

**Grantham Cemetery,
Grantham, Lincolnshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



544 PRIVATE

C. T. BROWN

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

30TH APRIL, 1917

Charles Thomas BROWN

Charles Thomas Brown was born on 25th May, 1883 at Widden Creek, near Denman & Muswellbrook, NSW to mother Elizabeth (no father listed on B.D.M.'s).

Charles Thomas Brown was a 33 year old, single, Farmer from Denman, via Muswellbrook, NSW when he enlisted on 5th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 544 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his step-father – Mr Charles William Easter, Denman P.O., via Muswellbrook, NSW.

Private Charles Thomas Brown was posted to Machine Gun Reinforcements for recruit training then transferred to Machine Gun Depot on 26th August, 1916. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 9th Machine Gun Company on 10th September, 1916.

Private Charles Thomas Brown embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Osterley* on 14th February, 1917 with the 9th Machine Gun Company, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th April, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England.

Private Charles Thomas Brown was marched in to A.M.G.T.D. (Australian Machine Gun Training Depot) at Grantham, Lincolnshire, England on 12th April, 1917.

Private Charles Thomas Brown was sent sick to Belton Hospital, Grantham, Lincolnshire on 23rd April, 1917 with Broncho-pneumonia.

Private Charles Thomas Brown died at 1.50 am on 30th April, 1917 at Belton Military Hospital, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England from Broncho-Pneumonia.

A death for Charles T. Brown, aged 33, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Grantham, Lincolnshire, England.

Private Charles Thomas Brown was buried on 3rd May, 1917 in Grantham Cemetery, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England – Plot/Grave No. 29, Section 4 Blue 2 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Charles Thomas Brown - *Coffin was good, polished coffin. The late Private Brown requested the Chaplain to convey a certain message to his Mother, and his wishes are being attended to. There were no relatives of the deceased by the graveside. A firing party was in attendance and the last post was sounded – a nice wreath was laid on the grave by the members of the Aust. M. Gun Base Depot – the Band of the Imperial M. G. Depot was in attendance.*

Base Records contacted Mr C. W. Easter, Widden Creek Post Office, Denman via Muswellbrook, NSW, registered as the next-of-kin of the late Private C. T. Brown, in April, 1920 to advise that Pte Brown's remains had been exhumed from Grave No. 29, Section 4 Blue 2 & had been re-interred in Grave number 10C, Section 15 of the same Cemetery. Mr Easter was advised that "*This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

Base Records contacted Mr C. W. Easter, Widden Creek Post Office, Denman via Muswellbrook, NSW, in June, 1921 stating that he was registered on the records as the next-of-kin of the late Pte C. T. Brown & asked if there were any nearer blood relatives, specifically if Pte Brown's father or mother were alive, due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Elizabeth Catherine Easter wrote a signed statement, approved by a J.P., on 6th June, 1917, which stated she was the mother of the late Private Charles Thomas Brown & attached her Marriage Certificate to verify her statement. (Elizabeth C. Brown married Charles W. Easter in the district of Denman, NSW in 1884).

Private Charles Thomas Brown 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 Pte C. T. Brown's mother – Mrs Elizabeth C. Easter, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent April, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private C. T. Brown – service number 544, of 9th Battalion, Australian Machine Gun Corps. No family details are listed.

C. Thomas Brown is remembered on the Goulburn River District Roll of Honour, located at Bylong Valley Way, Baerami, NSW.



Goulburn River District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Stephen Woods)

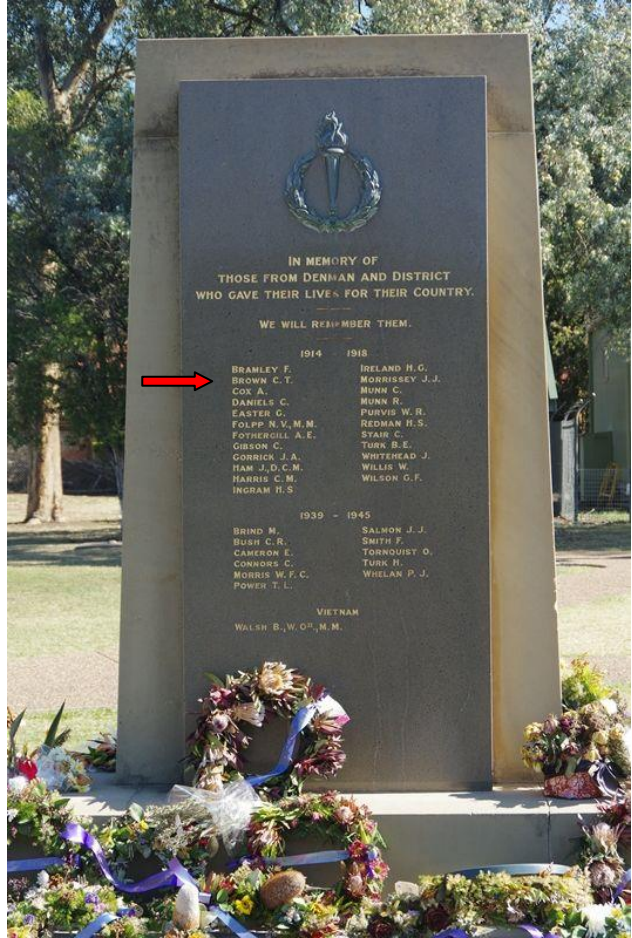
C. Brown is remembered on the Denman Parish Roll of Honour, located in St. Matthias' Anglican Church, 35 Palace Street, Denman, NSW.



Denman Parish Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Russell Byers)



C. T. Brown is remembered on the Denman War Memorial located in Remembrance Park, Paxton Street, Denman, NSW.



Denman War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Russell Byers)

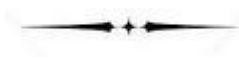
Private C. T. Brown is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 177.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(46 pages of Private Charles Thomas Brown'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 Rol) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

MORE CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES LOSSES

301ST LIST

Died of Illness

Pte C. T. BROWN (Denman) 30/4/17

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 21 May, 1917)

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 from Base Records, dated 4th July, 1921, to Mr C. W. Easter, Widden Creek Post Office, Denman via Muswellbrook, NSW advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte C. T. Brown 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.

Private C. T. Brown does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Grantham Cemetery, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England

During the First World War there were machine gun camps and depots at Belton Park, on the Lincoln Road, and at Grantham a 620 bed military hospital. Most of the First World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but a number of Australian and New Zealand machine gunners are buried together in Section 15. During the Second World War there was a Royal Air Force station at Grantham and there is a small group of RAF graves in Section 17. Other Second World War graves are in a small war graves plot in Section 19, opposite the town's memorial to the civilian war dead, and the remainder are in various other parts of the cemetery. The Cross of Sacrifice is near the eastern side of the cemetery, between sections 2 and 3 and serves as a central memorial to the service men of both wars buried here. Grantham Cemetery contains 55 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 58 from the Second. There is also one Dutch war grave. There are 5 Australian Graves in this Cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Grantham Cemetery *(Photo by Roger Sayer)*



Grantham Cemetery – Australian Plot *(Photo courtesy of Stephen Stapleton)*



Cross of Sacrifice *(Photo by Roger Sayer)*

Photo of Private C. T. Brown's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Grantham Cemetery, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Adam Gadd)

GRANTHAM CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM

WARRAWBY ROAD NG31 9DT

