Stories from the Honour Boards

Stories of those who served and are remembered on the Honour Boards in the Merrington Anzac Memorial Peace Chapel at Saint Andrew’s Uniting Church

ARCHIBALD
DICKSON LOCKHART
GIBSON
1896 - 1981

This booklet remains the property of Saint Andrew’s Uniting Church. Please see a Guide if you would like a copy.
Archibald Gibson is in this group of soldiers, thought to be in the back row, fourth from the left.
It was probably a training course, possibly in 1918 in England.

Archie Lindesay Black collection in the SLQ,

AD Lockhart Gibson’s underlined signature
Lieutenant Archibald Dickson Lockhart Gibson

The first two honour boards unveiled at Saint Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Brisbane were dedicated on Sunday 10 October 1915. Each displayed in gold lettering the names of 51 men and women who were amongst the first to answer the call to serve their country in the Great War. On the top line on one of these boards was the name of Major J Lockhart Gibson MD\(^1\) and amongst the names on the other board - that headed by the name of the minister, Rev Dr EN Merrington\(^2\) - are the names of Dr Lockhart Gibson’s twin sons, Walter\(^3\) and Archibald.

Walter and Archibald Lockhart Gibson shared their boyhood and schooling experiences. They both married in 1927 and they both died in 1981. They were both wounded in action during World War 1 but in different theatres of war. Their lives were also quite different in other respects: One gained a commission in the AIF while the other remained a private; one followed his father in the medical profession while the other became a successful grazier in Western Queensland.

![Chiefswood, the home of the Gibsons in Bardon in 1895. Archibald and Walter were born here in 1896.](image)

2. See Stories from the Honour Boards, Booklet 2. Ernest Northcroft Merrington
3. See Stories from the Honour Boards, Booklet 132. Walter Lockhart Gibson
Archibald Dickson Lockhart Gibson was born at Chiefswood, Brisbane on 11 May 1896, twin son of John Lockhart Gibson and Mary Florence née Burkitt (1864 - 1948).

He attended Brisbane Grammar School from February 1910 to October 1914 and was a member of the Champion Senior Cadet Team of Australia in 1913 – 14. Like his brother Walter who was in the same winning team, he continued his military interests by serving in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment in Brisbane in the Citizen Forces.
On leaving school he became a clerk in Brisbane before enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force on 7 October 1915 at the age of 19 years five months.

Appointed initially to reinforcements for the 5th Light Horse Regiment, Private ADL Gibson, Regimental Number 2022 embarked from Brisbane on board His Majesty’s Australian Transport Wandilla on 31 January 1916 bound for Egypt where training and reorganisation took place after the evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula. He was transferred to 11th Field Artillery Brigade from 17 May 1916 with rank of bombardier and joined the British Expeditionary Force in action in France later that year. There followed however a lengthy period of illness requiring treatment for laryngitis in hospital in England. Bombardier Gibson rejoined his artillery unit in France in late June 1917. He was promoted to corporal on 1 November 1917. On 9 April 1918 he was wounded in action, suffering a gunshot wound to his left ear. He was able to rejoin his unit in the field in early May and shortly afterwards commenced cadet training in riding, gunnery, map reading, signalling and command at Reserve Army Artillery School at Brighton, England. On the completion of the course in December 1918, Commanding officers remarked on Corporal Gibson’s keen interest and intelligence. He was appointed to the rank of 2nd lieutenant on 2 January 1919 and lieutenant on 2 April 1919. Lieutenant Gibson returned to Australia per the troopship Ypiranga and his appointment was terminated on 29 August 1919.

Returning to his parents’ home at Bardon, Archibald Gibson again worked for a short time as a clerk before moving to a property at Muttaburra called Greenhills where he was a jackaroo. He later managed Glendullock situated near Longreach in the centre of fine sheep breeding and wool growing land in Central Queensland.
On 27 September 1927 he married Elma Hayman Glennie Collins at St Paul’s Cathedral, Rockhampton. The bridegroom’s gift to the bride was a string of pearls and the wedding bouquet and the bride presented the groom with a set of military brushes suitably inscribed. The couple settled at Glendullock and later acquired Hartree Station, Morella. AD Lockhart Gibson became a well-known grazier in the Longreach district. He was a member of the Graziers’ Association of Central and Northern Queensland and was active in the buying and selling of rams to develop better flocks and improving bore pumps and casing for the supply of water.

Archibald and Elma Lockhart Gibson had three children. Mrs Elma Gibson died in 1970. Their son John took over Hartree after Archibald moved to Pioneer Home in Longreach where he died in 1981, aged 85 years.
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