# **Arnos Vale Cemetery,**

# **Bristol, England**

## **War Graves**



Lest We Forget

### World War 1



3325 PRIVATE

## **R. GOSSAGE**

40TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND DECEMBER, 1918 Age 35

### **Richard GOSSAGE**

Richard Gossage was born at Bothwell, Tasmania on 13th August, 1882 to parents Charles and Sarah Jane Gossage (nee Hunt).

Richard Gossage attended School at Bothwell, Tasmania.

Sarah Jane Gossage, mother of Richard Gossage, died 27th January, 1897 at Bothwell, Tasmania.

Richard Gossage married Ada May Riley in 1913 in Tasmania.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Wilmot, subdivision of Kentish, Tasmania recorded Richard Gossage, Labourer & Ada Mary Gossage, Domestic Duties, of Sheffield.

A son – Roland Gossage was born 28th February, 1914 at Latrobe, Tasmania. Another son – Hilton Richard Gossage was born in 1916.

Richard Gossage was a 34 year old, married, Labourer from Sheffield, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 27th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3325 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs May Gossage, of Sheffield, Tasmania. Richard Gossage needed dental treatment & resigned Attestation Papers on 10th January, 1917.

Private Richard Gossage was posted to 1st Depot Battalion at Claremont, Tasmania on 10th January, 1917 for recruit training. He was admitted to Clearing Hospital at Claremont Camp from 4th to 7th February, 1917 due to vaccinations. Private Gossage was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 40th Battalion on 9th June, 1917.

Private Richard Gossage embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Hororata (A20)* on 14th June, 1917 (having left Tasmania on 9th June, 1917) with the 40th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 26th August, 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.

Private Richard Gossage was marched in to 10th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 27th August, 1917.

Private Richard Gossage proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from Sutton Mandeville on 27th December, 1917. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 28th December, 1917. Private Gossage was marched out to his Unit on 30th December, 1917 & was taken on strength of 40th Battalion on 1st January, 1918.

Private Richard Gossage was reported with his Unit on 11th July, 1918.

Private Richard Gossage was sent to 4th Army Rest Camp on 16th August, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion from Rest Camp on 28th August, 1918.

Private Richard Gossage was wounded in action on 1st October, 1918. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 1st October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to breast & hand. Private Gossage was transferred & admitted to 12th Casualty Clearing Station on 1st October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to chest & scalp. He was transferred to Ambulance Train on 2nd October, 1918 then admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 3rd October, 1918 – dangerously ill. Private Gossage was transferred to England on 25th October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to head.

#### **40th Battalion**

The 3rd Division was raised in Australia early in 1916. The 40th Battalion was Tasmania's contribution to the strength of the division and it joined the Victorian-raised 37th, 38th and 39th Battalions to form the 10th Brigade.....

The battalion spent much of 1918 fighting in the Somme valley. In March they met the German Spring Offensive at Morlancourt. In August and September the battalion helped to drive the Germans back to the Hindenburg Line.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial) © Cathy Sedgwick 2020

#### War Diary - 40th Battalion

1st October, 1918:

Day fine. Patrols pushed out and later the whole Battalion moved forward by small parties under harassing artillery fire, through main HINDENBURG System to CANAL TUNNEL where we reorganised. Location A.9.b.7.4.

40th Battalion ordered to become support Battalion on left to 37th Battalion, and move dinto main HINDENBURG Line. Men got into dugouts and rested for remainder of day and night. A special feature of the Advance was the ample rations supplied and the hot meal brought up to within 100 yards if Battalion Headquarters on the night of the 1st put everybody in good spirits, and all ranks appreciated this effort of the Transport Officer and Quartermaster. A special reconnoitring patrol was asked for by Brigade to reconnoitre MOAQUINCOURT FARM. Upon the report being read to the Brigadier, Lieut, Weston, O.C. patrol, was highly commended upon the excellent work carried out by him.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Richard Gossage was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital at Bristol, England on 26th October, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to chest & scalp – severe.

Private Richard Gossage died on 2nd December, 1918 at 2nd Southern General Hospital at Bristol, England from wounds received in action – GSW to head.

A death for Richard Gossage, aged 35, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Richard Gossage was buried on 7th December, 1918 in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. His name is remembered on the CWGC Screen Wall & he has a flat Memorial Stone. Cemetery/Memorial reference Screen Wall 6. 705. From the burial report of Private Richard Gossage -*Coffin was good, Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage, surmounted by beautiful flowers sent from the Red Cross of Bristol. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Canon Welshman C. of E., Bristol. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.* 

Private Richard Gossage requested in his Will, dated 28th May, 1917 at Claremont, that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his wife – Ada May Gossage, Sheffield, Tasmania.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs A. M. Gossage, Sheffield, Tasmania, widow of the late Private Richard Gossage, on 17th June, 1931, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press*" containing an article referring to the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of her late husband was interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs A. M. Gossage, Sheffield, Tasmania, widow of the late Private Richard Gossage, on 17th June, 1932, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press*" and "*Evening World*" featuring the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of her late husband was interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs A. M. Gossage, Sheffield, Tasmania, widow of the late Private Richard Gossage, on 15th June, 1933, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press*" and "*Evening World*" featuring the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of her late husband was interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs A. M. Gossage, Sheffield, Tasmania, widow of the late Private Richard Gossage, on 28th June, 1935, a copy of the "Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirroe" featuring the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and

Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of her late husband was interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs A. M. Gossage, Sheffield, Tasmania, widow of the late Private Richard Gossage, on 22nd June, 1936, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirroe*" featuring the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of her late husband was interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs A. M. Gossage, Sheffield, Tasmania, widow of the late Private Richard Gossage, on 12th August, 1937, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirroe*" featuring the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of her late husband was interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Private Richard Gossage was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Gossage's widow – Mrs A.M. Gossage, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Richard Gossage – service number 3325, aged 35, of 40th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles and Sarah Gossage; husband of A.M. Gossage, of Sheffield, Tasmania.

Private R. Gossage is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 132.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



R. Gossage is remembered on the Men of Bothwell Honour Roll, located in the Town Hall, Alexander Street, Bothwell, Tasmania.

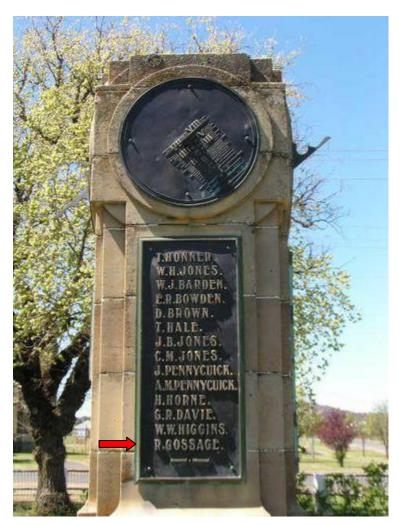


**Men of Bothwell Honour Roll** (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

R. Gossage is remembered on the Bothwell War Memorial, located at Patrick Street, Bothwell, Tasmania.



Bothwell War Memorial (Photo above from AWM – Places of Pride – Yveper; below from Monument Australia)



R. Gossage is remembered on Bothwell's Avenue of Honour on Patrick Street, Bothwell, Tasmania. The Avenue of Honour commemorates those who served in World War One. The original avenue of trees was removed in the early 1990's due to the age and size of the trees. The species chosen as a replacement was Claret Ash. There are no individual nameplates attached to the replacement trees.



Bothwell's Avenue of Honour (Photo above from Monument Australia; others from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



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R. Gossage is remembered on the Sheffield War Memorial, located at Sheffield Road & Henry Street, Sheffield, Kentish, Tasmania.



Sheffield War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



R. Gossage is remembered on the Kentish Municipality Honour Roll Mural, located in Sheffield RSL Club, 77 Main Street, Sheffield, Kentish, Tasmania. (4th column)



Kentish Municipality Honour Roll Mural (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

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R. Gossage is remembered on the Kentish Municipality Roll of Honour, located in Main Street, Sheffield, Tasmania. (last column)



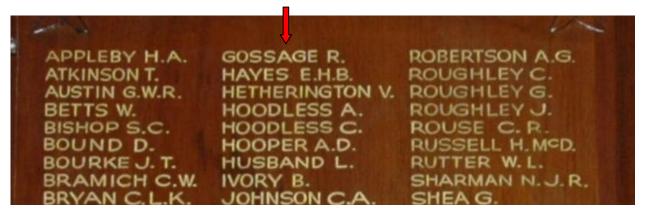
Kentish Municipality Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



R. Gossage is remembered on Municipality of Kentish the Unreturned, located in High Street, Sheffield, Tasmania.



Municipality of Kentish the Unreturned (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



Richard Gossage is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

#### **Front Inscription**

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

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(48 pages of Private Richard Gossage'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**

#### **TASMANIAN CASUALTIES**

Mrs R. Gossage, of Sheffield, has received official notice that her husband, Pte Richard Gossage, was admitted to a French hospital on 8th inst. suffering from dangerous scalp and chest wounds.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 21 October, 1918)

#### FOR KING AND COUNTRY

Mr Charles Gossage, of Preston street Queenstown, has been notified that his brother, Private Richard Gossage, died of wound in the Bristol Hospital, England on December 3. Private Gossage was 35 years of age, and a well-known man on the West Coast. He was for eight years in the employ of Messrs Maskell and Arnett, of Zeehan, and also lived in Queenstown for several years. Prior to his enlistment at Sheffield in August last year, he was engaged in taking machinery by means of traction engines to the hydro-electric works at the Great Lake, and was in charge of the job. Some weeks ago he was reported dangerously wounded by gunshot in the head and these wounds have now proved fatal. He leaves a wife and two children, living in Southern Tasmania, and has also a sister, Mrs G. McArthy, residing in King street, Queenstown.

(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania - 16 December, 1918)

#### **TASMANIAN CASUALTIES**

**LIST NO. 456** 

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte R. Gossage, Sheffield – 2/12/18

(Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania - 30 January, 1919)

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

GOSSAGE – In loving memory of our dear daddy and husband, Richard Gossage, who died of wounds in England, December 2, 1918.

"He nobly did his duty."

-Inserted by his wife and children, May, and Hilton and Roland Gossage, Sheffield.

(Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania - 4 December, 1919)

#### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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.

#### Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England

The cemetery was established in 1837. During both wars, there were a number of military hospitals at Bristol and the city was the depot of the Gloucestershire Regiment. During the Second World War there were also a number of Royal Air Force stations and prisoner of war camps in the area. ARNOS VALE CEMETERY contains burials of both wars. Most of the 356 First World War burials were of men who died at the local hospitals, particularly the 2nd Southern General and the Beaufort, many of whom were landed at Avonmouth from hospital ships from the Mediterranean. Their graves can be found in the 'Soldiers Corner', a plot established by the British Red Cross, near the main entrance. The 238 casualties buried here are commemorated on a memorial at the rear of the plot. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. There are also special memorials to one casualty buried in the cemetery whose grave could not be located and another commemorating a casualty buried in Bedminster Church Cemetery whose grave could not be maintained. There are 149 burials from the Naval Hospital at Barrow Gurney; the rest are scattered. Those whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a Screen Wall Memorial. BRISTOL (ARNOS VALE) CREMATORIUM stands within the cemetery. A memorial in front of the crematorium commemorates 68 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



Arnos Vale Cemetery - Main Entrance on Bath Road (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave)



(Photo from CWGC)



(Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave)



Soldiers' Corner – Arnos Vale Cemetery (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2017)

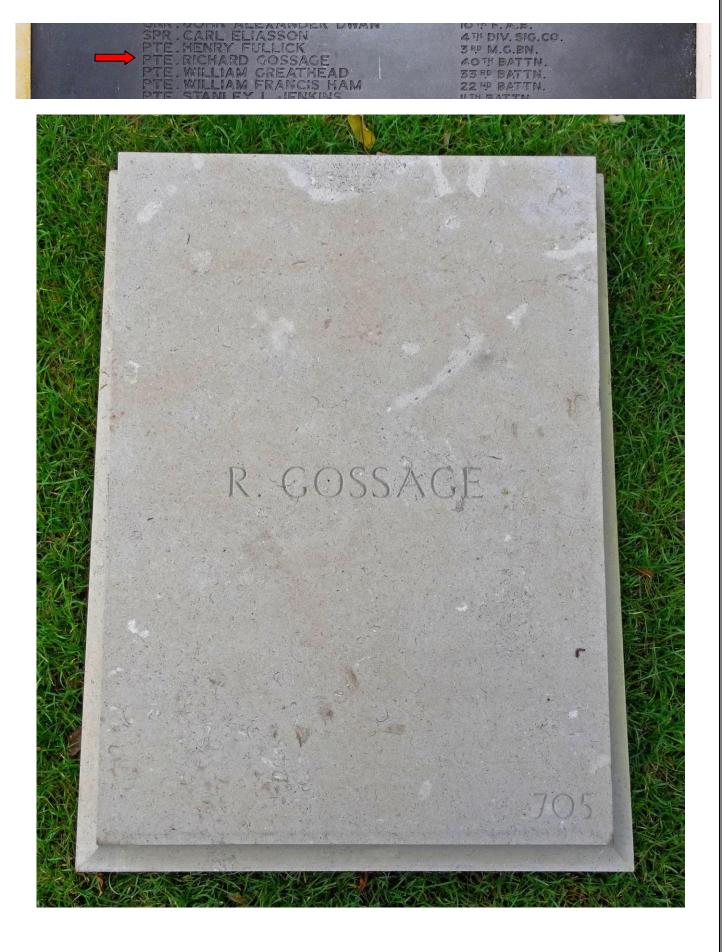


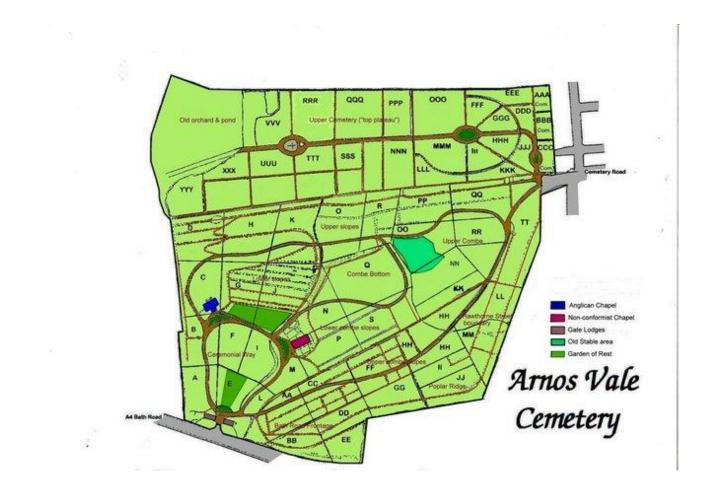
**New Memorial Stones** (*Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave November, 2018*)

Photo of Private Richard Gossage's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & his Memorial Stone in Soldiers' Corner.



(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2019)





(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)