

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4404 PRIVATE

E. CORNELL

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH OCTOBER, 1916 Age 27

Ernest CORNELL

Ernest Cornell was born at Gosfield, near Halstead, Essex, England on 17th October, 1889 to parents William & Alice Emily Cornell (nee Andrews). He was baptised on 26th March, 1890 at St. Catherine's Church, Gosfield, Essex, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Ernest Cornell as a 1 year old, living with his family at The Bridge, Gosfield, Essex, England. His parents were listed as William Cornell (Labourer (domestic servant), aged 34, born Felstead, Essex) & Alice E. Cornell (aged 32, born Black Nottley, Essex). Ernest was the youngest of four children listed on this Census – Herbert W. Cornell (age 5, born Gt Waltham, Essex), Frank Cornell (aged 4, born Gt Waltham, Essex), Albert H. Cornell (aged 3, born Gt Waltham, Essex) then Ernest.

The 1901 England Census recorded Ernest Cornell as an 11 year old, living with his family at The Street, Gosfield, Essex, England. His parents were listed as William Cornell (Gardener, aged 44) & Alice Emily Cornell (aged 40). Ernest was one of ten children listed on this Census – Herbert W. Cornell (Labourer, aged 15), Frank Cornell (Labourer, aged 14), Albert Henry Cornell (aged 13), Ernest, Gertrude V. Cornell (aged 9, born Gosfield, Essex), Reginald Cornell (aged 7, born Gosfield, Essex), Edith Mary Cornell (aged 6, born Gosfield, Essex), Frederick Ch. Cornell (aged 4, born Gosfield, Essex), Emile Maud Cornell (aged 2, born Gosfield, Essex) & Amy Louise Cornell (aged 8 months, born Gosfield, Essex).

The 1911 England Census recorded Ernest Cornell as a 21 year old, Labourer on a Farm, living with his family in a six roomed dwelling near Bardfield Hall, Great Bardfield, Braintree, Essex. His parents were listed as William Cornell (Gardener, aged 56) & Alice Emily Cornell (aged 51). William & Alice Cornell had been married for 26 years & had a total of 12 children, one of whom had since died. Ernest was one of nine children listed on this Census – Frank Cornell (Groom, aged 24), Albert Henry Cornell (aged 23), then Ernest, Gertrude Violet Cornell (aged 19, at Home), Reginald Cornell (Baker's Help, aged 17), Frederick Charles Cornell (Grocer, aged 14), Emily Maud Cornell (At School, aged 12), Amy Louise Cornell (At School, aged 11) & Ellen Cornell (aged 6, born Gt Bardfield, Essex).

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Ernest Cornell came to Australia when he was 20 years old. (An "E. Cornell", Farm Labourer was a passenger on *Kaipara* which departed from London, England & arrived at Fremantle, Western Australia on 12th January, 1912.)

The 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Swan, subdivision of Collie, Western Australia recorded Ernest Cornell, Labourer of Forrest Street, Collie.

Ernest Cornell was a 25 year old, single, Labourer from Collie, Western Australia when he enlisted at Black Boy Hill, Western Australia on 25th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4404 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Alice Cornell, Bradfield, Essex, England. His postal address was listed as c/o Crown Hotel, Collie.

Private Ernest Cornell was posted to Area No. 2 on 25th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 14th March, 1916.

Private Ernest Cornell embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 31st March, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Ernest Cornell embarked from Alexandria on 10th May, 1916 on H.M.T. *Scotian* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 18th May, 1916.

Private Ernest Cornell was taken on strength of 28th Battalion in France on 2nd August, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private Ernest Cornell was wounded in action in France on 4/6th August, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Camiers, France on 7th August, 1916 with shrapnel wound/s to Leg. Private Cornell embarked for England from Boulogne, France on 11th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel*.

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria.....

After another stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France and the Western Front, as part of the 2nd Australian Division. The 28th Battalion took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 28 July and 6 August 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 28th Battalion

Pozieres – August 4 to August 6th, 1916:

Aug 4 – Attack on trenches north of POZIERES

Aug 6 - 8.23 pm – At 8.23 pm on Aug 6th Battn returned to TARA HILL. (Report on Operations attached)

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Casualties for AUGUST 1916

	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Wounded</i>	<i>Died of Wounds</i>	<i>Missing</i>	<i>Sick to Hospital</i>
<i>Officers</i>	2	7	3	-	1
<i>Other Ranks</i>	21	160	8	16	61
	23	167	11	16	62

279 Total Casualties

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

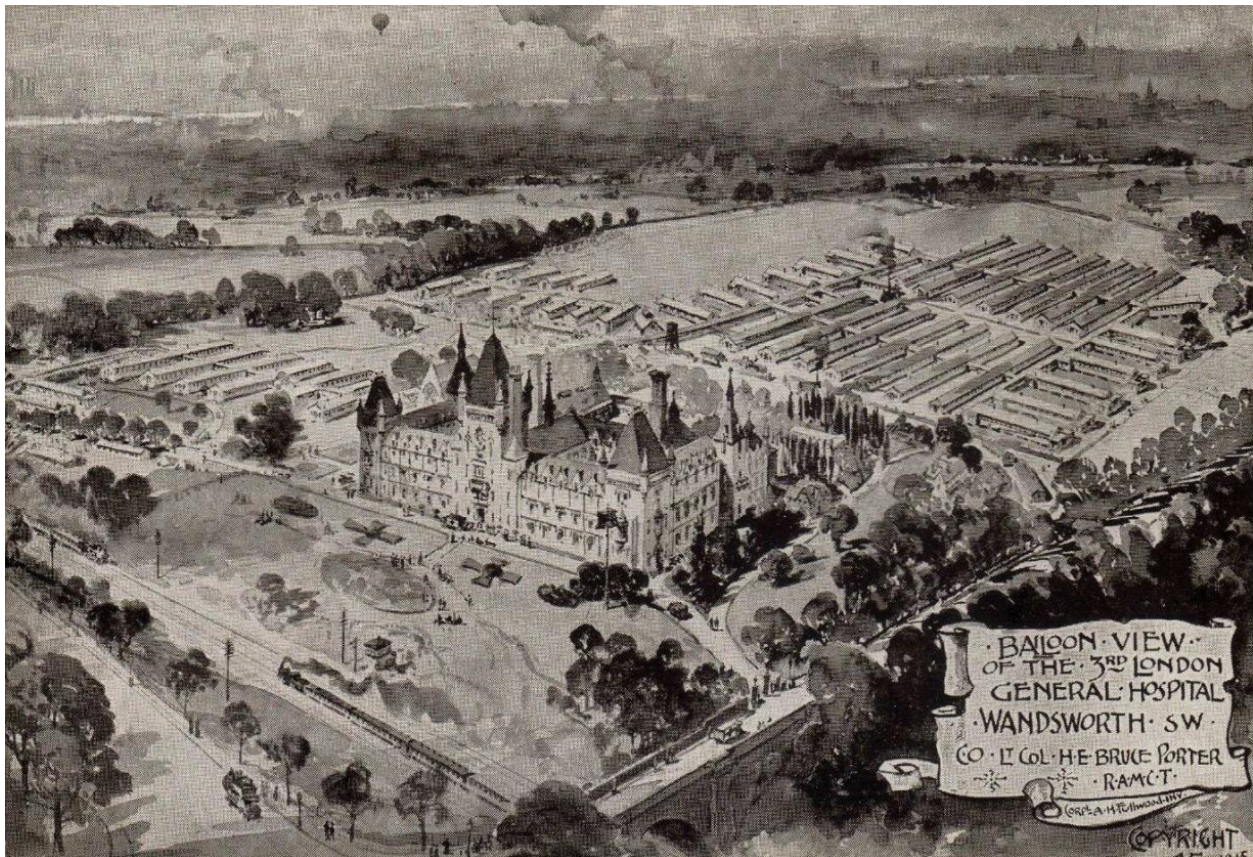
Private Ernest Cornell was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 11th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Left Leg.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01040

3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth



Private Ernest Cornell died at 6.45 am on 19th October, 1916 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Left Thigh & (secondary) Haemorrhage.

A death for Ernest Cornell, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Private Ernest Cornell was buried on 23rd October, 1916 in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Grave site L. 19 Grave No. p. 28.

This is now recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number Aust. 18 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Reginald Cornell, Crown Hotel, Collie, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 28th November, 1916 with the following: *“Please will you send me death Certificate of my brother No. 4404 Private E. Cornell, who died of wounds he left me his will to act as Executor for my mother Mrs W. Cornell, Great Bardfield Essex, England, I have been advised by District Paymaster, Perth, to apply to you for same.”*

Base Records replied to Mr R. Cornell on 11th January, 1917 enclosing a certificate of death of the late No. 4404, Private E. Cornell, 28th Battalion.

Base Records wrote to Mr R. Cornell, Crown Hotel, Collie, Western Australia on 28th November, 1921 with the following: *“I shall be much obliged if you will furnish me with the present address of the parents of the late No. 4404 Private E. Cornell, 28th Battalion, if they are deceased, kindly advise me whether the late soldier has any brothers older than yourself – stating the name and address of the eldest. This information is required in order that the War Medals etc., issuable on account of the abovementioned late soldier’s service may be properly disposed of. Thanking you in anticipation of the favour of an early reply.”*

A handwritten notation on the copy of the above letter was marked in red & reads *“Original retd unclaimed...”*

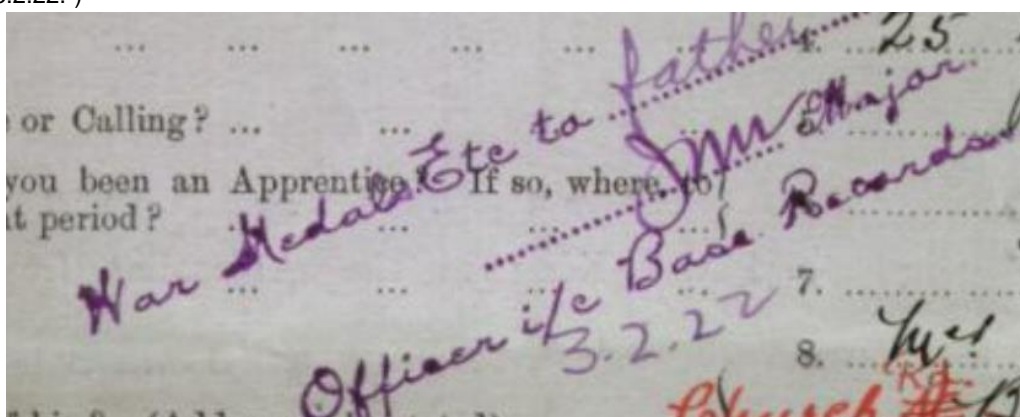
The Acting Manager, Government Savings Bank, Western Australia wrote to Base Records on 15th February, 1917 requesting a copy of "...the Registration of Death of Private Ernest Cornell No. 4404, who was killed in action on the 19th October, 1916."

Base Records replied to The Acting Manager, Government Savings Bank, Perth, Western Australia on 23rd February, 1917, enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 4404, Private E. Cornell, 28th Battalion.

The 5th Military District, Perth, Western Australia wrote to Base Records on 23rd January, 1922 regarding the late 4404 Private E. Cornell, 28th Battalion: "In reply to your memo of 23/12/21, please note that the father of this late member, Mr William Cornell, now resides at Church Rd, Gt Bardfield, Braintree, Essex, England."

Private Ernest Cornell was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Cornell's mother (as listed on Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque Stamps) - Mrs A. Cornell (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in July, 1922).

(Note: A stamp on front page of Private Cornell's Attestation Papers reads "War Medals Etc to Father, J. M. Major, Officer i/c Base Records. 3.2.22.")



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ernest Cornell – service number 4404, aged 27, of 28th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alice Cornell, of Church Rd., Great Bardfield, Braintree, Essex.

Private E. Cornell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 112.

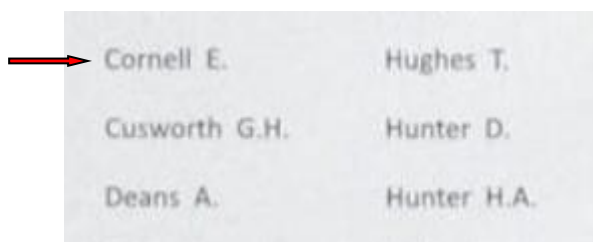


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. Cornell is remembered on the Collie & surrounding Districts Roll of Honour, located in Collie Cardiff RSL Sub Branch, Coalfields Highway, Collie, Western Australia.



Collie & surrounding Districts Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Collie Cardiff RSL Sub Branch)



E. Cornell is not remembered on the Collie War Memorial, located in Soldiers Park, Steere & Johnston Streets, Collie, Western Australia.



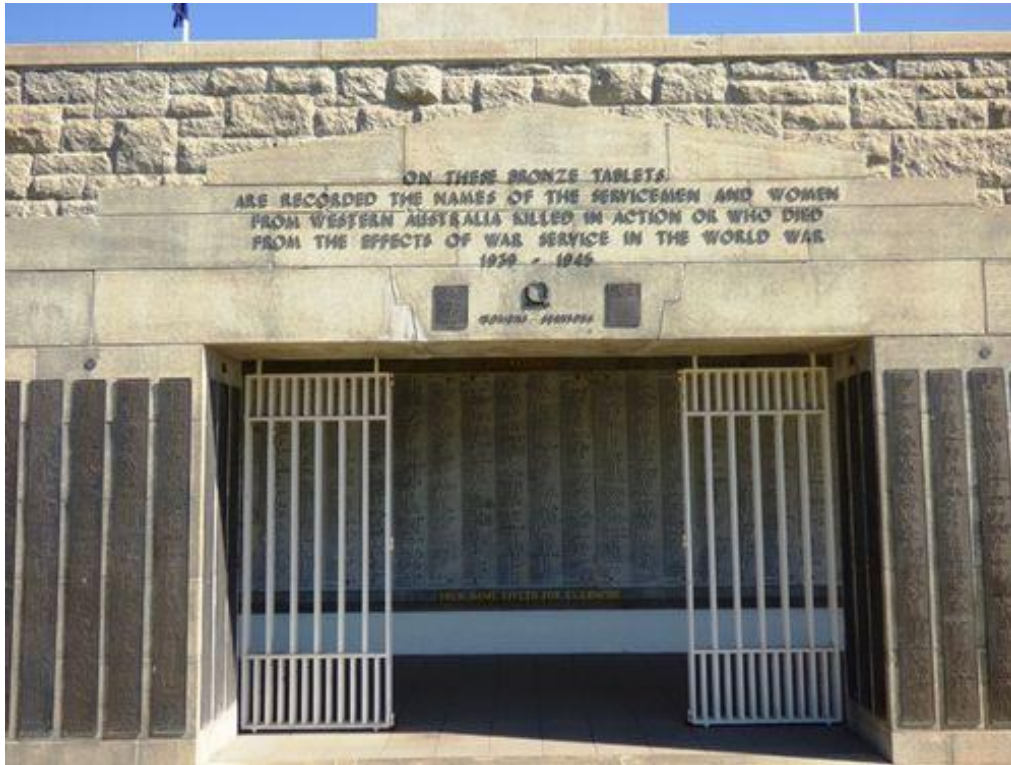
Collie War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Stuart Smith)

E. Cornell 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)



28th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Ernest Cornell & his brother Herbert W. Cornell are both remembered on the Great Bardfield War Memorial, located on Village Green, Great Bardfield, Braintree, Essex, England.



Great Bardfield War Memorial (Photos from IWM – John Hendry)



(34 pages of Private Ernest Cornell'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 HONOUR

211th CASUALTY LIST

5th MILITARY DISTRICT

WOUNDED

E. Cornell (England)

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 22 September, 1916)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

240th CASUALTY LIST

5th MILITARY DISTRICT

DIED OF WOUNDS

E. Cornell (England), previously reported wounded.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 6 November, 1916)

KILLED IN ACTION

CORNELL – A tribute to the memory of Ernest Cornell, who died in Wandsworth Hospital, London, October 19, from gunshot wounds received in action on the Somme on August 3.

He gave his all.

-Inserted by his sorrowing brother, Reg. and his friend, Harry Smith, Collie.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 17 November, 1916) &

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 24 November, 1916)

DEATH FROM WOUNDS

CORNELL – A tribute to the memory of Ernest Cornell (formerly of Collie), who died in Wandsworth Hospital, London, October 19, from gunshot wounds received in action on the Somme on August 3rd.

“He gave his all.”

-Inserted by his sorrowing brother, Reg. and his friend, Harry Smith, Collie.

(*Collie Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 18 November, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Hero

CORNELL – In loving memory of our dear brother and friend, Private Ernest Cornell, who died of wounds on October 19, 1916, received at the battle of the Somme.

-Inserted by his loving brother Reg, and friend, Private H. H. Smith (on active service)

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

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

CORNELL – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private E. Cornell who died of wounds at No. 3 General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, on October 19, 1916.

Inserted by his loving brother, Reg.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 19 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

CORNELL – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private E. Cornell, who died of wounds at No. 3 General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, on October 19, 1916.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Reg., Claremont.

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 19 October, 1919)

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. Cornell does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.

(Information from CWGC)



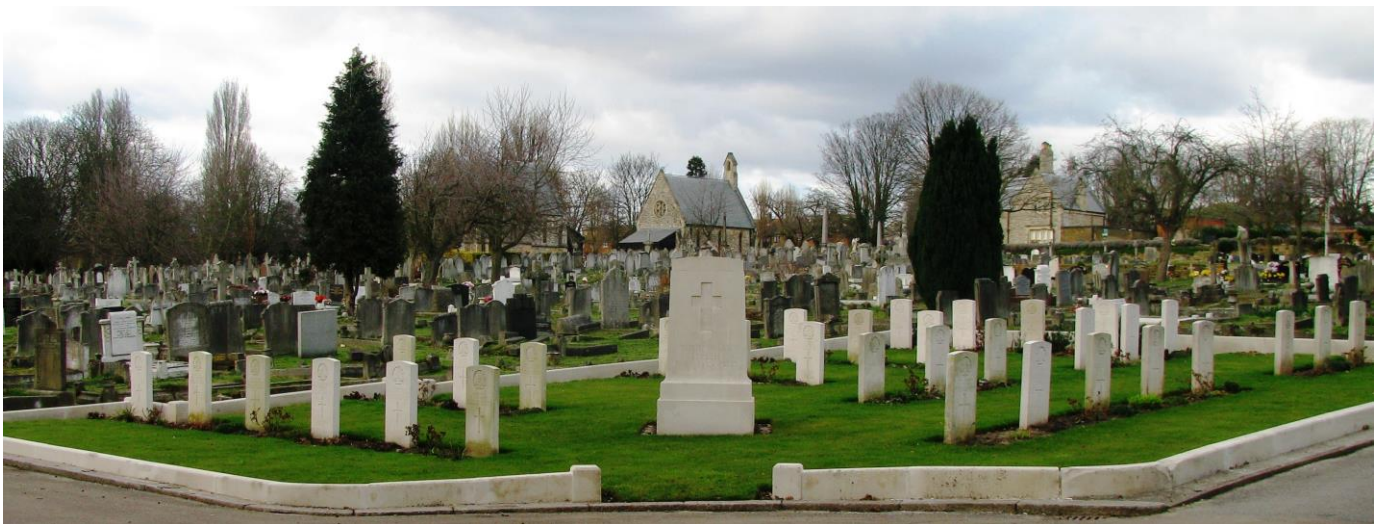
Cross of Sacrifice *(Photos from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16917

A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(taken 15 April, 1931)*



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Private E. Cornell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)