

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4487 PRIVATE

J. EMERY

54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH AUGUST, 1916

James EMERY

James Emery was born at Horton, Newcastle on Tyne, Northumberland, England.

[There is insufficient information to correctly identify James Emery in any of the England Censuses. There is also a discrepancy in his age on enlistment to his age at death.]

James Emery state he was a 43 year old, single, Labourer from 27 Crescent Street, Manly, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Warwick Farm, Sydney, New South Wales on 25th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his niece – Mrs E. Smith, 27 Crescent Street, Manly, Sydney, NSW.

Private James Emery was posted to 14th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion for recruit training.

Private James Emery, Service number 4487, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Ballarat (A 70)* on 16th February, 1916 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements. He was written up for an Offence on 16th March, 1916 while at Sea on H.M.A.T. 70 "*Gambling giving a fictitious name.*" He was remanded & "*summarily dealt with & Fined 10/-.*" Private Emery disembarked at Egypt on 22nd March, 1916.

Private James Emery was transferred to 54th Battalion on 1st April, 1916 from 13th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 54th Battalion on the same day at Ferry Post.

Private James Emery embarked from Alexandria on 19th June, 1916 on H. T. Caledonian to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private James Emery was wounded in action in France on 19th – 20th July, 1916. He was sent to Field Ambulance in France on 20th July, 1916 Wounded. He was admitted to 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 21st July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Hip*. Private Emery was reported to be dangerously ill on 24th July, 1916 with Shrapnel wound/s to Face*. (As listed on Casualty form – Active Service under each other). He embarked for England on 2nd August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick*.

18/7/16	B. 213	Sent to F.A. "WOUNDED"	France	20/7/16
1/16	B Stat Hosp	admt G.S.W. Hip	Boulogne	21/7/16
	Progress Rept	Dangerously Ill. S.W. Face	"	24/7/16
1/16	90hrs.	Embarked for England M.H.S. ST. PATRICK	"	2/8/16

54th Battalion

The 54th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 2nd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 2nd, the 54th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Moving to France in June 1916, the 54th fought its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles, on 19 July. It was a disaster. The 54th was part of the initial assault and suffered casualties equivalent to 65 per cent of its fighting strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 54th Battalion

Bac-St-Maur - 19th July, 1916:

The Battn moved from Bac-St-Maur at 2 pm to front line trenches.

The Battn attacked the enemy trenches at 5.50 pm (see Appendix B attached) & occupied his front line trenches at about 6 pm. The Battalion withdrew from its new position & returned to

20th July, 1916: Billets at Bac-St-Maur at 7.30 am Our casualties were Killed 3 Officers 70 other ranks. Wounded 11 officers 277 other ranks Missing 4 Officers 169 other ranks.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Base Records advised Mrs E. Smith, 27 Crescent Street, Manly, NSW, niece & listed as next-of-kin of Private James Emery, on 31st July, 1916 to advise that Private James Emery was dangerously ill with gunshot wound to Face. Mrs Smith was advised on 8th August, 1916 by Base Records that “*Uncle Private James Emery removed from dangerously ill List will promptly advise if anything further received.*”

Private James Emery was admitted to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, England on 4th August, 1916 with “G.S.W. severe II 4 ___Pneumonia.” The Hospital Admissions form recorded “*Bullet entered mouth & exit through angle ? in jaw....(illegible).*”

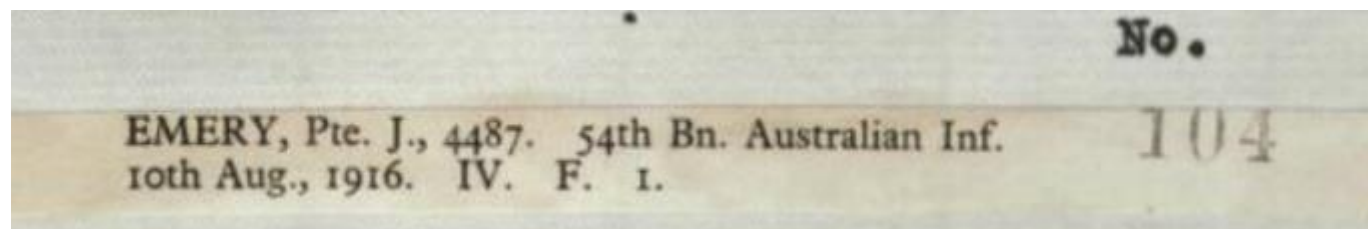
Private James Emery died on 10th August, 1916 at Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) to Face & Jaw.

Base Records advised Mrs E. Smith, 27 Crescent Street, Manly, NSW on 15th August, 1916 that No. 4487 Private J. Emery was in 13th Stationary Hospital suffering from compound fracture of lower jaw & neck.

A death for Emery James, aged 51, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Farnham, Hampshire, England.

Private James Emery was buried in Military Cemetery, Aldershot, Hampshire, England (Church of England portion) in Grave No. 2006.

A letter giving information on The War Graves of the British Empire was sent on 14th December, 1922 from Imperial War Graves Commission, London, England. The letter explained details of The Register in which the names, ranks & other particulars had been compiled from the next-of-kin. A copy of the Register was offered at the cost price & an order form was included at the bottom of the letter. The details for Private Emery were listed as (see below) & the Register for Brookwood Military Cemetery was listed.



Private James Emery's body would have been exhumed from Aldershot Cemetery & re-interred in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number – IV. F. 1. Private James Emery now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

[Note: Several other Australian WW1 Soldiers were originally buried in Aldershot Cemetery & re-interred in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England. In these cases the next-of-kin were advised by letters dated 19th April, 1920.]

Mrs E. Smith, "Gregra" 15 Fairy Bower Rd, Manly, wrote to Base Records on 24th May, 1917 wrote to Base Records with the following letter: *"My Uncle Private James Emery No 4487 died Aug. 10th 1916 through wounds received in France. I being his next of kin, received his belongings all but a Will. If it is possible for you to send it to me, I would be greatly obliged."*

Base Records replied to Mrs E. Smith on 29th May, 1917: *"....I have no notification of a Will of No. 4487, Private J. Emery, 54th Battalion. If this soldier has prepared the Will-form in his Pay-book, or of a Will be discovered amongst his belongings, the Authorities at the Front would despatch such document to this Office for transmission to the legatee. Your change of address has been noted."*

The Public Trust Office, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 20th August, 1918 in regards to 4487 James Emery, 54th Battalion & requested a Certificate in duplicate for the death of the soldier, the address of the deceased prior to enlistment & the name & address of the person nominated as his next of kin.

Base Records replied to The Public Trustee, Sydney, NSW on 24th August, 1918, enclosing as requested certificate in duplicate of report of death of the late No. 4487 Private James Emery, 54th Battalion. His address prior to enlistment was 27 Crescent Street, Manly, Sydney, NSW. The details of the next of kin were given as Niece – Mrs E. Smith, "Gregra" 15 Fairy Bower Rd, Manly, NSW.

A letter was sent from Base Records to Mrs E. Smith, "Gregra" 15 Fairy Bower Rd, Manly, NSW on 15th December, 1919 which included two photographs of the grave of the late No. 4487 Private J. Emery, 54th Battalion. Another letter was sent to Mrs E. Smith, 58 Bream St, Coogee, NSW on 15th July, 1921 regarding the photographs. Marked in pencil across this letter is *"Redespatched 7/1/22."*

Communications address to Mrs E. Smith, 15 Fairy Bower Road, Manly from Base Records were returned unclaimed in 1920.

A request was made in July, 1921 from Headquarters 2nd District Base to obtain the address of Next of Kin for the late Private James Emery. A prior request had been made in February, 1920. Another request was made in August, 1921 & again in November, 1921.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 2nd District Base, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW on 6th December, 1921 with reference to their enquiry of 10th November to the whereabouts of Mrs Elizabeth Smith, the niece of the late No. 4487 Private James Emery, 54th Battalion. They advised that the District Finance Officer had furnished the following address for her – 58 Bream Street, Coogee, NSW.

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. Smith, 266 Arden Street, Coogee, New South Wales, on 7th January, 1922, in regards to her communication of 18th December in connection with the late No. 1575 Private G. A. Smith, 1st Machine Gun Company & the late No. 4487, Private J. Emery, 54th Battalion. Base Records advised Mrs Smith that her *"address was advertised for in the Press in regards to the Memorial Scroll issuable on behalf of the first named soldier and photographs of the grave of the latter, also a communication received from overseas, might be redirected to you. These items had been returned unclaimed from 58 Bream Street, Coogee. The Scroll was despatched on 2.12.21 and should be in your possession ere this. The photographs and the letter mentioned above are enclosed herewith. Your address, as under, has now been noted on the records of both soldiers."*

Base Records contacted Mrs Smith, 266 Arden Street, Coogee, New South Wales, on 27th July, 1922 stating that she was registered on the records of the late No. 4487 Private J. Emery, 54th Battalion as the next of kin but in order that War Medals etc could be properly dealt with they enquired if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself listing - father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

The above letter was returned unclaimed on 11th August, 1922 & it was then decided that the War Medals etc would be sent to "Untraceables".

Private James Emery was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to the next-of-kin but as Mrs Smith could not be located they were sent to "Untraceables" in August, 1922 (Scroll sent January, 1923 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The District Finance Officer, 2nd Military District, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW replied to Base Records on 4th April, 1923 advising that the gratuity in respect of the late No. 4487 Private J. Emery, 54th Battalion, had been paid to his niece – Mrs E. Smith, of 58 Bream Street, Coogee, NSW.

Base Records wrote to District Finance Officer, 2nd Military District, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW, on 27th March, 1923 enquiring if they had any later address for the late No. 4487 Private J. Emery's niece – Mrs Smith, 266 Arden Street, Coogee, New South Wales, to whom the War gratuity had been paid.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Emery – service number 4487, of 54th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. Emery is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 159.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

James Emery is remembered on the Manly War Memorial, located on The Corso & Whistler Street, Manly, New South Wales.



1914-1918

PTE DAVID WEST	FRANCE
CPL JAMES WHITE	"
PTE GEORGE L SPILLER	"
PTE THOMAS E CHOLERTON	"
A CPL KENNETH M. McPHEE	MALTA
A CPL JACK S. CASWELL	FRANCE
PTE FRANK TOMLINS	"
A PTE ERROL C. N. DEVLIN	"
A PTE ROY L. WOODWARD	"
CNR ALBERT A. GILCHRIST	"
PTE RECINALD A. BOWDEN	"
PTE RECINALD A. C. HEALEY	"
PTE JOSEPH C A STEWART	"
PTE WILLIAM B SULLIVAN	"
PTE CHARLES R KNIGHT	"
PTE JAMES EMERY	ALDERSHOT
SCT. W J INGRAM	MALTA
A CPL HORACE SHEARSTON	FRANCE
PTE ALBERT E PORTER	"
A PTE E PEARCE SMILES	"
PTE VICTOR ST C JOHNSON	POZIERES
PTE ARNOLD D SAVAGE	"
L CPL HAROLD H DONKIN	"
A SPR STAN. FRIEND	FRANCE
PTE ROBERT K CRAIG	"
PTE HARRY WARD	"
A PTE HARRY KUHLMORCEN	"
A L CPL ARTHUR B HURST	"
2 ND CPL ARCHIBALD E BLAND	POZIERES
PTE H DAVEY	FRANCE
PTE CHARLES S RYDER	DUBBO
PTE EDGAR L NOBLE	SOMME
PTE ROBERT ERICKSON	"
PTE WILLIAM J BRIMBECOM	POZIERES
PTE CLIFFORD N RYDER	RUCBY E
A CPL BERNARD J BROWNING	ENGLAND
A TPR A H NEVILLE-LEWIS	DORSET E
A CPL NEVILLE W SIMPSON	POZIERES

Manly War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW)

(64 pages of Private James Emery'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



Newspaper Notices

Australian Casualties

Lists Nos. 191 to 192

New South Wales

Dangerously Ill

Pte J. EMERY (Manly), also wounded

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 16 August, 1916)

ANOTHER CASUALTY LIST

THE 197th

New South Wales

Progress Reports

Pte J. EMERY (Manly), removed from dangerous list;

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 21 August, 1916)

Roll of Honour

EMERY – In loving memory of our dear uncle, Private James Emery (brother of the late Me George Emery), died August 10th, 1916, through wounds received on active service in France – inserted by his loving nieces and nephews. (Home papers please copy)

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 24 August, 1916)

Australian Casualties

Lists Nos. 202 to 204

New South Wales

Died of Wounds

Pte J. EMERY (Manly), 10/8/16

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 6 September, 1916)

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 J. Emery does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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)



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



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

