

**Highland Road Cemetery,
Portsmouth, Hampshire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



MAJOR

C. FRANKLIN O.B.E.

ROYAL MARINE LIGHT INFANTRY

5TH SEPTEMBER, 1919 Age 58

Charles FRANKLIN

Charles Franklin was born on 27th October, 1861 at Twickenham, Surrey.

Charles Franklin married Elizabeth Jane Harrison on 2nd April, 1885 at Kamptee, Bengal, India.

Charles Benjamin Franklin, son of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin was born in 1886 in Kamptee, Bengal, India.

William James Franklin, son of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin was born in 1888.

Alfred Edwin Franklin, son of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin was born in 1890.

The 1892 UK British Army Lists recorded Charles Franklin as Band Master of the Army and Royal Marines.

Herbert (Bertie) Franklin, son of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin was born in 1893.

Mabel Hilda Franklin, daughter of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin was born in 1894.

Charles Franklin, Bandmaster from Cairo, Egypt, was listed as a member of the United Grand Lodge of England Freemasons – Bulwer Lodge of Cairo. He was initiated on 2nd February, 1895. The register records that he resigned on 30th June, 1907.

Elsie Lilian Franklin, daughter of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin was born in 1897 in Cairo, Egypt.

Charles Franklin, of Egypt Army, was listed as a member of the United Grand Lodge of England Freemasons – Grecia Lodge from 3rd March, 1903.

John Oliver (Jack) Franklin, son of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin was born in 1903 in Cairo, Egypt.

Ena Franklin, daughter of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin was born in 1906 in Cairo, Egypt.

Newspaper Item – Hampshire Telegraph – 31 August, 1907:

NAVAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

NEW DIRECTOR AT EASTNEY

CREATOR OF EGYPTIAN ARMY BANDS

Lieutenant Charles Franklin, the newly-appointed Director of Music of the Royal Naval School of Music at Eastney, has been gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Royal Marines. He has already taken up his appointment and is in residence at Southsea.

Bimbashi Charles Franklin may be regarded as the creator of music in the Egyptian Army. Coming to Egypt from being bandmaster of the Royal Irish Rifles he became Director of Music to the Khedive's Army at a time when music simply did not exist in Egypt beyond the most primitive native instruments wailing their weird native airs in a manner repellent to European ears. The dusky Fellah, taken from his native village to compulsory Military service, with no other qualification than good teeth and good lips, and unable to read or write, he has been taught in an incredibly short time to play European music from an European score, and to play it well. The bandsmen have even been taught to use their fist to copy music, and the best of them actually to copy their native tunes for band, and more wonderful still, to attempt original composition.

... The magnitude of the task of brining this about does not consist solely in the rawness of the material out of which it has been produced, but also in the quantity of production. Lieut. Franklin has created, out of nothing, no fewer than 21 full and efficient bands, comprising Military bands, brass bands, bugle bands, pipes and the Khedive's private string band (which is perhaps the most marvellous production of them all.)

In the midst of the labours of the Directorate, Mr Franklin found time to develop his talent at composition. AN entirely original Egyptian opera, "Sesostris" written by him, was produced at the Khedival Opera House, Cairo and Alexandria, in 1899, excerpts from which have been played by several Military bands in England.

Amateur operatic performances are the only means by which the Cairo Britisher can hear his native operas, and here Mr Franklin worked energetically fully orchestrating several of the Gilbert-Sullivan works, His skill in producing good musicians out of raw material has nowhere been better shown than in the training of the choruses and principals in these operas.....

The 1911 England Census recorded Charles Franklin as a 49 year old, Second Lieutenant H.M. Royal Marines & Director Royal Naval School of Music, living with his wife & children at 78 Festing Grove, Southsea, Hampshire, in an eight roomed dwelling. Charles' wife was listed as Elizabeth Jane Franklin (aged 43). They had been married for 26 years & had eight children. Six of their children were listed on this Census – Bertie Franklin (School, age 18, born Newry, Ireland), Mabel Hilda Franklin (School, aged 16, born Newry, Ireland), Elsie Lilian Franklin (School, aged 14, born Cairo, Egypt), John Oliver Franklin (School, aged 7, born Cairo, Egypt), Ena Franklin (School, aged 5, born Cairo, Egypt) & Alfred Edwin Franklin (Assist Purser, P.S.N. Coy., Liverpool, aged 20, born Whitton, Middlesex).

Qr.-Mr. Hon, Lt. Charles Franklin, R.M.L.I., was appointed as Musical Director of Royal Naval School of Music, Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth on 13th July, 1907.

Royal Marine Light Infantry - R.M.L.I.

In 1855, the marine Infantry forces were renamed the *Royal Marines Light Infantry* (RMLI) and in 1862 the name was slightly altered to *Royal Marine Light Infantry*.

The Royal Navy School of Music

The Royal Marines School of Music (RMSoM) was originally founded as the "Royal Naval School of Music" in 1903 at Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth, where the Royal Marines Museum is now located. In 1930 it moved to Deal, Kent, a historic Royal Navy base and shipyard. Between 1940 and 1950, it moved to various locations around the country before returning to Deal.

In addition to music making, Royal Marines Musicians and Buglers are fully trained and operational military personnel and usually perform support duties such as logistics and medical personnel and drivers. Additionally they may also provide entertainment for troops deployed overseas and represent the Royal Marines in an ambassadorial role.

Band members have traditionally been deployed on board Royal Navy ships and this custom continued until 1978. Bandsmen saw action during both the First and Second World Wars.[5] By the end of World War II, 225 musicians and buglers had been killed in action, which was a quarter of their strength at the time, and the highest percentage of any branch of any service. Royal Marines Bands also were involved in both the Falklands conflict and Operation Granby (Gulf War 1) as casualty handlers on various hospital ships.

(Information from Wikipedia)

ROYAL NAVAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

EASTNEY BARRACKS, PORTSMOUTH.

SUPERINTENDENT.

	<i>Date of Appointment.</i>
<i>Major & Lt. Col.</i> Frank T. Phillips, R.M.L.I.	5 May 11

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS.

<i>Major</i> ... Archibald P. Liston Foulis, R.M.A.	9 Jan 12
<i>Captain</i> ... Edwin H. Barr, R.M.A.	1 Jan 12

QUARTERMASTER.

<i>Hon. Lieut.</i> Henry Ernest Lidiard, R.M.L.I.	13 Oct 10
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MUSICAL DIRECTOR.

<i>Qr.-Mr. Hon. Lt. m**</i> Charles Franklin, R.M.L.I.	13 July 07
<i>(2nd Lieut. in Army 13 March, 1901.)</i>	

SERGEANT-MAJOR.

(Warrant Officer.)

mJames Campbell Lambert, R.M.A.	13 Oct 10
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SUPERINTENDING CLERK.

(Warrant Officer.)

Thomas Peter Hanlon, R.M.A.	16 Dec 12
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BANDMASTERS ROYAL MARINES.

(Warrant Officers.)

180 mEdward Schofield	10 Aug 04
520 William Charles Windram	16 Mar 05
366 mJohn George Welsh	16 Mar 05
mArthur Moffatt	26 Jan 07
263 Herbert Reely	14 Nov 07
George Knight Clarke	17 May 09
524 Thomas Henry Worringham Read	5 June 09
175 Herbert George Naylor	23 Feb 11
366 James Gilbert Dowell, L.R.A.M.	23 Feb 11
3398 Charles Turner	23 Apr 12
259 Albert Edward Whiting... ..	9 May 12



Navy List – August 1913

MUSICAL DIRECTOR.
*Qr.-Mr. Hon. Lt. m*** Charles Franklin, R.M.L.I. 13 July 07
(2nd Lieut. in Army 13 March, 1901.)

The 1912, 1915, 1916, 1917 & 1918 UK British Army Lists record Charles Franklin as Quarter Master.

From *The London Gazette* – 27 July, 1917:

R.M.L.I.

Qr. Mr. and Hon. Capt. Charles Franklin is granted the hon. rank of Maj. 1st June, 1917.

Newspaper item – *Hampshire Telegraph* – 17 August, 1917:

SERVICE & SOCIETY

Captain Charles Franklin, R.M.L.I., the energetic and popular Musical Director of the Royal Naval School of Music at Eastney, is receiving the congratulations of his many friends on his well deserved promotion to the rank of Major. Captain Franklin, who came to Portsmouth ten years ago from Egypt, where he had been Director of Music in the Egyptian Army, has very successfully controlled the training of bandsmen for the entire British Navy, and has displayed remarkable energy and organising ability. His activities have not been confined to the Service, for he has acted also as the valued musical director of the Portsmouth Amateur Operatic Society, which is still in being, though its operations are suspended while the war continues in force.

Major Charles Franklin died on 5th September, 1919 at his residence in Festing Grove, Southsea, Hampshire, England from malignant disease of stomach & liver.

A death for Charles Franklin, aged 58, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

Newspaper Notice – *Sheffield Evening Telegraph* – 6 September, 1919:

NAVAL MUSICAL DIRECTOR DEAD

The death has taken place, after two months' illness, of Major Charles Franklin, R.M.L.I., who was formerly musical director in the Egyptian Army, and was appointed director of the Royal Naval School of Music in July, 1907.

Newspaper Notice – *West Sussex Gazette* – 11 September, 1919:

PORTSMOUTH

Major Charles Franklin, R.M.L.I., director of the Royal Naval School of Music, Eastney, died at his residence in Festing-grove on Friday, after a two-months' illness, Major Franklin spent practically his whole life in the Service, and was appointed to Eastney in 1907.

Major Charles Franklin was buried in Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England, Plot number – Horan Div. A. 6.3. and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Probate Details:

Franklin, Charles, of 78 Festing Grove, Southsea, Hampshire, Major, Royal Marine Light Infantry died 5 September, 1919. Probate London 1 November to Elizabeth Jane Franklin, widow. Effects £329 17s.

Major Charles Franklin was recommended for an O.B.E. as Director of Royal Naval School of Music, Eastney. "*Has served as Director of Music, Eastney, throughout the war and has displayed exceptional zeal and devotion to duty.*" It was gazetted on 12th September, 1919.

Major Charles Franklin was entitled to British War Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Major Charles Franklin, O.B.E., of the Royal Marine Light Infantry. He was the husband of E. J. Franklin, of "Abdin", 66 Brighton Street North, Cottesloe, Western Australia. Musical Director, Royal Naval School of Music, Portsmouth.

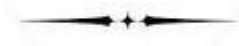
Major and Quartermaster Charles Franklin, Royal Naval School of Music, Portsmouth, is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour. (*Note: It appears that Major and Quartermaster Charles Franklin's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian.*)

Mrs Elizabeth Franklin (Widow, aged 52) & her 3 children – Mabel Franklin (Companion, aged 25), Ena Franklin (aged 14) & John Franklin (Farming, aged 16) were passengers on *Naldera*, which had departed from London, England 10th April, 1920. The family of four stated that the country of intended future permanent residence was Australia.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & National Archives



NEWSPAPER ITEMS

NAVAL CASUALTIES

DIED

Major Charles Franklin, R.M.L.I., R.N. School of Music.

(Aberdeen Press and Journal, Scotland - 20 September, 1919)

PORTSMOUTH

Capt. H. E. Lidiard, R.M., the assistant superintendent of the Royal Naval School of Music, Eastney Barracks, is retiring next month. Thus within a few weeks of each other the Marine Corps at Eastney loses three popular musical officers – Major Charles Franklin (be death), Capt. B. S. Green, M.V.O., Director of Music, R.M.A. Band (by retirement), and Capt. Lidiard.

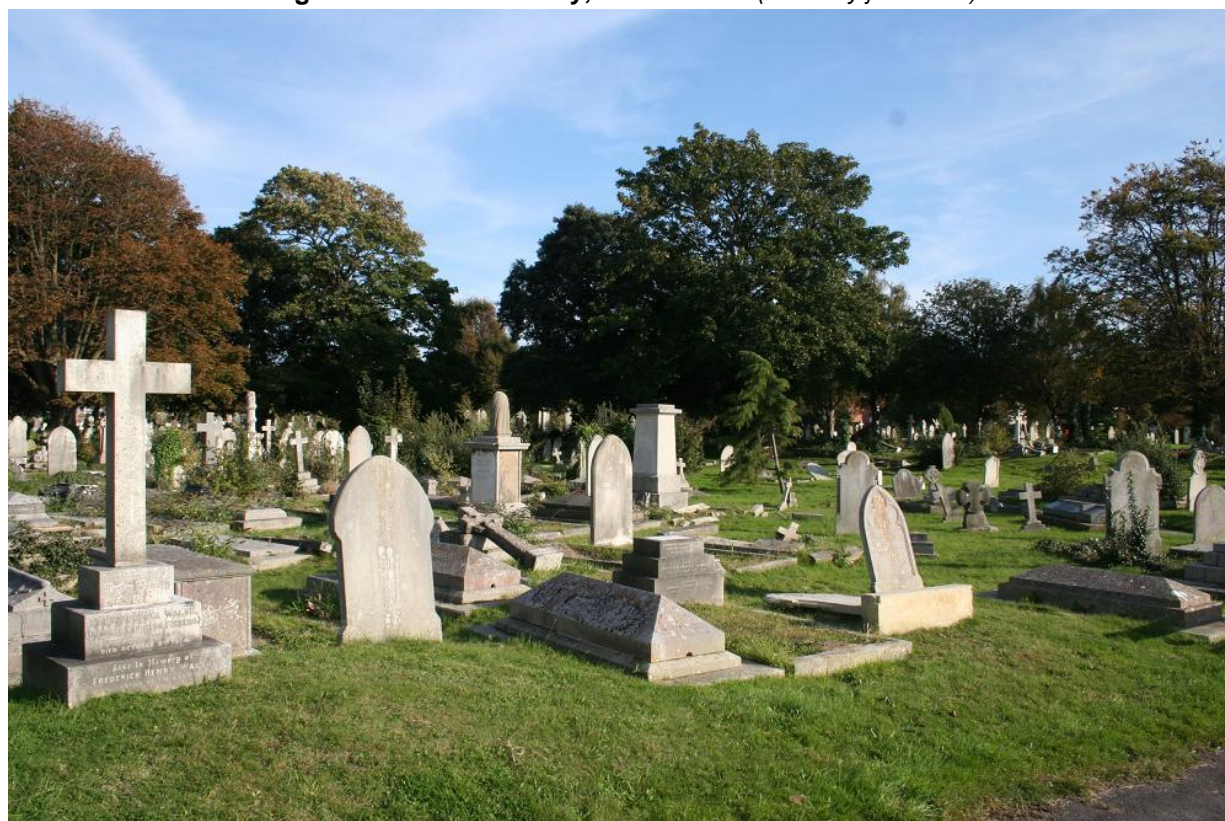
(West Sussex Gazette – 25 September, 1919)

Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

Portsmouth, a parliamentary and county borough, is a city, a seaport and a Royal Naval station on Portsea Island, opposite the Isle of Wight. It is 44 kilometres south-east of Southampton and just over 120 kilometres by rail south-west of London. This cemetery, which belongs to the Corporation, is near the barracks. It was opened in 1854 and contains war graves of both world wars. The 1914-1918 burials are spread throughout the cemetery. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected near the entrance, in honour of all the service war dead who rest in the cemetery. The 1939-1945 War graves, too, are widely scattered. There are 226 war graves relating to World War 1 & 51 relating to World War 2. (*Information from CWGC*).



Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth (Photo by julia&keld)



Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth (Photo by julia&keld)

Photo of Major Charles Franklin's Private Headstone in Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by FrankGrant – Find a Grave)



In

Memory

of

My Dear Husband

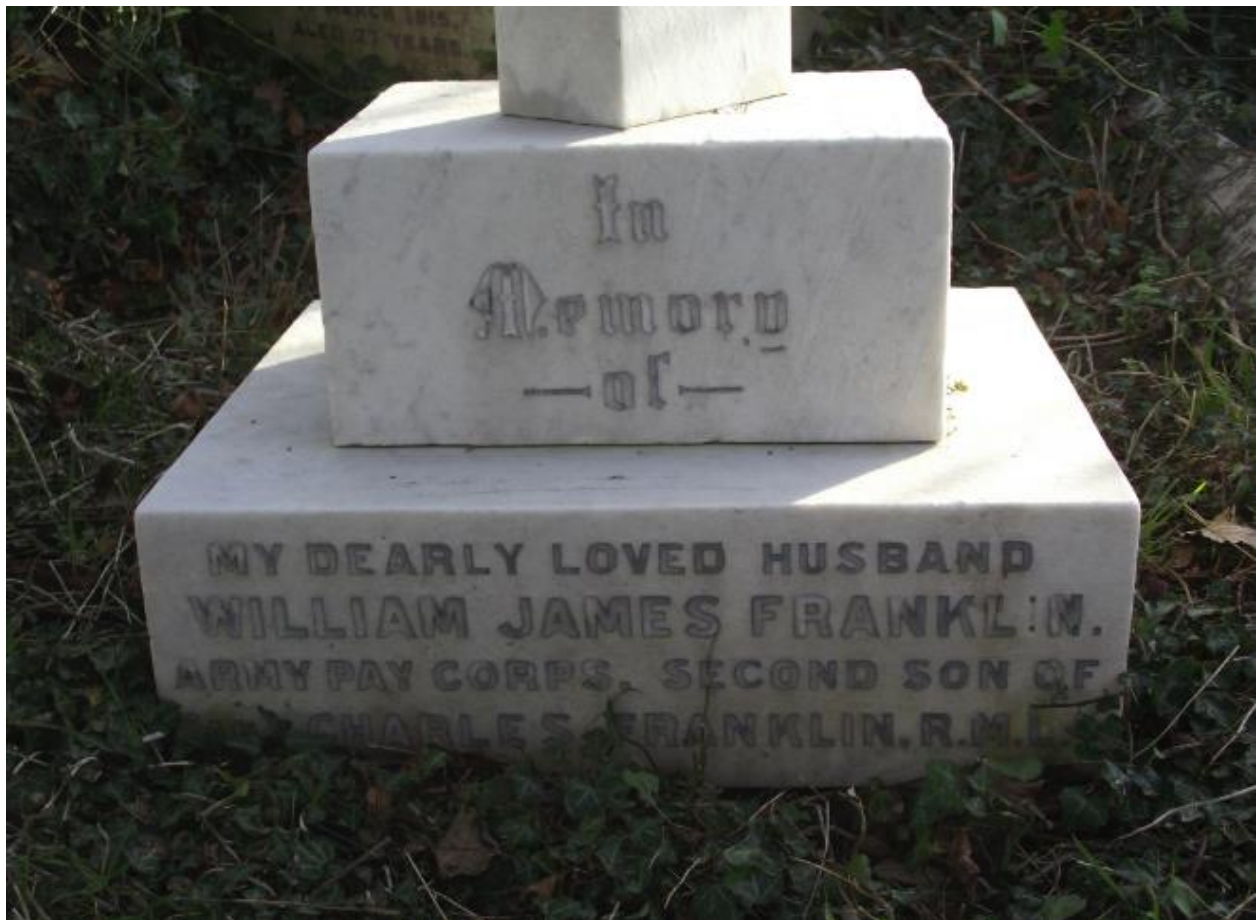
MAJOR CHARLES FRANKLIN

O.B.E. R.M.L.I. Musical Director

_____ Of Music

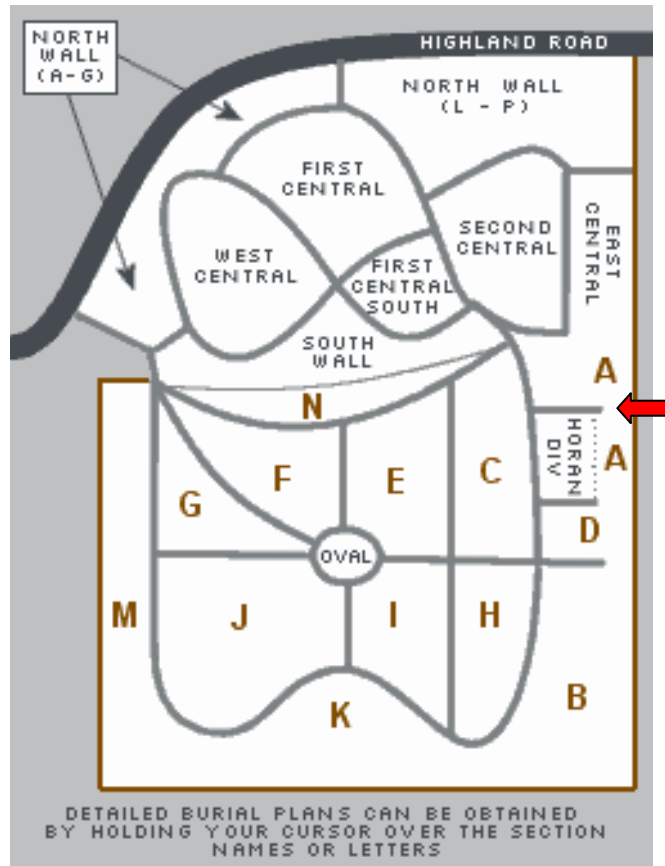
The Grave also contains Private William James Franklin, son of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin, who died on 1st March, 1915.

The Grave also contains Alfred Edwin Franklin, son of Charles & Elizabeth Franklin, who died on 27th May, 1926.



William James Franklin (above) & **Alfred Edwin Franklin** (below) (Photos by FrankGrant – Find a Grave)





(Map from Memorials & Monuments in Portsmouth)