

**Springbank Cemetery,  
Aberdeen, Scotland  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**38491 GUNNER**

**J. H. DOSSER**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**23RD FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 21**

*Dearly Loved Second Son Of*

*R. H. & L. DOSSER*

*At Rest*

## John Henry (Jack) DOSSER

John Henry Dosser was born in Baddaginnie, near Benalla, Victoria in 1897 to parents Reuben Hedley Dosser & Lydia Dosser (nee Cook). He attended Baddaginnie State School.

John Henry Dosser was a 20 year old, single, Grocer from Baddaginnie, Victoria when he enlisted on 14th April, 1917 at Violet Town with the Field Artillery, 32nd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 38491 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Rheubin Headley Dosser of Baddaginnie, Victoria. Both of John Dosser's parents signed their consent for their son to enlist in active service abroad as he was under the age of 21 years.

Gunner John Henry Dosser embarked from Melbourne on SS *Indarra* on 26th November, 1917 & disembarked at Suez on 27th December, 1917. He entrained to Alexandria for embarkation on 22nd January, 1918. Gunner Dosser detrained to Camp "A" Gabbari for embarkation at Alexandria on 29th January, 1918. Gunner Dosser embarked from Alexandria on HMT *Abbassieh* on 29th January, 1918 & disembarked at Taranto, Southern Italy on 4th February, 1918. He entrained from Rest Camp at Taranto on 7th February, 1918 & detrained at Cherbourg, France on 14th February, 1918.

Gunner John Henry Dosser embarked from Cherbourg on HMT *Prince George* on 14th February, 1918 and disembarked at Southampton, England on 15th February, 1918.

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.

Gunner John Henry Dosser was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 15th February, 1918.

Gunner John Henry Dosser proceeded overseas to France from the port of Southampton on 15th April, 1918. Gunner Dosser was marched in from England at Rouelles, France. He was taken on strength with 5th D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column on 16th April, 1918 & marched out to 5th Div. Artillery on 19th April, 1918.

Gunner John Henry Dosser was appointed to the rank of Driver under A.I.F. order 785 as Driver Bruce, 11297 had been transferred.

Driver John Henry Dosser was still with the Unit on 4th December, 1918.

Driver John Henry Dosser proceeded to go on leave to UK from 4th February, 1919 to 18th February, 1919.

Driver John Henry Dosser was admitted to 1st Scottish General Hospital, Aberdeen, Scotland, while on leave from France, on 9th February, 1919 with Influenza. He was reported as dangerously & seriously ill with Broncho Pneumonia on 15th February, 1919.

Driver John Henry Dosser died at 1 p.m. on 23rd February, 1919 at 1st Scottish General Hospital, Aberdeen, Scotland from Broncho Pneumonia.

Driver John Henry Dosser was buried on 27th February, 1919 at Springbank Cemetery, Aberdeen, Scotland – Plot number 80, Section N and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Driver John Henry Dosser - *Coffin was good. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance, supplied by the Gordon Regiment. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from: Dvr McPherson, Dow Garden & Roe, "Three Fiends", Miss Stuart, and the Hospital Staff, of the 1st Scottish General Aberdeen. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside and the Rev. C. F. Hinton, officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Driver John Henry Dosser requested in his Will, dated 11th September, 1917, that all his real & personal Estate be bequeathed to his father – Rheubin Headly Dosser. He also appointed his father as Executor of his Will.

Driver John Henry Dosser was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Dosser's father – Mr R. H. Dosser (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner John Henry Dosser - service number 38491, aged 21, of 5th Div. Ammunition Col., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Reuben H. and Lydia Dosser of Baddaginnie, Victoria, Australia.

Driver J. H. Dosser is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.



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

J. Dosser is remembered on the Baddaginnie District Honour Roll 1914 – 1918 located in Baddaginnie Hall, Palmerston Street, Baddaginnie, Victoria.



**Baddaginnie District Honour Roll** (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)



J. Dosser is remembered on the Baddaginne State School Honour Roll located at Perabin Primary College, Baddaginne Campus, Clarendon Street, Baddaginnie, Victoria.



**Baddaginnie State School Honour Roll** (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

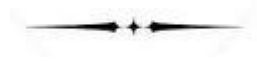
J. H. Dosser is also remembered on the Baddaginnie War Memorial located at High & Palmerston Streets, Baddaginnie.



**Baddaginnie War Memorial** (Photos by Ron – Carol's Headstone [Photographs](#))

(64 pages of Gunner John Henry Dosser'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) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DIED ON SERVICE**

DOSSER – On the 23rd February, at Codford, England, of bronchial pneumonia, Driver J. H. Dosser (Jack), dearly loved nephew of Mr and Mrs \_\_\_\_\_, and dearly loved cousin of Flo, Muriel, Ruby, Vera and Hazel, of Elm Street, Northcote.

We pictured your safe return, dear Jack,

We longed to clasp your hand;

But God had postponed our meeting

It will be in a better land.

DOSSER – On the 23rd February, 1919, of Broncho-pneumonia, at Aberdeen, Scotland, Driver John Henry, dearly loved second son of R. H. and L. Dosser, of Baddaginnie, aged 21 years 9 months.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 March, 1919)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **Died on Service**

Word has been received of the death of Pte Jack Dosser, second son of Mr and Mrs E. Dosser, of Baddaginnie. He enlisted in Violettown, and was well known in connection with the bakery of Messrs. Cook Bros. He was 21 years of age, and had been sixteen months at the war. Owing to a severe attack of influenza he was sent to England, and , having recovered, went on a visit to Scotland, where he developed an attack of bronchial pneumonia, which ended fatally on Sunday week, as advertised by the Defence department on Saturday last, on which day letters were received from the soldier himself, stating that he had received their Xmas parcel and was quite well.

*(The Benalla Standard, Victoria – 7 March, 1919)*

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### **DIED ON SERVICE**

DOSSER – A tribute of love to the memory of our dear friend, Driver Jack Dosser, died of pneumonia, February 23, 1919, whilst on furlough in Scotland.

“A lad so noble, brave, and true.”

- (Inserted by Isabel and Eileen)

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 March, 1919 & The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 March, 1919 )*

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## DIED ON SERVICE

DOSSER – ON the 23rd February, at hospital, in Scotland, of bronchial pneumonia, Jack, loved brother of Roy.

Noble and fearless he sailed away,  
His heart so good, his spirit brave.  
Leaving loved ones for whom he cared,  
To join his comrades and do his share.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 March, 1919)

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## IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DOSSER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Driver John H, of 5th D.A.C., who died of illness on February 23, 1919, in 1st Scottish General Hospital, Aberdeen, aged 21 years and 9 months.

One long, sad year has passed  
Since our great sorrow came;  
Still in our hearts we mourn the loss  
Of one we loved so well.

-(Inserted by his mother, father, sisters, and brothers.)

DOSSER – In loving memory of my dear brother, Driver John H., of 5th D. A.C., who died of illness on February 23, 1919, at 1st Scottish General Hospital, Aberdeen, aged 21 years 9 months.

In the old home you are fondly remembered;  
Sweet memories cling around your name;  
The hearts that hold you in deep affection  
Always shall hold you in death the same.

-(inserted by his loving brother Roy.)

DOSSER – In proud and loving memory of our dear grandson and nephew, Driver Jack Dosser, who died of illness in Scotland on 23rd February, 1919.

Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten.

-(Inserted by Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Cook and family, Baddaginnie.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 February, 1920)

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## IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DOSSER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Driver J. H. (Jack), who died at Aberdeen, Scotland, 23rd February, 1919, aged 21 years.

“He shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary him, nor the years condemn.”

-(Inserted by father, mother, brothers, and sisters, Baddaginnie)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 February, 1921)

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\*Similar notices were left in the newspapers for 1922, 1923 & 1924 for “Jack” Dosser

### 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. 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)*

Driver John Henry Dosser does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Dearly Loved Second Son Of*

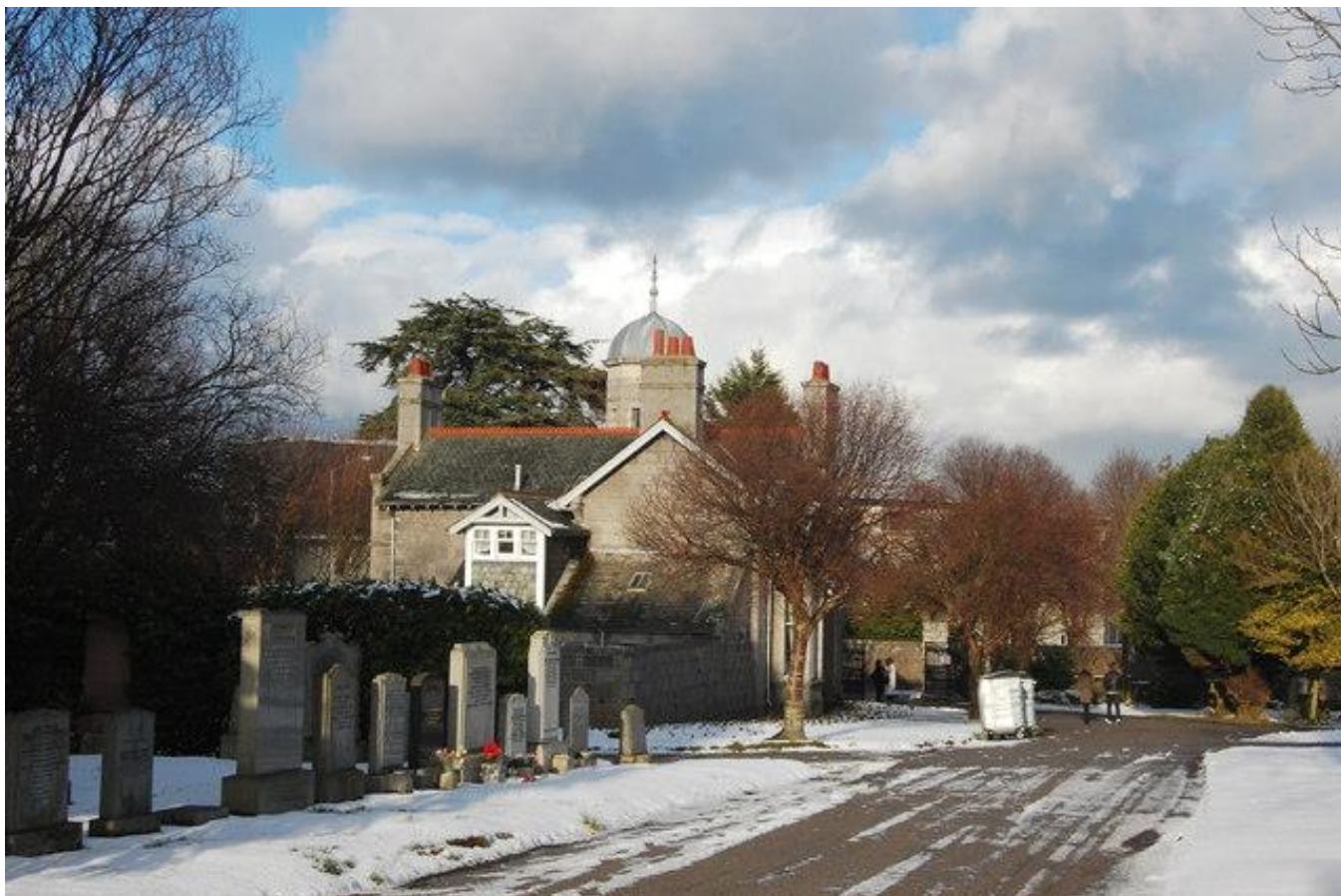
*R. H. & L. DOSSER*

*At Rest*

### **Springbank Cemetery, Aberdeen, Scotland**

Springbank Cemetery, Aberdeen contains 94 Commonwealth War Graves – 36 relating to World War 1 & 59 to World War 2.

There are 2 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried in Springbank Cemetery.



*(Photo by Bill Harrison)*





**Springbank Cemetery, Aberdeen, Scotland** (Photos by Jemmy 2009)





Photo of Gunner J. H. Dosser's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Springbank Cemetery, Aberdeen, Scotland.



*(Photo courtesy of Mhairi Shewan - 2020)*