

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

N. F. DAY

8TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 29

Blessed Are The Dead

Who Die In The Lord

Norman Frank DAY

Norman Frank Day was born at Geelong, Victoria in 1889 to parents James Phillip and Emma Elizabeth Day (nee Summers).

Norman Frank Day attended Geelong State School, Victoria then attended Technical School, Geelong, Victoria.

The 1912, 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Corio, subdivision of Bellarine, Victoria recorded Norman Frank Day, Salesman, Botanical Gardens, Geelong.

Norman Frank Day was a 26 year old, single, Hardware Assistant from Geelong, Victoria when he enlisted on 6th July, 1915 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2936 & his religion was Baptist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. P. Day, Botanical Gardens, Geelong, Victoria. Norman Day stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 2 years with State School Cadets.

Private Norman Frank Day was posted to 48th Company on 19th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 24th Battalion on 21st July, 1915 then transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 9th September, 1915.

Private Norman Frank Day embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on SS *Makarini* on 15th September, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements.

Private Norman Frank Day joined 8th Battalion at Anzac from 9th Reinforcements on 7th December, 1915.

Private Norman Frank Day disembarked at Alexandria on 7th January, 1916 from *Empress of Britain* (after the evacuation of Gallipoli.)

Private Norman Frank Day proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 26th March, 1916 on H.M.T. *Megantic*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 31st March, 1916.

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.

The battalion was raised from rural Victoria by Lieutenant Colonel William Bolton within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Norman Frank Day was transferred to 2 A.L.T.M. Bty (2nd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery) in France on 2nd June, 1916.

Private Norman Frank Day was promoted to Corporal on 17th August, 1916 with Trench Mortar Battery.

Corporal Norman Frank Day was promoted to Sergeant on 11th November, 1916, vice Sergeant Darling to Commissioned Rank.

Sergeant Norman Frank Day was sent sick to "Hospital" on 7th September, 1917. He was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance on 8th September, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Divisional Rest Station on same day with Abscess on Buttock & Scabies. Sergeant Day was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 9th September, 1917. He was discharged to duty on 14th September, 1917 & rejoined 2nd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery in France on 15th September, 1917.

Sergeant Norman Frank Day was detached for duty to 2nd Brigade School of Instruction in France from 3rd December, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from detachment on 13th January, 1918.

Sergeant Norman Frank Day was on Leave to UK from 25th January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 12th February, 1918.

Sergeant Norman Frank Day was detached for duty to Australian Corps School from 8th March, 1918. He rejoined his Battery on 28th March, 1918.

Sergeant Norman Frank Day, 8th Battalion, attached to 2nd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery, was Mentioned in Despatches for the period from 22nd September, 1917 to night of 24/25th February, 1918. He was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's Despatches on 7th April, 1918. (Awarded, and promulgated, *London Gazette* - No. 30706 of 28 May 1918 & *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* - No. 165 of 24 October 1918.) (Sergeant Day had been recommended on 8th March, 1918).

Sergeant Norman Frank Day was transferred to 8th Battalion, A.I.F. on 21st May, 1918 on being promoted to Commissioned Rank. (A.I.F. List 335). Second Lieutenant Day was taken on strength of 8th Battalion from 2nd Australia Light Trench Mortar Battery on 21st May, 1918. He was seconded for duty with 2nd Australia Light Trench Mortar Battery on 21st May, 1915.

Second Lieutenant Norman Frank Day was detached to Corps L. G. & T. M. School in France from 23rd July, 1918. He rejoined his Unit from detachment on 10th August, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Norman Frank Day was wounded in action in France on 25th August, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 25th August, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) penetrating his back. Second Lieutenant Day was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred & admitted to 3rd General Hospital at Treport, France on 27th August, 1918. He was transferred to Ambulance Train 32 on 1st September, 1918 & invalided to England on Hospital Ship.

A Memo was written by Lieutenant, 2nd A.L.T.M. Battery, regarding Lieutenant N. F. Day, 8th Battalion, A.I.F., Died of Wounds 21st September, 1918 which reads: "*When leading his men into action on the 25th August, 1918 during the operation on Herleville Wood this officer was hit in the back by a bullet which came from one of the flanks. He received immediate attention and was handed onto regimental stretcher bearers.*"

War Diary - 2nd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery

23/26 August, 1918 – Line Herleville Wood

Weather. Fine gradually becoming showery.

At 3.45 am on morning of 23rd the Battery personnel with 4 guns were formed up on the tape. At 4.45 am the attack commenced and continued for the next four days. Attached is a full report on the operation which was in every way a success. We sustained the following casualties.

KILLED IN ACTION 2 O'Ranks (23-8-18) No. 2418 Sergt T. F. Pole 3455 Pte W. H. Carlyon.

WOUNDED 2 OFFS Lieut D. C. Mackinnon 2/Lieut. N. F. Day.

WOUNDED 12 O'Ranks

We were relieved in the line on the night of 26/27 by 8th A.L.T.M. Bty. Relief being completed without incident by 1 am.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Lieutenant Norman Frank Day was admitted to Empire Hospital for Officers in England on 3rd September, 1918 with G.S.W Spine – paralysis. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Severe haemorrhagic cystitis complicated & was cause of death. Paraplegia complete.*"

Second Lieutenant Norman Frank Day was appointed Lieutenant on 4th September, 1918 (A.I.F. List 382).

Base Records advised Mr J. Day, Botanical Gardens, Geelong, Victoria, father of Lieutenant Norman Frank Day, on 12th September, 1918 that Second Lieutenant Norman Day had been admitted on 27th August to Third General Hospital, Boulogne, France with gunshot wound to back, fractured Spine & Paraplegia. His was listed as dangerously ill.

Lieutenant Norman Frank Day died at 12.50 am on 21st September, 1918 at Empire Hospital, Vincent Square, London, England from G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Spine, Paraplegia, Cystitis & Septicaemia.

A death for Norman F. Day, aged 30, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of St. George Hanover Square, London, England.

The O.C., Empire Hospital sent a Telegram to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London on 21st September, 1918 to advise that "*2nd Lt Norman Frank Day, 2nd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery, died here early today no relatives in Great Britain.*" The Telegram listed his next of kin as his Father – J. P. Day, Botanical Gardens, Geelong, Victoria & special notification – Miss McNicoll, 49 Windmill Lane, Denton, Manchester.

Lieutenant Norman Frank Day was buried on 24th September. 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 181549.

From the burial report of Lieutenant Norman Frank Day - *Coffin was good, Polished Elm. The deceased officer was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths, sent by:- (Parents) Mr & Mrs Day, Mrs & Miss McNicoll, and five friends from Geelong. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev: S. E. Dorman, O.P.D. A.I.F. officiated at the graveside. The grave will be turfed, and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives or friends present at Funeral – (Friends) Mrs & Miss McNicholl, 49 Windmill Lane, Denton, Manchester, England.

Base Records wrote to J. P. Day, Esq., Botanical Gardens, Geelong, Victoria, on 23rd March, 1923 stating that the site of the late Lieutenant N. F. Day's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row A Grave 5.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. A. 5. Lieutenant Norman Frank Day has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lieutenant Norman Frank Day contains a letter from Private H. St. Omer Dentry, 7220, 6th Battalion, A.I.F., who had written to Red Cross seeking information regarding a Casualty List he had seen in the English Papers which stated that Lieutenant N. F. Day, A.I.F., had died of wounds. Private Dentry stated he had a brother-in-law attached to T.M Section who had recently received his Commission and had only had a hurried glance through the newspaper list.

- Visitor – L. J. Wilsmore wrote the following details in response which reads: "*Lieut. N. F. Day – Died of Wounds. Re the above named Officer. Sister Bell in charge of the 2nd floor was in charge when Lieut Day was there. The floor consists of a number of rooms, each of which contains one only seriously injured soldier. They are beautifully kept and the Sisters and Nurses are all devoted to their work as far as I have ever see. Sister Bell says:- Lieut Day was here perhaps less than three weeks. He arrived in a hopeless condition. We knew we could do nothing to save him. His spine was fractured and he was therefore paralysed from the injured part down. He was very quiet and patient. We did not think he was quiet from the injury as his friends said that was his nature. He was frequently visited by some Australians and also by friends from the north of England with whom he had once been billeted. These people came from the North and stayed in London till after his death. They were present when he died. We gave him the best room on the 2nd floor and every possible kindness and attention. Death was a merciful release for him as it was so hopeless. He was always too ill to take interest. He died at 1 in the morning – a perfectly peaceful death.*"

Besides the English friends, an Australian friend was with him too at the end. Sister Bell says he came from France without kit or anything and the money he had was taken care of by the friend, but she found a number of letters etc and locked them up, and the Australian said Hqrs knew and would send for them, but they have not done so and Sister Bell would like them sent to his people.

N.B. Have asked Sister Bell to send letters here for forwarding."

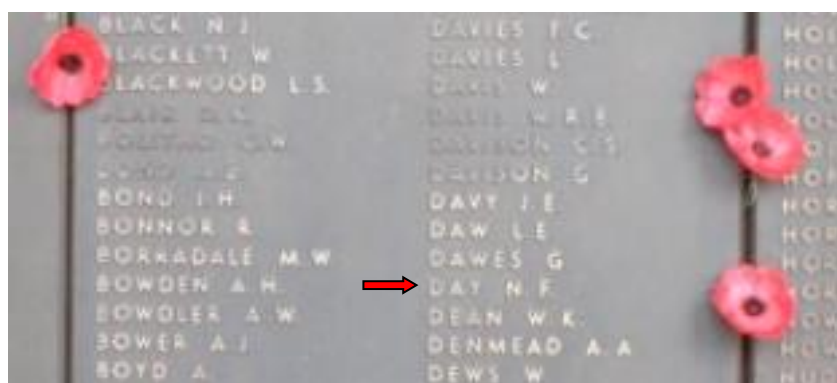
Lieutenant Norman Frank Day was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal (Oak Leaf attached). A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lieutenant Day's father – Mr J. Day, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Norman Frank Day, aged 29, of 8th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James Phillip and Emma Elizabeth Day.

Lieutenant N. F. Day 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



N. F. Day is remembered on East Geelong War Memorial, located at St. Albans & Boundary Roads, East Geelong, Victoria.



East Geelong War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



N. F. Day is remembered on the Geelong & District Fallen Roll of Honour, located in Geelong & District Peace Memorial, Johnstone Park, Gheringhap Street, Geelong, Victoria.



Geelong Peace Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

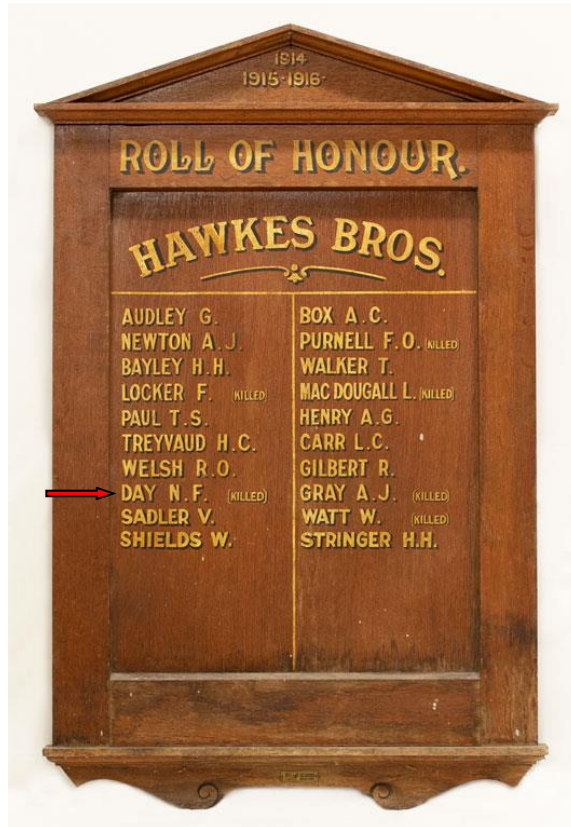


Geelong & District Fallen Roll of Honour



Geelong & District Fallen Roll of Honour at Geelong Peace Memorial

N. F. Day is remembered on the Hawkes Bros Employees Roll of Honour, which is located in Geelong Heritage Centre, 51 Little Malop Street, Geelong, Victoria.



Hawkes Bros Employees Roll of Honour (Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

N. F. Day is remembered on the Baptist Church, Newton Roll of Honour, located at 7 Aberdeen Street, Newtown, Victoria.



Baptist Church, Newton Roll of Honour (Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

(93 pages of Lieutenant Norman Frank Day'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

Mr Day, curator of the Botanical Gardens, has received a cable from his son, Sergt. Norman F. Day, dated February 29th, stating: "Received Christmas mail and parcels; furlough England, Scotland; well."

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 25 March, 1918)

NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

On August 27th Lieut. Norman Frank Day, son of Mr. J. P. Day, curator of the Eastern Park, was severely wounded in France, and the sad news has now been received that he has succumbed to his injuries. He left Geelong as a private about three years ago, saw service for a time in Gallipoli and Egypt, and was amongst the first troops that went on to France, where he has been ever since. At the time of enlistment he was employed at Messrs. Hawkes Bros.' warehouse, where he had been for about 15 years, and was greatly respected by all his colleagues. He was a prominent worker in the Aberdeen-street Baptist circles, and for some time acted as hon. secretary of the Young Men's Guild. Lieut. Day was recently mentioned in despatches by Sir Douglas Haig.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 26 September, 1918)

CASUALTY LIST NO. 433

VICTORIAN DETAILS SHOWN

Died of Wounds

Lieut. N. F. DAY, Geelong, 21/9/18

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

DAY – In loving remembrance of Lieut. Norman F. Day, who died of wounds at Empire Hospital, London, on 21st September, 1918.

-Inserted by his parents, sisters and brother.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 20 September, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

DAY – In loving memory of Lieut. Norman F. Day, who died of wounds at Empire Hospital, London, September 21st, 1918, loved younger son of J.P and E. Day, Eastern Park.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 21 September, 1920)

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)

Lieutenant N. F. Day does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Blessed Are The Dead Who Die In The Lord

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 Lieutenant N. F. Day's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00536

Lieutenant N. F. Day's original Grave Marker



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

