

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2616 CORPORAL

G. F. DEVLIN

29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 23

An Only Son In God's Care

He Is Safe & We

Dad, Mum & Sister

George Fraser DEVLIN

George Fraser Devlin was born in Melbourne, Victoria (according to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour, however, George Fraser Devlin stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born at Marcus Hill, Victoria) in late 1895 to parents Joseph & Mary Anne Devlin (nee Whiffin).

George Fraser Devlin was a 20 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted at Geelong, Victoria on 27th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2616 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Joseph Devlin, P.O., Marcus Hill, Geelong, Victoria. George Fraser Devlin stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 2 years with Infantry & 3 years with Cadets. As George Fraser Devlin was under the age of 21 – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. Joseph & M. A. Devlin signed their consent on 30th September, 1915.

Private George Fraser Devlin was posted to 19th Depot Battalion at Geelong, Victoria from 1st February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion at Broadmeadows, Victoria from 5th March, 1916 as Acting Corporal.

Acting Corporal George Fraser Devlin embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 14th March, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 15th April, 1916.

Acting Corporal George Fraser Devlin reverted to the rank of Private (no date recorded. As a result – no rank has been listed where it is unknown)

George Fraser Devlin embarked on H.M.T. *Franconia* from Alexandria on 6th June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th June, 1916.

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.

George Fraser Devlin was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital at Larkhill, Wiltshire from 8th Training Battalion on 28th June, 1916. He was marched in to 8th Training Battalion at Larkhill on 31st August, 1916.

George Fraser Devlin was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 18th September, 1916 with Rheumatism. He was marched in to 8th Training Battalion on 21st September, 1916 from Fargo Hospital.

George Fraser Devlin was admitted to Fargo Hospital on 30th September, 1916 with Chronic Rheumatism from 8th Training Battalion, Camp 15. He was marched in to 8th Training Battalion on 20th October, 1916 from Codford.

George Fraser Devlin was transferred from Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 22nd November, 1916 to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire with Rheumatism N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

George Fraser Devlin was discharged from Military Hospital at Fovant on 7th December, 1916 & marched in to 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire the same day.

Private George Fraser Devlin was appointed Acting Corporal E.D.P. (extra duty pay) from 10th February, 1917 then Acting Sergeant the same day while posted with 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Acting Sergeant George Fraser Devlin was On Command at N.C.O. School at Tidworth, Wiltshire from 7th May, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion.

Lance Sergeant George Fraser Devlin reverted to rank of Private from 1st July, 1917 on proceeding overseas.

Private George Fraser Devlin proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 2nd July, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Le Havre, France on 3rd July, 1917. Private Devlin was marched out to his Unit from 5th A.D.B.D. on 31st July, 1917 & was taken on strength of 29th Battalion from 5th Reinforcements on 1st August, 1917.

Private George Fraser Devlin was appointed Lance Corporal from 14th September, 1917.

Lance Corporal George Fraser Devlin was appointed Corporal from 4th October, 1917 vice 1432 Corporal Allison promoted.

Corporal George Fraser Devlin was wounded in action on 21st October, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 21st October, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to face & left leg. Corporal Devlin was transferred to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 21st October, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 10th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. He was transferred to Ambulance Train No. 25 on 22nd October, 1917 & admitted to 1st South African General Hospital at Abbeville, France on 26th October, 1917. Corporal Devlin was marked for transfer to England on 18th November, 1917 then embarked on Hospital Ship *Warilda* for England on 19th November, 1917.

29th Battalion

The 29th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria on 10 August 1915. Having enlisted as part of the recruitment drive that followed the landing at Gallipoli, and having seen the casualty lists, these were men who had offered themselves in full knowledge of their potential fate.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916.....

In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line, allowing the British front to be advanced. The Germans, however, made selected stands to delay this advance and the 28th Battalion was involved in defeating a counter-attack at Beaumont on 23 March. The battalion subsequently missed the heavy fighting to breach the Hindenburg Line during the second battle of Bullecourt as the 8th Brigade was deployed to protect the Division's flank. The only large battle in 1917 in which the 29th Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 29th Battalion

21st October, 1917 – near Ypres

3 pm – Left camp to relieve 54th Bn, in front line East of MOLENAARELSTHOEK. Bn had to pass through 2 heavy enemy barrages, suffered a number of casualties and had one Lewis Gun destroyed.

5.40 pm – Relief complete, “A” and “D” Coys in front line, “C” Coy in support, “B” Coy in reserve. Total strength of Battn, 15 Officers and 340 other ranks.

8.30 pm to 9.50 pm – Enemy shelled position intermittently with 77mm guns

11.30 pm - “ “ “ with 20 rounds from 4.2” guns

11.15 to 11.45 pm - “ “ “ Support Coy. with 5.9” guns

Rain fell during the night for about 3 hours

(War Diary extract from the Australian War Memorial)

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Devlin, P.O., Marcus Hill near Geelong, Victoria, father of Corporal G. F. Devlin, to advise that Lance Sergeant G. F. Devlin had been admitted to 1st South African General Hospital on 23rd October, 1917, suffering from gunshot wound to face and left leg – mild.

Corporal George Fraser Devlin was admitted to 1st London General Hospital at Camberwell, England on 20th November, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to face & leg.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Devlin, P.O., Marcus Hill near Geelong, Victoria, father of Corporal G. F. Devlin, on 6th December, 1917 to advise that Lance Sergeant G. F. Devlin had been transferred to 1st London General Hospital, England on 20th November, 1917.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Devlin, P.O., Marcus Hill near Geelong, Victoria, father of Corporal G. F. Devlin, on 13th December, 1917 to advise "*information to hand, stating that my advise of 15th ultimo, regarding Lance Sergeant G. F. Devlin, should have read severe not mild.*"

[Note: no entries recorded on Casualty Form – Active Service between 19th November, 1917 & 15th August, 1918]

Corporal George Fraser Devlin was discharged on 15th August, 1918 from St Gabriels College, Myatts Park & granted leave until 15th September, 1918 on which date he was to report back to 1st London General Hospital.

Corporal George Fraser Devlin was admitted to 1st London General Hospital at Camberwell, England from furlough on 15th September, 1918 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). The Hospital Admissions form recorded Shrapnel wound to Face – fractured maxilla & teeth. He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield from Camberwell on 9th October, 1918 with GSW to Face – fracture of upper jaw. Corporal Devlin was transferred to Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent, England on 10th October, 1918. He contracted Influenza on 12th October, 1918.



Queen's Hospital, Sidcup

In 1915 plans were made to build a hospital in the grounds of the Marsham Townshends' Frognal Estate in Sidcup. The government purchased the land and the public contributed funds following an appeal in the "Evening Standard". The cause was greatly helped by the personal interest of Queen Mary herself, who commanded that, on completion the hospital should be named the Queen's Hospital, Sidcup. Building commenced in February 1917 and the first patient was admitted on the 16th July 1917. Later that year it was decided that the Queen's Hospital should be the central military hospital for facial and jaw injuries, not only for the United Kingdom, but for all the Imperial Expeditionary Forces.

During the period 1917-1920 the hospital acquired considerable historical importance, particularly in the field of plastic surgery, under the direction of the noted military surgeon Major Harold Gillies.

Over 11,000 major operations were carried out between 1917-1921, and of the 18,135 military patients treated during the period 1917-1929, over 8000 of these were suffering from severe facial injuries.

(Information from Bexley Remembers 1914 to 1918 Queens Hospital Sidcup)

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Devlin, P.O., Marcus Hill near Geelong, Victoria, father of Corporal G. F. Devlin, on 15th November, 1918, to advise that Corporal G. F. Devlin had been admitted on 10th October, 1918 to Queen's Hospital, England, seriously ill on 26th October, 1918.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Devlin, Post Office, Marcus Hill near Geelong, Victoria on 26th November, 1918, to advise that Corporal G. F. Devlin's condition was stationary.

Corporal George Fraser Devlin died at 5.30 am on 28th November, 1918 at Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent, England from Influenza & Gangrene of Lung – the result of G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Jaw. Another entry on Statement of Service form recorded Corporal George Fraser Devlin died of wounds – G.S.W. Jaw.

A death for George Devlin, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Bromley, Kent, England.

Corporal George Fraser Devlin was buried on 3rd December, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Plot number IV. G.4 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal George Fraser Devlin - *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 grave side where the "Last Post" was sounded by a Bugler of the A.I.F. Headquarters London. The burial service was conducted by Chap the Rev: Blackwood, and many were in attendance. 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.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal George Fraser Devlin contains a letter from V. Macdonald, The Queen's Hospital, Frognaal, Sidcup, Kent, which reads *"I very much regret to report the death of Pte G. H. Devlin from complications following Influenza and would be greatly obliged if you would cable to his mother, Mrs J. H. Devlin, Marcus Hill, via Geelong, Victoria, the sad news. I intend to write to her also."*

Sister I. Pope, Queens's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent wrote the following letter *"Cpl Devlin came to this Hospital from the 1st London General Hospital, on October 10th 1918. His wounds were all healed at that time. On October 18th he was taken ill with influenza for some weeks, and an operation was found to be necessary to open the abscess which had formed on the lung. He rallied slightly after this operation and then gradually became weaker till he died in the early morning of the 28th November. He was buried at Rookwood Cemetery near Aldershot. Several of the men from the ward attended his funeral and sent a wreath."*

Corporal George Fraser Devlin was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Devlin's father - Mr J. Devlin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal George Fraser Devlin – service number 2616, aged 23, of 29th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joseph and Mary Anne Devlin, of Marcus Hill, near Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

Corporal G. F. Devlin is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 115.



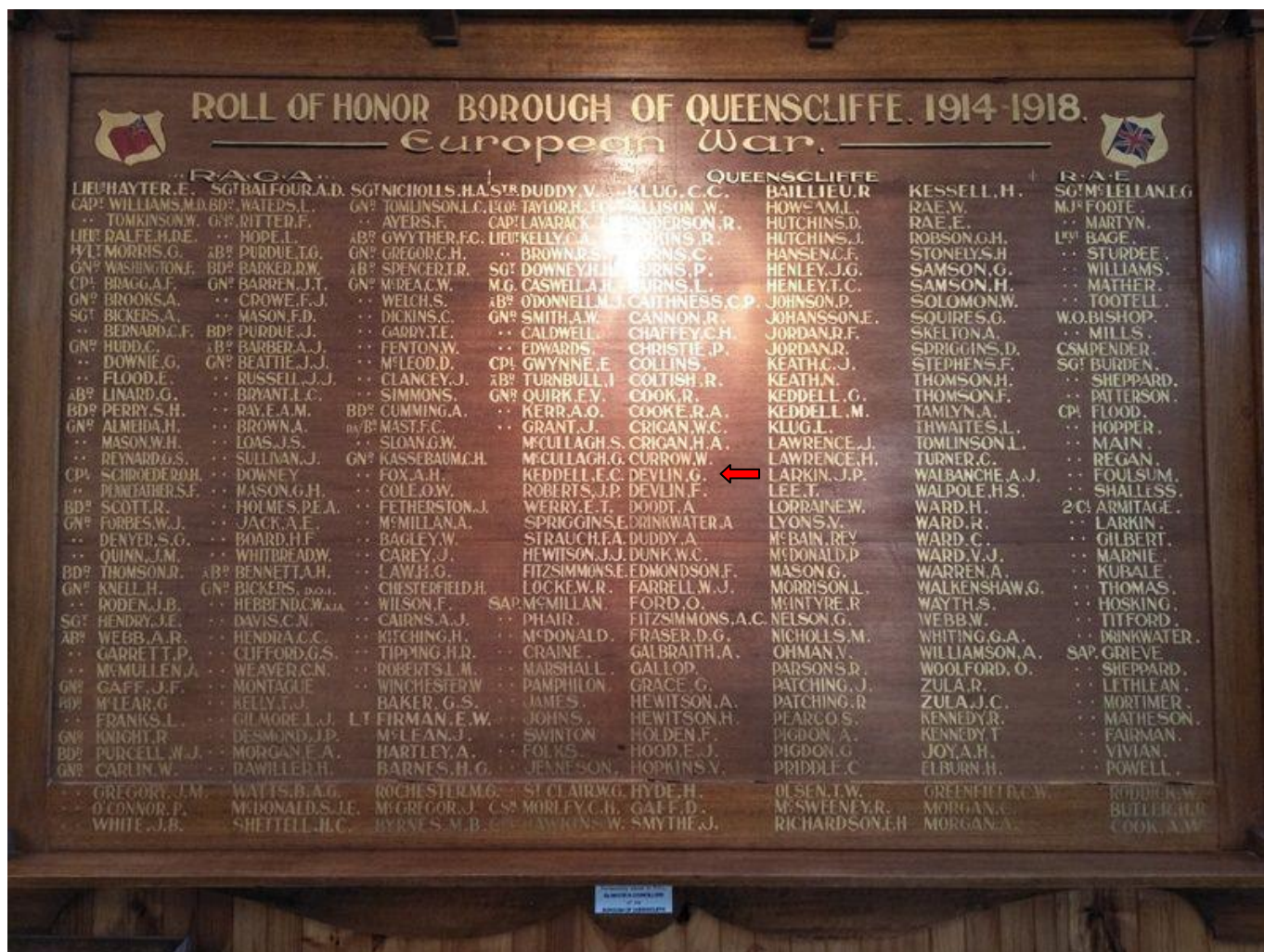
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. F. Devlin is remembered on the Drysdale Bellarine Shire Honour Roll (First World War), located at Drysdale RSL, 13 Princess Street, Drysdale, Greater Geelong City, Victoria.



Drysdale Bellarine Shire Honour Roll (Photo from VHD Heritage Council)

G. Devlin is remembered on the Queenscliffe Roll of Honour, located in Point Lonsdale RSL, 9 King Street, Queenscliffe, Victoria.



Queenscliffe Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Graham J. Christie)

George Fraser Devlin is remembered on the London Borough of Bexley's WW1 Roll of Honour – a list compiled by staff & volunteers at Bexley Local Studies & Archives Centre.



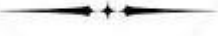
www.bexley.gov.uk

BEXLEY BOROUGH WW1 ROLL OF HONOUR



(69 pages of Corporal George Fraser Devlin'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LISTS Nos. 365 AND 366

Victoria

WOUNDED

L. Sgt. G. F. Devlin

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 December, 1917)

DEATHS

DEVLIN – On the 27th November, 1918, at Queen's Hospital, Sydney, England, Corp G. F. Devlin, died of wounds, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Devlin, Marcus Hill.

“Our Darling Boy.”

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

DEVLIN – On the 27th November, 1918, at Queen's Hospital, Sydcup, England, Corporal G. F. Devlin, died of wound, only brother of Eunice (Mrs T. Thwaites) and uncle of Cliff, Edna, and Les (Queenscliff).

A hero and a man.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 December, 1918) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 December, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

DEVLIN – On the 27th November, at Queen's Hospital, Sydcup, England, Corp. G. F. Devlin, died of wounds, loving cousin of Doris Butler, Queenscliff. My pal.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)

NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

Casualty Lists 451 and 451A, released by the Defence Department, contain the following district names:- Died of wounds: Cpl. G. F. Devlin, Marcus Hill, 28/11/18, previously reported ill.

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria – 16 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DEVLIN – In loving memory of our dearly loved boy, Cpl. G. F. Devlin, who died of wounds in Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, England, 28th November, 1918.

Resting now in God's good care,

No mother was there to soothe his brow,

No father to say good-bye,

No sister to take him by the hand

When death was drawing nigh.

In a far-off land he is resting,

And that grave we may never see,

But a kind, loving hand in that far-off land

Places flowers on that grave for me.

-(Inserted by his sorrowing father and mother, J. and M. A. Devlin, Marcus Hill.)

DEVLIN – In loving memory of our dear brother, No. 2616 Cpl. G. F. Devlin, 296th Battalion, died of wounds 25th Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent; buried Brookwood Military Cemetery.

Nothing left to answer,

But his photo on the wall.

If those lips could only speak

And those eyes could only see,
If those beautiful life-like features
Were here in reality;
If we could only clasp your hand, George,
As we did when you bid us good-bye,
It would be a beautiful photo,
In its plain oak frame.

-(Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Eunice and Thomas Thwaites.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 November, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

DEVELIN – In loving memory of our dear ly beloved son and brother, who died of wounds at Sidcup Hospital, England, 28/11/18.

Only a memory of by-gone days,
And a wish for a face unseen,
But a constant feeling that God alone,
Knows best, what might have been.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, J. and M. A. Develin, and sister, E. Thwaites, Queenscliff.

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria – 27 November, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DEVLIN – In loving memory of our loved only son and brother, Cpl. G. C. Devlin, 29th Battalion, died on 28th November, 1918, at Sidcup Hospital, England.

One of Australia's heroes,
In a far off land he lies,
Away from his loved ones dear;
But there's a loving hand in that distant land
Who tend that grave so dear.

-(Inserted by his loving father and mother, J. and M. A. Devlin, sister and brother-in-law, E. and T. Thwaites.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 November, 1921) & (*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria – 26 November, 1921)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 8th July, 1921, to Mr J. Devlin, Post Office, Marcus Hill, near Geelong, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Corporal G. F. Devlin, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Corporal G. F. Devlin does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

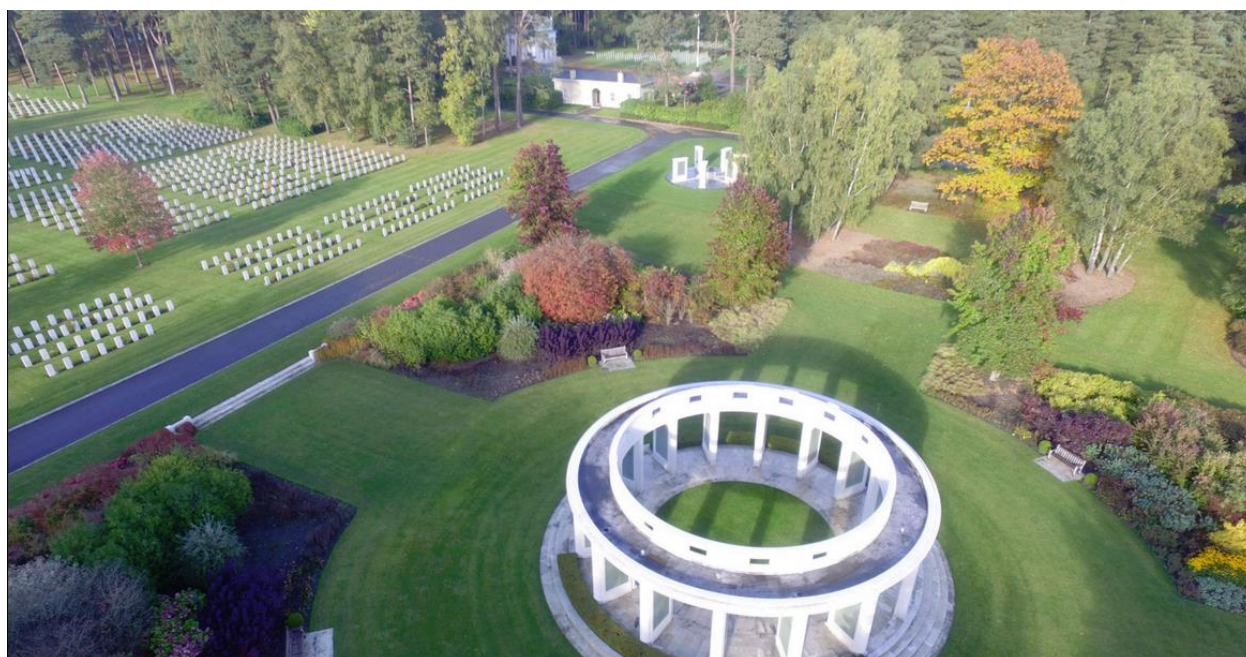
*An Only Son In God's Care
He Is Safe & We Dad, Mum & Sister*

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)



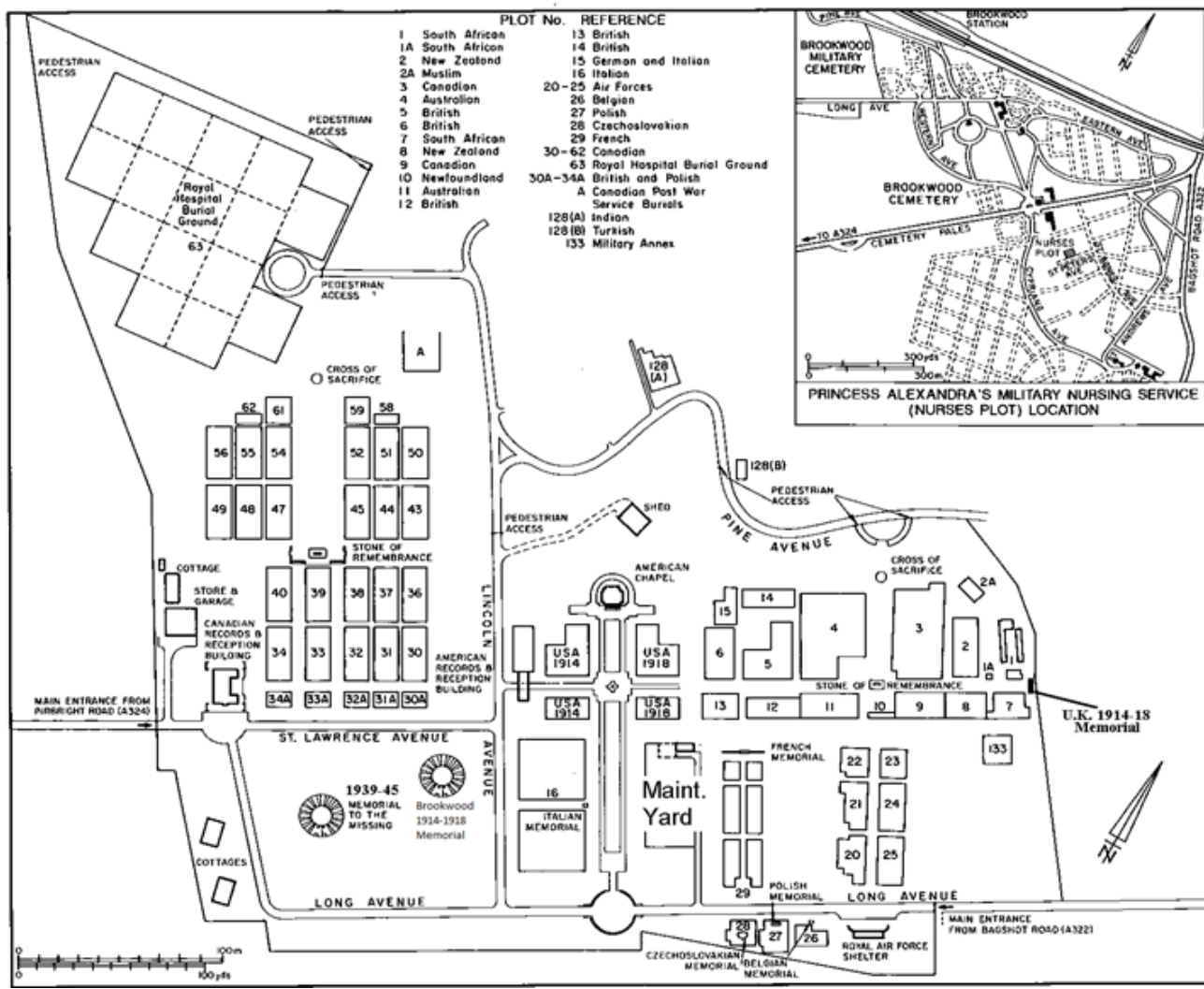


Australian War Graves (Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)

Photo of Corporal G. F. Devlin's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)



PLOT No.	REFERENCE
1	South African
1A	South African
2	New Zealand
2A	Muslim
3	Canadian
4	Australian
5	British
6	British
7	South African
8	New Zealand
9	Canadian
10	Newfoundland
11	Australian
12	British
13	British
14	British
15	German and Italian
16	Italian
20-25	Air Forces
26	Belgian
27	Polish
28	Czechoslovakian
29	French
30-62	Canadian
63	Royal Hospital Burial Ground
30A-34A	British and Polish
A	Canadian Post War Service Burials
128(A)	Indian
128(B)	Turkish
133	Military Annex

