

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6347 PRIVATE

A. McMURTRIE

24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 27

An Honourable Life

Nobly Ended

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. McMurtrie is located in Grave Plot # 204
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Andrew McMURTRIE

Andrew McMurtrie was born at Kensington, Flemington, Victoria in 1890 to parents John & Margaret McMurtrie (nee Sharp).

Andrew McMurtrie married Alice Ingle Mclean in Victoria in 1914.

Andrew McMurtrie, a married Baker of 34 Victoria St, East Brunswick, was listed on the 1914 Electoral Roll for the Division of Bourke, subdivision of Brunswick, Victoria

Andrew McMurtrie was a 26 year old, married Baker from Northcote, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne on 27th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force. His service number was 48195. Andrew McMurtrie did no duty & was discharge as medically unfit on 4th July, 1916. His records specifically state "Discharged Medically unfit not due to misconduct."

Andrew McMurtrie was a 26 year old, married Baker from Northcote, Victoria when he re-enlisted on 25th October, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6347 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Alice McMurtrie of 2 Leonard Street, Northcote South, Victoria. Andrew McMurtrie did state that he had previously been rejected from serving due to his Physique.

Pte Andrew McMurtrie embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 23rd November, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 29th January, 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 Andrew McMurtrie was marched in to 6th Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire from Australia on 31st January, 1917.

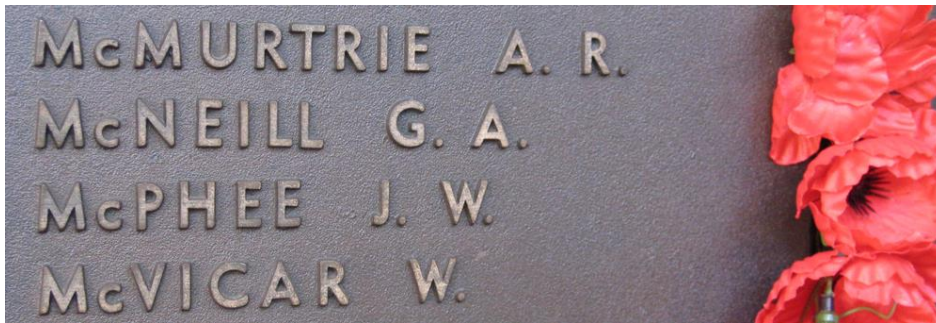
Private Andrew McMurtrie was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 14th February, 1917.

Private Andrew McMurtrie died at 1.45 p.m. on 18th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Andrew McMurtrie, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Andrew McMurtrie was buried on 21st February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 204 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private A. R. McMurtrie is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 102.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Andrew McMurtrie was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte McMurtrie's widow – Mrs A. McMurtrie (both sent June, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Andrew McMurtrie – service number 6347 as being 27 years old & served with 24th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Margaret McMurtrie; husband of Alice McMurtrie of 112 Noone Street, Clifton Hill, Victoria. Born at Kensington, Victoria.

A War Pension was granted to Alice McMurtrie, widow of late Pte Andrew McMurtrie, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 23rd April, 1917.

Pensions were also granted to the late Pte Andrew McMurtrie's children:

- Andrew McMurtrie – granted £1 per fortnight from 23rd April, 1917.
- Alice M. McMurtrie - granted 15/- per fortnight from 23rd April, 1917.
- Jean McMurtrie – granted 10/- per fortnight from 7th May, 1917

(66 pages of Pte Andrew McMurtrie'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

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Newspaper Reports

THE 276th CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private A. McMurtrie, Northcote

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – Wednesday 7 March, 1917)

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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 26th July, 1921, to Mrs A. McMurtrie, Clifton Hill advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte A. McMurtrie had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Pte A. McMurtrie does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

An Honourable Life Nobly Ended

Photo of Pte A. McMurtrie's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)