

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,  
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2628 PRIVATE**

**H. V. BROOKS**

**47TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**5TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 19**

## Harold Vincent BROOKS

Harold Vincent Brooks was born at Peak Crossing, near Ipswich, Queensland in 1895 to parents William and Mary Brooks (nee Deveney).

Harold Vincent Brooks attended school at Peak Mountain, Queensland.

Harold Vincent Brooks was a 21 year old labourer from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 26th September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Brooks, Peak Crossing, Ipswich, Queensland. Harold stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to his eyesight.

Private Harold Vincent Brooks was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 6th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 47th Battalion on 9th October, 1916.

Private Harold Vincent Brooks, Service number 2628, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Marathon* (A74) on 27th October, 1916 with the 47th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

### 47th Battalion

The 47th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 15th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 15th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men recruited in Queensland and Tasmania. The new battalion was incorporated into the 12th Brigade of the Australian Division.....

*(Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Harold Vincent Brooks was marched into 12th Training Battalion from Australia on 10th January, 1917. On 24th January, 1917 he was admitted sick to Hospital - No 14 Camp at Codford. Private Brooks was transferred to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 30th January, 1917 with Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Admitted Hospital suffering from Acute Interstitial Pneumonia – contracted by exposure to cold.....*"

Private Harold Vincent Brooks died at 5.40 a.m. on 5th February, 1917 at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Harold V. Brooks, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Harold Vincent Brooks was buried on 8th February, 1917 in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 40.

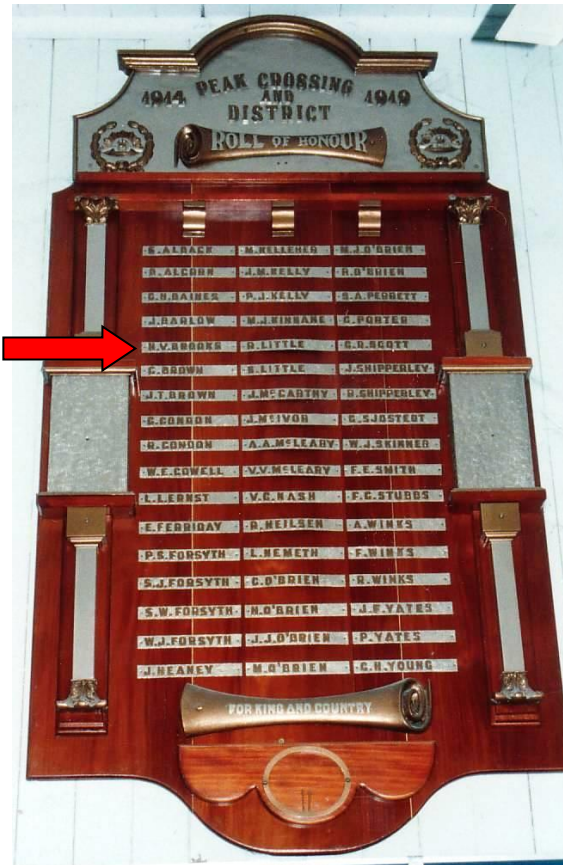
Private Harold Vincent Brooks was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Brooks' father - Wm. Brooks (June, 1922 & August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harold Vincent Brooks – service number 2628, aged 19, of 47th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William & Mary Brooks.

H. V. Brooks is remembered on two Roll of Honour Boards at Peak Crossing, 28 kms south of Ipswich, Queensland.



Peak Crossing Roll of Honour (Brooks H.V. – first name top left)



Peak Crossing Roll of Honour (H.V. Brooks – fifth name on left)



H. V. Brooks is remembered on the Harrisville Memorial Park & Gates, located in Harrisville Memorial Park, Queens Street, Harrisville, Queensland.



Harrisville Memorial Park & Gates (Photos from Monument Australia)





H. Brooks is remembered on the Shire of Normanby Honour Roll, located in School of Arts, Queens Street, Harrisville, Queensland.



Shire of Normanby Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia)

Private H. V. Brooks is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 143.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

(38 pages of Private Harold Vincent Brooks' 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**

### **Personal Notes**

Mr and Mrs W. Brooks, of Peak Crossing, near Ipswich, have received a cablegram to the effect that their son, Private Harold Brooks, has died in Sutton Hospital, England. No further details are available.

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland, Saturday 17th February, 1917)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **CASUALTY LIST NO. 273**

#### **QUEENSLAND**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

H. V. Brooks, Ipswich, 5/2/17

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 20 February, 1917)*

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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 at Codford 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)*

Private H. V. Brooks does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

*(Information from CWGC)*

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00275





*(Photos by Romy Wyeth 2013)*







**New Zealand Section of Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery** (Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)

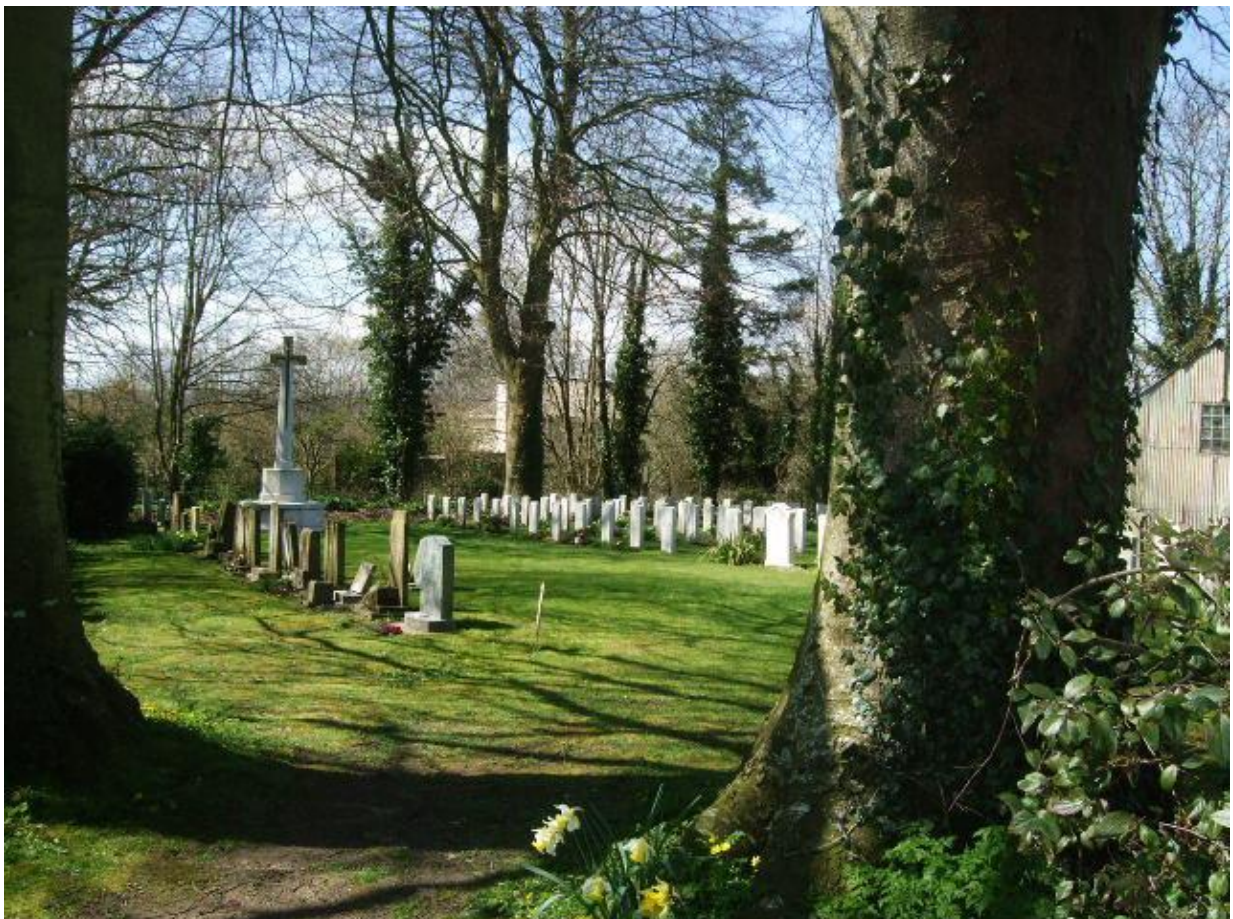




Photo of Private H. V. Brooks' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.

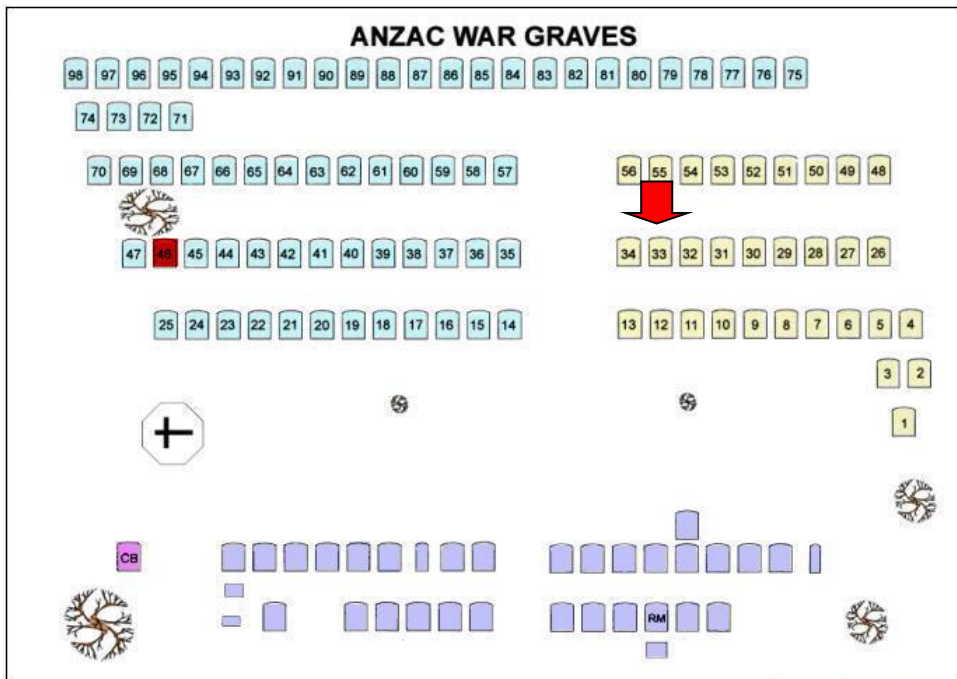


*(Headstone Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*





Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private H. V. Brooks is located in Main Second Row (Right hand side) Grave Plot #33 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 40)



- Australian Soldiers
- New Zealand Soldiers
- UK Soldier
- Welsh Soldier
- Local Burials

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth