

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1228 PRIVATE

M. E. BYRNE

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD FEBRUARY, 1919

Michael Edward BYRNE

Michael Edward Byrne was born at Liverpool, Sydney, New South Wales in 1881 to parents John & Mary Ann Byrne (nee Quinn).

John Byrne, father of Michael Edward Byrne, died on 31st January, 1889.

Michael Edward Byrne attended school at Liverpool Convent, Sydney, NSW.

Mary Ann Byrne, mother of Michael Edward Byrne, remarried in 1894. She married Andrew John McFarlane.

Michael Edward Byrne was a 34 year old, single, Drover from Madrie Station, Roeburne, Western Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 19th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1228 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. MacFarlane, Liverpool, Sydney, NSW.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was posted to 16th Depot Company on 19th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Company of 32nd Battalion on 16th August, 1915.

Private Michael Edward Byrne embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Geelong (A2)* on 18th November, 1915 (as per Embarkation Roll) with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion "D" Company. He disembarked at Suez on 18th December, 1915.

[Note: The Purport form (page 96/114) in the Service Record file for Private Michael Edward Byrne recorded he embarked from Fremantle on H.M.A.T. *Katuna* on 28th November, 1915.]

Private Michael Edward Byrne was absent from 8.45 & 14.45 Parades on 17th March, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir & 6.45 Parade on 18th March, 1916. He was awarded 3 days Confined to Camp & forfeited 2 days' pay.

Private Michael Edward Byrne embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked from *Transylvania* at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was written up on 6th July, 1916 for 1. Drunkenness & 2. A.W.L. from 09.15 until arrested at 21.50. He was awarded 28 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 1 days' pay on 10th July, 1916.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance on 20th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Wrist then transferred & admitted the same day to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station with G.S.W. to left Hand. Private Byrne was transferred to Ambulance Train on 20th July, 1916 & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 21st July, 1916. He was transferred to 1st Convalescent Depot at Boulogne, France on 22nd July, 1916 & discharged to Base Details on 26th July, 1916.

32nd Battalion

The 32nd Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Mitcham, on the outskirts of Adelaide, on 9 August 1915. Only two companies were raised from South Australian enlistees - another two were formed in Western Australia and joined the battalion at the end of September. The battalion sailed from Adelaide on 18 November 1915.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt, and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916. The 32nd Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19 July 1916, having only entered the front-line trenches 3 days previously. The attack was a disastrous introduction to battle for the 32nd - it suffered 718 casualties, almost 75 per cent of the battalion's total strength, but closer to 90 per cent of its actual fighting strength. Although it still spent periods in the front line, the 32nd played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Michael Edward Byrne was posted to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 27th July, 1916. He proceeded to join his Unit from 5th A.D.B.D. on 8th August, 1916 & rejoined 32nd Battalion in France on 15th August, 1916.

Mrs M. McFarlane, Liverpool, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 13th August, 1916 that her son Private Michael E. Byrne was wounded. She was advised on 21st August, 1916 that Private M. E. Byrne had been admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital on 21st July, 1916 suffering from a gunshot wound to wrist (mild).

Private Michael Edward Byrne received a fractured right Leg on 21st November, 1916 which occurred in the Trenches while in the performance of military duty (carrying water) and was not to blame. He was admitted to 14th Field Ambulance (M.O.S Camp) on 22nd November, 1916 with fractured right Leg. Private Byrne was transferred to Rouen & embarked on Hospital Ship *West Australia* for England on 30th November, 1916 with fracture of Fibula & Tibia.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was admitted to American Women's War Hospital at Devonport, England on 1st December, 1916 with fractured leg "slight". He was transferred to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital at Southall, England on 26th January, 1917. Private Byrne was discharged from Southall on 15th February, 1917 & marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on the same day.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was posted to No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset on 16th February, 1917 with a fractured right Leg. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Middle & lower thigh still in light plaster – Massage. To leave off Plaster. To use stick 22 2/17 Still stiff & swollen. 5 3/17 Improved...17 5/17 Trying massage after March slight swollen*"

Private Michael Edward Byrne was sent sick to Isolation Hospital on 4th April, 1917 then admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 6th April, 1917 with V.D. He was discharged (total period 32 days) & marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 5th May, 1917.

Private Michael Edward Byrne proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 10th June, 1917 from H. & D. (Hardening & Drafting) Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 11th June, 1917. Private Byrne was marched out to his Unit from 5th A.D.B.D. on 25th June, 1917 & rejoined 32nd Battalion in the Field on 1st July, 1917.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 8.30 am to 9.30 pm on 23rd July, 1917. He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 8 days' pay.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 8.30 am to 10 pm on 4th August, 1917. He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 2. "*Award runs concurrently with award of 7 days F.P. No. 2 on 2/8/17. Total forfeiture 10 days' pay.*"

Private Michael Edward Byrne was sent to 43rd Field Ambulance on 12th October, 1917. He was admitted with Bronchitis then transferred to 37th Casualty Clearing Station on 16th October, 1917. Private Byrne was transferred to No. 19 Ambulance Train on 17th October, 1917 & admitted to 22nd General Hospital at Camiers, France on 18th October, 1917 with Bronchitis. He was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* on 5th November, 1917.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was admitted to Tooting Military Hospital, Church Lane, England on 5th November, 1917 with Bronchitis – severe. He was discharged to furlo on 21st November, 1917 until 5th December, 1917 & was then to report to Depot at Sutton Veny.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Mrs M. McFarlane, Liverpool, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 3rd December, 1917 that Private M. E. Byrne had been admitted to Tooting Military Hospital, London on 5th November, 1917 suffering from bronchitis – severe.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was reported as A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) on 6th December, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England. He returned from A.W.L. on 19th December, 1917.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was written up for an Offence by No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire – A.W.L. from 3.30 pm on 6th December, 1917 until 5 pm on 19th December, 1917. He was awarded 28 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeiture of 42 days' pay from 20th December, 1917

Private Michael Edward Byrne was reclassified medically as B1 A2 (fit for Overseas Training Camp in 3 – 4 weeks) while posted at No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. He was medically classified as A3 (medically & dentally fit) on 8th January, 1918.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was marched out from No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 19th February, 1918 & marched in to Overseas Training Brigade, Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire the same day.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was written up for an Offence at Sandhill on 6th March, 1918 - A.W.L. from midnight on 5th March, 1918 until 4 pm on 6th March, 1918. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 8 days' pay.

Private Michael Edward Byrne proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 2nd April, 1918 from Overseas Training Brigade, Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire. He was marched in to A.I.B.D (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre from England on 3rd April, 1918. Private Byrne was marched out to his Unit on 6th April, 1918 & rejoined 32nd Battalion in the Field on 10th April, 1918.

Mrs Helen Harris, Edwardstown East, Clarence Post Office, South Australia, wrote to Base Records in May, 1918 with the following: *"Can you give me any information concerning Private Michael Edward Byrne 32 Battalion D. Company, Number 1228 was in Cheltenham Camp South Australia. He came from Western Australia with other soldiers to make required number of soldiers who sailed from Adelaide on 18th November 1915. I last heard of he was wounded and in the American Women's Hospital ____ London. Any information will be gratefully received & oblige."*

Base Records replied to Mrs H. Harris on 29th May, 1918 stating that Private Byrne had been discharged from hospital on 21st November, 1917 & granted furlough until 5th December, 1917 & was then to report to Sutton Veny. *"As no later information has been received, it is reasonable to assume he has rejoined his Unit there now."*

Private Michael Edward Byrne was attached to 5th Australian Mobile Veterinary Section from 24th August, 1918 & ceased to be attached on 13th October, 1918.

32nd Battalion

Unlike some AIF battalions, the 32nd had a relatively quiet time during the German Spring Offensive of 1918 as the 5th Division was largely kept in reserve. The Allies launched their own offensive with the battle of Amiens on 8 August, in which the 32nd Battalion participated. It was subsequently involved in the operations that continued to press the retreating Germans through August and into September. The 32nd fought its last major action of the war between 29 September and 1 October when the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions and two American divisions attacked the Hindenburg Line across the top of the 6-kilometre-long St Quentin Canal tunnel; the canal was a major obstacle in the German defensive scheme.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Michael Edward Byrne proceeded from the Field in France on 14th January, 1919 for England for Return to Australia. He was posted to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France on 20th January, 1919.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was posted to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 21st January, 1919 at part of 1915 Personnel.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was admitted to Queen Alexandria Military Hospital – Barrack Section, London, England on 26th January, 1919 – dangerously ill with Pneumonia.

Private Michael Edward Byrne died at 11.10 pm on 3rd February, 1919 at Queen Alexandria Military Hospital, (Barrack Extension), Millbank, London, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Michael E. Byrne, aged 38, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of St. George Hanover Square, London, England.

Mrs M. McFarlane, Liverpool, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 5th February, 1919 that Private Michael Byrne was dangerously ill.

Private Michael Edward Byrne was buried on 8th February, 1919 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 182868.

From the burial report of Private Michael Edward Byrne - Coffin was good. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and conveyed to the graveside, where the "Last Post" was sounded, and the last rites of the Roam Catholic church, were performed by the Rev: Father Mahon, R.C. of the A.I.F. London. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Private Michael Edward Byrne's grave is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. M. 2. Private Michael Edward Byrne has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Michael Edward Byrne, No. 1228, "D" Company, 32nd Battalion, A.I.F. wrote on 24th July, 1917 *"I have no desire to make a will."*

Private Michael Edward Byrne, No. 1228, 32nd Battalion, A.I.F., requested in his Will dated 17th November, 1917 that the whole of his Real & Personal Estate to be given to Helen Norrish Harris. Executor of the Will was nominated as George Harris, Everard Avenue, Keswick, South Australia (Labourer).

Mrs M. A. McFarlane, George Street, Liverpool, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 3rd February, 1919 (received by Base Records 6th March, 1919) with the following: *"I have received word that my son Private Michael Edward Byrne, 1228, died in Queen Alexandra Military Hospital Millbank London 3/2/19. Would you please let me know who is drawing the allotment. Has he enlisted in W. Australia, or if there is any record of any will and could you let me how I could get shots of the grave"*

Base Records replied to Mrs M. McFarlane on 8th March, 1919 to advise that the financial matters would be dealt with the Military Paymaster, Perth & they had no knowledge of a Will. The request for a photograph of the grave of her late son had *"been referred to A.I.F. Headquarters, London, for compliance if possible."*

Helen Harris, Edward Street, Edwardstown East, South Australia, wrote to Base Records (letter undated but received by Base Records on 21st July, 1919) with the following *"Please can you give me any information concerning Private Michael Edward Byrne Number 1228 who enlisted in West Australia in the 32 Battalion sailed from South Australia November 18th 1915 in the D Company last hear from him he was in England expecting to sail from England any day for South Australia."*

Mrs Helen Harris, Edward Street, Edwardstown East, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 26th July, 1919 with the following: *"Re Michael Edward Byrne late 32nd Battalion I have received notice from you through my sister D. M. Small that his Mother has put in a claim for next of kin well that's the first time I ever heard of Michael's mother being alive as he was a friend of my husbands for 20 years and he always told us his people was dead. I hold the last will he made before leaving Australia would you kindly inform me if there was one made at a date later than November 17th 1915 I also have a letter which he wrote telling me if anything happened I was to get his money and in all his letters he never once said about his Mother while in England waiting to embark for Australia he wrote telling us he was coming to Australia to live with us and to expect a cable as he was going to cable the day he left England he also told my mother & sister that our Mother was his as he had nobody to write or send him parcels hoping an early reply as I am anxious to know results & oblige."*

Base Records replied to Mrs Harris on 31st July, 1919 stating that the late No. 1228 Private M. E. Byrne, 32nd Battalion *"nominated as his next-of-kin his mother residing in New South Wales. The late soldier left a statement to the effect that he had no desire to make a Will. As you state you hold a Will of deceased you are requested to*

forward same or Probate if taken out, to this office for notation so that his military affairs may be dealt with in accordance with his testamentary instructions. The document will then be passed to the Military Paymaster, Perth, W.A., for similar action and return to you."

Mrs Helen Harris, Edward Street, Edwardstown East, Clarence Park Post Office, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 6th August, 1919 with the following: "*Your letter I received of 31st July and am forwarding the will to you re Michael Edward Byrne Number 1228 of 32nd Battalion hoping you received same safely the last letter I received from Michael Byrne was on January 19th saying he was coming home any time hoping you received will safely and every thing alright."*

An inventory of the personal effects of the late Private Michael Edward Byrne were addressed to his mother Mrs Mary McFarlane, Liverpool, NSW. However, Base Records advised Mrs H. N. Harris, Edward Street, Edwardstown East, Clarence Park P.O. South Australia, on 23rd August, 1919 that a package would be despatched to her containing the personal effects of the late Private Michael Edward Byrne. Mrs Harris signed, as receipt, for the personal effects on 29th August, 1919.

Mrs M. A. McFarlane, George Street, Liverpool, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 15th October, 1919 with the following: "*Could you oblige me by telling what part of Western Australia did my son Private M. E. Byrne, 1228, enlist in he died in Military Queen Alexandra Hospital London 3rd Feb this year. Or how can I find out where he enlisted in. I would also like to know have anything of the belonging be returned or ___they go to where he enlisted."*

Base Records replied to Mrs M. A. McFarlane on 18th October, 1919 stating that her son, "*the late No. 1228 Private M. E. Byrne, 32nd Battalion enlisted at Black Boy Hill, West Australia on 19/7/15. Under a Will of deceased, the sole legatee is shown as Mrs H. N. Harris, Edward St, Edwardstown East, Clarence Park, S.A. to whom a package of personal effects was forwarded on 23/8/19. Anything further coming to hand would if necessity be likewise transmitted."*

Mrs M. A. McFarlane, George Street, Liverpool, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 27th October, 1919: "*Could you tell me why Mrs Harris of Edwardstown, South Australia, received my son – Private M. E. Byrne – personal belongings, when I am he next of kin. She has no rights to them. I would be much oblige if you would tell me what she received and if I could get them. My son died in Queen Alexandra Hospital, London, on the 3rd February."*

Base Records replied to Mrs M. A. McFarlane on 1st December, 1919 stating that the effects of her son were forwarded to Mrs H. N. Harris, Edwardstown East, South Australia on the 23rd August, 1919, "*Mrs Harris being prescribed as sole legatee under the late soldier's Will – as advised in my communication of the 18th October. The abovementioned package contained , according to the inventory: Letters, Photos, Post Cards, 2 Badges, 1 Cigarette Case, 1 Mirror, 1 Coin, 1 Pinse (?) 1 Cigarette Holder. As the late soldier bequeathed the whole of his personal estate, as well as real estate, to Mrs Harris, that lady is the only person entitled to his effects, and unless she consents to hand your son's personal effects over to you it is impossible for you to obtain the abovementioned articles."*

Base Records contacted Mrs M. McFarlane, George Street, Liverpool, NSW on 20th December, 1921 stating she was noted on the records as the next of kin if the late No. 1228 Private M. E. Byrne, but were enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still 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.

Mrs M. A. McFarlane replied to Base Records on 27th December, 1920 stating "*...I am the next of kin, the father is dead, the eldest brother is John Byrne & the eldest sister living is Katie McInemey, 18 Macauley Rd, Stanmore."*

Private Michael Edward Byrne was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Byrne's mother - Mrs M. A. McFarlane, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Michael Edward Byrne – service number 1228, of 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

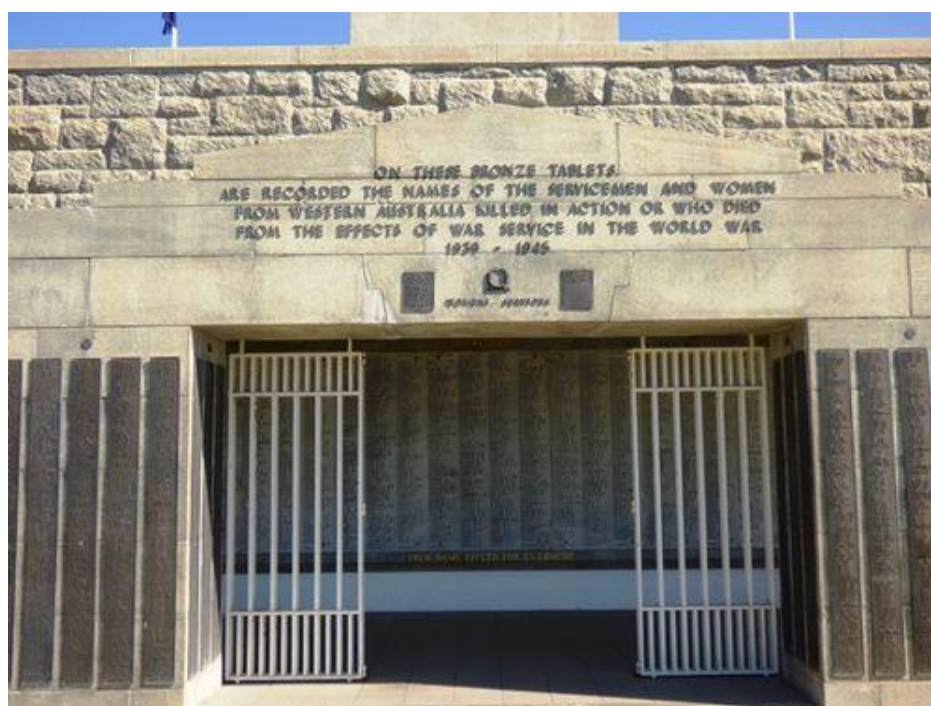
M. E. Byrne is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica 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 (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

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



(114 pages of Private Michael Edward Byrne'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



Newspaper Notices

MEEKATHARRA VOLUNTEERS

The following is a list of men who have volunteered from Meekatharra:-

.....

Michael Edward Byrne

.....

(Meekatharra Miner, Western Australia – 24 July, 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

199TH CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

M. E. Byrne (Liverpool, New South Wales)

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 28 August, 1916)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

250TH CASUALTY LIST

RETURNED TO DUTY

M. E. Byrne (Liverpool, New South Wales)

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 15 December, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 377

Western Australia

ILL

M. E. Byrne (ser)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 January, 1918)

N.S.W. CASUALTIES

Many III

List No. 458

ILL

Pte M. E. BYRNE (Liverpool), 2nd

(*Australian Town and Country Journal*, Sydney, NSW – 26 February, 1919)

“OF THE BOYS”

Last week Mrs. Andrew M'Farline, of George-street, Liverpool, received the sad news that her second eldest son, Michael Edward Byrne, had succumbed to an attack of pneumonia in the Queen Alexandria Military Hospital, Millbank, London, on January 28. Private Byrne enlisted in West Australia in January, 1915, and in the many engagements in Gallipoli and in France was twice wounded and gassed. Private Byrne was born in Liverpool 39 years ago, and received his education at St. Mary's convent school. He was employed at Warwick Farm in the days of that great trainer William Forrester, but 19 years ago went to West Australia, where he blossomed as a trainer for W. E. Connolly and prepared Blue Spec for his Melbourne Cup victory. His brother, Trooper Jack Byrne, of the 7th Australian Light Horse, an original Anzac, returned home on furlough recently. He was wounded, on four occasions. Mr. and Mrs. M'Farline had the misfortune to lose their son, Private Charlie M'Farline, in the early stages of the war. Still another son, Baden, the youngest, is expected home shortly. Much sympathy is expressed for the bereaved family, so well known in the Liverpool district.

(*The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, Parramatta, NSW – 22 February, 1919) & (*Freeman's Journal*, Sydney, NSW – 27 February, 1919)

Australia's War Losses

THE 460th CASUALTY LIST

N.S.W. MEN IN OTHER STATES

DIED OTHER CAUSES

S – Pte M. E. Byrne (Liverpool), cause of death not stated, p.r.i.

(*The Farmer and Settler*, Sydney, NSW – 7 March, 1919)

RETURN THANKS

Mr and Mrs ANDREW McFARLINE and FAMILY, Liverpool, desire to return their sincere THANKS to all kind friends for letters, telegrams and messages of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement by the death of their son and brother, Private Michael Edward Byrne, died from illness February 3. 1919.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 19 April, 1919)

Private Michael E. Byrne is named on the Byrne Family Headstone, located in Liverpool Pioneers' Memorial Park, 1 – 15 Macquarie Street, Liverpool, Sydney, NSW.



(Photo courtesy Liverpool City Council)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Erica Knower 2021)

Also Pte MICHAEL E. BYRNE

Son of the Above

Died at Military Hospital, London

3RD Feb 1919

Aged 39 Years

R.I.P.

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 was sent from Base Records, dated 5th July, 1921, to Mrs M. McFarlane, George Street, Liverpool, NSW, advising that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late No. 1228 Private M. E. Byrne, 32nd Battalion, 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.

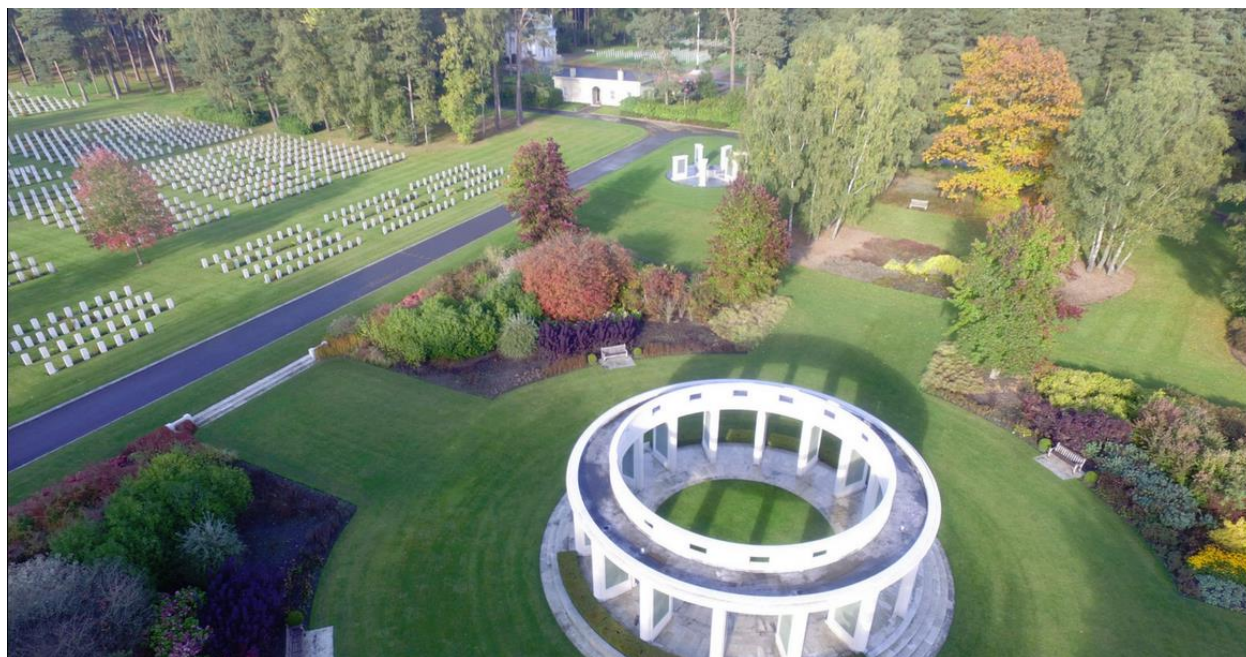
Private M. E. Byrne does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



Brookwood Military Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo by Magicfingers)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.

Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private M. E. Byrne's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo by Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

