

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2125 PRIVATE

L. BRITTEN

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH JUNE, 1916 Age 22

Lachlan (Lock) BRITTEN

Lachlan Britten was born in 1894 in Mirboo North, Victoria to parents William & Annie Britten (nee Ross).

Lachlan Britten was a 21 year old, single, Timber Worker from Western Australia when he enlisted on 23rd July, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2125 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William Britten, of Wuraming, Pinjarra, Western Australia. Lachlan's older brother – William Henry Britten, aged 24 enlisted the same day & was given a service number of 2124.

Private Lachlan Britten embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 1st October, 1915.

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Swan, subdivision of Forrest listed Lachlan Britten, timber worker of Wuraming. His parents were listed in the same subdivision - William Britten, teamster & Annie Britten, of Dwellingup.

Private Lachlan Britten was taken on strength with 28th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 19th January, 1916.

Private Lachlan Britten was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance on 24th January, 1916 suffering from Tonsillitis. He was returned to duty from Hospital on 26th January, 1916.

Private Lachlan Britten proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 16th March, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 21st March, 1916.

Private Lachlan Britten was wounded in action in France. He was admitted to 8th Casualty Clearing Station on 5th June, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to leg & Chest. He was transferred by train & admitted the same day to No. 13 General Hospital at Boulogne, France with multiple gunshot wounds. Pte Britten was transferred on 9th June, 1916 to Hospital Ship *St. Dennis*. On 10th June, 1916 Pte Britten embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. George*.

Private Lachlan Britten was admitted to County of London War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, England on 10th June, 1916 with gunshot wounds to leg, left ankle & chest - severe. A telegram was sent on 16th June, 1916 to Pte Britten's father – Mr W. Britten advising that his son was wounded severely. Mr W. Britten wired back on 17th June, 1916 enquiring for full details & progress on his son.

Private Lachlan Britten died on 13th June, 1916 at County of London War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey. A post mortem was held & the cause of death was found to be due to wounds received in action in France – Malignant Oedema or Gangrene.

A death for Lachlan Britten, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1916 in the district of Epsom, Surrey, England.

Private Lachlan Britten was buried on 19th June, 1916 in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey – Screen Wall. K. 82. There are no headstones for this section of the Cemetery, however those buried have their names on a bronze plaque located on the Screen Wall which is directly in front of the lawned area of burials. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Pte Lachlan Britten contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of his relatives in Perth, Western Australia as to whether he was conscious before he died or if he left any messages. A reply from M. Thorburn, Matron of County of London War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, dated 12th September, 1916, reads: "*We regret we are unable to give you more details of 2125 Pte L. Britten's death, than we have already sent to his friends. He was visited twice on the day of his death by the Prsby. Minister, Mr Ferguson, and seemed quite happy. He was conscious up to the last few minutes, and left no messages.*"

Pte Lachlan Britten was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Britten's father – Mr W. Britten, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

Mr W. Britten, father of late Pte Lachlan Britten received a letter from Base Records, dated 7th May, 1925, advising him that the Chairman of the Epsom Urban District Council had advised that on the 17th May "*there will be unveiled and dedicated the Great War Cross erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission to the soldiers, sailors and airmen, who died in the service of their King and Country and who are buried in the Epsom Cemetery..... A similar notification is being forwarded to next-of-kin of all members of the Australian Imperial Force whose remains are interred in the abovenamed cemetery, as it is felt that the proposed ceremony will be of special interest to the relatives concerned, and an assurance that the work of perpetuating the memory of our fallen is being carried out with the reverent care and attention.*"

Private L. Britten is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 112.

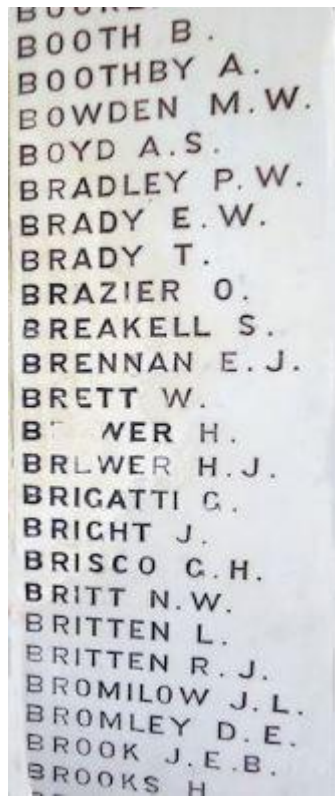


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

L. Britten is remembered on the State War Memorial Cenotaph located at Anzac Bluff at the top of King's Park, Western Australia. The walls of the inner chamber or crypt contain marble tablets which list the names, under their units, of those killed as a result of World War 1.



State War Memorial Cenotaph, King's Park, Western Australia

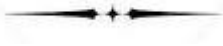


(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson / Sandra Tattersall / Graeme Saunders)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Lachlan Britten – service number 2125, aged 22, of 28th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Annie Britten, of Wuraming, Western Australia. Born at Mirboo, Victoria, Australia.

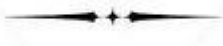
(43 pages of Pte Lachlan Britten's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



Connected to Lachlan Britten:

Older Brother - William Henry Britten, enlisted 23rd July, 1915, 28th Battalion. Service number 2124. Invalided to Australia on 12th November, 1916, due to arrive in Fremantle at end of December, 1916. Medically discharged 15th March, 1917. Entitled to 1914 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. Died 24th August, 1951.



Newspaper Notices

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR LATEST CASUALTY LIST DEAD

Cause Not Stated

L. Britten (Pinjarra)

(The West Australian, Perth, WA – 27 June, 1916)

THE GIPPSLANDER

Private Locke Britten, who was reared in Mirboo North, leaving here a young man to reside in West Australia, has been killed in action at the front.

(Gippslander and Mirboo Times, Victoria – 29 June, 1916)

A FALLEN HERO



Lock Britten, who was killed in one of the recent engagements in France. His parents reside in the Dwellingup district. Lock was a prominent member of the Timber Workers' Union, and a leading spirit in the Forrest Football Association. His many qualities stood out as an example to those around him. His other brother was wounded last week, and the folk in the timber country sympathise with his sorrowing parents.

(Westralian Worker, Perth, Western Australia – 21 July, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BRITTEN – Private Lock Britten, wounded in France in June 4, 1916; died in Epsom War Hospital, on June 12, 1916. His duty nobly done.

- Inserted by his loving father and mother, and brothers and sister.

BRITTEN – In loving tribute to the memory of Private L. Britten, who died of wounds received in France on June 12, 1916.

His memory lives within the hearts
Of those who knew his worth.
So dearly loved, so sadly missed.

- Inserted by uncle and auntie and cousins, Roy and Mrs Les. Burton.

(The West Australian, Perth, WA – 12 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

BRITTEN – Private Lock Britten, wounded in France in June 4, 1916; died in Epsom War Hospital, on June 12, 1916. His duty nobly done.

- Inserted by his loving father and mother, and brothers and sister.

(Westralian Worker, Perth, WA – 15 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BRITTEN – Private Lachlan (Lock) Britten of 28th Battalion, died of-wounds in Epsom War Hospital, England, on June 13, 1916.

There is one link death cannot sever,
Fond remembrance lasts for ever.

-Inserted by his loving mother, father, brothers, and sisters, also his cousin, Mrs Les Burton

BRITTEN – In loving memory of our dear brother Lachlan (Lock) Britten, who died of wounds June 13, 1916.

He was always happy and cheerful,
With a heart that knew no fear;
He stood to face war's battle
For those he loved so dear.

-Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Will and J. Britten

BRITTEN – In sad memory of my dear friend, Private Lock Britten, who died of wounds received in France, June 13, 1916.

He said "good-bye" to his workmates,
Friends and relations, too,
He proudly put on khaki,
And crossed the ocean blue.
Amidst the roaring of the guns,
The scream of shot and shell.

Like many a brave Australian,
My brave friend nobly fell.

-Inserted-by Addie Smith. Wuraming.

BRITTEN – In loving memory of Lock Britten who died of wounds received in France, June 13, 1916.

Always remembered.

-Inserted by K. Smith and Frank Fitzgerald (returned).

(*The West Australian*, Perth, WA – 13 June, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BRITTEN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private L. Britten (Lock), 28th Battalion, who died of wounds received in France, June 13, 1916.

Far and oft our thoughts do wander
To a grave far, far away,
Where they laid our son and brother,
Just three years ago to-day.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sister and brothers, Wuraming State Mill.

BRITTEN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private L. Britten (Lock), 28th Battalion, who died of wounds, France, on June 13, 1916.

Now the boys are home returning,
And the trials of war are o'er,
Now our hearts are sadly yearning
For our dear brother, who'll come no more.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Will and J. Britten, 566 Newcastle-street.

BRITTEN – In loving memory of our dear cousin, Lock, who died in Epsom War Hospital, London, on June 13, 1916.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by his loving aunt, also cousins Roy Atkins and Mrs Les. Burton.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, WA – 13 June, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Hero

BRITTEN – In Loving memory of our dear Son and Brother, Lachlan (Lock) Britten, died of wounds at Epsom War Hospital, June 13, 1916.

Passing years can never change
Our thought of one so dear.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sister and brothers.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, WA – 14 June, 1937)

*****The above family notices are just SOME of the notices that were placed in the newspapers over the years**

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey, England

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey contains 231 War Burials. There are 182 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 49 of the 1939-1945 war here. 149 of the 1914-18 war burials are located in Plot K. These are commemorated at the North end of the plot on a Screen Wall, upon which are bronze panels bearing the names of those buried in the plot. The bronze panels were provided from a fund held by the Horton (County of London) War Hospital, the Horton Hospital, the Manor (County of London) War Hospital and the Woodcote Park Military Convalescent Hospital.

(Information from CWGC)

There are six soldiers buried in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1. These six soldiers are named on bronze panels on the Screen Wall, within Plot K of the Cemetery. The bronze panels on the Screen Wall have the name, service number, rank, date of death, age & plot number. The plot numbers on the bronze plaques correspond to plaques located in the lawn immediately in front of the Screen Wall. There are 110 plaques on the lawn which do not have individual headstones, unlike most other Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries.



Screen Wall with named bronze panels within Plot K of Epsom Cemetery, Surrey

(Photos courtesy of Kevin Loughnane - Great War Forum)





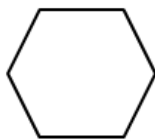
Example showing Pte Cummings in Plot 239 & the Numbered Lawn Plaques in front of Screen Wall

Arrow showing Pte Lachlan Britten's Plot number 82

(Note there are 3 plots numbered 82)



Screen Wall



Cross of Sacrifice

665	690	737	225	90	91	236	746	701	654
664	691	736	226	89	92	237	745	702	653
663	692	735	227	88	93	238	744	703	652
662	693	734	228	87	94	239	743	704	651
661	694	733	229	86	95	240	742	705	690
660	695	732	230	85	96	241	741	706	649
659	696	731	231	84	97	242	740	707	648
658	697	730	232	83	98	243	739	708	647
657	698	729	233	82 *	99	244	738	709	646
656	699	728	234	82 *	100	245	737	710	645
655	700	727	235	82 *	101	246	736	711	644



Lawned plots

Not to scale



Aerial view of the Screen Wall burials

Photo of Pte L. Britten's name on the bronze panels on the Screen Wall in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey, England.

