

**Grangegorman Military Cemetery,  
County Dublin, Republic of Ireland**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2880 PRIVATE**

**E. J. CARTER**

**29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**10TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 33**

*I Will Write Upon Him*

*My New Name*

*Rev. 3. 12.*

## Edwin Johnson CARTER

Edwin Johnson Carter was born at Brunswick, Victoria in 1884 to parents Joseph & Fanny Carter (nee Johnson).

Edwin Johnson Carter attended State Schools – Brunswick & Trentham.

The 1906 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Corangamite, subdivision of Nirranda listed Edwin Johnson Carter, Labourer of Nirranda. His parents were also listed – Fanny Carter, Home Duties & Joseph Carter, Storekeeper, both of Nirranda, Victoria.

The 1909, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Corangamite, subdivision of Allansford listed Edwin Johnson, Labourer, of Nullawarre, Victoria. His parents were also listed – Fanny Carter, Home Duties & Joseph Carter, Dairyman, both of Nullawarre (On the 1909 Roll, Joseph Carter is listed as a Storekeeper).

Edwin Johnson Carter was a 31 year old, single, Farmer from Nullawarre, via Allansford, Victoria when he enlisted at Warrnambool, Victoria on 22nd January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2880 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Joseph Carter, of Nullawarre, via Allansford, Victoria. Edwin Johnson Carter was 5ft 10 inches with auburn hair, grey eyes & a florid complexion.

New recruit Edwin Johnson Carter was posted to 21st Depot Battalion at Warrnambool, Victoria on 7th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Geelong to join 6th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion on 22st January, 1916 then on 31st March, 1916 he was transferred to Broadmeadows.

Private Edwin Johnson Carter embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 4th April, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Alexandria on 8th May, 1916. Pte Carter embarked on H.M.T. *Franconia* at Alexandria on 6th June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th June, 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 Edwin Johnson Carter proceeded overseas to France on 5th September, 1916 from 8th Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) in France on 6th September, 1916 from England.

Private Edwin Johnson Carter was taken on strength of 29th Battalion from Reinforcements in France on 22nd September, 1916. Private Edwin Johnson Carter was sent sick to Hospital on 13th December, 1916. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance with Diarrhoea then transferred to 20 CR Station then transferred to Anzac CR Station the same day. Pte Carter was discharged to duty on 21st December, 1916 & rejoined his Unit from sick leave on 22nd December, 1916.

Private Edwin Johnson Carter was sent to 5th Army Rest Camp on 26th June, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 7th July, 1917.

Private Edwin Johnson Carter was on leave from 6th October, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 17th October, 1917.

Private Edwin Johnson Carter was sent sick to Hospital on 23rd March, 1918. He was admitted to 5th Australian Divisional Rest Station with Pneumonia on 24th March, 1918 then transferred to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station on 25th March, 1918 & admitted with Bronchitis. Pte Carter was transferred to 26th Ambulance Train on 26th March, 1918. Pte Carter was admitted to 59th General Hospital at St. Omer with Bronchitis then transferred to 7th Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 13th April, 1918. He was discharged to Base on 15th April, 1918.

Private Edwin Johnson Carter was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Le Havre on 21st April, 1918. He was marched out to join his Unit on 4th May, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 15th May, 1918.

Private Edwin Johnson Carter was wounded in action on 9th August, 1918. From the War Diary, the 29th Battalion were north of Harbonnieres then from 12.20 pm they were at Vauvillers. During this operation 3 Officers & 14 Other

ranks were killed, while 9 Officers & 69 Other ranks were wounded. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to back then transferred to 20th Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Carter was transferred to Ambulance Train 27 & was admitted to 20th General Hospital at Camiers on 10th August, 1918 with gunshot wounds to back. Pte Carter was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *New Haven* on 16th August, 1918.

### **29th Battalion**

In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line, allowing the British front to be advanced. The Germans, however, made selected stands to delay this advance and the 28th Battalion was involved in defeating a counter-attack at Beaumetz on 23 March. 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 29th Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September.

Unlike some AIF battalions, the 29th had a relatively quiet time during the German Spring Offensive of 1918 as the 5th Division was in reserve for a lot of the time. When the Allies took to the offensive again, the 29th fought in a minor attack at Morlancourt on 29 July, and then in August and September took part in the great advance that followed the battle of Amiens. The 29th fought its last major action in September 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. The offensive of 1918, however, had strained the AIF almost to breaking point. On 12 October the 29th Battalion was disbanded to provide reinforcements for other 8th Brigade units.

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

Private Edwin Johnson Carter was admitted to Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England on 16th August, 1918. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent on 30th August, 1918 & discharged to No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 6th September, 1918. Pte Carter was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 6th September, 1918.

Private Edwin Johnson Carter was on leave from No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth from 28th September, 1918 & was to report to No. 4 Command Depot on completion of his leave. He was medically classified as B1 A1 (Fit for light duty only – 4 weeks).

Private Edwin Johnson Carter drowned on 10th October, 1918 as a result of enemy action on the R.M.S. *Leinster* which was torpedoed by German submarine *UB-123* while at Sea off the coast of Ireland on 10th October, 1918. His body was located & taken to King George V Hospital, Dublin, Ireland for identification.



### **R.M.S. Leinster**

*RMS Leinster was a vessel operated by the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, served as the Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire)- Holyhead mail boat.*

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*Just before 10 a.m. on 10th October, 1918 as the Leinster was sailing east of the Kish Bank in a heavy swell, passengers saw a torpedo approach from the port side and pass in front of the bow. A second torpedo followed shortly afterwards, and it struck the ship forward on the port side in the vicinity of the mail room. Captain Birch ordered the ship to make a U-turn in an attempt to return to Kingstown as the ship began to settle slowly by the bow; however, the ship sank rapidly after a third torpedo struck the Leinster, causing a huge explosion.*

*Despite the heavy seas, the crew managed to launch several lifeboats and some passengers clung to life-rafts. The survivors were rescued by HMS Lively, HMS Mallard and HMS Seal. The first member of the Women's Royal Naval Service to die on active duty, Josephine Carr, was among those killed. Captain Birch was also among those lost in the sinking. Wounded in the initial attack, he was drowned when his lifeboat became swamped in heavy seas and capsized while trying to transfer survivors to HMS Lively. Several of the military personnel who died are buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery.*

*Survivors were brought to Kingstown harbour. The ship's log states that she carried 77 crew and 694 passengers on her final voyage under the command of Captain William Birch. The ship had previously been attacked in the Irish Sea but the torpedoes missed their target. Those on board included more than one hundred British civilians, 22 postal sorters (working in the mail room) and almost 500 military personnel from the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force. Also aboard were nurses from Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.*

(Extract of information on RMS *Leinster* from Wikipedia)

The anchor of R.M.S. *Leinster* is part of a memorial to those who lost their lives following the sinking of the R.M.S. *Leinster* on 10th October, 1918. It is located at Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, adjacent to the National Maritime Museum.



#### **R.M.S. *Leinster* Memorial**

*In memory of the  
501 passengers, crew and  
postal workers  
who lost their lives  
following the sinking  
of the RMS *Leinster*  
on 10 October 1918*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Edwin Johnson Carter contains 108 pages. The most relevant are listed below.

- A letter from Sergeant F. Coleman, 718, 5th Division Headquarters reads: "*Torpedoed Leinster 10-10-18. Pte Joseph Barnes, 48th Battalion was identified by L/Cpl Roach 12th Australian Field Ambulance and Pte John Meigan, Headquarter Company, 17th Battalion (late 19th Battn) respectively. I was present at the King George V Hospital Mortuary, when they established the identifications. He is buried in Dublin.*"
- L/Cpl M. D. Roach, 9843, 12th Australian Field Ambulance wrote: "*If I remember rightly I also saw Pte J. Barnes and Pte M. E. Smith's bodies in the Morgue. I knew him; his Battalion is in our Brigade.*"
- A Statement from W/O S. E. Yeoman, representing Australian Headquarters wrote: "*On arrival at Dublin I went to King George V Hospital and saw the bodies of 3 Australian soldiers lying in the Mortuary. They were drowned as a result of the R.M.S. "Leinster" disaster. Identification was established by means of papers etc found on their person. After identifications were completed I saw only three bodies labelled unknown. I made enquiries in Dublin for any Australian soldiers who were survivors and was successful in locating 3 whose names appear in the summary attached. They accompanied my to the Mortuary where one Pte Meigan, 19th Battalion, A.I.F. identified one of the bodies as being that of No. 4538\* (\*In pencil - We understand that the correct No. of Pte M. Smith is 4530; 4538 is a clerical error from Headquarters) Pte Smith, Michael, 19th Battalion, A.I.F. The deceased was personally known to him. Therefore the features are well known, also a gold ring was recognised. This was the only case of identification. I reported this matter to the Hospital Authorities who subsequently made their report to the War Office. Later I discovered another survivor in the person of No. 649 Pte Moore, J. H. 1st M.G. Coy lying in King George V. Hpl suffering from Influenza. Statements from the four survivors attached. Funeral arrangements and burials were duly carried out under my supervision. Burials with Military Honours. Inquests on all Military bodies were dispensed with by the City Coroner of Dublin. Applications should be made to the President Effects Branch, General Headquarters, Ireland for the personal effects of these soldiers.*

Coleman's Statement: *Vessel left punctually 9 am. Ship very crowded. Morning dull. Roughness at sea out of harbour. Life belts were around but left to individual discretion of putting on. Majority availed themselves. Good headway. 10 to 10 o'clock saw a torpedo. Struck bow on port side. No undue panic- lowering of boats satisfactory. 2nd torpedo 10 mins after. Struck straight amid ships practically severed vessel and smashed 2 life boats. Boilers blown up. Then every man for himself. Raft till picked up by H.M.S. "Lively". Washed off several times. Sea running high – many drowned while hanging on to the raft. Taken to King George Hospital – given food and clothing – and to North Dublin Rest Camp, and medically treated. I saw an Australian, who by the colour patches was 4th M.G. Battalion- could not get into a life boat and was drowned through exhaustion let go.*

Roach, M.D. 9483, 12th Field Ambulance. Extracts from statement: "*Among those who came by the 7.30 am mail train was an Australian officer who had his left arm in a sling and carrying a gentleman's suit case in the right and wearing good conduct stripes on the bottom red 1914 and three blues and colour patches – green on the bottom and as far as can remember black." I noticed a fair number of Australians came by the mail train which leaves Westland Road at 8.30 Am. In another place says:- "I left Westland Road 7.30" (? 2 trains) Statement made at King George V. Hpl, Dublin 16-10-18.*

Roach was sitting with a New Zealander. He said he saw a porpoise – I saw something (took it to be a whale). Thought no more till the boat was struck by torpedo – second soon after. Got on a raft – pulled off – got to a water logged boat which was later turned upside down by the waves. Hung on till picked up by H.M.S. "Help". Several people on this boat and we were all washed off several times.

Meigan I got to a raft where 14 others were clinging. On the raft was another Australian with whom I spoke. He belonged to the A.F.C. Raft was overturned by a large wave and every one washed off. On regaining the raft I asked if the Australian was there but could not see him. On the ship, I also saw another Australian whose name was, I think, Brissett. He lived at Robertson's Temperance Hotel, Donegal Street, Belfast with me on the 5th and 6th October. He signed the Hotel Register 2689 L/Cpl/ J. B. Murray, 1st M.Y. Company. Supply Section.

2531 Dvr. F. L. Hopkins, 1st M.T. Company, No. 3 Transport Section.

*Extracts from statement made at A.H.Q. B. Records 15-10-18*

*"In water nearly an hour before being picked up by a lifeboat."*

*"We never knew the names of any of the Australians who embarked on the Leinster on 10th October but remember having seen men, whose regimental colours lead us to judge them to belong to the Units mentioned.*

*Two men of the 19th Battalion*

*One man from the 3rd M.T. Company*

*" " " " 1st Div. Train*

*" " " " 3rd Div Hqrs.*

*" machine gunner of the 3rd Div Hqrs*

*Cert: by A.I.F. Hqrs 17-1-19*

- *Drowned at Sea. S.S. Leinster 10-10-18*

*718 Sgt F. T. Coleman, 3rd Aust. Div. Headquarters wrote to Miss D. Smith, 15 Glenant Avenue, Blackrock, CO. Dublin (V.A.D. Linden Auxiliary Hospital, Blackrock) asking her to put him in touch with the Scottish Officer who told him that "An Australian was hanging to his boat but let go his hold and was lost." Miss Smith states this officer to have been a 2.Lieut. in the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, but so far, has been unable to trace him. She has however, forwarded a further report from Capt. Parker, Ship's Adjutant, of R.M.S. Leinster which reads as follows, but we have been unable to ascertain to whom it definitely refers:-*

*I enclose herewith a report anent an Australian whom I saw in the sea after the sinking of the "Leinster". I regret my inability to give a fuller description of this brave man. I was personally clinging to a raft for about two hours and on another raft about 10 yards distant, I particularly noticed an Australian soldier hanging on with one hand – his head and shoulders being out of the water. Our rafts kept in close proximity for about one hour during that time. I spoke words of encouragement to him, but it was obvious his strength was failing fast. Every time I spoke to him, he smiled but never answered. The seas kept breaking over us and this combined with the cold and exposure, undoubtedly caused his death. Ultimately he let go his hold and sank smiling to the last. In all my experience (which includes several) I have never seen a braver death. He was clean shaven, dark hair, strong chin, fine profile, well tanned skin, and I would describe him as a typical good looking Colonial. He had his colonial hat on all the time, with the chin strap under his chin, but I am unaware of his particular corps or regiment.*

*Letter from:- H. L. Parker, Capt. 3rd Cameron Highlanders*

*In a previous report of 23-12-18 Sgt Coleman gives the following description of a 4th M.G. man seen by him, but unfortunately we do not know to whom it should be attached. "This man appeared to me to be about 28 years, light hair, and rather long features. He was constantly being drenched with water and I could not get a good look at him, for my attention was taken up keeping the raft away from the boat.*

Private Edwin Johnson Carter was buried on 14th October, 1918 in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland – Plot number Aust. CE. 2. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Edwin Johnson Carter - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside, where the Last Post was sounded. The Rev. Peacock officiated. A procession of about half a mile long followed the remains to the graveside. The grave will be turfed, and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

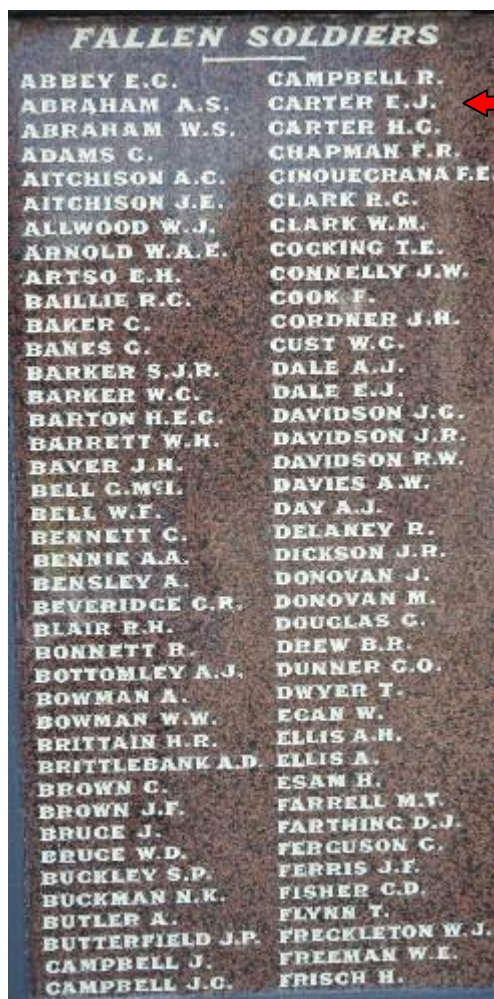
Private Edwin Johnson Carter was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Carter's mother – Mrs F. Carter, as the closest next-of-kin as his father had died in 1919. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edwin Johnson Carter – service number 2880, aged 33, of 29th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Fanny Carter, of 37 Jamieson St., Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia, and the late Joseph Carter.

E. J. Carter is remembered on the Warrnambool Soldiers' Memorial located at Merri & Leibig Streets, Cannon Hill, Warrnambool, Victoria.



Warrnambool Soldiers' Memorial (Photos from Carol's Headstones)



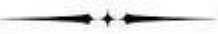
Private E. J. Carter is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 115.



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

(60 pages of Pte Edwin Johnson Carter'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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **ROLL OF HONOR**

### **VICTORIAN LIST**

### **WOUNDED**

Private E. J. Carter, Nullawarre

*(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 October, 1918)*

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### **DEATH**

### **ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

CARTER – Officially reported died at sea, as a result on enemy action, S.S. Leinster (body landed at Dublin), Private Edwin J. Carter, 29th Battalion (after 2 years and 8 months active service), aged 34 years. Beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs Carter, Nullawarre, and beloved brother of Mrs W. F. Burleigh, Mabel, Leslie and Gladys; half-brother to Mrs Owen (W.A.), A.E.C. (Albert Park) and A.H.C. (W.A. on active service in France).

Duty nobly done.

We shall all meet at Home in the morning.

*(Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 16 October, 1918)*



## IN MEMORIAM SERVICE

In Memoriam services for the late Pte Edwin J. Carter will be conducted by Mr J. J. Cole, Methodist Minister, on Sunday at Naringal (morning), Mepunga (afternoon) and Nullawarre (evening).

(*Warrnambool Standard*, Victoria – 26 October, 1918)

## THE 444th CASUALTY LIST

### VICTORIAN NAMES

#### DIED OTHER CAUSES

Private E. J. Carter, Nullawarre

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 27 November, 1918)

Edwin Johnson Carter is remembered on his parents' headstone in Warrnambool Cemetery, Victoria.



**Carter Family Headstone** (Photos courtesy of Clive Rayner)



**EDWIN** (LATE AIF)

Beloved Son Of

J. F. CARTER

Drowned 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1918 Aged 34 Years

### 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 E. J. Carter does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*I Will Write Upon Him My New Name Rev. 3. 12.*

### **Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland**

Grangegorman Military Cemetery was opened in 1876 and was used for the burial of British service personnel and their near relatives. It contains war graves from both world wars. Some of the graves were re-located to this site at a later date (nine from King George V Hospital grounds, two from Trinity College grounds, three from Portobello (Barracks) Cemetery, two from Drogheda (Little Calvary) Cemetery and one from Oranmore Old Graveyard).

The "Leinster" graves are in several trenches in the different denominational plots.

A Screen Wall Memorial of a simple design standing nearly two metres high and fifteen metres long has been built of Irish limestone to commemorate the names of those war casualties whose graves lie elsewhere in Ireland and can no longer be maintained. Arranged before this memorial are the headstones of the war dead buried in Cork Military Cemetery but now commemorated here.

There are now 613 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, 2 of which are unidentified, and 12 of the 1939-1945 war, 1 of which is unidentified, commemorated here.

There are 7 Australian War Graves from World War 1 & 1 New Zealand War Grave.

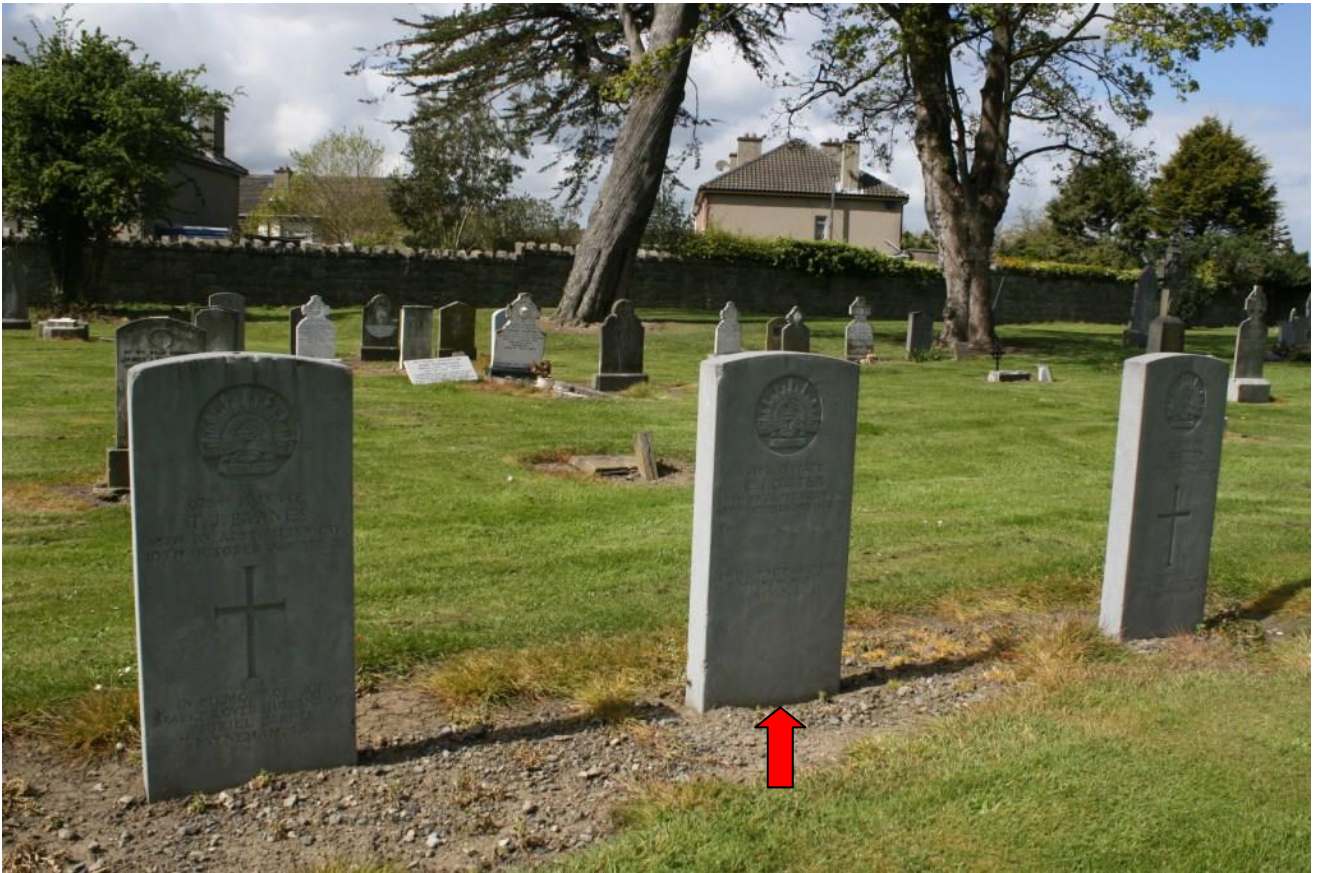
4 Australian Soldiers & a New Zealand Soldier who were drowned on the *Leinster* were buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery - Private Joseph Thomas Barnes, 6784, 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.F.; Private Edwin Johnson Carter, 2880, 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.F.; Private Joseph Gratton, 2872, 4<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion, A.I.F; Private Michael Ernest Smith, 4530, 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.F. & Lance Corporal Peter Freitas, 14/191A, New Zealand Army Corps (born in Australia).

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Grangegorman Military Cemetery**





**3 Australian Graves from the Leinster – (left to right) Barnes/Carter/Gratton**

*(Photos from Magicfingers)*

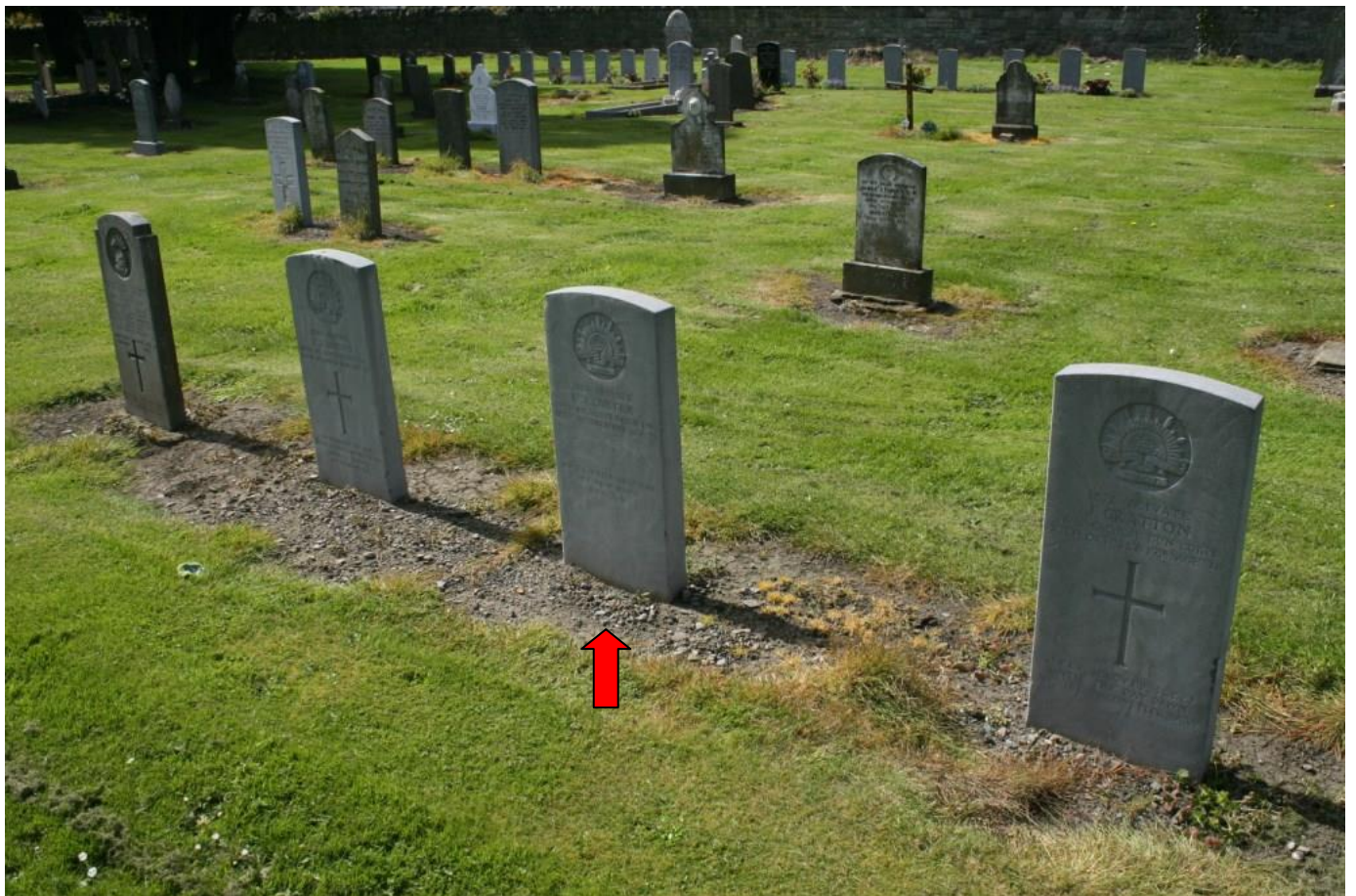


Photo of Private E. J. Carter's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland.



*(Photo courtesy of Richard J. Edgar)*