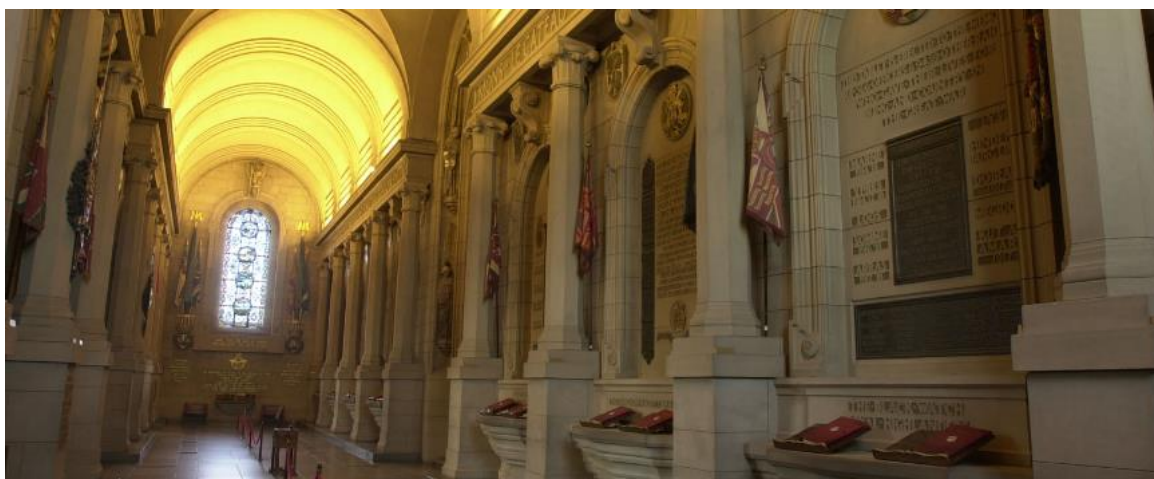


John William Chapman is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(86 pages of Private John William Chapman'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



Newspaper Notices

410th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte JOHN WM. CHAPMAN, Dubbo

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 June, 1918)

416th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Pte JOHN WILLIAM CHAPMAN, Dubbo

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 July, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private John William Chapman has a Private shared Headstone.

Highgate Cemetery, Greater London, England

The cemetery is between Highgate Hill and Highgate West Hill and is divided by Swains Road. The older part being on the Western side and the newer part on the Eastern side. The entrance gates to both sides are opposite one another and there are war burials in both portions.

The cemetery was opened in 1839. There are 259 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war and a further 59 from the 1939-45 war here. Those whose graves could not be marked by headstone are named upon a Screen Wall memorial erected near the Cross of Sacrifice inside the entrance to the older (Western) part of the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Highgate Cemetery with sign showing East (to right) & West (to left) *(Streetview)*



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private John William Chapman's Private shared headstone in Highgate Cemetery East, Greater London, England.





Also PTE JOHN WILLIAM CHAPMAN, 1999, (A.I.F.)

Dearly Loved and Only Surviving Son of the Above,

Who Died in Fargo Hospital, June 22nd 1918,

After Serving in Egypt and France, Aged 23.

"Until The Day Break"