

**Locksbrook Cemetery,
Bath, Somerset, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6515 PRIVATE

C. GREGORY

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

29TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 58

Charles GREGORY

Charles Gregory was born at Buckfastleigh, Devonshire, England to mother Mary Gregory.

[Note: due to the discrepancy of Charles Gregory's age – death registered as aged 39; age on CWGC headstone as 58, plus the common name - it is very difficult to be able to find information regarding his date of birth & any Census records in England & be sure that it is accurate.]

[A "Charles Gregory" was baptised on 15th July, 1880 in the parish of Buckfastleigh, Devon, England. His parents were listed as Joseph & Mary Gregory, of Buckfastleigh with Joseph being listed as a Miner.]

Charles Gregory stated he was a 37 year old, single, Groom from Belmont, Western Australia when he enlisted on 21st March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6515 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Gregory, Welshpool, Western Australia.

Private Charles Gregory was posted to 63rd Depot on 18th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 21st Reinforcements of 16th Battalion on 3rd May, 1916.

Private Charles Gregory embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suffolk (A23)* on 13th October, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 16th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 12th December, 1916. (Casualty Form – Active Service has recorded that Private Gregory embarked from Fremantle on "*A39 Pt Macquarie*"; Embarkation Roll has he embarked on *Suffolk (A23)*).

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 Charles Gregory was marched in to 4th Training Battalion on Codford, Wiltshire, England on 12th December, 1916.

Private Charles Gregory proceeded overseas for France via Folkestone on 8th February, 1917 on S.S. *Princess Victoria*.

Private Charles Gregory was marched in the 4th Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 9th February, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 11th February, 1917 & was taken on strength of 16th Battalion from Reinforcements in the Field on 13th February, 1917.

Private Charles Gregory was transferred to 14th Battalion on 17th June, 1917 in Belgium. He was reallocated a Regiment number of 6515A (an "A" was added to his Regimental number due to duplication of numbers).

14th Battalion

Along with most of the 4th Brigade, the battalion suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. It spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium, advancing to the Hindenburg Line.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Gregory was transferred back to 16th Battalion on 1st September, 1917.

Private Charles Gregory was wounded in action on 22nd September, 1917. He was admitted to 47th Casualty Clearing Station on 22nd September, 1917 with a bomb wound to back & foot. Private Gregory was transferred & admitted to 2nd Canadian General Hospital in France on 1st October, 1917 with wounds to back & ankle. He was transferred to England on a Hospital Ship on 8th October, 1917.

16th Battalion

The 16th Battalion AIF was raised from 16 September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia, and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The battalion spent much of 1917 in Belgium advancing to the Hindenburg Line. The battalion, along with most of the 4th Brigade, suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April, when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 16th Battalion

Steenvoorde – 20th September, 1917 - Battalion marched to Steenvoorde, arriving at Billets at 2 pm.

Ypres – 22nd September, 1917 - Battalion moved to the Canal Area, Ypres, where they bivouacked in an open field for the night.

Ypres – 23rd September, 1917 – Battalion relieved the 22nd Battalion in the Support line.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Gregory was admitted to Bath War Hospital, Somerset, England on 11th October, 1917 with bomb wounds to back & left ankle. The Hospital Admissions form lists only Tetanus as the reason for being admitted.

Private Charles Gregory died at 2 am on 29th October, 1917 at Bath War Hospital, Somerset, England from wounds received in action – Bomb wound perforating left ankle joint and lacerated wound over lower ribs (left posterior) & Tetanus.

A death for Charles Gregory, aged 39, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Bath, Somerset, England.

Private Charles Gregory was buried at 2.30 pm on 31st October, 1917 in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England – Plot number C.E.89 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Charles Gregory - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The Firing Party, Band and Bearers were supplied by members of the A.S.C. stationed at Bath. A service was conducted at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. D. Pring, C. of E. Chaplain to the Hospital. The "Last Post" was sounded by a Bugler of the A.S.C. No relatives were present at the funeral, but it was attended by a large number of Australian patients from the Hospital. Wreaths sent by the Sisters & Nurses of "A", "B" and "C" Wards and one from the Australian Patients in Hospital, were placed on the grave. The sum of £10 has been collected from A.I.F. patients in order that a permanent memorial may be erected. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Private Charles Gregory was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Gregory's widowed mother – Mrs M. Gregory, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent 2nd December, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1923 to Private Gregory's eldest brother – Mr W. J. Gregory as his mother had died on 11th May, 1920.). The Victory Medal was also issued to Private Gregory's eldest brother – Mr W. J. Gregory.

Base Records wrote to Mr W. J. Gregory, Post Office, Queen's Park, Western Australia in July, 1933: *"Through the kind instrumentality of Mrs Crowle of 2 Johnstone Street, Bath, England, I am again forwarding you as next-of-kin of the late No. 6515 Private C. Gregory, 16th Battalion, a copy of the "Bath and Wilts Chronicle and Herald" featuring this year's Commemoration Service on Anzac Day at Bath (Locksbrook) Cemetery, which I trust comes safely to hand."* [See examples below after headstone photo.] The letter was returned unclaimed.

A slip of paper in the Service Record file for Private Charles Gregory has the following: *"Bath Herald" Newspaper of 26th April, 1924 Despatched to N.O.K. 11.7.24" & the following dates "Again 26.6.25" "Again 29.6.27" "Again 5.7.1928" " 21.6.1930."*

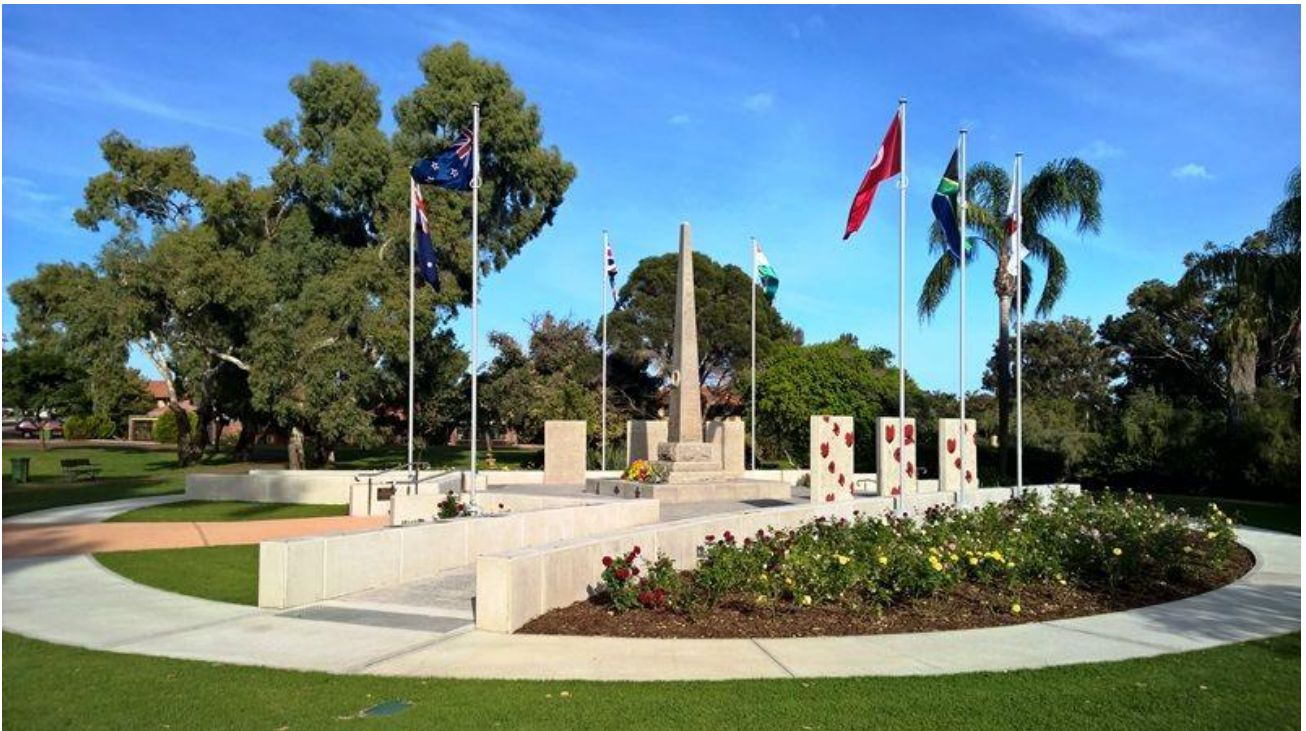
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private C. Gregory – service number 6515, aged 58, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private C. Gregory is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 79.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Gregory is remembered on the Belmont War Memorial, located in Faulkner Park, Progress Way, Belmont, Western Australia.



Belmont War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Belmont War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

C. Gregory 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

(46 pages of Private Charles Gregory'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

344th LIST

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WOUNDED

Chas. Gregory, Welshpool

(The Sun, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 28 October, 1917)

KILLED IN ACTION

GREGORY – In affectionate remembrance of Private Charles Gregory, who died of wounds received somewhere in France, dearly beloved friend and companion of Harry, Lou., Fred, Ethel, Ernie, Frank and Jack Towton, and sincere friend of Mr and Mrs Hutchinson.

None knew him but to love him,

None spoke of his name but with praise.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 16 November, 1917)

KILLED IN ACTION

GREGORY – In affectionate remembrance of Private Charles Gregory, who died of wounds received somewhere in France, dearly beloved friend and companion of Harry, Lou., Fred, Ethel, Ernie, Frank and Jack Towton, and sincere friend of Mr and Mrs Hutchinson.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 23 November, 1917)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

The 359th list of casualties.....

DIED OF WOUNDS

Charles Gregory, Welshpool, previously reported wounded.

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 30 November, 1917)



PTE C. GREGORY

(Died of wounds, Mother resides at Queens Park)

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 11 January, 1918)

MISCELLANEOUS

Mrs M. Gregory, of Welshpool, has received news of the death of her son, Private Charles Gregory, as the result of wounds received in action. The deceased soldier, who enlisted with the A.I.F. in April, 1916, died in the Bath Hospital and was interred with full military honours in a special part of Locksbrook Cemetery set apart for Australian soldiers.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 1 February, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GREGORY – In loving memory of my dear son, Private Charles, who died of wounds in Bath Hospital, England, on October 29, 1917.

I leave the world without a tear,
Save from the friends I hold so dear.
To heal their sorrows Lord descend,
And to the friendless prove a friend.

Inserted by his loving mother, Mary Gregory, Welshpool.

GREGORY – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Charles, who died of wounds in Bath Hospital, England, on October 29, 1917.

A hero at rest.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Will and Maria.

GREGORY – In affectionate remembrance of Private Charles Gregory, who died of wounds on October 29, 1917, received somewhere in France, dearly beloved friend and companion of Harry, Lou., Fred., Ethel, Ernie, Frank and Jack Towton.

We loved him most who knew him best.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GREGORY – In affectionate remembrance of Private Charles Gregory, who died of wounds on October 29, 1917, received somewhere in France, dearly-beloved friend and companion of Ethel Towton and brother.

We loved him most who knew him best.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 October, 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 C. Gregory does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England

Bath (Locksbrook) Cemetery contains 90 First World War graves, 44 of which (mainly from the war hospital) form a plot. The 32 Second World War graves are scattered throughout the cemetery.

(Information & War Graves photo below from CWGC)

The following extract of a letter from Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, to Base Records, Melbourne, in July, 1918 was found in the Service Record file of the late Driver John McClymont, 3612, who was buried in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath on 12th October, 1917. He was the first of seven Australians who ended up being buried in Locksbrook Cemetery. The letter reads: "*Late 3612 Dvr McClymont, J. 1st Bde Hqrs, late 2nd Bn, A.I.F – The Municipal Corporation of the City of Bath, which is the Burial Authority for the Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, has very generously placed at the disposal of the A.I.F. in the finest part of the Cemetery a little Australian plot of 8 graves*

free of charge. Prior to this the local Undertaker who was charged by the Hospital upon instructions of these Headquarters to procure a separate single grave in virgin soil made a selection in a portion of the Cemetery that did not appeal to the representative of these Headquarters who attended the funeral. Accordingly, after discussion with our representative the Corporation offered us the little Australian plot which has been appreciatively accepted.

The Town Clerk and Superintendent of the Cemetery further undertook that, subject to our obtaining the necessary licence from the Home Office, the Cemetery Authority would exhume the body of McClymont from the unsuitable position in which it was buried and re-inter it in the Australian Section.

The licence having been readily accorded, the Corporation has now carried their promise into effect,.....”



War Graves in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

www.banes.photography



www.banes.photography

Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath (Photos by Colin Peachey – Find a Grave)

www.banes.photography



www.banes.photography

Photo of Private C. Gregory's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England. (Note: Incorrect age)



(Photo by Michael Day)

The following photo was forwarded to me in April, 2022 of the new headstone for Private C. Gregory in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England showing his correct age.



(Photo from CWGC)



World War 1 War Graves in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath (Photo by Rwendland)

ANZAC CEREMONIES IN LOCKSBROOK CEMETERY

ANZAC DAY AT BATH (Eng.)



Scene at Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, where a service was held over the graves of Driver McClymont and Pte F. Gregory, on Anzac Day. Among those present were Chaplain H. W. and Mrs. Doudney. The lady who forwarded the photo, states that the men commemorated at Bath were South Australians.

Scene at Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, where a service was held over the graves of Driver McClymont and Pte F. Gregory, on Anzac Day. Among those present were Chaplain H. W. and Mrs. Doudney. The lady who forwarded the photo. States that the men commemorated at Bath were South Australians.

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 July, 1918) (courtesy of Bill Durrant)

ANZAC PILGRIMAGE IN BATH



Sunday last was Anzac Day, the fifth anniversary of the landing of the 29th Division in Gallipoli. The above picture depicts the scene at Locksbrook Cemetery, where wreaths and flowers were laid on the graves of the Anzacs who died in the Bath War Hospital. All photos "Bath Weekly Chronicle"

(Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Somerset, England – 1 May, 1920)

FALLEN ANZACS

IMPESSIVE SERVICE AT LOCKSBROOK CEMETERY

Sunday was Anzac Day, the fifth anniversary of the landing of the 29th Division in Gallipoli, and it was fittingly celebrated by memorial services in many churches in honour of the officers and men who fell in that desperate enterprise. Wreaths and flowers were placed on the graves of Australians and New Zealanders who died in England, and there was a simple, yet impressive service at Locksbrook Cemetery, where the seven brave Anzacs who died in the Bath War Hospital. It had been organised by Mrs Crowle, to whom had been given many beautiful flowers for placing on the graves. The Rev. W. H. Edwards, of Combe Down, conducted a brief memorial service and gave an address, in which he recalled the gallantry of our overseas soldiers. The hymn, "Peace, perfect peace," was feelingly sung.

Among those present were the Rev. H. W. and Mrs Doudney, Miss Frean, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Meyer, Miss West, Mrs, Miss and Master Crowle, Miss Millard, Mr Eyres, Mrs Parker, Miss Stoward, Miss Symons, Mr Dawson, Mr Smith, Miss Mills etc.

Mrs Crowle informs us that she hopes to form a committee of resident Australians and other, whose object will be to see that in future the Anzac Day Pilgrimage Day is better organised in Bath. Copies of the paper containing a report of the in memoriam service will be sent to the relations of the fallen men in Australia and New Zealand.

(Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Somerset, England – 1 May, 1920)

Reports of the Anzac Day Ceremonies held at Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath were noted in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Bath, Somerset, England for the following years:

1921, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1945

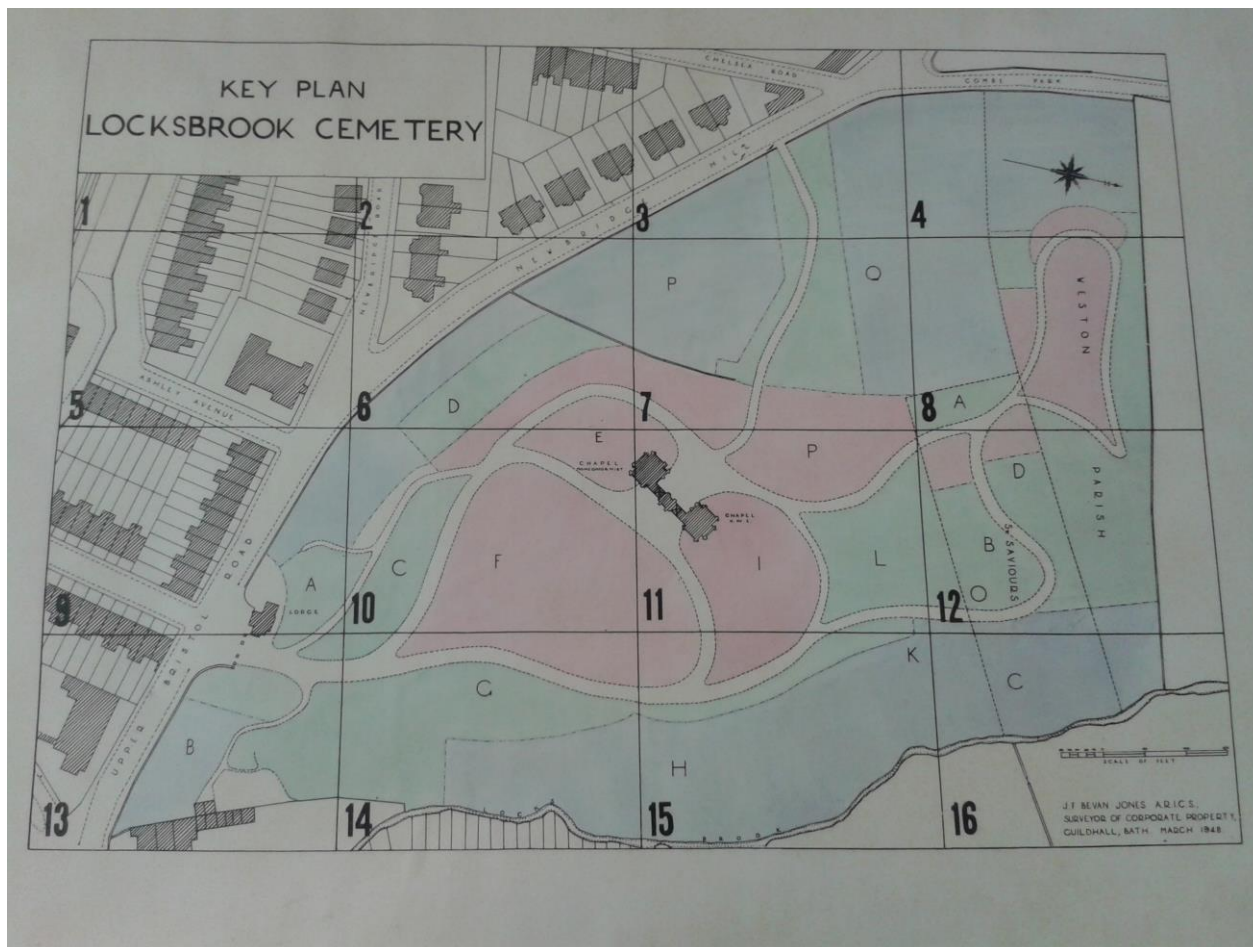


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00374.001

Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath – 25th April, 1935 – Anzac Day Ceremony

A crowd of civilians and servicemen listen to an address by a Minister at an Anzac Day service in the Churchyard Cemetery at Locksbrook.



(Photo by Mike Clark – Find a Grave)