

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5849 PRIVATE

T. W. EDMONDS

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

29TH APRIL, 1917 Age 38

*In Memory Of
The Dearly Loved Brother Of
Mr B. J. Edmonds
Of Bolgart*

Thomas William (Tom) EDMONDS

Thomas William Edmonds was born on 21st February, 1879 at Toodyay, Western Australia to parents John and Sarah Edmonds (nee Waldock).

Sarah Edmonds, mother of Thomas William Edmonds, died on 18th December, 1888 at Toodyay, Western Australia.

John Edmonds, father of Thomas William Edmonds, died in 1893 at Toodyay, Western Australia.

The 1910 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Swan, subdivision of Toodyay, Western Australia, listed Thomas William Edmonds, Farmer from Wyanning.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Dampier, subdivision of Toodyay, Western Australia, listed Thomas William Edmonds, Farmer from Corondeen, Wyening.

Thomas William Edmonds was a 37 year old, single, Farmer from Bolgart, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 20th April, 1916 (date as per Embarkation Roll, however his Attestation Papers have the date of 22nd March, 1916) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5849 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Benjamin James Edmonds, Bolgart, Western Australia. Thomas William Edmonds enlisted the same day as his cousin – William Richard Edmonds.

Private Thomas William Edmonds was posted to 64 Depot on 19th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 4th May, 1916.

Private Thomas William Edmonds embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suffolk (A23)* on 13th October, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd December, 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 Thomas William Edmonds proceeded overseas to France on H.T. *Princess Clementine*, via Folkestone on 28th December, 1916 from 7th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 2 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th December, 1916. Private Edmonds proceeded from 2 A.D.B.D. on 30th December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 28th Battalion in France on 27th January, 1917 from 16th Reinforcements.

Private Thomas William Edmonds was wounded in action in France on 2nd March, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 2nd March, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to Head & Leg. Private Edmonds was transferred to 1/1 S. M. Casualty Clearing Station on 2nd March, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 3rd March, 1917. He was admitted to No. 3 Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 4th March, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head, Leg & Face. Private Edmonds was transferred to Havre on 4th March, 1917 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Panama* on 5th March, 1917.

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria.....

For many of the major battles of 1917 the 28th found itself in supporting roles. At the second battle of Bullecourt, the 28th provided reinforcements who were nonetheless involved in heavy fighting. The 28th went on to attack as part of the third phase at the battle of Menin Road, capturing its objectives in seven minutes, and was in reserve during the capture of Broodseinde Ridge.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 28th Battalion

France – 2nd March, 1917

3 am – B. Co and RAIDERS at 3 AM attacked MALT TRENCH. The attack was stopped by the wire. Attackers were withdrawn and a Party under 2Lt LEAVER worked into MALT TRENCH on left of 26th Battn and ___ed down objective until 2Lt LEAVER was wounded. Lt KING and Lt ALLEN organised another party which went under Lt ALLEN and 2.30 pm gained objective taking prisoners 14 men of 67th Regiment and capturing 1 trench mortar and 1 electric signalling apparatus.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas William Edmonds was admitted to 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England on 6th March, 1917 with G.S.W. Left Hand, Face & Legs. He was reported to be seriously ill on 8th March, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form recorded “2 deep penetrating wounds of left thigh muscles. Gas gangrene of thigh & buttock muscles. Multiple incisions made with considerable inforcement for a time. Subsequently septicaemia symptoms & death.”

B. J. Edmonds, Bolgart, Western Australia, brother of Private Thomas William Edmonds, was advised by Base Records on 15th March, 1917 that Private Thomas Edmonds had been admitted to Hospital on 8th March – ill severe. He was advised on 20th March, 1917 that Private T. W. Edmonds had been reported wounded. Base Records advised B. J. Edmonds on 28th March, 1917 that Private Thomas Edmonds was progressing favourably.

Private Thomas William Edmonds died at 7.15 am on 29th April, 1917 at 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. thigh. The Hospital Admissions form recorded “P.M. (Post mortem) Metastatic abscess in lower lobes of lungs & liver.”

A death for Thomas W. Edmonds, aged 38, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private Thomas William Edmonds was buried on 3rd May, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground – Grave number 179-186.

From the burial report of Private Thomas William Edmonds - Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier's remains were buried with Military honours. Firing Party comprising members of the Administrative Headquarters Staff, A.I.F. London, were in attendance. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside by a bugler of the A.I.F. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag and several floral tributes, including two from his comrades of Ward No. 33 & Nurse Mitchell of the 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell. The deceased soldier's remains were borne to the graveside by members of the Administrative Headquarters Staff, A.I.F., London. Prior to the interment of the deceased soldier's remains a Memorial Service was held in the Chapel at the Brookwood Cemetery. No relatives were present at the funeral. Temporary Memorial is being erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. B. Edmonds, Glen Valley, Bolgart, Western Australia on 14th May, 1923 stating that the site of his brother's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row E Grave 4.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. E. 4. Private Thomas William Edmonds has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A Telegram was sent to Base Records on 8th May, 1917 from “Edmonds, Bolgart” with the following: “Please ask further information concerning Private T W Edmonds no five eight four nine wounded reply paid.”

A Lettergram was sent from Base Records on 10th May, 1917 to “Edmonds, Bolgart (W.A.)” with the following: “Fiftyeight Fortynine Private Thomas Edmonds Twentyeighth Battalion Previously Reported Wounded Now Reported Died Twentyninth April At First London General Hospital Of Gunshot Wounds Hand Face And Leg.”

A Telegram was sent to Base Records on 15th August, 1917 from Maxwell Solicitor, Perth, requesting the death certificate of Private Thomas William Edmonds, 28th Battalion, number 5849. Base Records replied on 17th August, 1917 enclosing a copy of certificate of death of the late No. 5849, Private T. W. Edmonds, 28th Battalion.

Base Records contacted Mr B. J. Edmonds, Bolgart, Western Australia in April, 1921 stating that he was registered on the records of the late Private T. W. Edmonds as next of kin but requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself & specifically asked if there were any older brothers due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mr B. J. Edmonds replied to Base Records on 30th May, 1921 stating "*I am the only surviving brother of the late Private T. W. Edmonds.*"

Private Thomas William Edmonds was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Edmonds' brother – Mr B. J. Edmonds, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Thomas William Edmonds – service number 5849, aged 38, of 28th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Sarah Edmonds.

Thomas W. Edmonds is remembered with a Memorial Plaque (L299) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.



(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)

Dedicated by Family on 11 March 2006. Biography presented during plaque dedication:

Private Thomas William Edmonds of 28 Battalion's grandparents, Benjamin and Eliza Edmonds and their family migrated to Western Australia under the Colonial Land and Immigration Commission from Wexford, Ireland in December 1860.

One of the sons, John was Thomas' father who was the blacksmith at the 'Culham' property in Toodyay. Thomas had four brothers and three sisters and they all went to school at 'Culham'.

In 1908, Thomas, with his younger brother, Benjamin, purchased land at Calcarra which became known as Glen Valley and is still owned by the Edmonds family.

Eight years after they bought the property the war was on, so the brothers tossed a coin to see who would enlist and who would stay and look after the farm.

Thomas lost and enlisted in April 1916. He departed Fremantle on the 'Suffolk' in October 1916 and then proceeded to France in December.

In March 1917 he was wounded in action and sent to England.

Private Thomas William Edmonds of 28 Battalion died of wounds at 1 London General Hospital Camberwell on 29 April 1917. He was 38.

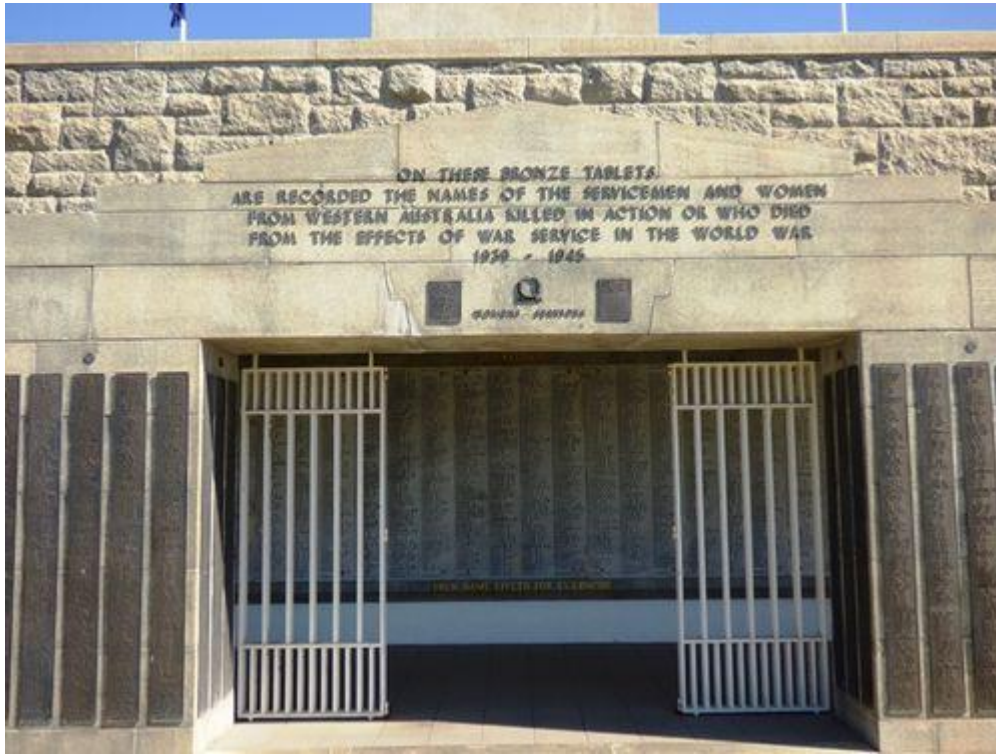
T. W. Edmonds is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park

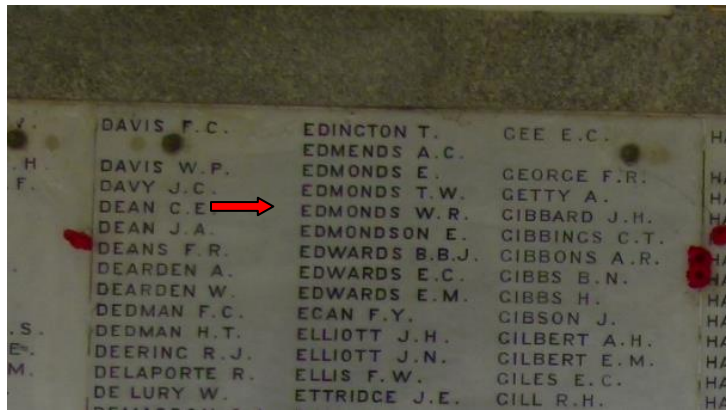
(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

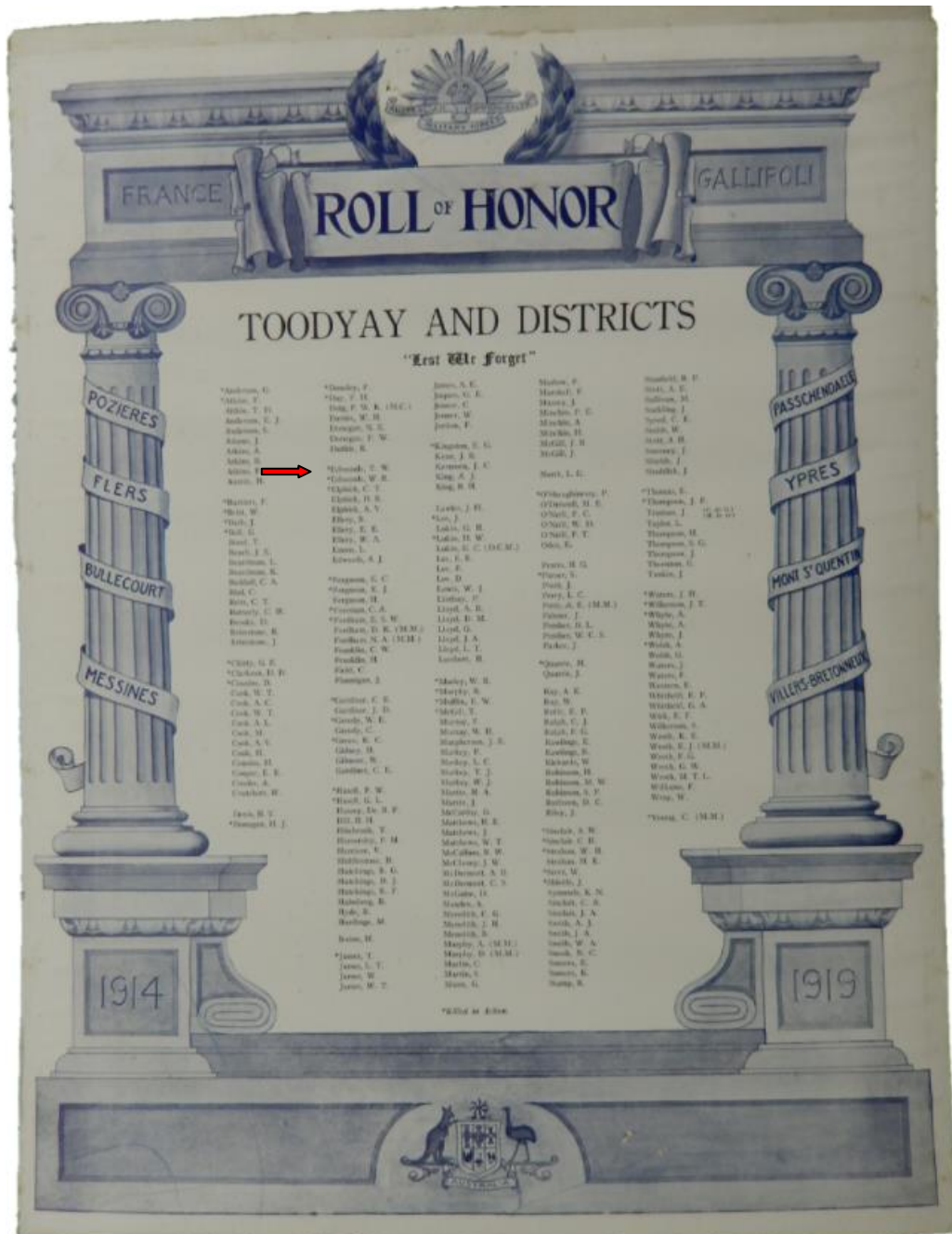


28th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



28th Battalion Panel

T. W. Edmonds is remembered on the Toodyay and Districts Roll of Honour.



Toodyay and Districts Roll of Honour

(Photo from Shire of Toodyay – Remembering Them: World War One and Toodyay)

T. W. Edmonds is remembered on the Victoria Plains War Memorial, located at Calingiri Federation Memorial Park, Calingiri-Wongan Hills Road, Calingiri, Western Australia.



Victoria Plains War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Bryan Hardy)



Private T. W. Edmonds is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 112.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(51 pages of Private Thomas William Edmonds' 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



Connected to Private Thomas William Edmonds:

Cousin – Private William Richard Edmonds – Enlisted 20th April, 1916 (the same day as Thomas William Edmonds), aged 24. Embarked with 28th Battalion on 13th October, 1916 (the same day as Thomas William Edmonds), from Fremantle as No. 5850. Died of wounds 17th June, 1918. Buried in Brookwood Cemetery, England.



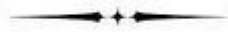


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P06176.001

Studio portrait of 5849 Private (Pte) Thomas William Edmonds of the 28th Battalion.

A farmer of Calcarra, WA and the third child of John and Sarah Edmonds of Toodyay, WA, Thomas Edmonds enlisted in the AIF on 30 April 1916 and left for France as a member of the 16th reinforcements to the 28th Battalion on the troopship Suffok on 9 October 1916. On 2 March 1917 he was wounded in action when his battalion was in action attacking the German held Malt Trench just north of Warlencourt, in Belgium. Pte Edmonds was repatriated to England on 8 March 1917 and transferred to the 1st London General Hospital at Camberwell, where he died of his wounds on 28 April 1917. Pte Edmonds is buried in the Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey.



Newspaper Notices

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

297th CASUALTY LIST

DEATHS

T. W. Edmonds (Bolgart), died of wounds, previously reported wounded.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 15 May, 1917)

KILLED IN ACTION

EDMONDS – In loving memory of Thomas William Edmonds, 28th Battalion, late of Bolgart, who died on April 29, 1917, at 1st General Hospital, Camberwell, London. of wounds received somewhere in France.

-Inserted by his sorrowing sisters, Mrs J. Stark, Claremont; Mrs Frank Spencer, Perth.

EDMONDS – In sad and loving memory of my dear brother, Private T. W. Edmonds, 28th Battalion, who died from wounds on April 29.

-Inserted by his sorrowing brother and sister-in-law, Mr and Mrs B. J. Edmonds, Bolgart.

EDMONDS – In sad and loving memory of my dear brother, Private T. W. Edmonds, 28th Battalion, who died from wounds on April 29.

-Inserted by his sorrowing brother and sister-in-law, Mr and Mrs B. J. Edmonds, Bolgart.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 1 June, 1917)

BIRTHS

EDMONDS (nee King) – On August 9, at King Edward Memorial Hospital, Subiaco, to Mr and Mrs B. J. Edmonds, of Bolgart – a son (Thomas William).

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 7 September, 1917)

£.S.D.

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

WHERE IT GOES

Following is the list of probates and administrations made available this morning at the Supreme Court:-

Probates

Thomas William Edmonds, late of Bolgart, to Benjamin James Edmonds, £1,475 3s 5d.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 15 September, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

EDMONDS – In loving memory of Private Thomas William Edmonds (late of Bolgart), who died of wounds on April 29, 1917, in First London General Hospital, Camberwell.

-Inserted by his loving sisters, Mrs J. Stark (Claremont) and Mrs F. Spencer (North Perth).

EDMONDS – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Private T. W. Edmonds (Tom), died of wounds on April 29, 1917.

You are always in our thoughts, dear Tom,

And thinking of the past

We picture you in memory,

Just as we saw you last.

-Inserted by his loving uncle, aunt, W. and A. Waldock, and cousins, W., N., L., F.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 April, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

EDMONDS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Thomas William Edmonds, 28th Battalion, who died of wounds April 29, 1917

Inserted by his loving sisters, Mrs J. Stark, Claremont; Mrs Frank Spencer, Perth.

EDMONDS – In fond memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Private Tom Edmonds, died of wounds April 29, 1917.

Ever fondly remembered.

-Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt, Mr and Mrs Waldock and cousins.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 30 April, 1919)

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 T. W. Edmonds does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Brother

Of Mr B. J. Edmonds Of Bolgart

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 T. W. Edmonds' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

