

William Gibson

William Henry Irvine Gibson was born in August 1895 at Jamberoo, the son of Verjetta Elizabeth Gibson.

William, a labourer, was a member of the famous Waratah March. At the time of enlistment, he had two years and five months experience with the 37th Illawarra Regiment in Kiama, holding the rank of Company-Sergeant-Major.

The "Waratahs."

DISTRICT CONTINGENT.

Following is the official list of district men who have joined the "Waratahs" in their route march to Sydney, where they are due on the 17th inst.—

Private	W. Fidler
"	E. J. Lucas
"	J. Hanrahan
"	L. H. Edwards
"	E. W. Evans
"	E. H. Fisher
"	W. Bedford
"	T. Simpson
"	R. McDonald
"	J. M. King
"	John Henderson
"	H. King
"	J. T. Cooper
"	B. Leggett
"	H. Warren
"	H. H. S. Warner
"	C. G. Claude Edwards
"	H. Hindes
"	A. T. Howes
"	W. J. Brown
"	C. S. Brandon
"	C. H. Serls (Shellharbour)
"	W. H. I. Gibson (Jamberoo)

At Jamberoo.

THREE RECRUITS.

At Terragong, the children of the Jerrara school under Mr. Orlley, the teacher, stood waiting the march to give them a cool drink by the way and some refreshments.

At Myrtle Grove the family of Mr. Hugh Cobb gave them similar treatment. The Kiama band headed the procession to Jamberoo.

The A. Squad of the Illawarra Light Horse, under Lieuts. T. Grey gave escort with the mounted police to Jamberoo, also the cadets under Sergt. Booth. Little Bobbie Bud acting as a smart stable color bearer, leading the way on his pony, Mr. Nesbit Carson generously gave the transport.

At the School of Arts, all Jamberoo and the district residents gathered with the Mayor and aldermen and clergy to welcome the Waratahs.

The Mayor said they were proud to give them welcome as they had offered nobly to fight for the Empire and he was sure, would with honour, carry on the work begun at Gallipoli. Their hearts went with them and earnest hope for a safe return. The school children then sang sweetly, "Advance Australia Fair." After which the recruits were treated to a cool wash under the trees and then marched into the hall to dinner.

The dining hall was a picture to artists' eyes, and a delight to the taste of a gourmet. Xmas Bells were the flower decoration, plum puddings, jellies custards, fruits, with ham and cold meats and three hot vegetables, the eatables.

Grace was said by the Rev. A. Reeve. The kindly waitresses in the Jamberoo ladies were repaid by the appreciation of the splendid meal they had so generously prepared, daintily served and given with such a warm-hearted welcome—worthy of the hospitable traditions of Jamberoo. The Mayor who had Captain Blow on his right and the Hon. G. M. Burns on his left proposed the toast of the King, loyally honoured. Ald. C. W. Craig, proposed the toast of the "Waratahs," which received musical honors. He was pleased to welcome them to Jamberoo. They were a credit to the South Coast and it was gratifying to know that such youths came readily forward in their country's cause without reservation. He was sure they'd do excellent work and they all prayed they would have a safe return.

Captain Blow briefly thanked the Mayor, Mayoress and citizens of Jamberoo for their splendid welcome and expressed deep appreciation of their good wishes. They were most grateful to the ladies of Jamberoo who had so excellently entertained them. They had received nothing but the kindest and most lavish hospitality. ar-

had received nothing but the kindest and most lavish hospitality, attended with the bully beef and biscuits of camp life would seem strange. They had gathered numbers as they proceeded and marched through Jamberoo that day to strong. In conclusion he again thanked them for their special reception.

The Hon. G. M. Burns and Mr. M. F. Morton, M.S.P., with Inspector Anderson, marched with the recruits into the town, also the "Herald" representative, Mr. Walker, who accompanied the march. The Mayor and aldermen accompanied their departing guests and on leaving, reciprocal cheers were given by the residents and the recruits. The band of the 37th Infantry again played the "Waratah" off, having been taken to Jamberoo in the motor lorry. The Light Horse fell in behind and a goodly number of residents escorted them out of town, well on their way to Albion Park.

The town was gay with flags stretched across the roadway at intervals and an arch of greenery and wild flowers was over the gateway, the inside of the boulding being decorated also. Jamberoo truly excelled itself in its welcome, and all are to be congratulated whose hard work ensured so thorough a success—a success that truly reflected credit on the community.

Three Jamberoo recruits joined the march, D. McCarthy, W. Gibson and another whose name was not procurable.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00707.026

THE WARATAHS LEAVING KIAMA, ON THE WAY TO JAMBEROO, WHERE WILLIAM GIBSON JOINED THE MARCH.

FAREWELL TO CAPTAIN GIBSON.

The many friends of Corporal W. Gibson met in the Jamberoo Methodist Sunday School Hall last Saturday night for the purpose of bidding farewell to him, prior to his departure for the front. The send-off took the form of a social under the auspices of the local L.O.L. of which Corporal Gibson has been a worthy member for the past two years. Many speeches were made by various members, all paying a high tribute to Corporal Gibson for enlisting for service abroad.

The W.M. Bro. S. Sproule, then called upon Corporal Gibson to come forward and accept a safety razor outfit, suitably inscribed as a slight token of the esteem in which he was held by the brethren.

Bro. Gibson suitably responded.

During the evening a very fine musical programme was rendered, and greatly appreciated by those present. Refreshments were then done justice to, after which all those present joined in singing, "God be with you till we meet again," closing with the singing of the National Anthem.

Corporal Gibson makes the fourth member of No. 140 to engage in active military service while others belonging to the Lodge have had the hard luck to be turned down. Corporal Gibson is a member of the South Coast route march, and at the time of enlisting held the rank of Company-Sergeant-Major in the 37th infantry.

RECRUITING ASSOCIATION.

Send-off to the "Waratahs."

A special meeting of the above was held at the Council Chambers on Friday last, at 7.30 p.m. to make the necessary arrangements for a citizen's farewell, send-off and presentation to the Waratahs, and other recruits now in camp before their departure for the front. There were present: Messrs. H. Dennis (in the chair), Aids: F. Lean and W. Cornford, Messrs. G. Knight, W. Fraser, P. Griffiths, Capt. E. A. Blow, Rev. A. Gallop, Rev. W. Wall, A. Bryant, C.P.S., R. H. Steventon, R. J. Thomas, F. Small, Rev. M. McNamara and the secretary.

The chairman reported that the sub-committee had instructed the secretary and Sergt-Major Gill to proceed to Liverpool Camp to interview the Camp Commandant as to the probable date of the Waratah's departure for the front, and if possible obtain leave for other recruits now in camp.

The secretary stated that as the Waratahs were obtaining their final leave on Thursday, 17th February (to-

morrow), he had, with the able assistance of Capt. W. Boles (Provost Marshall, Liverpool Camp), been able to arrange for the whole of the Kiama recruits to get leave for the function, which takes place in the Oddfellows' Hall (by kind permission of Messrs. Weston & Colley who changed their picture show night so that it could be held on Thursday at 8 p.m.

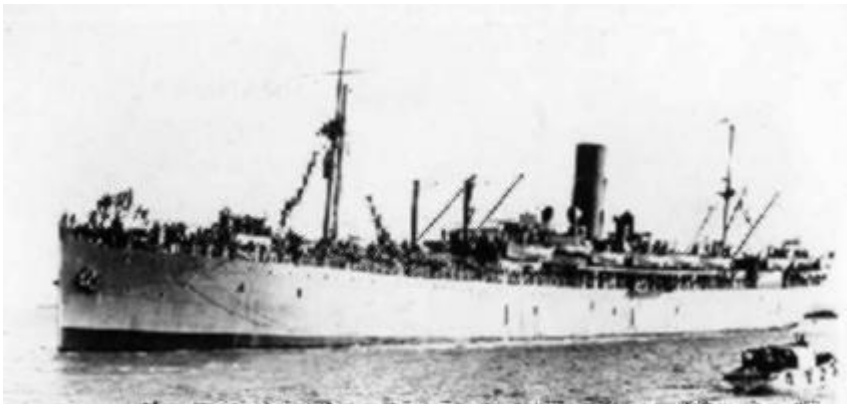
Arrangements are now well in hand and presentations are to be made by the Association and Red Cross Society, military and band, also by the local Lodges of Oddfellows and members of the Methodist Church. It was decided to extend invitations to W. J. Gibson, of Jamberoo, C. A. Sproule, of Shell-harbour and Stan Somerville to be present.

The ladies intend entertaining the men at supper and a good musical programme is arranged which will add to the evening's enjoyment.

The military band (by kind permission of Capt. Ryan) will march with the men to the hall and play selections during the evening.

There were about 200 persons present at a meeting held in Jamberoo School of Arts last Saturday night to bid farewell to recruits and make presentations. His worship, the Mayor, Ald. J. E. Noble presided, and the meeting was most enthusiastic. The guests were Messrs. Robert W. Booth, Theo. Graham, William Gibson, and J. Cady, each receiving a sheepskin vest from Mrs. C. W. Craig, on behalf of the Jamberoo Soldier's Presentation Committee, and a parcel from Mrs. Hugh Colley on behalf of the Jamberoo Red Cross Society. Each recipient suitably acknowledged. William Gibson was also presented with suitable tokens by Bro. S. Sproule, N.G. on behalf of the G.U.O. Oddfellows' Minnamurra branch. Sergeants Dymock and Bryce (returned soldiers), recruiting officers, were present and made appeals for recruits. Patriotic speeches were also made by the Chairman, Rev. A. Reeves, and Rev. Father McNamara. A short musical programme was also given. The meeting opened and closed with the singing of the National Anthem. Miss E. Nelson acted as organiser and hon. secretary to the movement.

A labourer, William embarked on board HMAT SS Makarini on 1 April 1916, as Acting Corporal. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 16th Reinforcements. Along side William were other Kiama soldiers, William Bedford, Cyril Brandon, Richard Cooke, Joseph Cooper, Claude Edwards, John Edwards, Lance Edwards, Ernest Fisher, John Hanrahan, John Henderson, Alfred Hinde, Alfred King, Ernest Lucas, Richard McDonald, William Ranyard, Thomas Simpson, Henry Warner and Henry Warren.

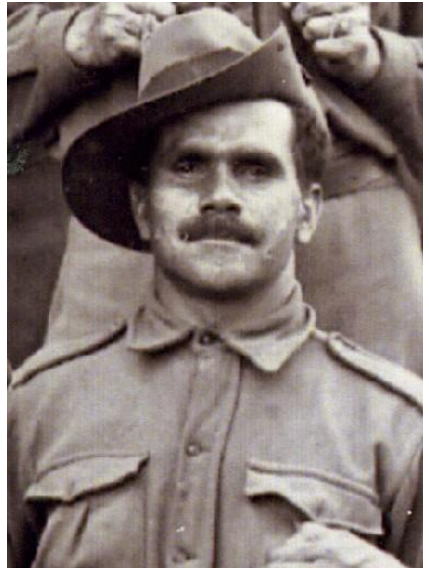


THE MAKARINI WHICH DEPARTED SYDNEY ON 1 APRIL 1916

Private Gibson died along side fellow Kiama soldiers Henry Warren and John Hanrahan at Poziers, just shy of his 21st birthday. Also dying of wounds a few days later were Richard McDonald, Ernest Fisher and Joseph Cooper. All of these men were from the Waratah March. This battle saw six of the twenty three Waratahs from Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo killed.



JOSEPH COOPER



RICHARD MCDONALD

The following are accounts of the death of William Gibson, taken from the Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing files.

1st Battn. C. Coy.,
16th Reinfts. 9th Platoon.

GIBSON. W.H.J.
5103.

K/A. 25-7-16

Informant knew Gibson - he came from Jamberoo, and was about 20, and about 5' 8" in height, medium build, fair complexion. Informant was with him in the trenches at Pozieres on 23/7/16. They hopped over the trench together when the advance was made. Informant never saw him again but heard from some of the others that he was killed by a shell.

Reference: Dennis, Pts. S.E. 5077,
1st Battn. 16th Reinfts.
C. Coy. 9th Platoon.
RANDWICK.

VR.
31/1/1917.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F. 1st. Batn.

GIBSON W.H.J.
5103.

KILLED July 25th. 16. D.D.E.

I knew Gibson well- we were both Corporals together, passed the same day together in Liverpool Came as Sergeants. Don't know his people. he came from Kiama was Captain of Kiama Cadets. I saw him killed by a bullet through the heart - was killed instantly - at Pozieres - we were advancing and he was hit before we got to the first German Trench. Do not know where he was buried - I am sure that he received a decent burial. He was very popular.

Ref. Sgt. F.W.Gaulding 5104 (D.C.M.)
1st. Battn.
Hut 36. Westham Camp.

21.3.17.

S.M.
LONDON.
30.3.17.

A. I. P. 1.

GIBSON, V.H.J. 5103.

K. July 25th, 1916.

He came over with me in 18th reinf. by S.S. Mac-
cackarina, leaving Australia April 1st, 1916. I was
told by Pte. Edwards, O. Coy. (still there) and Pte.
~~Crawford~~ of A. Coy. (wounded in England) that they
saw him killed at Pozieres. He came from South
coast of N.S.W. He was one of the waratah route
march.

Reference:- S.M. Berry. 5046. I.A.
No. 7 Gen. Gen. Hosp.

Written by Pte Edwards 22.5.17
Crawford

Staples
11.5.17.

S.M. does not mean Sgt. Maj. it is his initial. FEP.

1st Battalion A.I.F.
16th Reinforcements.

Serial No. 5103

Killed in Action 22-25/7/16.

I knew Gibson before we enlisted -- he is a relation of mine. We joined the 16th Reinforcements to 1st Battalion together, and left Australia in the "Makarina" on 1.4.16. He was in C. Company, and his initials were W.H.I., and his name was Will, and he came from Jamberoo.

Private White of C. Company told me in October, 1916, at Weymouth, that he had seen Will Gibson's dead body at Pozieres on the night of 23/7/16. White knew Gibson, and seemed quite sure of what he said. I have told Gibson's people what I knew. I understand that Gibson's pocketbook was picked up and forwarded by Private Braithwaite of the 1st Battalion, 16th Reinforcements.

Private Alexander of B. Ward, I think, can perhaps tell you more about Gibson's pocket-book, as he told me about it. I think Gibson's people are quite satisfied with the information they received. White, I think, has returned to duty.

Informant:-- S.E. Denniss, 5077.

1st Battalion C. Co. A.I.F.
16th Reinforcements

H.E.G.
7.6.17.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.
A careful witness, SYDNEY BURMAN.

S. James

1st Battn.
A. I. F.

Gibson.
W.H.J. 5103.

"Killed 25.7.16."

Concerning No. 5103 Pte. W.H.J. Gibson, 1st Battn. Killed 25.7.16. He was buried on the field about 26.7.16. He was about 5'4" in height, thick set, slightly dark complexion. I knew him very well in civilian life.

Letter from:-

L. H. Edwards.

1st Battn. C. Coy.

London.
28.6.17.

B. E. F. 13.6.17.

S.

VOTE OF SYMPATHY.

The Mayor said it was a sad duty to move a vote of sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Gibson and family on the death of Pyte. Gibson, the first of their district body, of Oddfellows to offer his services to the Empire. The loss of such a fine manly young fellow must be a great blow to his people and in their sorrow he was sure every person in Jamberoo sympathised. To Mr. and Mrs. Gibson in the loss of their gallant son he moved a letter of sympathy be sent from the Council.

Ald. Craig seconded. When it comes home, the loss to the Empire in the strength of its young manhood is truly realised. He who had lost his life in defence of King and Country had been known to them all, and they knew what the feelings of those bereaved by the death of their only son would be. He deeply sympathised with them in their trouble.

Ald. Fredericks and Grey also feelingly supported the motion which was carried standing.

At Jamberoo school the day was honored on the lines suggested by the Department and at night the Church of England was packed on the occasion of the Anzac Service, and the unveiling of the Roll of Honor in the Church with the dedication of handsome brass vases by the Gibson family in memory of the late Pte. Gibson, killed at Poizieres.

KIAMA INDEPENDENT. 28 APRIL 1917



CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, JAMBEROO

GIBSON—In memory of our dear son
and brother, Bill (Pto. W. Gibson)
killed in action at Pozzores, 23rd
July, 1918.

A Trumpet rang a call to arms, and to war with the
nation's foes;

He heard the quickly spread alarms, the growling of the
gathering storms,

And he went, as "A Hero" goes.

Yes, like a "Sport" he played the game, and his life
and his all he gives,

But it is his, that with his name, upon 'his country's
roll of fame.

He will as "A Hero" live.

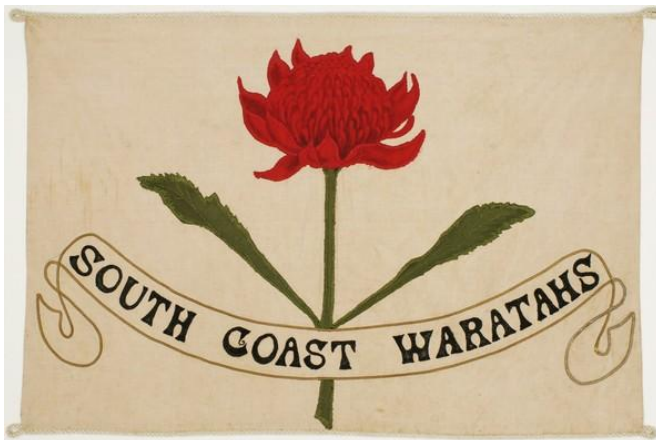
Inserted by his loving parents, Sis-
ters and brothers.

KIAMA INDEPENDENT. 27 JULY 1918

Private Gibson has a panel reference at Villers-Bretonneux. He also has his name located on panel 29 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.



PRIVATE WILLIAM GIBSON



THE FLAG WHICH THE WARATAHS MARCHED BEHIND



VILLERS-BRETTENNEUX MEMORIAL



THE WARATAHS MARCH DOWN MANNING STREET, KIAMA



THE WARATAHS OUTSIDE THE DRILL HALL, KIAMA

