

**All Souls Cemetery,
Kensal Green, London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1869 TROOPER

R. H. CRITCHFIELD

9TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE

9TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 21

*In Memory Of
The Beloved Son Of
Mr & Mrs Critchfield
Of Adelaide*

Raymond Henry CRITCHFIELD

Raymond Henry Critchfield was born at Nhill, Victoria on 28th January, 1895 to parents Henry and Emily Ford Critchfield (nee Clark).

Raymond Henry Critchfield attended Norwood Public School, South Australia.

Raymond Henry Critchfield was a 20 year old, single, Grocer from 3rd Avenue Extension, Payneham, South Australia when he enlisted on 25th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1900 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Emily Ford Critchfield, of 3rd Avenue Extension, Payneham, South Australia. Raymond Critchfield stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets for 2 years & had also served with Citizen Forces for 2 years & was still serving. As Raymond Critchfield was under the age of 21 years, he needed his parents' consent to enlist in the A.I.F. for active service abroad. His parents signed their consent on 28th September, 1915.

Private Raymond Henry Critchfield was posted to Base Light Horse on 12th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 9th Light Horse on 1st November, 1915 then transferred to 14th Reinforcements on 1st December, 1915. Private Critchfield was transferred back to 13th Reinforcements of 9th Light Horse on 11th January, 1916.

Private Raymond Henry Critchfield was admitted to Clearing Hospital at Mitcham on 9th December, 1915 with Influenza. He was discharged on 11th December, 1915.

Private Raymond Henry Critchfield embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 5th January, 1916 with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, 9th Light Horse Regiment, 13th Reinforcements.

Private Raymond Henry Critchfield was transferred to 5th Div. Artillery on 1st April, 1916. He was taken on strength from 9th Light Horse & posted to 13th B.A.C. (Brigade Ammunition Column) the same day. His service number would have been altered around this time to 1869.

Gunner Raymond Henry Critchfield was awarded 1 days forfeiture of pay on 19th June, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir for overstaying leave.

Gunner Raymond Henry Critchfield was mustered as Driver on 22nd April, 1916 with 13th Field Artillery Brigade.

Driver Raymond Henry Critchfield was transferred to Base Details on 26th May, 1916 at Tel-el Kebir.

Mrs E. F. Critchfield, mother of the Private R. H. Critchfield, was advised on 7th September, 1916 that her son was dangerously ill with pneumonia in 2nd Australian General Hospital.

Driver Raymond Henry Critchfield was admitted to Millbank Hospital on 8th September, 1916 with pneumonia.

Driver Raymond Henry Critchfield died on 9th September, 1916 at Salisbury Barrack Hospital, Millbank, England from Pneumonia, Endocarditis Pyaemia.

NOTE: The Australian War Memorial records Raymond Henry Critchfield as having the rank of Driver. Several forms in his Service Record file refer to him as Private, Gunner & Driver. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) records Raymond Henry Critchfield as having the rank of Trooper & has that rank engraved on his CWGC headstone.

Driver Raymond Henry Critchfield was buried in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England – Plot number Square 213, Grave no. 22 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter was written from Base Records on 17th April, 1920 to Mrs E. F. Critchfield, mother of the late Gunner R. H. Critchfield & listed as next-of-kin, advising that the remains of her son, the late No.1869, Gunner R. H. Critchfield, 13th Bde. Ammn. Column, had been exhumed from the former site & re-interred in Grave No. 2 Section 174, Kensal

Green Cemetery, London. The letter stated that “This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour, Raymond Henry Critchfield was a direct descendant of the Earl of Litchfield, of Litchfield, England (on his mother’s side).

Base Records contacted Mrs E. F. Critchfield, mother of the late Gunner R. H. Critchfield & listed as next-of-kin in October, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself 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 specifically asked if his father was still alive. Mrs Critchfield replied that “*there are no nearer blood relations of our son, the late 1869 Gunner R. H. Critchfield than his father & mother....*”

Driver Raymond Henry Critchfield was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Trooper Critchfield’s father – Mr H. Critchfield, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Trooper Raymond Henry Critchfield – service number 1869, aged 21, of 9th Australian Light Horse. He was the son of Henry and Emily Ford Critchfield, of Royston Park, Payneham, Adelaide.

Driver R. H. Critchfield is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. H. Critchfield 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)

R. H. Critchfield is remembered on the Payneham District Council Honour Board, located in Payneham RSL, 360 Payneham Rd, Payneham, South Australia.



Payneham District Council Honour Board

(48 pages of Driver Raymond Henry Critchfield'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



Raymond Henry Critchfield



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CRITCHFIELD – On the 9th September, at Salisbury Barracks, Millbank, London, of pneumonia, Private Raymond H. Critchfield, beloved eldest son of H. and E. Critchfield, of Royston Park, Payneham, aged 21 years – Inserted by sorrowing father, mother, and little Harry. "His duty nobly done."

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 September, 1916) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 September, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

THE LATE PRIVATE R. H. CRITCHFIELD

Mr and Mrs H. Critchfield, of Royston Park, were notified on Monday of the death of their son, Private Raymond H. Critchfield, of pneumonia at Salisbury Barracks Hospital, London. He enlisted in September last year. His 21st birthday was spent on board a troopship. Prior to enlisting he was in the employ of Messrs. Wilkinson & Co.



Private R. H. Critchfield

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 September, 1916) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 September, 1916)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

CRITCHFIELD – In loving memory of Gunner Raymond H, Critchfield, who died September 9, 1916, at Salisbury Barracks Hospital, England – Inserted by his sorrowing parents, H. and E. Critchfield, Royston Park, Payneham.

CRITCHFIELD – In loving memory of my dear friend, Gunner Raymond H. Critchfield, who died of pneumonia, September 9, 1916.

In our hearts your memory lingers,
Tender, fond, and true.
There's not a day goes by dear Ray,
But what I think of you.

-Inserted by his ever loving friend, Ada.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 September, 1917) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 15 September, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

CRITCHFIELD – In loving memory of Gunner Ray Critchfield, who died September 9, 1916.

While you lie in peaceful sleep
Your memory will ever keep.

-Inserted by his loving friend Ada.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 September, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

CRITCHFIELD – In loving memory of our dear son, Gunner R. H. Critchfield, who died 9th September, 1916, at Salisbury Barracks Hospital, England – Inserted by his sorrowing parents, H. and E. Critchfield, Royston Park.

CRITCHFIELD – In loving remembrance of Gunner Ray Critchfield, died in England, September 9, 1916. I think of you dearly, and will to the end.

- Loved and sadly missed by Ada.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 September, 1919) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 September, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

CRITCHFIELD – In loving memory of our dear son, who died in Hospital, Salisbury Barracks, England, on the 9th September, 1916. – Inserted by his sorrowing parents, E. and H. Critchfield, Semaphore.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 September, 1926)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

CRITCHFIELD – In loving memory of our beloved son, Gunner R. H. Critchfield, who died at Salisbury Barracks, England, 1916, 9th September.. – Inserted by his loving parents, E. and H. Critchfield, Semaphore.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 September, 1928)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

CRITCHFIELD – Gnr. R. J. Critchfield, of 13th Brigade Ammunition Column, died on 9th September, 1916.

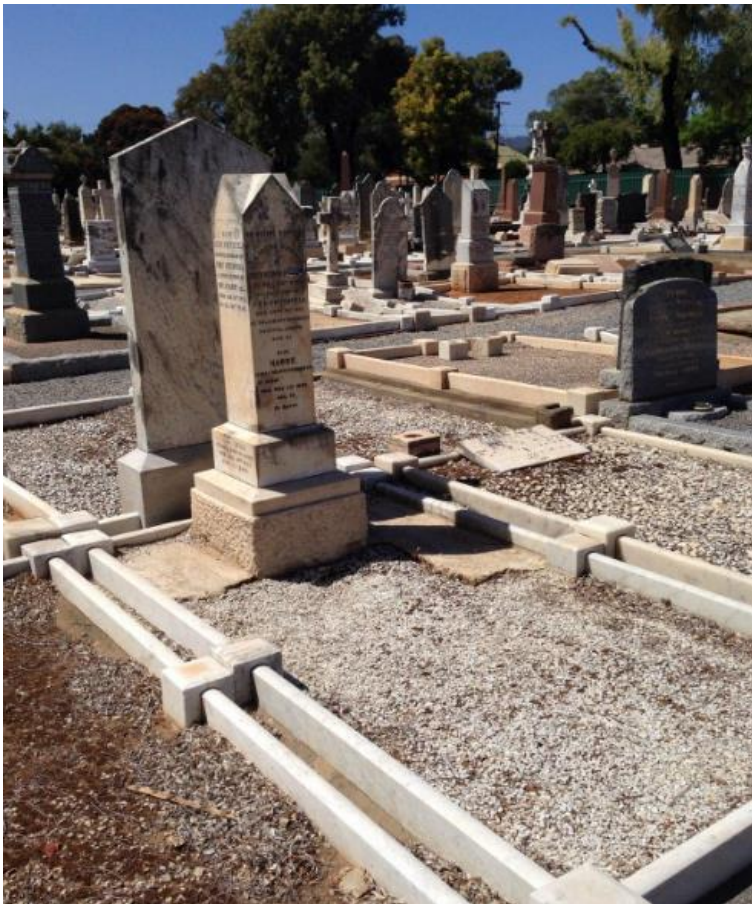
(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 September, 1928)

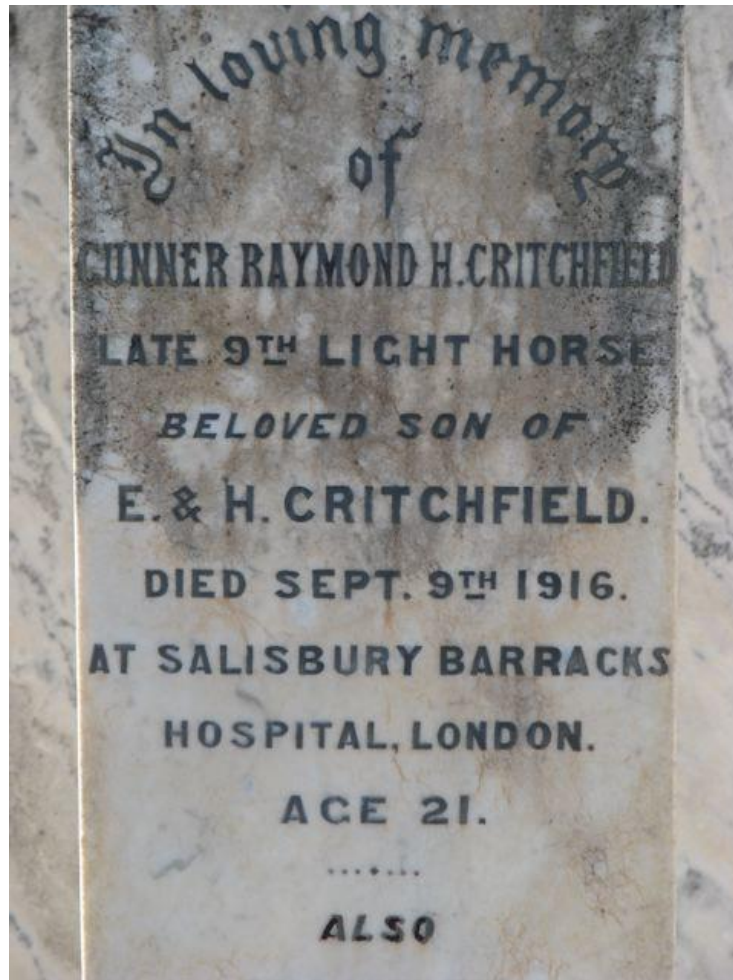
HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

CRITCHFIELD – On active service. In loving memory of our dear son (Gunner Raymond H, Critchfield), who died at Salisbury Barracks, England, on the 9th September, 1916. – Inserted by his loving parents, E. and H. Critchfield, Semaphore.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 September, 1930) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 September, 1930)

Gunner Raymond H. Critchfield is remembered on the family headstone in Payneham Cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia.





In Loving Memory

of

Gunner Raymond H. Critchfield

Late 9TH Light Horse

Beloved Son Of

E. & H. Critchfield

Died Sept. 9TH 1916

At Salisbury Barracks

Hospital, London.

Age 21

.....

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)

Driver R. H. Critchfield does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Beloved Son Of Mr & Mrs Critchfield Of Adelaide

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green contains burials of both wars - 538. Half of the 482 First World War graves form a plot in the south-west section of the cemetery, the rest form small groups or are scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 5s Second World War graves are scattered. There are also 2 non war burials here. A screen wall in the First World War plot (Sect. 213) records the names of casualties of both wars whose graves could not be individually marked. Also recorded on the wall are the names of five servicemen whose remains were cremated in Kensal Green Crematorium.

(Information from CWGC)



All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green *(Photo by Rodney Burton)*

Photo of Trooper R. H. Critchfield's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England.

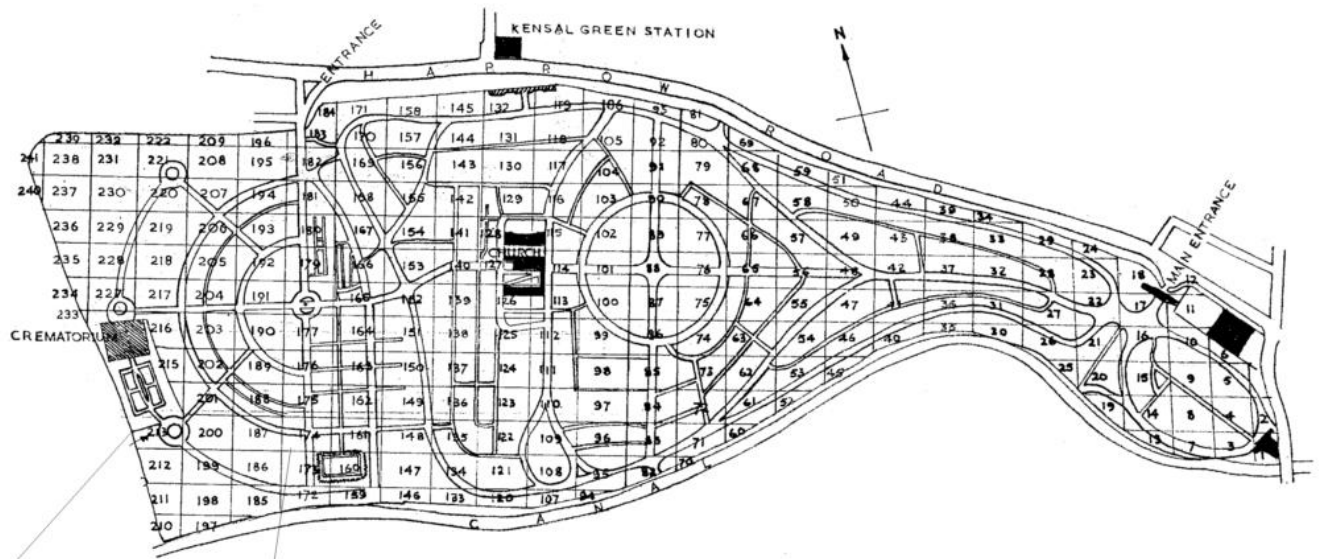




Cross of Sacrifice - All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green (Photo by Chris Doran)



All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green (Photo courtesy of Francios Greeff)



Sect. 213 : Main U.K. and N.Z. Plot.
 Sect. 173 and 174 : Main Dominion Plot