

STURROCK, J. (M.M.)

Our research indicates that this soldier was probably John MacLean Sturrock (1886-1960), born in South Melbourne to Esther Chester (1860-1892) and John Sturrock (1847-1912).

Following Esther's death, the small family lived at a number of different addresses in North Carlton. For a while, John MacLean lived with his younger brother Benjamin Gordon Sturrock (1887-1976) at 913 Drummond Street, North Carlton. When Benjamin married Florence Emily Glover (1893-1965) in 1913, John moved to 371 Park Street, North Carlton.

He enlisted in 1915 and returned to Australia in 1918. John was awarded the Military Medal for his actions under fire in France in May 1918.

AIF Project Entry

John STURROCK

Regimental number	13972
Place of birth	South Melbourne, Victoria
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Clerk
Address	East Brunswick, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	28
Next of kin	Brother, B Sturrock, 11 Victoria Street, East Brunswick, Victoria.
Enlistment date	16 July 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	Army Medical Corps, Special Reinforcements
AWM Embarkation Roll number	26/99/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT <i>A61 Kanowna</i> on 1 April 1916.
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	14th Field Ambulance
Fate	Returned to Australia 24 December 1918

Medals

Military Medal

'The 5th Australian Divisional Main Dressing Station in DAOURS, east of AMIENS, on the morning of 20th May 1918, was under bombardment with shells of large calibre and sustained a direct hit.

Despite this shelling Private STURROCK continued with the utmost coolness to discharge his duties in the Operating Theatre during an operation for the amputation of a wounded man's thigh. His coolness was well exemplified by the way in which he anticipated the needs of the surgeons. The Dressing Station sustained a second direct hit, which demolished the Operating Theatre just as the operation was completed.

Private STURROCK assisted to remove the patient to a cellar near by where the wound was cleaned and dressed and the patient successfully evacuated. While this was being done this soldier was indefatigable in going backwards and forwards between the Dressing Station and cellar under heavy shell fire to obtain dressings for his patient and two other patients who were under treatment in the theatre.

The conduct of Private STURROCK under these trying circumstances was an inspiring example to all and doubtless saved many lives.'

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 23

Date: 12 February 1919.

War service: Western Front

Other details

Medals: Military Medal, British War Medal, Victory Medal.

Date of death

25 December 1960

Place of burial

Fawkner Cemetery

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NAA: B2455, STURROCK J SERN 13972.