

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



65 SAPPER

J. A. BERRYHILL

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

15TH MAY, 1918

Jack Arthur BERRYHILL

Jack Arthur Berryhill was born at Double Bay, Sydney, New South Wales in 1894 to parents John & Elizabeth Francis Berryhill (nee Harris). His birth was registered as Arthur J. Berryhill in the district of Woollahra, Sydney, New South Wales.

Jack Arthur Berryhill attended Double Bay Public School, New South Wales.

Elizabeth Berryhill, mother of Jack Arthur Berryhill, died on 11th July, 1913 in Sydney, NSW.

Jack Arthur Berryhill was a 21 year old, Stereotyper from "Glenayr", New South Head Road, Double Bay, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 23rd July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Berryhill, "Glenayr", New South Head Road, Double Bay, NSW. Jack Berryhill stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been an Apprentice with John Sands, Sydney for 5 years.

Private Jack Arthur Berryhill was posted to "O 3 Coy" on 23rd July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to Depot Signals on 5th August, 1915 & transferred on 9th August, 1915 to 30th Battalion.

Private Jack Arthur Berryhill, Service number 65, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 9th November, 1915 with Headquarters, 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion & disembarked at Suez on 11th December, 1915.

Private Jack Arthur Berryhill was transferred to "D" Company, 30th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 21st February, 1916.

Private Jack Arthur Berryhill was transferred to 5th Divisional Signalling Company (Engineers) at Tel-el-Kebir from 15th March, 1916 (as per Casualty Form – Active Service. One of the Statement of Service forms has the date of 7th June, 1916). He was taken on strength as Sapper on 16th March, 1916.

Australian Engineers in the First World War

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 on *Manitou* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th June, 1916.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill reported sick on 15th March, 1917. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 17th March, 1917 with "Dental" then transferred the same day to 5th Divisional Rest Station. Sapper Berryhill was discharged to duty on 29th March, 1917. He rejoined 5th Divisional Signalling Company on 3rd April, 1917.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill was absent from 0900 on 26th March, 1917 "until apprehended by the Military Police in the place Parmentier Amiens about 10.20 am on 26th March, 1917". He was awarded 3 days Field Punishment No. 2 by Captain Hamilton on 9th April, 1917.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill was on furlough to England from 23rd July, 1917 & rejoined from Leave on 5th August, 1917.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill reported sick on 13th August, 1917. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 13th August, 1917 with a septic Throat. He was discharged to his Unit on 19th August, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the Field on the same day.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill reported sick on 8th September, 1917. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 8th September, 1917 with Tonsillitis & Scabies then transferred on 14th September, 1917 to 5th Divisional Scabies Station. He was transferred to 4th Stationary Hospital at Arques on 15th September, 1917 with Scabies. Sapper Berryhill was discharged to his Unit on 19th September, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the Field on 20th September, 1917.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill reported sick on 29th November, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 29th November, 1917 with Scabies then transferred the same day to 15th Australian Field Ambulance. Sapper Berryhill was discharged to duty on 7th December, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the Field on the same day.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill reported sick on 23rd March, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Australian Divisional Rest Station on 23rd March, 1918 with Lymphadenitis. Sapper Berryhill was transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd March, 1918 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 26th March, 1918. He was admitted to 59th General Hospital at St Omer on 26th March, 1918 & transferred on 30th March, 1918 ready for transportation to England. Sapper Berryhill embarked on Hospital Ship *Ville de Leige* on 31st March, 1918 with Lymph Adenitis.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill was admitted to Fort Pitt Military Hospital at Chatham, England on 31st March, 1918 (as per Casualty Form – Active Service, however the Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted to St. Barts on 31st March, 1918 with “*Hodgkin’s disease; weak & anaemic...*”. The Hospital Admissions form recorded he was transferred from St. Barts to Fort Pitt Military Hospital on 22nd April, 1918 – “*Gross enlargement of glands of neck & groin. Very weak. Marked anaemia. Some difficulty in swallowing.*”). He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England on 5th May, 1918.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill died at 7.45 am on 15th May, 1918 at No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England from Lymphatic Leukemia.

A death for Jack A. Berryhill, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Dartford, Kent, England.

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill was buried at 1.30 pm on 18th May, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 181, 014.

From the burial report of Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside by a Bugler of the A.I.F. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. E. 14. Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Jack Arthur Berryhill contains the following report: “*No Enquiry. Aged 24 Years. Rel. Presby. Admitted 6th May 1918, died 15th May 1918. He arrived here ill. He was buried on the 18th May at Brookwood Cemetery. He had been ill since February 1918 and was sent away from France. Diagnosis. Lymphatic Leukaemia – a blood poisoning disease which the lymph glands take on a purposeless overgrowth. It is nearly always fatal within six months. No known cause. No known specific treatment. Attended by Major Pitcher.*”

Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Berryhill’s father – Mr J. Berryhill, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922 but returned unclaimed).

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. L. Ritchie, “Kondah”, Aikens Street, West Pennant Hills, NSW, on 6th October, 1930 with the following: “*I should be obliged if you would kindly favour me with the present address of Mr John Berryhill,*

father of the late No. 65 Sapper J. A. Berryhill, 5th Divisional Signallers, as I am desirous of communicating with him with reference to the disposal of certain war mementoes issuable on account of the services of this soldier."

Mrs M. L. Ritchie, Easton Rd, West Pennant Hills (late "Kondah", Aikens Rd) replied to Base Records advising "*In connection with my brother's war mementoes the address of my father is J. Berryhill c/o Mrs Ritchie, Eaton Rd, West Pennant Hills.*"

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Berryhill, c/o Mrs Ritchie, Eaton Rd, West Pennant Hills, NSW with the following: "*...the despatch this day of the Memorial Bronze Plaque issued by His Majesty's Government on account of the services of your son, the late No. 65 Sapper J. A. BERRYHILL, 5th Divisional Signallers. This memento was previously forwarded to Victoria Barracks, Sydney, for transmission to you and returned unclaimed, and I trust same now comes safely to hand. Arrangements are also being made for the late soldier's Victory Medal to be forwarded under separate registered cover, and your acknowledgement of receipt of the above mementoes on the printed form enclosed in due course will oblige.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill – service number 65, aged 24, of 5th Div. Signal Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of John & Elizabeth Francis Berryhill.

Sapper J. A. Berryhill is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 25.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



J. A. Berryhill is remembered on the Double Bay War Memorial, located in Steyne Park, William Street, Double Bay, Sydney, NSW.



Double Bay War Memorial (Photo by J Bar)

(53 pages of Sapper Jack Arthur Berryhill's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

BERRYHILL – Died in France, May 5, 1918, Sapper Jack Berryhill, beloved nephew and cousin of Mr and Mrs Monkhouse and family, His sun set while it was yet day.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 May, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BERRYHILL – Died in France, May 15, 1918, Sapper Jack Berryhill,

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 June, 1918)

406TH AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Spr J. A. BERRY-HILL, Double Bay, 15/5/18 (c.n.s.)

(Sunday Times, Sydney, NSW – 9 June, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BERRYHILL – In loving memory of our nephew and cousin, Jack, who died on active service, May 8, 1918. Never forgotten by his uncle Ern, auntie Annie, and family.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 8 May, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BERRYHILL – In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Jack, who died in hospital, England, from gas effects, May 15, 1918. Inserted by his loving father and sisters.

BERRYHILL – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, Sapper Jack Berryhill, who died in hospital, London, May 15, 1918. Inserted by his sister and brother-in-law, Jessie and Ben Patterson.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 May, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BERRYHILL – In sad and loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Sapper J. Berryhill, 5th Div., Sig. Co, who died on active service from gas poisoning, May 15, 1918. Inserted by his loving father, sisters and brothers-in-law.

BERRYHILL – In loving memory of my dear brother, Sapper Jack Berryhill, who died May 15, 1918. Inserted by his sister, Jessie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 May, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BERRYHILL – In sad and loving memory of Sapper Jack Berryhill, 5th Divisional Signal Co, who died on active service, May 15, 1918. Inserted by his loving father and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 May, 1921)

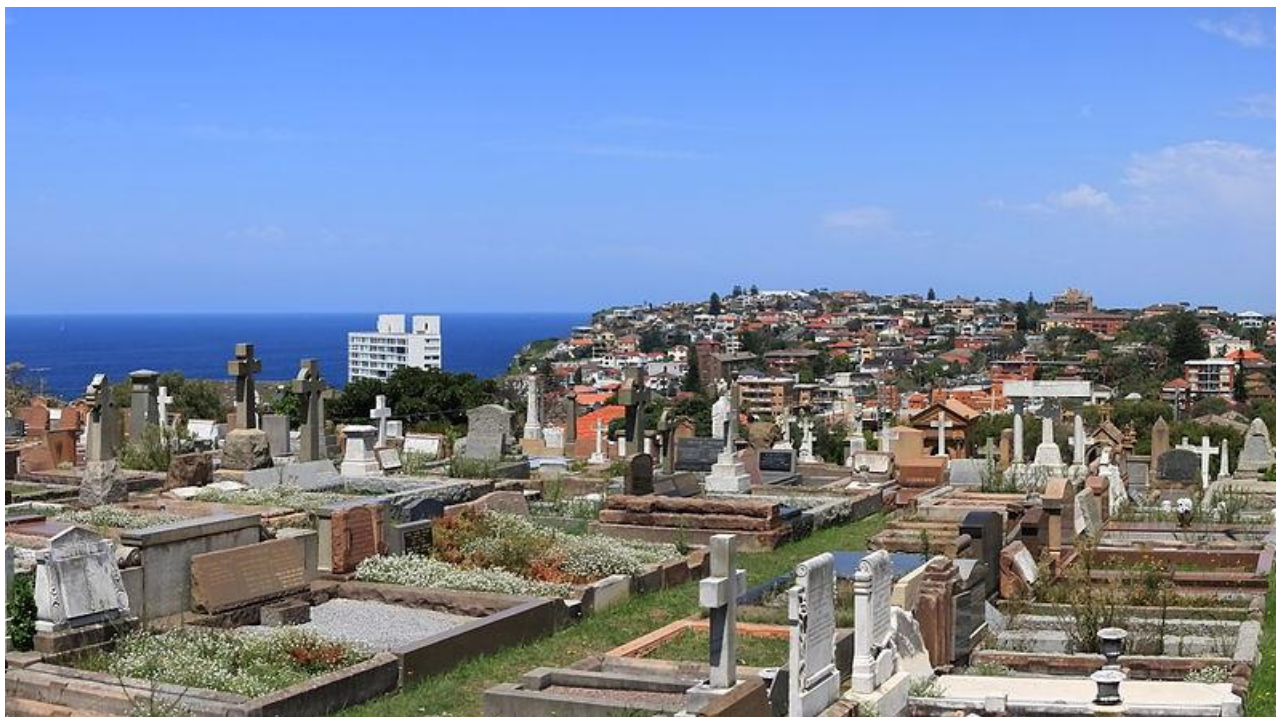
IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BERRYHILL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sapper Jack Berryhill, 5th Divisional Signal Co, who died May 15, 1918. Inserted by his loving father and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 May, 1923)

Jack Berryhill is remembered on his parents' headstone in South Head Cemetery, Vaucluse, Sydney, New South Wales.



South Head Cemetery, Vaucluse, Sydney *(Photo by Adam J.W.C.)*



Berryhill Family Headstone (Photo from Find a Grave – Cheryl H July, 2020)





Berryhill Family Headstone (Photo from Find a Grave – Renee Cunningham – March, 2022)



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

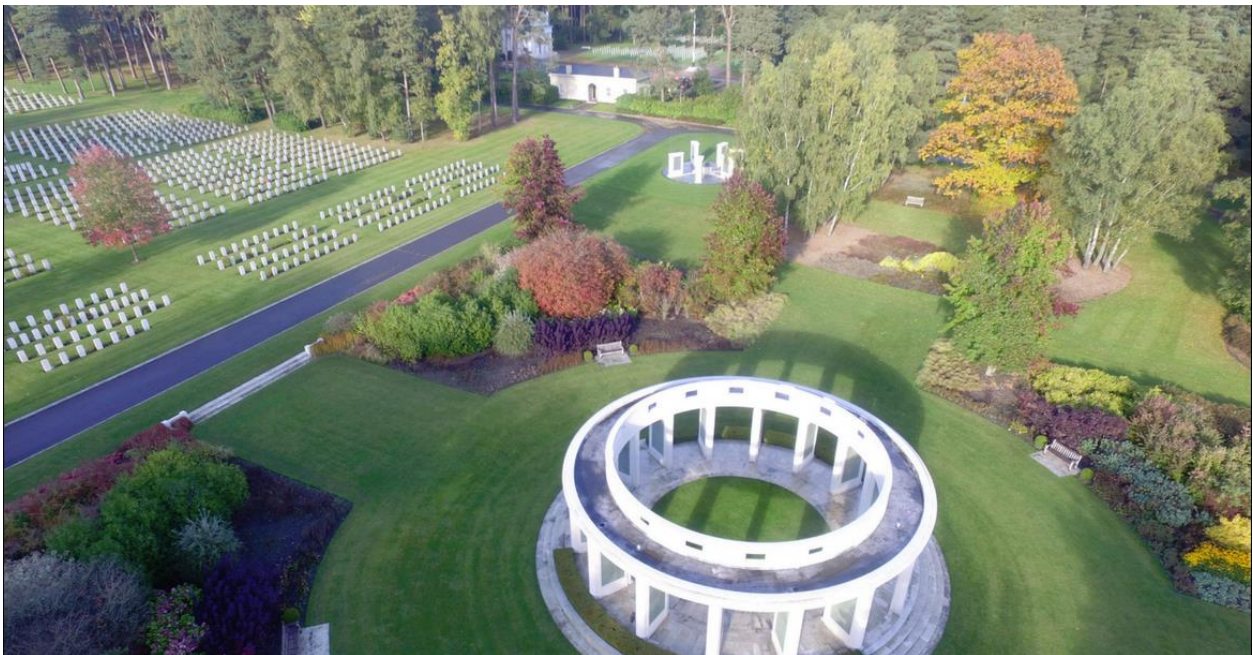
Sapper J. A. Berryhill does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



Brookwood Military Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918. Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Sapper J. A. Berryhill's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

