

**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire,
England - War Graves**

World War 1



Lest We Forget



783 PRIVATE

T. R. BRITTAIN

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH APRIL, 1917 Age 41

A Hero At Rest

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte T. R. Brittain is located in Grave Plot # 235
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Thomas Richard BRITTAIN

Thomas Richard Brittain was born at Wellington, Bunbury, Western Australia in 1873, to parents Thomas Richard & Frances Brittain.

Thomas Richard Brittain was a 41 year old, single, Labourer from 91 South Street, Fremantle, Western Australia when he enlisted on 10th September, 1914 with the 12th Infantry Battalion "G" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 783 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs G Maguire of 91 South Street, Fremantle, Western Australia.

Private Thomas Richard Brittain embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 2nd November, 1914.

Private Thomas Richard Brittain was listed as "*Missing*" at Dardanelles from 25th to 28th April, 1915. He rejoined his Unit on 18th May, 1915.

Private Brittain was admitted to hospital at Gallipoli on 14th August, 1915 – No.1 Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Mudros. He disembarked at Malta ex *Valdivia* (Febrile) on 29th August, 1915. He was then transported to England from Malta per *Plassey* on 5th September, 1915.

Private Brittain was admitted to Military Hospital at Fulham, London on 12th September, 1915 with an internal hernia. He was discharged from Hospital at Weymouth on 7th January, 1916.

Private Brittain was returned to duty in Egypt on 28th March, 1916.

Private Brittain was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital on 13th May, 1916 with a boil on his hand. He was discharged ex Ras-el –Tin, Egypt on 28th June, 1916 to Tel-el-Kebir. Private Brittain was again admitted to Hospital on 7th July, 1916 & discharged on 17th August, 1916 to Moascar.

Private Brittain embarked overseas from Alexandria on 27th August, 1916 per H. T. *Megantic*.

Private Thomas Richard Brittain was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 19th April, 1917, seriously ill with pneumonia.

Private Thomas Richard Brittain died at 11.20 a.m. at Fargo Military Hospital of Lobar pneumonia.

A death for Thomas R. Brittain, aged 45, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Richard Brittain was buried on 27th April, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in plot number 235. From the burial report of Private Brittain - *Coffin was polished wood with brass furniture. Military Funeral.*

Private Thomas Richard Brittain requested in his Will extracted from his Paybook that the whole of his property and effects to be equally divided among his sisters listed hereunder:

Mrs G. Hellier – 212 Roe St, West Perth; Mrs F. Macguire – 91 South St, Fremantle; Mrs E. Farrington – 91 South St, Fremantle; Mrs B. Bush - 91 South St, Fremantle; Mrs B. Lynn - 91 South St, Fremantle; Mrs A. A. Armstrong – Lord St, Kalgoorlie; Mrs E. Shaw – Cunderin, W.A.

Private Thomas Richard Brittain was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Brittain's next of kin – his eldest sister (both parents deceased) – Mrs G. Hillier of 212 Roe St, West Perth (July, 1921 & August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Richard Brittain – service number 783 as being 41 years old & served with 12th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas Richard & Frances Brittain. Born at Wellington, Bunbury, Western Australia.

Private T. R. Brittain is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



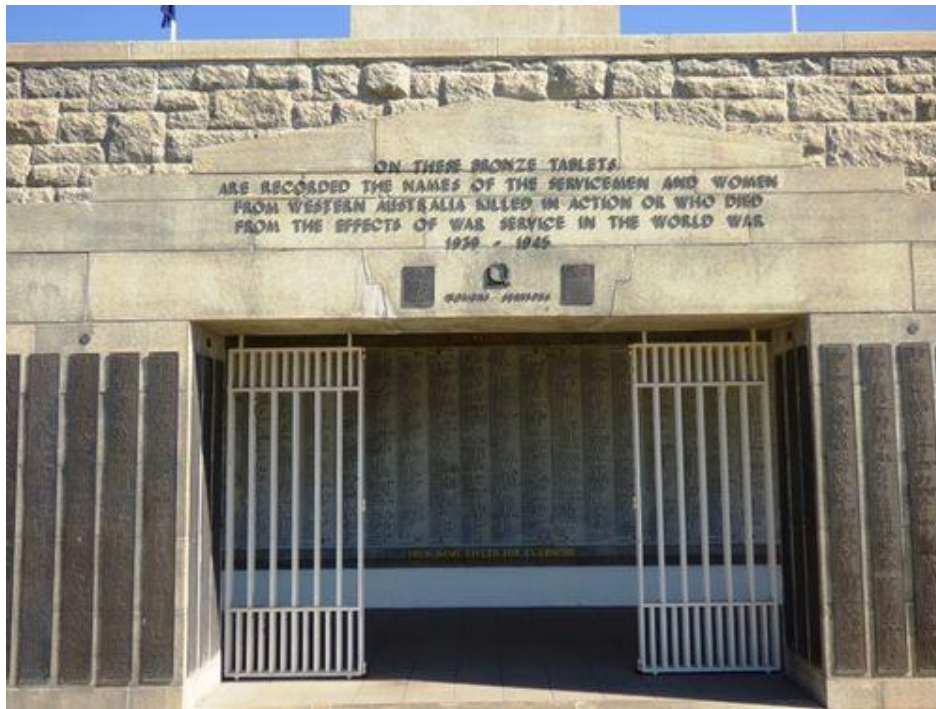
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. R. Brittain 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



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

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



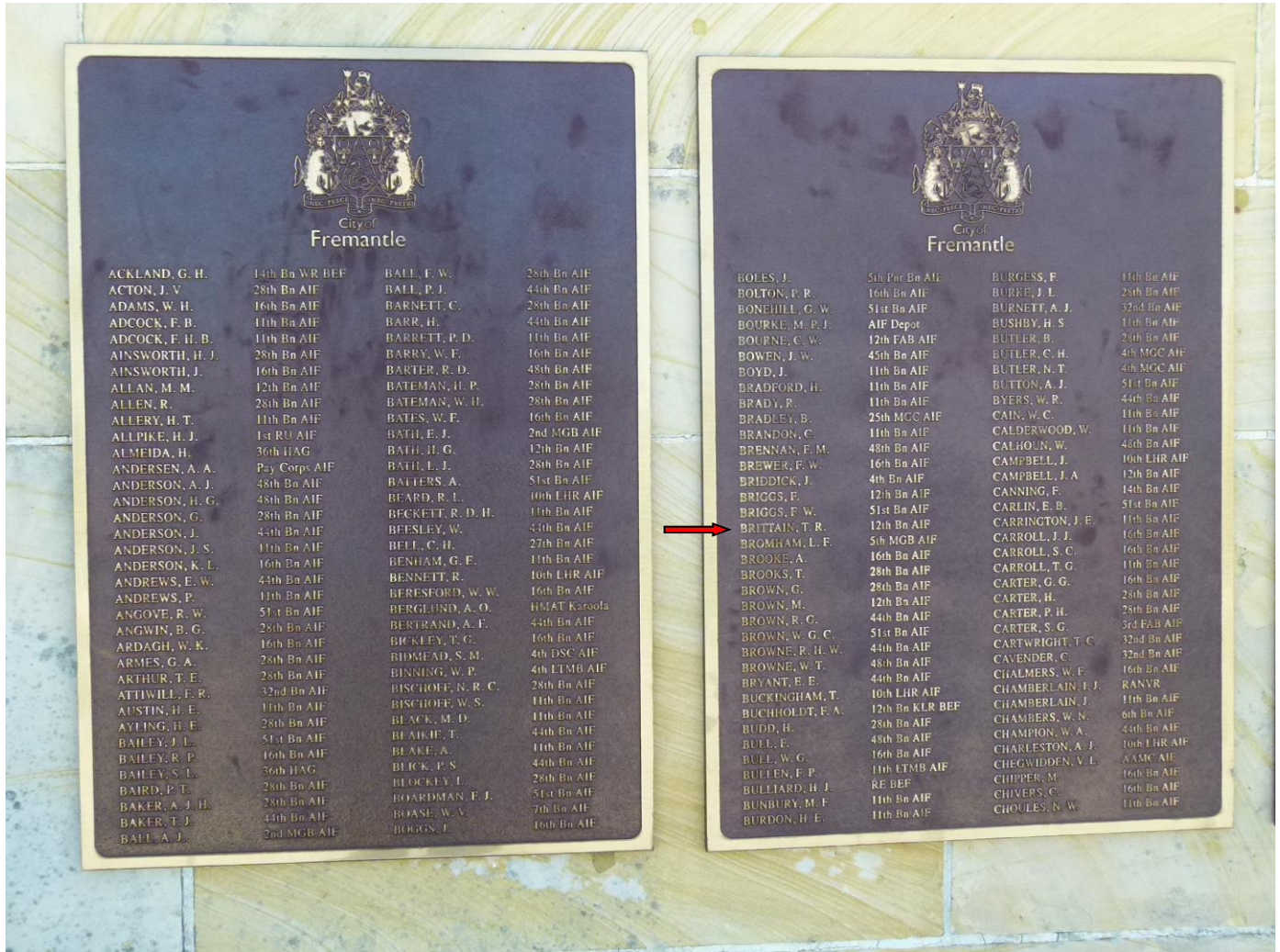
12th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

T. R. Brittain 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)





(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Thomas R. Brittain is remembered on the Williams War Memorial, located next to RSL Hall, Brooking Street, Williams, Western Australia.





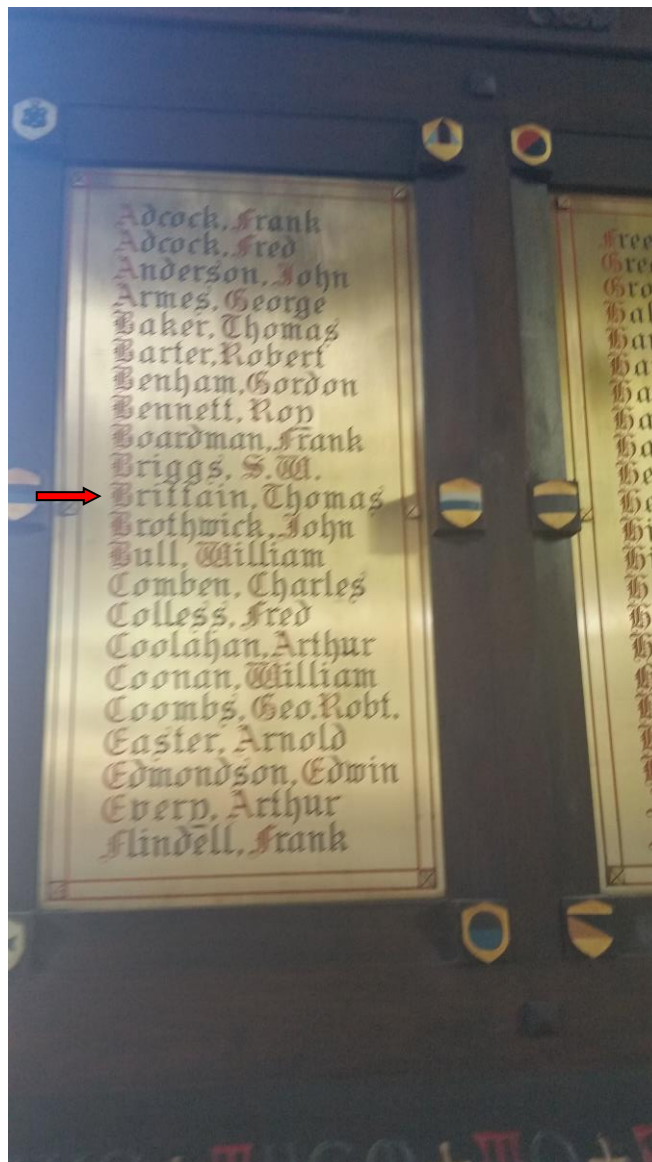
Williams War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Harry Frochter)

Thomas Brittain is remembered on the St Paul's Roll of Honour, located at 162 Hampton Road, Beaconsfield, Western Australia.





St. Paul's Roll of Honour, Beaconsfield, Western Australia (Photos courtesy of St. Paul's)



(69 pages of Private Thomas Richard Brittain'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Reports

RETURNED TO UNIT

12th Battalion

Ptes T. R. Brittain, Fremantle; C. J. Wintle, West Perth

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria Thursday 1 July 1915)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR: WEST AUSTRALIANS



PRIVATE T. R. BRITTAIN,
12th Battalion.
(Reported missing.)

Private T. R. Brittain

12th Battalion

(Reported Missing)

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia Friday 16 July, 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA - THE ROLL OF HONOUR

ILL

12th Battalion – T. R. Brittain (Fremantle) disembarked at Malta. Previously reported missing.

(The West Australian, Perth, Tuesday 21 September, 1915)

RETURNED TO DUTY

Infantry – Privates T. R. Brittain (Fremantle)

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia, Thursday 13 April 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

ILL, INJURED OR WOUNDED

T. R. Brittain (S. Fremantle) ill second (occasion), previously reported returned to duty)

(The West Mail, Perth, Friday 16 June, 1916)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

West Australian Casualties

DEATHS

T. R. Brittain, South Fremantle, died of illness.

(Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia - Tuesday 15 May, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BRITTAIN – In loving memory of my dear brother T. R. Brittain, who died in England on April, 24, 1917.

Today as we gaze at your photo
 It's likeness so fond and true.
Do you know how our hearts are aching,
 And longing dear brother for you.

Inserted by his loving sister, Jane and brother-in-law George and family.

BRITTAIN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private T. R. Brittain, who died at the Fargo Military Hospital on April, 24, 1917, of pneumonia.

Today as we gaze at your photo
 It's likeness so fond and true.
Do you know how our hearts are aching,
 And longing dear brother for you.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Florrie and George Maquire.

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BRITAIN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private T. R. Britain, who died at the Fargo Military Hospital on April, 24, 1917, of pneumonia.

His life he gave that other may live.

Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers-in-law, Pansy and Bert Bush, Lizzie and Bert Lynn (on active service).

(The West Australian, Perth, Wednesday 24 April, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BRITAIN – In loving memory of my dear brother Thomas Richard Britain 12th Battalion, who died at Largo Military Hospital on April, 24, 1917.

Not our will dear brother, but Thy will be done.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Lizzie and Bert Lynn.

BRITAIN - In loving memory of my dear brother, Tom, who died on April, 24, 1917.

He proved himself a soldier

 He fought in honour's name;

He went and died for Australia,

 That's how he played the game.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Pansy and Bert Bush, niece and nephew Doris and Stanley.

BRITAIN - In loving memory of my dear brother, who died on April, 24, 1917.

Farewell to you dear brother

 Sweet thought of you we'll keep.

Although two years have passed away'

 Our grief is just as deep.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs Hillier and family.

(The West Australian, Perth, Friday 25 April, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BRITAIN – In ever loving memory of my dear brother, Private Thomas Richard Britain (Anzac), who died April, 24, 1917, Fargo Military Hospital, Rolleston.

Do not ask if we do miss him,

 Only those can tell

Who have lost a loving brother

 Without a last farewell.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs Hillier and family.

BRITAIN - In loving memory of our dear brother, Tom, who died on April, 24, 1917, at Fargo Military Hospital.

As long as life and memory last,

We will remember thee.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Florrie and George Maquire.

(The West Australian, Perth, Tuesday 24 April, 1923)

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 Durrington 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)

A letter dated 8th March, 1922 from Base Records to Mrs G. Hillier – eldest sister of late Pte Thomas Richard Brittain states that the personal inscription that was chosen contains too many letters & would not be permitted on the headstone. The inscription that was denied – *Its only an old piece of Bunting. The old tattered Red White and Blue. He fought for it like a hero. My brother so Dearest and true. Gone from those who loved him best, in a hero's grave he lies at rest.*

Private T. R. Brittain does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Hero At Rest

Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Durrington Cemetery contains burials of both wars. The 204 First World War burials were mostly from nearby Larkhill Camp. Many of the graves are of Australian servicemen and there is a separate Australian memorial in the cemetery. The Second World War burials number 22. In addition to the war graves, there are a number of post-war service graves in the cemetery, mostly of the Royal Air Force.

(Information from CWGC)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Dave Healing 2013)

Photo of Private T. R. Brittain's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo from CWGC)*