

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6023 PRIVATE

E. J. GADSBURY

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND JULY, 1917

Ernest Joseph GADSBURY

Ernest Joseph Gadsbury was born at Mt Hicks, Tasmania on 6th May, 1888 to parents James & Eliza Ann Gadsbury (nee Bugg). His birth was registered in Emu Bay, Tasmania.

The 1914 & 1919 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Darwin, subdivision of Table Cape, Tasmania recorded Ernest Joseph Gadsbury, Labourer from Mount Hicks.

Ernest Joseph Gadsbury was a 27 year old, single, Farmer Labourer from Wynyard, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 1st May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Gadsbury, Mount Hicks, Tasmania.

Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury, Service number 6023, embarked from Hobart, Tasmania on HMAT *Ballarat (A70)* on 8th August, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 30th September, 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 Ernest Joseph Gadsbury proceeded overseas from Folkestone per SS *Onward* on 19th November, 1916. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 20th November, 1916. Private Gadsbury was taken on strength on 12th Battalion in France on 5th December, 1916 from 19th Reinforcements.

Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury was wounded in action 6/10th April, 1917 in France. (date as per Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 9th April, 1917 with shrapnel wound/s to Chest then transferred & admitted the same day to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station. Private Gadsbury was transferred & admitted to 9th Casualty Clearing Station on 19th April, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) Chest (non penetrating). He was admitted to No. 11 Stationary Hospital at Rouen on 21st April, 1917. Private Gadsbury embarked for England on 26th May, 1917 on Hospital Ship *West Australia*.

12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

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In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line. For their valorous actions near Boursies during this advance, Captain J. E. 'Jim' Newland, commanding A Company, and Sergeant J. W. Whittle were each awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion subsequently returned to Belgium to participate in the offensive that became known as the Third Battle of Ypres.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 12th Battalion

6th April, 1917 – FREMICOURT

Relieved 29th Battn. In the line. "A" "C" & "D" Coys in line & "B" Coy in support.

Strength 35 Officers 1007 other ranks.

7 – 10 April, 1917 – In the Line

Operations at BOURSIES, see report attached.

Report on Operations at BOURSIES, 7th – 11th April, 1917

..... (6 pages)

Casualties

<i>2 Officers killed</i>	<i>5 wounded</i>	
<i>5 Sgts</i> “	<i>9</i> “	<i>1 Missing</i>
<i>55 O.R</i> . “	<i>170</i> “	<i>9</i> “

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mr James Gadsbury, Mount Hicks, Tasmania, father of Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury, was advised by Base Records on 29th April, 1917 that Private Ernest Gadsbury had been wounded. He was advised on 5th July, 1917 that Private Ernest Gadsbury was still dangerously ill.

Base Records advised Mr James Gadsbury, Mount Hicks, Tasmania, on 15th May, 1917 that Private Ernest Gadsbury was admitted to Hospital on 30th April with gunshot wound penetrating Chest – dangerous.

Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury was admitted to 1st London General Hospital, London, England on 27th May, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) Chest penetrating – severe. The Hospital Admissions form recorded “*G.S.W. to Chest & right Shoulder. Large superficial wound Rt side of chest. ___ through axilla Shoulder joint opened. Head of Humerus excised. Pulmonary Tuberculosis died.*”

Mr James Gadsbury, Mount Hicks, Tasmania, father of Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury, was advised by Base Records on 16th June, 1917 that Private Ernest Gadsbury had been transferred to the 1st London General Hospital on 27th May, 1917.

Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury died at 9.30 am on 22nd July, 1917 at 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W Shoulder. Some forms have cause of death as “*G.S.W. Chest – penetrating.*”

A death for Ernest J. Gadsbury, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury was buried at 1.30 pm on 26th July, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179,562. (Note: The Burial Report recorded “*Date of Interment 26th June, 1917.*”)

From the burial report of Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party and Bugler of the Administrative Headquarters Staff A.I.F. London were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag and surmounted by several floral tributes. The coffin was borne to the graveside by members attached to Administrative Headquarters Staff A.I.F. London. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside. Chaplain W. J. Hicks of the A.I.F. Headquarters, London officiated at the graveside. No relatives were present at the funeral. Temporary oak cross will be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Gadsbury, Mt. Hicks, Tasmania, on 28th March, 1923 stating that the site of his son’s grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row D Grave 6.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. D. 6. Private E. J. Gadsbury now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Office of the Public Trustee, Melbourne, wrote to Officer in Charge, C.A.R.O., Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, on 4th June, 1968 regarding the Estate of Tyson Gadsbury which reads “*Please supply the Public Trustee with certification of the death of one Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury, who died at Gallipoli in 1915. His number was 6023 and he was a member of the 19th/12th Battalion.*”

A reply was sent by Colonel B. S. Savage, Officer in Charge, (no date) to The Public Trustee enclosing a Certificate of Death. *“This Certificate is issued in respect of the death, on active service, of the abovementioned Ernest Joseph GADSBURY, who died in England on 22nd July 1917 from wounds received in action, while serving in France.”*

The Office of the Public Trustee, Melbourne, sent a reply on 16th August, 1968 acknowledging the Certificate of Death *“and would appreciate your confirmation that Ernest Joseph Gadsbury was a single man at the time of his death.”*

A reply was sent by Colonel B. S. Savage, Officer in Charge, (no date) to The Public Trustee with the following *“It is advised that according to records held at this Office, Private GADSBURY stated on enlistment that his marital status was single.”*

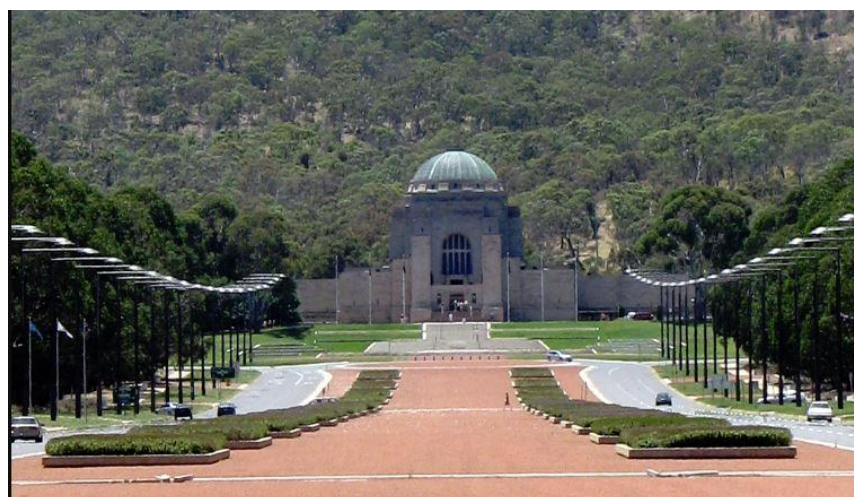
Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Gadsbury’s father – Mr J. Gadsbury, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury – service number 6023, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private E. J. Gadsbury is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



E. Gadsbury is remembered on the Table Cape Roll of Honour, located in Boat Harbour Primary School, 17386 Bass Highway, Boat Harbour, Tasmania.



Table Cape Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

E. Gadsbury is remembered on the Table Cape Municipality Roll of Honour, located in Wynyard History Room, Tasmania.



Table Cape Municipality Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

E. J. Gadsbury is remembered on the Table Cape Roll of Honor located in Wynyard RSL Club, 9 Goldie St, Wynyard, Tasmania.



Table Cape Roll of Honor (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

E. Gadsbury is remembered on the Mount Hicks Pictorial Roll of Honour located in Yolla Memorial Hall, Murchison Highway, Yolla, Tasmania. Another copy is located in Wynyard RSL Club, 9 Goldie Street, Wynyard, Tasmania.



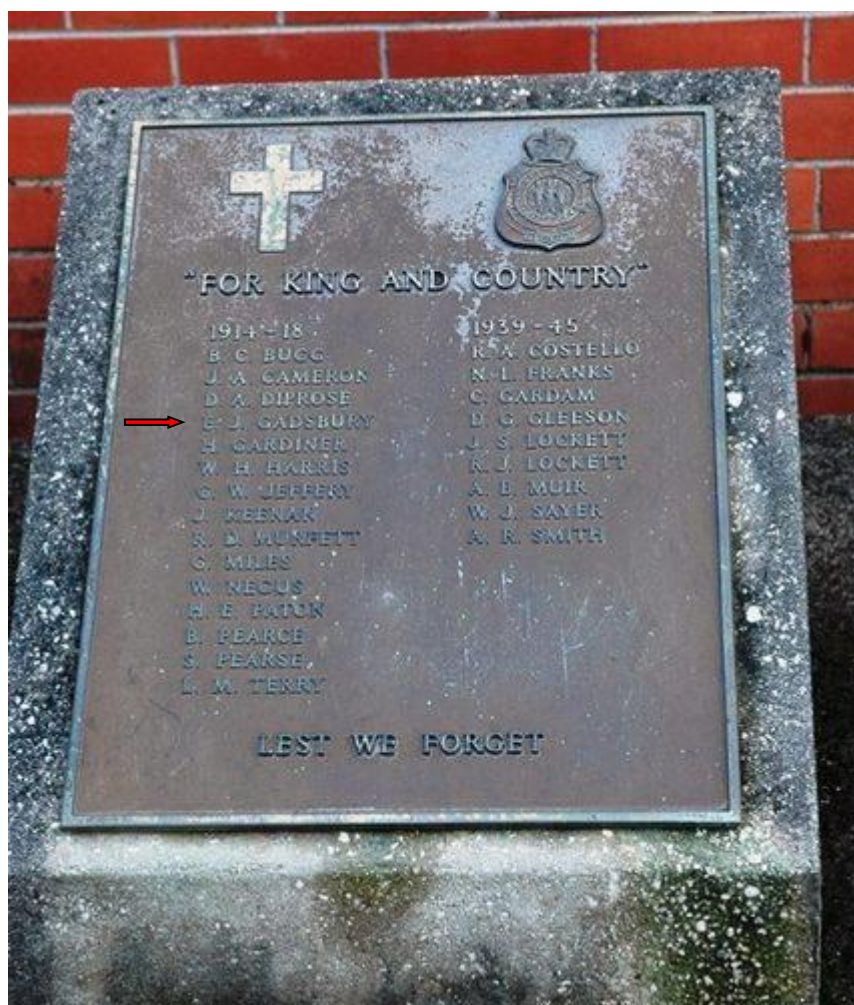
Mount Hicks Pictorial Roll of Honour (Photo from *AWM Places of Pride* – Arthur Garland)



E. J. Gadsbury is remembered on the Yolla War Memorial, located at Yolla Memorial Hall, Murchison Highway, Yolla, Tasmania.



Yolla War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)



E. J. Gadsbury is remembered on the Yolla Honour Roll, located in Yolla Memorial Hall, Murchison Highway, Yolla, Tasmania.



Yolla Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)



E. J. Gadsbury is remembered on the Wynyard Cenotaph / War Memorial, located in Gutteridge Gardens, Park Street, Wynyard, Tasmania.



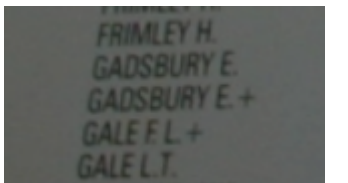
Wynyard Cenotaph / War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)



E. Gadsbury is remembered on the Wynyard District War Service, located in Waratah -Wynyard Council Chambers, 21 Saunders Street, Wynyard, Tasmania.



Wynyard District War Service (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



Ernest Joseph Gadsbury is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

ANZAC	NUMBER	RANK	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	DOD	AGE	UNIT	TOWN	ANZAC
	194	Pte	Flaming	Alfred Claude M	17.11.1917	21	51st Inf Bn	Burnie	
	29941	Gnr	Flaxmore	Archie Youl	19.09.1917	23	12th Fd Arty Bde	Richmond	
ANZAC	192	Cpl	Flood	Ralph Cecil	13.10.1917	23	40th Inf Bn	Cygnat	
	2350	Pte	Flukas	Edward Clarence	10.06.1917	23	40th Inf Bn	Castra	
ANZAC	4304	Pte	Fogarty	Ambrose Hazelton	07.10.1917	19	12th Inf Bn	Sandfly	
	4388	Pte	Ford	John Thomas	30.09.1917	24	1st Pioneer Bn	Launceston	
	4620	Sgt	Ford	Lawrence W	15.04.1917	27	12th Inf Bn	Stanley	
	372	L/Cpl	Ford	Edward Ernest	03.01.1917	27	40th Inf Bn	Triabunna	
	4787	Pte	Foreman	Charles Bertram	06.04.1917	26	12th Inf Bn	Huonville	
	1212	Sapr	Forstrand	Allred James	21.09.1917	27	2 Div Sig Engrs	Devonport	ANZAC
	5594	Pte	Foster	George Albert	05.03.1917	26	19th Inf Bn	Hobart	
	8018	Pte	Foster	Thomas George	09.10.1917	25	12th Inf Bn	Latrobe	
	830	Pte	Fowler	Percival Lewis	13.10.1917	26	40th Inf Bn	Sirahan	
	187	Pte	Fowler	Arthur G William	06.10.1917	24	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	3159	Pte	Free	William Thomas	17.04.1917	31	40th Inf Bn	Rokeby	
	2698	Pte	Freeman	Murray Vincent	28.03.1917	23	52nd Inf Bn	Colebrook	
	4649	Pte	Freer	John Robert	09.06.1917	20	52nd Inf Bn	Devonport	
	6998	Pte	Fry	Frank	20.09.1917	26	7th Inf Bn	Hobart	
		Li	Fulter MC	Charles Stephen	11.11.1917	33	1 Sqn RFC	West Hobart	
	4797	Pte	Gadd	William Mansfield	15.04.1917	29	12th Inf Bn	Queenstown	
	6023	Pte	Gadsbury	Ernest Joseph	22.07.1917	28	12th Inf Bn	Mount Hicks	
	880	Sgt	Gadsden	Edwin George	16.08.1917	23	4th MG Coy	Claremont	ANZAC
	2029	Pte	Galloway	John	17.01.1917	34	40th Inf Bn	Launceston	
	603	Sgt	Game	Sidney James	07.06.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Wynyard	
	1007	Pte	Gardiner	Herbert George	05.10.1917	23	26th Inf Bn	Weidborough	ANZAC
	6024	Pte	Gardiner	Hubert William	06.04.1917	24	12th Inf Bn	Wynyard	
	3553	Pte	Gerlick	Lionel	07.06.1917	24	52nd Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
	1641	Pte	Gerlick	George Clarence	19.03.1917	29	26th Inf Bn	Hobart	
	72	Sgt	Gatenby	Lawrence Frank	14.01.1917	30	40th Inf Bn	Launceston	
	388	Pte	Geale	Frank Francis	30.09.1917	23	51st Inf Bn	Georgetown	
	5706	Pte	Geard	Everett Stanley	08.04.1917	21	12th Inf Bn	Brighton	
	26790	Sgt	Gemwell	Clarendon Valentine	07.06.1917	30	NZEF Rtl Bde	Swansea	
ANZAC	32163	Pte	Gibbins	George William Thomas	08.06.1916	39	NZEF CIB	Hobart	
	2332	Pte	Gibson	Percy George	05.08.1917	35	40th Inf Bn	Nile	
ANZAC	1643	Pte	Gilbert	Roy Erwin	31.01.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Nile	
	1383	Sgt	Gilbert	George Raymond	21.02.1917	24	15th Inf Bn	Cambridge	ANZAC
	196	Pte	Gittus	Kenneth James	02.04.1917	23	51st Inf Bn	Hobart	
	6831	Pte	Gittus	Claude	05.05.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Hamilton	
	6832	Pte	Gittus MM	Leslie Albert	03.11.1917	25	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	6489	Pte	Glennon	William Robert	06.04.1917	29	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	6078	Pte	Glover	Jack	05.05.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Sih Mt Cameron	
	2026	Pte	Godfrey	Albert Raymond	06.04.1917	26	12th Inf Bn	Campania	ANZAC
	3838	Pte	Good	John Frederick	17.07.1917	24	51st Inf Bn	Launceston	
	3769	Pte	Good	Franklin Huon	08.06.1917	20	13th Fd Amb Coy	Launceston	
	(119)	Li	Goode	George Noakes M	12.06.1917	31	47th Inf Bn	Southport	
	87	L/Cpl	Goodey	Walter John	13.10.1917	25	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	197	Pte	Gorrings	Graham Alfred	15.10.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Kempton	
	628	Pte	Goss	Allan	08.10.1917	24	40th Inf Bn	Cressy	
	16545	Pte	Gouldie	John	02.08.1917	23	NZEF OIB	West Hobart	
	2816	Pte	Gower	Bernard	28.03.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Waratah	
	8409	Pte	Grachan	Charles	04.10.1917	23	26th Inf Bn	Georgetown	
	1568	Trpr	Grachan	Charles John	01.12.1917	40	8th Lt Horse Regt	Georgetown	
	1124	Pte	Graff	Carl Frederick	22.07.1917	23	3rd Inf Bn	Queenstown	ANZAC
	2817	Pte	Graham	Roland David	30.10.1917	24	40th Inf Bn	New Norfolk	
	6021	Pte	Graham	Fred Howard	09.04.1917	21	12th Inf Bn	Mathinna	
	6660	L/Cpl	Granhield	George Allen	25.09.1917	22	57th Inf Bn	Lilydale	
	1638	Pte	Granger	Frederick Henry	01.04.1917	34	49th Inf Bn	Westbury	
	6737	Pte	Gray	Victor John	10.04.1917	24	12th Inf Bn	Fern Tree	
	6741	Pte	Gray	Charles William T	15.04.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Fern Tree	
	1021	Sapr	Green	Edward Charles	05.06.1917	46	3rd Tunnel Coy	Zeehan	
	3982	Pte	Green	John Henry	07.10.1917	23	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
	3285A	Pte	Green	Claude	08.06.1917	28	52nd Inf Bn	Cygnat	
	6757	Pte	Gregor	David Andrew	07.11.1917	19	23rd Inf Bn	Port Cygnat	
	1830	Pte	Griffiths	Henry	03.11.1917	27	12th Inf Bn	Wynyard	ANZAC
		Li	Griggs	Albert	23.11.1917	30	2 Sqn AEC	Hobart	

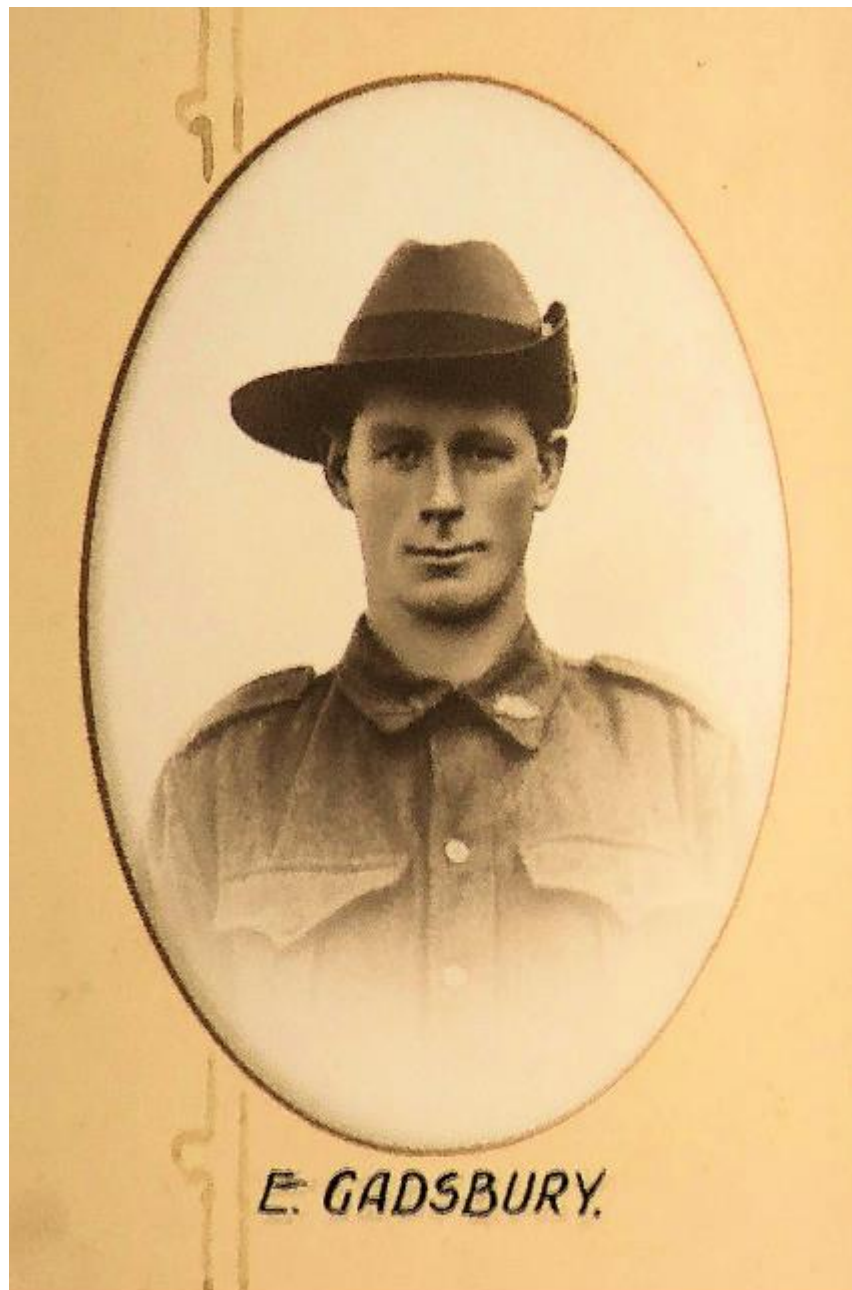
(47 pages of Private Ernest Joseph Gadsbury's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



PTE E. J. GADSBURY (died from wounds), son of Mrs James Gadsbury, Upper Mount Hicks.

(Tasmanian Weekly Courier - 15 Nov 1917)



Photograph of E. Gadsbury on Mount Hicks Roll of Honour

(Photo from Libraries Tasmania WWI [NS4659-1-16])



Newspaper Notices

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

PRIVATE ADVICES

Mrs Jas. Gadsbury, of Wynyard, has received a cable stating that her son, Pte Ernest Gadsbury, had been wounded during action in France. No particulars have yet come to hand as to the nature of the injury.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 5 May, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SUMMARY OF CASUALTY LIST No. 293

WOUNDED

Pte Gadsbury, E. J., Mount Hicks

(Daily Post, Hobart, Tasmania – 8 May, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

303RD AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST

SEVERELY WOUNDED (11)

Pte E. J. Gasbury, Mt Hicks.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 28 May, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SUMMARY OF CASUALTY LIST No. 303

DANGEROUSLY WOUNDED

Pte Gadsbury, E. J., Mount Hicks (previously reported wounded)

(Daily Post, Hobart, Tasmania – 28 May, 1917)

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

Mr F. Gadsbury, of Mt. Hicks, has been advised by the Defence Department that his son, Pte E. Gadsbury, has been seriously wounded in the chest by a bullet.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 30 May, 1917)

WYNYARD NOTES

MUSEUM AFTERNOON

It was a happy idea on the part of the committee of the Wynyard Remembrance Evenings to decide to hold a museum afternoon in aid of its special effort to obtain goods for the Soldiers' Xmas parcels. When this was decided upon Mrs. Windsor, with her accustomed energy, made a canvass for curios. The response was a surprise even to her, and as a result the Town Hall was not large enough to accommodate the many articles and those who wished to see them. Relics, centuries old, from all parts of the world were shown, and the only regret was that there was not longer time in which to inspect them. Some of the works of art were priceless, and had been handed down for generations. They ranged from curios from somewhere B.C. to the present date. Soldiers' trophies were well represented, and included a collection of shell cases, gas helmet, sword from the Battle of Waterloo, bullets taken from the body of one of the Table Cape boys in this war, piece of high explosive shell. Turkish sniper's cartridge box,

Military Medal won in this war, South African medals, and medals of the Indian mutiny. Prominent in the collection of soldiers' trophies was a full-size photograph of the Australian hero, with the words— "Birdie,' God Bless Him." Notwithstanding the great value and exceptional interest taken in the exhibition of antiques and other relics, there was one part of the museum which stood for more than all these. In this was a large lithographic picture of the Union Jack, around which were placed the photographs of some of Table Cape's heroic dead — men who had made the supreme sacrifice in this great war. Amongst these photographs were those, of Captains Tyrrell and Margetts, Drive Lance Gutteridge, Sergts. Harold Gates and S. J. Game, Ptes. W. Stewart. H. French, Leo Berechree, Bert Frimley, Les Ridge, R. Stuart, and **E. J. Gadsbury**. A copy of the Wynyard Roll of Honor occupied a prominent place in the group. Afternoon tea was provided by the committee, and handed round by a bevy of ladies daintily attired in white and heliotrope dresses, with quaint tall hats of similar colors. Songs were pleasingly rendered by Mrs. Daghish and Misses Kennedy, Gilmour, and Dixon. Mrs. Laing played the accompaniments. The museum was declared open by Mr. C. J. Mackenzie, who commended the good work of the ladies, and expressed the hope that this would, be the last occasion on which it would be necessary to send Xmas parcels to our boys at the front. Speaking from experience, Lance-Corpl R. W. Harrison testified to the joy that these Xmas parcels bring to the men in the firing line, and on their behalf thanked all who assisted in the cause. The proceeds amounted to £5/13/3; 180 articles were handed in at the door. Cash donations were received from the following:— Mrs. P. Symes, £1; Mr. John Mayne. 5/; Mrs. Cullen, 2/6; Miss Wilkinson. 3/; .Mrs. W. Dart 2/; Mrs. E. Cox, 1. Included in the list of articles were 12 Xmas plum puddings contributed by Mr. F. Joscelyne's staff, and 25/ box of tobacco donated by Mr. R. Gutteridge. The committee also acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a large piece of bacon from Mr P. Ridge, Boat Harbour. Owing to the Y.M.C.A requiring the Town Hall for its function to Red Triangle members, the next Remembrance Evening will be held on Wednesday next, not Tuesday.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 11 August, 1917)

THANKS

Mr and Mrs J. Gadsbury and Family, of Mt. Hicks, desire to tender their sincere THANKS to all kind friends and relatives for letters, cards and personal expressions of sympathy extended them in their recent sad bereavement in the loss of their dear son and brother, Private Ernest J. Gadsbury, who died of wounds, July 22, 1917.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 8 September, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

GADSBURY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private E. J. Gadsbury, who died of wounds received in France, July 22, 1917.

No mother was there to soothe his brow;
No brothers there to say good-by;
No sister to take him by the hand,
When death was drawing nigh.

No loved ones stood around him
To catch his last faint sighs;
Nor whisper just one loving word
Before he closed his eyes.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers, Mt. Hicks.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 22 July, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

GADSBURY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte Ernest J. Gadsbury, who died of wounds received in France, July 22, 1917.

Did he whisper our name when dying?

Or breath out a parting prayer?

Oh, where did they bury our darling boy;

Does anyone know or care?

Midnight stars are shining on a grave so far away.

Where they laid our dearest loved one, just two years ago to-day.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sister and brother, Mt. Hicks.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 23 July, 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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 12th July, 1921, to Mr J. Gadsbury, Mount Hicks, Tasmania, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 6023 Private E. J. Gadsbury, 12th 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.

Private E. J. Gadsbury 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.

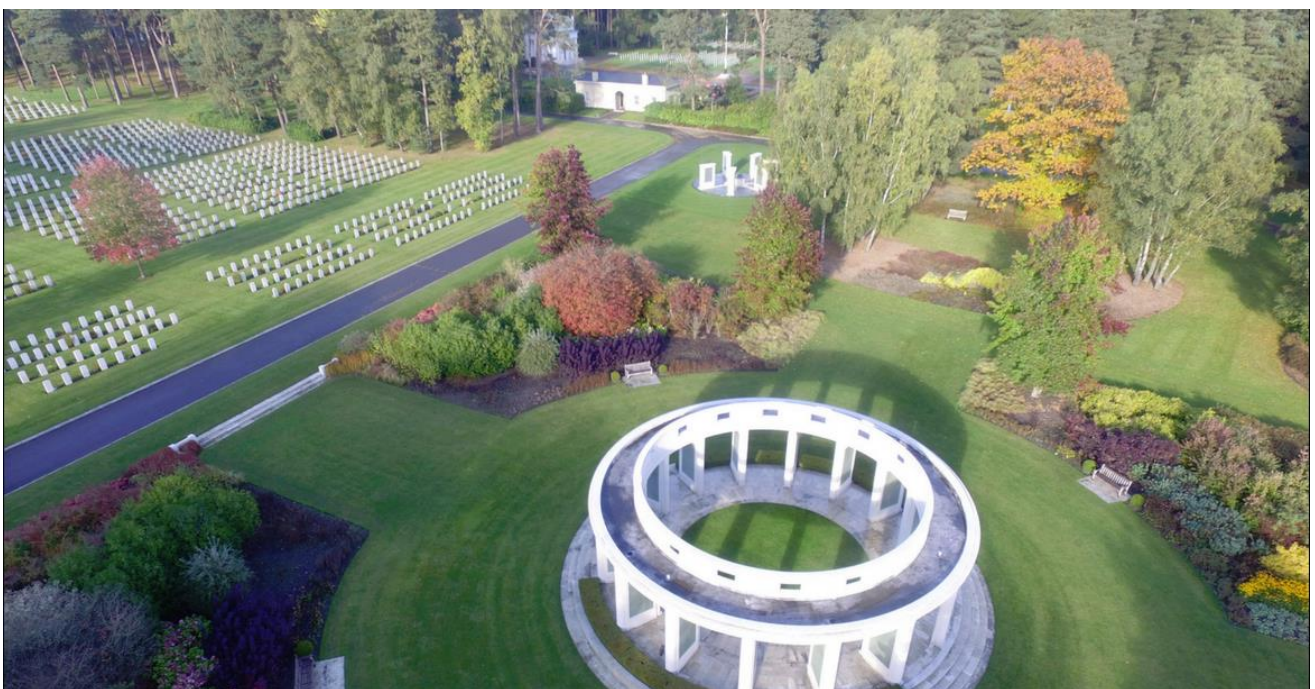


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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)

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)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)



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



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)

