

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,  
East Sussex, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2278 SERJEANT**

**G. A. BRANN**

**4TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS**

**19TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 27**

*In Memory  
Of The Dearly Loved Husband  
Of M. Brann  
Sadly Missed*

## George Alfred BRANN

George Alfred Brann was born on 26th July, 1885 at Bowling Alley Point, New South Wales to parents Thomas and Elizabeth Brann (nee King). (Note: Birth listed on NSW BD&M's website under the surname of "Braun" in 1885. George Alfred Brann listed his date of birth on his Attestation Papers as "21/7/88".)

George Alfred Brann married Mary Hobbs in 1906 in the district of Nundle, NSW. They had the following children – William Harold Brann (born 1906), Lillian Maude Brann (born 1909), Thomas George Brann (born 1910) & Stanley Richard Brann (born 1912).

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Tamworth, subdivision of Bowling Alley Point, NSW recorded George Alfred Brann, Labourer & his wife Mary Brann, Domestic Duties from Bowling Alley Point.

George Alfred Brann stated he was a 27 year old, married, Labourer from Bowling Alley Point, via Tamworth, NSW when he enlisted at Armidale, NSW on 9th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2278 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Mary Brann, Bowling Alley Point, via Tamworth, NSW. Details from Attestation Papers – height 5 feet 9 ½ inches, dark complexion, dark brown hair & grey eyes.

Trooper George Alfred Brann was posted to 1st Regiment of Australian Light Horse on 9th September, 1915 for recruit training.

Trooper George Alfred Brann was reported as a Deserter on 20th December, 1915. A Warrant was withdrawn prior to him leaving Australia. (A date of 30th January, 1919 was recorded on the Warrant).

From the New South Wales *Police Gazette* – 10 May, 1916:

### ***Deserters from the Military Forces of the Commonwealth***

*From the Military Camp, Liverpool*

*Brann, George Alfred, trooper, 27 years of age, 5 feet 9 ½ inches high, dark complexion, dark-brown hair, grey eyes; a native of Bowling Alley Point, NSW. Deserted 20th December, 1915.*

Trooper George Alfred Brann embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Armadale* (A26) on 21st March, 1916 with the 1st Light Horse Regiment, 15th Reinforcements.

Trooper George Alfred Brann was transferred to 4th Pioneer Battalion on 1st May, 1916.

### **4th Pioneer Battalion**

The 4th Pioneers were established on 16 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 4th Division. The battalion was formed in the aftermath of the failed Gallipoli campaign when the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) was expanded as part of plans to transfer it from the Middle East to Europe for service in the trenches along the Western Front. This expansion saw several new infantry divisions raised in Egypt and Australia, as well as specialist support units such as machine gun companies, engineer companies, artillery batteries and pioneer battalions, which were needed to meet the conditions prevalent on the Western Front.

Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the A.I.F. at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills. (*Wikipedia*)

Corporal George Alfred Brann reverted to the rank of Private on 11th May, 1916.

Private George Alfred Brann was taken on strength of 4th Pioneer Battalion at Serapeum on 18th May, 1916. He was promoted to rank of Corporal from 1st May, 1916.

Private George Alfred Brann was promoted to Sergeant on 27th May, 1916 while posted at Merris.

Sergeant George Alfred Brann proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 4th June, 1916 from Alexandria on Troopship *Scotian*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 11th June, 1916.

Sergeant George Alfred Brann was wounded in action in France on 10th /11th August, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 13th August, 1916. Sergeant Brann embarked for England from Calais, France on 15th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* with shrapnel wounds to shoulder.

#### War Diary – 4th Australian Pioneer Battalion

*10th August, 1916:*

*Reinforcements 1 Off 60 OR arrived. Battalion engaged on maintenance of Pozieres Communication Trenches.*

*11th August, 1916:*

*Maintenance of Pozieres Communications Trenches, widening to 30% road through to Boiselle, salvaging of arms & equipment and construction of dugouts in Avoca Valley.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant George Alfred Brann was admitted to 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England on 15th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to shoulder.

Sergeant George Alfred Brann died on 19th August, 1916 at 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. to left arm & Haemorrhage.

A death for George A. Brann, aged 27, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Steyning, Sussex, England.

Sergeant George Alfred Brann was buried on 22nd August, 1916 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIX.14 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sergeant George Alfred Brann contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of his family to obtain the details regarding his death and burial. A reply was sent by H. H. Rose for Lt. Col. R.A.M.C. No. 2 Eastern General Hospital, Brighton which reads: "*Sgt Brann was received into this Hospital suffering from a bad shrapnel wound of the arm, and after a lapse of two days, secondary haemorrhage set in, which necessitated the amputation of the arm. Although the operation was successful in every way, his condition was not strong enough to survive the shock. His remains were interred in the Brighton Borough Cemetery Upper Ground, on the 22nd Aug. last, with full Military Honours.*"

A War Pension was granted to Mary Brann, of Bowling Alley Point, widow of the late Sergeant George Alfred Brann, in the sum of £2:13:9d from 31st October, 1916. Pensions were also granted to the following children of the late Sergeant Brann from same date – William Harold £1 per fortnight; Lillian Maude Bran 15/- per fortnight; Thomas George Brann 10/- per fortnight & Stanley Richard 10/- per fortnight.

Sergeant George Alfred Brann was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Brann's widow – Mrs M. Brann, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

Mary Brann, widow of the late Sergeant George Alfred Brann, wrote to Base Records on 16th December, 1921 thanking them for the Memorial Scroll & King's Message & also advised that her new address was Macquarie Street, Tamworth, NSW.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant George Alfred Brann – service number 2278, aged 27, of 4th Battalion, Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Brann; husband of Mary Brann, of Bowling Alley Point, New South Wales.

Sergeant G. A. Brann is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



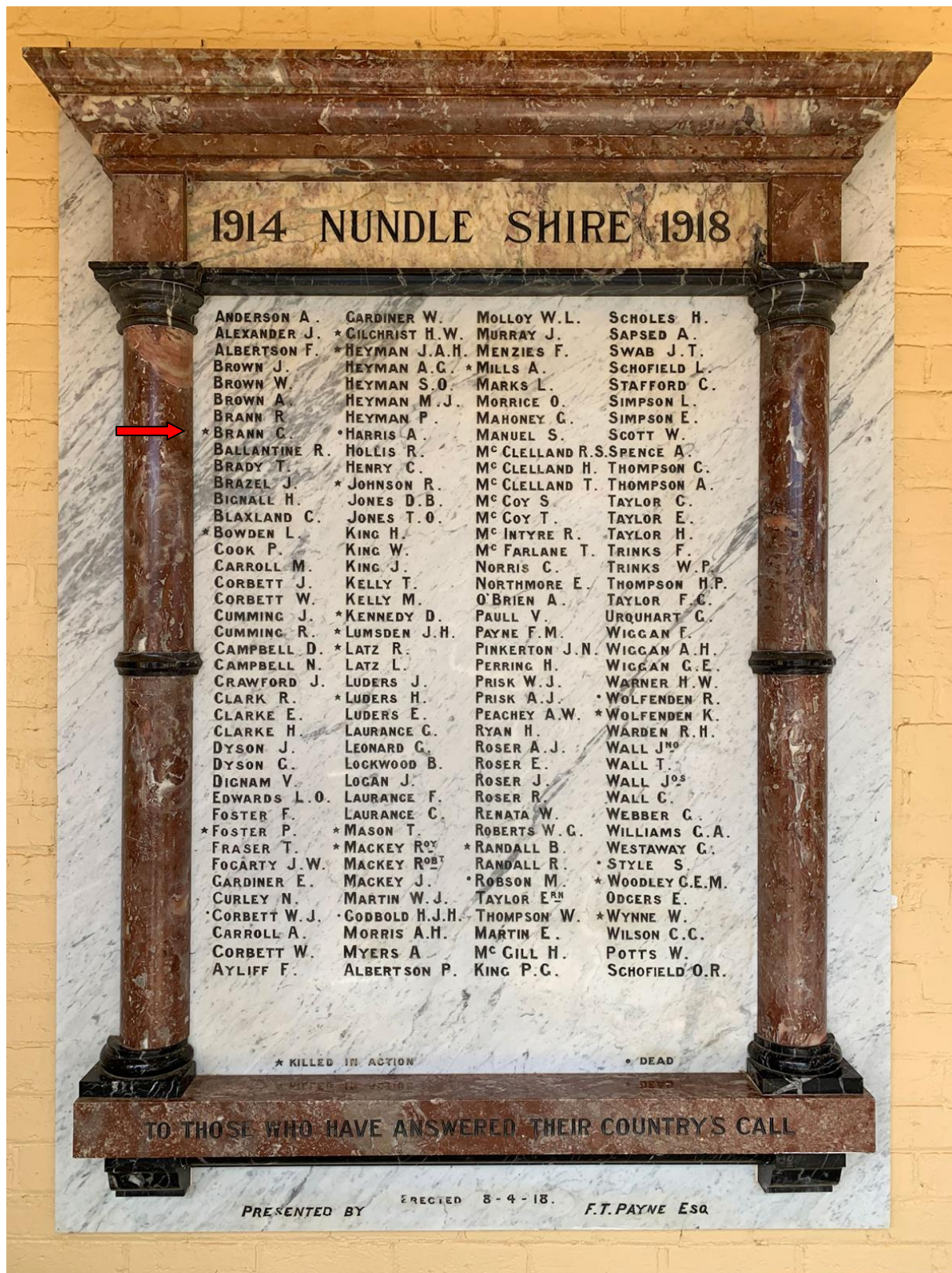
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. A. Brann is remembered on the Bowling Alley Point Great War Roll of Honour, located in the Nundle Memorial Hall, 101 Jenkins Street, Nundle, NSW.



Bowling Alley Point Great War Roll of Honour (Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Graham Wilson)

G. Brann is remembered on the Nundle Shire World War One Honor Roll, located in Nundle Shire Office, corner Jenkins and Innes Street, Nundle NSW.



Nundle Shire World War One Honor Roll (Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Graham Wilson)

G. A. Brann is remembered on the Anzac Park World War One Memorial Gates, located at 139 Brisbane Street, East Tamworth, NSW.



**Anzac Park World War One Memorial Gates** (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW – Graham Wilson)



(45 pages of Sergeant George Alfred Brann'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**

### **TAMWORTH VOLUNTEERS**

#### **Another Big List**

Since July 22 the following have volunteered at Tamworth for active service abroad:- ..... G. A. Brann.....

*(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 19 August, 1915)*

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### **LEAVING FOR LIVERPOOL CAMP**

A batch of 100 men are to leave Armidale to-night (Thursday) by the Glen Innes mail for Liverpool. Included in this batch will be the following Tamworth Boys:-.....G. A. Brann.....

*(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 7 October, 1915)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOR**

BRANN – In memory of Sergeant G. A. Brann, killed in France, August 19th, 1916.

He had his faults,  
But he was a man.

Inserted by a Comrade.

*(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 4 September, 1916)*

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### **Roll of Honour**

BRANN – Killed in action in France, 16th August, 1916, Sergeant G. A. Brann; aged 29 years.

Sadly a sister is thinking  
Of her soldier brother, brave,  
Who fell for the cause of freedom,  
And rests in a hero's grave.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, K. and S. Perry, Brown-road, Broadmeadow.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 9 September, 1916)*

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## CASUALTIES

### 208th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Sgt. G. A. BRANN, Bowling Alley Point.

*(Sunday Times, Sydney, NSW – 10 September, 1916)*

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### ROLL OF HONOR

BRANN – In loving memory of my dear son, Sergeant G. A. Brann, 4th Pioneer Battalion, died of wounds 19th August

Sadly I am thinking

Of our soldier boy so brave,

Those who knew him loved him,

None spoke his name but on praise.

His King and country called him,

The call was not in vain.

On Britain's Roll of Honor

You will find our hero's name.

Inserted by his loving mother, Elizabeth Brann, Tamworth.

*(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 15 September, 1916)*

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### BOWLING ALLEY POINT

On Monday night last the Union Church was packed to the door, on the occasion of the unveiling of the Roll of Honor Board, of the young men who have enlisted from the village, and are trying to do their bit at the front in upholding the prestige of the British flag. Addresses appropriate to the occasion were delivered by the Revs. Mills-Robson and W. Beck, who had journeyed from Tamworth to be present at the function, H. A. Betts, Nundle, and Envoy Brown, Salvation Army. The Rev. Mills-Robson presided over the meeting, and after he and the Revs. W. Beck and H. A. Betts had addressed the meeting, called upon Miss Lily Brann, daughter of the late Sergeant G. A. Brann, to unveil the Roll of Honor Board. This having been done, the chairman called upon Envoy Brown, who, the chairman said, he looked upon as the G.O.M. of Bowling Alley, to read out the names appearing on the Roll of Honor. Envoy Brown stated that he knew all the boys personally, and the majority of them had attended the local Sunday School,

The following are the names appearing on the Roll of Honor Board, viz.:- G. A. Brann (died from wounds), T. Mason (killed in action), R. S. Lahz (died from wounds), R. Brann, J. H. Murray, W. T. Brown, J. W. Cumming....

A large number of visitors were present from Nundle and Woolomin. The singing of "God Save the King" brought the meeting to a close.

*(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 11 May, 1917)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BRANN – In sad but loving memory of our dear husband and father, Sergeant G. A. Brann, 4th Pioneer Division, died of wounds received in France, August 19, 1916.

Resting in a soldier's grave,  
Laid aside of others brave,  
Our hearts for him are breaking,  
We are lonely night and day,  
We miss him, yes, we miss him  
More than words can ever tell.

Inserted by his loving wife and children. Bowling Alley Point.

*(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 18 August, 1917)*

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## **Roll of Honour**

BRANN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Sergeant G. A. Brann, died in Brighton, England, August 19, 1916, from wounds received in action; aged 31 years.

In the dawn of a splendid manhood,  
When the tide of his youth ran high,  
With courage of hope in his bearing,  
He waved us a last good-bye.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, K.C., and S. W. Perry, Broadmeadow.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 18 August, 1917)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BRANN – In loving memory of my dear son, Sergeant G. A. Brann, 4th Pioneer Battalion, died of wounds, 19th August, 1916.

'Tis just one year ago to-day,  
    Since our brave hero fell,  
But in our heart we mourn the loss,  
    Of one we loved so well.

Inserted by his loving mother, Elizabeth Brann, Tamworth.

*(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 20 August, 1917)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BRANN – In loving memory of my dear son, Sergeant G. A. Brann, 4th Pioneer Division, who died of wounds received in France on August 19th, 1916.

Often my thoughts do wander  
To a grave so far away,

© Cathy Sedgwick 2020

There they laid my dear son George,  
Just two years ago to-day.

Inserted by his loving mother, E. Brann, Bowling Alley Point.

## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BRANN – In loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father, Sergeant G. A. Brann, 4th Pioneer Division, who died in the 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton (England), on August 19th, 1916, of wounds received in France.

We pictured our loved one returning,  
    And long to clasp his hand.  
But God has postponed our meeting,  
    Till we meet in the better land.  
We, who loved you, sadly miss you,  
    As it dawns another year.  
In our lonely hours of thinking,  
    Thoughts of you are ever dear.

Inserted by his loving wife and children, Bowling Alley Point.

*(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 19 August, 1918)*

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## **SOLDIERS OF THE NORTH**

### **At Home and Abroad**

On Wednesday night last the hall at Bowling Alley Point was filled by local residents, and many visitors were present from Duncan's Creek and Woolomin to participate in the ceremony of presenting the memorial cards to the relatives of the soldiers who have fallen at the front. Apologies were read from Tamworth from the following:- — Mr. and Mrs. T. Mason, Rev. Father Mullins, and Rev. T. M. Taylor. Cr. J. W. Newman presided, and called upon the audience to rise and sing the hymn, O, God, our help in Ages Past. The chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to present memorial cards to the parents of the brave boys who had paid the supreme sacrifice. The names of the soldiers were Sergt. G. A. Brann, P. Mason, and R. S. Lahz (Bowling Alley Point), and Sergt. Foster and A. Mills (Woolomin). The chairman also mentioned that these memorial cards were presented by the residents of Bowling Alley Point, Duncan's Creek, and Woolomin, as a token of deep sympathy and appreciation of the noble sacrifice in the cause of freedom and defence of the Empire. The chairman stated that the memorial cards had been so well executed that they would keep in a good state of preservation for generations. It reminded him that the sadness which was being suppressed would as time went on, gradually pass away, as these cards were handed down to more distant relatives, and that the longer they were kept the more valued they would become, showing that the owners were descendants of relatives of brave and noble warriors who, in order to gain their object, stopped at nothing, not even death. Eloquent addresses, appropriate to the occasion, were delivered by Revs. W. Beck (Tamworth), and H. A. Belts (Nundle), and Messrs. C. Brown, J. M. O'Donnell and McKenzie. The memorial cards are nicely got up, showing a photo of the departed soldier, also the Allied Flags, number of the division, day and date, and place where killed. The cost of each card and frame was £8/8.

*(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 25 September, 1918)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BRANN – In loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father, Sergt. G. A. Brann, 4th Pioneer Battalion, who died of wounds received in France, August 19, 1916.

Often our thoughts do wander,  
    To a grave so far away,  
Where they laid my dear husband  
    Just three years ago to-day.

Dearest father how we miss you,  
    None but our poor hearts can tell,  
God has called you, we have lost you,  
    Only for a while, farewell.

Inserted by his loving wife and four children, Bowling Alley Point.

BRANN – In loving memory of my dear son Sergt. G. A. Brann, 4th Pioneer Battalion, who died of wounds received in France, August 19, 1916.

How hard it was to part with those  
    We held on earth so dear,  
The heart no greater trial knows,  
    No sorrow more severe.

Inserted by his loving mother E. Brann.

*(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW –19 August, 1919)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BRANN – In loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father, Serg. G. A. Brann, 4th Pioneer Battalion, who died of wounds received in France, August 19, 1916.

Oh, how we miss you father dear,  
    'Tis God alone can tell;  
We shed many bitter tears,  
    And lonely hours as well.  
But rest in peace our darling father,  
    Since God ordained it so.

Inserted by his loving wife and four children, Bowling Alley Point.

## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BRANN – In loving memory of my dear son Serg. G. A. Brann, 4th Pioneer Battalion, who died of wounds received in France, August 19, 1916.

Could I, his mother, have clasped his hand;  
    The son I loved so well,  
Or kissed his brow when death was near,  
    And whispered dear son, farewell.

Inserted by his loving mother E. Brann.

*(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 20 August, 1920)*

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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. 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)*

Serjeant G. A. Brann does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Husband*

*Of M. Brann Sadly Missed*

### **Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England**

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

*(Information from CWGC)*



*(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



*(Photos from CWGC)*

Photo of Serjeant G. A. Brann's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



*(Photo By Terry Denham)*



*(Photo from CWGC)*