

# Bert Watson CARTWRIGHT

10/08/2017

## Bert Watson CARTWRIGHT

aka Ben

Late of Lightning Ridge

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # **????**

Rank: Constable

Stations: **?**, Lightning ( Hill ) Ridge –  
Death

Service: From **? ? 1916** to 3 December  
1919 = 3 years Service

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: **? ? 1892?**

Died on: Wednesday 3 December 1919 @  
11pm

Age: 27

Cause: Suicide – Firearm – Committed

**Coroner Findings:** Suicide while temporarily insane

**Event location:** near Wombat Rd, 13 miles from Young, NSW

**Event date:** Wednesday 3 December 1919 @ 11pm

**Funeral date:** Friday 5 December 1919

**Funeral location:** ?

**Buried at:** Church of England, Young

**Memorial located at:** ?

[alert\_yellow]BERT is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance[/alert\_yellow] **\*NEED MORE INFO**

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**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE, THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

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**May they forever Rest In Peace**

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Lithgow Mercury (NSW : 1898 – 1954), **Wednesday 10 December 1919**, page 2

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**A CONSTABLE'S HEALTH.**

**and his last invitation.**

When several men in an hotel ( *the Rose & Crown* ) at Young were drinking the health of **Constable Cartwright**, he replied, " *I will bet you £5 I will be dead before any of you. If this gun cartridge will not finish me this revolver will. I invite you all to my funeral.*" Later in the night the body of Cartwright was found on the Wombat-road with his brains blown out.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/218611064>

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Young Witness (NSW : 1915 – 1923), **Tuesday 9 December 1919**, page 2

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**Bert Cartwright's Death**

**CORONIAL INQUEST.**

The Coroner, Mr. G. S. Whiteman conducted an inquest this

morning concerning the death of Bert Watson Cartwright, constable of police, who was found on the Wombat road on the night of December 3rd with his brains blown out, and a double barrelled gun beside him.

Formal evidence of the finding of the body was given by Constable Auld.

George Eastley, a gardener, residing at Spring Creek, said that he had known Bert Cartwright since childhood, and had always been on friendly terms with him. At a few minutes past seven on the evening of December 3rd, deceased had come to his home. He behaved in a peculiar manner, was staring about, and kept looking at his watch. At times he talked quite sensibly. After having a cup of tea he asked for his gun at 7.30 p.m. and announced his intention of going to town alone, but witness insisted on going part of the way with him. Deceased had been shooting rabbits in the locality, and had left the gun in witness' keeping about three weeks before. Deceased shook hands with Mr. Punt, Mrs. Eastley and Miss Eastley, and as he reached the door said

**"THIS IS THE LAST GOODBYE"**

As he and witness walked along the road together, deceased said " I'm going to shoot myself tonight." Witness replied. " Don't talk so foolishly," but he insisted, " It must be done tonight." Both sat down and for an hour witness tried to reason with him, but he repeated, " It must be done tonight." When he made an effort to get the gun as they moved off, deceased said, " You can't get the gun, and if you did I've got a loaded revolver." After a hundred yards he became excited and looked fierce. He took the gun out and ran into the scrub. Witness could not catch him, so returned home, and went a quarter of a mile for the assistance of his son. Both went to Mr. Bailey's, and word came through by Mr. W. Eastley that Cartwright had returned to witness' residence. Witness hurried back and found Bert Cartwright with the loaded gun in

his hands and eventually persuaded him to come in and have a cup of coffee and some cake. Again he became restless, would stare, and kept pulling out his watch. At ten thirty witness asked him to stay the night, but he persisted in going. Witness asked him to come tomorrow, but he would not promise. Neither would he promise to go to the pictures next night. Both men walked a few hundred yards along the road when deceased ordered witness to go back. Witness appealed to him to think of his sister and brothers and not to take his life. As they continued, witness asked him for a loan of the gun, but he refused. Then he rushed ahead, put the gun cleaner and the case on a post, stared at witness for a full minute, made a cigarette and lit it. Then he rushed up to witness, and staring at him, said, " You know nothing. " He took up the cleaner and case again, shook witness' right hand, said

**" GOOD BYE, OLD FELLOW, GOOD LUCK. "**

and rushing away, called out, " It will all be over before you get home " Witness could not catch him and walked homewards. Having gone 100 yards, witness heard the report of a gun, and hastening home, got Mr. Punt to accompany him to the place whence the gunshot came.

They found Bert Cartwright dead on the side of the main road, in the shade of a bush. The gun was beside him. Mr. Punt waited while witness went to telephone to the police, who arrived about an hour later, and removed the body. Witness had asked deceased several times to explain his trouble, but the invariable reply would be. " It is too late. " Having known deceased all his life, witness believed him to be a temperate, steady young man. Generally speaking, deceased's actions at ordinary times showed that he was not quite right in his mind. Witness believed that his troubles were imaginary.

Richard Punt, laborer, of Spring Creek, gave evidence of deceased having had one drink on the date of the fatality. He corroborated the evidence of the previous witness.

Mrs. Castledine, proprietress of the Rose and Crown Hotel, said that deceased was having a few drinks at the hotel on the afternoon of December 3rd, and when the other men wished him good luck, he said, " I'll bet you £5 I'm dead before any of you. If I don't do it with this (a cartridge), I'll do it with this (a revolver). Will you all come to the funeral?" Deceased stayed at the hotel for tea. He said that he was in trouble, but would not explain what the trouble was.

**Mr. O. W. Cartwright, father of the deceased,** deposed that his son was 27 years of age, and had been a member of the police force for three years. He was a single man stationed at Lightning Ridge, and did not wish to go back. His mother's death, which took place two and a half years ago, had played on his mind.

Sergeant Wood deposed that he had received communication from the Police Department that the deceased was sober and trustworthy.

A verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was recorded.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/122437984>

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Young Witness (NSW : 1915 – 1923), **Friday 5 December 1919,**  
page 2

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### **Shooting Fatality.**

#### **CONSTABLE CARTWRIGHT FOUND DEAD.**

The report of a gun was heard near the **Wombat road**, about **13 miles from Young** at about 11 o'clock on Wednesday night. Hurrying to the spot, Messrs **Geo. Eastley** and **Potts** found the dead body of **Bert Watson Cartwright**. A sporting gun ( *double*

*barrelled* ) was near the body. The deceased man's head was badly mutilated, obviously by a shot from the gun which, on examination, was seen to have just been discharged. Death must have been instantaneous.

**Personal troubles** had been known to have been a **source of much worry** to the deceased, who was a **constable** of police stationed at **Lightning Hill**, but at the time was **visiting his relatives** at **Young** on a holiday.

He had called for the gun, which had been left at Mr. **G. Eastley**'s house, and had said that it was **his intention to end it all**. Mr. **Eastley**'s attempts to dissuade him were of no avail.

The profoundest sympathy of many residents who have known **Ben Cartwright** from boyhood, are expressed for his bereaved relatives.

An inquest into the cause of the death will be held on Tuesday.

The **interment** was made in the **Church of England cemetery** today,

Rev. S. A. T. Champion officiating at the grave.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/122437824>

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### **POLICE EXAM.**

Mr. **Bert Cartwright**, son of Mr. **O W. Cartwright, J.P.**, has been **successful** in **passing** an **examination** for entry into the **mounted police force**. Mr **Cartwright** was successfully coached by Mr. **D. Perks** at his evening school. We congratulate both teacher and pupil.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/113629153>

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Young Chronicle (NSW : 1902 – 1910; 1913 – 1915; 1924 – 1934; 1936 – 1940), **Tuesday 20 July 1915**, page 2

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### **A Revolver Shot**

Mr. **Bert. Cartwright**, son of Mr. **O. W Cartwright**, met with an accident at his home on Sunday which might easily have been attended with more serious consequences. He appears to have been extracting some bullets from a revolver, when he got his finger on the trigger and the weapon went off. Portion of his left hand was over the muzzle and the bullet went right through it. The fleshy part of the palm was punctured, just outside the bone connecting the little finger, but fortunately the bone was missed and the flesh only was wounded.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/236960448>

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# Oscar Stanley McDONALD

10/08/2017

Oscar Stanley McDONALD

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 'Q' 8552

For the purposes of this website 'Q' represents those Police joining between 1 March 1862 ( commencement of NSWPF ) – 23 February 1915 ( Commencement of NSWPF current numbering system )

**Rank:** Probationary Constable – appointed 12 October 1906 ( aged 22 – 23 years old )

**Stations:** ?, Rugby – Death

**Service:** From 12 October 1906 to 21 December 1919 = 13 years, 2 months, 9 days Service

**Born:** 1884

**Age:** 36 old

**Cause:** Suicide – Jumped from a cliff

**Died:** 21 December 1919 – Belmore Falls, Robertson, NSW

**Funeral:** Saturday 27 December 1919, Robertson, NSW

**Buried:** Church of England, Robertson Cemetery, NSW

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## **Media reports:**

**Goulburn Evening Penny Post ( N.S.W. )**

**Tuesday 30 December 1919 page 2 of 4**

**CONSTABLE DROWNS HIMSELF.**

**Moss Vale Monday. –**

The body of Constable Oscar McDonald, of Rugby, near Young, who drowned himself on the 21st instant, came to the surface in a water hole at Belmore Falls, and was discovered on Saturday morning.

At the inquest a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was returned.

He was 36 years of age, and leaves a wife and seven children.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/98903618?searchTerm=%20oscar%20mcdonald%22&searchLimits=sortby=dateAsc#pstart9600234>

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**The Sydney Morning Herald**

**Tuesday 30 December 1919 page 7 of 10**

**CONSTABLE DROWNS HIMSELF.**

**MOSS VALE, Monday.**

The body of Constable Oscar McDonald, of Rugby, near Young, who drowned himself on the 21st instant, came to the surface in a waterhole at Belmore Falls, and was discovered on Saturday morning. At the inquest a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was returned. He was 36 years of age, and leaves a wife and seven children.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15881840?searchTerm=%20oscar%20mcdonald%22&searchLimits=sortBy=dateAsc#pstart1252437>

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**Northern Star ( Lismore, NSW )**

**Wednesday 31 December 1919 page 5 of 8**

**GENERAL TELEGRAMS.**

**Verdict of Suicide.**

**SYDNEY, Tuesday.—**

The body of Constable Oscar McDonald, late of Rugby, near Young, who drowned himself on the 21st inst., came to the surface in a waterhole at Belmore Falls, Moss Vale.

At the inquest a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was returned.

**The Scrutineer and Berrima District Press**

**Wednesday 31 December 1919 page 2 of 4**

**Belmore Falls Tragedy.**

The body of Constable Oscar McDonald, of Rugby, near Young, who was missing from Sunday, 21 st instant, came to the surface of the waterhole at Belmore Falls, where his clothes and a note, to his wife stating that he **was tired of his life** were found, and was discovered on Friday morning and dragged out of the water.

At the inquest following the discovery, the district coroner (Mr. H. W. Taylor) returned a verdict of suicide whilst suffering from temporary insanity.

Deceased was a son of Mr. Robert McDonald, of Robertson, and was born in that township 36 years ago.

He leaves a widow (a daughter of Mr. John Lindsay, of Moss Vale) and seven children.

**The remains were interred in the Church of England cemetery, Robertson, on Saturday,** the Rev. J. F. Rofe officiating at the graveside.

**The Southern Mail ( Bowral, NSW )  
Friday 2 January 1920 page 2 of 4  
The Suicide at Belmore Falls  
THE BODY FOUND.**

The body of Constable Oscar McDonald, of Rugby, near Young, who had been missing since Sunday, the 21st December, came to the surface of the waterhole at Belmore Falls, and was discovered on Friday morning and dragged out of the water.

Some days previously the clothes of the missing man were found near the top of the falls with a note to his wife stating that he was tired of his life, and it was surmised that he had jumped into the deep waterhole 300ft beneath.

Efforts to recover the body by dragging, however, failed.

At the inquest following the discovery, the district coroner ( Mr. H. W. Taylor ) returned a verdict of suicide while suffering from temporary insanity.

Deceased was a son of Mr. Robert McDonald, of Robertson, and was born in that township 36 years ago.

He was on a visit to his birthplace on sick leave from the police force, **suffering a nervous breakdown. A long bout of insomnia** had left him in a state from which **death would appear to give a happy release.**

The late Constable McDonald leaves a widow ( a daughter of Mr. John Lindsay, of Moss Vale ) and seven children.

The remains were interred in the Church of England Cemetery, Robertson, on Saturday, the Rev J F Rofe officiating at the graveside.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/113381577?searchTerm=%22oscar%20mcdonald%22&searchLimits=sortBy=dateAsc>

The exact same version, as above – from the Northern Star,

also appeared in Robertson Advocate ( NSW ), Friday 2 January 1920 page 2 of 4

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/120009398?searchTerm=%22oscar%20mcdonald%22&searchLimits=sortBy=dateAsc>

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**The Southern Mail ( Bowral, NSW )**

**Tuesday 6 January 1920 page 2 of 4**

THANKS.— The Widow, Family, and Relatives of the late Constable Oscar McDonald desire to Thank the police and public generally for their assistance and sympathy in their late sad bereavement.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/113381583?searchTerm=%22oscar%20mcdonald%22&searchLimits=sortBy=dateAsc#pstart117977>

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Belmore Falls – Robertson, NSW. 1500mt fall

## Belmore Falls:

-34.639077859879535, 150.5589477310662



Rugby Police Station, NSW – No date

The earliest mention of Rugby Police Station ( which no longer exists as a Police Station ) in the National Library of Australia is 16 December 1875.

In October 1900 there was a Constable **Overton** stationed at Rugby Police Station. ( *“Possibly” Arnold OVERTON, NSWPF ‘Q’ 5265 – Born 1858 in England and joined the Police on 29 September 1886* )

As of 2014, there is no mention of Rugby Police Station, or Oscar McDonald inside the date range of 1900 – 1923.

In December of 1923 there was a Constable **John Walderma CHITTY** stationed at Rugby Police Station. ( *No Find via Google or my records. Cal* )

On 2 September 1927, approval was given for the installation of a telephone in Rugby Police Station.

The last mention of Rugby Police Station, in the papers of the

day, is 4 July 1930.

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On Saturday 19 July 2014, I ( *Greg 'Cal' Callander* ) went to the old Church on the corner of Illawarra Hwy & Meryla St, Robertson, to speak with the current Minister there.

He didn't have any records with him and there are definitely no graves within the grounds of the Church, nor is there a Church of England Cemetery ( now ) – as stated in the article dated 2 January 1920.

The Minister did, however, direct me to one of the **oldest residents in the area** who runs the **General Store** up the road.

Before I troubled her, I attended the Robertson Cemetery located at the very end of **Missingham Parade, Robertson** in search of Oscar's grave – at the below GPS co-ordinates.

It is a lovely cemetery, with graves dating back to the mid 1800's and there would be no more than 100 marked graves there – but, as much as I searched, I could not locate the grave for Oscar.

There are several unmarked graves, there are several graves with upturned headstones that have fallen over with the process of time. There are also graves whereby the inscriptions just can't be read, due to weathering and then there are the graves that are totally shrouded in thick creeper vines and trees.

After spending a considerable amount of time there, without success, I decided to go to the **old General Store** and speak with **the elderly lady who runs the place**.

Now, considering this funeral happened **nearly 95 years ago**, I introduced myself to the lady and told her exactly what I was seeking.

Now **bugger me** if, **after all these years**, she steps forward to the bench in front of her and says, "*I know I have that book around here somewhere*".

From under a few news papers, she removes an **old, hand written, brown tattered and torn book** which holds **most of the records of the Robertson Cemetery**.

She flicks through the book to the appropriate date and there, before us, was the hand written note of her own long deceased father ( this lady is around 80 herself now ) is written:

"Decr 27th 1919.

Oscar McDonald buried in grave paid for by his father."

Unfortunately there were no other details as to the location of the grave but, the woman assures me, Oscar would have been buried on the right hand side of the driveway as you enter the cemetery.

So, at this stage, that is the best I can do in relation to plotting exactly where Oscar is buried.

The elderly woman is retiring very soon, so this original book will be lost with time. She tells me that she has given a **photostat copy** to the **local Rail Museum** and the **local Cemetery Trust** – as the cemetery is owned by the Community.

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 1919.  
Oscar McDonald buried in grave paid for by his father.  
1920 William Brown and T. E. Burrell have each paid 15/-  
for an additional grave.  
John Marshall died Sat June 13<sup>th</sup> 1920 buried Monday June 15<sup>th</sup>.  
C. of E. Roberton Cemetery  
John Marshall died Wed Feb 29<sup>th</sup> buried Thursday March 30  
in C of E. Roberton Cemetery  
Mr. Potter Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 1920  
to Trustee C. of E. Cemetery

Burial record of **Oscar McDonald** recorded in an old book in the General Store at Robertson, NSW ( 2014 ).

### Approximate vicinity of grave site

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/34%C2%B036'07.8%22S+150%C2%B035'27.7%22E/@-34.6022239,150.5909468,65m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d-34.602163!4d150.591015>

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# Joseph John HUSH

10/08/2017

## Joseph John HUSH

*Late of Edward Street, Willoughby*

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 'Q' 8759

For the purposes of this website 'Q' represents those Police joining between 1862 ( commencement of NSWPF ) – 23 February 1915 ( Commencement of NSWPF current numbering system )

**Rank**: Probationary Constable – appointed  
9 January 1908

**Final Rank** = Constable 1st Class

**Stations**: ?, Chatswood – Death

**Service**: From ? ? pre January 1908? to 6  
November 1919 = 11+ years Service

**Awards**: No find on It's An Honour

**Born**: ? ? 1880

**Died on**: 6 November 1919

**Age: 39**

**Cause: Motor Vehicle Accident –**

**Event location: Chatswood**

**Event date: 6 November 1919**

**Funeral date: ? ? ?**

**Funeral location: ?**

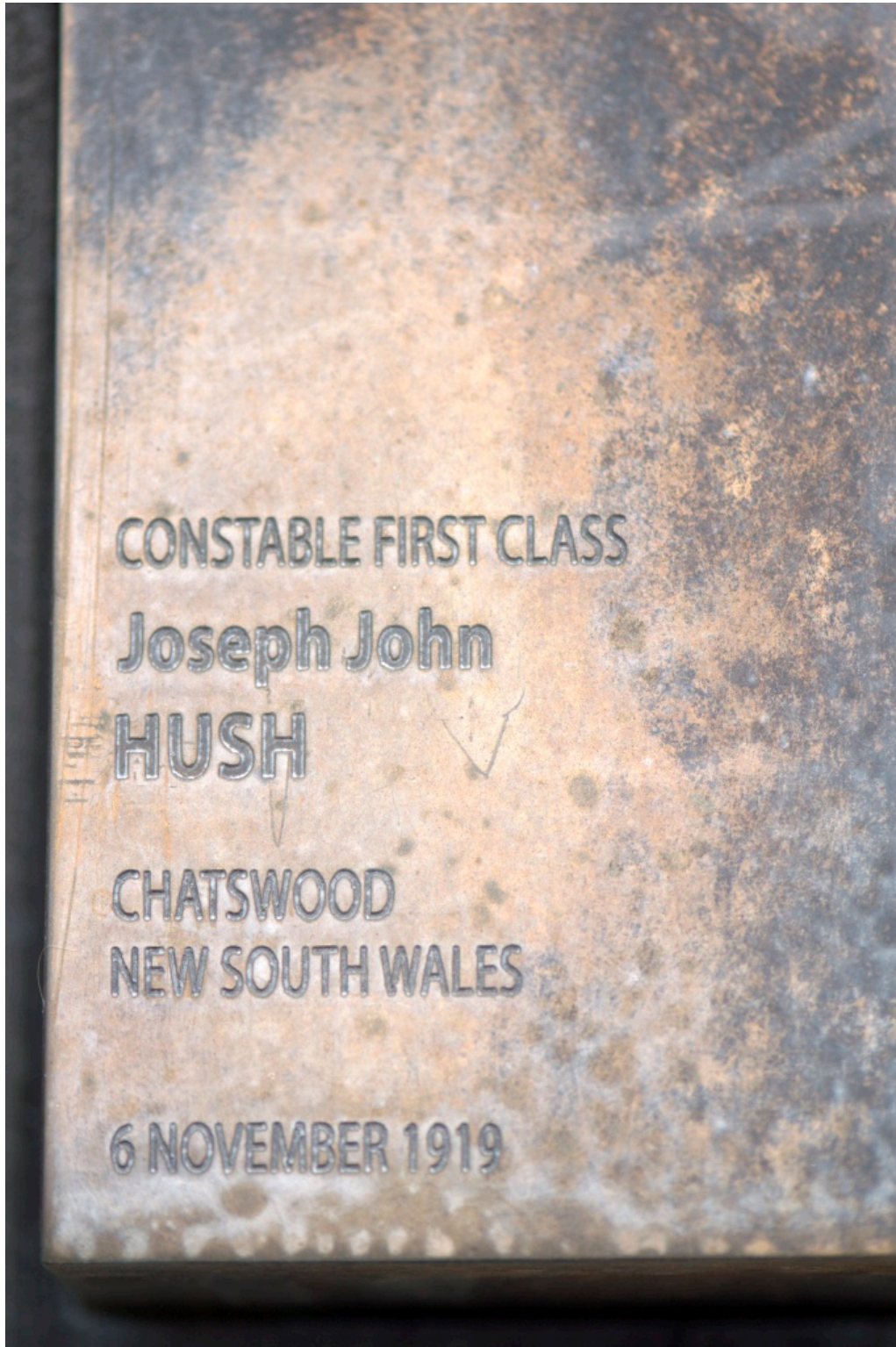
**Wake location: ?**

**Funeral Parlour: ?**

**Buried at: ?, Waverley**

**Memorial located at: ?**





[alert\_green]JOSEPH IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance[/alert\_green]

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**Funeral location: TBA**

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**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,  
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

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**May they forever Rest In Peace**

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On 6 November, 1919 Constables Joseph Hush and Arthur ( *Arthur Alfred Jacob* ) Willmott ( *Q 9019* ) went to Roseville where they made enquiries into a robbery. On completion of these enquiries at about 5pm, they accepted a lift back to their station with a lorry driver. They had almost reached the Chatswood Police Station when a tyre on the vehicle blew out, causing it to overturn. Both constables were trapped beneath the vehicle and seriously injured. Both were conveyed to the Royal North Shore Hospital where Constable Hush unfortunately succumbed to his injuries. Constable Willmott recovered from his injuries.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 7 November, 1919 reported that "

*Constable Hush, who was 39 years of age, had been in the police service for **nearly 12 years**. He was known as a steady, reliable man, who had performed good work on many occasions. He lived in Edward Street, Willoughby, and leaves a wife and six children. "□*

The constable was born in **1880** and joined the New South Wales Police Force on **9 January, 1908**. At the time of his death he was stationed at **Chatswood**.

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Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 – 1931), **Saturday 11 March 1916**, page 6

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### **ANSWER THE CALL.**

#### **RECRUITING IN SYDNEY. FRIDAY'S ENROLMENT. MEN READY FOR TRAINING.**

The following men submitted themselves for enlistment yesterday at Victoria Barracks :-

**Joseph John Hush**, police constable, Myrtle street, North Sydney.

**Hilary Patrick McGroder**, police constable, Doris-street, North Sydney.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/115836178>

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No find with WWI records at this time.

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