

**St Nicholas' Churchyard,
Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



131 PRIVATE

R. BURRELL

31ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

30TH APRIL, 1918 Age 23

Roy BURRELL

Roy Burrell was born at Swan Creek, near Warwick, Queensland on 25th November, 1894 to parents James & Lucy Elizabeth Burrell (nee Vernon).

Roy Burrell was a 19 year old, single, Farmer from Anduramba, Crow's Nest, Queensland when he enlisted on 20th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 131 & his religion was Protestant. His next of kin was listed as his J. Burrell, Anduramba, Crow's Nest, Queensland. Roy Burrell stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 12 months with Militia Colonial Forces.

Private Roy Burrell was posted to 2nd Light Horse Regiment on 20th August, 1914 for recruit training.

Private Roy Burrell embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Star of England (A15)* on 24th September, 1914 with the 2nd Light Horse Regiment "A" Squadron.

Private Roy Burrell proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli from Alexandria on 9th May, 1915.

Private Roy Burrell was admitted to Hospital at Gallipoli Peninsula on 3rd September, 1915. He was admitted to St. Andrews Hospital at Malta on 10th September, 1915 with Dysentery. Pte Burrell embarked for England on *Glenart Castle* from St. Andrews Hospital, Malta on 17th November, 1915. He was then listed on *Aquitania* on 25th November, 1915 leaving Mudros for England.

Private Roy Burrell was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England on 4th December, 1915.

Private Roy Burrell arrived at Depot on 8th Mar, 1916. (no further details).

Private Roy Burrell was written up for a Crime - absent without leave from midnight on 4th June, 1916 to 2.30 on 6th June, 1916. He was awarded a forfeiture of 2 days' pay & was confined to Barracks for 7 days.

Private Roy Burrell was transferred from Monte Video, Weymouth to Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 28th June, 1916.

2nd Australian Light Horse Regiment

The 2nd Light Horse Regiment was raised at Enoggera in Queensland on 18 August 1914. Its recruits came mainly from Queensland but some hailed from the northern rivers district of New South Wales. The 2nd was one of three regiments of the 1st Light Horse Brigade - the first Australian mounted formation raised by Australia during the First World War. The regiment sailed from Brisbane on 25 September and disembarked in Egypt on 9 December.

The 2nd Light Horse Regiment deployed to Gallipoli without its horses and landed there on 12 May 1915, joining the New Zealand and Australian Division. It played a defensive role for most of the campaign but did attack the Turkish trenches opposite Quinn's Post, one of the most contested positions along the ANZAC Line. The first assault wave was mown down and fortunately the officer commanding the attack had the wisdom and courage to call it off. The 2nd was withdrawn from the front line in September and left the peninsula on 18 December.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Roy Burrell was transferred to 25th Battalion on 6th September, 1916.

Private Roy Burrell proceeded overseas to reinforce 25th Battalion on 29th September, 1916. He was admitted to Base in France on 2nd October, 1916 from England.

Private Roy Burrell was transferred from 25th Battalion to 31st Battalion on 13th October, 1916 & was taken on strength on 31st Battalion in the Field on 15th October, 1916.

Private Roy Burrell was sent sick to Hospital on 26th March, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 26th March, 1917 with Tonsillitis then transferred the same day to Divisional Rest Station. Pte Burrell was admitted to 5th D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 27th March, 1917 with Tonsillitis then transferred to 8th Field

Ambulance on 29th March, 1917 with Mumps. He was then transferred to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 29th March, 1917 & discharged to duty on 21st April, 1917. Pte Burrell rejoined his Unit on 22nd April, 1917.

Private Roy Burrell was wounded in action on 28th September, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 28th September, 1917 with multiple G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) then transferred & admitted to 10th Casualty Clearing Station on 29th September, 1917. Pte Burrell was transferred by Ambulance Train & admitted to 47th General Hospital at Le Treport, France on 30th September, 1917. He was marked for transfer to England on 4th October, 1917 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Essequibo* on 5th October, 1917.

31st Battalion

The 31st Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane, in August 1915.....In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line allowing the British front to be advanced and the 31st Battalion participated in the follow-up operations. The battalion subsequently missed the heavy fighting to breach the Hindenburg Line during the second battle of Bullecourt as the 8th Brigade was deployed to protect the division's flank. The only large battle in 1917 in which the 31st Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

The War Diary of 31st Battalion records that the Battle of Polygon Wood occurred 26-28th September, 1917.

Private Roy Burrell, of 31st Battalion, was recommended for the Military Medal on 2nd October, 1917 for the following action: *"At Polygon Wood on 26/28th September, 1917, by skilful handling of his section, this Lewis Gunner captured an enemy machine gun. After his gun had been put out of action he cleaned the captured gun and kept it in action for 24 hours until another Lewis Gun was available. Although wounded he remained on duty for several hours and by his courage and devotion to duty kept his section in good spirits."*

Private Roy Burrell was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England on 7th October, 1917 with GSW multiple to right forearm & both legs –severe. He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 2nd November, 1917.

Private Roy Burrell was discharged from 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield to Hurdcott on 25th November, 1917. He was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England on 28th November, 1917.

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

Private Roy Burrell was awarded the Military Medal. (*London Gazette* – 17 December, 1917 & *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 2 May, 1918).

Military Medal

The Military Medal (MM) was a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other arms of the armed forces, and to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914, and was awarded to other ranks for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire". The award was discontinued in 1993 when it was replaced by the Military Cross. (*Wikipedia*)



Obverse and reverse of medal

Private Roy Burrell was sent sick to Brigade Hospital at Hurdcott on 2nd March, 1918 with an ulcer of leg. He was marched back in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott from Hospital on 1st April, 1918.

Private Roy Burrell was admitted to Military Hospital, Endell Street, London, England on 23rd April, 1918 with Pneumonia & was reported as seriously ill.

Private Roy Burrell died at 7 am on 30th April, 1918 at Military Hospital, Endell Street, London, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Roy Burrell, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of St. Giles, Gloucestershire, England.

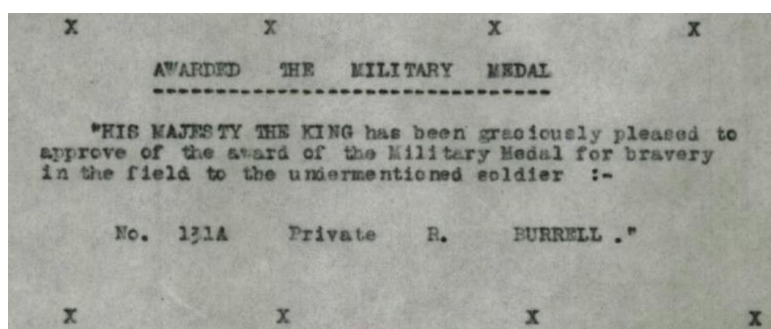
Private Roy Burrell was buried at 2 pm on 6th May, 1918 in St. Nicholas Churchyard, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, England – Plot number 697 (Private Grave) and has a shared Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Private Roy Burrell - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party and Band being in attendance. The coffin was conveyed from the residence of the Uncle of the deceased in a hearse and 3 mourning coaches followed. A service was conducted in the Church and at the graveside by Rev. J. Bateman, C. of E. Curate in Charge, St. Nicholas Church, Beverley. The "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of the East Yorks Regt. The funeral arrangements were made by the relatives in Beverley did not admit of a representative of Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, being present.*

Names of Relatives or Friend present at the Funeral – Uncle and Aunt – Mr & Mrs Vernon, 76 Beaver Road, Beverley, and other relatives.

Newspaper item – Darling Downs Gazette, Queensland – 2 August, 1918:

Mr and Mrs J. Burrell, Anduramba, Crow's Nest, have received a "Beverley Record" containing an account of the funeral of their only son, Roy, as follows: "We regret to state that Private Roy Burrell, M.C. (Australians), nephew of Councillor W. H. Vernon, of Beverley, and Mrs A. E. Walker, of Grovehill, died of pneumonia, following wounds, on April 30, in Endell-street Military Hospital, London. Deceased was in Beverley as recently as January last, and he had been right through the Dardanelles campaign, and subsequently in France, where he was wounded. He was taken ill again in London when he went to receive his Military Cross, which he had been awarded. The remains were laid to rest on Monday afternoon with full military honours in St. Nicholas' Churchyard. The coffin was of polished oak, and was covered with the Union Jack, surmounted with wreaths. It was borne to the grave on the shoulder of a bearer party consisting of six soldiers, and a firing party at the graveside fired three volleys as the coffin was lowered into the grave. The 'Last Post' was then sounded. The Rev. H. W. Joseph Bateman, priest in charge at St. Nicholas' Church officiated, and the service in the church was choral. The cortege started from the house of Councillor Vernon, Beaver-road, to the strains of Grieg's 'Funeral March,' played by the local military band. The funeral was attended by a large number of people, who expressed the deepest sympathy at the fate of the young soldier. Miss Burrell, Wharf-terrace, Sandgate, is a sister of the deceased soldier.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Burrell, Farmer, Anduramba, Crows Nest, Queensland on 31st May, 1918, father of the late Private Roy Burrell : "I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Third Supplement No. 30431 to the London Gazette, dated 14th December, 1917, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by the late No. 131 Private R. Burrell, 31st Battalion.



The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 66, dated 2nd May, 1918.”

Private Roy Burrell requested in his Will dated 8th April, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his property and effects be given to his mother L. E. Burrell, Anduramba, Crows Nest, Queensland, Australia. A later Will dated 8th June, 1917 bequeathed all his personal estate to his mother Mrs Lucy E. Burrell, Anduramba, Crows Nest, Queensland, Australia.

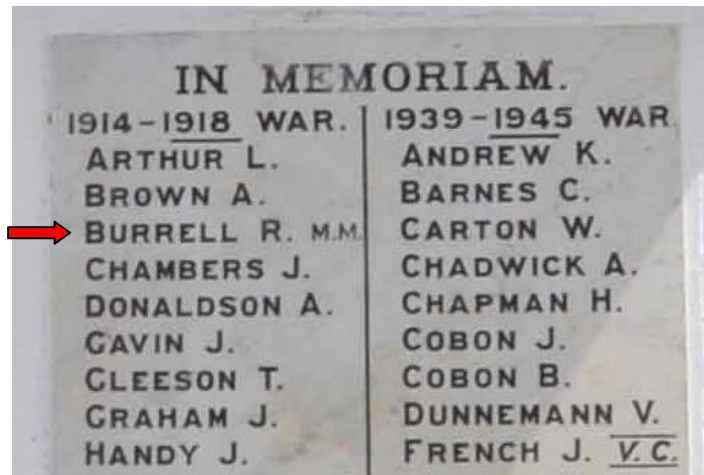
Private Roy Burrell was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Burrell’s father – Mr J. Burrell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Roy Burrell – service number 131, aged 23, of 31st Battalion, Australian Infantry. Awarded M M. He was the son of James and Lucy Elizabeth Burrell, of Anduramba, Queensland.

R. Burrell is remembered on the Crows Nest War Memorial, located in Centenary Park, William Street, Crows Nest, Queensland.



Crows Nest War Memorial (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride)



Private R. Burrell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 118.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(69 pages of Private Roy Burrell'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



(The Queenslander Pictorial, 31 July, 1915)

Newspaper Notices

PERSONAL

CROWS NEST, Friday

Mr J. Burrell received the following from the Base Records, Melbourne, during the week:- "Now reported that Private Roy Burrell has been admitted to First Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England, October 7, with gunshot wounds in arms and legs, multiple, severe."

(*Toowoomba Chronicle*, Queensland – 5 November, 1917) & (*The Daily Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 6 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

350TH CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Pte Roy Burrell, Crow's Nest

(*Darling Downs Gazette*, Queensland – 6 November, 1917)

WAR NEWS

ROLL OF HONOR

CASUALTY LIST No. 405

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Roy Burrell, M.M., Anduramba.

(*The Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 1 June, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BURRELL – In loving memory of my dear brother Roy, who died of pneumonia on 30th April, 1918, aged 23 years.

When duty first called he nobly answered,

Manly, unselfish and brave,

And now he lies sleeping in peace, perfect peace.

Inserted by his loving sister Maude.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 5 July, 1918)

PERSONAL NOTES

Mr and Mrs J. Burrell, Anduramba, Crow's Nest, have received a "Beverley Record" containing an account of the funeral of their only son, Roy, as follows: "We regret to state that Private Roy Burrell, M.C. (Australians), nephew of Councillor W. H. Vernon, of Beverley, and Mrs A. E. Walker, of Grovehill, died of pneumonia, following wounds, on April 30, in Endell-street Military Hospital, London. Deceased was in Beverley as recently as January last, and he had been right through the Dardanelles campaign, and subsequently in France, where he was wounded. He was taken ill again in London when he went to receive his Military Cross, which he had been awarded. The remains were laid to rest on Monday afternoon with full military honours in St. Nicholas' Churchyard.

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 10 August, 1918)

CROW'S NEST

ANDURAMA EVENTS

The annual Sunday School picnic was held in St Hidd's church ground on January 8th.....Special prize donated by the late Private Roy Burrell, M.M. was won by Edna Richter.....

(Darling Downs Gazette, Queensland – 18 January, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BURRELL – In loving memory of our dear son, Pte Roy Burrell, who died at Endell-street Military Hospital, April 30th, 1918.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, and sisters, J. L. F. C. M. and W. Burrell

BURRELL – In loving memory of our dear nephew, Pte Roy Burrell, who died at Endell-street Military Hospital, April 30th, 1918.

When peace dawns o'er the country's side,

Our thanks shall be to the lads who died;

Oh quiet Heart, can you hear us tell,

How the victory was won by the men who fell?

Inserted by his loving uncle, aunt, and cousins, H. A. G. and R. Holland.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 1 May, 1919)

CROW'S NEST

The annual Sunday School picnic in connection with St. Hilda's Church of England, Anduramba, was held on Thursday....In the absence of Rev. S. Atherton, the prizes were distributed by Miss Burrell, Superintendent of the Sunday School.... A special prize, donated in memory of the late Private Roy Burrell, M.M., was won by Annie Black. The concert and dance arranged for the evening had to be abandoned on account of the weather. Instead a musical evening was spent at the residence of Mr and Mrs Jas. Burrell.

(Toowoomba Chronicle, Queensland – 30 January, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BURRELL – In loving memory of Pte Roy Burrell, 31st Battalion, who died at Endell-street Military Hospital, April 30th, 1918.

Also Pte Vernon Holland, who was killed at Gallipoli May 8th, 1915, cousin of the above.

They have finished their part, but we must keep on,

Trying like them to be brave;

Our sacrifice is what we have lost,

Theirs in what they gave.

Inserted by their loving parents, sisters and relatives.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 30 April, 1920)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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 Roy Burrell has a shared Private Headstone.

St. Nicholas Churchyard, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, England

There are seven Commonwealth War Graves in St. Nicholas Churchyard – all from World War 1.



(Photo by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)



St. Nicholas Church, Beverley (Photo by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)



Photo of Private Roy Burrell's shared Private Headstone in St. Nicholas Churchyard, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, England.



(Headstone Photos by Iain MacFarlane – Find a Grave)

*In
Loving Memory
Of
Pte ROY BURRELL M.M.
Son Of
JAMES & LUCY ELIZABETH BURRELL
Of Crowns Nest, Queensland,
Who Died at Endell Street Military Hospital
April 30, 1918, Aged 23 Years*



