

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3031 PRIVATE**

**C. C. A. FRANZ**

**42ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**26TH MAY, 1918**

*He Answered To The Empire's*

*Call*

*He Gave His Life, His Best*

*His All*

## Cecil Charles Andrew FRANZ

Charles Andrew Cecil Franz was born in Brisbane, Queensland on 9th November, 1893 to parents William Frederick and Margaret Jane Franz (nee Bleakley). (Name as listed on Queensland Online BDM's)

Cecil Charles Andrew Franz attended Stony Creek State School, Queensland.

The 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Lilley, subdivision of Caboolture, Queensland recorded Cecil Charles Andrew Franz, Dairy Farmer, Mt. Bracalba, Upper Caboolture.

Arthur Edward Franz, older brother of Cecil Charles Andrew Franz, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 1st February, 1916. According to family stories - his father asked Cecil not to enlist & to stay & help on the farm. Apparently Cecil was later sent a white feather (a symbol of cowardice) & he immediately enlisted.

Cecil Charles Andrew Franz was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Upper Caboolture, Queensland when he enlisted on 3rd November, 1916 in Brisbane with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3031 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Margaret Janes Franz, Best Street, Hendra, Queensland.

William Frederick Franz, father of Cecil Charles Andrew Franz, died on 7th December, 1916 in Brisbane, Queensland.

Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 2nd December, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 42nd Battalion on 22nd December, 1916.

Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th February, 1917 with the 42nd Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements (as per Embarkation Roll & Casualty Form – Active Service, however, the Statement of Service form in the Service Record file records Private Franz embarked from Melbourne on 19th February, 1917 on HMAT *Ballarat - A70*) & disembarked at Devonport, England on 11th April, 1917.

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 Cecil Charles Andrew Franz was marched in to A.I.F. Details at Fovant, Wiltshire on 11th April, 1917. He was marched out to 11th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 23rd April, 1917.

Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd July, 1917 from 11th Training Battalion at Larkhill (Durrington). He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 24th July, 1917. Private Franz was marched out to join his Unit from 3rd A.D.B.D. on 8th August, 1917 & was taken on strength of 42nd Battalion on 11th August, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz was reported with his Unit on 12th March, 1918.

Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz was wounded in action on 21st April, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to both legs then transferred to 4th Casualty Clearing Station on 24th April, 1918. Private Franz was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 25th April, 1918. He was invalided to England on 2nd May, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle*.

### 42nd Battalion

The 42nd Battalion was raised at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane, in December 1915 and became part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. Due to sharing its numeric title with the famous Scottish regiment the Black Watch, the battalion became known as the "Australian Black Watch". This association was recognised with a bagpipe band.

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In 1917, the operations of the 3rd Division were focussed on the Ypres sector of Belgium. The 42nd participated in major battles at Messines on 7 June, Warneton on 31 July, Broodseinde on 4 October, and Passchendaele on 12 October. Even though the battalion was in a reserve role, the battle of Passchendaele proved particularly costly. It lost over a third of its strength, principally from German gas attacks, and trench foot caused by the sodden condition

of the battlefield.

Belgium remained the scene of the 42nd Battalion's activities for the next five months as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line. 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.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

#### War Diary – 42nd Battalion

*21st April, 1918: Brigade side slipped and took over new sector from grid line J 23 central for grid line J. 12 Cnetral. Relieved by the 28th Battalion. Relief completed at midnight.*

*Great aviation activity Baron Von Richthofen brought down and killed by L.G. fire of 4th Divisional Artillery A.A.*

*Battalion returned to J. 13 to bivouac.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz was admitted to King George Hospital, London, England on 3rd May, 1918 with G.S.W to both legs \* back – severe. The Hospital Admissions form recorded that he was admitted with G.S.W. to Spine, paraplegia & G.S.W to both legs.

Mrs M. J. Franz, Best St, Hendra, Brisbane, Queensland, mother of Private C. C. A. Franz, was advised on 7th May, 1918 that Private Franz had been wounded. She was advised on 24th May, 1918 that Private Cecil Franz had been admitted to King George Military Hospital, London, England on 3rd May with gunshot wound to back legs severe.

Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz died at 8 am on 26th May, 1918 at King George Hospital, London, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. to Spine.

A death for Cecil C. A. Franz, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz was buried at 1.30 pm on 28th May, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Plot number IV. D. 18 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. Firing party, pall bearers and Bugler were supplied by the A.I.F. London. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The grave will be turfed and a temporary oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz contains a letter from the Matron, The King George Hospital, London which reads: *"In reply to your enquiry concerning Pte C. A. Franz, 42/A.I.F., this patient was admitted on May 3rd suffering from gun shot wound of back, which was in a very septic condition. He also had a large bed sore, gun shot wounds of leg, knee and fracture of right thumb. He was very ill when admitted, being in a generally septic condition. He did not improve, was delirious at times and collapsed and died rather suddenly at 8 am on May 26th. He was buried in Brookwood Cemetery. The Sister wrote to his Mother, giving particulars."*

Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Franz's widowed mother - Mrs M. J. Franz, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1922 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz – service number 3031, of 42nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Frederick and Margaret Jane Franz, of Best St., Hendra, Queensland.

Private C. C. A. Franz is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 135.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. C. A. Franz is remembered on Caboolture District Roll of Honour, located in Caboolture RSL, Beerburrum Road & Hasking Street, Caboolture, Queensland.



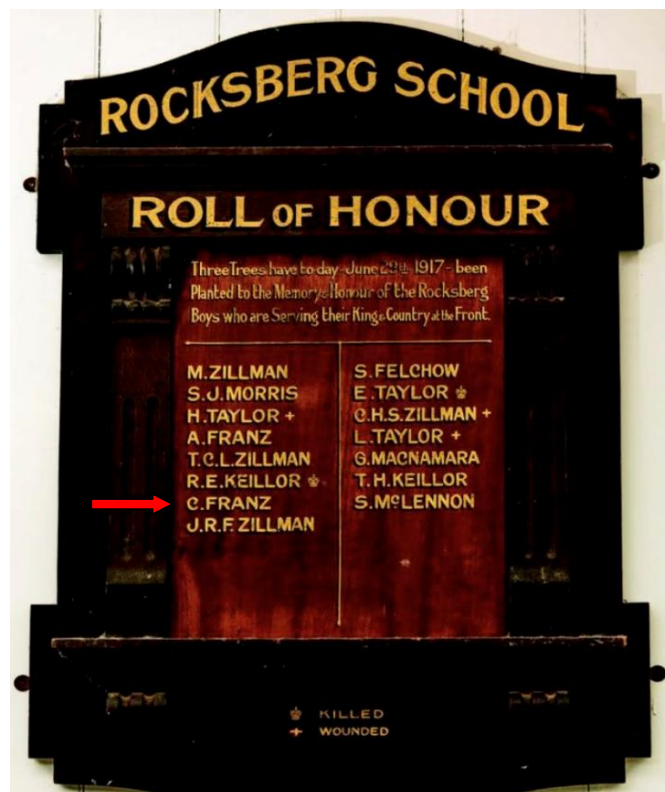
Caboolture District Roll of Honour (Photo from Queensland War Memorials – Michelle Smith – Redcliffe Museum)

C. C. A. Franz is remembered on Caboolture War Memorial, located in Caboolture Town Square, King Street, Caboolture, Queensland.



**Caboolture War Memorial** (Photo from Monument Australia)

C. Franz is remembered on the Rocksberg School Roll of Honour, Upper Caboolture, Queensland.



**Rocksberg School Roll of Honour** (Photo courtesy of Marjorie Earl)

(59 pages of Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P02373.001

Brisbane, QLD. c. 1917-02. Formal outdoors group portrait of the 7th Reinforcements, 42nd Infantry Battalion, AIF.

Left to right: back row: W.H. Stafford; M.C. Hannigan; J. Miller; A.G.C. Wilcox; H.G. Redpath; G. Geisman; H.H. Black; W.S. Markwell; J.H. McInness; C.A. Alderman; F.A. Beeston; J. O'Keefe; A.B. Hollaway; Brimblecombe; Handcock; Palmer; **C.C.A. Franz (DOW 26/5/1918)**; Milne; Lewis; Godden; Jackson; Johnstone; C.T. Holland.

Fourth row: E.C.N. Helton; R.A. Bower; J. Ford; P.D. Cameron; Smitheram; P. Mitchell; W. Johnson; A. Bearton; J.H. Mann; W.M. Carey; F. McMahon; G. Gill; H.H. Ford; A. McMillan; R.J. Lindsay; A.T. Lee; T.J. Morris; Carrigan; Hendley; W. Warr; O.W. O'Brien; A.T. March; F.O.R. Wynn; W.W. Starkey.

Third row: F.C. Kingston; M.J. O'Brien; R.S. Whittle; A.B. Mitchie; T.E. Kasper; S. Gavins; A.H. Sands; A.J. Whip; Livingstone; R.W. Wragge; R.D. Hunt; P.O. Williams; J.J. Higgins; R.J. White; J.S. Thompson; C.F. Blaine; M. Sullivan; A. Wood; F. Smith; Kendell; Griffiths; S.C. Whiting; C.H. Strong; W.E. Smith; E. Head; Humphries; J. Roach; G.C. Burgess.

Second row: E.R. Fittock; A.G. New; W.L. Woff; W.F. Power; H. Stone; J.V. Quilter; V. Mann; T. Sharp; Corporal (Cpl) A. Duncan; Cpl J.W. Kelly; Cpl W. Duncan; Sergeant (Sgt) H. Hamilton; Sgt N. Hart; Sgt Braithwaite; Lieutenant (Lt) Dibdin, Officer Commanding; Lt A.C. Boorman; Sgt D.J. Joyce; Sgt L.M. Smith; Cpl A.W. Allan; Cpl J.H. Ellis; Cpl Carrington; Cpl A.G. Sigg; J. Astill; R. Tichborne; D.K. Vaughan; O. Stace; C.G. Walker; H. Wilshire; A.J. Cameron.

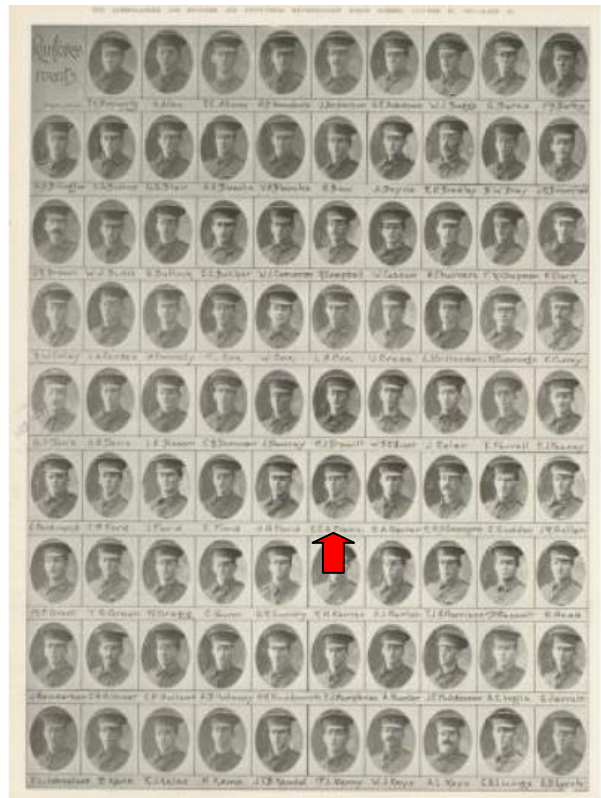
Front row: S.F. Robert; A. Powell; W.H. Brown; Remmington; F.T. Wilson; S.T. Healy; M.G. Perry; R. Marshall; T.W. Sullivan; 3016 Charles Henry Bearman (killed in action 12 February 1918); T.A. Fraser; Tidmarsh; O.S. Chaplin; McNaught; Taylor; Butler; W.D. Young; Winallen; A. Kelso; Wright; G. Gray; McGinty; Watts; J. Reid. The soldiers in the centre of the front row have musical instruments with them, including trumpets, pipes and a drum.

(Donor K. Alderman)

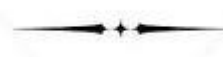
Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz

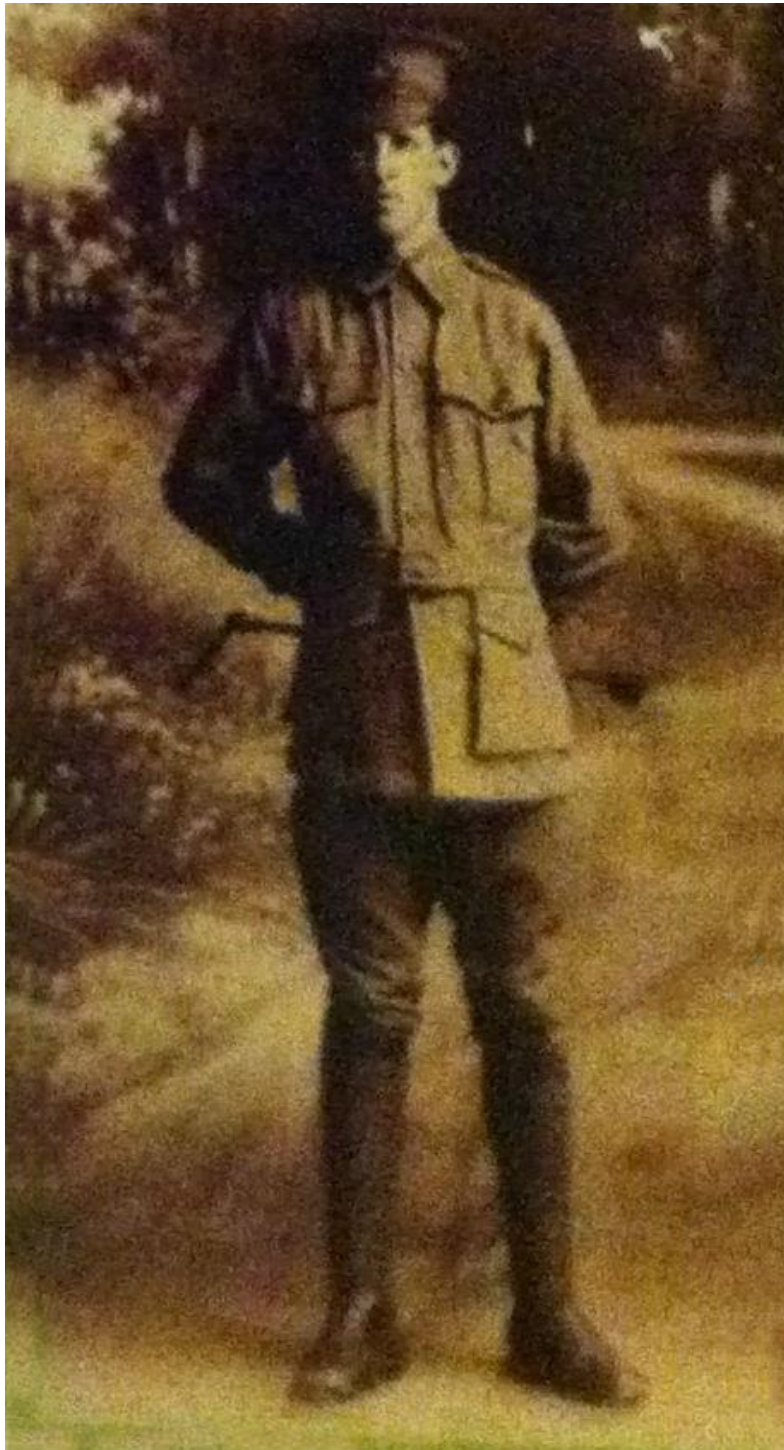


Queensland World War 1 Soldier Portraits (The Queenslander Pictorial 24 February, 1917)



Queensland World War 1 Soldier Portraits (The Queenslander Pictorial 27 October, 1917)





**Private Cecil Charles Andrew Franz**

*(Photo from Discovering Anzacs- SwanCreekBoy)*





Extract from 150 Years Nundah Families: 1838 – 1988.

*(Written by Nundah Historic Cemetery Presentation Association)*

### **CECIL CHARLES ANDREW FRANZ**

*When the missionary Theodore Franz sailed up the Brisbane River aboard the Isabella in June 1838, next to him stood Caroline Schneider, widow of one of his best friends. She married Theodore before the year was out.*

*The very last thing the young couple would have imagined was that eighty years later one of their grandchildren would die fighting in a terrible war defending this new country against the land of their birth, Germany.*

*In June 1918 a letter was delivered to the house that Theodore had built years before in Best Street, Hendra. The postman had delivered scores of similar letters and deep down he knew exactly the tragic news it contained and the effect it would have.*

*This letter, still in the hands of a member of the Franz family, reads as follows: I am so sorry to write to you concerning your sad bereavement. Your son 3031 Private Cecil Andrew Charles Franz, 42nd Battalion was admitted into King George's Hospital, London on 3rd May 1918 suffering from gunshot wounds in the spine. He passed away on 26th May 1918. I buried him today in the beautiful Brookwood Cemetery, and his remains lie in Grave No. 181062....*

*It was a lovely sunny day and the service was attended by over 20 Australian soldiers and the funeral was a military one with the usual military honours. The volleys were fired and the Last Post was played by the bugler. The service was reverent and impressive. We remembered and prayed for the relatives of our late comrade in Australia. May God comfort and sustain you in the the loss you have sustained and make you proud of your hero son. A. T. Holden, Senior Chaplain (Methodist), A.I.F.*

*The family also has a card from the King, which reads:*

*Buckingham Palace*

*I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War.*

*George R.I.*

*Joe Egan*

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## **Newspaper Notices**

### **Roll of Honour**

#### **Queensland Casualties**

The 402nd casualty list was issued by the Censor on May 22,.....

WOUNDED

C. C. A. Franz, Hendra

*(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 May, 1918)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

FRANZ –Died of wounds, in King George's Hospital, London, May 26th, Pte Cecil Franz, 42nd Bat., A.I.F., third son of the late Mr W. Franz and Mrs W. Franz, Hendra, also grandson of Mrs Bleakley, Enoggera.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 15 June, 1918)*

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## **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

### **CASUALTY LIST NO 409**

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Cecil Charles Andrew Franz, Hendra, 26/5/18 prev. rep. wounded. sev.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 17 June, 1918)*

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

FRANZ – In proud and loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Pte Cecil C. A. Franz, No. 3031, 7th Rfts, 42nd Batt., who died on 26th May, 1918, at King George's Military Hospital, London, from wounds received in France on April 24th at Villers Bretonneux, after serving ten months in the trenches.

Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 May, 1919)*

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

FRANZ – In sad and loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Private Cecil Charles Andrew, 42nd Battalion, who died from wounds received in France on the 26th May.

Never will his memory fade.

The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters, and brothers.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 May, 1920)*

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

FRANZ – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private C. C. A. Franz, who died on 26th May, 1918, from wounds received in France.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 May, 1925)*

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

FRANZ – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Cecil Charles Andrew, of the 42nd Battalion, who died May 26th, 1918, from wounds received in France on active service.

Never forgotten

Inserted by his mother, brother, and sisters.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 May, 1926)*

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

FRANZ – In loving memory of my dear son and our Brother, Private C. C. A. Franz, who died on May 26th, 1918, of wounds received on active service in France.

Never forgotten

Inserted by his mother and sisters.

*(The Courier-Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 27 May, 1940)*

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## 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 C. C. A. Franz does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Answered To The Empire's Call*

*He Gave His Life, His Best His All*

## **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** *(Photo from CWGC)*



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)





**Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery** *(Photos by Magicfingers)*



Photo of Private C. C. A. Franz's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo by Charlie – Find a Grave)

