

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4280 LANCE CPL.**

**A. H. CONQUEST**

**29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**15 APRIL, 1918 Age 21**

*In Memory Of  
The Dearly Loved Son Of  
Mr And Mrs Conquest  
Of Sydney*

## Alfred Henry CONQUEST

Alfred Henry Conquest was born at Forbes, New South Wales, Australia in early 1897 to parents George John Thomas & Sarah Conquest (nee Marshall).

Alfred Henry Conquest attended school at Cobar & Clarence Catholic.

Alfred Henry Conquest was a 19 year old, single, Labourer from 48 Albany Road, Stanmore, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at R.A.S. (Royal Agricultural Show) Grounds, Sydney, NSW on 23rd May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4280 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr George Conquest, 48 Albany Road, Stanmore, Sydney, NSW.

Private Alfred Henry Conquest was posted to "A" Company, 1st Battalion on 23rd May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "A" Company, Depot Battalion at Goulburn, NSW on 7th July, 1916 then transferred on 4th August, 1916 to Menangle Light Horse Camp. Private Conquest was transferred on 10th October, 1916 to 11th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion.

Private Alfred Henry Conquest embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 3rd November, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

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 Alfred Henry Conquest proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 15th March, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 16th March, 1917. Private Conquest was marched out to his Unit on 19th March, 1917 & was taken on strength of 29th Battalion from Reinforcements on 22nd March, 1917.

Private Alfred Henry Conquest was appointed Lance Corporal on 10th November, 1917 with 29th Battalion.

Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest was wounded in action in 12th December, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 13th December, 1917 with bullet wound/s to right forearm. Lance Corporal Conquest was transferred & admitted to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 13th December, 1917 then transferred to 15th Ambulance Train on 15th December, 1917. He was admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 15th December, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right arm. Lance Corporal Conquest was transferred & admitted to 1st Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 26th December, 1917 & discharged to No. 3 Rest Camp on 6th January, 1918.

### War Diary – 29th Battalion

*Gappaard 12th December, 1917*

*Enemy attitude fairly quiet.*

*During night 12/13th enemy M.G's and T.M's very active.*

*Weather fine and frosty – ground hardening. Winds light but very changeable.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Base Records contacted Mr G. Conquest, 48 Albany Road, Stanmore, NSW on 1st January, 1918 to advise that Private A. H. Conquest had been reported wounded.

Mr G. Conquest advised Base Records on 5th January, 1918 of his correct address of 42 Nelson Street, Annandale, Sydney as he had just received a message regarding his son Private A. H. Conquest, 4280, 29th Battalion which had been sent to the wrong address & he would be "glad of further information as soon as possible" regarding his son.

Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 10th January, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 21st February, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from being wounded on 25th February, 1918.

Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest was sent to 5th Divisional Scouting School on 5th March, 1918 & returned to his Unit on 16th March, 1918.

Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest was sent sick to Hospital on 26th March, 1918. He was admitted to 2nd F. A. D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 26th March, 1918 with Debility then transferred & admitted to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station on 29th March, 1918 with Bronchitis. Lance Corporal Conquest was transferred & admitted to 7th Canadian Stationary Hospital on 29th March, 1918 with P.U.O. (pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was transferred & admitted to 7th Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 29th March, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 30th March, 1918. Lance Corporal Conquest was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 3rd April, 1918.

## **29th Battalion**

The 29th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria on 10 August 1915. Having enlisted as part of the recruitment drive that followed the landing at Gallipoli, and having seen the casualty lists, these were men who had offered themselves in full knowledge of their potential fate.

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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.....

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

Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest was admitted to Horton County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England on 3rd April, 1918 with Leukaemia.

Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest died at 6.40 am on 15th April, 1918 at Horton (County of London) War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, England from Acute Leukaemia.

A death for Alfred H. Conquest, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Epsom, Surrey, England.

Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest was buried at 1.30 pm on 18th April, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180, 851.

*From the burial report of Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest - Coffin was good Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party and Bugler were supplied by Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, Pallbearers by the I.O.M. Sec. A.A.O.C. stationed at Woolwich. The grave will be turfed immediately and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Base Records wrote to Mr G. Conquest, 96 Bridge Rd, Glebe, NSW on 23rd March, 1923 stating that the site of Lance Corporal A. H. Conquest's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row E Grave 21.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV.E.21. Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest contains a letter from Matron, The Horton County of London, War Hospital which reads: "*Adm. from France 3.4.18 suffering from acute Leukaemia. He very rapidly became worse and died on 15.4.18 at 6.40 am. He was buried at Brookwood cemetery by the Australian Headquarters on Thursday Apr. 18th 1918. Sister i/c of Ward 13 says that his death was very peaceful and that she has written to his mother. The patients of Ward 13, sent a beautiful wreath in his colours, yellow and black and a sheaf of White Lilies, from the nursing staff.*"

A War Pension was granted to Sarah Jane Conquest, 42 Nelson St, Annandale, mother of the late Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 17th June, 1918.

The personal effects of the late Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest were sent to his father – Mr George Conquest, 42 Nelson Street, Annandale, New South Wales.

Mrs S. Conquest, 96 Bridge Rd, Glebe, wrote to Base Records in 1920 (date on letter "15/13/20") regarding the form for the inscription on the headstone for Lance Corporal Conquest. The letter continues with "*My son was recommended for the Military Medal by Captain Robertson by as the poor fellow was killed himself just after. I suppose that is why my son never got the Medal. I would like to know if I could get the medal if I applied for it....*"

Base Records replied to Mrs Conquest on 19th April, 1920 stating "*.....there is no record of the award of the Military Medal to the late soldier, consequently the decoration will not be available to you.*"

Base Records wrote to Deputy Commissioner, Department of Repatriation, Redfern, New South Wales on 5th June, 1923 stating that it was noted from the Pension Statement that a Pension had been granted to Mrs Sarah Jane Conquest, on account of the service of her son, the late No. 2480 Lance Corporal A. H. Conquest. Base Records requested an address for Mrs Conquest other than 96 Bridge Road, Glebe, NSW as communications sent to that address had been returned unclaimed. A reply was received on 11th June, 1923 advising that Mrs Conquest's private address was unknown but her pension was being paid at the Cessnock Post Office.

Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Conquest's father – Mr G. Conquest, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The War Medals etc had been marked to be sent to "Untraceables" however, the Victory Medal, which had been sent to Mr G. Conquest in April, 1923 but returned unclaimed was resent in June, 1923 & signed for as receipt of receiving it.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest – service number 4280, of 29th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Sarah Conquest, of 96 Bridge Rd., Glebe, Sydney.

Lance Corporal A. H. Conquest 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

A. H. Conquest is remembered on the Annandale Great War Roll of Honour, located in Annandale Community Centre, 79 Johnston Street, Annandale, Sydney, NSW.



**Annandale Great War Roll of Honour** (Photo from War Memorials Register of NSW)

(59 pages of Lance Corporal Alfred Henry Conquest'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**

### **DOUBLE CASUALTY LIST**

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

### **WOUNDED**

Pte ALFRED HY. CONQUEST, Stanmore

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 12 January, 1918)

## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

CONQUEST – Died of illness in France, April 15 (previously wounded), Private Alfred Henry Conquest, 29th Battalion, aged 21 years and 3 months, beloved son of George Conquest and Mrs Conquest, of Annandale.

Oh, the anguish of the mother  
    Oh, the bitter tears she shed  
When she read the awful message  
    That her darling boy was dead.  
“Died of wounds,” so read the letter;  
    She could scarcely read it through,  
For her heart was nearly broken  
    As she realised ‘twas true.

Inserted by his loving father and mother and sisters and brothers, Maud, George, Ethel, Gert., Russel, Rita, Nary and Bill.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 April, 1918)*

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## **RETURN THANKS**

Mr and Mrs CONQUEST and FAMILY, of Nelson-street, Annandale, wish to return THANKS for letters, cards, and expressions of personal sympathy from friends and relations for the loss of their beloved son, Alf Conquest, died of illness in France April 15. 1918.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 April, 1918)*

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## **HEAVY WAR CASUALTIES**

### **TWO BIG LISTS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES**

The following 395th and 396th lists of Australian casualties were issued by the Defence Department yesterday:—

#### **DIED – CAUSE NOT STATED**

Pte ALFRED HENRY CONQUEST, Annandale (previously reported wounded)

*(Sunday Times, Sydney, NSW – 5 May, 1918)*

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## **DOUBLE CASUALTY LIST**

The following are the casualties contained in the 397th and 398th lists:-

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte ALFRED HENRY CONQUEST, Annandale

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 9 May, 1918)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

CONQUEST – In loving memory of our darling son, Lance-corporal Alf. (Snowy) Conquest, 29th Battalion, died of illness, April 15, 1918, after two years' active service.

Could I, his mother, have clasped his hand,  
The son I loved so dear,  
Or kissed his brow when death was near,  
And whispered, My son, farewell.  
I seem to see his dear, sweet face  
Through a mist of anxious tears,  
But a mother's part is a broken heart  
And a burden of lonely years.

Inserted by his sorrowing father and mother, George and Sarah Conquest.

CONQUEST – In loving memory of our darling brother and uncle, Lance-corporal Alf. (Snowy) Conquest, who died of illness, April 15, 1918, after two years' active service.

We never knew the pain he bore,  
We never saw him die;  
We only know he passed away,  
And never said good bye.  
Far and oft our thoughts do wander  
To that grave so far away,  
Where they laid our darling brother  
Just twelve months ago to-day.

Inserted by his fond sisters and brothers, Maud, Ethel, Gert, Rita, George, Russel, Mary, and niece and nephew, Iris and Norman.

CONQUEST – In loving memory of our darling brother and uncle, Lance corporal Alf Conquest, who died of illness, April 15, 1918.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Your prayers for him extol,  
O Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Have mercy on his soul.

Inserted by his fond sister and brother-in-law, Maud and Will, and nephew and nieces George, Lister, and Merle.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 April, 1919)*

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### **On Active Service**

CONQUEST – In loving memory of our darling son and brother, Lance-corporal Alfred Conquest, died of illness, April 15, 1918, 29th Battalion.

The midnight stars are shining  
In a grave far, far away,  
Where they laid our darling

Just two years ago today.  
His happy smile, his loving face,  
His words, his actions, are not dead;  
But in our hearts are daily read.

Inserted by his fond father, mother, sisters and brothers, and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, nieces and nephews.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 April, 1920)*

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### **On Active Service**

CONQUEST – In loving memory of our darling son and brother, Alfred Henry, late 29th Battalion, died April 15, 1918, aged 21 years.

No one who loved him was by his side  
To hear his last faint sigh.  
Or to whisper just one loving word  
Before he closed his eyes.  
Gone, but not forgotten.

Inserted by his fond mother, father, sisters and brothers, Maud, Ethel, Gert., Rita, Mary, George, and Russell; nieces and nephews, Merle, Iris, Dorris, George, Norman, and Lester.

CONQUEST – In loving memory of our darling brother and uncle, L.-cpl Alf. Conquest, 29th Battalion, died of illness, April 15, 1918. Inserted by his fond sisters Maud and Gert, brother-in-law, Bill, niece and nephews, Merle, George and Lester.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 April, 1921)*

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### **On Active Service**

CONQUEST – In loving memory of Alfred (Snowy) Conquest, 29th Batt., died April 15, 1918.

No space of time or lapse of years  
Can dim our loved one's past;  
A loving memory holds it dear,  
Affection holds it fast.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 April, 1922)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

CONQUEST – In loving memory of our darling son and brother, Alfred (Snowy) Conquest, 29th Batt., aged 21 years, died April 15, 1918.

Oh, Mother of Mercy, to thee I pray,  
For our dear son's and brother's soul to-day.



Ask of Thy Son, at my request,  
To grant our dear Alf eternal rest.

Inserted by his fond mother and father, sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 April, 1923)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

CONQUEST – In loving memory of our darling son and brother, Alfred Henry Conquest, 29th Battalion, died April 15, 1918.

Just a memory, fond and true,  
To show, dear Alf, we think of you.

Inserted by his fond mother, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and brothers and sisters-in-law, Kearsley.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 April, 1925)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

CONQUEST – In fond memory of my dear Husband and our Father, George Conquest, who died 24/10/25; also my dear Son and our Brother, Alfred Henry Conquest, 29th Batt. A.I.F. died 15/4/1918.

“Who shall say our grief has lessened,  
Though our smiles may hide our tears;  
Memory keeps the wound still open,  
Despite the passing of the years.”

Inserted by Wife, Mother and Family.

*(The Labor Daily, Sydney, NSW – 24 October, 1935)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

CONQUEST – In fond memory of our dear husband and father, George Conquest, died October 25, 1924; also our dear son and brother, Alfred Henry Conquest, died April 15, 1918, late 29th Battalion, A.I.F.

Sunshine passes, shadows fall,  
Loving memories outlast all.

Inserted by find wife, mother, son, daughters, brothers and sisters-in-law, sisters and brothers-in-law, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 25 October, 1937)*

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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)*

Lance Corporal A. H. Conquest does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

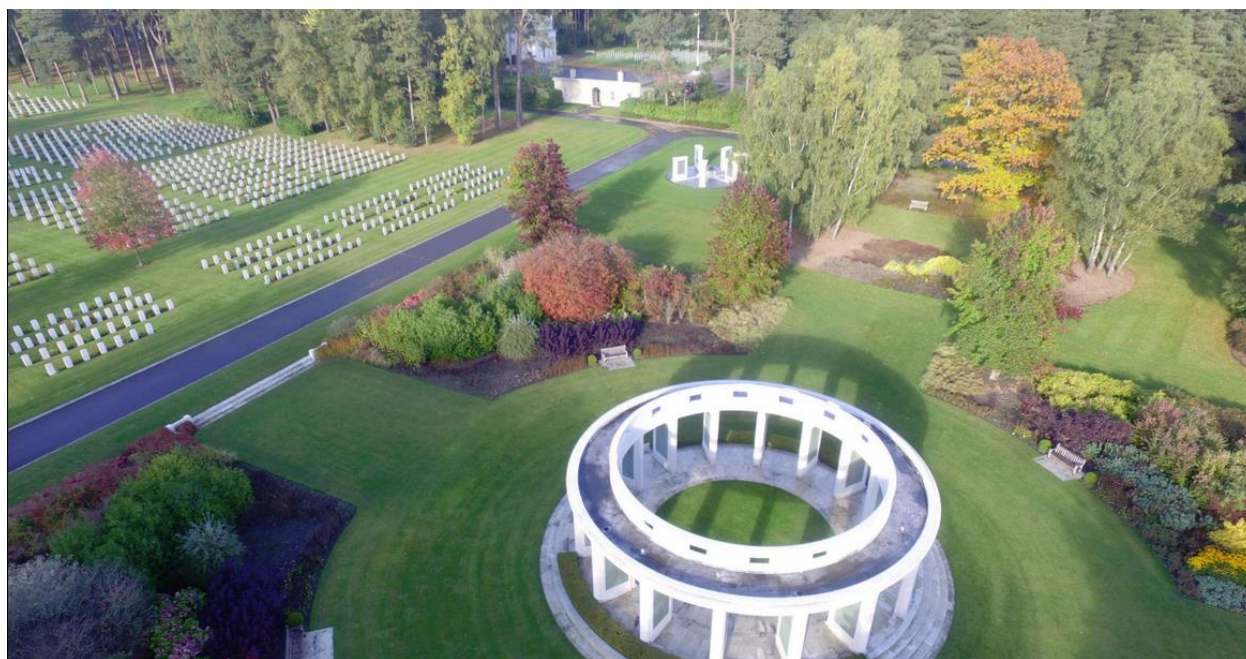
*In Memory of The Dearly Loved Son Of Mr And Mrs Conquest Of Sydney*

## **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 Lance Corporal A. H. Conquest's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

