

**Stourbridge Cemetery,
Stourbridge, West Midlands, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5398 PRIVATE

L. GOGAN

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH JULY, 1918 Age 24

*His Brothers Jack And Roy
Beloved Sons Of W. & M. Gogan
Of Western Australia
Died in Action 1914-1918 War*

Laurance (Laurie) GOGAN

Laurance Gogan was born at Clackline, Western Australia on 21st January, 1894 to parents William James & Mary Gogan (nee Shaw).

Laurance Gogan attended State & Roman Catholic Schools in Western Australia.

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Kanowna, Western Australia listed Laurance Gogan, Grocer, of Nemises Street.

Laurance Gogan was a 22 year old, single, Grocer from Kanowna, Western Australia when he enlisted on 8th February, 1916 at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5398 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Gogan, Kanowna, W.A.

Private Laurance Gogan was posted to 3 Area on 8th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 23rd March, 1916.

Private Laurance Gogan embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 17th April, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 14th May, 1916.

Private Laurance Gogan proceeded overseas to France on 21st August, 1916 from 3rd Training Battalion , No 6 Camp at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England.

[Note: there is no record in the Service Record file of when or how Private Gogan arrived in England from Suez.]

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 Laurance Gogan joined 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 21st August, 1916. He joined 11th Battalion in France on 4th September, 1916 & was posted to "B" Company.

Private Laurance Gogan was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance on 1st November, 1916 with Influenza. He was transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 1st November, 1916 & discharged to duty on 2nd November, 1916. Private Gogan rejoined his Battalion on 3rd November, 1916.

Private Laurance Gogan was admitted to Anzac Rest Station on 3rd December, 1916 with Influenza. He was discharged to duty on 17th December, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion on 20th December, 1916.

Private Laurance Gogan was admitted to Casualty Clearing Station on 14th January, 1917 with Influenza. He was admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station with Rheumatic Fever on 18th January, 1917. Private Gogan was transferred & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 20th January, 1917. He was discharged to duty on 4th February, 1917 & joined Base Depot (1st A.D.B.D.) on 8th February, 1917. Private Gogan was struck off strength of Base Depot on 17th February, 1917 & rejoined 11th Battalion in the Field on 23rd February, 1917.

Private Laurance Gogan was wounded in action on 6th May, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 6th May, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left shoulder & arm. Private Gogan was transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 6th May, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 7th Canadian General Hospital on 7th May, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to 6th Convalescent Depot on 11th June, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 5th Convalescent Depot on 14th June, 1917. Private Gogan was discharged to Base Depot on 11th July, 1917 & joined 1st A.D.B.D. on 12th July, 1917. He proceeded to his Unit on 28th July, 1917 & rejoined the 11th Battalion in the Field on 4th August, 1917.

11th Battalion

The 11th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and with the 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

In March 1916, the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres, the battalion manned trenches near Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme valley for winter.

In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line. During a German counterattack at Louverval, France, in April 1917 Lieutenant Charles Pope was killed performing the deed for which he would be awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. The battalion subsequently returned to Belgium to participate in the offensive that became known as the Third Battle of Ypres.

The battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive in March and April 1918, and later that year participated in the great Allied offensive launched east of Amiens on 8 August 1918.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 11th Battalion

6th May, 1917:

At 010 the enemy again made an infantry attack after a similar demonstration of lights. On this occasion our artillery did not respond to the enemy's lights and no response was made to S.O.S. signals when fired from our own line. This attack was eventually beaten off by machine gun, lewis gun and rifle fire & rifle grenades. The enemy inflicted several casualties with egg bombs.

At 0500 the enemy made a third attack, he was stopped from making a frontal attack, by our artillery barrage which opened at 0503. But he attacked from the right flank using flamen werfer and bombs. In O.G.2 after driving in the right flank post for 30 yds he was checked and was held up by our post situated in No. 1 Sap. In OG1 however, he succeeded in driving the garrison back to the Sunken road in U29. The garrison immediately was successful in driving the enemy out, and we regained the whole of our former line. (see Narrative of Operations 5th, 6th, 7th May attached).

During these attacks the battalion suffered heavy casualties (see List attached) including Lieut V.B. DANIELLS killed and Captains R. HEMINGWAY, J. P. O'NEIL and A. BURGESS and 2/Lieutenants H. COLVIN and L. L. SUMMERS wounded.

Throughout the day the line was subjected to spasmodic bombardments.

The night was fairly quiet.

The C. O. visited the line at 1130 and was wounded in the hand, but remained on duty.

2/Lt G. CAMPBELL reported back from hospital, and remained at H12b9.9

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Base Records advised Mrs M. Gogan, Kanowna W. A. on 25th May, 1917 that Private Laurance Gogan had been wounded.

Private Laurance Gogan was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 11th March, 1918 with Orchitis (inflammation of one or both testicles). He was transferred & admitted to 1st Divisional Rest Station on 14th March, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 13th Casualty Clearing Station on 15th March, 1918. Private Gogan was transferred to Ambulance Train 38 on 2nd April, 1918 & was admitted to 14th General Hospital at Boulogne, France the same day with Orchitis. Private Gogan embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 6th April, 1918 with Orchitis.

Private Laurance Gogan was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital (Stourbridge Section), Edgbaston, Birmingham, England on 6th April, 1918 with Sarcoma of Testes. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "Castration. Recurrence left between L R pleura."

Private Laurance Gogan died at 1.30 pm on 11th July, 1918 at 1st Southern General Hospital (Stourbridge Section) from Sarcoma of Testes.

A death for Laurance Gogan, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England.

Private Laurance Gogan was buried at 2 pm on 15th July, 1918 in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England – Plot number 9 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Gogan - *Coffin was Elm. Brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. Firing Party, Pallbearers and Bugler were in attendance. A wreath was sent from the Staff and Patients of the 1st Southern General Hospital, and a number of Australian comrades (Patients in the Hospital) attended. The grave will be turfed, and an oak cross erected. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.*

Private Laurance Gogan's Service Record file contains a letter dated 13th July, 1918 from Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, to The Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne regard No. 5398 Private L. Gogan, 11th Battalion which reads:

- "1. On the 22nd March last the following cablegram, addressed to General Birdwood, was received at these headquarters:- "If possible grant six months leave to 5398 Private Lawrence Gogan B Company 11th Battalion. Mother ill. Two other sons killed in action, Gogan"*
- 2. Our records shewed that the last sentence of the cable was quite correct, and the case accordingly submitted to the G.O.C. A.I.F. for his consideration.*
- 3. On the 2nd May approval was given for this man's return to Australia for discharge.*
- 4. On the 11th March, however, Pte Gogan had been admitted to hospital suffering from orchitis. He was transferred to England and admitted to the 1st Southern General Hospital Edgbaston, Birmingham.*
- 5. A wire received this morning shows that this man died on the 11th instant at 1.30 pm.*
- 6. No communication has been addressed to the sender of the cable above referred to, and this information is forwarded in case you should desire to communicate these facts to the next of kin."*

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. Gogan, Kanowna, W.A., on 25th September, 1918 stating that they were *"in receipt of a communication from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, in connexion with the cable message that had been received requesting the return of your son, the late No. 5398 Private L. Gogan, 11th Battalion. I am to inform you that on 2nd May last, approval was given for your son's return to Australia for discharged. He was however, then in hospital suffering from orchitis and his transfer unfortunately could not them be made. No further details regarding the regrettable loss of your son have yet come to hand. It is confidently anticipated that these will in due course be received and will be promptly communicated to you."*

Base Records wrote to Mr W. J. Gogan, Kanowna, W.A., father of the late Private Laurance Gogan, on 24th November, 1922 with reference to the issue of the Memorial Plaque and Scroll in respect of the services of his son. The letter continued stating *"...the former memento has now been received at this office inscribed in the name of Laurence GOGAN but as some doubt exists regarding the correct spelling of the Christian name, I should be glad if your definitive advice in the matter. I should also be glad to learn in the event if the Plaque being incorrectly embossed if you are prepared to accept same in its present form. Otherwise it will be necessary to arrange for the provision of a fresh Plaque, and I am afraid some considerable time must elapse before this can be obtained."*

Mr W. J. Gogan replied to Base Records on 20th January stating : *"The scroll which I have received my sons name is spelt Laurence Gogan. In some correspondence I noticed that my late sons name was spelt Laurence But all the same whichever way the name is embossed on the Plaque you have I will be glad to received same..."*

Private Laurance Gogan was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Gogan's father – Mr W. J. Gogan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent January, 1923).

Base Records wrote to Mr W. J. Gogan, 83 Wilson St, Kalgoorlie, West Australia, father of the late Private Laurance Gogan, on 19th June, 1924 with the following: *"I am receipt of a communication from Mr L. M. Instone, 26 Lea Rd,*

Wolverhampton, England (formerly a member of the Australian Imperial Force), who on Anzac Day last visited the grave of your son, the late No. 5398 Private L. Gogan, 11th Battalion, and other Australian soldiers buried in the Stourbridge Cemetery. No doubt this action will be much appreciated by you and it is thought you may desire to personally communicate with him.”

A similar letter was sent to Mr W. J. Gogan, 83 Wilson St, Kalgoorlie, West Australia, father of the late Private Laurance Gogan, on 4th June, 1925: “...The thanks of the Department have been conveyed to Mr Instone for this further evidence of his continued interest in and attention to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and it is thought you may desire to personally express your appreciation of his kindness.”

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Laurance Gogan – service number 5398, aged 24, of 11th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of W. J. and Mary Gogan, of Kanowna, West Australia.

L. Gogan and his brothers R. W. Gogan & J. Gogan are remembered on the Kanowna Roll of Honour.



Kanowna Roll of Honour (Photo from Outback Family History Blog)

Laurence Gogan, & his brothers – John N. Gogan & W. Roy Gogan are each remembered with a separate Memorial Plaque (MC06B, MC06 & MC06A) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.



(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)



The Plaques were dedicated by the Family on 13th February, 2021

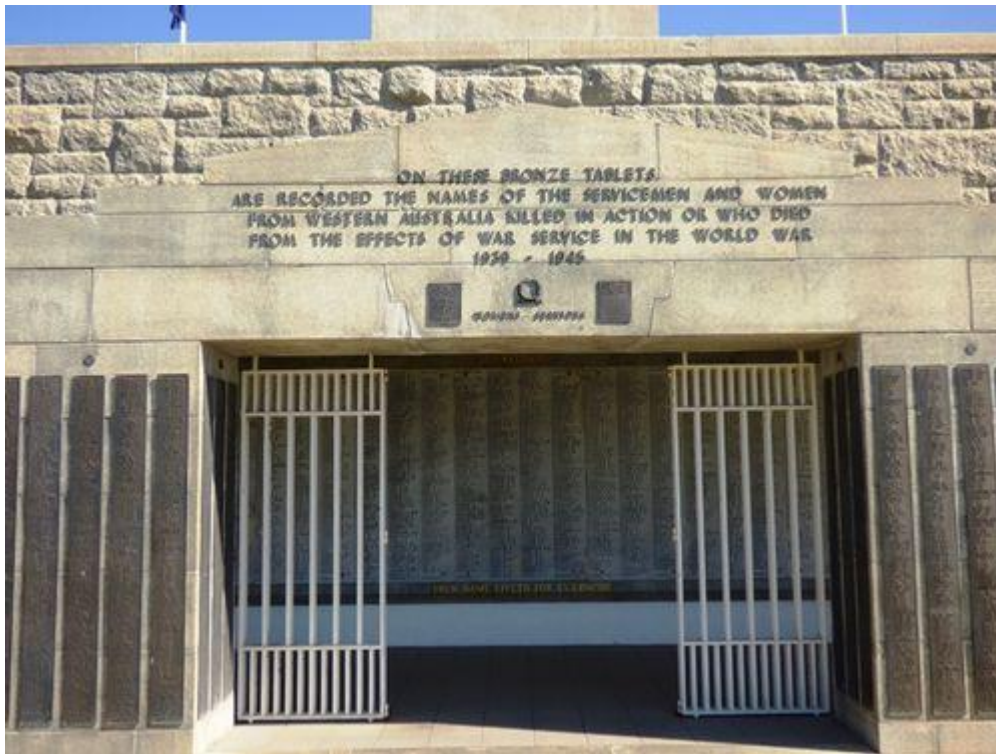


L. Gogan is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



11th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Private L. Gogan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 62.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(58 pages of Private Laurance Gogan'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



Connected to Private Laurance Gogan:

Older brother - John Nathaniel (Jack) Gogan (born 5th January, 1888) – Enlisted 5th January, 1916 as a 27 year old, single Labourer. Service no.4122. Embarked with 28th Battalion 10th Reinforcements on 1st April, 1916. Killed in action at Pozieres on 29th July, 1916, aged 28 years. Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial

Older brother – Roy William Gogan (born 9th April, 1892) – Enlisted 13th December, 1915 as a 23 year old, single Miner. Service no. 4795. Embarked 1st April, 1916 with 11th Battalion, 15th Reinforcements. Killed in action in Belgium on 12th October, 1917, aged 27 as part of 51st Battalion. Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.





The Gogan Family

The 3 Gogan Boys that died in WW1:

Nathaniel (John – up the back), Laurance (second from left seated) and Roy (seated on the right)

(Photo from Outback Family History Blog submitted by Tracey Miller care of Ross Gogan)



Laurance Gogan



THREE BROTHER, AT THE FRONT
PTES. LAURIE, R. W. and J. N. GOGAN (Pte. J. N. GOGAN was reported missing on July 29, 1916.)

(*The Sun*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 26 August, 1917)



Newspaper Notices

Local and Personal

Private Lawrence Gogan, third son of Mrs W. Gogan, of Kanowna, has been wounded in France. An elder brother, Private Jack Gogan, was killed in action on July 29 last year, and another brother, Private Roy Gogan, is fighting in France.

(*The W.A. Record*, Perth, W.A. – 2 June, 1917)

AUSTRALIANS AT THE FRONT

THE LATE PTE LAURENCE GOGAN

Mrs W. Gogan, of Kanowna, was on Friday informed of the death in hospital in England of her son, Pte Laurence Gogan, which occurred on July 11. Pte Gogan enlisted in Kanowna in February, 1916, and was 24 years of age at the time of his death. This is the third son Mr and Mrs Gogan have given to the Empire during the present war.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 24 July, 1918) & (*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – 30 July, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

GOGAN – In ever loving memory of our dear brothers, John Nathaniel (Jack), killed in action, July 29, 1916; Roy William (Spino), killed in action, October 12, 1917, and Lawrence, died on active service, July 11, 1918.

No loved ones stood around them

To bid a fond farewell;

No word of comfort could we give

To those we loved so well.

-Inserted by their loving sister and brother-in-law, K. and W. Collins, niece and nephews, Joe, Roy, and Jack.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 29 July, 1918)

W. A. Casualties

420TH CASUALTY LIST

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Gogan, Laurance, Kanowna, illness, previously reported died, cause not stated.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, W.A. – 3 August, 1918)

BEREAVMENT NOTICES

THANKS – Mr and Mrs Gogan, of Kanowna, wish to thank all kind friends for letters, cards, telegrams, and personal expressions of sympathy in the sad loss of their third son, Laurie (died of illness in hospital, England) on July 11th, 1918.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 14 August, 1918)

“OUR EMPIRE’S BOYS”

TRIBUTE BY ENGLISH LADY

KANOWNA FAMILY’S SACRIFICE

Top of Form

Mr. and Mrs. W. Gogan, of Kanowna, have received a letter from an English lady. Mrs. C. E. Ghirt, with reference to the death in an English hospital of their son; this being the third to make the supreme sacrifice.

The letter, written on July 14, from Stourbridge, Worcestershire, reads : “Dear Mrs Gogan,— I am writing to express my heartfelt sympathy on the death of your poor boy. I visited him in Wordsley Hospital, and thought it might interest you if I told you what I knew of him, and how he died. When I saw him last Wednesday he was unconscious, but I left him some lovely roses to cheer him when he regained consciousness, so he knew I had been. I believe he got worse when night set in that day, and was in very great pain. Morphia took no effect whatever, and he suffered much until he passed away at midday on July 11. Please try and let the thought comfort you, hard though it is, for we mothers don't like to see our children suffer, do we? It hurts so terribly. I've watched him gradually fade away, for I used to go every Sunday and Wednesday to see him. Last Sunday I took him some strawberries, and he seemed so pleased with them. I thought then he would not last long, for his eyes had such a far-away look in them, and his face had got

smaller. It hurt me to see his empty bed this afternoon, but, thank God, he is gone where there is no more pain — another hero whose life was given for freedom and liberty. Our Empire's boys have been indeed splendid, noble souls. Where should we have been in England, had they not so responded to their country's call?— treated as France, Belgium, and the other countries have been; but, thank God, they have saved us. Your boy will be laid to rest tomorrow in our beautiful little cemetery, where one sheltered corner is kept sacred to Australia's heroes. I hope to follow him for his mother's sake, and shall lay a few flowers on his grave, in his far-away mother's stead. When I can go up there I'll try and keep the grave tidy, as I know you would do if you were here, and I do hope that thought will comfort you. P.S. — I ought to have told you that your boy had every care and comfort, and that the sister and nurses were kindness itself. They felt always they could not do enough for him. He was always so patient; never a complaining word.'

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 20 September, 1918) & (*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – 24 September, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION



THE BROTHERS GOGAN

Of Kanowna, who have given their lives in the great war. In the centre is Private R. W. Gogan, killed in action on October 12, 1917; on his left is Private J. N. Gogan, killed in action on July 29, 1916, and on his right is Private Laurie Gogan, who died in England, after 20 months in France, on July 11, 1918. Mrs. Gogan received the following sympathetic note from Father Walter Bull, who attended Private Laurie Gogan in his last illness:—

"The Presbytery, Brierley Hill,

"Staffs, July 15th, 1918.

"Dear Mrs. Gogan,— No doubt you have already been officially informed of the death of your son Lawrence Gogan. I write to offer my sincere condolence and sympathy, and to assure you of the good disposition's of Lawrence in his

illness, and how edifying he was in his reception of the last rites of Holy Church, which I administered to him. It was only last Monday, July 8th, that I anointed him. Previously I had administered Holy Communion as his Viaticum. He was fortunate in having a most devoted Catholic nurse. This morning I said Mass for his soul, and this afternoon I performed the burial rites over his body. He was buried in a piece of land, specially reserved for Australian soldiers, in Stonbridge Cemetery (with military honours). In your loss and sorrow I feel sure it will be a consolation for you to get a word from the priest who attended him in his last illness. Wishing you all God's blessings and support. — Yours faithfully in Jesus Christ. WALTER P. BULL."

(*The W.A. Record*, Perth, W.A. – 9 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

GOGAN – In sad and loving memory of our dear son, Private Laurie Gogan, 11th Battalion, who died of illness in England 11th July, 1918.

Oh, how we pictured your safe return, dear Laurie,
And longed to clasp you in our arms;
But God has postponed our meeting
Till we meet in the better land.
Immaculate heart of Mary,
Your prayers for him extol;
Most sacred heart of Jesus,
Have mercy on his soul.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, brothers and sisters (Kanowna).

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 11 July, 1919) & (*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – 15 July, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

GOGAN – In sad and loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Private Lawrie Gogan, 11th Battalion; also Private J. N. (Jack) Gogan, 28th Battalion, killed in action in France, July 29th, 1916. And Roy (Spin) Gogan, 51st Battalion, killed in action, October 12, 1917, in France.

R.I.P.

-Inserted by their loving father, mother, brothers and sisters, Kanowna.

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – 13 July, 1920)

***Notices were also placed in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929 & 1930

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 L. Gogan does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*His Brothers Jack And Roy
Beloved Sons Of W. & M. Gogan Of Western Australia
Died In Action 1914-1918 War*

Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England

The cemetery contains 47 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war, (including those of 13 Australian soldiers, near which a Cenotaph is placed); and a War Cross is erected on the main roadway close to the entrance. The 1st Southern General Hospital had a Section in the Stourbridge Infirmary.

Most of the First World War burials are scattered but 17 form a small plot. The cemetery also contains 20 scattered burials of the Second World War and 1 Non World War burial here. *(Information from CWGC)*



(Photo by cookie – Find a Grave)



Australian Plot (Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)

Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus

Adjacent to the Plot where the 13 Australian WW1 War Graves are located sits a Sarcophagus Memorial (listed by CWGC above as a Cenotaph) which reads:

*“In Grateful Memory Of Our Comrades From
Overseas Who Died In The Stourbridge Military
Hospital During The Great War 1914-19.”*

The names of the 13 Australians are listed on the Plaque along with a Soldier from Canadian Contingent & 2 Soldiers from U.S.A.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus/Memorial
(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Arrow showing the Plot where Australian WW1 War Graves are located (Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)



Stourbridge Cemetery showing Australian WW1 War Graves *(Photos courtesy of Margaret Carter)*



Photo of Private L. Gogan's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)