

**All Saints Churchyard Extension,
Orpington, Kent, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3465 SAPPER

B. BRAIN

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

18TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 18

Our Loving Son & Hero

One Of Tasmania's Best

Bert BRAIN

Bert Brain was born at Ulverstone, Tasmania on 15th November, 1896 to parents John Thomas & Elsie Emma Brain (nee Stone).

Bert Brain attended Ulverstone State School, Tasmania.

Bert Brain was a 19 year old, single, Carpenter from West Ulverstone, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 4th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elsie Emma Brain, of West Ulverstone, Tasmania. Bert Brain had been an apprentice to Thomas Wilson, Carpenter, Ulverstone for 3 years & 10 months. He stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with “D” Company, 91st Infantry for 4 years.

As Bert Brain was under the age of 21, his parents were required to give their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. His parents both signed their names in a letter dated 1st August, 1915.

Sergeant George P. Taylor, Bandmaster, 91st Infantry wrote to Commanding Officer, Claremont Camp (no date) with the following letter: “*The bearer 231 Pte B. Brain, Band, 91st Inf. Ulverstone has returned all kit on issue to him also record book and is desirous of going to the front.*”

Sapper Bert Brain was posted to 6th Field Company Engineers from 16th September, 1915 for recruit training.

Sapper Bert Brain, Service number 3465, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 24th November, 1915 with the 6th Field Company Engineers.

Sapper Bert Brain was transferred to 4th Divisional Engineers at Moascar on 6th March, 1916 & was taken on strength of 4th Divisional Engineers at Tel-el-Kebir the same day.

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 Bert Brain embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 1st June, 1916 on H.M.T. Canada & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 9th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force).

Sapper Bert Brain was wounded in action in France on 1st September, 1916. He embarked from Boulogne, France on 5th September, 1916 Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) – severe.

War Diary – Headquarters 4th Australian Divisional Engineers

Tara Hill – 1, 2 & 3rd September, 1916:

Handing over to 1st Canadian Div. Engineers, and general work.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Sapper Bert Brain was admitted to Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England on 6th September, 1916 with G.S.W (gunshot wound/s) to Right Leg. He was reported to be seriously ill on 13th September, 1916. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "*Streptococcic infection with fas, bacillus infection. Haemorrhage from peroneal artery of right leg. Pneumonia. Comminuted fracture of right fibula & fracture of right tibia. Free incisions. Streptococcic serum given, Continuous Baths. Sept 11th Peroneal artery tied for haemorrhage. Ensol given several times intravenously. Sept 16 patient developed Pneumonia left lung. Sept 18 patient died.*"

Sapper Bert Brain died on 18th September, 1916 at Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, Greater London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Leg.

A death for Bert Brain, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Bromley, Kent, England.

Base Records advised Mrs Elsie Emma Brain, West Ulverstone, Tasmania, on 25th September, 1916 that her son Private Bert Brain was seriously ill with a gunshot wound to leg.

Sapper Bert Brain was buried in Canadian Burial Ground, Orpington Parish Churchyard – Grave No. 1.

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. E. Brain, West Ulverstone, Tasmania, on 16th April, 1920: "*With reference to my communication of 28th April, 1917 regarding the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 3465 Sapper B. Brain, 4th Divisional Engineers, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave No.6, Section "H", Orpington Cemetery, Orpington. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photographs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin.*"

Sapper Bert Brain's burial place is now recorded by CWGC as All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England – Plot number H. 8 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. M. Brain, West Ulverstone, Tasmania on 17th November, 1920 stating she was noted on the records of the late No. 3465 Sapper B. Brain as the next of kin but were enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked was his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

A reply was received on the back of the original letter which reads "*Dear Sir, Father of deceased soldiers alive John Thomas Brain, Wets Ulverstone, Tasmania.*"

Sapper Bert Brain was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Brain's father – Mr J. T. Brain, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

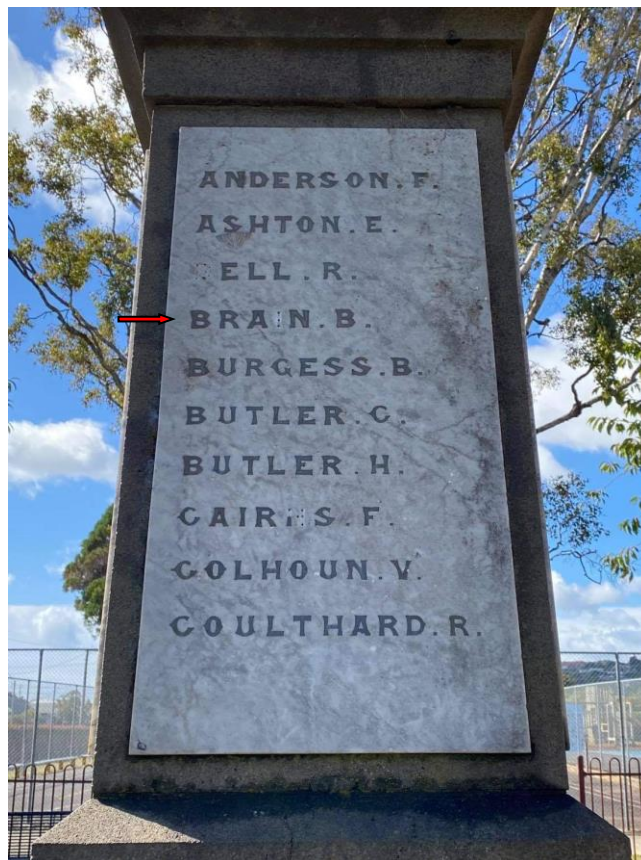
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper Bert Brain – service number 3465, aged 18, of 4th Divisional Australian Engineers. He was the son of John Thomas & Elsie Emma Brain, of West Ella, West Ulverstone, Tasmania.

Sapper B. Brain is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 23.



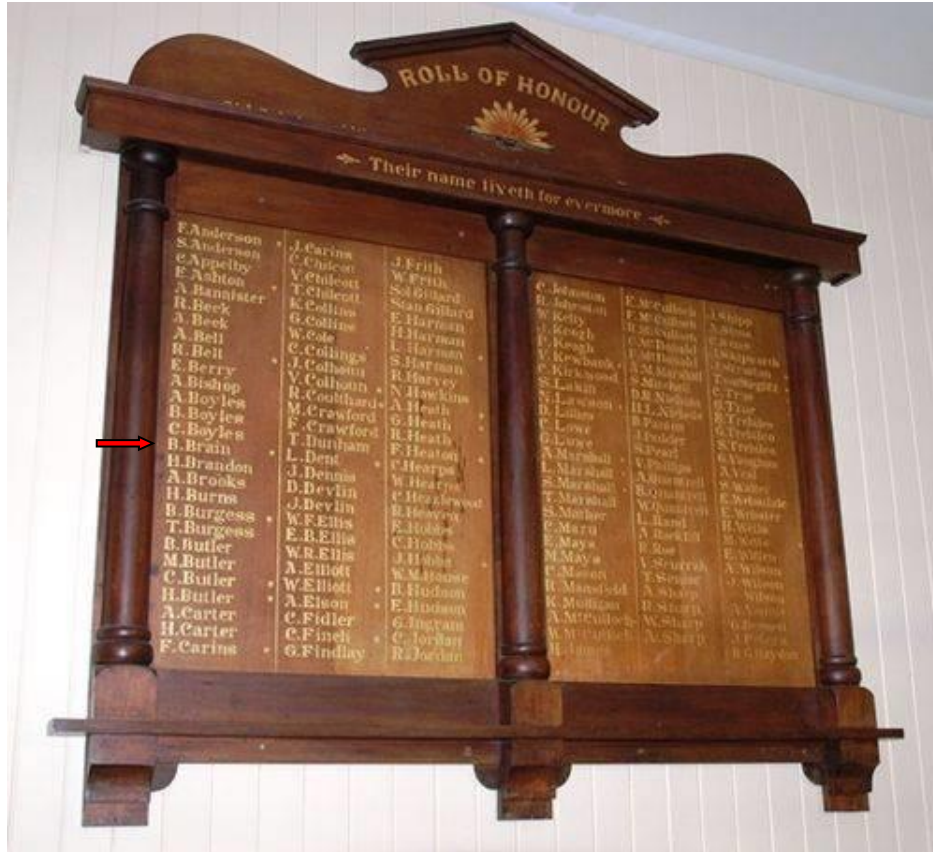
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

B. Brain is remembered on the Ulverstone Primary School War Memorial, located in the grounds of Ulverstone Primary School, 2 Leven Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



Ulverstone Primary School War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Jennie Blake)

B. Brain is remembered on the Ulverstone State School Roll of Honour, located inside Ulverstone Primary School, 2 Leven Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



Ulverstone State School Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

B. Brain is remembered on the Ulverstone War Memorial, also known as Ulverstone Clocktower Cenotaph & Ulverstone Shrine of Remembrance, located at Risby Street, Reibey Street & Alexandra Road, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



Ulverstone War Memorial

(Photo left & below – Jennie Blake; right – AWM Places of Pride – Ulverstone RSL Sub Branch)

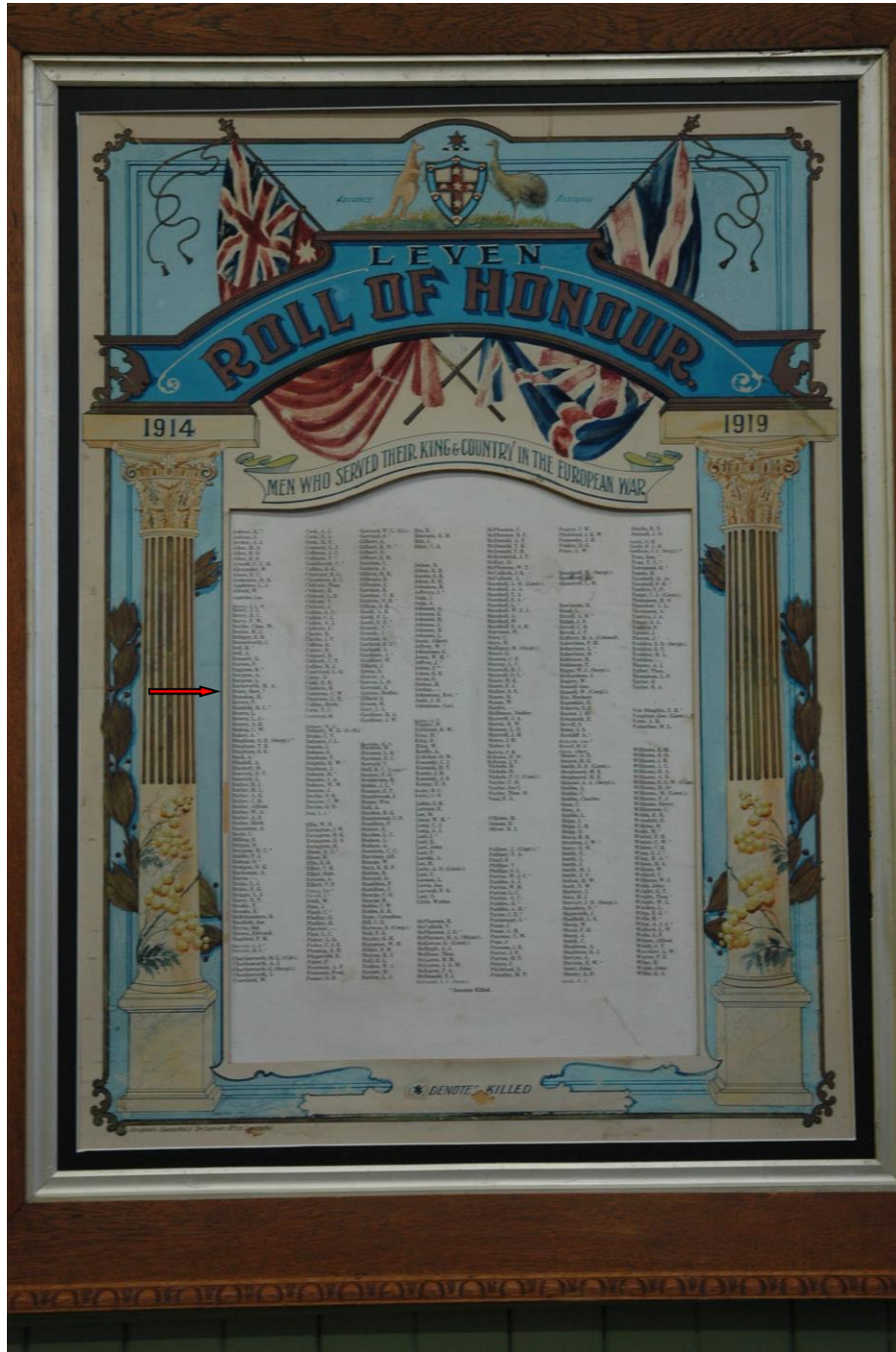


B. Bert is remembered on the Ulverstone District Roll of Honour, located in Ulverstone RSL Club, 21 King Edward Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania.

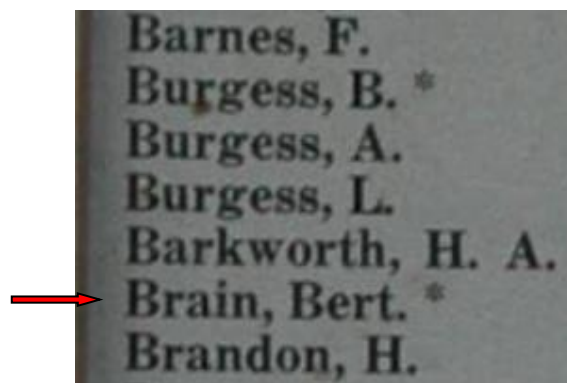


Ulverstone District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

Bert Brain is remembered on the Leven Roll of Honour, located in Ulverstone History Museum, 50 Main Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



Leven Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



Bert Brain is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "

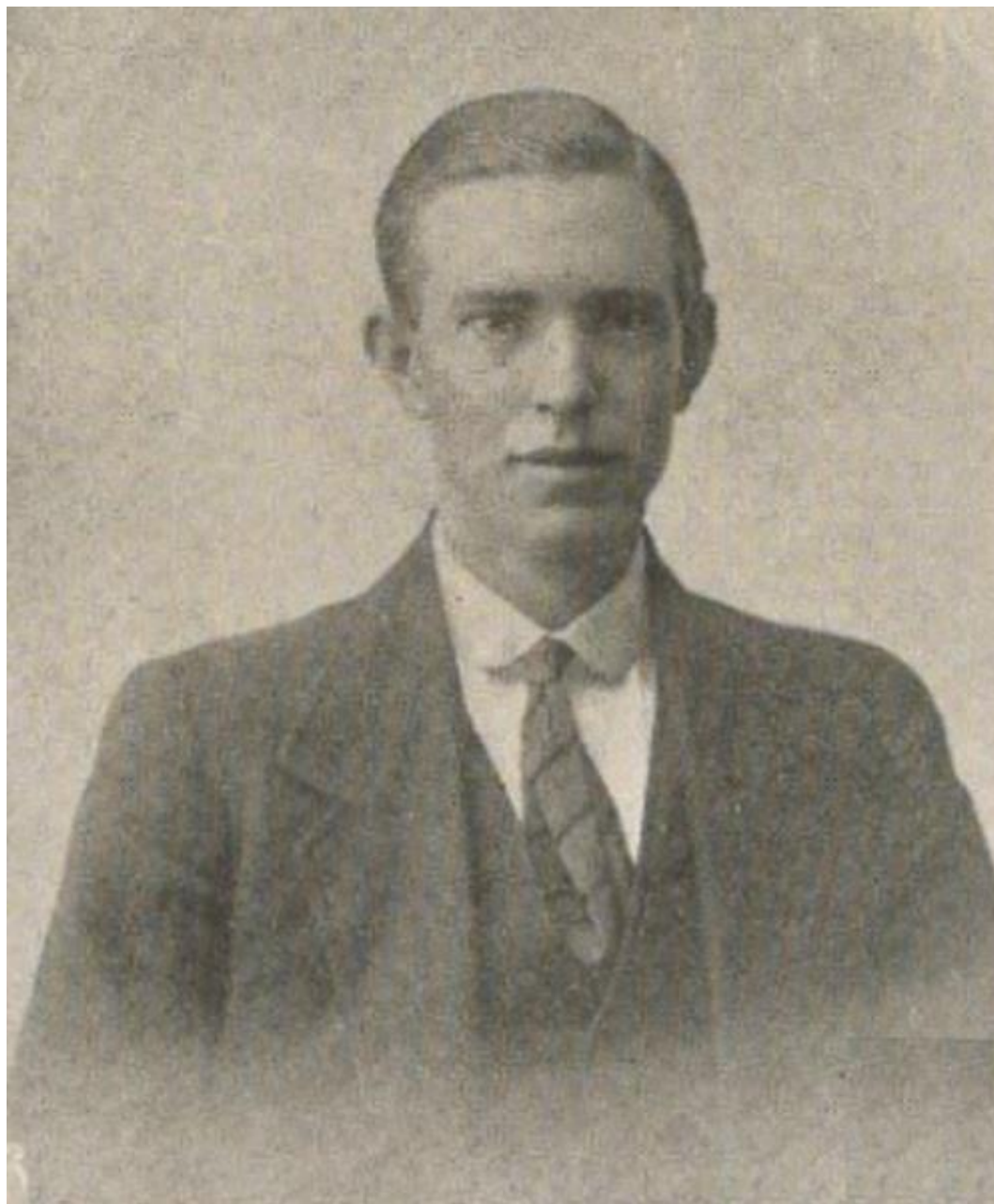
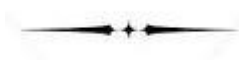


Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

NUMBER	RANK	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	DOB	AGE	UNIT	TOWN	ANZAC
3276A	Pvt	Blyth	Morris Charles T	20.08.1910	29	12th Inf Bn	Port Esperance	
988	Tpr	Blyth	Mervyn Stafford	23.12.1910	24	3rd LI Horse Regt	Bruny Island	ANZAC
3819	Pvt	Blyth	George John Ernest	04.09.1910	19	52nd Inf Bn	Hobart	
2454	Pvt	Boardman	Richard	31.07.1910	47	26th Inf Bn	Hobart	
5039	Pvt	Boch	William James	04.09.1910	27	52nd Inf Bn	Bradshaws Ck.	
1850	L/Cpl	Bolton	Ralph	13.10.1910	29	40th Inf Bn	Launceston	
2901	Pvt	Bowl	Walter	23.07.1910	24	12th Inf Bn	Reneleigh	ANZAC
2453	Pvt	Bonner	Raymond Percy	15.04.1910	21	NZEF Pk Bty	Colerbrook	
1784	Pvt	Bourke	John Cecil	05.08.1910	23	26th Inf Bn	Meander	ANZAC
1184	Pvt	Bourke	Ernest Gordon	18.11.1910	19	51st Inf Bn	Meander	
1953	Cpl	Bowen	Percy James	14.11.1910	31	21st Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC
3253	Pvt	Bowman	James Purcell	01.08.1910	29	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
2729	Pvt	Boyd	Cyril Thomas	19.07.1910	23	60th Inf Bn	Gladsfere	ANZAC
1530	Pvt	Brady	Walter	19.08.1910	34	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
1050A	Pvt	Bradford	William Wood	20.07.1910	31	31st Inf Bn	Bridgenorth	ANZAC
3454	Sgt	Brain	Bert	18.08.1910	18	4th Fd Arty Bde	Ulverstone	
2909	Pvt	Braimich	Arthur Walter	23.07.1910	23	12th Inf Bn	Wynyard	
2015	Pvt	Breward	William	05.05.1910	21	26th Inf Bn	Westbury	ANZAC
4291	Pvt	Bridge	Charles Joseph	19.08.1910	28	12th Inf Bn	Brighton	
3620	Pvt	Brooke	Esau John	19.08.1910	20	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
4234	Pvt	Broomhall	John	19.07.1910	20	60th Inf Bn	Estrebo	
4753	Pvt	Brown	Henry Joseph	19.08.1910	32	12th Inf Bn	Darby	
3622	Pvt	Brown	Pty Edith	05.08.1910	18	26th Inf Bn	Exeter	
569	Cpl	Brown	John	25.07.1910	29	9th Inf Bn	Apalry	ANZAC
12363	L/Cpl	Brown	Walter	09.10.1910	40	Canadian Infantry	Tas Native	
13120	Pvt	Brown	George Edward	11.07.1910	21	Depot rec (Aus)	Flanders	
2512	Pvt	Brown	Leonard James	23.07.1910	21	12th Inf Bn	North Malton	
(3155)	Lt	Browne	Cyril George	23.12.1910	21	6th Fd Arty Bde	Launceston	
2001	Pvt	Brumby	Adrian Dan	29.07.1910	21	26th Inf Bn	Zeehan	ANZAC

(63 pages of Sapper Bert Brain'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) & National Archives



Sapper Bert Brain



Newspaper Notices

ULVERSTONE

By the afternoon train yesterday Alexander Younie, Norman Lyell, and B. Brain, volunteers for active service, left for the military camp at Claremont. It is anticipated that there will be some additions made during the week to those names which have already appeared.

Leven recruits for the week ending yesterday:- Bert Brain.....

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 3 August, 1915)

BANDSMEN AND VOLUNTEERS

The Ulverstone Band, like most other public combinations and institutions, are contributing to the ranks of those men who are going forward to assist in forcing a pathway through that strongly fortified strip of land the Dardanelles. Although over a dozen playing members have gone on active service the band, under their bandmaster, Mr. G. P. Taylor, continue to contribute well-played musical selections when required. The following is a list of those who are now fighting in the trenches or are on their way with that intention: — W. Quantrill, G. Trebilco, J. Palliser, L. Quantrill, S. Harman, R. Collins, Jas. Williams, John Williams, E. Ashton, S. Lakin, W. Sharp, Bert Brain, A. M'Culloch, E. Johnstone, G. H. True. T. Blake. The latter two were members of the band before leaving Ulverstone, but have met a soldiers' death.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 17 September, 1915)

Tasmanian Casualties

Yesterday news was received that Sapper B. Brain, of the 4th Divisional Engineers, had died of gunshot wounds at the Ontario Hospital, Oppington, England. Sapper Brain was the third son of Mr and Mrs J. Brain, of West Ulverstone, and was well known and highly respected at Ulverstone, where he was for some time in the employ of Mr T. Wilson. About three weeks ago, the parents received a telegram from their son to the effect that he had been wounded in France by shrapnel but not seriously. The cable was sent apparently with a view of reassuring the parents, as in the official communication, which came to hand later that he was reported as seriously wounded. The bereaved parents have the sympathy of the district in their sad loss.

(The North West Post, Formby, Tasmania – 5 October, 1916)

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

In response to a cable from the Federal Defence Department the Rev. E. A. Salisbury conveyed the sad news to Mr. and Mrs. J. Brain, West Ulverstone, that their third son, Sapper B. Brain, had died of wounds in Ontario Hospital, Oppington, where he was admitted on September 18. Some three weeks ago a cable was received from him stating he had sustained a wound in the leg from shrapnel, but that the injury was not serious; it is, however, apparent that it was worse than supposed. He enlisted at Ulverstone in August, 1915, and was at that time attached to the Engineers. Much sympathy is expressed for the bereaved family.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 5 October, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Official intimation has been received to the effect that Sapper B. Brain, son of Mr and Mrs J. Brain, of West Ulverstone, had died in hospital in England of gunshot wounds, sustained in France.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 6 October, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

TWO CASUALTY LISTS RELEASED

On Saturday the Defence Department released the 229th and 230th Australian Casualty Lists....

WOUNDED

Sapper B. Brain, Ulverstone (also seriously ill)

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 9 October, 1916)

Roll of Honour

Casualty Lists – No. 231 – 232

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

Died of Wounds - ...Sapper B. Brain, West Ulverstone, 18/9/16.....

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 10 October, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

BRAIN – Died of wounds, September 18, Sapper Bert Brain, dearly beloved son of J. and E. Brain, Ulverstone, aged 19 years and 11 months. For king and country, and for those he loved.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 12 October, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

BRAIN – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sapper Bert Brain, wounded and gassed at Mouquet Farm, September 1, and died at Oronto Military Hospital. Kent, on September 18, 1916.

He gave his life for his country,

For honor, faith and right;

With us his memory ever lives,

He fought a noble fight.

No loved ones stood around him

To bid a fond farewell;

No word of comfort could we give

To him we loved so well.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, brothers and sisters, West Ulverstone.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 18 September, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

BRAIN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother , Sapper Bert. Brain, died of wounds received in action, Mouquet Farm, September 18, 1916.

Sadly missed.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, brothers and sisters, West Ulverstone.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 18 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

BRAIN – In loving memory of our dear friend, Sapper (Bert) Brain, of Ulverstone, who died of wounds on September 18, 1919.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his loving friends, Girlie and Lorrie Kelly, Caulfield, Victoria.

(Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – 19 September, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

BRAIN – A tribute of memory to Sapper Bert Brain, who died of wounds, Sept 18, 1916.

Sunshine passes, shadows fall;

Love and remembrance outlast all.

-Inserted by Girlie and Lonnie, Caulfield, Melbourne.

(Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – 18 September, 1920)

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 Bert Brain has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

Our Loving Son & Hero

One Of Tasmania's Best

Base Records wrote to The Secretary, Imperial War Graves Commission, London, on 1st December, 1932 in regards to the publication of Ontario Cemetery Register (Kent 98) advising that the “..proof slip entry No. 18 referring to the late No. 3465 Sapper B, BRAIN, 4th Divisional Engineers, and it is desired to point out that the deceased's surname has been shown in error and should properly read as above. More particularly it is requested that the necessary action be taken to ensure the accuracy of the headstone inscription in this respect.”

The Imperial War Graves Commission, London, replied to Base Records on 9th January, 1933 advising “... the entry relating to Sapper B. BRAIN in the Register of Ontario Cemetery will be amended as requested. Action will also be taken to ensure the accuracy of the inscription on the headstone.”

All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England

During the First World War, the Ontario Hospital was at Orpington from February 1916 to September 1917, when it became No 16 Canadian General Hospital. The hospital closed in September 1919. The hospital made a number of burials in a section of the extension to Orpington (All Saints) Churchyard, which was for many years known as Ontario Cemetery. This Extension contains 116 burials, 88 of which are Canadian. The extension as a whole contains 129 First World War burials and another 14 from the Second World War. The Commission also cares for 70 non-war service graves in the extension.

(Information from CWGC)



All Saints Churchyard (left) & Extension (right), Orpington *(Google Street view)*



All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington (Photo from Find a Grave – Mark Hornsby)



(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Sapper B. Brain's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England.



(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)



(Photo from Find a Grave – PEH)