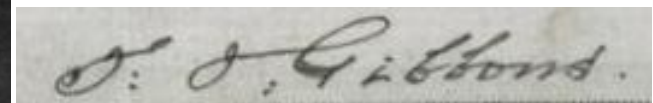




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 5566



Fred's signature, 1915

L/Corporal Fred Gibbons
Born Eynsham, Oxford England.
Killed in Action, age 39
29th July 1916, Battle of the Somme
26th Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd Division, Australian Imperial Force

Regimental number 2249 **Lance Corporal Frederick John Gibbons**, a grocer from **Launceston Tas.** of **C Company, 26th Battalion, 2nd Australian Division**. In the photo, Fred is wearing **26** and **INF** badges on his great coat epaulette. This photo was most likely take soon after **Fred** enlisted into the Australian Army and whilst he was taking part in the initial recruit course in Tasmania.

Fred enlisted into the Australian Army in July 1915 and travelled from Australia to **Tel el Kabir, Egypt** arriving January 1916 to join the **26th Infantry Battalion**. **Fred** travelled with the **26th Battalion** to the **Western Front** in **France** via **Port of Marseilles**.

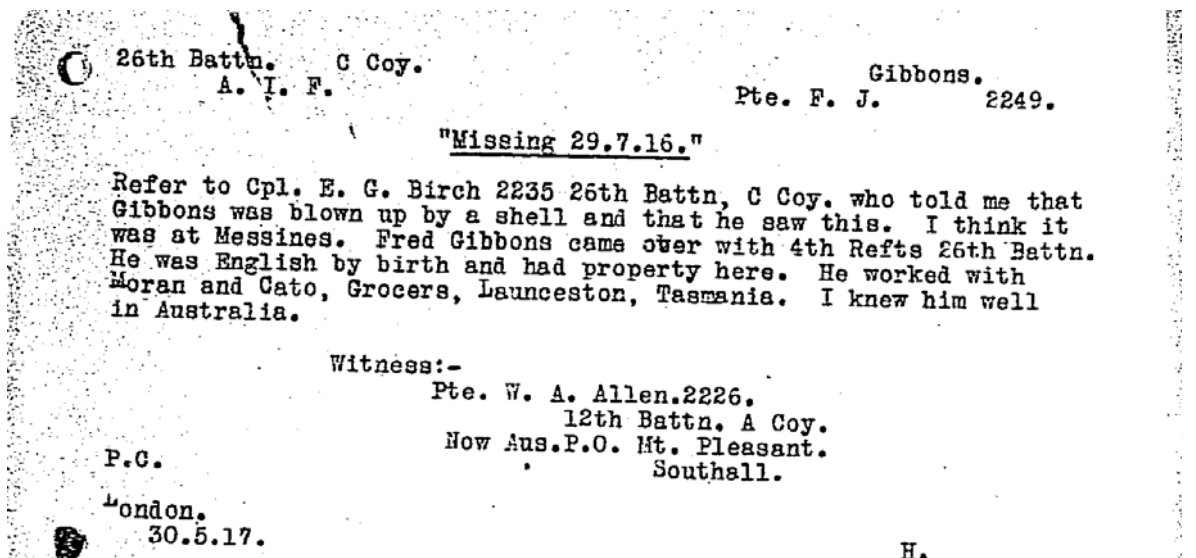
At **Taras (or Tara) Hill, Pozieres France**, on the night of the **28/29 July 1916**, **Fred** took part in an attack against entrenched German soldiers. Fred was amongst of the soldiers who charged towards the German trenches. The charge was preceeded by a inadequate artillery bombardment of only 1 minute. Confusion took place with an unofficial order spread to retire which took considerable effort by officers to check.

At first, Fred was one of a 100 soldiers of the **26th** listed as **Missing in Action**. A later Board of Enquiry listed **Fred** as **Killed in Action**. **Fred** has no known grave and his name is memorialised on the **Villiers Bretonneux Memorial** wall.

Before **Fred** migrated to Australia, he completed a 4 year apprenticeship with **Francis & Sons**, Buxton near Manchester, England.

Fred was engaged to be married to **Lillian Finlayson** of **Launceston, Tasmania**. After the War, Fred's fiancé Lillian requested his War Medals from the Australian Army but staff refused her request which is sad to read as I am sure she would have treasured these as a reminder of him.

Fred's service record state he had 2 aunts in **Eynsham**:
Miss Anne Ruth Gibbons passed away possibly 1916
Mrs. Sarah Smallhorn of **Willowbank Eynsham**.



Copy of Red Cross casualty report for Fred Gibbons