

**All Souls Cemetery,
Kensal Green, London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2655 PRIVATE

E. G. GRAY

49TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND JANUARY, 1917 Age 24

Dearly Loved Son Of

Mr & Mrs Gray

Of Murgon, Qld

Ernest Gareth GRAY

Ernest Gareth Gray was born at Hughenden, North Queensland on 4th June, 1892 to parents William Robert and Mary Jane Gray (nee Maffey).

Ernest Gareth Gray attended Oxley School, Queensland.

The 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kennedy, subdivision of Herberton, Queensland listed Ernest Gareth Gray, Selector, of Ravenshoe.

Ernest Gareth Gray was a 24 year old, single, Scholar, from Ravenshoe, North Queensland when he enlisted at Cairns, Queensland on 20th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2655 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William Robert Gray, of Murgon, via Brisbane, Queensland.

Private Ernest Gareth Gray was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 27th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 49th Battalion on 16th July, 1916.

Private Ernest Gareth Gray embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 7th October, 1916 with the 49th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 21st November, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England.

Private Ernest Gareth Gray was admitted to Military Hospital, Endell Street on 16th December, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (Not yet determined). He was admitted for cough & loss of voice. The Hospital Admissions form shows that Pte Gray was not discharged, however several forms in his Service Record file state that he was discharged from Hospital on 28th December, 1916. The War Gratuity Schedule records incorrectly that Pte Gray was marched in to A.D.B.D. at Havre from Hospital in 8th July, 1917. Pte Gray was reported as seriously ill on 1st January, 1917.

Private Ernest Gareth Gray died on 2nd January, 1917 at Military Hospital, Endell Street, London, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Ernest Gray, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of St. Giles, London, England.



The Endell Street Military Hospital in London was opened in May 1915 by militant suffragists Dr Flora Murray and Dr Louisa Garrett Anderson. It was staffed entirely by women and over 5 years dealt with more than 26,000 patients.

Private Ernest Gareth Gray was buried at 9.45 am on 6th January, 1917 in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England – Plot number 22 (some forms have the grave no. altered to No. 3), Square 213, Row 8 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Doctor in Charge, Military Hospital, Endell Street, London wrote to Officer Commanding, Australian Imperial Force, Horseferry Road, London on 3rd January, 1917 to advise that the funeral of the late Private Ernest Gareth Gray would take place on Saturday at 9.45 am on 6th January, 1917 from the Hospital & “proceeding to Kensal Green Cemetery. The coffin has been ordered through Messrs Vigers and grave. Bearing and Firing Parties and Gun Carriage have been procured. Our Presbyterian Chaplain will officiate at the service, which will take place here.”

A letter was written from Base Records on 19th April, 1920 to Mr W. R. Gray. Murgon via Brisbane, Queensland, father of the late Pte E. G. Gray, advising that the remains of his son had been exhumed from the former site & re-interred in Grave No. 3 Section 174, Kensal Green Cemetery, London. The letter stated that “This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”

Private Ernest Gareth Gray was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Gray’s father – Mr W. R. Gray, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ernest Gareth Gray – service number 2655, aged 24, of 49th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Robert and Mary Jane Gray, of “Wanjillji”, Murgon, Queensland, Australia. Born at Hughenden, North Queensland.

E. G. Gray is remembered on the Murgon RSL Honour Board, located in Murgon RSL, Queensland.

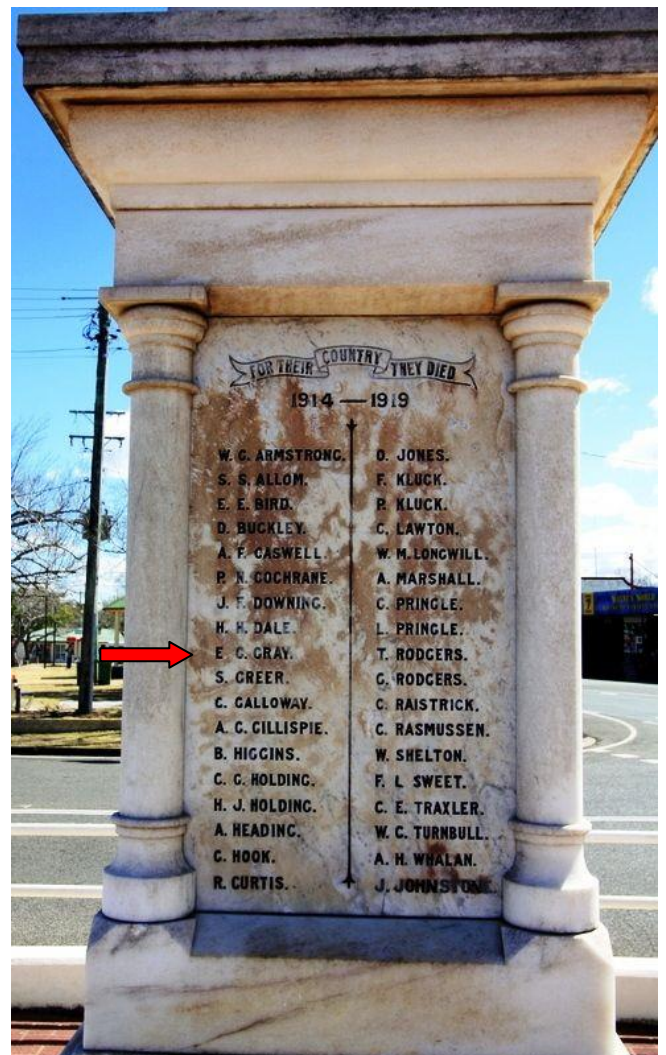


Murgon RSL Honour Board (Photo from Queensland War Memorial Register – Doug Tanner)

E. G. Gray is remembered on the Murgon War Memorial (Digger), located on Lamb & Gore Streets, Murgon, Queensland.



Murgon War Memorial (Digger) (Photos from Monument Australia – Fred Brunings)



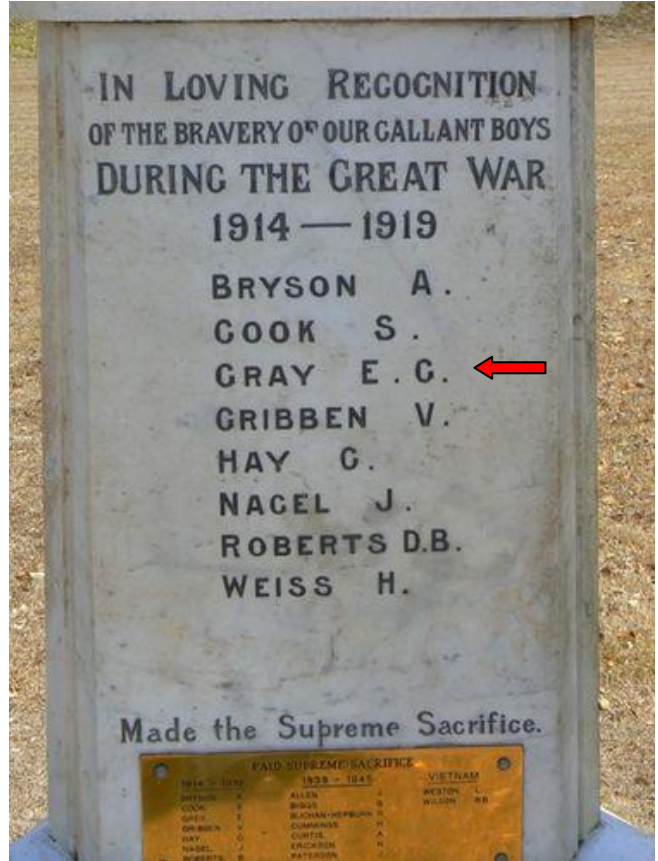
E. G. Gray is remembered on the Murgon Memorial Wall, located in Sir James Heading Memorial Park, Lamb & Gore Streets, Murgon, Queensland.



Murgon Memorial Wall (Photos from Monument Australia – Fred Brunings)



E. G. Gray is also remembered on the Ravenshoe War Memorial located in Ravenshoe Memorial Park, Monument & John Streets, Ravenshoe, Queensland.



Ravenshoe War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

Private E. G. Gray is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 148.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(47 pages of Private Ernest Gareth Gray'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



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte E. G. Gray, Murgon, 2/1/17

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 15 January, 1917)

PERSONAL NOTES

Mrs W. R. Gray, Waiyillji, Murgon, received the sad news on January 10 that her son Gareth had died on January 2, from pneumonia, in London. Private E. G. Gray left Brisbane early in October, and arrived in London on November 24. Mrs Gray's other son, George, who has been in France since June last, was well, and still doing his "bit" on October 28.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 17 January, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

GRAY – Died 2nd January, in Military Hospital, Endell-street, London, from pneumonia, Ernest Gareth, third and dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs W. R. Gray, Wanjildje, Murgon, aged 24 years.

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 27 January, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

GRAY – In loving memory of Private E. Garrett Gray, of Murgon, who died in London, January 2nd, 1917.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 2 January, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

GRAY – In loving memory of our dear son Gareth (Private E. G. Gray), 49th Battalion, A.I.F., died of pneumonia in England, January 2nd, 1917.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 4 January, 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)

Private E. G. Gray does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dearly Loved Son Of Mr & Mrs Gray Of Murgon, Qld

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green contains burials of both wars - 538. Half of the 482 First World War graves form a plot in the south-west section of the cemetery, the rest form small groups or are scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 5s Second World War graves are scattered. There are also 2 non war burials here. A screen wall in the First World War plot (Sect. 213) records the names of casualties of both wars whose graves could not be individually marked. Also recorded on the wall are the names of five servicemen whose remains were cremated in Kensal Green Crematorium.

(Information from CWGC)



All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green (Photo by Rodney Burton)



Cross of Sacrifice - All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green (Photo by Chris Doran)

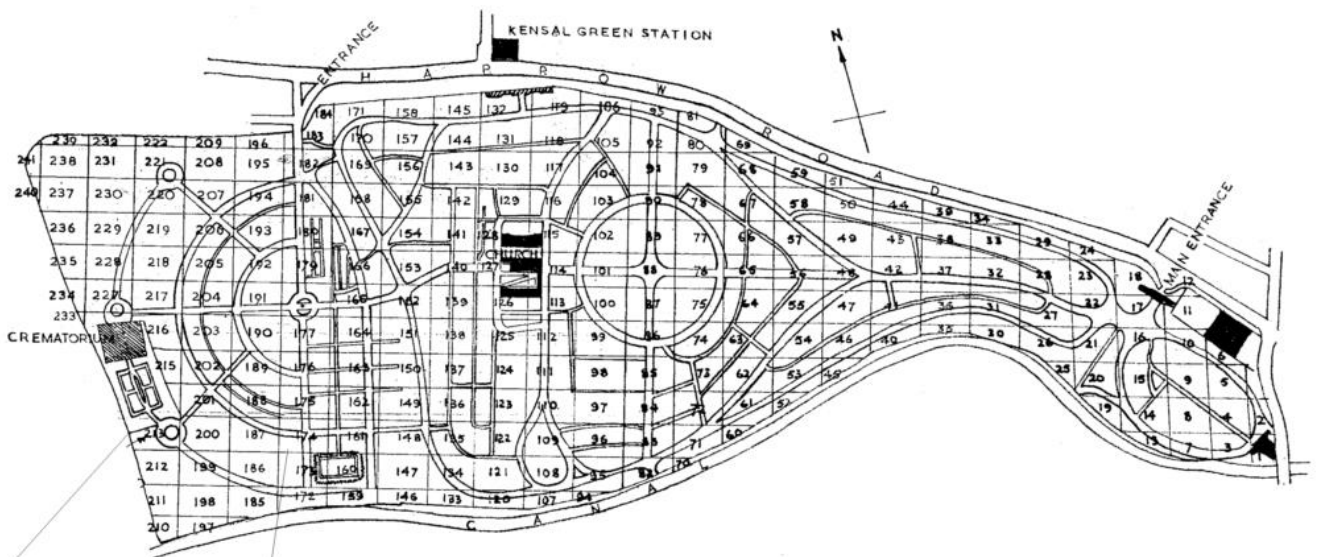
Photo of Private E. G. Gray's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Francios Greeff)



All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green (Photo courtesy of Francios Greeff)



Sect. 213 : Main U.K. and N.Z. Plot.
 Sect. 173 and 174 : Main Dominion Plot