

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4747 PRIVATE

B. W. CAMPBELL

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH JUNE, 1917 Age 21

Thy Will Be Done

Bruce Wilkins CAMPBELL

Bruce Wilkins Campbell was born at Rollands Plains, New South Wales in 1896 to parents William Vincent & Rebecca Mary Campbell (nee Wilkins). His birth was registered in the district of Port Macquarie, NSW.

Bruce Wilkins Campbell attended the Superior Public School, Tweed Heads, NSW.

Bruce Wilkins Campbell was a 19 year old, single, Farmer from Port Macquarie, NSW when he enlisted on 3rd November, 1915 in Brisbane, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4747 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Rebecca Campbell, Rocklands, Tweed Heads, NSW.

Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell was posted to 15th Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 3rd November, 1915.

Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell, along with 2 older brothers, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 28th March, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements.

Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell embarked on *Arcadian* on 29th July, 1916 for overseas.

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 Bruce Wilkins Campbell was taken on strength of 3rd Training Battalion at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 9th August, 1916 from Egypt.

Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell proceeded overseas via Folkstone from 3rd Training Battalion, England on 19th November, 1916. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 20th November, 1916. Private Campbell proceeded from 1st A.D.B.D. on 16th January, 1917 & joined 9th Battalion in France on 17th January, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell was wounded in action in France on 6th May, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Field Ambulance on 7th May, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Campbell was transferred to Ambulance Train 9 on 9th May, 1917 & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 10th May, 1917 with multiple shrapnel wounds. He was transferred to England on 18th May, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew*.

9th Battalion

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

In September 1916 the battalion was moved to Belgium where they served in and out of the front lines near Ypres. There, they were involved in training, trench repairs and maintenance as well as patrols and occasional raids. In early October 1916 they returned to the Somme just in time to spend the bitterly cold winter of 1916-1917 in the trenches. Throughout early 1917, they remained on the Somme as they followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg line, participating in fighting at Lagnicourt in April and at Bullecourt in May....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 9th Battalion

VAULX – 6th May, 1917:

At 0630 word received that enemy had entered front line and for Unit to move up immediately. First Company moved out at 0800 and last Coy. at 0900. Unit moved to sunken road near NOREUIL and received Orders at 1600 that 3 Coys. would carry out an attack on HINDENBURG line. For operation that followed up to night of 7/8th please see narrative attached.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell was admitted to National Hospital, Queen's Square, London, England in 18th May, 1917 – dangerously ill.

Base Records contacted Mrs R. Campbell, Rocklands, Tweed Heads, NSW, mother of Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell, on 22nd May, 1917 to advise that Private Bruce Campbell had been wounded. She was advised on 23rd May, 1917 that Private Bruce Campbell had been admitted to Hospital on 10th May with gunshot wound to Face, elbow, Hand & Back – Paraplegia – severe. Mrs Campbell was advised on 3rd June, 1917 that Private Bruce Campbell's condition was stationary. Mrs Campbell was advised on 6th June, 1917 that Private B. W. Campbell had been transferred to National Hospital, Queen's Square, London, England on 18th May, 1917.

Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell died on evening of 18th June, 1917 at National Hospital, Queen's Square, London, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) Spine.

A death for Bruce Campbell, aged 20, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Holborn, London, England.

Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell was buried on 22nd June, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179,400.

From the burial report of Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell - Coffin was Elm polished – good. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party and Bugler comprising members attached to the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, were in attendance. The coffin was shrouded with the Australian flag and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes. The coffin was borne to the graveside by members of the A.I.F. Headquarters Staff London. Chaplain Green of the A.I.F. conducted the service at the graveside. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. No. 4749 Pte Campbell, S. F. 9th Bn A.I.F. of the Grove Military Hospital, Tooting was present at the funeral. Temporary oak memorial to be erected by the Australian Military Authorities.

Base Records wrote to Mr W. Campbell, "Rocklands" Tweed Heads, NSW on 24th March, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row C Grave 16.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. C. 16. Private B. W. Campbell now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Mrs R. Campbell, Rocklands, Tweed Heads, NSW on 25th November, 1921 stating that she was noted on the records as the next-of-kin of the late No. 4747 Private B. W. Campbell, but enquired 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.

Base Records received a reply from Mrs Campbell on 9th December, 1921 advising that William Campbell was still alive & his address was "Rocklands" Tweed Heads, NSW.

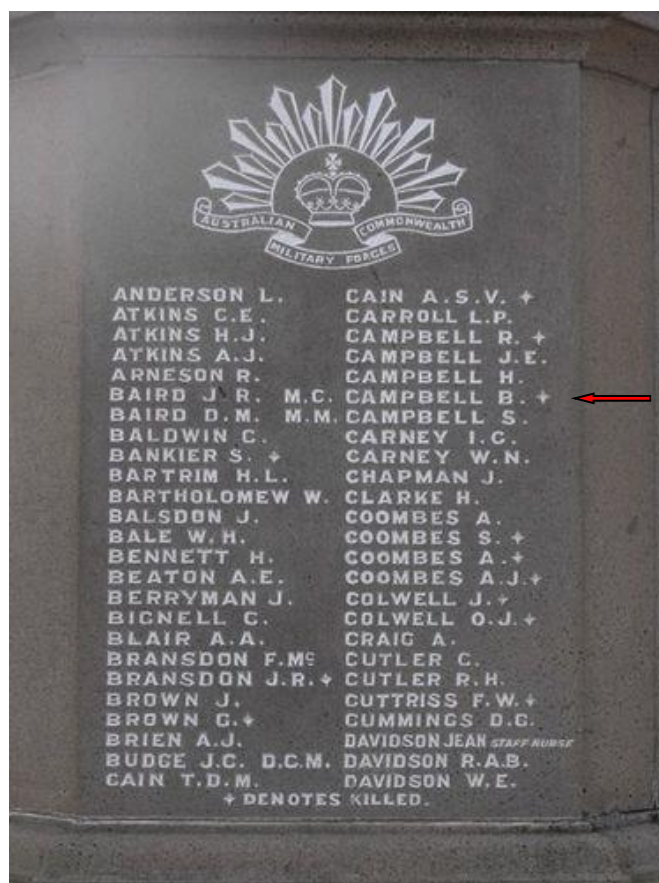
Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Campbell's father - Mr W. Campbell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell – service number 4747, aged 21, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William & Rebecca Mary Campbell, of "Rocklands," Tweed Heads, New South Wales.

B. Campbell is remembered on the Port Macquarie Cenotaph, located in Town Square, Horton & Clarence Streets, Port Macquarie, NSW.



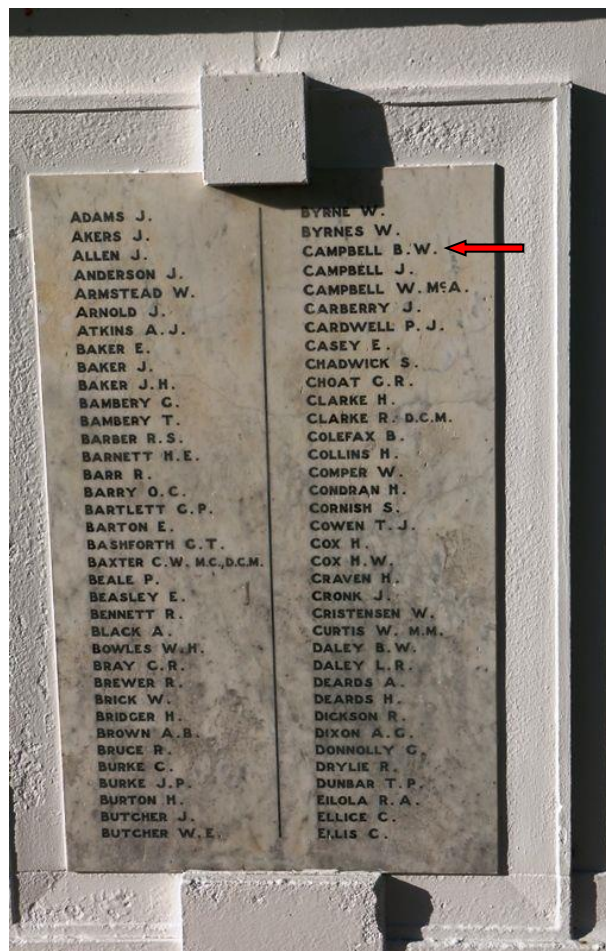
Port Macquarie Cenotaph (Photos from Monument Australia)



B. W. Campbell is remembered on the Murwillumbah War Memorial, located in Remembrance Place, Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah, NSW.



Murwillumbah War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Private B. W. Campbell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A Plaque is located on the main Pulpit in Presbyterian Church, Tweed Heads, NSW in honour of Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell. He lived at the house next to church on 115 Wharf Street.



(Photos courtesy of Michael Boyd, Pastor, Tweed Heads Presbyterian Church)

Presented By
Mr & Mrs W. Campbell
In Memory Of Their Son "Bruce"
Who Died In London
June 18TH 1917
From
Wounds Received In France
Aged 21 Years





(Photos courtesy of Michael Boyd, Pastor, Tweed Heads Presbyterian Church)

(40 pages of Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Connected to Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell:

Older Brother – Henry John Campbell – Enlisted on 21st October, 1915 as a 29 year old Farmer from Rocklands, Tweed Heads, NSW. He embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 28th March, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements as Private 4748.

Transferred to 49th Battalion on 20th October, 1916. Appointed Lance Corporal on 13th December, 1916.

Wounded in action on 7th June, 1917 – Concussion & rejoined his Unit on 20th June, 1917.

Returned to Australia per *Commonwealth* from England on 18th April, 1919 & disembarked on 12th June, 1919.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Older Brother – Sidney Frederick Campbell – Enlisted on 3rd November, 1915 as a 23 year old Farmer from Port Macquarie, NSW. He embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 28th March, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements as Private 4749.

Returned to Australia per Port Lyttleton from England on 14th March, 1917 & disembarked on 15th December, 1917.

Medically discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 22nd January, 1918.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Bruce Wilkins Campbell

(Photo from Discovering Anzacs - Under The Flight Path – Bruce Wilkins image)



Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell

(Photo from Discovering Anzacs - Under The Flight Path – Bruce Wilkins image)



Bruce & Sidney - 1916

(Photo from Discovering Anzacs - Under The Flight Path – Bruce Wilkins image)



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

308th LIST

WOUNDED

Bruce Wilkins Campbell, Rocklands, NSW (sev., dang. ill)

(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 9 June, 1917)

DEATH NOTICE

CAMPBELL – On 18th June, at the National Hospital, London, from wounds received in France, Bruce Wilkins (Ninth Battalion), youngest son of William and R. M. Campbell, Rocklands, Tweed Heads.

(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 28 June, 1917)

CASUALTIES

317th LIST

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF WOUNDS

Bruce Wilkins Campbell, Rocklands, NSW, 18/6/17

(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 July, 1917)

DISTRICT NEWS

TWEED HEADS AND COOLANGATTA

A Memorial Service

The Presbyterian Church was crowded on Sunday evening to do honor to the late Bruce Campbell, the news of whose death was received a few days ago. The preacher (Mr Allison) took for his text – “Ha hath done what he could” and in a most impressive and eloquent manner dealt with the sacrifices the soldiers were making every day for justice and freedom. Selected music and hymns suitable to the occasion were rendered by Miss Gardiner (the organist) and the choir.

(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 3 July, 1917)



Original Cross Marker for Private Bruce Wilkins Campbell

(Photo from Discovering Anzacs - Under The Flight Path – Bruce Wilkins image)



Memorial Folder given to the next-of-kin showing Photograph of Grave with Original Cross Marker

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 B. W. Campbell does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Thy Will Be Done

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)*



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.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



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 B. W. Campbell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

