

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,  
Birmingham, West Midlands**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**771 PRIVATE**

**A. BREAKELL**

**6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**22ND MAY, 1915**

## Alfred BREAKELL

Alfred Breakell was born at Seymour, Victoria in 1889 to parents Thomas Hector & Mary Jane Breakell (nee Horwood).

Mary Jane Breakell, mother of Alfred Breakell, died on 10th June, 1893 at Seymour, Victoria.

Thomas Breakell, father of Alfred Breakell, died on 5th December, 1897 at Benalla, Victoria.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Maribyrnong, subdivision of Ascot Vale, Victoria recorded Alfred Breakell, Postal employee, of 194 St Leonard's Rd, Ascot Vale.

Alfred Breakell was a 25 year old, single, Driver from 194 St. Leonard's Road, Ascot Vale, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 17th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Protestant & his next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr Breakell, Wolseley Parade, Kensington, Victoria.

Private Alfred Breakell was posted to 6th Battalion on 17th August, 1914 for recruit training.

Private Alfred Breakell, Service number 771, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 19th October, 1914 with the 6th Infantry Battalion "G" Company & disembarked at Alexandria on 5th December, 1914.

Private Alfred Breakell embarked from Alexandria on *Galeka* on 5th April, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) – Gallipoli Campaign.

Private Alfred Breakell was wounded at Gallipoli Peninsula on 25th April, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship at Dardanelles between 25th & 30th April, 1915 with a wounded right Knee (serious). Private Breakell was transferred to Hospital Ship *Goorka* on 3rd May, 1915 for England.

### 6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

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

Private Alfred Breakell arrived in England on 16th May, 1915.

Base Records advised Mr Breakwell, Wolsley Parade, Kensington, Victoria on 16th May, 1915 that his brother Private A. Breakell had been wounded.

Private Alfred Breakell died on 22nd May, 1915 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England from wounds received in action at the Dardanelles – G.S.W.(gunshot wound/s) to Knee. The Report of Death of a Soldier – Army Form B. 2090 recorded the cause of death as "Severe gunshot wound to right Knee".

A death for A. Breakall, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of Kings Norton, Warwickshire/Staffordshire, England.

Newspaper item from *The Independent*, Benalla, Victoria – 6 July, 1915:

### **Our Heroes**

#### **PTE ALF. BREAKELL**

*The following letter has been received by the late Pte Alf. Breakell's sister subsequent to her soldier brother's death from wounds received at the Dardanelles. After the usual preliminaries he writes from Goorkha Ship Hospital:-*

*"I am not too good. I was wounded at Gallipoli on 28th April. We got it very hot from the Turks while getting ashore in the \_\_\_ boats, but there weren't as many killed as I thought there would be. They just poured the shrapnel into us from their batteries. The Queen Elizabeth silenced them with her 15in. guns. The Turks \_\_\_ the sold steel; they go like \_\_\_. They were too fast for us. The country is very hilly and rough with prickly scrub. The first day we had a bad time. Some had no putties, coat or hat. A lot of our chaps went down; some got \_\_\_ the hands of the Turks and were seen no more. The officers had very heavy losses. The Turk snipers picked them off. The wounded were put on the Galeki and brought to Alexandria and then on to the Goorkha on the way to England. Getting looked after like lords. I got wounded in the knee. The doctors say \_\_\_ save the leg. I was lucky \_\_\_ inch and it would have \_\_\_ leg off. I will write again soon, I don't feel too bright at present."*

*A letter has also been received from Edith M. Ramsbottom, Sister in charge Ward A2, 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England, as follows:- "If you had not already received the news officially of your brother's (Pte A. Breakell) sad death, you will probably do so by this mail, also the few papers he had in his possession at the time. Those I have handed to the Quarter-master (Lieut E. C. Bennison) to forward to you, but I thought you might like to have a line from me, as it seems so sad to think of one's brother dying so far away and in the midst of strangers. I can assure you, however, that he had every care and attention, and everything that could possibly be done to save him was done, but, much to our regret, it was in vain. I know someone wrote to you \_\_\_ him by the last mail, so I expect you know that his right knee was shattered. The knee cap was quite gone, and the lower end of the femur (thigh bone) was also in bits. The wound had gone septic, and in spite of two operations, one on the 8th May and on the 22nd, it did not improve much. I cannot tell you how deeply I sympathise with you, for he was a dear boy, and such a good patient, and I am so sorry that we could not save him for you. Assuring you once more of my sincere sympathy."*

Private Alfred Breakell was buried on 27th May, 1915 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – Grave No. 359 Section B (Grave No. 277 was originally entered on Field Service – Report of Death of a Soldier form (& other forms) but crossed out & in red replaced with "359". Some forms have not been altered & still show Grave No. 277). His name is now remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 359 as he (& others) no longer has a headstone.

Newspaper item – *The Independent*, Benalla, Victoria – 23 July, 1915:

### **Late Private Breakell**

#### **BURIED WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS**

*Mrs. Geo. Brown, Ascot Vale, is in receipt of some interesting details concerning the death in the Birmingham Hospital of her late brother (Pte. A. Breakell). In a letter written by the Chaplain, Rev. C. O. R. Wormald, the rev-gentle man very thoughtfully encloses an extract from a Birmingham paper, also pictures, one showing the coffin covered by a Union Jack and borne by a number of soldiers, while in another, a number of wounded comrades pay their last sad respects to the deceased, and a third, the scene at the graveside, with the Bishop of Birmingham reading the burial service. The relatives feel deeply grateful, as such kind forethought shows that their brave soldier was indeed well tended and received every respect possible though so far from home and friends.*

*1st Southern General Hospital,*

*Edgbaston, Birmingham,*

*May 29th, 1915.*

*"As you have probably already been notified your brother died of wounds in this hospital on Saturday last. I was with him until he became unconscious just before the end. It will be of some comfort to you to know that he was fully*

*prepared for the end. His last words were words of prayer and love for those he has left behind. He was buried at Lodge Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham on Thursday last, with full military honors, the service being conducted by the Bishop of Birmingham. I enclose press cuttings. May I say how greatly we are moved in England at the noble self-sacrifice of the Australian and other Colonial troops who have offered themselves for the cause of the King, Empire and righteous, for that is what we are fighting for. You have given your brother in the noblest and greatest of all causes, and we honor you with him. With deep sympathy and much respect. — Yours faithfully,*

*(Rev.) C. O. R. WORMALD, : Chaplain.*

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*The following is a clipping taken from the "Picture World," Birmingham, dated 28th May:—*

*A SON OF THE EMPIRE.*

*AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER / BURIED AT LODGE HILL CEMETERY.*

*The Bishop of Birmingham (Dr. Russell Wakefield) officiated to-day at the funeral of an Australian soldier who died at the Bournbrook Hospital from wounds received in the Dardanelles. The soldier was Private Breakell, of the 1st Infantry Division of the Australian Imperial Force. The coffin containing the body, covered with the Union Jack, was taken on a gun carriage from the hospital drawn by men of the R.A.M.C., under the command of Major Sawyer, and accompanied by six wounded Australian comrades — several with their arms in slings—who are at present patients at the hospital recovering from wounds.*

*The interment took place at Lodge Hill Cemetery, and before the coffin was borne into the church the Bishop, who was accompanied by the Rev C. O. R. Wormald, his deputy at the hospital, placed a beautiful cross upon it. At the service in the church he delivered a short address, in which he said no death could be more glorious than dying for some ideal. Our safety in this island was more or less concerned in this war, but that did not apply to Breakell and his comrades, who had come from the great Empire beyond the seas to fight for a great ideal. The Bishop wished those present to feel that God Himself understood and appreciated a sacrifice of that sort. Whether their friend who had passed away was a strongly religious man or not, he had a great idea of sacrifice, something outside self, which was the Christian idea. His lordship remarked how the sons of the Old Country had rallied round the flag, and expressed the view that it would make for the righteousness of the whole Empire. They had been bound together at this time of great stress and trial, and he hoped if any of those present should be writing back home they would tell their people that in this country we did feel what was being done for us. The Bishop also conducted the service at the graveside. After the interment of the body, the "Last Post" was sounded.*

Base Records wrote to \_\_\_. Breakell, 461 Canning Street, North Carlton, Victoria, on 21st April, 1920 with the following *"With reference to my communication of 19th December, 1915, regarding the regrettable loss of your brother, the late No. 771 Private A. Breakell, 6th Battalion, 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. 359, Section "B" 10, Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Advice through a decoded cablegram received from the High Commissioner's Office, dated London, 23rd May, 1915 incorrectly advised that No. 771 Private Alfred Breakell, 6th Battalion, had died from wounds received in action at the Dardanelles in Manchester Hospital on 22nd May, 1915.

Base Records wrote to Messrs Thomas Cook & Son, Collins Street, Melbourne on 31st December, 1915 to advise that Mrs G. Brown, of 56 Roseberry Street, Ascot Vale, sister of the late Private Alfred Breakell, had advised that the next-of-kin of the late soldier was deceased & new next-of-kin would be the elder brother – Mr William Breakell, 16 Earl Street, North Carlton & *"to whom the personal effects should be delivered to."*

A handwritten note (undated) in the Service Record file of Private Alfred Breakell reads: *"W Breakell 16 Earl St, North Carlton wish to be entered as next of kin. Thos Hector Breakell (decd) was shown as next of kin. (signed) Wm Breakell."*

William Breakell, 16 Earl Street, North Carlton, brother of the late Private Alfred Breakell, wrote to The Secretary of Defence on 16th June, 1915 regarding the death of his brother "... Will you kindly notify me on arrival of my Brother's belongings & any correspondence you received. Will you kindly forward to me or let me know & I will call at your office. My Brother did not make his will before he left but my sister received word that he was making it before he went to the front. Dear Sir my elder Brother Thos H Breakell who died on the 31st of May was next to kin But I'm sorry to state that now he's not alive I come next to kin. Our father & mother have been dead many years & there are five of us left. My brother Alfred was insured in the Colonial Mutual Society. I've been making inquiries to the above Office but I'll have to wait till I get his papers before I can make any headway. Hoping & trusting to hear from you shortly. I remain Yours Truly Wm Breakell. P.S. My Brother Died of wounds on the 23/5/15."

Base Records replied to Mr W. Breakell, 16 Earl Street, Nth Carlton, on 8th July advising that "...arrangements have been made for the personal effects of all deceased members of the Australian Imperial Force, to be taken over by Messrs Thos Cook & Son, and forwarded direct to the next-of-kin.....With reference to your late brother's Will, I might state that I am not aware off the existence of any Will. Should he have made one as a soldier, it would probably be with his soldier's pay book, and when returned from the front, would be transmitted to the legatee mentioned therein. I have also to inform you that the cable received confirming the report of your brothers death, showed that he died at Manchester Hospital, not at Birmingham as previously reported. In view of your representations, I have decided to show you as next-of-kin on your late brother, Private A. Breakell's document, and should any further reports be received concerning him, you will be immediately notified. Certificate of death for Insurance purposes is forwarded herewith."

Private Alfred Breakell requested in his Will "*In the event of my death I give the whole of my interest in the property known as two cottages facing Sharp Street, and one Nunn Street, Benalla, Victoria, Australia, I leave the above interest to my sister Mrs G. H. Brown, 194 St. Leonard's Road, Ascot Vale, Melbourne, Victoria., Australia.*"

Base Records contacted Mrs G. Brown, 56 Roseberry Street, Ascot Vale, Victoria, on 29th December, 1919 with the following letter "...I shall be glad if you will furnish me, if possible, with the present address of next-of-kin, shown as – Mr William Breakell, Two photographs of the grave of the late soldier have been returned unclaimed from – 16 Earl Street, North Carlton, Victoria." (Note: The above communication to Mrs G. Brown was returned to Base Records stamped "Unclaimed" & written in pencil "Informed Gone away.")

Base Records prepared a Notice for the Press on 19th January, 1920: "*Mr W. Breakell, formerly of 16 Earl Street, North Carlton, Victoria, next-of-kin to the late No. 771 Private A. Breakell, 6th Battalion, is requested to communicate with the Officer in Charge, Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, as soon as possible.*"

William Breakell, 21 Newry Street, North Carlton, wrote to Base Records on 23rd January, 1920 with the following letter: "*In answer to your advertisement requesting the next-of-kin to the late Pte A Breakell, 6th Bat, I only noticed in the paper today. I'll be working till tomorrow midday & Monday being a public holiday, I'll call on Tuesday morning without fail.*"

A change of address of the next-of-kin - brother of Private Alfred Breakall was made to Base Records (no date recorded) from 16 Earl Street, North Carlton to 21 Newry Street, North Carlton.

William Breakell, of Rangi Point, Hokiangu, New Zealand, wrote to The Minister of Defence, Sydney, NSW on 15th February, 1920 with the following letter: "*I have been informed that a member of your Expeditionary Force named Breakell was killed at the landing at "Gallipoli" or soon after. If this correct please give me his full name address & next of kin and age.*"

Base Records replied to Mr W. C. Breakell, Rangi Point, Hokiangu, New Zealand on 3rd March, 1920 advising "... there is on the records a No. 771 Private Alfred Breakell, 6th Battalion, who is reported as having died at 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England on 22/5/15 from wounds receive din action at Gallipoli. Next-of-kin of the late soldier is recorded as brother – William Breakell – resident in North Carlton, Victoria. Deceased stated his aged as 25 years 2 months at date of enlistment (17/8/14)."

William Breakell, 461 Canning Street, North Carlton, wrote to Base Records on 14th April, 1920 with the following: *“Just a short note to state that if anything should turn up belonging to the late Pte Alf Breakell (I being next-to-kin) I have removed from 21 Newry St North Carlton to the above address.”*

Private Alfred Breakell was entitled 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Breakell’s brother – Mr W. Breakell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Breakell – service number 771, aged 26, of 6th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas Hector & Mary Jane Breakell.

Private A. Breakell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 46.



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





A. Breakell is remembered on Thoona Honour Roll for First World War. Last known location was Thoona area.

A. Breakell is remembered on Boweya State School Honour Roll, located in Boweya Hall, St James Road & Glenrowan – Boweya Road, Boweya, Victoria.



**Boweya State School Honour Roll** (Photo from Monument Australia – Michael Dodd)

(69 pages of Private Alfred Breakell'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*







**Pte. A. BREAKELL (Vic.),  
Died of Wounds.**

*(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 June, 1915)*



## Newspaper Notices

### 28TH OFFICIAL LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

VICTORIA

Pte A. Breakell, 6th, Kensington

(*The Ballarat Courier*, Victoria – 1 June, 1915)

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### SOLDIERS FIND NICHE IN TEMPLE OF FAME



(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 June, 1915)

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## Local and General News

### Roll of Honor

Sad and unwelcome intelligence was received by wire yesterday that Pte. Alfred Breakell, who was reported in these columns as wounded several weeks ago, had died in the Birmingham hospital (England) The late Private Breakell, who was employed at the G.P.O , Melbourne, at the time of his volunteering for active service, was well and favorably known in Benalla and district for years. He was a native of Seymour, and aged 25 years. The gallant hero, who has thus sealed his love for Empire with his precious blood, is a nephew of Mrs. Jno. Peak, M'Kellar-street, with whom a sister of deceased (Miss Ethel) now resides, and the very deepest sympathy is felt for the relatives. The sympathy of the King and Queen and Commonwealth has been despatched to them. Their cup of sorrow is made more bitter in the knowledge that a brother of deceased soldier, Mr. Tom. Breakell, is at present lying dangerously ill at the Melbourne Hospital.

(*The Independent*, Benalla, Victoria – 1 June, 1915)

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### DEATHS

BREAKELL – On the 31st May, Thomas Hector, dearly beloved husband of Emma Breakell (nee Lidlow), of 19 Wolseley parade, Kensington, eldest son of late Thomas Breakell, Benalla; brother of William (Carlton), Mrs Fisher (Benalla), Mrs G. Brown (Ascot vale),, late Alfred, who died of wounds, First Expeditionary Force; Jack (Kostelrook), and Ethel (Benalla), aged 34 (late Victorian railways).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 June, 1915)

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### THE ROLL OF HONOR

#### PRIVATE A. BREAKELL

Private A. Breakell, who died of wounds received in action at the Dardanelles, was the third son of the late Mr. Thomas Breakell, engine driver on the Victorian railways at Benalla, for many years. Deceased, who was about 26 years of age, was a pupil at the Benalla East school, and was a favorite with his schoolmates, The news of his death was received with great regret in Benalla. Mrs. Norman Fisher is a sister, and Mrs. John Peake an aunt, of the deceased soldier.

(*Benalla Standard*, Victoria – 4 June, 1915)

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**Private A. Breakell**  
6th Bu., DIED OF WOUNDS.



## THE ROLL OF HONOR: VICTORIANS KILLED AND WOUNDED AT THE DARDANELLES

(*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 June, 1915)

### Our Heroes

#### PTE ALF. BREAKELL

The following letter has been received by the late Pte Alf. Breakell's sister subsequent to her soldier brother's death from wounds received at the Dardanelles. After the usual preliminaries he writes from Goorkha Ship Hospital:-

"I am not too good. I was wounded at Gallipoli on 28th April. We got it very got from the Turks while getting ashore in the \_\_\_ boats, but there weren't as many killed as I thought there would be. They just poured the shrapnel into us from their batteries. The Queen Elizabeth silenced them with her 15in. guns. The Turks \_\_\_ \_\_\_ the sold steel; they go like \_\_\_. They were too fast for us. The country is very hilly and rough with prickly scrub. The first day we had a bad time. Some had no putties, coat or hat. A lot of our chaps went down; some got \_\_\_ the hands of the Turks and were seen no more. The officers had very heavy losses. The Turk snipers picked them off. The wounded were put on the Galeki and brought to Alexandria and then on to the Goorkha on the way to England. Getting looked after like lords. I got wounded in the knee. The doctors say \_\_\_ save the leg. I was lucky \_\_\_ inch and it would have \_\_\_ leg off. I will write again soon, I don't feel too bright at present."

A letter has also been received from Edith M. Ramsbottom, Sister in charge Ward A2, 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England, as follows:- "If you had not already received the news officially of your brother's (Pte

A. Breakell) sad death, you will probably do so by this mail, also the few papers he had in his possession at the time. Those I have handed to the Quarter-master (Lieut E. C. Bennison) to forward to you, but I thought you might like to have a line from me, as it seems so sad to think of one's brother dying so far away and in the midst of strangers. I can assure you, however, that he had every care and attention, and everything that could possibly be done to save him was done, but, much to our regret, it was in vain. I know someone wrote to you \_\_\_ him by the last mail, so I expect you know that his right knee was shattered. The knee cap was quite gone, and the lower end of the femur (thigh bone) was also in bits. The wound had gone septic, and in spite of two operations, one on the 8th May and on the 22nd, it did not improve much. I cannot tell you how deeply I sympathise with you, for he was a dear boy, and such a good patient, and I am so sorry that we could not save him for you. Assuring you once more of my sincere sympathy."

*(The Independent, Benalla, Victoria – 6 July, 1915)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

### **LATE PRIVATE A. BREAKELL**

Mrs Geo. Brown, of Ascot Vale, is in receipt of some interesting details concerning the death of her late brother, Private A. Breakell, who died in the Birmingham Hospital from wounds. The particulars are contained in a letter written by the Chaplain, Rev. C. O. R. Wormald. The Rev. gentleman also very thoughtfully enclosed an extract from a Birmingham paper, also pictures showing the coffin covered by Union Jack, and borne by a number of soldiers; while in another a number of wounded comrades pay their last sad respects to the deceased, and a third the scene at the graveside, with the Bishop of Birmingham reading the burial service, in Lodge Hill cemetery. The relatives feel deeply grateful as such kind love and thoughts show that their brave soldier was indeed well attended and received every respect possible though so far from home and friends. Pte Breakell was well-known round these parts, and was a native of Benalla.

*(Wangaratta Chronicle, Victoria – 31 July, 1915)*

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## **DIED ON SERVICE**

BREAKELL – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, Private Alfred Breakell, who died in Birmingham Hospital, England, from wounds received at Gallipoli on April 28, 1915.

Sweet to our memory, dear to our hearts,  
Our love for our brother never shall part;  
We know that our days, by they many or few,  
Will be days, dear brother, in remembrances of you.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, F. M. and N. H. Fisher, and sister, Ethel Breakell.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 May, 1916)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **The Anzac Heroes**

BREAKELL – In loving memory of Private Alfred Breakell, who died on the 23rd May in Birmingham Hospital, England, from wounds received at Gallipoli on the 28th April, 1915.

A true soldier and a faithful brother,

So dearly loved, so deeply mourned.

-Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, L. and Wm. Breakell, North Carlton.

BREAKELL – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, Private Alfred Breakell, 6th Batt., who died in the Birmingham Hospital, England, from wounds received at Gallipoli on the 28th April, 1915.

Sweet to our memory, dear to our hearts,

Our love for our brother never shall part;

We know that our days, by they many or few,

Will be days, dear brother, in remembrance of you.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, F. M. and N. H. Fisher, and sister, Ethel Breakell.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 May, 1916)

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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)*

A letter was sent from Base Records, dated 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, to Mr W. Breakell, 461 Canning Street, North Carlton, Victoria, advising that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his brother, the late No. 771 Private A. Breakell, 6th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

William Breakell replied to Base Records on 10th July, 1921 advising "Im calling to see you one day this week the first chance I get to explain the position Re erection of Head Stone of my late Brother Alfred Breakell."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private A. Breakell did have a headstone (see photo below) but over the ensuing years it was decided that this Cemetery would not have Commonwealth War Grave Commission headstones in this section. Instead the names of the fallen WW1 Soldiers are remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as those graves were ones that could not be individually marked with a headstone.



*(Photo from Flickr – Aussiemobs)*

### **Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England**

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

*(Information from CWGC)*



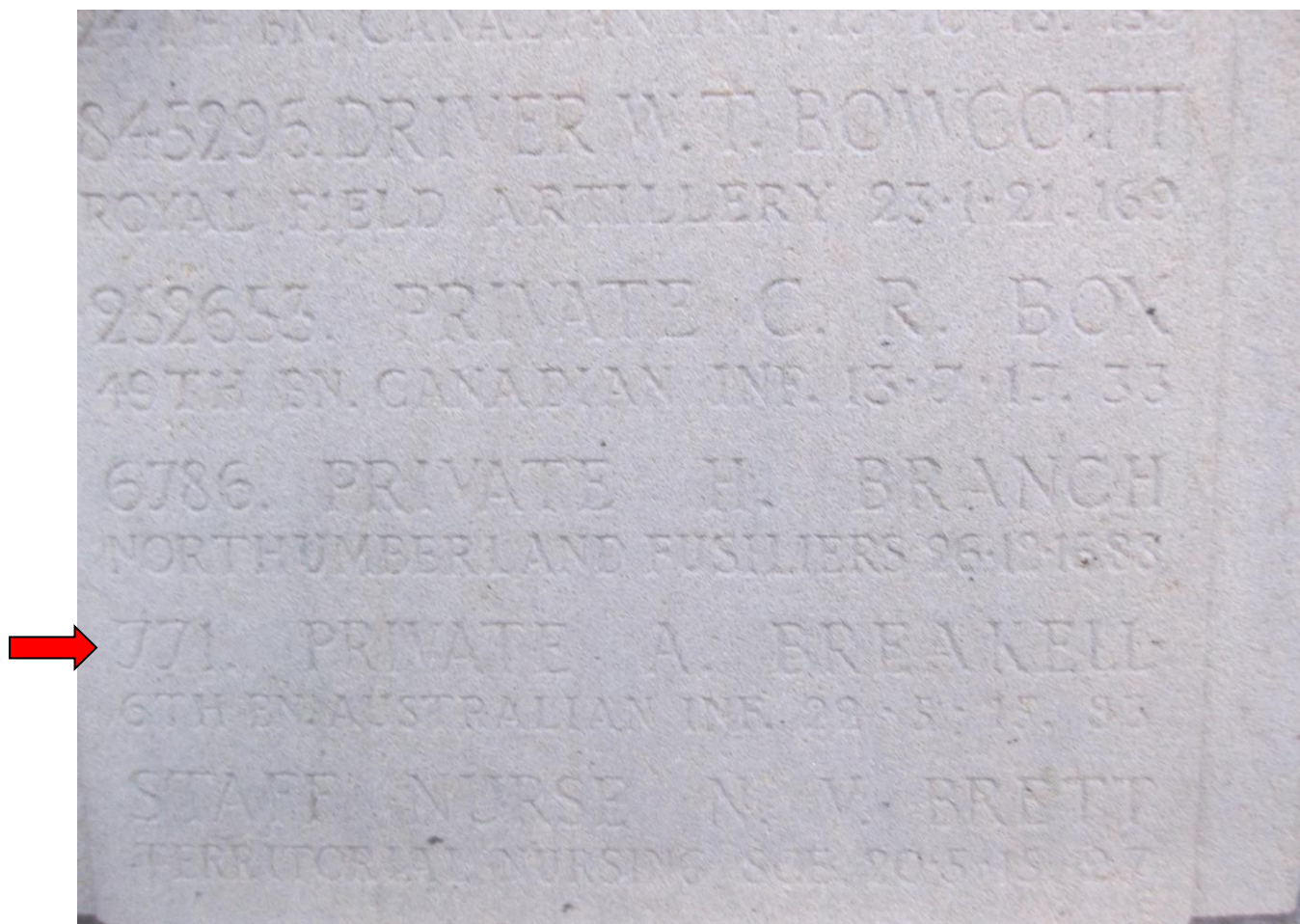
*(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)*



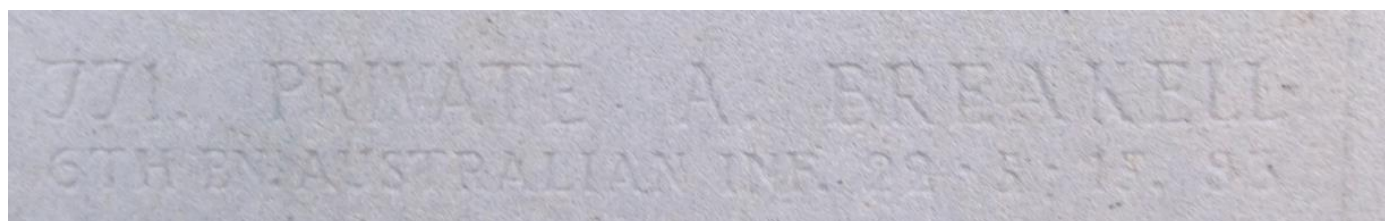
**Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham** *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Private A. Breakell's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



*(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)*





**WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance** (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



**WW2 Garden of Remembrance** (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

# Lodge Hill Cemetery

