

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**55122 PRIVATE**

**J. L. CRONIN**

**8TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**7TH APRIL, 1919 Age 20**

*In Loving Memory Of*

*Our Dear Jack*

*Youngest Son Of*

*M. And A. Cronin*

## John Leo (Jack) CRONIN

John Leo Cronin was born at Wangaratta Street, Richmond, Victoria on 22nd October, 1898 to parents Maurice & Anne Cronin (nee Halfpenny).

John Leo Cronin attended St Ignatius' Roman Catholic School at Richmond, Victoria.

John Leo Cronin was an 18 year old, single, Public Servant (Messenger in Victorian Public Service) from Heigh Street, Rutherglen, Victoria when he enlisted on 27th August, 1917 in Richmond, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 55122 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr M. Cronin, Heigh Street (spelling as per Embarkation Roll, however his father recorded address as High Street on information provided for the Roll of Honour), Rutherglen, Victoria. John Leo Cronin stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 4 years with Senior Cadets & he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service on account of his eyesight. His father also stated in information provided for the Roll of Honour that John Leo Cronin had served with Citizen Force Training – “*Yarra Borderers.*”

As John Leo Cronin was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. M. Cronin & A. Cronin signed their consent. John Leo Cronin signed on 27th August, 1917 in the presence of Arthur F. Fear, J.P. : “*That I was born on the 22nd October in the year 1898 and that I am over and above 18 years of age; also that the signatures of my parents to attached are correct.*”

Private John Leo Cronin was posted to Recruit Depot at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 12th September, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to A.M.C. at Broadmeadows from 28th September, 1917 (for lectures & training) then transferred to No. 11 Australian General Hospital on 3rd October, 1917. Private Cronin was transferred to No. 1 Depot Battalion at Broadmeadows from 13th May, 1918.

Private John Leo Cronin entrained from Broadmeadows, Victoria on 3rd June, 1918 & embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 with the 5th Victorian Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918.

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 John Leo Cronin was marched in to 14th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire, on 12th August, 1918 from Australia.

Private John Leo Cronin was allotted to Reinforcements of 60th Battalion from 12th August, 1918, whilst posted with 14th Training Battalion.

### **60th Battalion**

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the “doubling” of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The majority of both groups were Victorians. The new battalion formed part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division....

By September 1918, however, the AIF was considerably under-strength and one battalion in each brigade was ordered to disband to reinforce the other three. The 60th Battalion was so ordered, and the men mutinied. After being addressed by Brigadier H.E. 'Pompey' Elliot they complied with the order and the battalion disbanded on 27 September 1918. Their actions are indicative of the high regard in which Elliot was held, and of the high standard of discipline within the 60th; it was the only Australian battalion ordered to disband in September 1918 that did so.

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

Private John Leo Cronin was transferred to Reinforcements of 8th Battalion from 60th Battalion on 2nd October, 1918. He was marched out from Hurdcott, Wiltshire to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 2nd October, 1918.

Private John Leo Cronin proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 22nd November, 1918 from Sutton Veny. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre on the same day from England. Private Cronin was marched out from A.I.B.D. on 27th November, 1918 & joined his Unit with 8th Battalion on 5th December, 1918.

Private John Leo Cronin report sick on 1st January, 1919 & was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance with Influenza. He was transferred to 55th Casualty Clearing Station with Diarrhoea & Debility then transferred on 5th January, 1919 to 5th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Cronin was admitted to 47th Casualty Clearing Station (Casualty Clearing Station numbers as per Service and Casualty Form) on 5th January, 1919 with Influenza then transferred to Ambulance Train 42 on 6th January, 1919. He was admitted to 10th General Hospital on 28th January, 1919 then embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* the same day.

### **8th Battalion**

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.....

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

Private John Leo Cronin was admitted to Fulham Military Hospital, London, England on 29th January, 1919 with Nephritis & Debility. The Hospital Admissions form recorded his admission due to Calculus – Right Kidney “*R Kidney removed, abscess drained, general peritonitis supervened.*”

Mr M. Cronin, High St, Rutherglen, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 14th February, 1919 that Private J. L. Cronin had been admitted to Fulham Military Hospital, London, England on 29th January, 1919 suffering from nephritis and debility.

Private John Leo Cronin was reported to be dangerously & seriously ill at Fulham Military Hospital, London, England on 4th April, 1919.

Private John Leo Cronin died at 6 pm on 7th April, 1919 at Military Hospital, Fulham, London, England. A Post mortem was conducted & the cause of death was from Peritonitis shock, following operation.

A report into the death of Private John Leo Cronin reads: “*Pte Cronin, J. L. 55122 was admitted to above hospital from France on 29.1.19 with diagnosis of nephritis. He had similar attack about two years ago & his condition became gradually worse, was cystoscoped April 2nd 19, which gave evidence of a right Tubercular kidney operated on 3.4.19 by Col. Rigby who removed right kidney, which was found to be Tubercular. He died 7.4.19 from General Peritonitis and shock.*”

A death for John L. Cronin, aged 20, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Fulham, London, England.

Private John Leo Cronin was buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground – Grave number 183409 R. C. Section.

From the burial report of Private John Leo Cronin - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- “Doll and the Aberdeen girls” Nursing Staff of “B” Ward & Miss G. Isaacson, and Milley. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by Chap Rev. J. P. Gilbert. The grave will be turfed, and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

*Names of Relatives and Friends present at the Funeral: Lieut, M. A. Cronin, Mrs M. A. Cronin & Sgt. T. P. Cronin.*

Base Records wrote to Mr M. Cronin, High St, Rutherglen, Victoria on 23rd March, 1923 stating that the site of his son’s grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row F Grave 22.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference - IV.F.22. Private John Leo Cronin now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private John Leo Cronin requested in his Will dated 14th May, 1918 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be left to his mother – Ann Cronin of High St, Rutherglen.

The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd, Sydney wrote to Base Records on 2nd June, 1919 requesting the certificate of death together with identification particulars for "*John Leo Cronin, Victoria. Died 7/4/19 in England from illness.*"

A follow up letter was sent by The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd, Sydney to Base Records on 5th June, 1919 acknowledging their letter of the 2nd & requested a certificate of death for John Leo Cronin of Victoria, "*and have now to advise that the deceased was No. 55122, Private in the 8th Battalion.*"

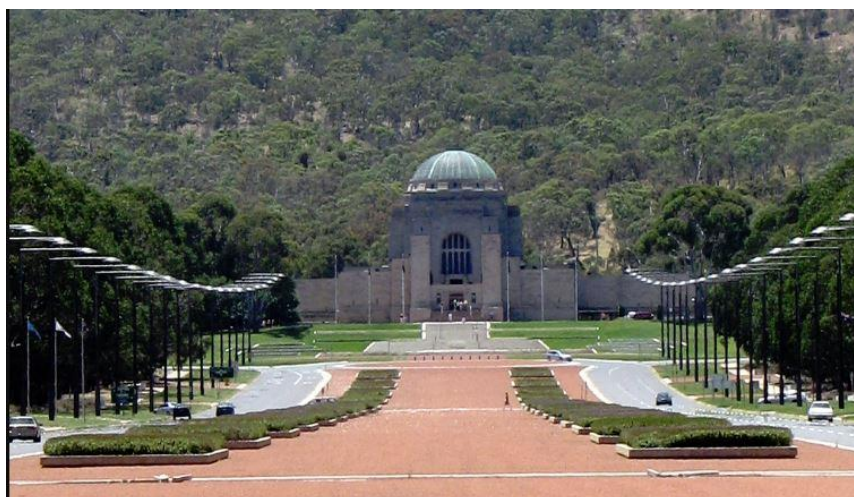
Private John Leo Cronin was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Cronin's father – Mr M. Cronin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Leo Cronin – service number 55122, aged 20, of 8th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Maurice and Ann Cronin, of High St., Rutherglen, Victoria, Australia.

Private J. L. Cronin is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 52.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*





J. L. Cronin is remembered on the Rutherglen War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Murray Street, Rutherglen, Victoria.



Rutherglen War Memorial (*Photos Monument Australia*)





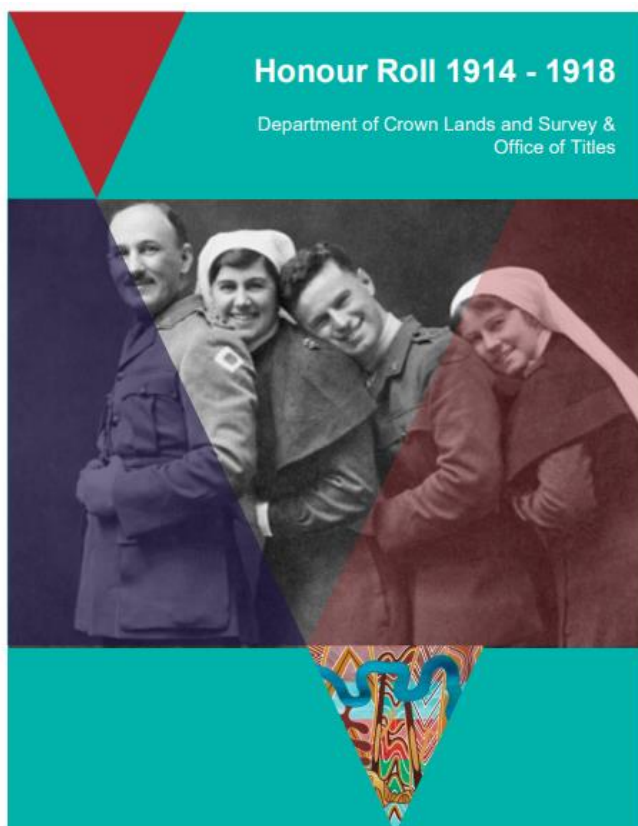


(66 pages of Private John Leo Cronin's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



John Leo Cronin is remembered on the Department of Crown Lands and Survey & Office Titles Honour Roll 1914 – 1918.



*(Credit to The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)*

## John Leo Cronin

Jack was born in Richmond on 22 October 1898 to Anne (née Halfpenny) and Maurice Cronin. He was the youngest son of their five children. The family were Catholic and lived in Richmond. He joined his elder brother Maurice working at the Lands Department.

Jack enlisted on 17 August 1917 at 18 years old. He was allocated to the General Services Battalion for UK service and left Australia in June 1918. He joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France in late November 1918. In January 1919 he returned to the UK, suffering from nephritis. On 7 April 1919, Jack died from post-operative shock after the removal of his right kidney. He was 20 years old.<sup>.577</sup>

Jack was buried at the Brookwood Military Cemetery, UK with a full military service. His headstone reads: 'In loving memory of/ our dear Jack/ youngest son of M and A Cronin'.<sup>.578</sup>

His older brothers Maurice and Thomas also served and returned home.





**SOME MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR ONE – THE CRONIN FAMILY** by Frank Cronin *(Extract)*

In his Musings in the Three-Headed Dog for April of this year, our Chapter President Rex related stories about members of his family who served in Australia's Armed Forces during World War I. Rex referred to conversations we had had concerning my family's contribution to Australia's Military during those years 1914/18, and I thank him for inviting me to tell something about the Cronin Family's role in that same conflict.

My father was Thomas Patrick Cronin of South Yarra and later Richmond, Victoria. Thomas and his two younger brothers, Maurice Anthony and John Leo were all soldiers having enlisted here in Melbourne. They were the sons of Maurice and Anne Cronin who lived here in Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens. Their father was the Head Gardener of the Gardens and their uncle was the Garden's Director, John Cronin.

My father, Thomas, left the Gardens to marry my Mother in 1914. It was two years later in 1916 that he enlisted in the Australian Flying Corps. After initial training at Point Cook Victoria, he served in two squadrons in England and France. In England he was an air frame Rigger (Mechanic). Before enlisting he was a Wood Carver in the furniture industry. He served in a Training Squadron in Minchinhampton and Leighterton in the Cotswolds where his woodworking skills were put to full use in repairing damaged wooden wings and air frames, etc. of aeroplanes being used to train young pilots who would later be tested against Germany's best in the battles over France.

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The third brother in the family was John Leo. Jack, as he was known. The story of John Leo is a very sad one. He too was a Soldier who served in England and France, but he died of illness in England after being repatriated from France.

Like his two brothers, Jack lived with his parents and his sister in Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens. The house the family lived in is there still. It is known these days as "The Plant Craft Cottage" and is still situated where it has always been, near "H" Gate on Alexandra Avenue. As a teenager Jack

suffered from a number of illnesses and when he started work, he was employed at the State Titles Office in Queen Street, Melbourne. Still in his teens and with the War raging "Over There" he missed many days from work on Sick Leave. On his way to and from the Office, Jack always walked. His route was over Princes Bridge across the Yarra River, then through the streets of Melbourne to Queen Street. Then, the reverse on the way home to the Gardens. This route used to take him past the Melbourne Town Hall where there was a Recruiting Office.

When he was 18 years of age he felt he was eligible to join the Army and "Do his bit" for the War effort. Quite often he would call into the Recruiting office and pick up an enlistment form, which, as he was still a Minor, had to have his parents' signatures to allow him to serve overseas. Time after time he would ask my Grandfather to sign. But the answer was always the same. "No Jack, you are not well enough! The Army would never allow you to pass its strict medical standards for service." This kept up for months, and in desperation finally his father said, "I will sign it, but you will never pass the medical examination." Jack, of course, was delighted, and the next time he passed the Town Hall, he lodged his application. But alas, the Army welcomed him, and he was soon off to Broadmeadows Camp to begin training for overseas.





The photo above is one I took last week. It shows the Memorial Plaque that was issued after the First World War to the Next-of-Kin of all British and Empire Service personnel who were killed or died as a result of the war. The plaques are about 4.75 inches in diameter, were cast in bronze and came to be known as the "Dead Man's Penny". This plaque was sent to my Grandparents Maurice and Anne Cronin who, after the war lived in Rutherglen, Victoria. Maurice was the Manager of the Viticultural (Wine Growing) Station of the State Department of Agriculture.

My father mounted it for his parents in this ornate stand into which he carved Jack's Battalion number, and the letters "AIF". He also added the Battalion's red and white Colour Patch. That Memorial had been a feature at my parents' home in Richmond ever since the deaths of my Grandparents in 1941. Jack's records in the National Archives state ; Died on 7 April 1919 at Fulham Military Hospital, Hammersmith UK; Cause of death seems to have been peritonitis and shock following surgery to remove a tubercular kidney. Was recorded to have contracted influenza a number of times in January, 1919 and diagnosed with nephritis in January 1919. Buried at Aust. Burial Ground, Brookwood England. Present at the burial were Sgt. T P Cronin, Lieut. M A Cronin and Mrs M A Cronin.

Private John Leo Cronin was given full military honours with rifle shots and bugle, etc. Frank and Margaret Cronin visited the grave site in 2001. There is a eucalyptus tree growing adjacent to Jack's grave.

*(Used with permission of Frank Cronin)*

### Connected to Private John Leo Cronin:

Older brother - Maurice Anthony Cronin: Enlisted on 12th July, 1915 as a 22 year old single, Civil Servant from Richmond, Victoria. Embarked on 23rd November, 1915 from Melbourne on HMAT *Ceramic* (A40) with Second Casualty Clearing Station as Private 7331.

Appointed 2nd Lieutenant on 1st September, 1918.

Lieutenant Maurice Anthony Cronin, 27th Battalion, returned to Australia from England on 10th May, 1919 & embarked at Melbourne, Victoria on 28th June, 1919 with his wife.

Appointment terminated 20th August, 1919.

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Older brother - Thomas Patrick Cronin: Enlisted on 8th December, 1916 as a 25 year old, married, Woodcarver from Richmond, Victoria. Embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Omrak* on 17th January, 1917 as Air Mechanic 2nd Class 1114, Australian Flying Corps – No 4 Squadron – 2nd Reinforcements.

Sergeant Mechanic Thomas Patrick Cronin, No. 2 Squadron, A.F.C., returned to Australia from England 6th May, 1919

Discharged 24th July, 1919.

Entitled to British War Medal only as he did not enter a Theatre of War.



### Newspaper Notices

#### **DIED ON SERVICE**

CRONIN – On the 7th April, at Fulham Military Hospital, London, Private John Leo Cronin, of the 8th Batt., A.I.F., dearly loved youngest son of M. and N. Cronin, of Rutherglen, and loved brother of Tom and Maurice, both on active service, and Nell, aged 20 years and 5 months (late of Titles Office, Melbourne). R.I.P.

Our dear Jack

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 April, 1919) & (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 April, 1919)

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#### **DEATHS**

##### **On Active Service**

CRONIN - On the 7th April, at Fulham Military Hospital, London, Private John Leo Cronin, of the 8th Battalion, A.I.F., dear cousin and mate of James T. O'Donoghne. Dear Jack.

Requiescat in pace.

-Inserted by Jas. O'Donoghue, Caulfield.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 April, 1919)

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## **BEREAVEMENT CARDS**

Mr and Mrs M. CRONIN and Daughter desire to express their sincere THANKS to all kind friends and relatives for their expressions of sympathy in letters, cards, and telegrams in their recent sad bereavement in the death of their dear son and brother, Private John Leo Cronin, 8th Battalion, who died on active service abroad.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 May, 1919)*

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## **VICTORIA'S ROLL OF HONOR**

### **464th CASUALTY LIST**

#### **DIED OTHER CAUSES**

J. L. Cronin, Rutherglen (cause not stated)

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 May, 1919)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

CRONIN – In loving memory of our dear son, Private J. L. Cronin (Jack), died of illness, Fulham Military Hospital, England, on the 7th April, 1919. Our dear Jack R.I.P.

No cross of beauteous splendor,  
No order, superb as a star;  
His cross us the cross of his Master,  
The upright of wood and bar.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, High-street, Rutherglen.

CRONIN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte J. L. Cronin (Jack), died of illness, Fulham Military Hospital, England, on the 7th April, 1919. R.I.P.

We hear no sound of a much loved voice,  
No sound of a footstep near;  
Only the heart sad longing,  
For the one we loved so dear.

- Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, N. and J. Hyslop, 45 Wheatland-road, Malvern.

CRONIN – On the 7th April 1919, at Fulham Military Hospital, Private John Leo Cronin, of the 8th Battalion, A.I.F., loved cousin and mate of Jim O'Donoghue. Dear Jack, rest in peace. Remembered.

-Poplar-street, Caulfield.

CRONIN – In loving memory of J. L. Cronin, who died on active service 7th April, 1918. R.I.P.

-Inserted by Mrs Lloyd and family.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 April, 1920)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

CRONIN – In loving memory of our dear son, Private John L. Cronin, who died of illness at Fulham Military Hospital, England, 7th April, 1919, R.I.P.

Only memories as we journey on,  
Longing for a smile for a dear face gone.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, Viticultural College, Rutherglen.

CRONIN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private J. L. Cronin (Jack), who died in Fulham Military Hospital, London, on the 7th April, 1919. R.I.P. Always remembered.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Nell and Jim Hyslop; also his little nephew, Jack.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 April, 1921)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

CRONIN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Jack, who died at Fulham Military Hospital, London, on the 7th April, 1919. R.I.P.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Nell and Jim Hyslop; also little nephew, Jack.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 April, 1922)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

CRONIN – In loving memory of our dear boy, Private John Leo Cronin (Jack), who died of illness on the 7th April, 1919, at Fulham Military Hospital, England, R.I.P.

Loved and remembered.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, M. and N. Cronin, Viticultural College, Rutherglen.

CRONIN – In loving memory of my dear brother, Jack, who died at Fulham Military Hospital, London, on the 7th April, 1919. R.I.P.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his loving sister, brother-in-law and nephew, Nell, Jim and Jack Hyslop.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 April, 1923)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

CRONIN – In loving memory of our dear son, Private John L. Cronin, who died at Fulham Military Hospital, England, 7th April, 1919. R.I.P.

Dear Jack, never forgotten.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, M. and N. Cronin, Viticultural College, Rutherglen.

CRONIN – In loving memory of my dear brother, Jack, who died on the 7th April, 1919, at Fulham Military Hospital, London. R.I.P.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his loving sister, brother-in-law and nephew, Nell, Jim and Jack Hyslop.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 April, 1924)

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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*)

Private J. L. Cronin does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory Of Our Dear Jack*

*Youngest Son Of M. And A. Cronin*

### **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 J. L. Cronin's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)*



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

