

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



576 PRIVATE

H. B. ELLIOTT

37TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 24

To Memory Ever Dear

A. E.

Henry Bertie ELLIOTT

Henry Bertie Elliott was born at Kew, Victoria in 1892 to parents Henry and Emily Bertha Elliott (nee Miller).

Henry Bertie Elliott attended Brighton State School, Victoria.

Henry Bertie Elliott married Awdrey Wigg (name as listed on Victorian Births, Deaths & Marriages website) in 1916 in Victoria. A son - Henry Albert Elliott was born in 1916 in the district of Prahran, Victoria.

Henry Bertie Elliott was a 23 year old, married, Labourer from Oriental Hotel, Brighton, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 29th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 576 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was originally listed on his Attestation Papers as Mr Henry Elliott, Narrikup, West Australia. His wife – Mrs Audrey Elliott, Windsor P.O., Victoria was later added to the Attestation Papers in red. She was also listed as the next-of-kin on the Embarkation Roll.

Private Henry Bertie Elliott was posted to Depot Battalion on 15th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company, 37th Battalion on 22nd February, 1916.

Private Henry Bertie Elliott was written up on 27th April, 1916 for being A.W.L. (Absent without leave) for 2 days. This was admonished.

Private Henry Bertie Elliott was admitted to Clearing Hospital, Military Camp, Seymour, Victoria on 22nd May, 1916 with Tonsillitis. He was discharged on 29th May, 1916.

Private Henry Bertie Elliott was written up on 30th May, 1916 – Conduct prejudiced to Discipline. This was also admonished.

Private Henry Bertie Elliott embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Persic* (A34) on 3rd June, 1916 with the 16th Infantry Brigade, 37th Infantry Battalion, "B" Company. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 24th June, 1916 with a vaccination reaction & discharged on 26th June, 1916 (the Hospital Admission form has the date discharged as "26/7/1916" but recorded he had been admitted for 3 days only). Private Elliott was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 20th July, 1916 with Diarrhoea. He was discharged on 25th July, 1916. Private Elliott disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th 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 Henry Bertie Elliott proceeded overseas to France via Southampton, England on 22nd November, 1916.

[No entries were recorded between 23rd November, 1916 & 11th October, 1917]

Private Henry Bertie Elliott was wounded in action on 12th October, 1917. He was admitted to 11th Field Ambulance on 12th October, 1917 then transferred the same day to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Private Elliott was transferred & admitted to 83rd General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 13th October, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to jaw & compound fracture. He was marked for transfer to England on 14th October, 1917 & embarked for England on 15th October, 1917 on Hospital Ship Princess Elizabeth.

37th Battalion

The 37th Battalion was formed, as part of the 10th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division, in February 1916 at Seymour in Victoria. Its recruits were drawn from Melbourne, north-east Victoria and Gippsland.

After training in both Australia and Britain, the battalion moved to France on 23 November 1916. Within a week it had begun to occupy trenches on the Western Front, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17. During this time the 3rd Division was heavily involved in raiding the German trenches. In February 1917 the 37th Battalion provided 400 troops, with a similar party from the 38th Battalion, to form a special raiding "battalion". After several

weeks of training this force staged a single 35-minute raid on the night of 27 February and was then disbanded. The 37th fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7-9 June 1917. For his actions during this battle, Captain Robert Grieve was awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion fought in another two major attacks in this sector - the battle of Broodseinde on 4 October, and the battle of Passchendaele on 12 October. Belgium remained the focus of the 37th Battalion's activities for the next five months, until it was rushed south to France in late March 1918 to meet the German Army's Spring Offensive...

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 37th Battalion

Passchendaele – 12th October, 1917

Battalion attacked. (Diary from 7/10/17 until 15/10/17 is attached in narrative)

Appendix:

At 5.25 am Zero hour – on the 12th the attack began.....

Summary:

An area of enemy country some 200 yards in depth by 500 yards in with was captured by the Battalion, also about 100 prisoners who belonged chiefly to t Bavarian Regiments.

Our Casualties

	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Wounded</i>	<i>Missing</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Officers</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Other Ranks</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>232</i>

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(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Henry Bertie Elliott was admitted to The Queen's Hospital, Frognal, Sidcup, Kent, England on 15th October, 1917 with G.S.W to lower jaw (fracture). The Hospital Admissions form recorded his injury as G.S.W II 1 slight. "Thro & thro wound jaw under chinSlight. On admission wound appeared almost healed. 24.10.17 Entrance wound ____ 26.10.17 Pte complained of difficulty in swallowing. 27.10.17 Pte haemorrhaged from entrance wound ____ Soon after the con____pt haemorrhaged violently from mouth & nose. Everything possible was done & the con____ (L) tied."

Private Henry Bertie Elliott died at 1.35 pm on 27th October, 1917 at The Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent, England from Haemorrhage following wounds received in action – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) and fracture of lower jaw.

A death for Henry B. Elliott, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Bromley, Kent, England.

Private Henry Bertie Elliott was buried at 1 pm on 1st November, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Grave no. 179967.

From the burial report of Private Henry Bertie Elliott - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers, under the command of an officer, were supplied by the South African Regiment stationed at Woking. The grave will be turfed immediately, and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Elliott, 14 Chambers St., South Yarra, Victoria on 27th March, 1923 stating that the site of the late No. 576 Private H. B. Elliott's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row B Grave 4. This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. B. 4. Private Henry Bertie Elliott has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Awdrey Elliott, 24 A McIlwick St., Windsor, widow of the late Private Henry Bertie Elliott, 576, 37th Battalion, in the sum of 40/- for fortnight from 4th January, 1918. A War Pension was also granted to Henry Albert Elliott, son of the late Private Henry Bertie Elliott, 576, 37th Battalion, in the sum of 20/- for fortnight from 4th January, 1918.

Private Henry Bertie Elliott requested in his Will, dated 9th April, 1917, that in the event of his death, the whole of his property & effects be given to his wife Awdrey Elliott of present address No. 8 Essex Street, Prahran Victoria.

Private Henry Bertie Elliott was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Elliott's widow – Mrs A. Elliott, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Bertie Elliott – service number 576, aged 24, of 37th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Emily Bertha Elliott; husband of Awdrey Elliott, of 6 Craven St., Windsor, Victoria, Australia.

Private H. B. Elliott is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 128.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(65 pages of Private Henry Bertie Elliott'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 Henry Bertie Elliott



Private Henry Bertie Elliott



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

ELLIOTT – Died of gunshot wounds, on the 27th October, at Queen's Hospital, France, Private H. B. Elliott, beloved husband of Awdrey, and loving father of "Little Bert," 24A Mcllwrick street, Windsor, and only son of Mr and Mrs H. Elliott, of Narrikup, Western Australia.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 November, 1917)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

LIST 363

VICTORIA

Henry Bertie Elliott, Narrickup, died of wounds.

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 6 December, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

363rd LIST

Died of Wounds

Pte H. B. Elliott, Narrikup, W.A.

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 6 December, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ELLIOTT – In sad and loving memory of my dear husband and father, Pte H. B. Elliott, 37th Battalion, who die dof wounds on the 27th October, 1917.

Under the flag with the five-starred cross,

The pride of the southern sea,

He laid down his life in the deadly strife

To keep Australia free.

In a soldier's grave he lies sleeping,

One of earth's bravest and best;

In our hearts we shall miss him for ever,

Though we know he is only at rest.

(Inserted by his loving wife and little son, A. Elliott.)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ELLIOTT – In loving memory of my dear brother H. B. Elliott, 37th Battalion, died of wounds, October 27, 1917, aged 24.

Somewhere in France he is lying,
He answered his country's call,
He died an Australian hero,
Fighting to save us all.

Inserted by his sister Pansy and brother-in-law, Joe Fitzpatrick.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 26 October, 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 9th July, 1921, to Mrs A. Elliott, Post Office, Windsor, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late No. 576 Private H. B. Elliott, 37th Battalion, 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.

The letter was returned unclaimed to Base Records. A request was sent by Base Records for the name & address of claimant for Gratuity in regards to the late Private Elliott. A reply was received – (widow) Audrey Elliott, 25 Wynnstay Grove, Armadale.

Base Records resent the above letter on 26th July, 1921 addressed to Mrs A. Elliott, 25 Wynnstay Grove, Armadale, Victoria

Private H. B. Elliott does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

To Memory Ever Dear A.E.

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 H. B. Elliott's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

