

**Milton Cemetery,
Portsmouth, Hampshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



19773 GUNNER

H. GRAY

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

11TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 35

Hubert GRAY

Hubert Gray was born at Prahran, Victoria on 17th September, 1880 to parents John & Elizabeth Gray (nee Jago).

Hubert Gray attended Mr Rattans College, Glenferrie Road, Glenferrie, Victoria.

Elizabeth Gray (nee Jago(e)), mother of Hubert Gray, died in 1901 at Kew, Victoria.

Hubert Gray married Cora Isobel Robinson on 12th August, 1902 at Rosedale, Victoria.

Births were registered in Victoria for the following children born to Cora Isabel & Hubert Gray: 1903 – Kathleen Gray; 1905 – John Evelyn Gray (died 8th December, 1924); 1907 - Alma Gray & Arthur Joseph Gray (born 6th August, 1907); 1913 - Jessie Evelyn Gray.

The 1909, 1912 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Kew listed Hubert Gray, Engine Driver, & Cora Isabel, Home Duties, of 17 Edgevale Road, Kew, Victoria. Cora Gray was not listed with her husband for the 1914 Electoral Roll.

Hubert Gray was a 35 year old, married, Engine Driver from Whittlesea, Victoria when he enlisted on 22nd July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 19773 & his religion was Australian Church. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs C. I. Gray, Whittlesea P.O., Victoria. Hubert Gray stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with "I" Company, Rangers, Victoria.

Private Hubert Gray was posted to "D" Company, 12th Battalion at Ascot Vale on 16th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 4th Field Artillery Reinforcements as Gunner on 11th November, 1915. Gunner Gray was transferred to 3rd Battery, 8th Field Artillery Brigade on 1st April, 1916.

Gunner Hubert Gray embarked from Sydney, NSW* (*according to Embarkation Roll – AWM, however the Casualty Form – Active Service for Gunner Gray states he embarked from Melbourne, Victoria) on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 20th May, 1916 with the 8th Field Artillery Brigade, 30th Battery & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th July, 1916.

Gunner Hubert Gray was admitted to Royal Hospital Section of 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England on 18th August, 1916. The Medical Case Sheet reads: "*Patient complains of severe pain in the back, head (front & back) & eye-balls & aches generally all over, This condition has existed about 4 days. No sickness. Tongue furred. Temperature on admission 102.6.*" On August 19th-20th – "*Condition unchanged. Perspiring profusely.*" Gunner Gray was transferred to Milton Fever Hospital for observation as a case of suspected No. 5.

Gunner Hubert Gray was sent sick to 5th Southern General Hospital on 4th September, 1916.

Gunner Hubert Gray was transferred to 3rd Division Ammunition Column at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 23rd October, 1916.

The District Laboratory, Reception Station, Portsmouth reported on 3rd November, 1916 on a sample of Cerebro-spinal fluid of Sergt. Gray, Aust. Field Artillery which resulted in "*though insufficient for definite diagnoses are suggestive of a chronic meningitis of long duration, either tubercular or cerebro-spinal.*" Previous Pathology samples had been tested on 12th September, 1916 & 20th October, 1916.

Base Records advised Mrs Cora Gray on 19th October, 1916 that her husband was dangerously ill. Base Records advised Mrs Cora Gray on 6th November, 1916 that her husband's condition was reported as stationary.

Gunner Hubert Gray died at 3.45 am (according to Medical Case Sheet however, Morning State of Sick form has time of death as 4.10 am) on 11th November, 1916 at General Hospital, Portsmouth (Milton Military Section), Hampshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Herbert Gray, aged 36, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

Gunner Hubert Gray was buried at 2 pm on 14th November, 1916 in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England – Plot number and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Cora Isabell Gray, of Whittlesea, widow of the late Gunner Hubert Gray, 19773 in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 17th January, 1917. Pensions were also granted to the following children of Hubert Gray from 17th January, 1917: Kathleen Gray - £1 per fortnight; John E. Gray – 15/- per fortnight; Alma Gray - 10/- per fortnight; Arthur J. Gray - 10/- per fortnight & Jessie E. Gray – 10/- per fortnight.

A letter was sent from Base Records on 20th April, 1920 to Mrs C. I. Gray, Post Office, Whittlesea, Victoria, widow of the late Gunner H. Gray, advising that her husband's remains had been exhumed from the former site in Milton Cemetery & had been re-interred in Plot H. Row 19. Grave No. 9 in the same cemetery. It was explained that *"this work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain"*.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Hubert Gray contains a letter from Sister A. Clatworthy, Ward A. 9., Milton Infirmary, Military Avenue, Portsmouth which reads: *"Gray, H. 19773 Died of Wounds – In answer to your letter of Nov. 14th for information about the late Gunner Gray (19773) 8th Field Artillery Brigade. He was unconscious for 8 or 9 days, regaining consciousness at intervals, of short duration. He suffered a good deal of pain, in head and back of neck, the first part of illness, but had not spoken for some days before he died. His cousin, Miss Gray (Matron) of Harefield Park Hospital, visited him several times during his illness. I am sorry, but I cannot give you any information concerning his grave; only that he was buried in Milton Cemetery."*

Gunner Hubert 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 Gunner H. Gray's widow – Mrs C. Gray, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent May, 1923).

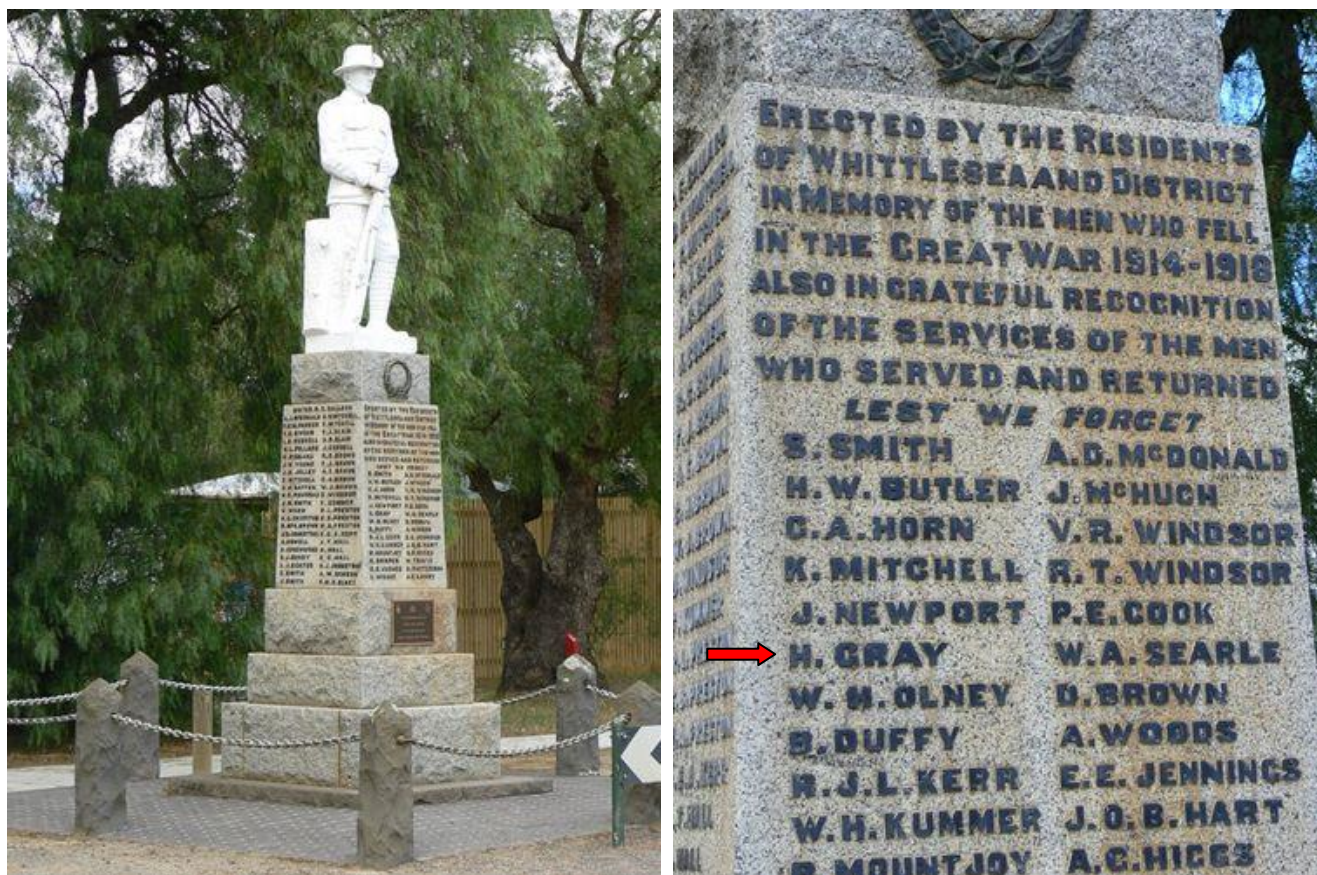
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Hubert Gray – service number 19773, aged 35, of 3rd Div. Ammunition Col., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of John and Jane Gray; husband of C. I. Gray, of Beech Street, Whittlesea, Victoria, Australia. Born at Prahran, Victoria.

Gunner H. 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 21.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. Gray is remembered on the Whittlesea War Memorial, located at Laurel & Church Streets, Whittlesea, Victoria.



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

(70 pages of Gunner Hubert 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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

239th CASUALTY LIST

DANGEROUSLY ILL

VICTORIA – H. Gray, Whittlesea.

(Leader, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 November, 1916)

THIS WEEK'S CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private H. Gray, Whittlesea.

(Northcote Leader, Victoria – 2 December, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

GRAY – Died of illness in England, November 11, 1916, Gunner Hubert Gray, only son of late John Gray, of Kew, Melbourne; husband of Cora I. Gray, Whittlesea, aged 35 years.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 November, 1916) & (The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 December, 1916)

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 13th July, 1921, to Mrs C. I. Gray, Post Office, Whittlesea, Victoria, widow of the late Gunner H. Gray, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband in Milton Cemetery 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.

Gunner H. Gray does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth contains 426 Commonwealth War Graves – 192 relating to World War 1 & 234 relating to World War 2. There are 12 Australian War Graves from World War 1 in this cemetery.

It was opened in 1911, and contains war graves of both World Wars. The 1914-1918 burials are mainly in Plot 1. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on the northern side of the chapel in honour of all the servicemen buried in the cemetery. The 1939-1945 War burials are widely spread throughout the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Cemetery Chapel at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by Basher Eyre)*



Australian War Graves in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by Mr Peter Bennett)*

Photo of Gunner H. Gray's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers)