

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,  
East Sussex, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6246 PRIVATE**

**H. M. CAIN**

**11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**26TH JUNE, 1917**

*He Gave His Life*

*For Home And Empire*

*Always Trusting In The Lord*

## Harold Mervyn CAIN

Harold Mervyn Cain was born at Thomsonsbrook/Thomson's Brook, Western Australia on 29th November, 1893 to parents Henry and Charlotte Sarah Cain (nee Gardiner).

Harold Mervyn Cain attended school at Brookhampton, Western Australia.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Swan, subdivision of Collie, Western Australia listed Harold Mervyn Cain, Farm Hand, of Thomson's Brook.

Harold Mervyn Cain was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Bunbury, Western Australia when he enlisted at Black Boy Hill on 12th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6246 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr H. Cain, Thomson Brook, Western Australia.

Private Harold Mervyn Cain was posted to 62nd Depot on 12th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 21st Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 1st May, 1916 then transferred to 20th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 22nd July, 1916.

Private Harold Mervyn Cain embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 18th September, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd November, 1916.

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.

Private Harold Mervyn Cain proceeded overseas via Folkestone on 21st December, 1916 on SS *Princess Clementine* from 3rd Training Battalion ("C" Company) at Perham, Downs, Wiltshire. He joined 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 22nd December, 1916. Private Cain was taken on strength of 11th Battalion in the Field on 7th February, 1917 from Reinforcements & was posted to "B" Company.

Private Harold Mervyn Cain was wounded in action in France on 6th May, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Field Ambulance on 6th May, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to head & skull fracture. Private Cain was transferred & admitted to 1st Canadian General Hospital, France on 7th May, 1917. He was transferred to Calais, France on 24th May, 1917 & embarked the same day to England on Hospital Ship *Newhaven*.

### 11th Battalion

The 11th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and with the 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 11th Battalion returned to Egypt. It was split to help form the 51st Battalion, and then bought up to strength with reinforcements.

In March 1916, the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres, the battalion manned trenches near Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme valley for winter.

In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line. During a German counterattack at Louverval, France, in April 1917 Lieutenant Charles Pope was killed performing the deed for which he would be awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. The battalion subsequently returned to Belgium to participate in the offensive that became known as the Third Battle of Ypres.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

## War Diary – 11th Battalion

6th May, 1917

*At 0100 the enemy again made an infantry attack after a similar demonstration of lights. On this occasion our artillery did not respond to the enemy's lights And no response was made to S.O.S. signals when fired from our own line. This attack was eventually beaten off by machine-gun. Lewis-gun & rifle fire & rifle grenades. The enemy inflicted several casualties with egg bombs.*

*At 0500 the enemy made a third attack, he was stopped from making a frontal attack, by our artillery barrage which opened at 0503. But he attacked from the right flank using flamenwerfer and bombs. In O.G. 2 after driving in the driving in the right flank post for 30 yds he was checked and was held up by our post situated in No 1 Saf (?) In OG 1 however he succeeded in driving the garrison back to the sunken road in U 29. The garrison immediately re-organised, and delivered a counter attack, which was successful in driving the enemy out and we reorganised the whole of our former line (See Narrative of Operations 5th 6th 7th May attached).*

*During these attacks the battalion suffered heavy casualties. (see List attached) including Lieut V. B. DANIELS killed and Captain R. HEMINGWAY, J. P. O'NEIL and A. BURGESS, and 2/Lieutenants H. COLVIN and L. L. SUMMERS wounded.*

*Throughout the day the line was subjected to spasmodic bombardments.*

*The night was fairly quiet.*

*The C.O. visited the line at 1130, and was wounded in the hand, but remained on duty.*

*2/Lt G. CAMPBELL reported back from hospital and remained at H12b9 9.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Harold Mervyn Cain was admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, England on 24th May, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to head – severe.



Private Harold Mervyn Cain died on 26th June, 1917 at Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from wounds – Cerebro Abscess following G.S.W. Skull & Meningitis.

A death for Harold M. Cain, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

Private Harold Mervyn Cain was buried on 29th June, 1917 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIF. 101 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Harold Mervyn Cain was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Cain's father - Mr H. Cain, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harold Mervyn Cain – service number 6246, of 11th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Charlotte Sarah Cain, of Thomsons Brook, Western Australia.

Private H. M. Cain is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 61.



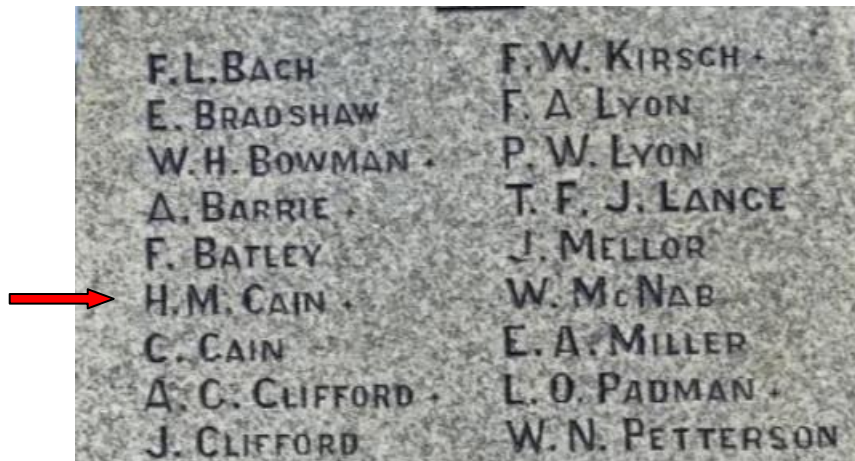
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

H. M. Cain is remembered on the Brookhampton War Memorial, located next to Brookhampton Hall, Brookhampton Road, Brookhampton, Western Australia. The Brookhampton War Memorial was erected in the grounds of Brookhampton Hall in 1919 to commemorate the men from the Thomson's Brook district who had served in World War I (1914-18).





**Brookhampton War Memorial** (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride by Donnybrook RSL)



**Brookhampton War Memorial**

H. M. Cain is remembered on the Preston Road Board District Honour Roll for World War 1, which is located in Donnybrook Memorial Hall, Bentley Street, Donnybrook, Western Australia.



Preston Road Board District Honour Roll for World War 1 (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride by Donnybrook RSL)

H. M. Cain is remembered on the Donnybrook War Memorial, located on South Western Highway, Donnybrook, Western Australia.



Donnybrook War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride by Donnybrook RSL)





**Donnybrook War Memorial**

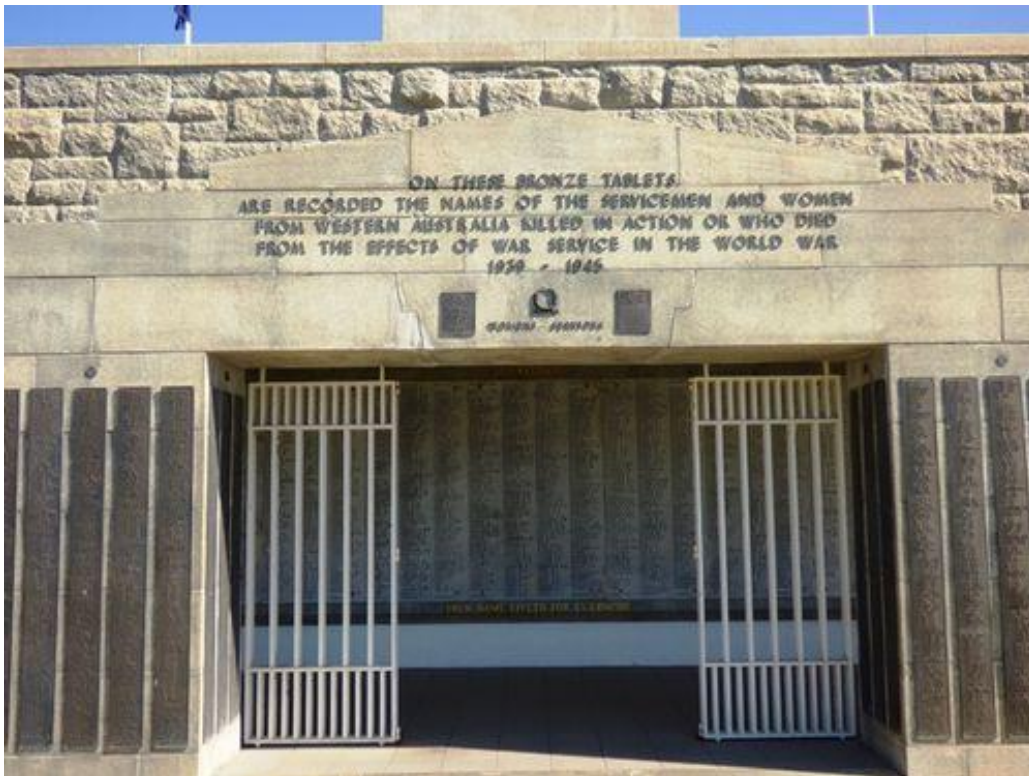
H. M. Cain is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica 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**

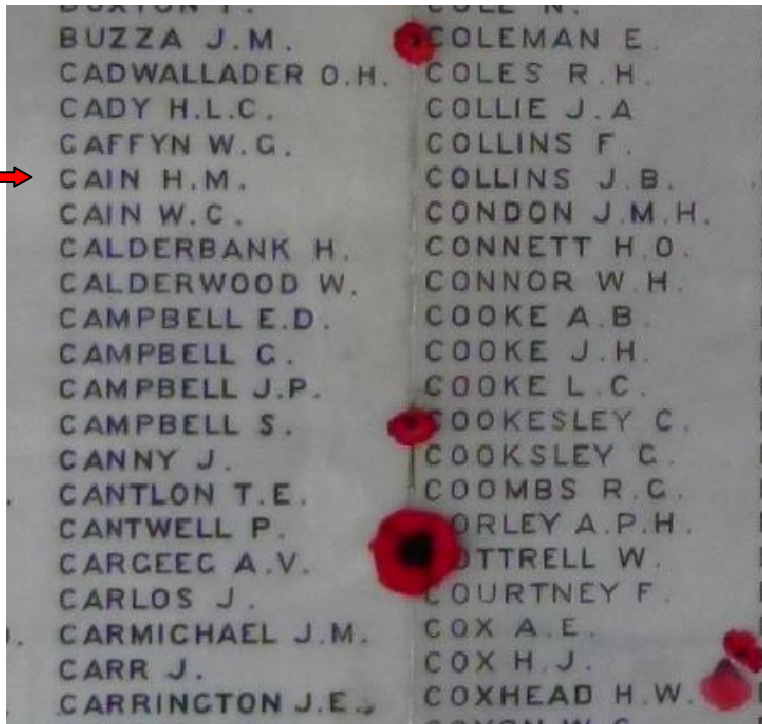




The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names  
(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



11th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

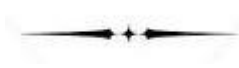


Harold Mervyn Cain is remembered by the Anzac Heroes Great War 1914 – 1918 – Bunbury-Wellington District, Western Australia website.



(26 pages of Private Harold Mervyn Cain'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**

### **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **WOUNDED**

Harold Mervyn Cain (severely)

*(Sunday Times, Western Australia – 10 June, 1917)*

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### **Personal**

The latest casualties notified to Thomson's Brook are those of H. M. Cain, seriously wounded, having sustained a fractured skull, and Lieut. P. W. Lyon, prisoner of war in Germany.

*(South Western Times, Bunbury, Western Australia – 14 June, 1917)*

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### **KILLED IN ACTION**

CAIN – Died of wounds received in action on June 26, Private Harold Mervyn, 11th Battalion, dearly loved third son of Mr and Mrs H. Cain, of Thomson's Brook.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother and family.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 19 July, 1917)*

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### **BEREVEMENT NOTICES**

Mr and Mrs H. Cain and Family desire to THANK all kind relations and friends for letters and cards and personal sympathy in the sad bereavement of their dear son and brother, Private Harold Cain, who died of wounds on June 26, 1917.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 23 July, 1917)*

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### **KILLED IN ACTION**

CAIN – Died of wounds received in action on June 26, Private Harold Mervyn, 11th Battalion, dearly loved third son of Mr and Mrs H. Cain, of Thomson's Brook.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother and family.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 July, 1917)*

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## **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

H. M. Cain (Thomson's Brook)

*(Sunday Times, Western Australia – 22 July, 1917)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

CAIN – In loving memory of my dear cousin, Pte Harold Mervyn Cain, of the 11th Battalion, who died of wounds received in action in France on June 26, 1917.

Always happy and cheerful,

With a heart that knew no fear,

He stood to face life's battle

For those he loved so dear.

-Inserted by his loving cousin, Evelyn Gibbs.

*(Bunbury Herald, Western Australia – 26 June, 1918)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **Anzac Heroes**

CAIN – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Harold, who died of wounds, Kitchener's Hospital, June 26, 1917.

Got takes our loved ones from our homes,

But never from our hearts.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters and brothers, Thomson's Brook, also brother Chris, (on active service).

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 26 June, 1918)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **Anzac Heroes**

CAIN – A tribute to the memory of Private Harold M. Cain, 11th Battalion, who died of wounds on June 26, 1917, dearly loved third son of Mr and Mrs H. Cain, of Thomson's Brook.

He has crossed the great horizon,

Eternity's great span;

He has earned the crowning glory

Of a soldier and a man.

-Inserted by his sorrowing sister and brother-in-law, S. and F. Padman.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 June, 1918)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Anzac Heroes

CAIN – In sad but ever loving memory of our dearly loved brother Harold, who died of wounds, received in action, at Kitchener War Hospital, Brighton, on June 26, 1917, aged 23 years.

He died far away, before his time,  
But he died as a good soldier and for right.

-Inserted by his ever sorrowing sister and brother-in-law, F. and S. Padman.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 26 June, 1919)*

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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. 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. M. Cain does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Gave His Life For Home And Empire Always Trusting In The Lord*

### **Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England**

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials. *(Information from CWGC)*



*(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



*(Photos from CWGC)*

Photo of Private H. M. Cain's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



*(Photo By Terry Denham)*



*(Photo from CWGC)*