

**Hollybrook Memorial,
Southampton, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5341 PRIVATE

W. J. GARNHAM

24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH AUGUST, 1916

William John (Will) GARNHAM

William John Garnham was born at Lang Lang, Victoria on 12th August, 1889 to parents William & Mary Ann Garnham (nee Leamon).

William John Garnham married Olive Irene Brown at Lang Lang, Victoria on 22nd February, 1912. They had 2 children – Mabel Mary (May) Garnham (born 21st March, 1912) & Irene Wilma Garnham (born 17th September, 1914).

William John Garnham was a 26 year old, married, Dairy Farmer from Archie's Creek, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 4th February, 1916 (One Attestation Paper has date of 26th January, 1916) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5341 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife, Mrs Olive Garnham, Post Office, Archie's Creek, Victoria.

Private William John Garnham was posted to A.M.C. Ascot Vale on 22nd March, 1916. He was transferred to Royal Park on 5th May, 1916 then posted to "C" Company, 24th Battalion at Royal Park on the same day. Private Garnham was posted to "A" Company, 24th Battalion at Royal Park on 5th June, 1916 then transferred back to "C" Company, 24th Battalion at Royal Park on 8th June, 1916. He was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 24th Battalion on 13th June, 1916.

Private William John Garnham was admitted to Clearing Hospital Royal Park, Victoria on 2nd July, 1916 with Influenza. He was discharged on 5th July, 1916.

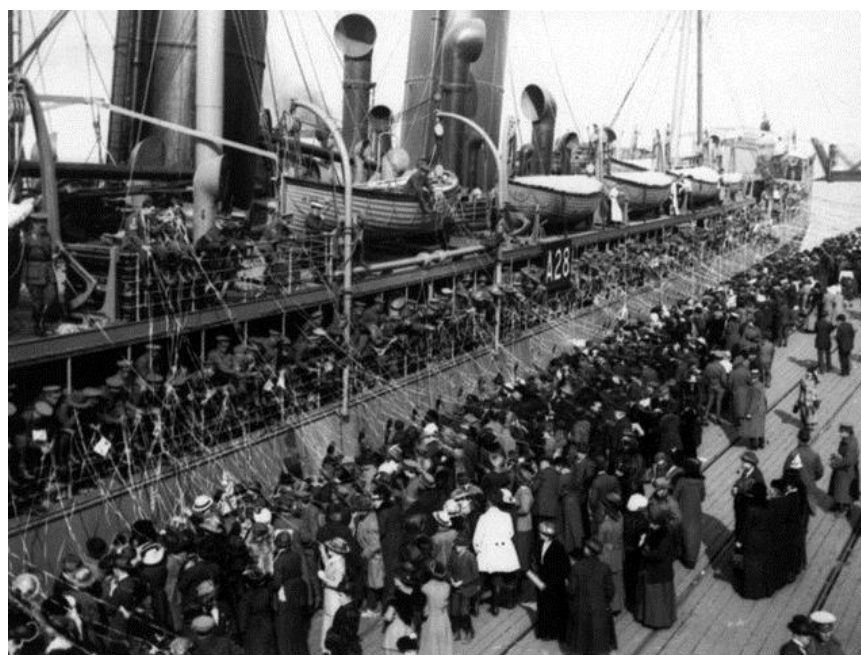
Private William John Garnham embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) on 1st August, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements.

William John Garnham's younger brother – John Joseph Garnham also embarked on HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) on 1st August, 1916

24th Battalion

The 24th Battalion was raised in a hurry. The original intent was to raise the fourth battalion of the 6th Brigade from the "outer states", but a surplus of recruits at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria lead to a decision being made to raise it there. The battalion was formed during the first week of May 1915, and sailed from Melbourne at the end of that week.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P80606

HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) - 1st August, 1916



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0604

HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) - 1st August, 1916



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0602

Private William John Garnham was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 9th August, 1916 with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Private William John Garnham died on 13th August, 1916 at Sea, on board HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Private William John Garnham was buried at Sea on 13th August, 1916. He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private William John Garnham was one of four deaths on board HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) on the voyage from Australia to England.

- No. 2273 Private Arthur Wray, 5th Reinforcements of 51st Battalion
- No. 5395 Private George William Lawford, 14th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion
- No. 15046 Staff Sergeant John Alfred Eric Crawford, A. A. M.C. (Australian Army Medical Corps)

A War Pension was granted to Olive I. Garnham, widow of the late Private William John Garnham, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 12th November, 1916. War Pensions were granted to the daughters of the late Private William John Garnham from 12th November, 1916 – Mabel M. Garnham granted £1 per fortnight & Irene A. Garnham granted 15/- per fortnight.

Base Records wrote to Mrs O. Garnham, Post Office, Somerville, Victoria on 22nd May, 1924 to ask if communications addressed to her as such would be received so that the British War Medal issued on account of the service of her husband, the late Private William John Garnham, could then be forwarded on. Mrs Garnham advised that the address was correct.

Private William John Garnham was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Garnham's widow – Mrs O. Garnham, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent June, 1922).

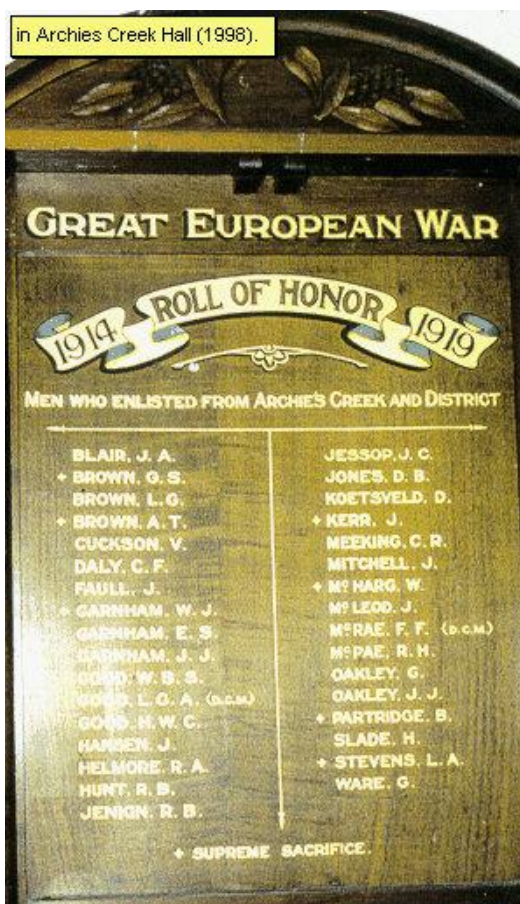
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William John Garnham – service number 5341, of 24th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private W. J. Garnham is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 101.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. J. Garnham is remembered on the Archie's Creek District Honour Roll, located in Archie's Creek Hall, 104 Archie's Creek Road, Archie's Creek, Victoria.



Archies Creek District Honour Roll (Photo from VHD Victoria)

W. Garnham is remembered on the Ryanston State School Honour Roll, located in Archie's Creek Hall, 104 Archie's Creek Road, Archie's Creek, Victoria.



Ryanston State School Honour Roll (Photo from VHD Victoria)

(36 pages of Private William John Garnham'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



Connected to Private William John Garnham:

**Younger brother – Eric Stanley Garnham (b. 1895) – Enlisted 7th October, 1914, Farmer, aged 19. Service No. 5430. Embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 12th February, 1915 with Divisional Train, 2nd & 3rd Reinforcements.

Corporal Eric Stanley Garnham returned to Australia on 2nd January, 1919. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

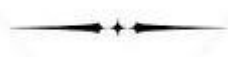
Died 25th April, 1969 at Heidelberg, Victoria.

**Younger brother – John Joseph Garnham (b. 1898) – Enlisted 1st March, 1916, Labourer, aged 18. Service No. 5340. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Miltiades (A28)* on 1st August, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements.

Wounded in action in France on 3rd May, 1917. Returned to Australia 16th July, 1917 for Change – GSW to left elbow joint & fracture of lower end Humerus.

Medically discharged from Australian Imperial Force 21st December, 1917. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Died 1st September, 1966 at Gympie, Queensland.



Newspaper Notices

Soldiers' Farewelled

BIG GATHERING AT ARCHIE'S CREEK

On Easter Monday night there was a large attendance at Archie's Creek, when about a dozen of the local and district soldiers were presented with wristlet watches and bidden farewell, prior to their departure from Australia, whence they go to meet the enemies of their native land upon the battlefields of Europe. Mr. A. E. Griffiths, presided, and he was capably assisted by Mr. A. A. Chisholm, secretary, and members of the committee. The presentations of watches were made by Cr. P. J. Daly, J.P., whose patriotic remarks were enthusiastically supported by Rev. Father Walsh, Dr. Baird, Mr. P. H. Conant and Mr A. E. Griffiths. In the course of the remarks feeling reference was made to the death of Private Will. Good, one of three brothers who had enlisted for active service. Private Good had died a noble death on the Gallipoli peninsula, whilst endeavouring to rescue comrades from the gases in a crater caused by a high explosive shell.

To the following presentations were made : — Corporal L. A. Stevens and Privates C. F. Daly, **W. J. and J. J. Garnham**, R. and J. McRae, D. Koetsveldt, J. Oakley, J. Blair, and G. Ware. The last mentioned was presented with a wallet.

Sergeant Bert. Mayo, a returned " Anzac," was accorded a hearty reception and occupied a seat on the stage.

Corporal Stevens and Private C. P. Daly befittingly acknowledged the presentations in a soldiery-like manner ; and at the conclusion of the proceedings a verse of the National Anthem was sung.

(Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser, Victoria – 28 April, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

GARNHAM – On the 13th August, at sea, from meningitis, Private William John, dearly loved eldest son of William and Mary Garnham, of Ryanston, loving brother of Elvie, Ivy, Eric, and Joe (both on active service), Vera, Victor, Harold, Claris, Allan and Bert; also loving husband of Olive, and daddie of little May and Irene.

The day after his 27th birthday.

His country called him, he answered yes,

But God called him home.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 September, 1916)

LOCAL AND GENERAL

Keen regret was felt by members of the Wonthaggi Rifle Club and a large circle of personal friends when it became known that one of their members, Private W. J. Garnham, of Ryanston, had died from meningitis on board a troopship on August 13th, during the voyage to England. Deceased was one of the most popular members of the local Rifle Club, his genial disposition winning for him a host of friends. It was only as late as July 29th that Private Garnham competed in Robertson's trophy on the Wonthaggi range and obtained the " possible," but leaving for the front prevented him from shooting in the finals. The deepest sympathy is felt by members for his wife and family. The flag on the range will be flown at half-mast to-morrow (Saturday) as a mark of respect.

(Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser, Victoria – 15 September, 1916)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

GARNHAM – In sad and loving memory of Private William John Garnham, dearly beloved husband of Olive, loving daddy of May and Irene, of Archie's Creek, who died at sea, 13th August, 1916, of meningitis, aged 27 years; loving brother-in-law of Jack, Elsie, Stanley, Leslie (A.I.F.), Marion, Arthur (A.I.F.), Harry, Violet, Vera and Mabel.

One of God's best.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 September, 1916)

DEATH

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

GARNHAM.—In sad remembrance of my dearly beloved husband, and darling daddy of little May and Irene, Private William John Garnham, of Archie's Creek, who died at sea from meningitis on 13th August, 1916, loving eldest son of William and Mary Garnham.

No wife was there to soothe his brow,

No mother to say good-bye,

No daughter to take him by the hand
When death was drawing nigh ;
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

Inserted by his sorrowing wife and children.

(Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser, Victoria – 22 September, 1916)

Archie's Creek

The euchre party and dance which was to have been held on Sept. 13, was postponed on account of the death of Private J. W. Garnham. It will be held in the Archie's Creek hall on Wednesday, October 11, and proceeds are in aid of the Dalyston and Archie's Creek and district Red Cross.

(Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser, Victoria – 22 September, 1916)

Bereavement Notice

MRS. W. J. GARNHAM desires to express her heartfelt thanks to her numerous friends and relations for visits, letters, cards, telegrams of sympathy, especially Mr and Mrs Chisholm for their kindness shown to her in the sad loss of her dear husband. Will, who died at sea on August 13th. Also Wonthaggi Rifle Club, Dalyston and Archie's Creek and District Red Cross Society, Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council.

Archie's Creek.

Bereavement Notice

MR. and Mrs. Garnham and Family desire to express their heartfelt thanks to their many kind friends and relatives, also Wonthaggi Rifle Club, Dalyston and Archie's Creek and District Red Cross Society, and the Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire Council for their sincere expressions of sympathy conveyed to them by visits, letters, and cards in the sad loss of their dear son and brother, Will, who died on a troopship en route to front on 13th August.

Ryanston.

(Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser, Victoria – 13 October, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

VICTORIAN LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte GARNHAM, W. J., Archie's Creek, 13/8/16

(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 October, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GARNHAM – In proud and loving memory of my dearly loved husband, No. 5341, Private W. J. Garnham, and darling daddy of little May and Irene, who died at sea from meningitis, en route for the front, on the 13th August, 1916, aged 27 years and 1 day. Also my dear mother, who passed away 17th August, 1913.

Oh, how we miss your loving greeting
And the smile on your cheerful face;
You were one of the boys that were willing,
Must they all keep on till they fall?

I bow not my head in grief, Will,
Rather hold it high with pride,
And scorn the shirkers for whom you died.

Too dearly loved to be forgotten.

-(Inserted by his sorrowing wife, Olive, and children, May and Irene, Somerville, late of Archie's Creek.)

GARNHAM – In loving remembrance of our dearly loved eldest son and brother, Pte W. J. Garnham (Will), who died at sea, August 13, 1916.

No chance had he to win the cross of honour,
No mighty empire echoed with his name,
He did but leave a record kindly, helpful,
A pure untarnished name.

Some time we'll understand.

_(Inserted by his sorrowing parents, brothers, and sisters.)

GARNHAM – In loving memory of our dear brother-in-law, Pte Will Garnham, loving husband of Olive Garnham, Somerville (late of Archie's Creek), who died at sea, of meningitis, on August 13, 1916. Also, our dear mother, who died on the 17th August, 1913.

Our loved ones.

-(Inserted by E., J. C., S. B. (A.I.F.), L.B. (A.I.F.), M.B., O.G., A.B. (A.I.F.), H.B., V.B., M.B., V.B.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GARNHAM – In loving memory of my dear cousin, Private W. J. Garnham, died at sea 13th August, 1916, aged 27 years.

If we had known when last we lightly parted
That during life our hand would clasp no more,
That each who said farewell so cheerful hearted
Would find the grief the future held in store,
How different would have been our solemn parting
From that which only saw a brief adieu,
How would the tears of mutual sorrows parting

Have dimmed each fleeting moment that we knew.

The memory prized is more than gold,
A cousin's worth cannot be told;
His loved ones now who miss him here,
Will always hold his memory dear.

-Inserted by his loving cousin, W. Russell, Yallock.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

GARNHAM – In loving remembrance of our dearly loved eldest son and brother, Pte W. J. Garnham (Will), who died at sea, August 13, 1916.

No chance had he to win the cross of honour,
No mighty empire echoed with his name,
He did but leave a record -kindly, helpful,
pure untarnished name.

Some time we'll understand.

(Inserted by his sorrowing parents, brothers, and sisters.)

GARNHAM – In proud and loving memory of my dearly beloved husband and our darling daddy, Private W. J. Garnham, who died at sea on 13th August, 1916.

We pictured your safe returning
And longed to clasp your hand,
But Death has postponed our meeting,
It will be in a better land.
Victory must be with the Allies.

To all those words sound nice,
But oh, the sad, sad hearts of those
Whose loved ones pay the price,

Inserted by his sorrowing wife and little children, May and Irene, Somerville, (late of Archie's Creek.)

(*Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Victoria – 17 October, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

JONES - GARNHAM – A tribute of love to the memory of our dear cousins, Corporal Bernard Jones, who died of wounds on the 9th September, 1915; also Private Will Garnham, who died at sea, of meningitis, on the 13th August, 1916.

There is a link death cannot sever;
Love and remembrance live for ever.

-(Inserted by their loving cousins, Ethel and Alice, "Lorraine," Addison street, St. Kilda)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 September, 1917)

**Notices were also placed in the newspapers in 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

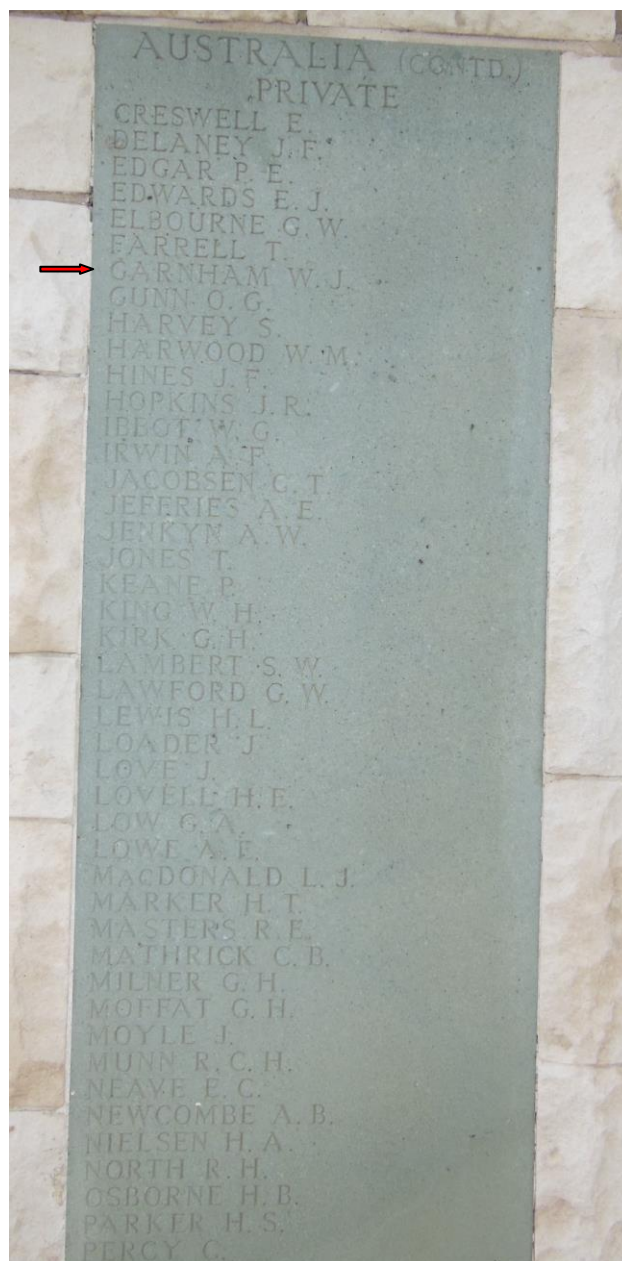
(Information & photos from CWGC)



CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private W. J. Garnham's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

