

Baverstock War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4517 PRIVATE

P. J. CLARK

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14th MARCH, 1917 Age 31

Greater Love

Hath No Man Than This

Percy Joseph CLARK

Percy Joseph Clark was born on 21st July, 1885 at Sandy Grove (Sandergrove), near Strathalbyn, South Australia, to parents David & Margaret Clark (nee Mariner).

Percy Joseph Clark was a 30 year old, single, Farmer from Woodchester, South Australia when he enlisted on 2nd November, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4517 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Margaret Clark, Woodchester, South Australia.

Pte Percy Joseph Clark embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 16th December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 16th February, 1917.

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.

Pte Percy Joseph Clark admitted sick to Fovant Military Hospital from "D" Company, 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Percy Joseph Clark died at 9.30 p.m. on 14th March, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant from Bronchitis.

A death for Percy J. Clarke, aged 30, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Percy Joseph Clark was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 17th March, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

From the burial report of Pte Percy Joseph Clark - *Coffin stained elm with Black Mountings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours.*

Private P. J. Clark is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte P. J. Clark is also remembered on the South Australian National War Memorial located on corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. Panel 5, 4th Column – 32nd Battalion.



South Australian National War Memorial

(Photo by Bilby)

Pte Percy Joseph Clark was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Clarks' father – Mr David Clark (both July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Percy Joseph Clark – service number 4517 as being 31 years old & served with 32nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of David and Margaret Clark of Woodchester, South Australia. Born at Sandergrove, South Australia.

(46 pages of Pte Percy Joseph Clark'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





Studio portrait of Percy Joseph Clark, taken just before he enlisted
(Photo from WW1 Pictorial Honour Roll of South Australians)



Pte Percy Joseph Clark

**Private Eardley Austin Clark, 6986, 10th Battalion – brother of Percy, was Killed in Action on 30th July, 1918. He is remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

Newspaper Reports

OUR FALLEN HEROES

THE AUSTRALIANS - BIOGRAPHICAL

LATE PTE P. J. CLARK

WOODCHESTER, March 21 – A message has been received from the military authorities, that Pte P. J. Clark (Percy) died of bronchitis in France on March 14. The deceased was a single man, and was a son of Mr David Clark, of Woodchester. Pte Clark embarked for the front early in December last, and was immediately sent to France, after arrival in England. He owned a farm in the Woodchester district.

(*The Register, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Thursday 22 March, 1917*)

** Note – Pte Percy John Clark did not go to France.

PUBLIC NOTICES

THANKS

Mr and Mrs D. Clark and Family, of Woodchester, desire to sincerely THANK all kind friends for letters, cards and expressions of sympathy, in the loss of their dear son and brother, Private P. J. Clark, who died on active service.

(*Southern Argus, Port Elliot, Sth Australia – Thursday 29 March, 1917*)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ESTATE OF PERCY JOSEPH CLARK, FORMERLY OF NEAR WOODCHESTER, FARMER, LATE OF THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES, DECEASED

All persons having CLAIMS against the above Estate are requested to furnish full particulars of same to the undersigned forthwith.

Dated 2nd March, 1917

W.F.Adams Strathalbyn

Sole Executor to the Estate

(*Southern Argus, Port Elliot, Sth Australia – Thursday 5 April, 1917*)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – 283rd List

The South Australians are:-

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private P. J. Clark

(*Port Pirie and North Western Mail, Sth Australia – Friday 30 March, 1917*)

IN MEMORIAM

CLARK – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Percy Joseph Clark, who died at Fovant Military Hospital, March 14th, 1917.

We who loved you sadly miss you,
Friends may think the wound is healed,
But they little know the sorrow
Deep within our hearts concealed.

Inserted by his parents and brothers and sisters.

(*Southern Argus*, Port Elliot, Sth Australia – Thursday 14 March, 1918)

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 27th June, 1921, to Mr Clark, advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte Percy John Clark 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 P. J. Clark does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Greater Love Hath No Man Than This



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.

(*Photo from CWGC*)

Photo of Pte P. J. Clark's CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)