

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**94 PRIVATE**

**V. F. GREEN**

**8TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE**

**19TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 29**

## Valentine Francis GREEN

Valentine Francis Green was born at Maffra, Victoria on 16th February, 1887 to parents Joseph Josiah & Matilda Frances Green (nee Downing – as listed on Victorian Births, Deaths & Marriages website).

Valentine Francis Green attended St. Mary's School, Bairnsdale, Victoria.

The 1908 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Bairnsdale, Victoria recorded Valentine Francis Green, Labourer, of Francis St., Bairnsdale. His parents Joseph Josiah Green, Blacksmith & Matilda Frances Green, Home duties were also listed as Francis St, Bairnsdale.

The 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Bairnsdale, Victoria recorded Valentine Francis Green, Labourer, of McCulloch St, Bairnsdale. Marinette Jane Green (Valentine's sister), Dressmaker was also listed at McCulloch St, Bairnsdale.

Valentine Francis Green married Martha Jane Johnson in 1914. A birth was registered for a daughter – Valenia Frances Green in 1915 in the district of Bairnsdale, Victoria. Valenia was born on 29th March, 1915.

Valentine Francis Green was a 26 year old, single\*, Coach Painter from Bairnsdale, Victoria when he enlisted on 22nd September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – J. Green, McCulloch Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria. (\*Note: Valentine replied "No" to the question "Are you married?" on his Attestation Papers)

Private Valentine Francis Green was posted to 8th Light Horse Regiment on 22nd September, 1914.

Private (rank as per Embarkation Roll) Valentine Francis Green, Service number 94, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 25th February, 1915 with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. 8th Light Horse Regiment "A" Squadron.

Private Valentine Francis Green embarked from Alexandria on 16th May, 1915 for Gallipoli on HMT *Menominee*. He was transferred to Machine Gun Section on 28th May, 1915.

Private Valentine Francis Green reported sick at Gallipoli Peninsula on 26th September, 1915 & was admitted the same day to Hospital Ship *Gascon* with Acute Rheumatism. He disembarked at Malta on 2nd October, 1915. Private Green was admitted to General Hospital at Gibraltar on 8th October, 1915 with an injury to his joints. He embarked for England on 25th October, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Ballarat*.

### 8th Light Horse Regiment

The regiment that would eventually become the 8th Light Horse Regiment was formed at Broadmeadows camp in Victoria on 23 September 1914 as the 6th Light Horse Regiment. A reorganisation of the rapidly expanding AIF in early October resulted in the 6th being renumbered the 8th, and it became part of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. It sailed from Melbourne on 24 February 1914 and arrived in Egypt on 14 March 1915.

The light horse were considered unsuitable for the initial operations at Gallipoli, but were subsequently deployed without their horses. The 3rd Light Horse Brigade landed in late May 1915 and was attached to the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 8th formed the first two waves for the Brigade's disastrous attack on the Nek on 7 August and suffered heavily. Exhausted and under-strength, the regiment then played a defensive role until it finally left the peninsula on 20 December 1915.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Olive Williams, 197 Little Malop Street, Geelong, wrote to Base Records on 5th October, 1915 with the following letter: "I wish to enquire as to the whereabouts of a friend attached to the 8th L. Horse. He is a particular friend of the family & we heard from him regularly until the last two mails as we would be pleased if you could inform us at your earliest convenience if you have heard anything concerning him. His address is No 94 Trooper V. F. Green, B Troop, A Squadron, 8th Light Horse, 3rd L. H. Brigade."

Base Records replied to Mrs O. Williams on 10th October, 1915 advising "...that no official report has been received concerning No. 94 Private V. F. Green, but, should any information come to hand, the next of kin shown on his enlistment papers will be immediately notified."

Private Valentine Francis Green was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital, Maudlin St, Bristol, England on 31st October, 1915.

Mr J. Green, McCulloch Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 12th November, 1915 that his son Private V. F. Green had been admitted to Hospital at Bristol suffering from Rheumatism and Hammer Toe.

Private Valentine Francis Green was absent for 7 days. He was awarded 7 days detention on 7th April, 1916 & a total forfeiture of 14 days pay.

Private Valentine Francis Green was AWL (Absent without Leave) from 17th April, 1916 to 13th July, 1916 at Abbeywood, England. He was awarded 28 days Detention & a total forfeiture of 115 days' pay.

Private Valentine Francis Green was written up by the No.1 Command Depot for "*conduct to prejudice of good order & military discipline in that he made a false statement with intent to deceive.*" He was absent from Defaulters Roll Call from 7 am to 2.30 pm on 25th July, 1916 & forfeited 3 days' pay.

Private Valentine Francis Green reported sick on 23rd November, 1916 while posted at No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire. He was transferred on 24th November, 1916 from Brigade Hospital & was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford with V.D. on 25th November, 1916. Private Green was transferred to Parkhouse on 4th January, 1917 & discharged from Parkhouse on 31st January, 1917, Total V.D – 69 days.

Private Valentine Francis Green was reported to be absent from No. 1 Command Depot on 31st January, 1917. He was declared an Illegal Absentee by a Court of Inquiry held on 7th April, 1917.

Private Valentine Francis Green was in England on 7th April, 1917. He was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot on 13th April, 1917 from being an illegal absentee.

A District Court Martial was held at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 3rd May, 1917 regarding Private Valentine Francis Green & his forfeitures, Crimes & V.D. etc.

- Charge - A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from Perham Downs from 31st January, 1917 until apprehended in Hut 34 on Command Depot on 12th April, 1917.
- Finding – Guilty
- Sentence – To be imprisoned with Hard Labour for 9 months from 3rd May, 1917.
- Confirmation – "*Sentenced to 4 months detention by D.C.M. on 3-5-17. The unexpired portion of the above sentence (17) days is remitted as from 16-8-17 by good conduct.*"

Private Valentine Francis Green was marched out to Wandsworth for Detention on 15th May, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

Private Valentine Francis Green was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 16th August, 1917 from Wandsworth. He was admitted to No. 1 Convalescent Depot on 20th August, 1917 & medically classified as B1 A4 (fit for Overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit).

Private Valentine Francis Green was AWL from No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire. He was declared an illegal absentee by a Court of Enquiry held at Perham Downs on 18th September, 1917. A later report showed that he had been admitted to Mile End Military Hospital on 26th September, 1917 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). "*No D.A. has been or will be taken in view of the above.*" (D.A. = Direct action)

Base Records advised J. Green, McCulloch Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria on 11th October, 1917 that Private Valentine Green was dangerously ill. A follow up communication on the same day advised that Private Valentine Green had been admitted to Mile End Military Hospital, London on 2nd October with Pneumonia & his condition was dangerous.

Trooper Valentine Francis Green died at 1.45 pm on 19th October, 1917 at Mile End Military Hospital, Bancroft Road, Mile End, East London, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Valentine F. Green, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Mile End Old Town, London, England.

Trooper Valentine Francis Green was buried at 1.30 pm on 23rd October, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179917.

*From the burial report of Trooper Valentine Francis Green - Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. Firing Party, Bugler and Bearers were supplied by Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. Chaplain Hoare, A.I.F. Headquarters conducted the service at the graveside. The coffin was draped with the "Australian Flag" and the "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. No relatives were present. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

Trooper Valentine Francis Green's burial place is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. C. 24. Trooper Valentine Francis Green now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

*[Note: Valentine Francis Green is referred to on some forms as Trooper & other forms as Private. I have recorded him as the rank as shown on the different forms & organisations]*

A War Pension was granted to Martha Jane Green, McCulloch St., Bairnsdale, widow of the late Private Valentine Francis, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 26th December, 1917. A pension was also granted for his daughter – Valenia Frances Green in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 26th December, 1917.

A parcel containing the personal effects of the late Private V. F. Green were signed for (as receipt) by J. Green, father of Private V. F. Green, on 4th May, 1918. A second package was signed for by J. Green on 25th February, 1920.

Base Records contacted Mr J. Green, McCulloch Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria on 15th June, 1921 stating that the *"late No. 94 Private V. F. Green, 8th Light Horse Regiment, enlisted as a single man, recording you as next of kin, but it is noted from the file that he left a widow and child. As I desire to dispose of War Medals etc., issuable on account of the abovementioned late soldier's service according to the instructions under the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which prescribe that these items must go to the next of kin in the following order of relationship unless good and sufficient reasons for varying the procedure are stated for the consideration of the Minister:- "Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, ....." I shall be obliged if you will advise me whether there are any reasons why the War Medals etc., should not be handed to deceased's widow. Any statement you may care to make that would affect their disposal should be embodied in the form of a Statutory Declaration signed before a J.P. Thanking you in anticipation of the favour of an early reply – I am holding the matter open for 14 days from this date."*

The above letter was stamped with the following *"No reply. Gratuity has been paid to soldier's widow. War Medals & To Widow. J.M. 22/7/21"*

A slip of paper in the Service Record file of Trooper Valentine Francis Green reads: *"Notice prepared for Press 20/10/22."* (This occurred when the next of kin of a soldier could not be located).

Base Records wrote to Repat. Department in December, 1922 advising: *"It is noted that a pension has been granted to Mrs M. J. Green on account of the service of her husband, No. 94 Private Valentine Francis GREEN, 8th Light Horse Regiment, and I shall be obliged if you can furnish me with her present address, as communications to McCulloch Street, Bairnsdale, Vic., have been returned unclaimed. If the widow's pension has been cancelled for any reason, can you forward me the address of soldier's daughter."*

The following address was handwritten on the above letter *"7 Carrot Road, Elsternwick."*

Base Records wrote to Deputy Commission, Department of Repatriation, Melbourne, Victoria on 6th July 1923 stating *"it is noted from Pension Statement No. 544, dated 17.12.17, that Mrs M. J. Green, and Miss V. F. Green, widow and daughter of the late No. 94 Private V. F. Green, 8th Light Horse Regiment, are in receipt of Pensions and*

*I shall be much obliged if you can furnish me with a later address for the widow than:- 7 Carrot Street, Elsternwick, Victoria. This address was supplied to you in December last, but communications forwarded there have been returned unclaimed.....”*

The Deputy Commission, Department of Repatriation, Melbourne, Victoria replied to Base Records on 18th July, 1923 advising: “...I have to inform you that no later address than No. 7 Carrol Road, Elsternwick, is known of the widow.....Mrs Green is trustee for the pension of V. F. Green, payable on P.C. 95519 at Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.”

Base Records wrote to The Officer Paying Pensions, Post Office, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, Victoria on 25th July, 1923 with the following: “I understand that Mrs M. J. Green is drawing a pension (Certificate No. 95519) at the undermentioned Post Office on behalf of Miss V. F. Green, daughter of the late No. 94 Private V. F. Green, 8th Light Horse Regiment, and shall be much obliged if you can furnish me with Mrs Green’s present address. If this is unknown to you I shall be glad if you will request Mrs Green, the next time she calls to collect her pension, to communicate with me as soon as possible, as I desire to be in a position to dispose of the War Medals issuable on account of the late soldier’s service.”

A Statutory Declaration was signed on 13th December, 1923 by Mrs M. J. Green, residing at 49 Main Street, Coburg, Victoria, “do solemnly and sincerely declare that at the date of this Declaration, I have not received, nor have I any knowledge of the receipt of the Memorial Scroll issued in connexion with the late No. 94 Private V.F. GREEN, 8th Light Horse Regiment, Australian Imperial Force, and I further undertake, should the original Scroll eventually come to hand, to immediately return one of the Scrolls to the Department of Defence.”

Trooper Valentine Francis Green was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. The 1914/15 Star & British War Medal were signed for as receipt by M. J. Green on 9th August, 1923. A note was made that the Victory Medal was sent by Registered Post on 23rd September, 1922 but was returned unclaimed. The Victory Medal was resent on 22nd January, 1923 but also returned unclaimed. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Green’s widow - Mrs M. J. Green, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll was sent August, 1921 & a new Scroll was despatched December, 1923. The Plaque was sent September, 1922 & re-despatched January, 1923. The Plaque & Scroll were signed for as receipt by M. J. Green on 9th August, 1923.)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Trooper Valentine Francis Green – service number 94, aged 29, of 8th Australian Light Horse. He was the son of Joseph & Matilda Green, of McCulloch St., Bairnsdale, Victoria.

Trooper V. F. Green is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 6.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*



V. Green is remembered on the Bairnsdale Primary School Roll of Honour, located in Bairnsdale Primary School No. 754, Main Street (Princes Highway) & McCulloch Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria.



Bairnsdale Primary School Roll of Honour (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

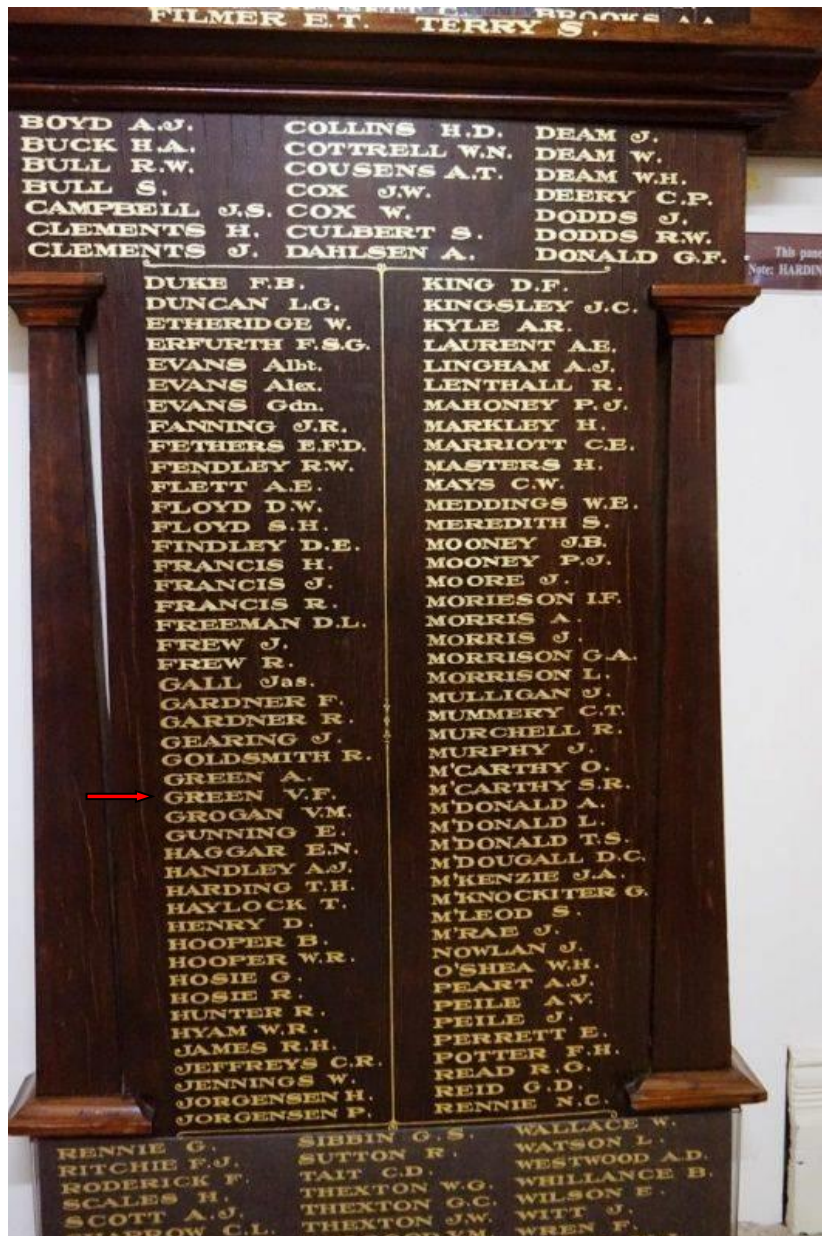




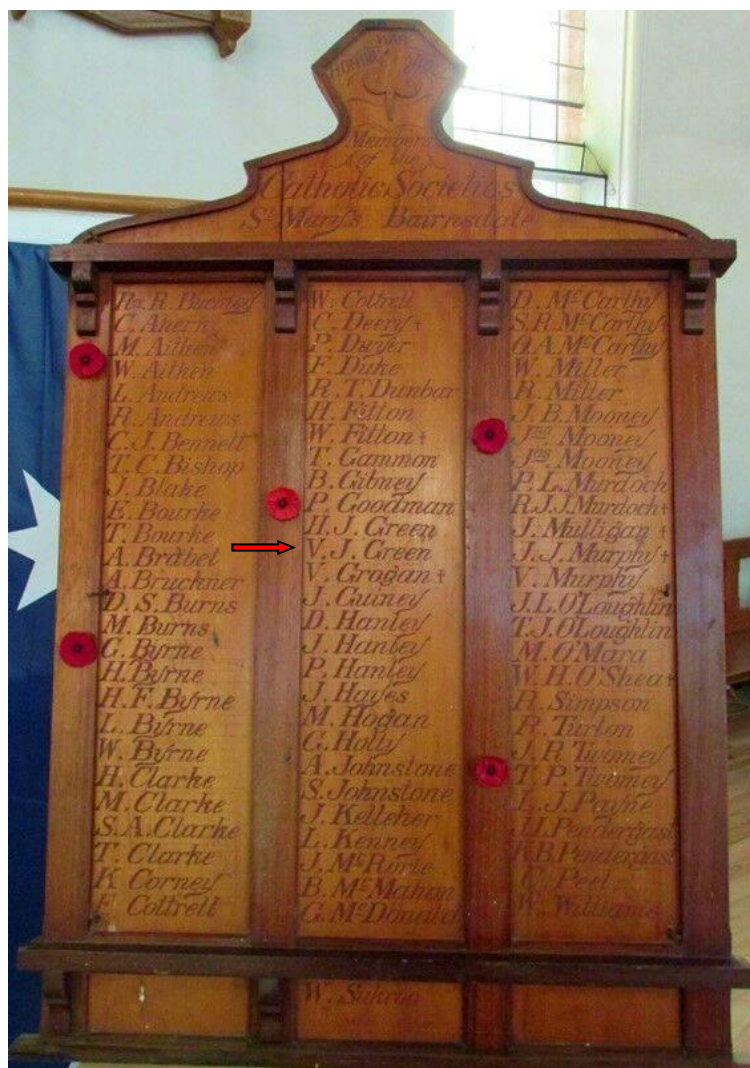
V. F. Green is remembered on the Shire of Bairnsdale Roll of Honour, located in East Gippsland Historical Society Museum, 40 Macarthur Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria.



Shire of Bairnsdale Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



V. J. Green is remembered on the Catholic Societies of St. Mary's Bairnsdale Honour Roll, located in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Pyke & Mains Streets, Bairnsdale, Victoria.



**Catholic Societies of St. Mary's Bairnsdale Honour Roll** (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

The Bairnsdale Cenotaph, located on median strip on Main Street (Princes Highway), near the Service Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria does not list individual names.



**The Bairnsdale Cenotaph** (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(70 pages of Trooper Valentine Francis Green'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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **BAIRNSDALE AND THE WAR**

NUMBER OF ENLISTMENTS, 330

Bairnsdale and district has responded nobly to the call to arms, as will be seen from the list of volunteers given below.....

Valentine Francis Green

.....

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 21 July, 1915)*

---

From the battlefields there have come stories of remarkable coincidences of soldiers' relatives meeting in the fighting line unexpectedly, and such was the experience of the Green brothers, sons of Mr and Mrs J. Green, of McCulloch street, Bairnsdale. The two brothers, Private V. F. Green and Private O. Green, were engaged in trench fighting, and when advancing to another trench, as one of them stepped into the evacuation, he was not a little surprised to meet his brother, whom he had not seen since leaving Australia.

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 28 July, 1915)*

---

### **AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**

#### **115th CASUALTY LIST**

VICTORIA

ILLNESS

V. F. Green.....

*(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 26 November, 1915)*

---

#### **Gippsland Soldiers**

In the casualty list issued on Thursday Pte M. Kenworthy, Bairnsdale, previously reported ill, is returned as wounded and in hospital at Alexandria....Pte V. F. Green, Bairnsdale, is ill in Alexandria.....

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 27 November, 1915)*

---

## DEATH

GREEN – On the 19th October, 1917, at Mile End Military Hospital, England, died from Pneumonia, Trooper Valentine Francis Green, beloved husband of Martha J. Green, and father of Valenia Frances; aged 30 years.

“He heard the Call.”

GREEN – Died from pneumonia, on October 19, at Mile End Military Hospital, England, Trooper Valentine Francis Green, beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Green, McCulloch street, Bairnsdale, brother of Marinett, Joseph, Harold (on active service), Alma and Albert; aged 30 years.

“Our brave and noble boy.”

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 7 November, 1917)*

---

## DEATHS

### On Active Service

GREEN – On the 19th October, 1917, at Mile End Military Hospital, England, from Pneumonia, Trooper Valentine Francis Green, dearly loved husband of Martha Jane, and father of Valinea Frances, of McCulloch St., Bairnsdale, aged 30 years.

GREEN - On the 19th October, 1917, at Mile End Military Hospital, England, from Pneumonia, Trooper Valentine Francis Green, beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Green, and loved brother of Marinette, Joseph, Harold (on active service), Alma and Albert, and brother-in-law to Frances and Hilda. Aged 30 years.

*(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 8 November, 1917)*

---

## BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr and Mrs J. Green and family desire to return sincere thanks to Rev. Father Cremin, Mrs J. Pearson, and all other kind friends for expressions of sympathy, letters and cards during their recent sad bereavement.

Mrs V. F. Green, McCulloch st. Bairnsdale, desires to return sincere thanks to Rev. Father Cremin, members of the C.Y.M.S., and all other friends for their kind expressions of sympathy during her recent sad bereavement – the death of her husband on active service.

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 10 November, 1917)*

---

## DEATHS

### On Active Service

GREEN – A tribute to the memory of V. F. green, who died at Military Hospital, England, 19th Oct. 1917.

‘Twas in August ’14, and the War had begun

When Val. Said to me, “Can’t we shoulder a gun,”

“Very well,” said I, “If it’s us they require,

We will lend them a hand to hoist the flag higher.”

To camp and abroad both together we went

Scarcely ever apart, until home I was sent.

No one knows what a dear pal that Val. Was to me,  
And some day I hope he'll be brought home o'er the sea.

-Inserted by his mate W. T. Saunders, late Sergeant, 8th Light Horse, Bairnsdale.

*(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 15 November, 1917)*

---

Mr and Mrs J. Green, of McCulloch street, Bairnsdale have received the following letter from Major. J. McLean, Base Records, Melbourne: -"With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late Pte. V. F. Green, 8th Light Horse Regiment, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died of pneumonia on 19/10/17 at Mile End Military Hospital, London, and was buried in the Brookwood cemetery at 1.30 p.m. on 23/10/17, Chaplain Hoare officiating. The deceased soldier was accorded a military funeral. A firing party, buglers and bearers were supplied by the administrative headquarters, London. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag and the Last Post was sounded at the graveside. No relatives were present. An oak cross will be erected by, the A.I.F.

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 12 January, 1918)*

---

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **(On Active Service)**

GREEN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Trooper V. F. Green, 8th Light Horse, who died Oct. 1917, at Mile End Military Hospital, England.

God's will be done

Tho' hearts may break,

'Twas His to give.

'Twas His to take.

-Inserted by his parents, sisters, brothers and sisters-in-law.

R.I.P.

GREEN – In loving memory of my dear husband, Trooper V. F. Green, 8th Light Horse, who died Oct., 1917, at Mile End Military Hospital, England.

"He has gone, but is not forgotten."

-Inserted by his loving wife and daughter, Valenia.

R.I.P.

*(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 19 October, 1918)*

---



### 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 V. F. Green 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.

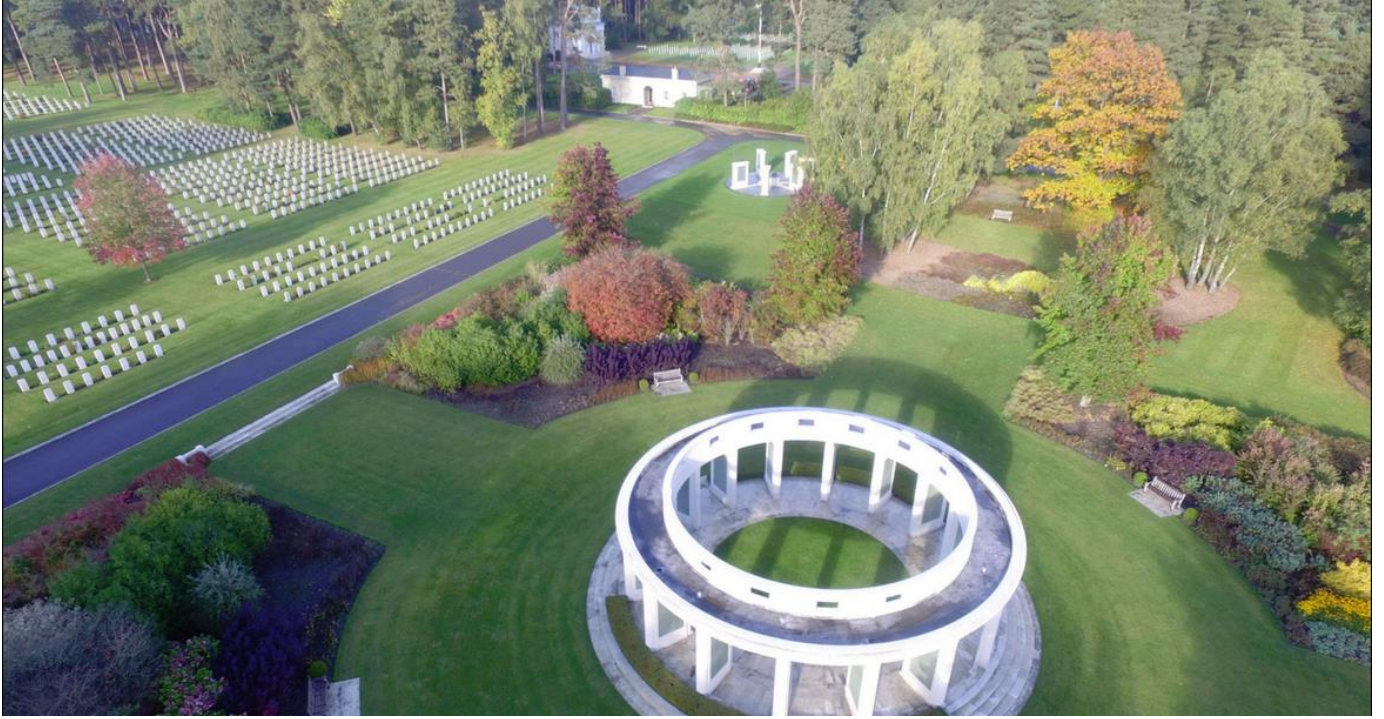


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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)





**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 V. F. Green's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

