

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1026 CORPORAL

A. DURRINGTON MM.

41ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 24

Here Our Dear Arthur Is Laid

Who Fought For His Country

So Brave

Arthur Allan DURRINGTON

Arthur Allan Durrington was born at Pimlico, near Ballina, New South Wales, Australia in 1894 to parents Thomas Prosper Durrington and Catherine (Kate) Durrington (nee Jones).

Arthur Allan Durrington was a 21 year old, single, Farmer from Ballina, Richmond River, NSW when he enlisted at Lismore, NSW on 27th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1026 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Thomas Durrington, Ballina, Richmond River, NSW. Arthur Durrington stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served for 18 months with Senior Cadets.

Private Arthur Durrington was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 25th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Reinforcements of 41st Battalion on 4th April, 1916.

Private Arthur Allen Durrington (name as per Embarkation Roll) embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 18th May, 1916 with the 41st Battalion, 1st Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 20th July, 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.

Private Arthur Durrington was taken on strength of 11th Training Battalion in England on 7th August, 1916.

Private Arthur Durrington was transferred to 13th Training Battalion Group NCO on 13th October, 1916 then transferred to 11th Training Battalion Group NCO on 22nd October, 1916.

Private Arthur Durrington proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 24th November, 1916.

Private Arthur Durrington was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 21st December, 1916 with Mumps then transferred to Divisional Rest Station the same day. He was transferred & admitted to 7th General Hospital at St. Omer on 22nd December, 1916 with Mumps & was discharged to Base Details at Etaples, France on 11th January, 1917. Private Durrington rejoined 41st Battalion in the Field on 13th January, 1917.

Private Arthur Durrington was wounded in action on 1st August, 1917. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 1st August, 1917 with a Haematoma Buttock (as per handwritten Casualty Form – Active Service, however the typed version of the form recorded he was wounded with a bullet wound to back) then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Durrington was transferred & admitted to 18th General Hospital at Camiers, France on 3rd August, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to 6th Convalescent Depot at Etaples, France on 17th August, 1917 then transferred to 5th Convalescent Depot on 21st August, 1917.

41st Battalion

The 41st Battalion was raised at Bell's Paddock Camp in Brisbane in February 1916 with recruits from Brisbane, northern Queensland and the northern rivers district of New South Wales. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division.

After training in Australia and Britain, the 41st Battalion arrived in France on 25 November 1916. It entered the front line for the first time on Christmas Eve and spent the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between service in the front line, and training and labouring in the rear areas.

Compared to some AIF battalions, the 41st's experience of the battles in Belgium during 1917 was relatively straightforward. It had a supporting role at Messines on 7 June, captured its objectives at Broodseinde on 4 October with little difficulty, and was spared the carnage of Passchendaele on 12 October. It was some of the battalion's more "routine" tasks that proved its most trying experiences. At the end of June 1917, the 11th Brigade was ordered to establish a new front line west of Warneton, in full view of the Germans. Work carried on night and day under heavy shellfire and the period became known to the battalion as "the 18 days". The start of August found the 41st holding ground captured by two of its sister battalions in a feint attack on 31 July. Enduring continual rain, flooded trenches and heavy shelling many of the battalion's platoons dwindled from 35 men to less than ten.

Belgium remained the focus of the 41st Battalion's activities for the five months after its action in October 1917 as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 41st Battalion

MESSINES – 1st August, 1917

Post at U.5.b.85.10 (VII) re-occupied. Casualties O.R. 5 Killed 18 wounded. Strength Off. 42 O.R. 947.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mr Thomas Durrington, Ballina, NSW father of Private Arthur Durrington, was advised by Base Records on 14th August, 1917 that Private Arthur Durrington had been wounded.

Private Arthur Durrington was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot at Rouelles, France on 9th September, 1917. He was marched out to the Front on 17th September, 1917 & rejoined 41st Battalion in the Field on 19th September, 1917.

Private Arthur Durrington was appointed Lance Corporal on 8th October, 1917.

Lance Corporal Arthur Durrington was sent to Lewis Gun Course on 3rd December, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 10th December, 1917.

Lance Corporal Arthur Durrington was granted English Leave from 8th January, 1918 & rejoined 41st Battalion on 22nd January, 1918.

Lance Corporal Arthur Allan Durrington was awarded the Military Medal on 1st February, 1918 – A.I.F. List 292. (*London Gazette* – 28 January, 1918) (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 27 June, 1918).

Military Medal

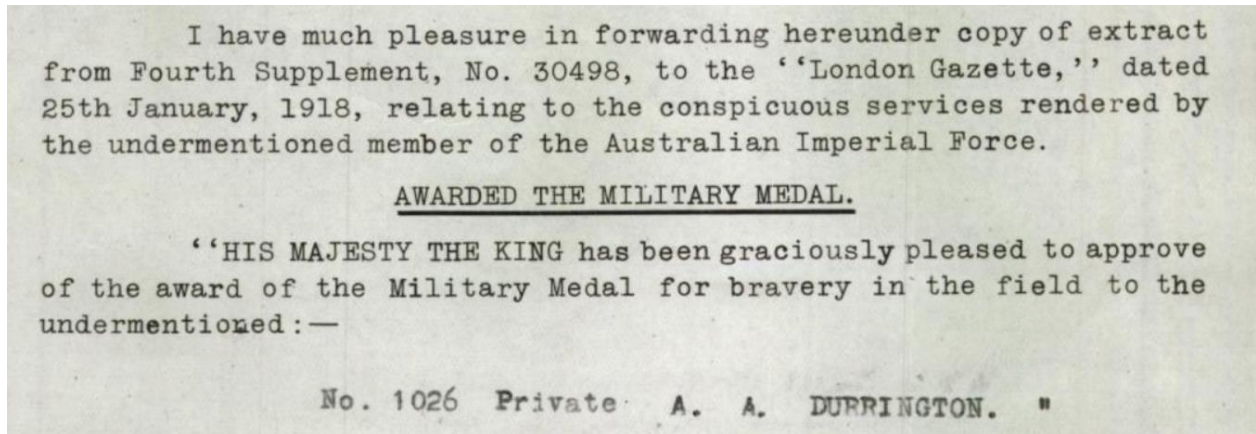
The Military Medal (MM) was a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other arms of the armed forces, and to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914, and was awarded to other ranks for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire". (*Wikipedia*)



Military Medal (MM)

Lance Corporal Arthur Durrington was to be Temporary Corporal from 27th May, 1918, vice 1047 Corporal H. O. Hollingworth evacuated wounded on 26th May, 1918.

Mr T. Durrington, Ballina, NSW was advised by Base Records on 12th July, 1918:



Temporary Corporal Arthur Durrington was promoted to Corporal from 28th August, 1918.

Corporal Arthur Durrington was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 1st September, 1918. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance on 1st September, 1918 with shrapnel wound/s to Hip. Corporal Durrington was transferred to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 2nd September, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 3rd September, 1918. He was invalided to England on 8th September, 1918 on *Aberdonian*.

41st Battalion

When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in blunting the drive towards the vital railway junction of Amiens.

The Allies launched their own offensive on 8 August 1918, and the 41st played an active role both in the initial attack and the long advance that followed throughout August and into September. The 41st participated in its last major action of the war between 29 September and 2 October 1918 as part of the Australian-American operation that breached the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion was out of the line when the war ended, and was disbanded in May 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 41st Battalion

The 41st Battalion were located at Haut Allaines at midnight on 31st August/1st September, 1918 with the Battalion assembled for an assault in the morning in the valley. The 41st Battalion along with 42nd & 43rd Battalions were, "under the cover of a barrage, to capture and consolidate" the line.

".....All through the fight the Machine gun fire, especially enfilade, was the greatest we have experienced....This fire also prevented us from removing some of our casualties from the front line as the Boche fired on stretcher bearers killing and wounded a whole team. We took a large number of prisoners, some two hundred and fifty, together with five Field Guns the teams of which "D" Coy, Lewis Gunners shot on reaching their objective, while the enemy was trying to withdraw them. We also got two Trench Mortars and about 45 Machine Guns, Our Casualties were 120 of which five were Officers. The large number bears out the expensiveness of taking positions heavily held by machine guns without adequate artillery preparation or tasks. The strength of the Battalion for this operation was under 400 fighting men....."

(Information (extract) from the 41st Battalion War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Corporal Arthur Durrington was admitted to 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Rd, Birmingham, England on 9th September, 1918 with Bomb wound to Left Hip. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 23rd October, 1918.

Mr T. Durrington, Ballina, NSW, father of Corporal Arthur Durrington was advised by Base Records on 16th September, 1918 that Corporal A. A. Durrington "M.M." had been wounded 2nd occasion. Mr T. Durrington was advised on 26th September, 1918 that Lance Corporal A. A. Durrington "M.M." had been admitted on 9th September, 1918 "to 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England suffering from gunshot wound hip, actual condition not stated."

Corporal Arthur Durrington was reported to be suffering from Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia from 2nd November, 1918 while a patient at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, England. He was transferred from B31 Ward to Isolation on 2nd November, 1918.

Corporal Arthur Durrington died at 23.50 hrs on 7th November, 1918 at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent, England from Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Arthur A. Durrington, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Dartford, Kent, England.

Base Records advised Mr T. Durrington, Ballina, NSW, father of Corporal Arthur Durrington, on 13th November, 1918 that Lance Corporal Arthur Durrington was dangerously ill with Broncho Pneumonia.

Corporal Arthur Durrington was buried on 14th November, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 182161.

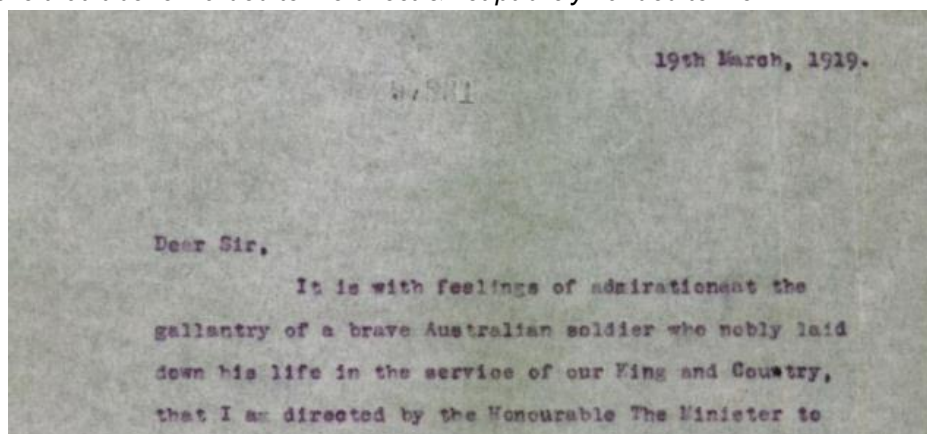
From the burial report of Corporal Durrington -*Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and conveyed to the graveside, surmounted with several beautiful wreaths. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev: Major Miles of the A.I.F. Headquarters London. 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 of Friends present at Funeral – Brother A.I.F.

Base Records wrote to Mrs C. Durrington, Ballina, Richmond River, NSW on 27th March, 1923 stating that the site of her son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row M Grave 9.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. M. 9. Corporal Arthur Durrington has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

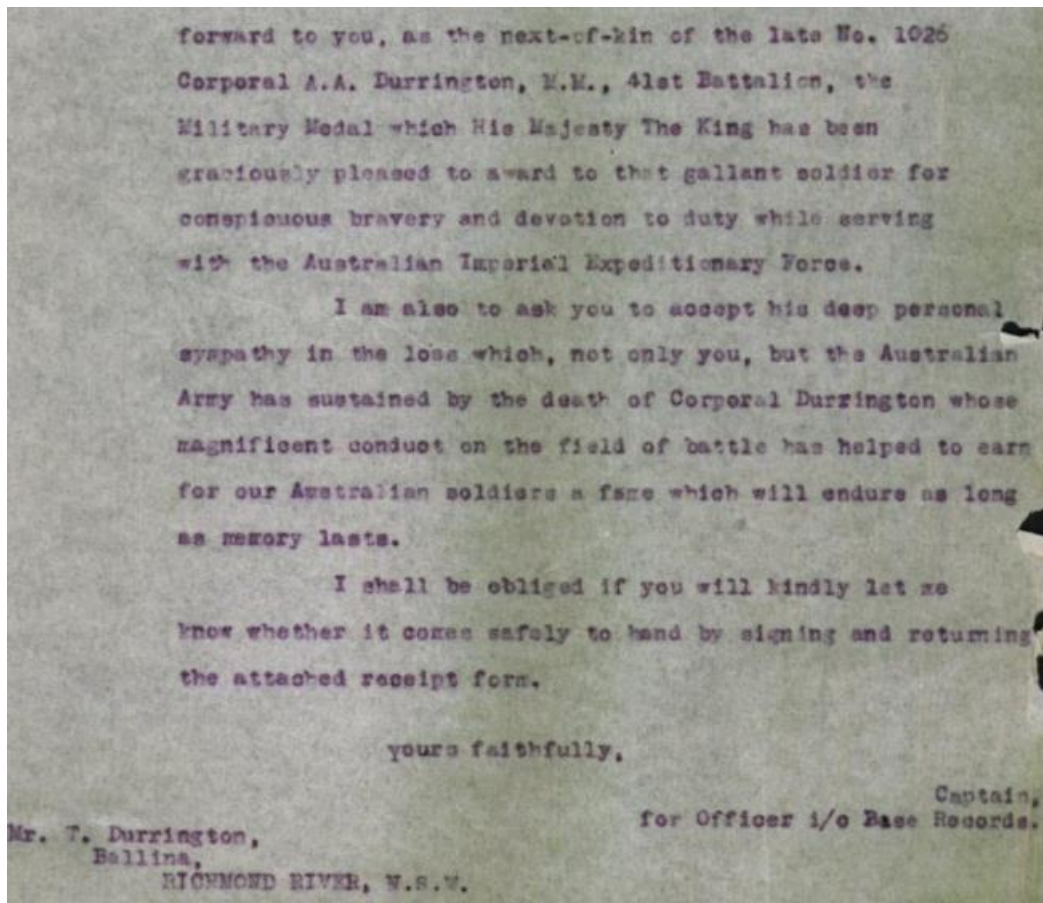
Base Records wrote to Mr T. Durrington, Ballina, Richmond River, NSW on 4th March, 1919 to advise that they were in receipt of a Military Medal which had been awarded to his son. They requested "to learn at your earliest convenience whether you desire this decoration to be handed to you publicly on the first suitable occasion, or whether you would prefer it to be transmitted to you direct from this office..." Mr Thomas Durrington replied on 12th March, 1919 "I desire that it be forwarded to me direct & not publicly handed to me...."



19th March, 1919.

Dear Sir,

It is with feelings of admiration at the gallantry of a brave Australian soldier who nobly laid down his life in the service of our King and Country, that I am directed by the Honourable The Minister to



Corporal Arthur Durrington was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Durrington's mother - Mrs C. Durrington, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Arthur Durrington – service number 1026, aged 24, of 41st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas Prosper Durrington and Catherine Durrington, of Ballina, New South Wales.

Corporal A. Durrington is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.

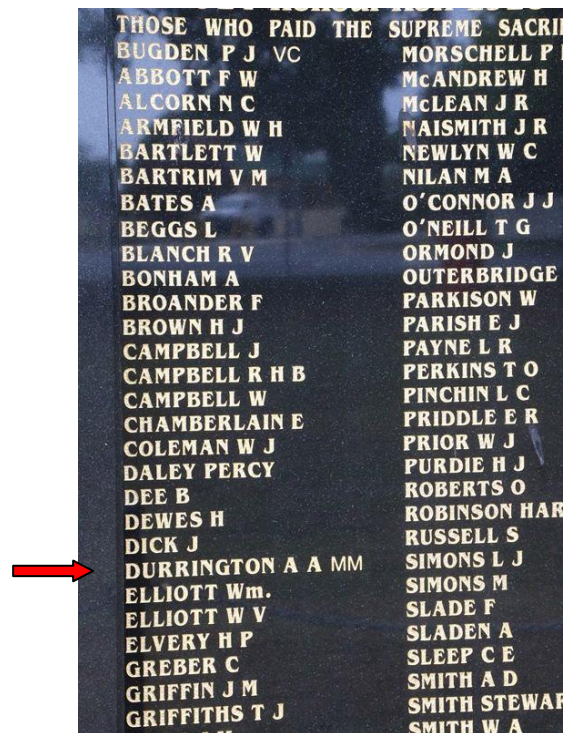


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. A. Durrington M.M. is remembered on the Alstonville War Memorial, located in Elizabeth Ann Brown Park, Wardell Road & Daley Street, Alstonville, NSW.



Alstonville War Memorial (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Graeme Bray)



Corporal Arthur Allen Durrington is remembered at the Anzac Gallipoli Garden, located at Regatta Avenue, Ballina, NSW.



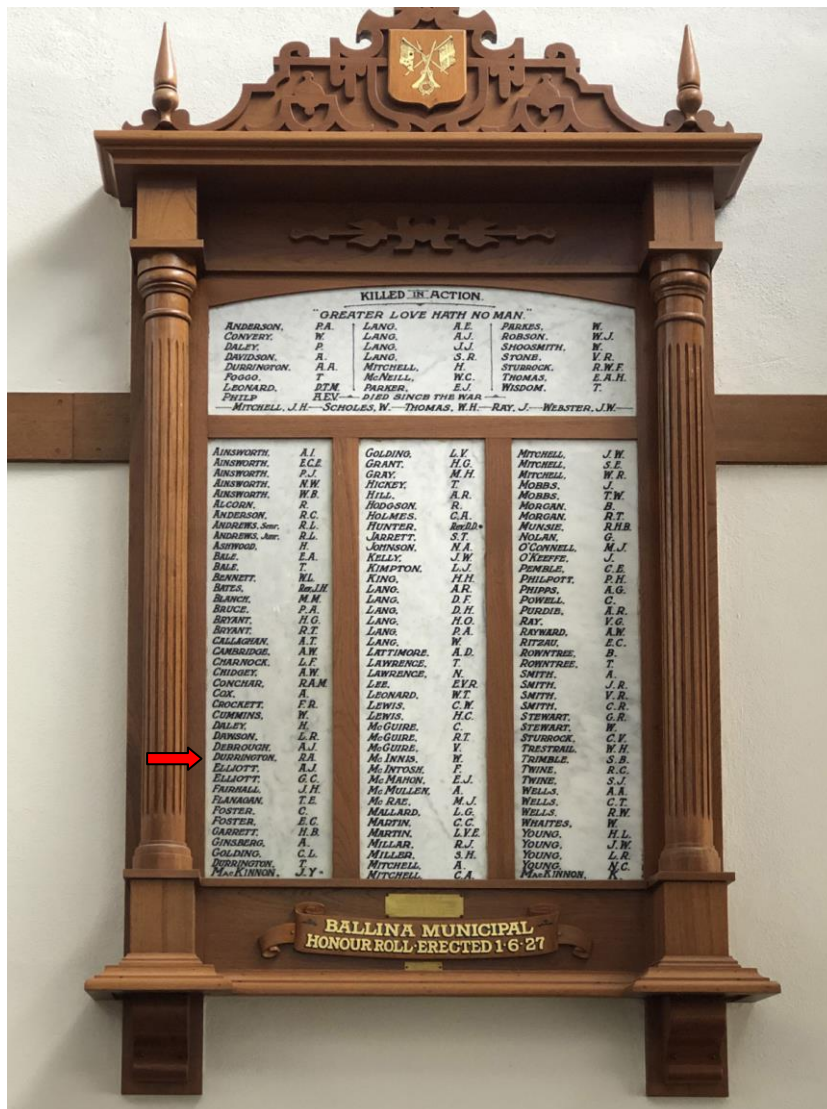
Anzac Gallipoli Garden (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Graeme Bray)





Anzac Gallipoli Garden (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Graeme Bray)

A. A. Durrington is remembered on the Ballina Municipal Honour Roll, located in Ballina Shire Council Chambers, 40 Cherry Street, Ballina, NSW.



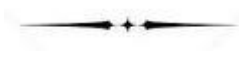
Ballina Municipal Honour Roll (Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Ballina Shire Council)

(58 pages of Corporal Arthur Durrington'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 Arthur A. Durrington
(The Queenslander -19 August, 1916)



Newspaper Notices

Reinforcements 41st Battalion



(The Queenslander - 19 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 333

Wounded

A. A. Durrington (New South Wales)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 28 August, 1917)

PERSONAL

Mr T. Durrington, of Pimlico, received word last week that his son, Pte A. A. Durrington, had been awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the field.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 27 July, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

The following additional names appear in Australian casualty list No. 436, which was issued to-night:-

Wounded

Lance-corporal A. A. Durrington, M.M. (New South Wales – second occasion).

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 2 November, 1918)

War Notes

Corporal Arthur Durrington, youngest son of Mr and Mrs T. Durrington, late of Tatersall's Hotel, Balmain, who succumbed to pneumonia at Birmingham, was in his 24th year, has been at the front for nearly three years, and was wounded on three occasions. Two other brothers have been at the war.

(*The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser*, NSW – 26 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

LISTS NOS. 448 – 449

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Cpl. Arthur A. Durrington, M.M., Ballina, NSW, 7/11/18 (illness, prev. rep. w'ded).

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 14 December, 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*)

A letter from Base Records, dated 8th July, 1921, to Mr T. Durrington, Ballina, Richmond River, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 1026 Coproal A. A. Durrington, 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 A. Durrington does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Here Our Dear Arthur Is Laid
Who Fought For His Country So Brave*

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 *(Photos by Magicfingers)*

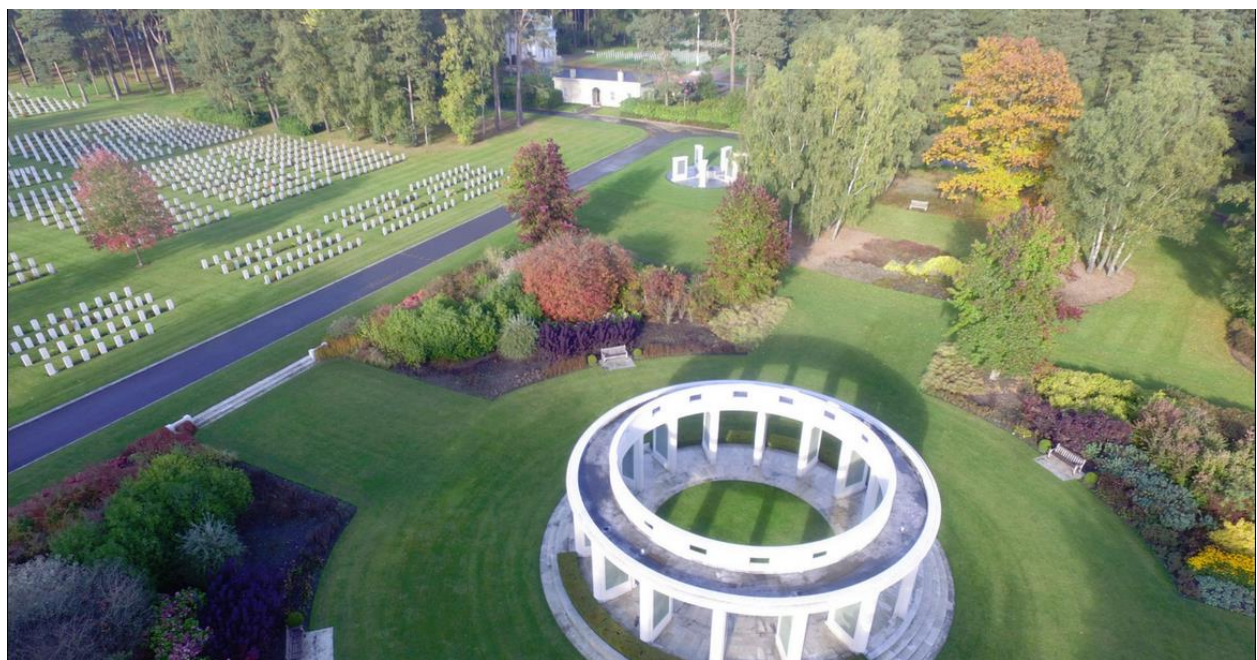


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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)



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 Corporal A. Durrington's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo by courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

