

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**773 PRIVATE**

**R. J. CLIFFORD**

**AUSTRALIAN T. M. BATTERY**

**1ST MAY, 1918 Age 21**

*Greater Love*

*Hath No Man Than This*

*Inserted By*

*Mother & Sister Phyl*

## Raymond John CLIFFORD

John Raymond Clifford was born at Port McDonnell, South Australia on 14th March, 1897 to parents John Jack Locke Clifford (father – John Locke; mother – Ellen Harriett Clifford) & Mabel Louisa Clifford (nee Wilke).

John Clifford, father of John Raymond Clifford, died on 3rd August, 1900 at Belair, South Australia.

Raymond John Clifford attended the State School at Port McDonnell, South Australia. The School Admissions Register recorded that he was admitted on 17th March, 1902 & his parent was listed as Mrs May Clifford (Widow, Domestic duties) from Port McDonnell. Raymond Clifford left the school on 7th November, 1910 –“*Over age.*”

Raymond John Clifford was a 19 year old (listed on Attestation Papers as 18 years & 8 months), single, Labourer from Port Macdonald\*, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 8th October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mabel Williams, Port Macdonald\*, South Australia. (\*place name as listed on Embarkation Roll).

As Raymond John Clifford was under the age of 21 – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Mabel Louisa Williams wrote the following on 8th October, 1915: *“I herby give my consent to my son Raymond John Clifford to serve in any part of his Majesty’s service.”*

Private Raymond John Clifford was posted to 1st Remount Unit, No. 3 Squadron on 11th October, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Raymond John Clifford, Service number 773, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMT *Orsova (A67)* on 12th November, 1915 with the 1st Australian Remount Unit – 3rd Squadron & disembarked at Suez on 9th December, 1915.

Private Raymond John Clifford was transferred to 4th Divisional Artillery - 24th Howitzer Brigade at Tel-el-Kebir on 1st April, 1916. He was taken on strength of 24th Howitzer Brigade & posted to 111th Battery on the same day.

Private Raymond John Clifford was transferred & admitted to No. 13 Field Ambulance at Serapeum on 25th April, 1916 with Mumps. He was admitted to No. 1 Stationary Hospital at Ismalia on 6th May, 1916 with “*Parot & Orchitis*” then admitted to No. 4 Auxiliary Hospital at Abbassia on 8th May, 1916 with Mumps. Private Clifford was discharged to Overseas Base at Tel-el-Kebir on 15th May, 1916.

Mrs M. Williams. Port McDonnell, South Australia, (remarried mother of Private Clifford) was advised by Base Records on 17th May, 1916 that No. 1116 Private R. J. Clifford had been admitted to 4th Auxiliary Hospital, Cairo on 8th May, 1916 suffering from Mumps – mild.

Private Raymond John Clifford was transferred to Artillery Training Depot at Tel-el-Kebir on 25th May, 1916.

Private Raymond John Clifford embarked from Alexandria on 28th May, 1916 on HMT *Corsican* & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 12th 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 counties of Wiltshire & Dorset. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Private Raymond John Clifford was admitted to Isolation at Tidworth Hospital, Wiltshire on 21st July, 1916 from A.A.T.D. (Australian Artillery Training Depot) at Bulford, Wiltshire. He was discharged on 28th July, 1916.

Private Raymond John Clifford was written up for an Offence on 9th December, 1916 while posted at A.A.T.D. (Australian Artillery Training Depot), Bulford, Wiltshire – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 09.00 on 3rd December, 1916 until 06.00 & 08.45 Parade on 4th December, 1916. He was awarded 120 hours Detention by Captain Combe.

Private Raymond John Clifford was written up for an Offence on 23rd December, 1916 while posted at A.A.T.D. (Australian Artillery Training Depot), Bulford, Wiltshire – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 09.00 on 10th

December, 1916 till 09.30 on 18th December, 1916. He was awarded 168 hours Detention (4 days in custody awaiting trial) & forfeited a total of 20 days' pay.

Private Raymond John Clifford was written up for an Offence on 15th January, 1917 while posted at R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery), Bulford Details – 1. A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 09.00 on 14th January, 1917 to 09.00 on 15th January, 1917. 2. Absent from 09.00 Parade on 15th January, 1917. He was awarded 2 days' Field Punishment No. 2 & a total forfeiture of 3 days' pay.

Private Raymond John Clifford was marched out from R.B.A.A. at Bulford, Wiltshire on 18th January, 1917 & marched in to R.B.A.A. at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 21st January, 1917.

Private Raymond John Clifford was written up for an Offence on 22nd January, 1917 while posted at Larkhill – *"Hesitating to obey an order in that he did not return to Parade when ordered."* He was awarded 21 days' Detention.

Private Raymond John Clifford was written up for an Offence on 20th February, 1917 while posted at R.B.A.A. at Larkhill, Wiltshire – A.W.L. at place of Parade on 15th February, 1917. He was awarded 21 days' Detention.

Private Raymond John Clifford was marched out from R.B.A.A. at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 16th May, 1917 & marched in to R.B.A.A. Det. at Boyton on 18th May, 1917.

Private (Casualty Form – Active Service recorded rank as Gunner) Raymond John Clifford proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd July, 1917. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 24th July, 1917 from England. Private Clifford was marched out from A.G.B.D. on 27th July, 1917 to 3rd Div. T.M.B. He was attached for duty with 11th Light Trench Mortar Battery on 29th July, 1917 from Artillery Reinforcements.

Private Raymond John Clifford was taken on strength of 11th L.T.M.B. (Light Trench Mortar Battery) on 17th August, 1917 from R.B.A.A.

Private Raymond John Clifford was written up for a Crime on 8th September, 1917 while posted with 11th L.T.M.B. – Absent without Leave from 9 pm on 8th September, 1917 to 9.30 pm on 9th September, 1917. He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment No, 2 & forfeited a total on 9 days' pay.

A Field General Court Martial was held on 21st November, 1917 regarding a Crime by Private Raymond John Clifford – Charge : *"When on Active Service deserting his Majesty's Service in that he on Oct, 10th 1917 when ordered to carry ammunition in the front system of trenches at Ypres did not do so, but left the line & fell to rear where he was ordered to rejoin his Battery at 11 am 11th Oct 1917."*

Finding – Guilty. Sentence: 12 months I.H.L. (Imprisonment Hard Labour) from 21st November, 1917 having awaited trial for 41 days. His sentence was suspended on 7th December, 1917.

Private Raymond John Clifford reported sick on 30th December, 1917 from Field Punishment Compound & was admitted to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station the same day. He was transferred to 7th Ambulance Train on 11th January, 1918 & admitted to 7th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on the same day – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin).

A Medical Board was held on 8th April, 1918 at No. 7 Stationary Hospital, Boulogne, France enquiring & reporting on the present state of health of No. 773 Private J. R. Clifford, 11th Australian L.T.M.B. A recommendation was that Private Clifford be transferred to England *"as soon as his general condition permits.....The Board consider it unlikely that this man will be fit for further service in this country."* The recommendation was approved by A.G.G. H.Q. on 21st April, 1918. Private Clifford was invalided to UK on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* from 7th Stationary Hospital, Boulogne on 26th April, 1918 suffering from Lymphadenoma.

Private Raymond John Clifford was admitted to Southwark Military Hospital, East Dulwich, London, England on 27th April, 1918 with Lymphadenoma. His condition was reported to be dangerously ill.

Private Raymond John Clifford died at 7.45 am on 1st May, 1918 (Note: Hospital Admissions form recorded he died at 8 am) at Southwark Military Hospital, East Dulwich, London, England from Lymphadenoma, Pleuritic Effusion &

Cardiac Failure. A Telegram was sent from Southwark Military Hospital to Private Clifford's friend - Mrs Hamilton, 22 Ena Avenue, Sneiton Dale, Nottingham informing her of the death.

A death for Raymond J. Clifford, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Camberwell, London, England.

Private Raymond John Clifford was buried at 1.30 pm on 4th May, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180,937.

From the burial report of Private Raymond John Clifford - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The Firing Party and Bugler were supplied by Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave from the Patients and Nursing Staff of the Southwark Military Hospital. Chaplain Wray, Administrative Headquarters, London, officiated at the graveside. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

*Names of relatives or friends present at the Funeral – Friends Mr & Mrs S. D. Hamilton, 22 Ena Avenue, Sniton Vale, Nottingham.*

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. Williams, Port Macdonnell, South Australia on 23rd March, 1923 stating that the site of her son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row A Grave 7.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. A. 7. Private Raymond John Clifford now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Raymond John Clifford contains a letter from Officer Commanding, Southwark Military Hospital to the Secretary Australian Red Cross Society which reads: "*No. 773 Pte Clifford, R. J., was admitted to this Hospital from France on 27th April, 1918 suffering from Lymphadenoma (swelling of Glands). He died on 1st May, 1918. His funeral was carried out by the Australian Headquarters.*"

On 19th July, 1917 Private Raymond John Clifford did not desire to make a Will.

A claim was made for a War Pension by Phyllis May Clifford, Port MacDonnell, sister of the late Private Raymond John Clifford. The claim was rejected on 2nd July, 1918 by 4th Military District – "*rejected on the grounds that claimant was not dependent on her late brother.*"

Miss P. M. Clifford, Port McDonnell, wrote to Base Records on 29th July, 1918: "*I am informed to write to you re the Will of my late Brother No 773 Gunner Raymond John Clifford 1st Australian Remount Unit A.I.F. sailed 12th Nov 1915, transferred in Egypt to Artillery & when died was attached to the 11th Light Trench Mortar Battery A.I.F. He died on the 1st May 1918 in Southwark Military Hospital.*"

Base Records replied to Miss P. M. Clifford on 5th August, 1918 advising that "*...your brother, the late No. 773 Private R. J. Clifford, 11th Light Trench Mortar Battery, did not desire to make a Will.*"

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Williams, Port McDonnell, South Australia on 10th June, 1921 stating she was registered as the next of kin on the records of the late No. 773 Private R. J. Clifford & was asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was 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 wrote to Headquarters, 4th District Base, Keswick Barracks, Adelaide, South Australia on 17th September, 1921 advising that they had sent a communication to Mrs M. Williams on 9th June requesting her to advise whether the father of the late No. 773 Private Raymond John Clifford, was still living. Base Records continued advising Headquarters that no reply had been received & requested them "*...to obtain the information required and*

*advise me as soon as possible as it is desired to dispose of War Medals etc., issuable on account of the abovementioned late soldier's service."*

The 4th District Base, Keswick Barracks replied to Base Records on 10th October, 1921 advising "... *that enquiries made have elicited the information that the father of the above is dead. The late soldier's mother married again and resides with her husband at the following address – Mrs E, Williams, Port MacDonnell, South Australia.*"

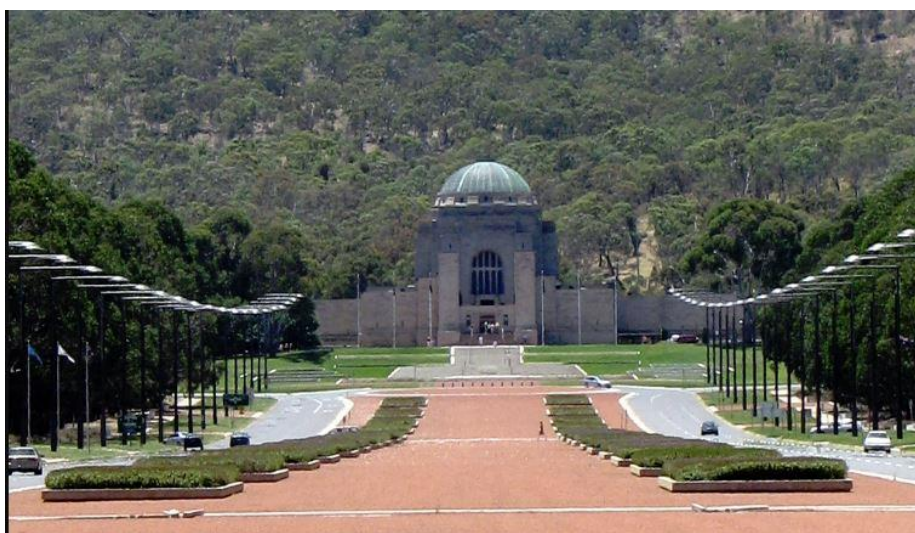
Private Raymond John Clifford was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Clifford's remarried mother – Mrs M. Williams, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Raymond John Clifford – service number 773, aged 21, of 11th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery. He was the son of John Clifford and Mabel Louisa (his wife), of Port MacDonnell, South Australia.

Private R. J. Clifford is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 19.



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



R. J. Clifford is remembered on the Port McDonnell War Memorial, located at Sea Parade & Charles Street, Port MacDonnell, South Australia.



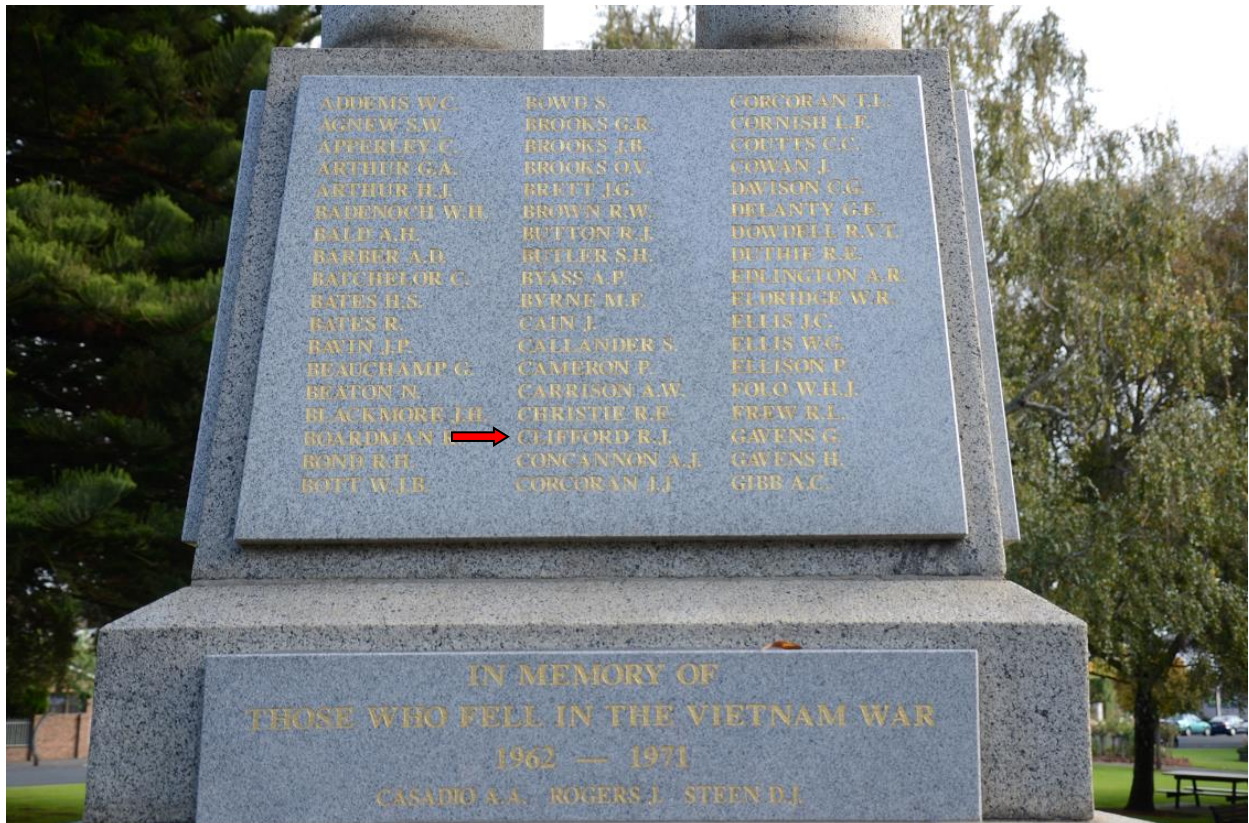
**Port McDonnell War Memorial** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – above Chris Mathias; below Henry Moulds)



R. J. Clifford is remembered on the Mount Gambier War Memorial, located in Vansittart Park, Commercial Street West & Wehl Street North, Mount Gambier, South Australia.



**Mount Gambier War Memorial** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



R. J. Clifford is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



**National War Memorial – Adelaide** (Photos by Bilby)

(89 pages of Private Raymond John Clifford'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**

### **GONE INTO CAMP**

The following men went into camo on Monday:.....R. J. Clifford.....

*(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, Sth Aust – 12 October, 1915)*

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### **SOLDIERS FAREWELLED**

There was a large assemblage at the railway station on Monday night to wish good luck to a further contingent of volunteers for active service. The Vice-Regal Band was in attendance, and played stirring airs, and addresses were given by the Mayor (Mr. J. F. Palamountain) and Col. F. H. Daniel. V.D. Rousing cheers were given, and the National Anthem was sung prior to the train leaving. Those who left were —Privs. G. A. Perryman, E. Ilsley, and **R. J. Clifford (Port MacDonnell)**, R. Morris, K. G. Hay, J. Healy, L. Mac-Kinnon, C. L. Baker, A. Shaw. K. Fitzgerald, E. C. Robinson, W. F. Doolan, S. S. Williams, C. O'Nial, H. W. Manser, W. H. J. Folo, and T. Morris (Mount Gambier), and J. Sargent, H. Applekamp, Kennedy (2), and Guerin (Millicent).

*(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia – 27 October, 1915)*

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## **SOLDIERS ILL**

The 172nd Australian casualty list shows that Privs T. G. Childs, Penola, R. J. Clifford, Port MacDonnell, and C. G. H. Gray, Penola, were ill, the last named dangerously....

*(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia – 31 May, 1916)*

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## **AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**

Our Port MacDonnell correspondent writes:—"Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Ned Williams, who has lost her son, Priv. Raymond John Clifford, through illness in France, on May 1. The Rev. H. C. Thrush brought the sad news to the bereaved mother on Sunday afternoon. The flags were half masted on Monday as a token of respect to the young soldier, who was only 21 years of age. Priv. Clifford enlisted in the artillery two years ago, and after being in Egypt for several months was sent to France. He was a grandson of Mr. R. Wilke, of this township....."

*(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia – 10 May, 1918)*

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## **FOR KING AND COUNTRY**

CLIFFORD – On the 1st May, in England, of lymphadenoma, Raymond John Clifford (Gunner, Trench Mortar), dearly loved brother of Phyllis Clifford, and son of Mrs N. Williams, Port McDonnell.

*(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 May, 1918) & (The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 May, 1918) & (Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 May, 1918)*

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## **DEATHS**

CLIFFORD – On the 1st May, at Southwark Hospital, England, Raymond J., dearly beloved son of Mrs E. Williams; aged 21 years.

"His duty done."

*(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia – 14 May, 1918)*

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## **DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

CLIFFORD – On the 1st May, in England, of lymphadenoma, Raymond John Clifford (gunner trench mortar), aged 21 years, dearly-loved brother of Phyllis Clifford, and son of Mrs E. Williams, Port MacDonnell, after two years six months' service.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 May, 1918) & (The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, Sth Aust – 13 May, 1918) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 May, 1918)*

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## 401st CASUALTY LIST

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died of Illness

1116 Pte RAYMOND JOHN CLIFFORD, Port McDonald, May 1

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 May, 1918)

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### HOW A PORT MACDONNELL SOLDIER DIED

(To the Editor of *The Border Watch*.)

Dear Sir,—Herewith I am enclosing a copy of a letter received by Miss Phyllis Clifford after the death of her brother, Priv. R. J. Clifford. I thought that some of your readers, especially those with dear ones over in the old land, would appreciate the treatment meted out to one who had given his all for his King and country. This was my reason for my copying the letter and forwarding it to you, so that if you thought the matter interesting enough you could publish same,

Yours faithfully,

E.H.M.

The letter is as follows:-

“22, Ena Avenue,  
Sneinton Dale,  
Nottingham, England.

“On a cold November day in 1916, the rain and snow were falling, things were dreary and miserable, Mrs. Hamilton, our two younger boys and myself were sitting round the fire thinking of the terrible times, when Mrs. Hamilton said to the elder boy Vernon, 'Go into the town and look for an Australian soldier who appears to be cold and lonely, and ask him to come home and have tea with us.' He went and after we had waited an hour or so Vernon returned with a soldier wet and cold, who seemed afraid to enter the house because his boots were dirty. However, we put him before the fire where he soon got warm, and tea being on the table he began to look much brighter. Later in the evening we prevailed upon him to stay for the night, as we had a spare room always ready for a soldier, and so he was kept with us from morning until night and night until morning for a few days, when he told us that his leave of absence had expired and that he must return to camp. We were sorry to part with him, having begun to look upon him as one of our own boys. He was very thankful for what we had done, and asked if he might write sometimes, so between us we have kept up a correspondence from that time until the end.

"It was towards the end of October, 1917, when he wrote saying that he had been stunned by a big shell on October 12, that being the same day my own son Victor was wounded, and poor Raymond appears to have been in the hospital ever after that time. He often wrote saying that he was getting better, never complaining, always thankful for his correspondence and parcels, and contemplating the good time he would have with us when he came to England on leave. However, Nursing Sister Gawlar wrote on April 14, saying that he was very ill. This was a severe shock, as we know that such letters are not written without a strong reason. On Friday, April 26, we received a further letter from Nursing Sister Gawlar, saying that Raymond Clifford was worse, but they hoped he would reach England. On Saturday, April 27, a telegram arrived stating that your brother was in the Southward Hospital, and that a railway pass to go to London to see him could be obtained at the police station. I obtained a pass for Mrs. Hamilton and got a ticket for myself, and arrived in London at midnight. We walked for several hours across London, arriving at the hospital in the early hours of Sunday. It is a pitiful tale. The nurses took us to his bed-side. The dear boy was pleased indeed to see us, and he appeared to get better from that minute. We stayed with him Sunday and Monday, and my own son who was in hospital (wounded for the second time) got permission to come to London also, Raymond was greatly touched by his sympathetic kindness. We returned to our home on Monday night.

"On Wednesday, May 1, we received a letter from Sister Coakley, asking Mrs. Hamilton to again go to see him. While I was arranging which train would be best a telegram arrived informing us that the end had come, and the gentle lad had died for his country.

"The Australian military authorities were very promptly sympathetic and courteous, as you will see by their telegrams, I obtained further railway passes for Mrs. Hamilton and myself, and taking our two sons we made the journey to London on Friday. Upon arrival at the hospital we learned how the dear boy had been conscious and patient to the last. Two Sisters had sat by his bedside all through the night, and he died peacefully at 7.45 a.m. on May 1, 1918. May he rest in peace. His last word was 'Sister'.

"Although Ray had only been in the hospital for a few days everybody in the ward spoke kindly of him, and all expressed their sympathy to us. Nursing Sister Williams had been especially good to him. He was in Ward D2, Southwark Military Hospital, East Dulwich, London.

"The funeral took place in Brookwood Cemetery, 24 miles from London. It is a nice cemetery, and Raymond is laid to rest in the part marked off for Australian soldiers. There is a wooden cross placed at the head of each grave.

"The military were exceedingly kind. They sent a corporal to take charge of an escort of 12 Australian soldiers, also a sergeant to conduct. Mrs. Hamilton and myself managed the conduct of the funeral. There were five beautiful wreaths of flowers on the coffin. I brought the cards away with me and have enclosed them. We thought that you would be desirous of having a wreath representing his family, so obtained one.

"This is all. 'Tis a sorrowful story!

"S. D. HAMILTON."

*(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia – 27 September, 1918)*

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#### **IN MEMORIAM**

CLIFFORD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Raymond, died in England, May 1, 1918.

Though death divides fond memory clings.

- Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Phyllis.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 May, 1919)*

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#### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

CLIFFORD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Raymond, died 1st of May, 1918, in Military Hospital, England.

A noble hero, true and brave,

Peacefully sleeps in a soldier's grave.

- Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Phyllis, Port McDonnell.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 May, 1919)*

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#### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

CLIFFORD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Raymond, who died in England on May 1, 1918. Though death divides fond memory clings – Inserted by his loving mother and sister.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 May, 1920)*

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### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

CLIFFORD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Raymond, died 1st of May, 1918, in Military Hospital, England.

A noble hero, true and brave,  
Peacefully sleeps in a soldier's grave.

- Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Phyllis, Port McDonnell.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 May, 1921)*

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### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

CLIFFORD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Raymond John, who died at the Southwark Military Hospital, England, May 1, 1918. Ever remembered. – Inserted by his mother and sister, Phyllis, Port MacDonnell.

*(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, Sth Aust – 1 May, 1922)*

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### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

CLIFFORD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Ray, who died in England while on active service, aged 21, May 1, 1918. Ever remembered by his mother and sister, Phyllis.

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 May, 1923)*

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### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

CLIFFORD – In loving memory of Gunner R. J. Clifford, died in England May 1, 1918. Ever remembered by his mother and sister, Phyllis.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 May, 1924)*

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### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

CLIFFORD – In loving memory of Raymond John, who died in England, May 1, 1918. Ever remembered. – Inserted by his mother and sister, Phyllis.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 May, 1925)*

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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 R. J. Clifford does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Greater Love*

*Hath No Man Than This*

*Inserted By*

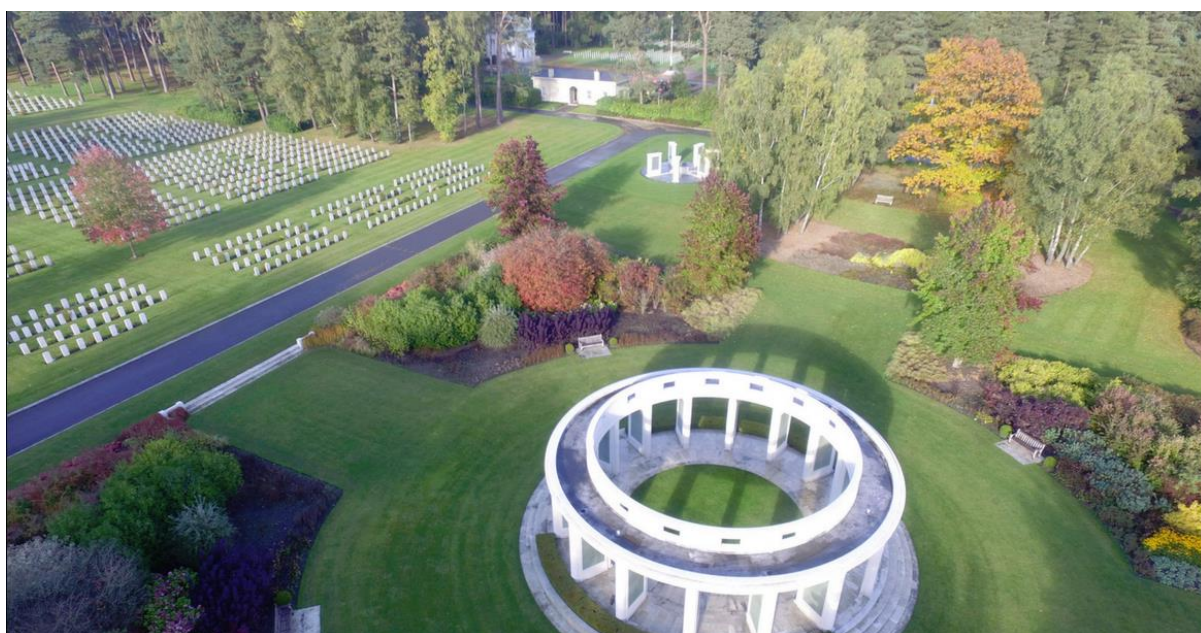
*Mother & Sister Phyl*

### **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 R. J. Clifford's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

