## **McDARRA, John Henry**

[Also known as John Thomas McDarra]

**Reference: Beecroft Roll of Honour, Tony Cunneen book**

**Beecroft letter carrier**

**Re-enlisted as alias ‘John Thomas McDarra’**

[Born 1893, Wagga Wagga district, son of John and Dora McDarra (record as John)]

**AIF Project details:**

**John Henry McDarra**

Regimental Number: **576**

Enlistment Date: 16 Jan 1915

Place of Birth: Wagga Wagga, NSW

Age: 21 years 4 months

Occupation: Mounted letter carrier

Address: Lindfield, Sydney

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 21

Height: 5’ 8 ¾ “

Weight: 118lbs

Chest Measurement: 32-35”

Complexion: Fair

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Brown

Religious Denomination: Roman Catholic

Next of Kin: Mother, Mrs. Dora McDarra, Lindfield, NSW

Rank on enlistment: Private

Unit Name: 12 Light Horse Regiment, C Squadron

AWM embarkation Roll number: 10/17/1

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A29 *Suevic* on 13 Jun 1915

Roll title: 12 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] (Jun 1915)

Rank from Nominal Roll: Private

Unit from Nominal Roll: 6th Light Horse Regiment

Fate: Returned to Australia 25 Sep 1915

Misc. information from cemetery records: Parents: John and Dora McDarra

Other details: War service: Egypt, Gallipoli

Commenced return to Australia from Suez on board HMAT ‘*Ceramic*’, 25 Sep 1915 (venereal disease: gonorrhoea); absconded from Liverpool Camp, Sydney, Jan 1916, struck off strength.

Re-enlisted, 21 Nov 1916

Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Miscellaneous details: See 1773 John Thomas McDarra for second period of service

Date of death: 2 Nov 1933

Age at death: 40

Place of burial: Rookwood Necropolis, NSW

**AIF Project details (re-enlisted):**

**John Thomas McDarra (alias)**

Regimental Number: **1773**

Enlistment Date: 21 Nov 1916

Place of Birth: Chatswood, Sydney, NSW

Age: 25 years 2 months

Occupation: Storeman

Address: 79 Cobar Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 25.2

Height: 5’ 9 ½”

Weight: 142lbs

Chest Measurement: 31.5-34”

Complexion: Fair

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Fair

Religious Denomination: Roman Catholic

Next of Kin: Cousin: Walter Morris, 79 Cobar Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW

Previous military service: Nil

Place of enlistment: Liverpool, NSW

Rank on enlistment: Private

Unit Name: Camel Corps November 1916 Reinforcements

AWM embarkation Roll number: 11/14/1

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A7 *Medic* on 12 Dec 1916

Roll title: Camel Corps, May 1916 to Aug 1917

 Reinforcements (May 1916 – Nov 1917)

Rank from Nominal Roll: 14th Light Horse Regiment

Fate: Returned to Australia 29 Jan 1919

Misc. information from cemetery records: Phot: Robert and Sandra Crofts

Discharge date: 1 May 1919

Other details: War service: Egypt, Palestine

Commenced return to Australia from Suez on board HT ‘*Margha*’, 29 Jan 1919; arrived Melbourne, 5 March 1919, for onward travel by boat to Sydney; discharged (medically unfit: malaria), Sydney, 1 May 1919

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Miscellaneous details: See 576 John Thomas McDarra for first period of service

Date of death: 2 Nov 1933

Place of burial: Rookwood Necropolis (R. C. Sec. 9, 6498), Sydney, NSW

Sources: NAA: B2455, McDARRA John Thomas

**Further references:**

“Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (pages 10, 44, 68-70, 85)

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 6 Feb 1915 (presentation)

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 22 May 1915 (Beecroft honour board)