

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5314 PRIVATE

W. C. COULTIS

25TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND OCTOBER, 1917 Age 46

In Memory Of

A Dear Husband & Father

Mrs Coultis & Sons

Queensland

William Charles COULTIS

William Charles Coultis was born at Rockhampton, Queensland in 1871 to parents John & Eliza/ Ellen Coultis (nee Glenny)

William Charles Coultis attended the State School at Rockhampton, Queensland.

William Charles Coultis married Sarah Jane William in Queensland on 1st February, 1893. They had the following children Ethel Maude Coultis (born 3 July, 1893; died 18 November, 1893); Winifred Maud & Eliza May Coultis (born 17 August, 1894; died 5 November, 1894); William Charles Edward Coultis (born 13 January, 1896; died 1964) & John Alan Coultis (born 3 March, 1908; died 1986).

The 1903, 1905, 1906, 1908, 1909, 1912, 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Oxley, subdivision of Wynnum, Queensland recorded William Charles Coultis, Bootmaker & his wife Sarah Jane Coultis, Home duties, of Ashton Street.

The 1915, 1916 & 1919 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Oxley, subdivision of Wynnum, Queensland recorded William Charles Coultis, Bootmaker & his wife Sarah Jane Coultis, Home duties, of Tingal Road.

William Charles Coultis was a 44 year old, married, Bootmaker from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 19th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Sarah Jane Coultis, King Street & Singal Road, Wynnum, via Brisbane, Queensland. William Coultis stated he was married with 1 child. He had served for 1 year with Moreton Regiment.

Private William Charles Coultis was posted to No. 11 Depot Battalion on 3rd March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 25th Battalion on 11th April, 1916.

Private William Charles Coultis, Service number 5314, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Itonus (A50)* on 8th August, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th October, 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 William Charles Coultis proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 13th December, 1916 per S.S. *Victoria* from 7th Training Battalion. He was posted to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 14th December, 1916. Private Coultis proceeded from 2nd A.D.B.D. on 16th December, 1916 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 25th Battalion in France on 18th December, 1916 from 14th Reinforcements.

Private William Charles Coultis reported sick on 27th May, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 27th May, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 56th Casualty Clearing Station with Appendicitis. Private Coultis was transferred to Ambulance Train on 8th June, 1917 & admitted to No. 6 General Hospital on 9th June, 1917. He embarked from Rouen on 16th June, 1917 for England on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian*.

25th Battalion

The 25th Battalion was raised at Enoggera in Queensland in March 1915 as part of the 7th Brigade. Although predominantly composed of men recruited in Queensland, the battalion also included a small contingent of men from Darwin.....

Although it acted in a supporting role at the second battle of Bullecourt, the 25th Battalion did not carry out a major offensive role again until 20 September 1917, when it was part of the 2nd Division's first wave at the battle of Menin Road in Belgium.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Charles Coultis was admitted to 1st London General Hospital, England on 17th June, 1917 with Appendicitis.

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. J. Coultis, corner King Street & Tingal Rd, Wynnum, Queensland on 4th July, 1917 to advise that Private W. C. Coultis had been admitted to 1st London General Hospital, England on 17th June, 1917 suffering from Appendicitis.

Private William Charles Coultis was transferred to Holborn Military Hospital, Mitcham on 20th July, 1917. He was transferred on 26th July, 1917 to St. James Infirmary, Wandsworth, London, England.

Private William Charles Coultis died at 3 pm on 22nd October, 1917 at St. James Infirmary, Balham, London, England from Carcinoma of Caecum.

A death for William C. Coultis, aged 46, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Private William Charles Coultis was buried at 1.30 pm on 25th October, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179, 922.

From the burial report of Private William Charles Coultis - Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The Firing Party was supplied by Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force, 130, Horseferry Road, London, and the Bearers by Australian soldiers on leave from France. A service was conducted at the graveside by Archdeacon Richard, C. of E. of Headquarters, A.I.F. London. The Last Post was sounded by a bugler of A.I.F. Headquarters Staff, London. No relatives were present at the funeral. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. J. Coultis, Bourne Street, off Ipswich Road, South Brisbane, Queensland on 15th May, 1923 stating that the site of the grave of No. 5314 Private W. C. Coultis, 25th Battalion, in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row C Grave 13.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. C. 13. Private W. C. Coultis now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private William Charles Coultis contains a letter from Medical Superintendent, St. James' Infirmary, Ouseley Road, Balham which reads: *"Pte Coultis was operated on in France for Appendicitis on May 8th 1917 and was transferred to this country on July 20th. Later it became evident that there was still active disease affecting the region of the bowel from which the appendix had been removed, and this disease was recognised to be Cancer of a particularly rapid and malignant kind. On Sep. 28th a further operation was performed here to prevent the bowel contents passing through the affected gut. At this operation it was recognised that the disease itself was too advanced to prevent a successful removal. I am pleased to say that although there was rapid wasting towards the end, the last few weeks following operation were comparatively painless."*

Private William Charles Coultis requested in his Will dated 16th February, 1916 that he bequeathed all his real & personal property to his wife Sarah Jane Coultis.

Sarah Jane Coultis, King street, Wynnum, wrote to Base Records on 13th November, 1917 requesting a death certificate *"for my husband ...No. 5314 Private W. C. Coultis, 25th Battalion for the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australia."*

Base Records replied to Mrs Sarah J. Coultis, on 3rd January, 1918, enclosing as requested a certificate of report of death of her husband the late No. 5314 Private W. C. Coultis, 25th Battalion.

A War Pension was granted to Sarah Jane Coultis, King St, Wynnum, widow of the late Private William Charles Coultis, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 26th December, 1917. A pension was also granted to John Alan Coultis, son of the late Private William Charles Coultis, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 26th December, 1917.

King & Gill Solicitors, Brisbane, Queensland, wrote to Base Records on 10th February, 1919 regarding Private William Charles Coultis: *"We beg to advise you that we are acting for Mrs Sarah Jane Coultis, widow of the deceased, in the matter of a transfer by her of certain real estate in this State. Her name appears as the registered proprietress of the land to be transferred as the "wife of William Charles Coultis" and as she is now a widow, it is necessary for us to produce an official record of the death of her husband. We would therefore be obliged if you would kindly forward us an official record of the death of the abovenamed deceased."*

Base Records replied to Messrs King & Gill, Solicitors on 17th February, 1919, enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 5314 Private W. C. Coultis, 25th Battalion.

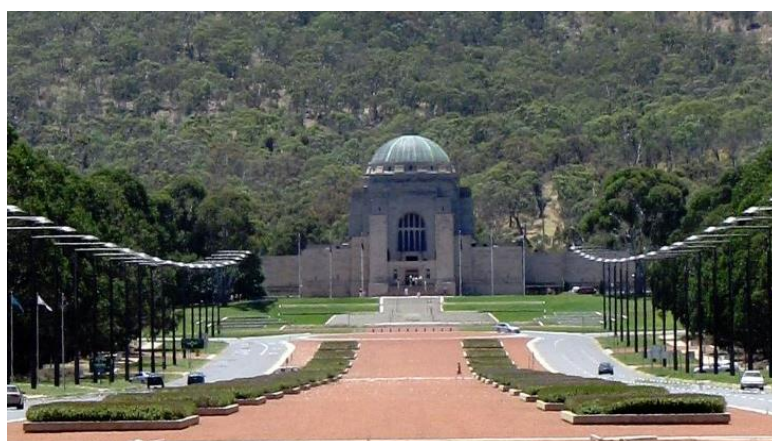
Private William Charles Coultis was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Coultis' widow – Mrs S. J. Coultis, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Charles Coultis – service number 5314, aged 46, of 25th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John & Eliza Coultis; husband of Sarah Jane Coultis, of Logan Road & Martin Street, South Brisbane.

Private W. C. Coultis is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 104.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



W. C. Coultis is remembered on the Wynnum High School War Memorial, located at Wynnum State High School, Peel Stret, Wynnum, Queensland.

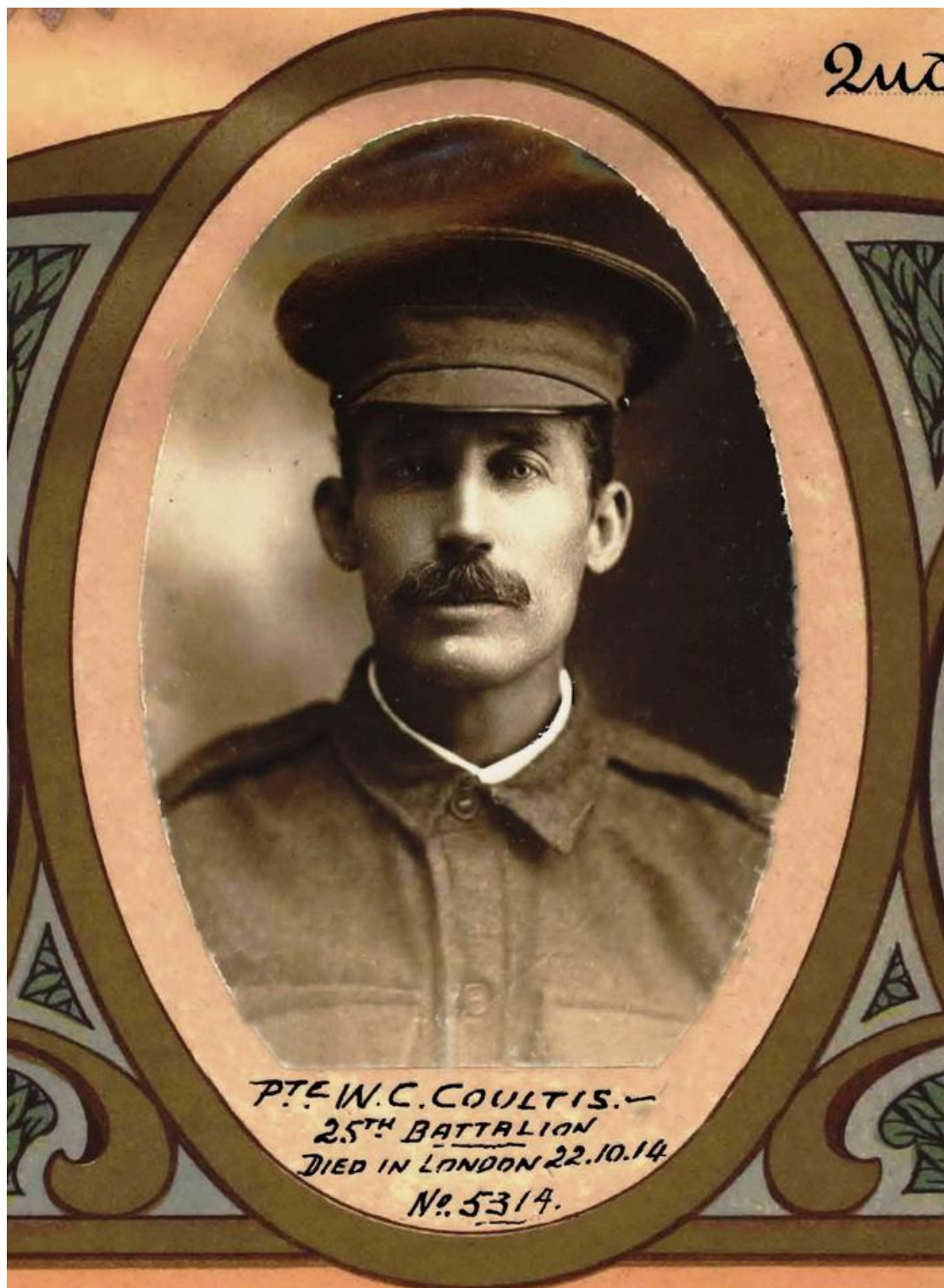


Wynnum High School War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Bill Bale)



(60 pages of Private William Charles Coultis' 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



Private W. C. Coultis

Honour the Brave

Pro Patria

Town of Wynnum

(Queensland)

Presented to

W. C. Coultis

by the People of Wynnum in grateful
appreciation of the Grand Sacrifice and Noble
Deeds performed on the Battlefields of other
lands, to uphold the Glorious Heritage of the
British Empire

Richard Russell
Mayor.

Jana
Town Clerk.

Dated at Wynnum,
2nd. May 1919.



PTE W. C. COULTIS.—
25th BATTALION
DIED IN LONDON 22.10.18
No. 5317.

He answered his Country's Call.

Newspaper Notices

HONOUR BOARDS UNVEILED

WYNNUM, May, 25

AN honour board was unveiled in the Town Hall, Wynnum, last night, in connection with the Protestant Alliance Moreton Lodge, No. 76. The mayor presided, and mentioned that the honour board contained the names of members of the society who had gone or were going to the Front. He referred to the necessity of every man who was able offering his services. Addresses were also given by Bros. A. Machin, P.M. (Onward Bound Lodge)....

Bro. Smith unveiled the honour board, which is of silky oak, and bears the following names..... W. C. Coultis....

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 27 May, 1916)

Roll of Honour

Wounded and Sick

The following were contained in the 324th casualty list.....

ILL

William Charles Coultis, Wynnum

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 17 July, 1917)

DEATHS

COULTIS – Died in Hospital, London, on 22nd October, Private William Charles Coultis, dearly beloved husband of Sarah Jane Coultis.

He died for his country's cause,
God be with him, till we meet again.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 October, 1917) & (The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 November, 1917)

PERSONAL NOTES

Mrs W. C. Coultis, Wynnum, has received the sad news that her husband, Private W. C. Coultis, died in St. James's Hospital, Wandsworth, London, on October 22, after a third operation for appendicitis. Private Coultis had been 15 months on active service. Previous to enlisting he was employed by T. and W. Gray, George-street, Brisbane. He had a large circle of friends, who have expressed deep sympathy with Mrs Coultis and her two sons in their bereavement.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 6 November, 1917)

Personal Notes

Mrs. W. C. Coultis, Wynnum, has received the sad news from base records that her husband, Pte. W. C. Coultis, died in St. James's Hospital, Wandsworth, London, after a third operation for appendicitis, on 22nd October. Previously enlisting, Pte. Coultis was employed for many years at T. and W. Gray's, George street, city, and was beloved by all who knew him. Pte. Coultis had been for 15 months on active service.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 6 November, 1917)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mrs C. COULTIS and Family, Wynnum, wish to return THANKS to kind friends for telegrams, letters, cards of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 17 November, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LISTS Nos 356 AND 357

Died of Illness

Private W. Coulti (Wynnum)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 27 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COULTIS – In loving memory of my dear husband, William Charles Coultis, died St. James' Infirmary, London, 22nd October, 1917.

He rose responsive to his country's call,
He gave his life, his best, his all.

Inserted by his loving wife and sons, Charles and Jack Coultis.

COULTIS – In memory of William Charles Coultis, died St. James' Infirmary, London, 22nd October, 1917.

No one he loved was by his side,
To hear his last faint sigh,
Or whisper just one loving word,
Before he closed his eyes.

Inserted by his sorrowing brother and sister-in-law, J. and M. Taylor.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 October, 1918) & (The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 25 October, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COULTIS – In loving memory of my dear husband, William Charles Coultis, died St. James' Infirmary, London, 22nd October, 1917.

He rose responsive to his country's call,
He gave his life, his best, his all.

Inserted by his loving wife and sons, Charles and Jack Coultis.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 22 October, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COULTIS – In loving memory of Private W. C. Coultis, who died in hospital, London, 22nd October, 1917.

He did not shun his country's call,
But gladly gave his life, his all,
He died the helpless to defend.
An Australian soldier's noble end.

Inserted by his loving wife and sons.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 October, 1919) & (The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 24 October, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

COULTIS – In loving memory of my dear husband and father, W. C. Coultis, died in London, 22nd October, 1917.

Sleep on, dear dad, in a soldier's grave,
Your life for your country you nobly gave.

Inserted by his wife and sons.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 October, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COULTIS – In loving memory of W. C. Coultis, 25th Batt., died in hospital, London, 22nd October, 1917.

Time has not changed our thoughts of you,
Sweet Memories linger still;
Too far away they grave to see,
But not too far to think of thee.

Inserted by his loving wife and sons.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 October, 1921)

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 W. C. Coultis does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of A Dear Husband & Father

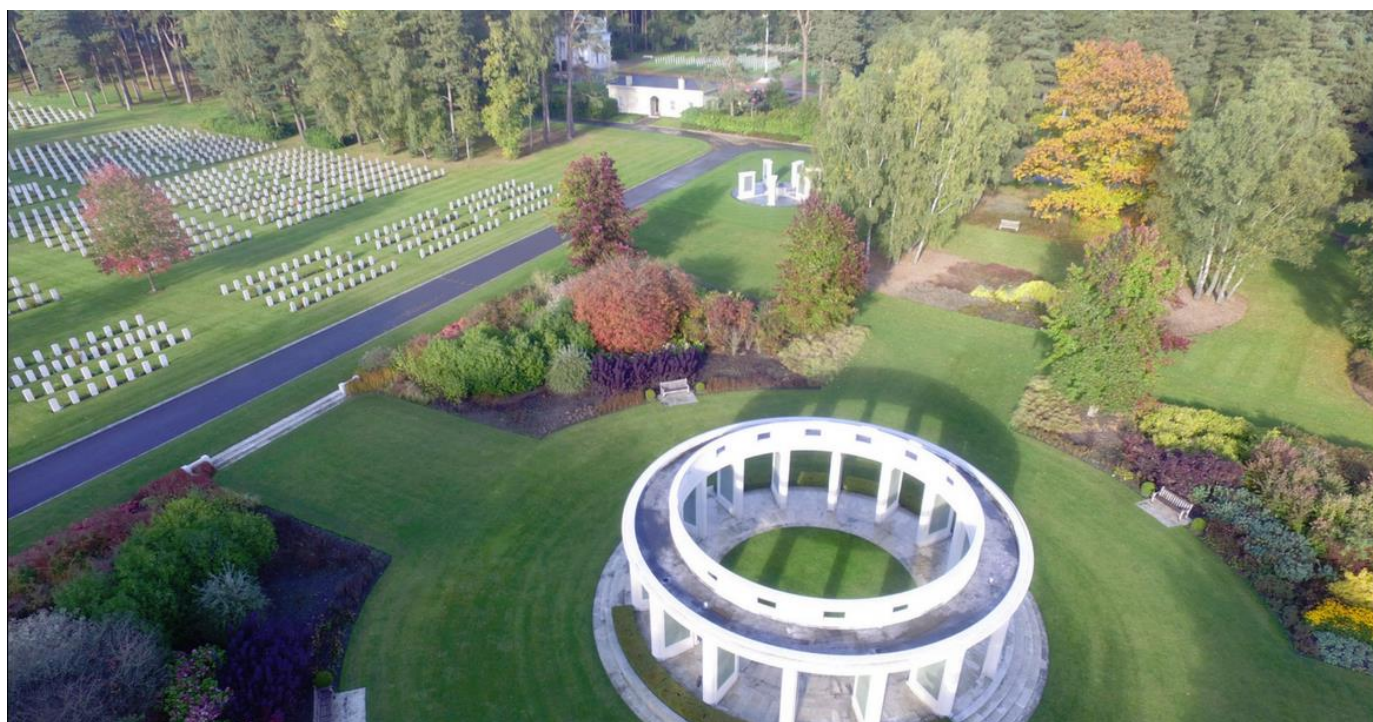
Mrs Coultis & Sons Queensland

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



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

