

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,  
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6852 PRIVATE**

**T. G. BICKLEY**

**16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**23RD FEBRUARY, 1917**

## Thomas George BICKLEY

Thomas George Bickley was born in Fremantle, Western Australia in 1881 (registered as George Thomas Bickley) to parents Absolom & Mary Bickley (nee Brandis).

Thomas George Bickley attended school at Fremantle, Western Australia.

The 1903 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Swan, subdivision of Collie, Western Australia listed George Thomas Bickley, Labourer from Venn Street. Also listed at that address – Absolom Bickley, Labourer & Mary Jane Bickley, Housewife.

Thomas Bickley married Rose Duck in 1908 in the district of Collie, Western Australia.

Thomas George Bickley was a 34 year old, married, Carpenter from West Wagin, Western Australia when he enlisted at Perth, Western Australia on 28th August, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Rose Bickley of West Wagin, Western Australia. His attestation papers show that Thomas Bickley had previously served with the 1st Imperial Light Horse in South Africa. He had completed 11 months active service & was discharged for time expired.

Private Thomas George Bickley was posted to 8th Reinforcements of 51st Battalion on 18th September, 1916. He was transferred to 22nd Reinforcements of 16th Battalion on 9th November, 1916.

Private Thomas George Bickley, Service number 6852, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on the HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9th November, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 16th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements. Whilst on board & during the journey from Australia to England, Private Bickley was admitted to ship's hospital from 28th December, 1916 to 4th January, 1917. Private Bickley disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th January, 1917.

### 16th Battalion

The 16th Battalion AIF was raised from 16 September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia, and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash....

*(Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)*

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

Private Thomas George Bickley was marched into the 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 10th January, 1917. He was admitted to the Group Hospital with Bronchitis on 12th February, 1917.

Private Thomas George Bickley died on 23rd February, 1917 at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Bronchitis.

A death for Thomas C. Bickley, aged 35, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas George Bickley was buried on 26th February, 1917 in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 85, Australian Section Consecrated Portion. The coffin was polished Elm & he was accorded a full Military funeral.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File contains a letter from The Matron of the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny in reply to a request from Private Bickley's Relatives asking for all particulars into his death. "*He was admitted to this hospital on February 12th suffering from a severe attack of bronchitis, which was more than his heart could stand*"

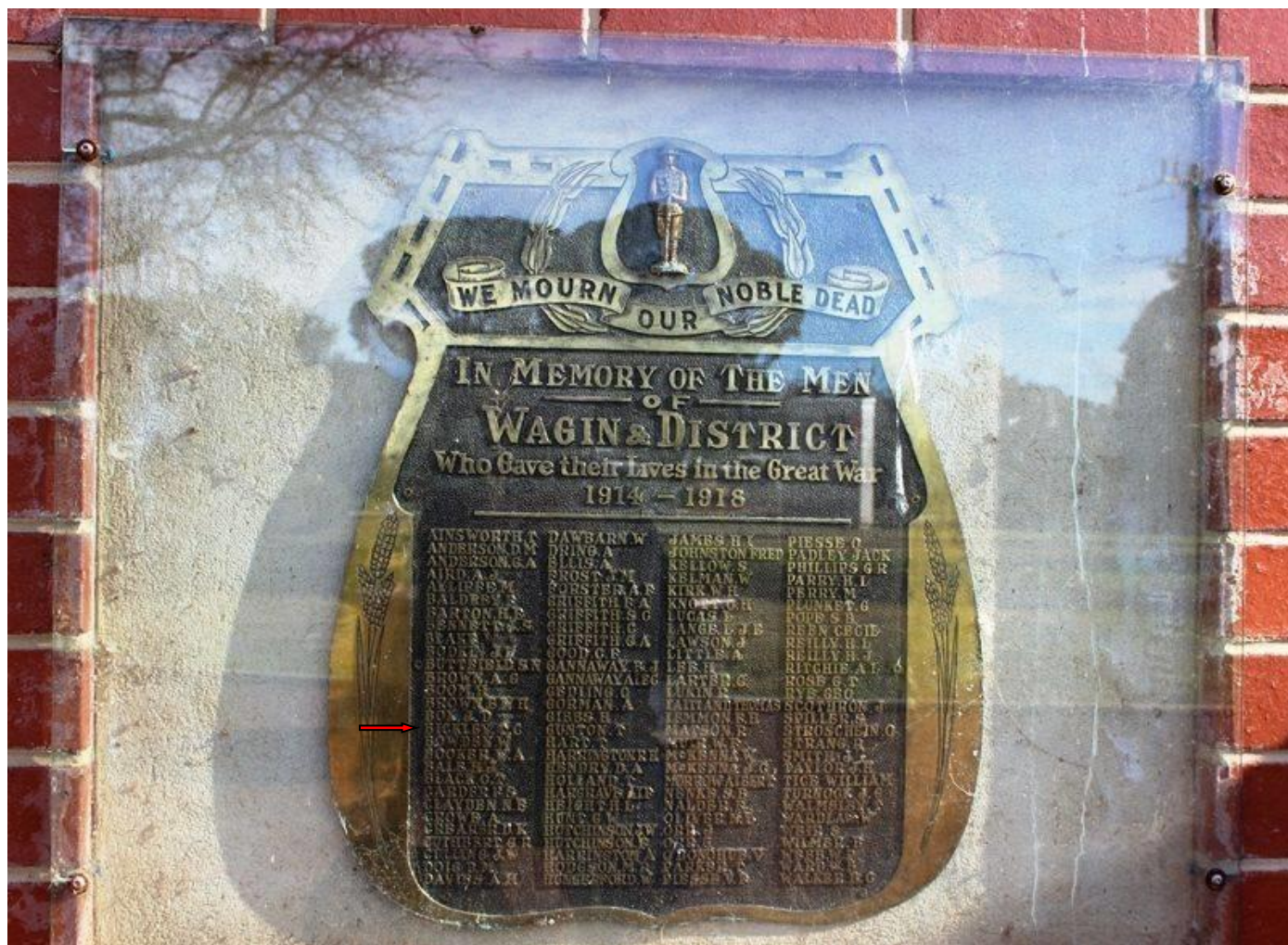
and he died on Feb. 23rd. Everything possible was done for him, and he suffered very little. He was buried at Codford (Grave 85) of course with Military Honours. There is no stone to the grave. I am afraid this is very scant information, unfortunately the Matron and both sisters and the orderlies who were in the ward at that time have gone abroad. It is needless to say that the Chaplain was frequently in attendance." 30.6.17

Private Thomas George Bickley requested in his Will that he bequeathed all his real or personal estate to his wife Rose Bickley, whom he appointed as Executrix.

Private Thomas George Bickley was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bickley's wife – Mrs R Bickley (December, 1921 & April, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas George Bickley – service number 6852, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Absolom & Mary Bickley, husband of Rose Bickley, of Wagin, Western Australia.

T. G. Bickley is remembered on the Wagin & District Honour Roll, located on Commemorative Wall at Wagin High School, Ranford Street, Wagin, Western Australia.



Wagin & District Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Harry Frochter)

T. G. Bickley is remembered on the Wagin War Memorial, located at the Memorial Swimming Pool complex at Wagin, Western Australia, which is 227 kms south-east of Perth.



**Wagin War Memorial** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – James Wills)

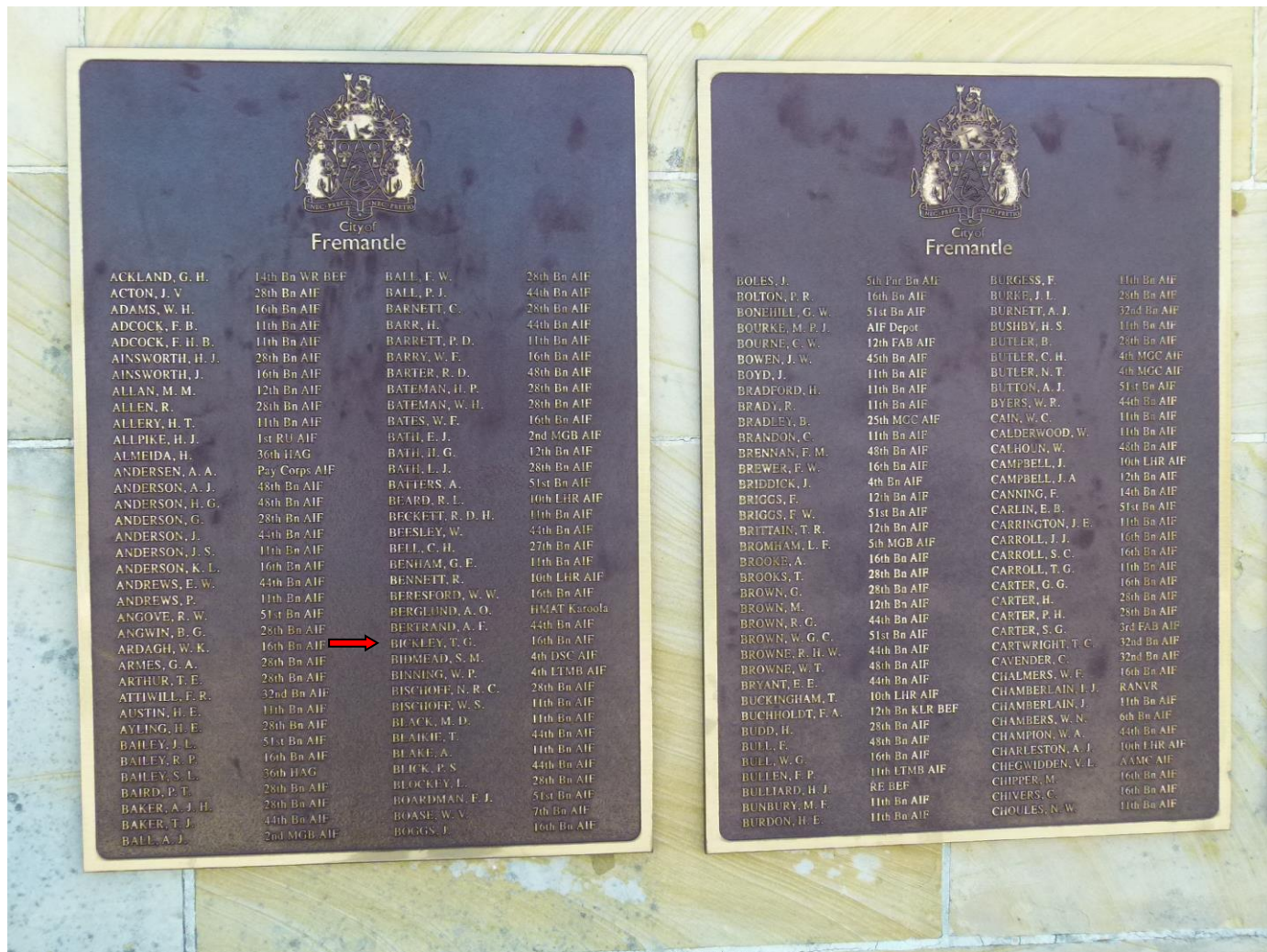


T. G. Bickley is remembered on Fremantle's 849, located at War Memorial, Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, High & Swanbourne Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia. Twelve plaques contain all 849 names of the Fremantle servicemen who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The plaques were created as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations.

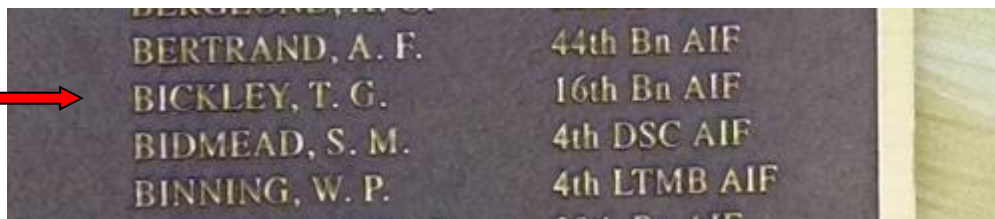


**Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial** (*Photos from Monument Australia*)





**Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial, Fremantle** (Panel photos – Gordon Stuart)



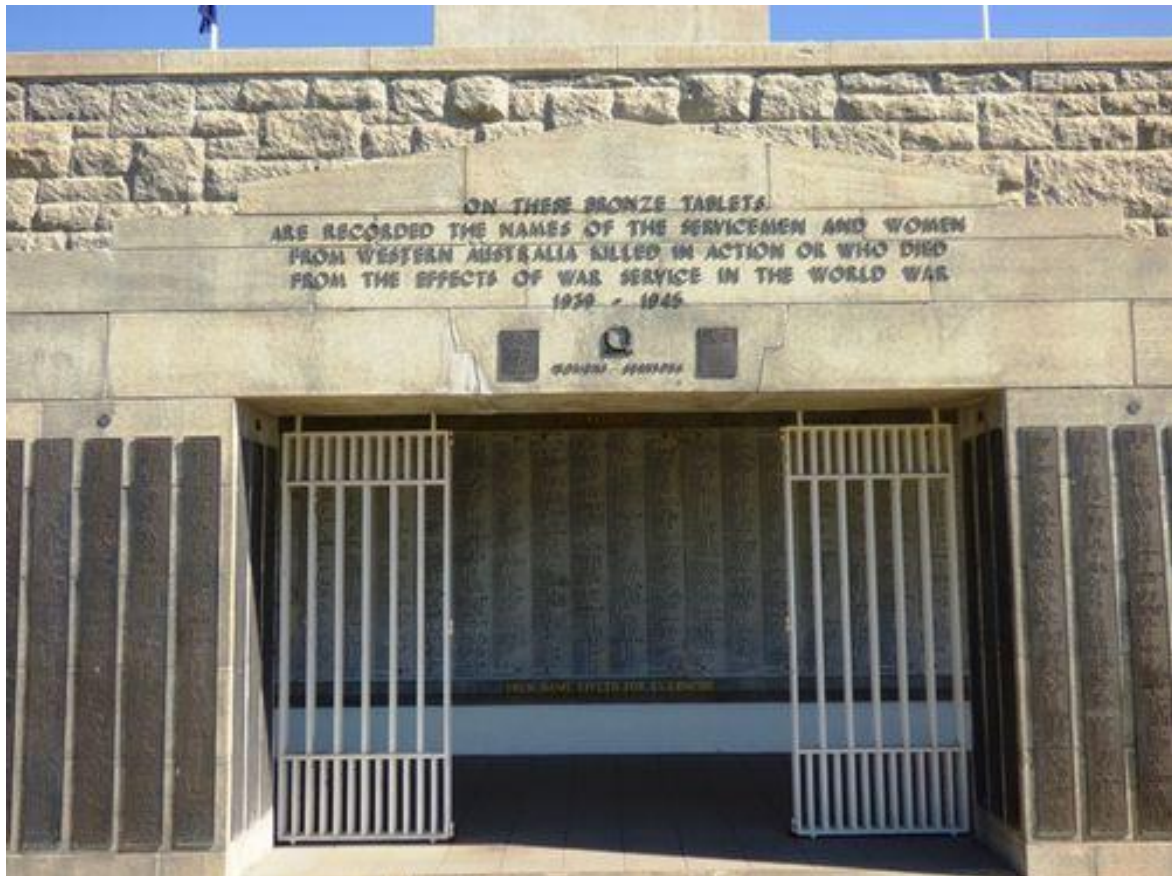
T. G. Bickley is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)  
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

*(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)*





16th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Private T. G. Bickley is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 78.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

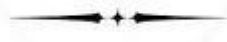




*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(50 pages of Private Thomas George Bickley's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **CRIMINAL COURT – The March Calendar**

The March sitting of the Supreme Court, in Criminal Jurisdiction.....The following indictments – 21 in all – are listed for presentation :-

Thomas George Bickley, perjury, Wagin.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia, Friday 3rd March, 1916)*

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### **NATIVES AND LIQUOR - Accused's Perjured Evidence**

Thomas George Bickley, a man of the labouring class, was presented in the Criminal Court yesterday on a charge of having at Wagin on September 27 last committed perjury. He was defended by Mr J. F. M'Millian and pleaded not guilty.

The case for the Crown was that on the date in question Bickley was charged at the Wagin Police Court with having supplied liquor, to wit whisky and rum, to aboriginal natives. In the course of the hearing of the charge, as a result of which he was convicted and fined £20, he swore that he did not buy a bottle of rum at the Wagin Hotel on September 11. Evidence was given to show that he had purchased the rum at the Wagin Hotel and supplied it to the natives.

Accused did not give evidence, but Mr M'Millan in his address to the jury submitted that there was no evidence to support the charge, inasmuch as the evidence of the one witness who spoke to the purchase of the rum was not corroborated.

The jury found the charge proved, and his Honor, Mr Justice Rooth, on hearing that accused had not previously been in trouble, bound him over in his own recognisances to be of good behaviour for two years.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia, Friday 17th March, 1916)*

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## **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

### **The 279th Casualty List – 5th Military District**

#### **DEATHS**

T. G. Bickley (Wagin), died of illness, previously reported died cause unknown.

*(The Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia, Friday 23rd March, 1917)*

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#### 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 at Codford War Graves Cemetery. 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 T. G. Bickley does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

*(Information from CWGC)*

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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**St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford** (Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)





**New Zealand Section of Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery** (Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)

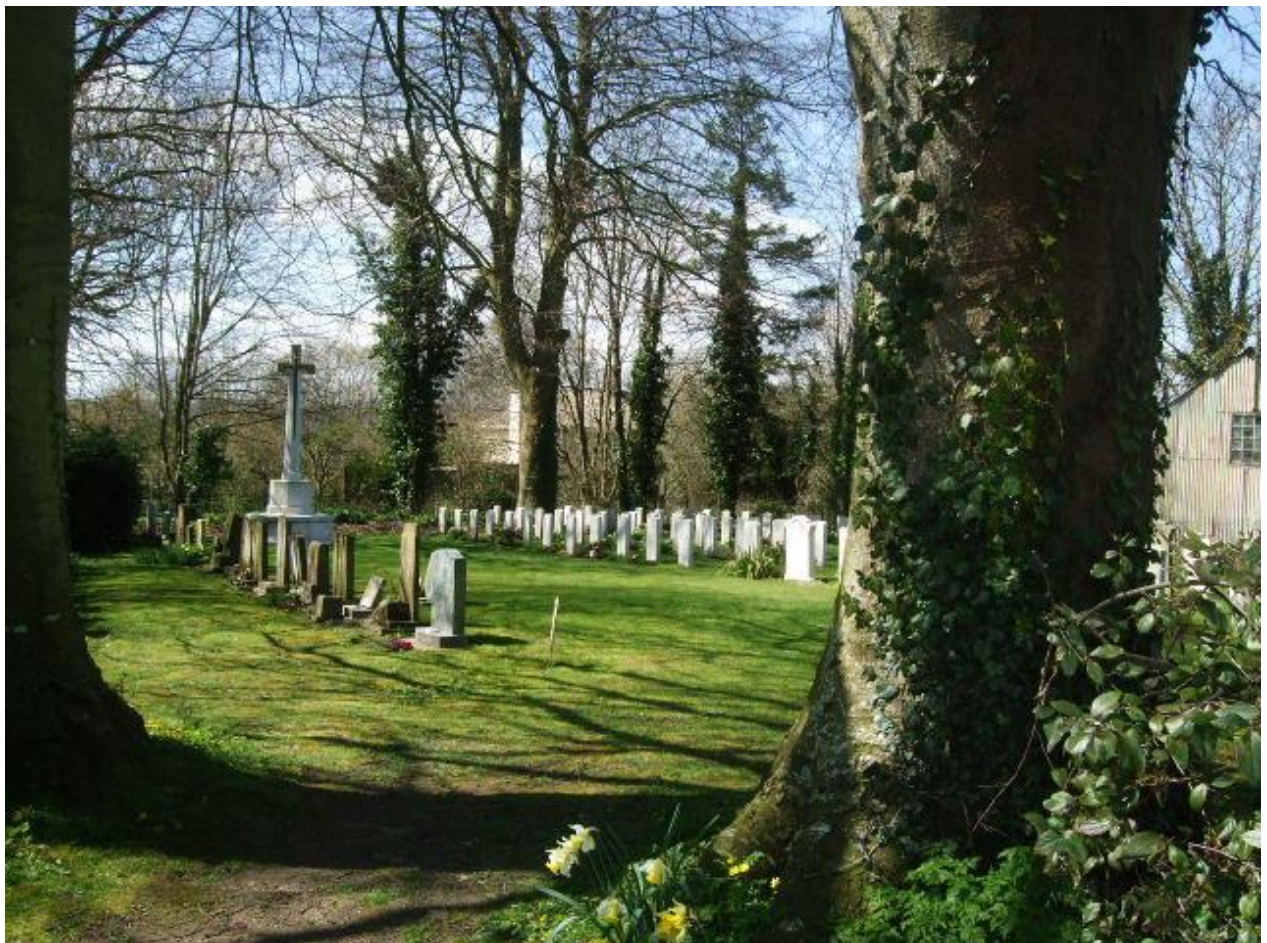


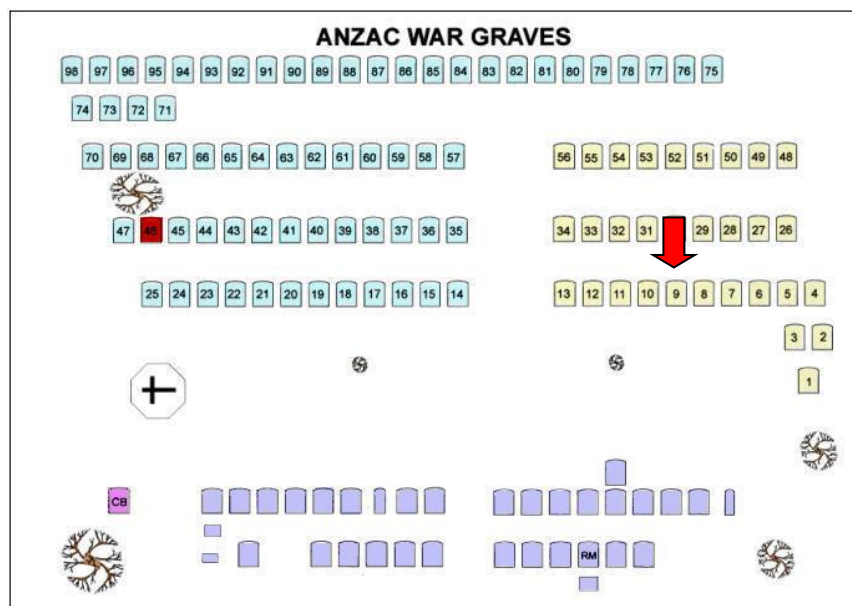
Photo of Private T. G. Bickley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Headstone Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private T. G. Bickley is located in Main Front Row (Right Hand Side) Grave Plot # 9 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 85)



- Australian Soldiers
- Welsh Soldier
- New Zealand Soldiers
- Local Burials
- UK Soldier

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall, courtesy of Romy Wyeth