



+ Lance Corporal David G ABERNETHY
2052 — 1st Btn, 1 - 8th Reinforcements

Born: 29 Jul 1885, St Cyrus, Kincardineshire, Scotland

Parents: James Gordon & Isabella (Steele) Abernethy

Next of Kin: Mother Mrs Isabel Abernethy, Laurence Kirk, Scotland.

Occupation: Blacksmith & Wheelwright

District Connection: Manildra, Molong & Cumnock

Enlistment Date: 15 Feb 1915, Liverpool, NSW.

Enlistment Age: 29yrs

Embarkation: 25 Jun 1915, Sydney – *HMAT Ceramic A40*

Served: Gallipoli, Egypt, France

Fate: KIA 22 Jul 1916, Pozieres, France. 30yrs.

Honour Boards: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France; Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT; and Manildra War Memorial Hall, NSW.



Colour patch : 1 Infantry Battalion, AIF

Biography:

David Abernethy grew up in St Cyrus, Kincardineshire, and was the son of a market gardener. His father James had been married twice with six children with his first wife Ann, and a further six children with his second wife, Isabella. James Abernethy died when David was 11 years old. He was raised in St Cyrus, a village in the far south of Aberdeenshire, Scotland. He did a 3 year apprenticeship as a blacksmith and wheelwright and served in the Royal Garrison Artillery at Montrose, Scotland.

David emigrated to Australia in his twenties and by August 1912 was established in Cumnock, NSW. In conjunction with William Bird he set up the Motograph Co. which showed weekly pictures in Yeoval, Baldry, Manildra, Molong and Cumnock. [5128 Pte William Bird was also KIA 20 Sep 1917]. In 1913 David Abernethy was listed as living at Cumnock and working as a wheelwright. David was reported in the *Molong Express & Western District Advertiser* – 29 March 1913, p3 as being a member of the Cumnock branch of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows (MUIOOF). He was also a member of the Manildra Rifle Club.

When David Abernethy enlisted his medical examination stated that he was single, 5ft 8 inches tall, had a dark complexion, grey eyes, dark brown hair and was of the Presbyterian religious denomination. Pte Abernethy served in Gallipoli from 5 Aug 1915 with the 1st Btn. The 1st Btn took part in the Battle of Lone Pine from 6-10 August. On 4 Oct 1915 he was admitted to 1st Field Ambulance with Pyrexia and transferred to 2AGH at Murdos the same day. He returned to his unit at Gallipoli on 12 Oct. The Btn withdrew from Gallipoli in Dec and arrived at Alexandria on 28 Dec 1915.

On 4 Jan 1916 while stationed at Tel el Kebir, Pte Abernethy was admitted to hospital with gastritis and jaundice and transferred to 2AGH at Ghezireh. He convalesced at Alexandria and rejoined the 1st Btn on 3 Feb 1916. On the 12 Mar 1916 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and on 23 Mar embarked at Alexandria with the British Expeditionary Force, disembarking at Marseille on 28 Mar 1916.

L/Cpl David Abernethy was killed in action on the 22 July 1916 during the Battle of Pozières, Somme Section, France.

His mother Isabel received his effects of a wallet, photos, birth certificate, references, disc and letters. In his will he left £3 to G W Griffiths of Manildra, NSW and £5 to GH Bowhay of Cumnock, NSW and the remainder of his property to his mother. L/Cpl Abernethy's 1914/1915 Star, British War and Victory medals were forwarded to his mother.

The Molong Argus – 8 Sep 1916, p4 reported:

“The 202nd Casualty List included in those killed in action Lance Corporal DG Abernethy. Dave Abernethy was well known in Cumnock, where he was employed at E Bailey’s wheelwright shop for a considerable time. Prior to coming to Cumnock, Lance Corporal Abernethy was employed at Cadington Hall, and later at Gumble. The news of his death was received with regret, as he at all times was held in high esteem by all who know him. He was also one of the partners in the Cumnock Motiograph picture shows.”

The Western District Advertiser and the Molong Express – 9 Sep 1916, p7, and the Forbes Times – 15 Sep 1916, p4 also reported his death in their papers.

David Gordon Abernethy is featured in the book ‘Echoes of Anzac, Manildra and district’s WW1 story 1914 - 1918’, by Heather Nicholls, 2006.

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The CUMNOCK MOTOIGRAPE CO.

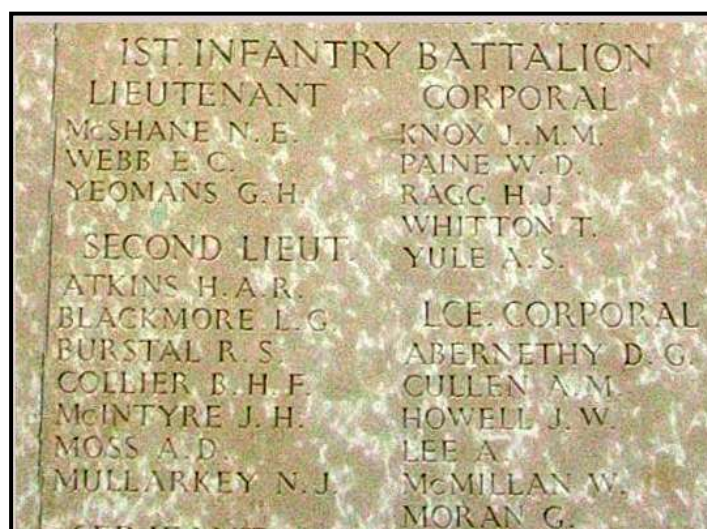
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Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France



Below: WW1 Roll of Honor and plaque honouring Members of the Manildra Rifle Club who were killed in action during WW1. These plaques are displayed in the War Memorial Hall, Manildra, New South Wales.

