

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5685 PRIVATE

F. J. DENHOLM

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 27

Tho' Lost To Sight

To Memory Dear

Francis James DENHOLM

Francis James Denholm was born at Sorell, Tasmania on 28th August, 1890 to parents George & Mary Georgiana Elizabeth Denholm (nee Bilton).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Franklin, subdivision of Sorell, Tasmania recorded Francis James Denholm, Labourer from Clairvaux.

Francis James Denholm was a 25 year old, single, Farmer from Sorell, Tasmania when he enlisted on 10th April, 1916 at Claremont, Tasmania with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5685 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. Denholm, of Sorell, Tasmania.

Private Francis James Denholm was posted to 18th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion on 15th April, 1916.

Private Francis James Denholm embarked from Hobart, Tasmania on HMAT *Seang Choon (A49)* on 8th May, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements.

Private Francis James Denholm embarked from Alexandria on *Arcadian* on 29th July, 1916. He was taken on strength of 3rd Training Battalion at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 9th August, 1916 from Egypt.

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 Francis James Denholm proceeded overseas to France on 29th September, 1916 from 3rd Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 1st October, 1916.

Private Francis James Denholm was sent sick then admitted to 24th General Hospital on 7th November, 1916 with Mumps. He was transferred the same day to No. 6 Convalescent Depot then transferred on 12th November, 1916 to No. 5 Convalescent Depot at Cayeux still with Mumps. Private Denholm was discharged to Base Details on 18th November, 1916 & rejoined 1st A.D.B.D. at Etaples on 19th November, 1916. He proceeded from 1st A.D.B.D. at Etaples on 27th December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 12th Battalion in France on 30th December, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private Francis James Denholm was wounded in action in France on 5-8th May, 1917 (dates as per Casualty Form-Active Service). He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 6th May, 1917 with Shrapnel wounds to Face. Private Denholm was transferred & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 6th May, 1917 then transferred & admitted to No. 26 General Hospital at Etaples, France on 7th May, 1917. He was transferred to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 10th May, 1917 & discharged to Base Depot on 12th May, 1917 & was medically classified as "A" (fit for active service). Private Denholm was posted to 1st A.D.B.D. on 12th May, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 23rd May, 1917.

12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 12th Battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in bitter trench warfare. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozieres, the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders and then returned to the Somme for winter.

In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line. For their valorous actions near Boursies during this advance, Captain J. E. 'Jim' Newland, commanding A Company, and Sergeant J. W. Whittle were each awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion subsequently returned to Belgium to participate in the offensive that became known as the Third Battle of Ypres..... *(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

From War Diary 12th Battalion:

Report on Operations from 3rd May to 9th May, 1917

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Casualties	Officers	Other Ranks
Killed	3	30
Wounded	12	201
Missing	-	25

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mr G. Denholm, Sorell, Tasmania, was advised by Base Records on 26th May, 1917 that Private Francis Denholm had been wounded.

Private Francis James Denholm reported sick on 31st May, 1917 & was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 1st June, 1917 with Cellulitis Leg. He was transferred & admitted to 56th Casualty Clearing Station on 1st June, 1917 then was transferred & admitted to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 5th June, 1917. Private Denholm was transferred to No. 2 Convalescent Depot on 21st June, 1917. He was transferred to No. 13 Convalescent Depot at Trouville on 19th August, 1917 with Cellulitis – Right Leg. Private Denholm was discharged to Base Depot on 14th September, 1917.

Private Francis James Denholm was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 15th September, 1917 from Hospital. He proceeded to his Unit from 1st A.D.B.D. on 28th September, 1917 & rejoined 12th Battalion in Belgium on 5th October, 1917.

Private Francis James Denholm was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 16th November, 1917 with Diarrhoea then transferred to 10th Stationary Hospital the same day. He was transferred to 59th General Hospital on 16th November, 1917 then transferred to St. Omer on 17th December, 1917. Private Denholm embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. David* on 19th December, 1917.

Private Francis James Denholm was admitted to Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, England on 19th December, 1917 with Tubercular Peritonitis. He was reported as seriously ill.

Private Francis James Denholm died at 7 am on 12th January, 1918 at Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, England from Tubercular Peritonitis.

A death for Francis J. Denholme, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Woolwich, London, England.

Private Francis James Denholm was buried at 1.30 pm on 17th January, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180402.

From the burial report of Private Francis James Denholm - Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag. Firing Party, Buglers and Pallbearer, under the command of an officer, were supplied by the London Regt, stationed at Woking. The grave will be turfed immediately, and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Base Records wrote to Mr G. Denholm, Sorell, Tasmania on 23rd March, 1923 stating that the site of Private F. J. Denholm's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row C Grave 2.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. C. 2. Private Francis James Denholm now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Francis James Denholm was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Denholm's father – Mr G. Denholm, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Francis James Denholm – service number 5685, aged 27, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Mary Georgiana Elizabeth Denholm.

Private F. J. Denholm is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. J. Denholm is remembered on the Sorell War Memorial, located outside Sorell Memorial Hall, Cole Street, Sorell, Tasmania.



Sorell War Memorial (Photos from AWM Place of Pride – Arthur Garland)

F. J. Denholm is remembered on the Sorell Municipality Roll of Honour, located in Sorell Memorial Hall, Cole Street, Sorell, Tasmania.



Sorell Municipality Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Place of Pride – Arthur Garland)

F. J. Denholm is remembered on the St George's Roll of Honour, located in St. George's Anglican Church, 16 Gordon Street, Sorell, Tasmania.

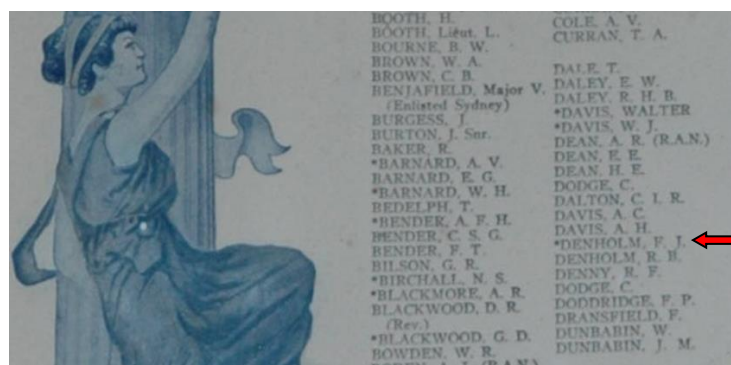


St George's Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Place of Pride – Arthur Garland)

F. J. Denholm is remembered on the Sorell & Tasman Peninsula Districts Roll of Honour, located in Copping Hall, Marion Bay Road, Copping, Tasmania.



Sorell & Tasman Peninsula Districts Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



F. J. Denholm is remembered on the Forcett Ward Roll of Honour, located in Forcett Hall, 699 Arthur Highway, Forcett, Tasmania.



Forcett Ward Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

Francis James Denholm is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



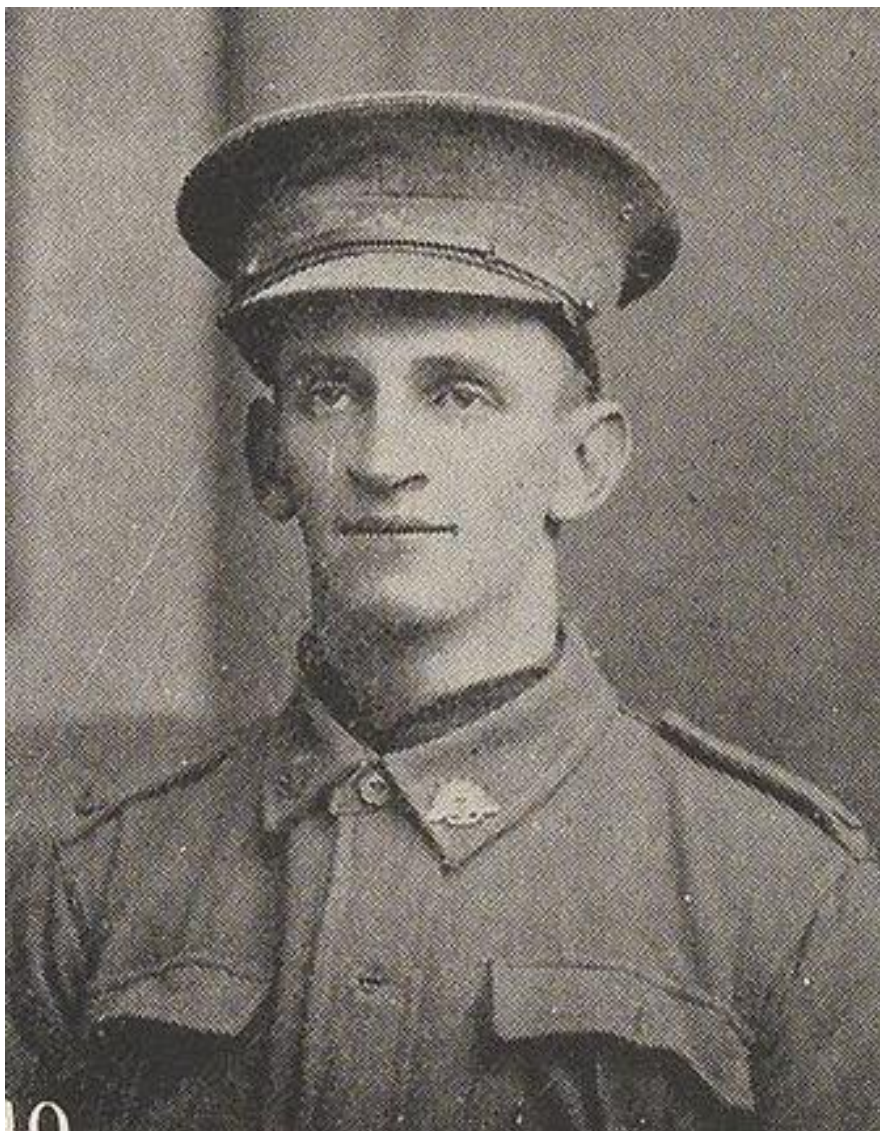
Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

5683	Pte	Davis	Alfred Henry	29.05.1918	27	5th Inf Bn	Hobart	749
2764	Pte	Davis	Herbert Stanley	16.06.1918	27	5th Inf Bn	Burnie	154
(13941)	2nd Lt	Davis	Robert John	11.06.1918	29	12th Inf Bn	Woodbury	(84)
7874	Pte	Davis	Albert Woodbury	11.09.1918	26	51st Inf Bn	Mathinna	183
4489	L/Cpl	Davis	Lewis Henry	30.10.1918	25	26th Inf Bn		
2475	Pte	De Jersey						
989	Sapr	Denehey (Dunn)	HB (Peter)	31.10.1918	25	3rd Tunnel Coy	Huon	637
5685	Pte	Denholm	Francis James	12.01.1918	27	12th Inf Bn	Sorell	366
(131)	Lt	Denne MM	Victor Edward	26.05.1918	33	52nd Inf Bn	Bruny Island	893
1821	Pte	Dennie	Leslie Charles	26.03.1918	20	40th Inf Bn	Flowerdale	333
7969	Pte	Dennis	Darcy Gordon	23.08.1918	19	12th Inf Bn	Deloraine	774
225	CSM	Dennis DCM	Rowland Harris	26.04.1918	23	52nd Inf Bn	Perth	123
(501)	Capt	Dewson	Richard William	11.08.1918	18	Depot rec (Aust)	Port Cygnet	679
5077	L/Cpl	Dick MM	Harold Bryan	27.05.1918	38	3rd Div Train	Hobart	398
3577	Pte	Dickanson	Percy	24.04.1918	22	52nd Inf Bn	Riana	110
2069	Pte	Dickson	William George	09.05.1918	36	40th Inf Bn	Granton	333
2452	L/Cpl	Dilger MM	Albert William	29.09.1918	21	40th Inf Bn	Stowport	702
3413	Tpr	Dillon	John Bernard	31.05.1918	28	12th Inf Bn	Swansea	165
170	Pte	Dillon	James	16.10.1918	22	9th Lt Horse Regt	Launceston	(228)
6647	L/Cpl	Dinean	Arthur Ernest	04.05.1918	24	51st Inf Bn	Launceston	6230
2638	Pte	Dixon	Claude Edgar	28.05.1918	38	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	3798
7970	Pte	Dixon	Frank Rouseell	01.09.1918	36	58th Inf Bn	Launceston	1110
3278	Pte	Doak	Angus	18.09.1918	43	12th Inf Bn	New Norfolk	2636
911	Pte	Dobson	Sydney John	09.08.1918	25	26th Inf Bn	Launceston	7580
858	Cpl	Dobson	Morton Wilfred	08.08.1918	25	4th Pioneer Bn	Latrobe	ANZAC
551B	Pte	Donnelly	Phillip Thomas	29.08.1918	21	26th Inf Bn	Penguin	ANZAC
7362	Pte	Dougharty	Frederick George	02.04.1918	26	3rd MG Coy	Ida Bay	2925
5876	L/Cpl	Douglas	Osbourne Henry	23.04.1918	41	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	2692
4778	Pte	Douglas	Charles Keith	24.04.1918	38	22nd Inf Bn	Launceston	1601
3310	Pte	Dove	Bertram Stephen	15.03.1918	20	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	800
6796	Pte	Dwelling	Owen William Lyfe	09.04.1918	27	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	1820
1196	Sgt	Drake	Ernest Alan	08.12.1918	20	22nd Inf Bn	Queenstown	2029
821	L/Cpl	Duffy	Vernon Hepburn	20.03.1918	39	MM SS Boorara	Newtown	522
2073	Pte	Duggan	Erskin James Hilton	22.06.1918	22	30th Inf Bn	Newtown	5110
403	Tpr	Dunham	Phillip Markham	09.04.1918	34	40th Inf Bn	Evandale	2294
4031	Pte	Dunn	Thomas Howard	12.06.1918	31	40th Inf Bn	Huon	3293
4012	Sapr	Dunn	Edward	16.07.1918	22	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Deloraine	ANZAC
7483	Pte	Dunstan	George Henry	05.04.1918	23	47th Inf Bn	Hobart	2510
5169	Pte	Durkin	John	29.12.1918	33	2nd Tunnel Coy	Zeehan	1647
5566	Pte	Dwyer	Thomas	17.04.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Beaconsfield	855
8242	Dvr	Dwyer MM	William John	04.05.1918	26	BEF RAMC	Scotsdale	316
(3255)	Lt	Eddie	Maxwell Hardwicke	23.05.1918	19	19th Inf Bn	Port Cygnet	894
1878	Pte	Edgecock	Alfred	31.10.1918	23	10th Fd Arty Bde	Hobart	854
663	L/Cpl	Edwards	Bertram George	05.09.1918	25	4 Sqn AFC	Launceston	ANZAC
3038	Pte	Edwards	Thomas Edward	14.09.1918	23	51st Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
6332	Pte	Edwards	Richard George C	12.04.1918	25	40th Inf Bn	Elizabeth Town	8002
18216	Gr	Edwards	Arthur Roy	19.02.1918	35	40th Inf Bn	Launceston	756
388	L/Cpl	Eeles	Eustace Eric	02.09.1918	30	22nd Inf Bn	Richmond	2825
3501	Pte	Elliot	Walter Wesley	21.03.1918	25	12th Fd Arty Bde	Hobart	3604
1131	Pte	Elliott MM	Albert Max	28.03.1918	27	40th Inf Bn	Sheffield	674
5761	Sapr	Emery	Percy Alexander	18.09.1918	21	3rd MG Bn	Ulverstone	7747
8843	Gr	Escoff	Albert Reginald	08.11.1918	32	4th Pioneer Bn	Ulverstone	ANZAC
3468	Sapr	Evans	Nurlet Ivor	19.12.1918	39	1 Div Sig Coy	Hobart	2492
3457	L/Cpl	Falch	Paul Richard N	08.08.1918	22	6th Fd Arty Bde	Hobart	62
5068	Pte	Farnham	Vers	15.05.1918	29	6th Fd Coy Engr	Hobart	2725A
7988	Pte	Farnell	Raymond Thomas	25.05.1918	25	12th Inf Bn	Leith	ANZAC
31891	Dvr	Farnell	John Phillip	03.09.1918	23	2nd MG Coy	Smithton	759A
59104	Sapr	Febey	Charles	18.09.1918	32	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	1023
3318	Pte	Febey	Aubrey Garnet	28.05.1918	20	3rd Fd Arty Bde	Deloraine	2708
(1395)	Lt	Ferguson	Angus Sailer	13.02.1918	27	NZEF Tunnel Coy	Goodley	2928
36143	Pte	Field	Montague Sydney	16.02.1918	19	40th Inf Bn	Burnie	28874
2404	Pte	Flash	John Joseph	03.05.1918	30	48th Inf Bn	Launceston	3584
4788	Pte	Fitzgerald	Frederick Ernest	29.08.1918	29	NZEF CIB	Hobart	704A
36213	Gr	Fleming	John Edward	22.07.1918	24	55th Inf Bn	Hobart	8008
1093	Pte	Foot	Cyril Charles	18.09.1918	31	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	7748
3455	Tpr	Food	William Wallace	24.04.1918	24	8th Fd Arty Bde	Hobart	862
3183	Pte	Forland	Herold Haddon	11.11.1918	23	2nd Mob Vet Coy	Gladstone	3341
6558	Pte	Forland	Arthur Henry	18.08.1918	20	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Hobart	5130
				14.08.1918	26	10th Fd Arty Bde	Launceston	12/387
				02.05.1918	19	12th Inf Bn	Devonport	2252
								3484

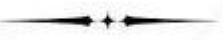
Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania

(55 pages of Private Francis James Denholm'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



Private Francis James Denholm



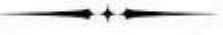
Connected to Private Francis James Denholm:

Older brother Ronald Bilton Denholm (born 10th April, 1888) – Enlisted on 8th March, 1918, aged 29 years & 11 months. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on 10th June, 1918 with 1st Tasmanian General Service Reinforcements.

Trooper Ronald Bilton Denholm, 50559, 3rd Australian Light Horse Regiment, returned to Australia from Egypt on 15th May, 1919. Disembarked in Australia 30th June, 1919.

He was discharged from the Australian Military Force on 13th August, 1919.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal



Newspaper Notices

RECRUITING AT SORELL

On Saturday last Lieutenant Robertson, accompanied by Captain Graves, examining medical officer, attended at Sorell. Altogether 17 men presented themselves for examination, and of these eight were passed fit for service, the other nine being rejected. Recruiting Sergeant Wertheimer was in attendance. Those who passed were :-...F. J. Denholm....

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 16 March, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

308TH AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

Pte F. J. Denholm, Sorell

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 12 June, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DENHOLM – On January 12, 1918, at the Royal Herbert Military Hospital, England, Private Francis James Denholm, dearly beloved son of George and Georgiana Denholm, of Sorell, aged 27 years.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 24 January, 1918)

Roll of Honour

Casualty List – No. 381

Tasmanian Casualties

DIED OF INJUROES

Pte F. J. DENHOLM, Sorell, 12/1/18

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 1 February, 1918)

FOR EMPIRE

381ST AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte F. J. Denholm, Sorell, 12/1/18

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 1 February, 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 F. J. Denholm does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Tho' Lost To Sight To Memory Dear



Original Cross marker for Private F. J. Denholm (*The Weekly Courier, Tasmania – 15 August, 1918*)

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.



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 (Photo from CWGC)



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 F. J. Denholm's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

