

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1879 PRIVATE**

**G. BERRYMAN**

**55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**27TH JUNE, 1917 Age 22**

*He Is Not Dead*

*He Only Sleeps*

*So Peacefully At Rest*

## Gilbert BERRYMAN

Gilbert Berryman was born at Yongala, South Australia on 14th April, 1894 to parents William & Catherine Berryman (nee Armstrong).

Gilbert Berryman attended Burra Burra Public School, South Australia & Superior Public School, Bondi, NSW.

Gilbert Berryman was a 21 year old, single, Farmer from "Quialago," Windellina Road, Goulburn, NSW when he enlisted on 23rd January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Berryman, "Quialago," Windellina Road, Goulburn, NSW.

Private Gilbert Berryman was posted to 47th Battalion on 23rd January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 55th Battalion on 30th April, 1916.

Private Gilbert Berryman, Service number 1879, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Barambah* (A37) on 23rd June, 1916 with the 55th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th August, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Gilbert Berryman proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 14th December, 1916 per *Princess Henrietta* from 14th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 15th December, 1916. Private Berryman was marched out from 5th A.D.B.D. on 23rd December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 55th Battalion in the Field on 24th December, 1916.

Private Gilbert Berryman was wounded in action on 14th May, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 14th May, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 29th Casualty Clearing Station on 15th May, 1917. Private Berryman was transferred to Ambulance Train on 16th May, 1917 & admitted to 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Outreau on 17th May, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to Neck & left Arm. He was transferred to England on 29th May, 1917 on Hospital Ship.

### 55th Battalion

The 55th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 12 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 3rd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 3rd, the 55th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

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After a freezing winter manning trenches in the Somme Valley, in early 1917 the 55th Battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. It was spared the assault but did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

#### War Diary – 55th Battalion

*Noreuil & Vaulx – 14th May, 1917:*

*Intermittent shelling of pontoons by the enemy during the day, the object being to locate the batteries we had located round the village of Noreuil.*

*Working party of 2 Officers & 100 OR's operated at night, carrying "corkscrews" for use entanglements, from Brigade Dump to Front Line.*

*About 10 pm the enemy shelled Noreuil heavily with Gas Shells and continued shelling until 4 am. The only casualties were 1 man died. The object of the gas shelling was evidently to silence the batteries whilst the Germans attacked for at about 4am the enemy attacked the 54th & 56th Bns. They were repulsed with severe losses.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

C. Berryman, "Illilliwa," Belmore Street, Goulburn, NSW, wrote to Officer in Charge, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne on 27th May, 1917 with the following letter: *"The other day I received a cable from my second son (No. 1879 Sig. Gilbert Berryman) stating he had been wounded not seriously. I have been wondering if you have yet had any further news. Also have you heard what my other son's address is – for I believe he has been sent back to France – he was also wounded last year – since been discharged from hospital have wondering how I should address his letters & etc – he has not got letters nor parcels for sometime. Since you notified us he was admitted to the Northampton War Hospital this is the address .....If you new any further particulars I would be so please if you would let me know."*

Base Records replied to Mrs C. Berryman on 2nd June, 1917 with the following *"... to state no advice has been received here that your son, No. 1879 Private G. Berryman, 55th Battalion, has been wounded. If you will forward the letter you have received from him, stating he has been wounded, upon receipt of same, and if it is decided such action is warranted inquiries will be instituted and the result communication to next-of-kin shown as father whose address has been altered to the one from which you write. No information has been received regarding your other son since the report of his admission to hospital on 8/9/16 suffering from a mild gunshot wound in the thigh ...."*

Private Gilbert Berryman was admitted to County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England on 29th May, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to Head, left Arm, Chest & left Buttock - severe. The Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted to Horton County of London War Hospital on 30th May, 1917 with G.S.W Head penetrating *"Patient developed epileptiform seizures, cerebral abscess and septic meningitis. Died."*

Base Records advised W. Berryman, Illilliwa, Belmore Street, Goulburn, NSW, father of Private Gilbert Berryman, on 8th June, 1917 that Private G. Berryman had been wounded. He was advised again on 12th June, 1917 that Private Gilbert Berryman had been admitted to Hospital on 29th May with a gunshot wound to Head, left Arm, Chest & left Buttock – severe.

Private Gilbert Berryman died at 8.40 pm on 27th June, 1917 at Horton County of London War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (Gunshot wounds) to Head, Arm, Chest & left Buttock. The Morning State of Sick form recorded that Private Berryman died from 1. Shrapnel wound of Head. 2. Cerebral Abscess.

A death for Gilbert Berryman, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Epsom, Surrey, England.

Private Gilbert Berryman was buried at 1.30 pm on 3rd July, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179,472.

From the burial report of Private Gilbert Berryman - *Coffin was good - Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party and buglers of the Administrative Headquarters Staff A.I.F. London were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes, The service at the graveside was conducted by Chaplain Richards of the A.I.F. The coffin was borne to the graveside by members of the A.I.F. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Temporary oak cross to be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

*Names of relatives or friends present a Funeral – Brother No. 9380 Bdr S. Berryman, 13th Bty, 5th F.A.B. 2nd Div. France.*

Base Records wrote to Mr W. Berryman, "Illilliwa" Belmore St, Goulburn, NSW on 24th March, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row E Grave 14.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. E. 14. Private G. Berryman now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

M. Berryman, "Illilliwa" Belmore St, Goulburn, NSW, wrote to Officer in Charge, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne on 5th July, 1917 with the following letter: *"Again I write to you to inquire about my son Pte Gilbert Berryman – seems very strange we have had no word what ever since your message stating where he was etc. & yesterday we heard the sad news the boy had passed away last week sometime. As a rule or different ones we know have been notified from time to time saying how the son or sons is progressing – never had a word about Gilbert\_\_\_\_\_this blow. Why none of the attendance in the hospital did not send when they knew he was getting low – seems hard to think we had no word – for we naturally thought he was progressing. How ever if you know anything will you kindly let us know. I should be so thankful."*

Base Records replied to Mr M. Berryman on 14th July, 1917 with the following *"In reply to your communication of 9th instant, the following are the reports received regarding you son, the late No. 1879, Private G. Berryman, 55th Battalion.*

*"Wounded" –*

*"G.S.W. Head, left arm, chest, left buttock, severe – admitted 29/5/17, Horton County London War Hospital"*

*"Died 27/6/17, GSW head, L. Arm, chest, L. buttock, at Horton County of London hospital."*

*A cable was despatched from London stating Private Berryman was seriously ill, This cable arrived just after the one announcing his death, the latter having, on account of its importance, precedence over other cable matter. It would appear therefore, that late in June Private Berryman became worse and his illness rapidly terminated fatally. Later official advice giving further details will, on receipt, be promptly communicated to you."*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for 1879 Signaller Private Gilbert Berryman contains a letter from A. Bessie Pocock, Matron, A.A.N.S., Cobham Hall, Kent, to The Secretary, Graves Commission, Australian Commonwealth which reads: *"No. 1879 Signaller Gilbert Berryman 55 Battalion A.I.F. died on 27.6.17 at the Horton County of London Hospital his relatives in Australia have asked me for particulars of his death, whether he left any message or anything to be forwarded to them also aske where he is buried, No of grave and if possible that a photograph of grave might be taken and sent out to them. The Hosp. Authorities tell me he was buried at Brookwood Cemetery, near Woking by the Australian Commonwealth Authorities, cd you get this information for me ? or let me know how & where to get it for his people,"*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for 1879 Private Gilbert Berryman contains a letter from The Staff Nurse, Epsom Hospital which reads: *"Died of Wounds. 1879 Pte Berryman was admitted 10.5.17 suffering from a wound in the head. At first he appeared to be progressing favourably, but was always under close observation. Later serious symptoms developed which necessitated an operation and I regret to say he gradually became worse and died on the 27.6.17. It will be some consolation to his people to know, that at the end he suffered little or no pain and was a most cheerful and grateful patient. Several of his personal friends were with him when he died one being Cpl Keith from Goulburn, N.S. Wales. His brother came over from France, but unfortunately not in time to see him alive. He (the brother) will no doubt forward all particulars re funeral. The sister in charge of the Ward had already written to Pte Berryman's people. I would like to add that everything possible was done for him. It was a great grief to both the nursing staff and patients of Ward 4 to lose him. He was so liked by all who knew him. There was a memorial service held in the Church here, conducted by an Australian Chaplain from Headquarters who was visiting here at the time – attended by his brother, personal friends, Australians from the Hospital, Nursing staff and patients from the ward. He was buried at Brookwood Cemetery, near London."*

Private Gilbert Berryman requested in his Will dated 19th June, 1916 that his sister Myrtle be appointed as sole executrix of his Will & bequeathed all his estate to her.

The Commonwealth Bank – Savings Bank Department wrote to the Department of Defence on 11th September, 1919 requesting a Certificate of Death & the name of the next of kin for the late No. 1879 Gilbert Berryman, 3rd Reinforcements, 55th Battalion.

Private Gilbert Berryman was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Berryman's father – Mr W. Berryman, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

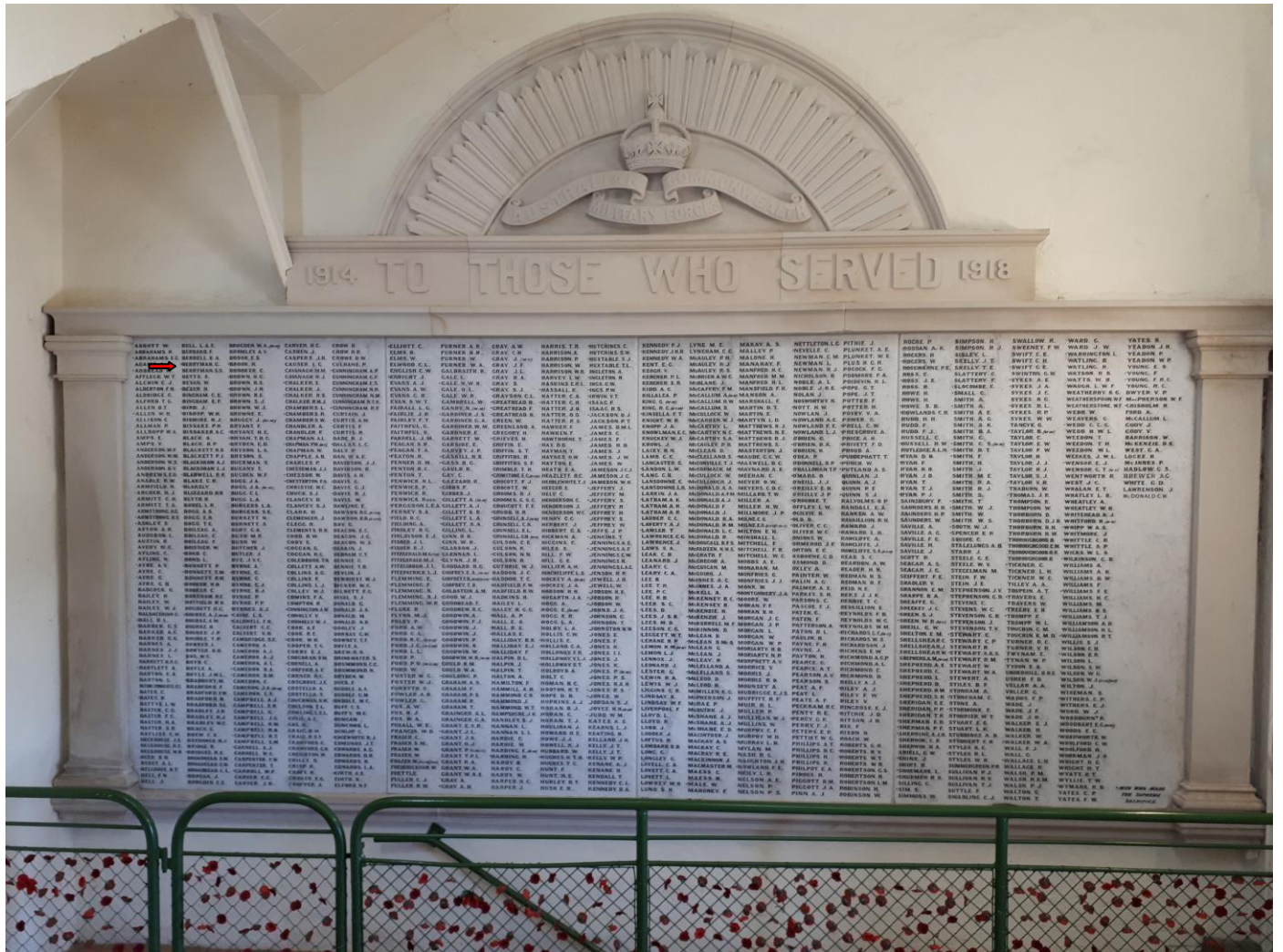
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Gilbert Berryman – service number 1879, aged 22, of 55th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William & Catherine Berryman, of "Illilliwa" Belmore Street, Goulburn, New South Wales.

G. Berryman is remembered on the Rocky Hill War Memorial Tower & First World War Honour Roll, located at Rocky Hill, Memorial Road, Goulburn, NSW.



**Rocky Hill War Memorial Tower** (Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)





ABBOTT W      BELL L A E  
 ABRAHAM W      BERNARD F  
 ABRAHAM W      BERRELL K A  
 ADAMS A      BERRYMAN G  
 ADSHEAD W      BERRYMAN S S  
 AFFLECK W T      BETTS S

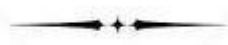
Private G. Berryman is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 160.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(59 pages of Private Gilbert Berryman'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**

### **Goulburn and the War**

#### **SIGNALLER GILBERT BERRYMAN**

Mrs W. Berryman, of Belmore-street, Goulburn, received on Saturday a cable, despatched on the 25th, from her son, Signaller Gilbert Berryman, stating that he had been wounded, but not seriously and was doing well.

*(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 29 May, 1917)*

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#### **SIGNALLER GILBERT BERRYMAN**

Mrs W. Berryman, of Goulburn and formerly of Thuddungra, received on Saturday a cable, despatched on the 25th, from her son, Signaller Gilbert Berryman, stating that he had been wounded, but not seriously and was doing well.

*(Young Witness, NSW – 1 June, 1917)*

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### **LOCAL CASUALTIES**

#### **PTE GILBERT BERRYMAN**

#### **SEVERELY WOUNDED**

Mr W. Berryman, of Goulburn, on Wednesday received an official telegram informing him that his son, Pte Gilbert Berryman, had been admitted to hospital suffering from gunshot wounds in the head, left arm, chest and left buttock (severe).

*(Young Witness, NSW – 15 June, 1917)*

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### **The Toll of War**

#### **MANY GOULBURN BOYS MISSING**

SYDNEY, Thursday

The 330th casualty list gives the total for all States of 1003, as follows:—Killed in action, 163; died of wounds or other causes, 45; wounded, 568; missing, 178; sick, 41; prisoners of war, 5; injured, 3. Amongst the killed in action is Private C. R. Whittle, Kenmore. Amongst the missing are Privates W. W. Marshall, Goulburn; F. W. Rose, South Goulburn; S. T. Quinn, Goulburn; A. J. Gullett, Goulburn, G. Berryman, Goulburn: and H. Maess, Goulburn.

*(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 21 June, 1917)*

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## **GOULBURN AND THE WAR**

### **PTE G. BERRYMAN**

The parents of Pte G. Berryman received from him a cable message on 26th May, stating that he was not seriously wounded and was doing well. (A communication dated June 15th, from Base Records Office, Melbourne, stated that Pte Berryman was reported as having been admitted on 29/5/17 to the Horton County of London War Hospital, suffering from gunshot wound – head, left arm, chest, and left buttock – severe)

*(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 23 June, 1917)*

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## **Goulburn and The War**

### **DEATH OF SIGNALLER GILBRET BERRYMAN**

The Rev. Canon Carver on Wednesday received official information of the death of Signaller Gilbert Berryman, who died of gunshot wounds (head, left arm, chest, and left buttock) at Horton, County of London Hospital, on the 27th June. Signaller Berryman was a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Berryman, of Quialigo, Windellama Road, and of Belmore-street, West Goulburn. His only brother, Driver Searle Berryman, is with the forces. His only sister, Miss Berryman, is living with her parents in Belmore-street. Signaller Berryman was born in Yongala, South-Australia, on 14th April, 1894, and was therefore 23 years of age. He received his education at Burra Public School, South Australia, and the Superior Public School, Bondi, Sydney. He was a splendid type of a young man, and was held in affectionate regard by all who knew him. Deep sympathy is felt for the family in their bereavement. Signaller Berryman, who sailed last June, was not married. Before enlisting he was assisting his father on the latter's pastoral property at Windellama. Driver Searle Berryman after serving with the guns for eight months was wounded and was treated in England. After recovering he went back, in the early part of January, to France, and has been serving there ever since. A letter received by the last mail stated that he was well.

*(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 5 July, 1917) & (Young Witness, NSW – 10 July, 1917)*

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## **Latest Casualties**

### **324th LIST**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

##### **Died of Wounds**

Pte G. Berryman, Goulburn (previously reported severely wounded)

*(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 20 July, 1917)*

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**Soldier Brothers.**

**Soldier Brothers.**

Bombardier Searle Berryman, who has been wounded, and Signaller Gilbert Berryman, who has died of wounds. Mrs. W. Berryman, their mother, lives at Millwa, Belmore-street, Couburn, N.S.W.

(*Sydney Mail*, NSW – 21 November, 1917)

## 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)*

Private G. Berryman does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Is Not Dead*

*He Only Sleeps*

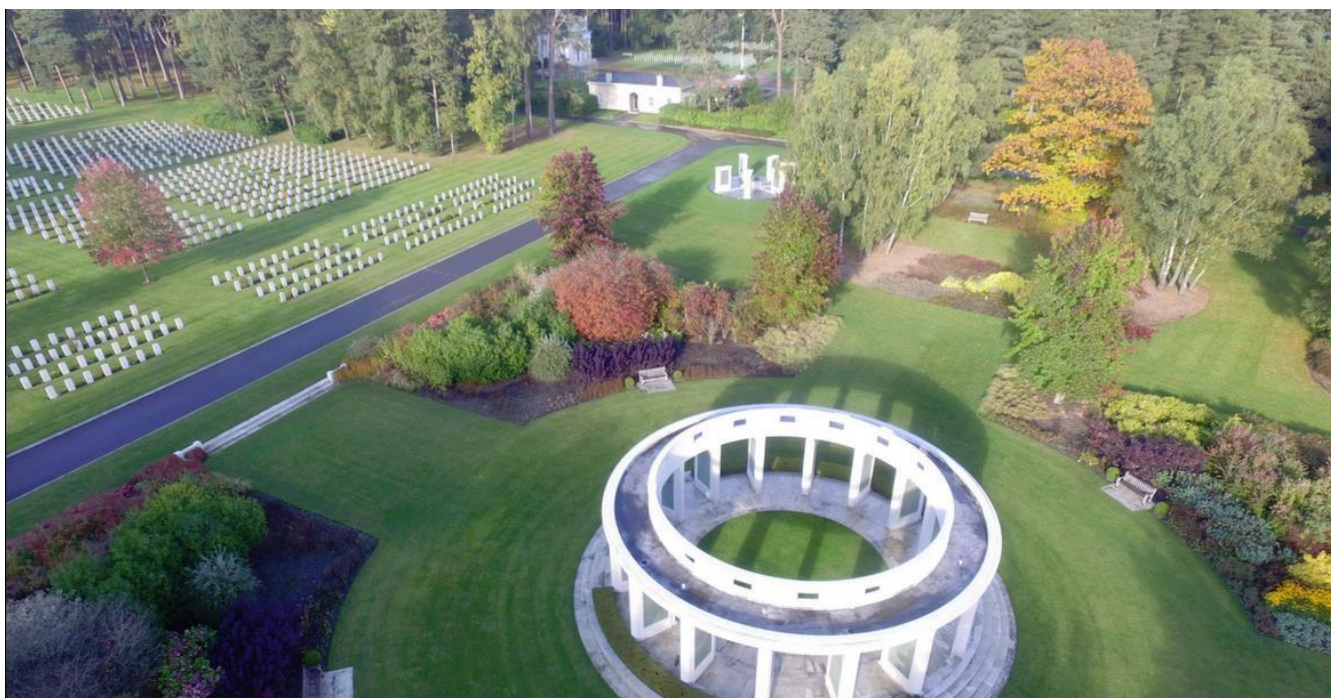
*So Peacefully At Rest*

## **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 Private G. Berryman's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)*





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

