

**Warrington Cemetery,
Warrington, Cheshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



12197 PRIVATE

J. McC. B. CROMBIE

AUST. ARMY SERVICE CORPS

1ST JUNE, 1918

James McClure Bradley CROMBIE

James McClure Bradley Cromie was born in Belfast, Ireland on 24th June, 1874 to parents Gilbert & Jane Margaret Cromie (nee Carlisle).

According to information provided by his sister for the Roll of Honour, James Crombie came to Australia when he was around 36 years of age. She listed his calling as "Baker". His surname was listed as Crom**ie** on information provided by his sister.

James McClure Bradley Cromie enlisted under the surname of Crom**ie** & stated he was a 42 year old, single, Miner from (Woodstock Cobbler Palace) Wonthaggi, Gippsland, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 15th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 12197 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his sister - Mrs J. McFarlane, of 11 Powerscourt Street, Belfast, Ireland.

Private James McClure Bradley Crombie was posted to 27th (Bakery) Co. A.S.C. (Army Service Corps) for recruit training on 15th April, 1916.

Private James McClure Bradley Crombie embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 18th May, 1916 with the 3rd Field Bakery (27th Army Service Corps), 1st Reinforcements & disembarked at England on 21st July, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England.

Private James Crombie was marched in from Australia to A.S.C. (Army Service Corp) Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 21st July, 1916.

Private James Crombie was written up for an Offence on 23rd July, 1916 while posted at Parkhouse – Drunk on 2 pm Parade. He was fined 5/- & put on Defaulters Parade for 4 days.

Private James Crombie was written up for an Offence on 23rd July, 1916 while posted at Parkhouse – Absent from Defaulters Parade. 18.15 hrs – found in Wet Canteen within prohibited hours as defaulter. He was awarded 96 hours detention.

Private James Crombie proceeded overseas to France on 1st September, 1916 to reinforce Australian Army Service Corps. He was marched in to 1st Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 4th September, 1916.

Private James Crombie proceeded to 2nd Field Battery on 11th September, 1916 & was posted to 1st Divisional Base Depot – 2nd Field Bakery at Calais on 11th September, 1916.

Private James Crombie was sent to Hospital at Calais on 1st January, 1917. He was admitted to 30th General Hospital at Camiers on 1st January, 1917 – cause NYD (Not yet determined). Private Crombie was returned to duty on 10th January, 1917 having suffered with bronchitis. He joined his Unit at Calais on 10th January, 1917.

Private James Crombie was granted leave from 31st August, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 11th September, 1917.

Private James Crombie was admitted to 30th General Hospital on 9th February, 1918 - cause NYD (Not yet determined). He was transferred to No. 8 Stationary Hospital at Wimereux & admitted on 11th February, 1918 – NYD Mental. Private Crombie was transferred to England on 14th February, 1918.

Private James Crombie was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England on 15th February, 1918 suffering from mental sickness. He was transferred to The Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, England on 18th February, 1918 for mental observation.

A Medical Report was completed on Private James McClure Bradley Crombie while a patient in The Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, on 11th March, 1918. His disability was described as G.P.I. (General Paralysis of Insane) which had gradually onset some months prior to 9th February, 1918 in France. Some entries listed from his Medical History Sheet were listed as :- "*Went to France Aug; 1916. Has not been under fire. Denies alcoholic excess. Admits chancre 25 years ago.*"

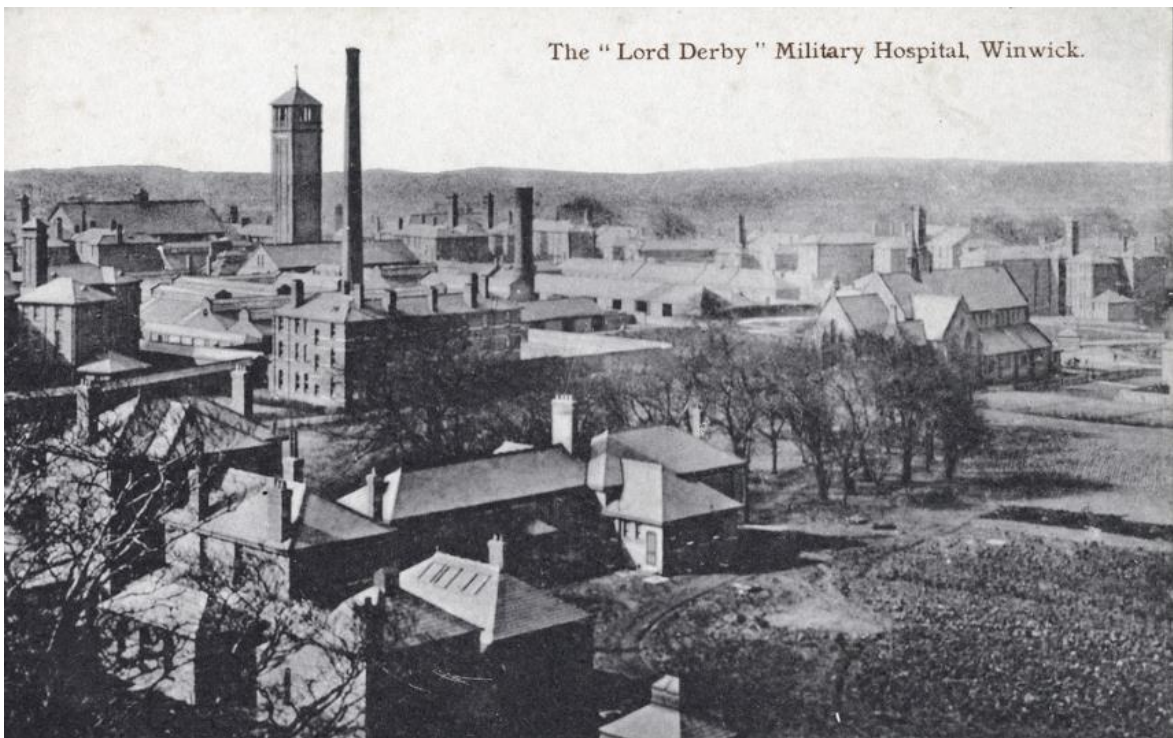
9.2.18 Admitted No. 30 G. Hosp; On account of extraordinary conduct, sewed Sergt's stripes on and said he was going to have a Commission.

12.2.18 At No. 8 St. Hosp. Mentally reduced happy fatuous and childish. Has been given £500 by Officers Club. Ideas exalted; facial tremors, Pupils unequal.

14.2.18 Admitted Netley, Childish, exalted and happy. Is getting a Commission. Pupils unequal and fixed.

18.2.18 Admitted L.D.W.H. Warrington, Grandiose and exalted Physical signs of G.P.I. present.

Private Crombie's disability was "aggravated by Active Service by Stress of Campaign, attributable to Syphilis." The Medical Board recommended that Private Crombie be repatriated to Australia.



Private James McClure Bradley Crombie died on 1st June, 1918 at The Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, Lancashire, England from Paralysis (G.P.I. - General Paralysis of Insane).

A death for James Mcc. B. Crombie, aged 44, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warrington, Lancashire, England.

Private James McClure Bradley Crombie was buried at 2.30 pm on 4th June, 1918 in Warrington Cemetery (Manchester Road), Warrington, Cheshire/Lancashire, England – Plot number C. NC. 760 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Crombie - *Coffin was oak with brass furnishings. The deceased was accorded a Military Funeral, the coffin being draped with the Union Jack. A short service was held in the Hospital Chapel attended by friends of deceased. Members of the R.A.M.C. acted as pallbearers & followed the remains to the graveside where a short service was conducted by the Rev. G. P. Wallace. Captain Grove, R.A.M.C. was present and represented the Hospital at the funeral. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Private James McClure Bradley Crombie requested in his Will dated 12th July, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his sister – Joyce McFarland, wife of John McFarland, 11 Powerscourt Street, Belfast, Ireland.

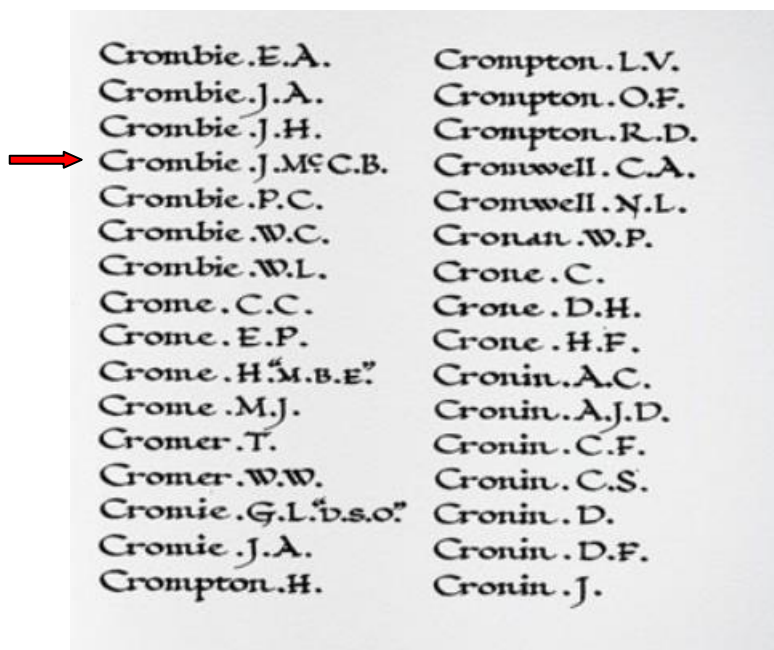
The A.A.G., 3rd Military District contacted Base Records, Melbourne on 15th June, 1918 & advised, in regards to the late Private James McClure Bradley Crombie, that the "allottee Mrs J. Brunton has been located at Beehive Hotel,

Hawthorn, and has been advised of the sad intelligence concerning the above soldier. Mrs Brunton states that she is no longer the allottee of Private Crombie, as he discovered the next-of-kin Mrs J, McFarlane in Scotland (only address) and made her the allottee."

Private James McClure Bradley Crombie was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. McC. B Crombie – service number 12197, of 2nd Field Bakery, Australian Army Service Corps. No family details are listed.

J. McC. B. Crombie is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.

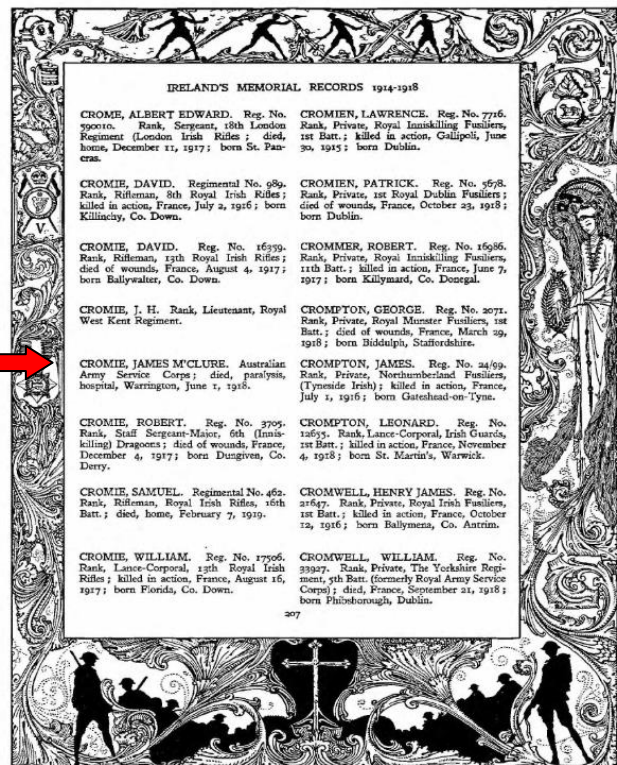


Private J. McC. B. Crombie is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 181.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

James M'Clure Cromie is remembered in Ireland's Memorial Records which is an 8 volume set compiled by The Committee of the Irish National War Memorial, originally published in 1923. These volumes provide information on over 49,000 Irish men and women who died in the Great War. (Volume 2 (Car to Dov) - Page 209)

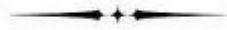




CROMIE, JAMES M'CLURE. Australian
Army Service Corps; died, paralysis,
hospital, Warrington, June 1, 1918.

(40 pages of Private James McClure Bradley Crombie'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

VICTORIAN CASUALTIES

DIED OF OTHER CAUSES

Crombie, J. Mc, Richmond

(Gippsland Mercury, Sale, Victoria – 21 June, 1918)

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 J. McC. B. Crombie does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Warrington Cemetery, Warrington, Cheshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Warrington was the depot for the South Lancashire Regiment for both wars and was home to the Lord Derby War Hospital and White Cross Auxiliary Hospital during the First World War. During the Second World War, a shore establishment of the Fleet Air Arm was stationed there. Warrington Cemetery contains 199 First World War burials, 74 of them in a war graves plot with a Cross of Sacrifice. The 102 Second World War burials are scattered. A Polish airman is also buried in the cemetery.
(Information from CWGC)



Warrington Cemetery Gates *(Photo by David Dixon)*



Cross of Sacrifice & War Graves in Warrington Cemetery (Photos by David Dixon)

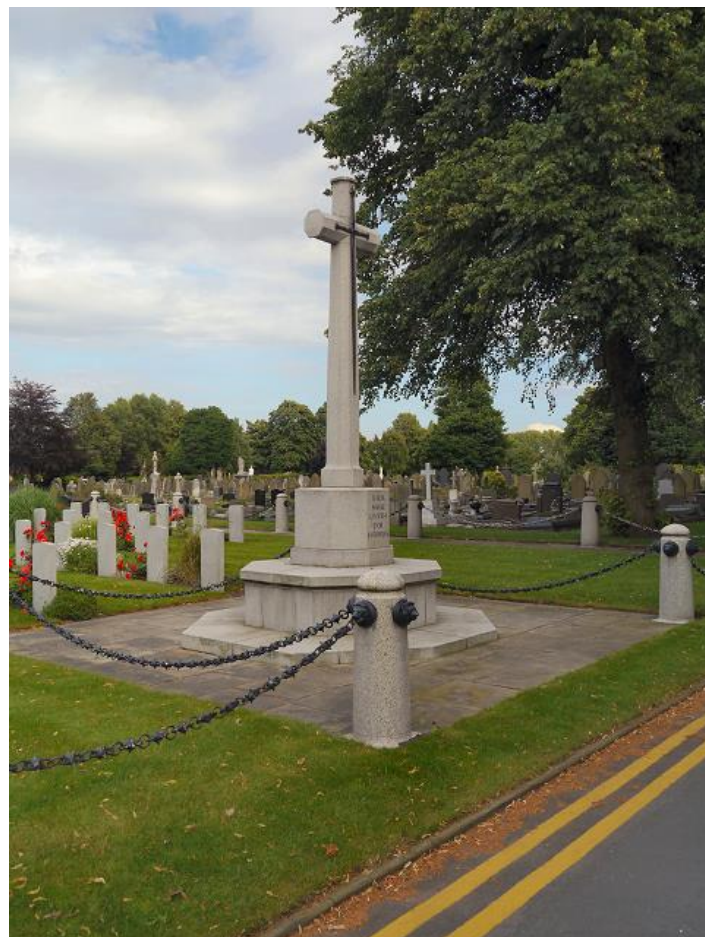
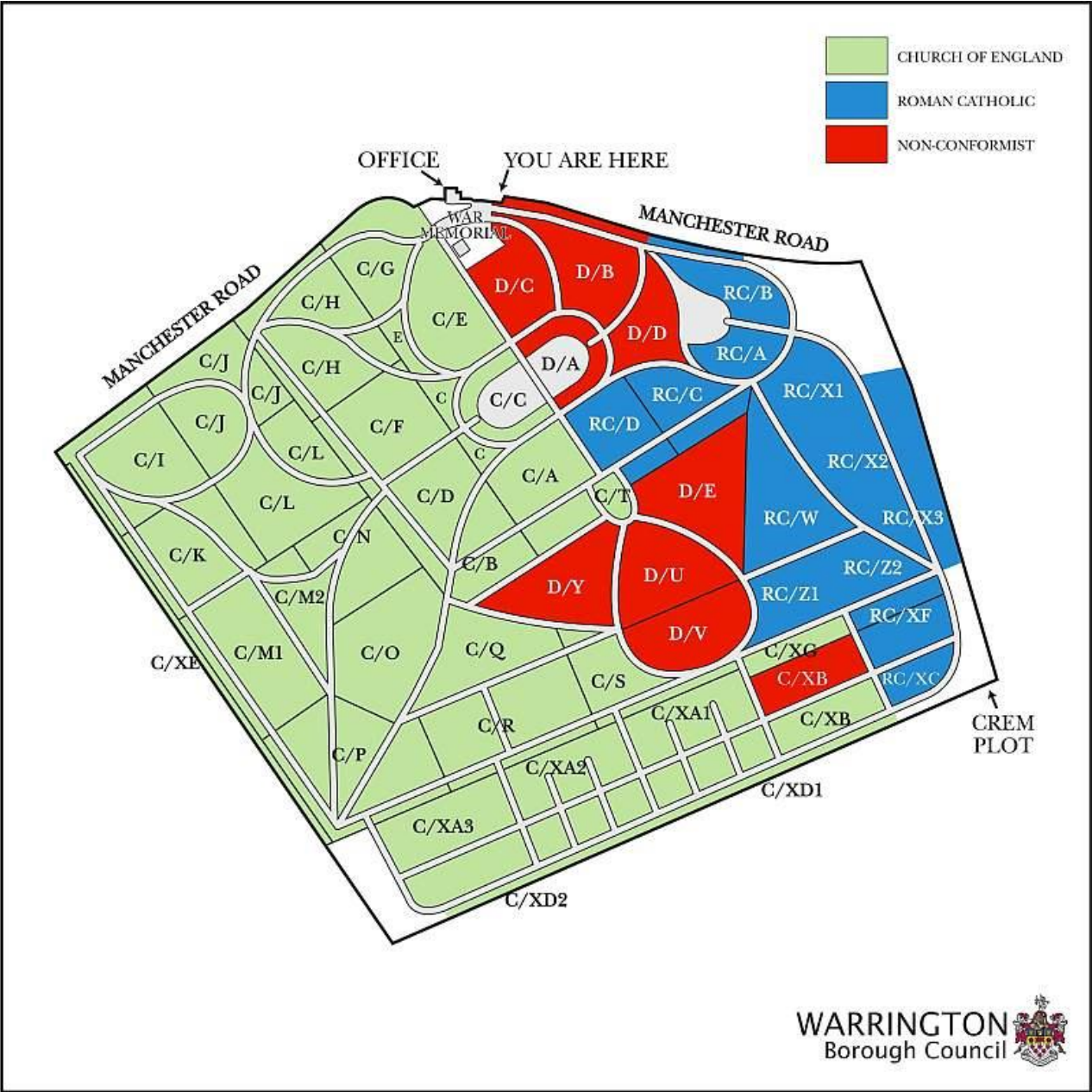


Photo of Private J. McC. B. Crombie's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Warrington Cemetery, Warrington, Cheshire/Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Len Scott)



WARRINGTON
Borough Council 