

A Soldier of the Great War

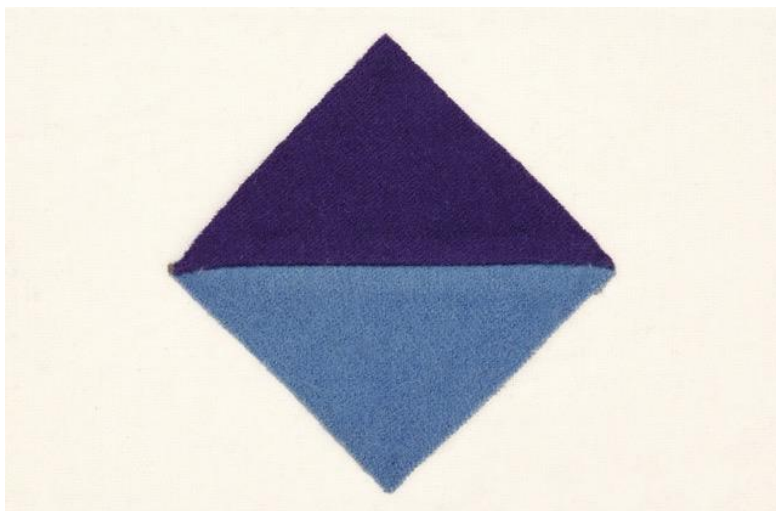
John Hourihan AIF

John HOURIHAN

Regimental number 478
Place of birth Maryborough Qld
Religion Roman Catholic
Occupation Labourer
Address Railway Hotel, Kingaroy, Queensland
Marital status Single
Age at embarkation 25
Next of kin Brother, J Hourihan, Railway Hotel, Kingaroy, Queensland
Enlistment date 10 November 1914
Rank on enlistment Private
Unit name [2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance](#)
Embarkation details Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT
A30 Borda on 15 December 1914
Fate No details of fate entered on Nominal Roll



Was John and James among the 26th Battalion group photo here?



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RELAWM1 3307.086

John Hourihan from the Kingaroy would enlist for the first time in the AIF on the 10th November 1914 in the 2nd Lighthorse Field Ambulance.

There is some confusion as he appears to have somehow after a period of time re-enlisted on the 15th August 1916.

His records are somewhat vague as they are confused as to his 2 enlistments.

It may be that his initial enlistment did not occur and he followed up a second time.

It may be that he even waited and re-enlisted to be with his brother James as they left together on the 23rd December 1916.

It also appears that he was in the 18th Reinforcements 26th Battalion in this second enlistment detail. (the same as James)

The official records have them both leaving Brisbane on the 23rd December 1916 and arriving in England on the 3 March 1917.

John and James took part in training in in the 7th Training Batallion at Rollingstone and then proceeded overseas.

Training as such and then arriving in France and taking part in action of the 26th Battalion and transferred to the Australian Employment Company some time later after shellshock.

He was in the Field in France on the 9th July 1917.

The 7th Brigade proceeded to France as part of the 2nd Australian Division in March 1916 In concert with the 28th Battalion, the 26th mounted the first trench raid undertaken by Australian troops on the Western Front on 6 June. The Battalion fought in its first major battle around Pozieres between 28 July and 7 August 1916.. After a short spell in Belgium, the 2nd Division came south later in the year to attack again in the Somme Valley. The 26th Battalion took part in two attacks to the east of Flers, both of which floundered in mud and slush.

It would appear from records that in November he was transferred to hospital with Shell Shock suffering the injuries around Steenvorde.

John was probably involved in action at Pozieres in July and August.

Then he was next in Belgium during September and October and November . He may even have been witness to his brother James Francis Hourihan's death and being missing sometime around the 15th September at Westhoek Ridge and the Battle of the Menin Road.

John would be part of The Battle of Broodseind Ridge where Australian Battalions suffered 6500 casualties.

John would be sent to hospital after suffering shellshock and terrible gassing on the 6th November 1917. Spending time in hospital probably at Etaples and then returning to service in the Australian Employment Company. These companies would provide services behind the lines made up of men who were not fit for active service. He would serve out the war with ongoing Shellshock eventually being repatriated back to Australia on the 7th February 1919.

John's war was over but the terrible memories
would haunt him
For his life. Family members attesting to the
struggles that he underwent.

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Q 10350

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 6470
26 BATTN
19RFTS

Name HOURIHAN JOHN

Unit 18/26 BATTN

Joined on 15th August 1916

Induced

14. 9. 16 Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... JOHN HOURIHAN
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... MARYBOROUGH in or near the Town of QUEENSLAND in the County of QUEENSLAND
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... BRITISH BORN
4. What is your Age? ... 25 years *25/11/91*
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... Teamster
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married? ... No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... SISTER — (MRS) MARY CLIFFORD. TARONG. VIA KINGAROOY. QLD.
P.O. MARDENWELL via NARRANGO QLD 24/2/16 7-2 2/2
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power of a WILL. ... NO
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? ... No
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ... Yes

PAY BOOK NO.
213761

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I, JOHN HOURIHAN do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children

Date 15th August 1916.

John Hourihan
Signature of person enlisted.

D.377/11.18.—0.19289. * This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 year of age. † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Enlistment papers August 1916

Australian Employment C

Date	Report	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B-1, Army Form A-2, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B-1, Army Form A-2, or other official documents.
14.7.17	To 26 BN	TAKEN ON STRENGTH	France	9.7.17	B213 B2128
10.11.17	"	SICK TO HOSPITAL	Belgium	1.11.17	B213 B2145
2.11.17	3 Aust F A	Adm + to 2C CCSE	"	2.11.17	AK 1863/10
2.11.17	2 Can Bldg	" Adm + to 15 Bldg	"	2.11.17	AK 1863/18
3.11.17	15 Can Bldg	" Adm	"	3.11.17	AK 1863/10
20.1.18	"	Classified Shell School disbanded	"	20.1.18	H3436 D25400
6.11.17	26 Gen Hpl	" Adm	Colaple	6.11.17	AK 1863/8
22.11.17	"	To 6 Con Dep	"	22.11.17	AK 1863/26
22.11.17	6 Con Dep	" Adm	"	22.11.17	AK 1863/26
9.2.18	"	do to 16.15 D. par	"	9.2.18	AK 2210/19
14.2.18	AIBD	M/I on 6 Con Dep	Haar	13.2.18	2210/17
11.3.18	"	Placed in 1770 to 18.15.18	"	11.3.18	2336/10
16.2.18	Asst. Emp. Coy	Taken on strength	Field	12.2.18	C 78/17 5027/10
27.7.18	do	On leave to A.R.	"	27.7.18	C 78/26
10.8.18	do	Resumes leave	"	10.8.18	C 78/29
21/12/18	-do-	Called out to Base for return to Aust.	"	21/12/18	C 78/58
30/12/18	A 24 B.D.	" To ramp to England	"	30/12/18	9970/7/8
31/12/18	from Arch. & S.D.	" Disembarked S'hampton from France to report to 1st Con Dep.	S'hampton	31/12/18	LX 918
1/1/19	1st Con Dep	" M. in from France	Weymouth	31/12/18	L.B. 1059

D.O. 9/2250
14.1.19

Soldier documents

1st. MILITARY DISTRICT
RECEIVED.
APR 1918
HEADQUARTERS.

1st. Military District, D.C.R.
87 5 787.

Kindly note my new
address

Abaidenwell
April 8th 1918

(Mrs) Mary Blifford

Abaidenwell Post-Office
Via Nanango. CHANGE OF ADDRESS
NOTED FOR CAIRO & D.P. Me.
26/19/4/18

Dear Sir.

Re your letter of with Reference to my
Brother No 6470 John Hourihan 1926 Battalion & the
one that enlisted on the 16th August 1916 are one
and the same. He got Discharge in Sydney &
come home for a while & then him & his
Brother Jim enlisted together. Since then his Brother
got killed. & he is still over there. Would you kindly
let me know how my Brother John is. about
a month ago or more we had a wire to say he
was wounded & shell shock. the wire said would
advise later & we have never heard no more.
I dont think it is at all fair to the soldiers Relations
at home to just get a wire to say wounded. & then to
hear no more. We dont know how he is wounded
or where or if it is serious or no. It means a lot
of worry on his relations. & not fair to the soldiers
Kindly let me know if you can, & you will relieve
my mind greatly. & Oblidge

A.A.G.
10.4.18

Yours Truly
Mary Blifford

Mother's letter

A 62479

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 2370 Name Mackenzie William Gordon Unit 5th Battalion 12th Battalion Joined on JUL 27 1915

5th Battalion 26th Battalion

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- 1. What is your Name? 1. William Gordon Mackenzie
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? 2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of Dumfries in the County of Scotland
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? 3. Yes
4. What is your age? 4. 18/4/12
5. What is your trade or calling? 5. Labourer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? 6. No
7. Are you married? 7. No
8. Who is your next of kin? 8. Mother Mrs M.G. Mackenzie Cooroy Queensland
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? 9. No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces... 10. No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army... 11. No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? 12. Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? 13. No
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother) Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service? 14.
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? 15. Yes

I, William Gordon Mackenzie do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date JUL 27 1915

W. G. Mackenzie Signature of person enlisted.

*This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age. †Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

1915 enlistment papers

28 JAN 1918
3RD ECHELON B.E.F.

22 JAN 1918
Army Form W3436

Urgent and Confidential.

Report to be rendered in the case of Officers and other ranks who, without any visible wound, become non-effective from physical conditions claimed or presumed to have originated from effects of British or enemy weapons in action.

NAME Hourihan, J. No. 6470 RANK Pl.
UNIT 26 Bn. A.D.C.

I. To O.C. - do -

The above-named was admitted to this unit on 3-11-17
He reported sick on 2-11-17 and was transferred through (*)

(1) Medical Units.

1st Aid P.A. & Com. C.C.S.

(2) State in general terms the condition observed.

On admission his condition (2) Shaky nervous

Palpitation.

(3) Time, date, place and assigned cause to be entered. Facts reported by a responsible officer on transfer will be noted and clearly distinguished from unsupported testimony of the officer or soldier concerned.

He states that (3) he was buried by shell Oct 31st in Belgium.

NO 15 CASUALTY CLEARING STATION
Date 5-11-17

O.C. No. W.C.C.S. (Special Hospital)

(4) To Army Headquarters through the usual channels if O.C. Unit considers there was no exceptional exposure, or that the patient's conduct demands further enquiry or report, otherwise it will be returned direct to O.C. Special Hospital.

II. To (4) To 15th Casualty Clearing Station.

I certify that the above-named (5) was subjected in the course of his duty to exceptional exposure (6) of the following nature viz -

While in front line a shell burst in close proximity to him again when on fatigue another burst close to him resulting him becoming very shaky & nervous

(5) "Was" or "Was not."

(6) Exposure should not be regarded as exceptional if it was not of a specific nature, more intense or prolonged than that which others in the same area of operations endured without being similarly affected thereby. When this is so a brief account of nature of exposure, e.g., shell or mine explosion, or shell fire, etc., will invariably be given.

Date 5/11/17
Commanding Major St. Ledger
26th Battalion A.D.C.

(8) The O.C. Special Hospital will be responsible that any points which appear to require investigation are brought to the notice of the Army Headquarters before this form is finally disposed of.

III. To D.A.G., 3RD ECHELON, G.H.Q. (8).

The above case has been classified shell shock W
Disposal (9) to Base 5/11/17 by No. 1st Amb. Train

(9) "Discharged to duty on (date) or Transferred to Base by No. Ambulance Train on (date)."

NO 15 CASUALTY CLEARING STATION
Date 20-1-18

O.C. No. 18 B.C.S. (Special Hospital)
2/0. 5/430.

S Shellshock papers confirmation