

Joseph Arthur Gilbert



Private (Pte) 1743 Joseph Arthur Gilbert enlisted in the 14th Infantry Battalion in the 4th Infantry Brigade of the New Zealand and Australian Division in Melbourne on 11 January 1915. He embarked overseas on 29 March and disembarked in Egypt in late April.

Pte Gilbert embarked for Gallipoli a month later, where he was subsequently taken on strength of the 14th Battalion, manning the front line at Courtney's Post, on 26 May.

He contracted bronchitis on 16 July and was evacuated to Malta, where he was hospitalised at St David's Hospital from 25 July – 9 August. He then returned to Egypt and eventually rejoined the 14th Battalion at Gallipoli on 24 August.

On 23 November, he contracted mumps and was treated at the 1st Light Horse Field Ambulance between 23 November – 11 December, after which he was transferred to Egypt and spent a week at the Mustapha Convalescent Depot from 15 – 22 December, around the same time the Australians evacuated Gallipoli.

Pte Gilbert was admitted to the 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital in Cairo with venereal disease between 15 – 25 February 1916, then returned to the 14th Battalion at Tel el Kebir on 5 March, where he was also promoted to Lance Corporal (L Cpl) on 13 March. The battalion left Egypt on 1 June and arrived in Marseilles on 8 June 1916, then travelled north.

On 6 August, the 14th Battalion entered the line at Pozieres and participated in the unsuccessful assault on Mouquet Farm a few days later, at a cost of 487 casualties, one of whom was L Cpl Gilbert who was killed in action on 11 August 1916. His brother, Charles, later buried him near where he fell.

Lance Corporal 1743 Joseph Arthur Gilbert's body was subsequently re-interred at Serre Road Cemetery No. 2, Hebuterne, France in 1930.

Name: Gilbert, Joseph Arthur	
Service Number	1743
Date enlisted	11 January 1915
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	14 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	29 March 1915 HMAT A9 <i>Shropshire</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	26 years 5 months
Place of birth	St Leonards, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Labourer, British Imperial Oil Coy
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Gilbert, Mrs Mary Ann, mother, "Redcliffe", St Leonards, Victoria
Permanent address	Williamstown, Victoria
Appearance	Ruddy complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 8 inches, weight – 10 stone, 11 lbs, chest measurement – 35/37 inches
Final Rank	Lance Corporal
Final Unit	14 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli, France
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place died	11 August 1916 Mouquet Farm, France
Cemetery details	Serre Road Cemetery No. 2, Hebuterne, France. Plot XXV, Row F, Grave 4
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Brother of Charles and James Gilbert. Remembered on the St Paul's Anglican Church Honor Roll, St Leonards Honor Roll, Portarlinton Honor Roll, Portarlinton War Memorial and the Town of Williamstown Roll of Honor.