

**Wadsley Churchyard,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4170 LANCE CORPORAL

S. C. GRIFFIN

47TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 26

Solomon Clive GRIFFIN

Solomon Clive Griffin was born at Wingen, near Scone, New South Wales on 6th March, 1890 to parents William and Honoria Louisa Griffin (nee Gainey).

Solomon Clive Griffin attended Public School at Quirindi, New South Wales & Marist Brothers, Parramatta, Sydney, New South Wales.

The 1912, 1913, 1914 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Maranoa, subdivision of Miles, Queensland, listed Solomon Clive Griffin, Carrier from Jackson.

Solomon Clive Griffin was a 25 year old, single, Grazier from Thorpedale, via Jackson, Queensland when he enlisted at Toowoomba, Queensland on 6th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4170 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Griffin, Jackson, Queensland.

Private Solomon Clive Griffin was posted to 13th Reinforcements of 15th Battalion for recruit training.

Private Solomon Clive Griffin embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on 3rd January, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements & disembarked at Alexandria on 19th February, 1916.

Private Solomon Clive Griffin was transferred to 47th Battalion on 1st April, 1916. He was taken on strength of 47th Battalion at Serapeum on 1st April, 1916 from 15th Battalion.

Private Solomon Clive Griffin proceeded to join B.E.F. from Alexandria on Troopship *Caledonia* on 2nd June, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 9th June, 1916.

Private Solomon Clive Griffin was wounded in action in France on 7th August, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 7th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to upper extremities. Private Griffin was admitted to 8th Stationary Hospital at Wimereux, France on 8th August, 1916 with G.S.W. to right thigh. He was transferred to Boulogne for transfer to England on 10th August, 1916 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* the same day.

47th Battalion

The 47th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 15th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 15th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men recruited in Queensland and Tasmania. The new battalion was incorporated into the 12th Brigade of the Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 9 June 1916, the 47th entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 3 July. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided working parties during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 47th endured two stints in the heavily-contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 47th Battalion

5th August, 1916

Moved from TARA HILL and took up position near POZIERES as reserve to front line.

7th August, 1916

At 6.30 am received message to reinforce front line occupied by 48th Battn, despatched "C" Coy at 6.40 am. Three platoons returned at 7.15 am and the other remaining.

At 2.30 pm commenced relief of front line occupied by 48th Battn relief was completed by 4.30 pm. A and D Companies occupying front line. O.G.1 and B Coy in close supports in TRAMWAY TRENCH. One platoon of C. Coy which reinforced the 48th Battalion at 6.40 am was sent back to join up with the remainder of "C" Coy at SUNKEN ROAD C Coy remained in support.

The relief of the 48th Battalion was carried out under a heavy bombardment by the enemy, and considerable casualties were inflicted on the Battalion.

The frontage taken over from the 48th Bn was, front line R 35 C 8 ½ 0 to communication trench R 35 C.4.8 – R 35 C.2.6

Active patrolling was kept up and trenches and communications were improved. The enemy's bombardment was heavy throughout the period the Battalion occupied the above position.

12th August, 1916 POZIERES

The 48th Battalion relieved this Battalion at 6.30 am relief was completed at 7.30 am and Battalion returned to SUNKEN ROAD as reserve to front line

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Solomon Clive Griffin was admitted to Wharnccliffe War Hospital, Sheffield, England on 10th August, 1916 with Shell wound to right thigh & fractured femur severe. His condition was listed as dangerously ill on 14th August, 1916. Amputation of the thigh occurred on 15th August, 1916.

[NOTE: There is no record in Solomon Clive Griffin's Service Record file to show when he was promoted to Lance Corporal.]

Lance Corporal Solomon Clive Griffin died on 16th August, 1916 at Wharnccliffe War Hospital, Middlewood Road, Sheffield, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. right leg, compound fracture of femur & tibia & amputation. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Death from shock & septic infection.*"

A death for Solomon C. Griffin, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Wortley, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

Lance Corporal Solomon Clive Griffin was buried on 19th August, 1916 in Wadsley Churchyard, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England – Row 5.A.A. Grave No. 1.

Base Records wrote to Mr W. Griffen, Jackson, Queensland on 19th April, 1920 to advise that information had been received that the remains of his son – the late No. 4170 Lance Corporal S. C. Griffen, 47th Battalion, had been exhumed from Grave No. 1 Row 5 A.A. in Wadsley Churchyard and had been reinterred in grave No. 42, Section D.D. 4, Wadsley Churchyard, Sheffield, England. He was advised "*This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission now lists the burial place as Plot number 3. There is no headstone. Lance Corporal S. C. Griffin is remembered on the Wharnccliffe War Hospital Memorial in Wadsley Churchyard, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England.

A War Pension was granted to Honoria L. Griffin, of Jackson, mother (not a widow) of the late Lance Corporal Solomon Clive Griffin, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 25th October, 1916.

Lance Corporal Solomon Clive Griffin was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Griffin's father – Mr W. Griffin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Solomon Clive Griffin – service number 4170, aged 26, of 47th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Honoria Louisa Griffin, of Thorpedale, via Jackson, Queensland.

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Lance Corporal S. C. Griffin is remembered on the Jackson & District Honour Roll, located on the Old Play Shed, Railway Street, Jackson, Queensland.



Jackson & District Honour Roll at the Old Play Shed (Photos from Monument Australia)

Jackson's Sacrifice - No Surrender 1914-1918

The removal of, in many cases the majority of the young working men and sometimes women from small rural communities, had a severe impact on the vigor and vitality of rural towns. During World War II the government introduced coupon rationing to buy essential items such as butter, sugar, tea, meat, clothing, shoes and petrol. The impact of both World War I and World War II on both the men who enlisted and served their country and on the remaining families, men, women and children of the Jackson district was substantial and will not be forgotten.

Jackson & District - Honour Roll World War I (1914-1918)

The following details are of the men from the Jackson District who served their country in World War I and who made the Supreme Sacrifice.

Pte Brandt, AB	Pte Coppel, BA	Lt Cpl Kendrick, MG	Lieut Kennedy, JM	Pte Rintaman, AW
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The following details are of the men from the Jackson district who served their country in World War I.

APC Berry, D	Cpl Fitzgerald, TL	Pte Nevill, VA
Pte Brandt, A	Lt Cpl Griffin, SC	Pte Pruthiman, PG
Pte Curtain, P	Pte Hanson, CJ	Pte Perry, CE
Pte Conaghan, JV	Pte Hyland, EBHC	Sgt Perry, MJ
Sig Conaghan, LB	Pte Kernehan, L	Pte Sheppard, JT
Pte Darcy, JH	Pte Lock, WH	Pte Sincaman, WJ
Pte Duff, J	Pte Mason, A	Pte Taylor, A
Pte Eganman, NPB	Tpr Middleton, DM	Pte Vandyke, J
Sgt Fitzgerald, G (MM)	Cpl Miles, W	Pte Wylie, BJ
	Pte Milton, GV	

Jackson & District - Honour Roll World War II (1939-1945)

The following details are of the men and women from the Jackson District who served their country in World War II and who made the Supreme Sacrifice.

Pte Cook, IB (Deceased)		
Pte Cook, LR (Killed in Action)		
Div Lyle, H (Died of wounds)		
F.O. Pratt, LG (Missing presumed dead)		

The following details the men and women from the Jackson district who served their Country in World War II.

APC Aitken, R	Cpl Schmidt, AM
Pte Bourne, CH	Pte Sheppard, MJ
Cpl Bourne, Ld	Cpl Sincaman, WA
ACpl Clark, BC	Cpl Sturdy, R
Cpl Dickson, BC	Pte Street, NS
Pte East, LW	Cpl Telford, NC
Gnr Hamilton, CB	Pte Widdon, LJ
(Wounded in Action)	Pte Widdon, LJ
Lieut Hamilton, III	Pte Westman, JJ
(Wounded in Action)	
Gnr Hamilton, WB	Sig Willet, MJD
Sgt Hyland, M	Sgt Yates, ERJ
Gnr Kelly, WJ	RAN
Cpl Lambson, H	AWF Fitzgerald, PJ
Pte McLachlan, BC	AWAS
(POW Wounded in Action)	
Lt Cpl Mansfield, GB	Lieut Thomson, O
Pte Moore, FL	TRANSPORT SERVICE
Pte Morgan, JV	Decor Sheppard, DM
Pte O'Donnovan, B	ANS
Dvr Pury, MCB	Lieut Hyland, EJ
	Home
Pte Palmer, MJ	Lieut McLennan, ON
	Butler

Lance Corporal S. C. Griffin is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 143.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Lance Corporal S. C. Griffin is remembered on the Wharnccliffe War Hospital Roll of Honour, which at the time of researching (2021) was currently not on public display. It is stored at Sheffield Museum.

From "A History of Middlewood Psychiatric Hospital 1872 – 1972" by F. T. Thorpe:

"In commemoration of the hospital war effort a roll of Honour was made in the hospital's carpentry shop and measured some twenty feet long and six feet high. It bore the names of soldiers who died whilst in the Wharnccliffe War Hospital and in the centre of the panel was a list of the eight members of the asylum staff who lost their lives. The completed panel is on the wall at the rear of the hospital church"

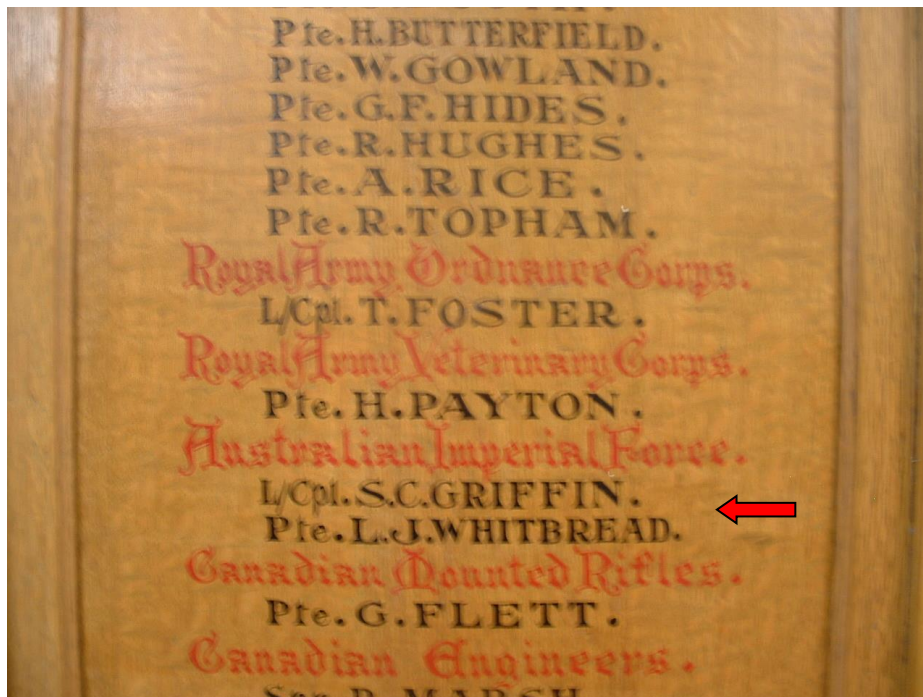
In the centre of the Church Sanctuary a stained glass window was placed bearing the figure of St George with the legend - "To the Glory of God in the memory of those who fell in the Great War of 1914 - 1918"



(Photos from Sheffield History Forum – Guest Trefcon)



Wharnclyffe War Hospital Roll of Honour (Photos kindly provided by Stuart- Sheffield Soldier WW1)



2 Australians listed – Lance Corporal S. C. Griffin & Private L. J. Whitbread

(67 pages of Lance Corporal Solomon Clive Griffin'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





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P06529.001

Solomon Clive Griffin



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

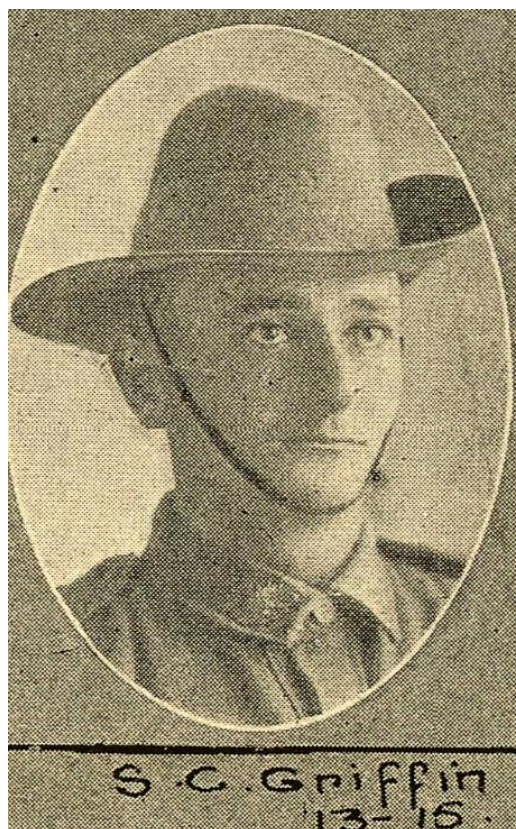
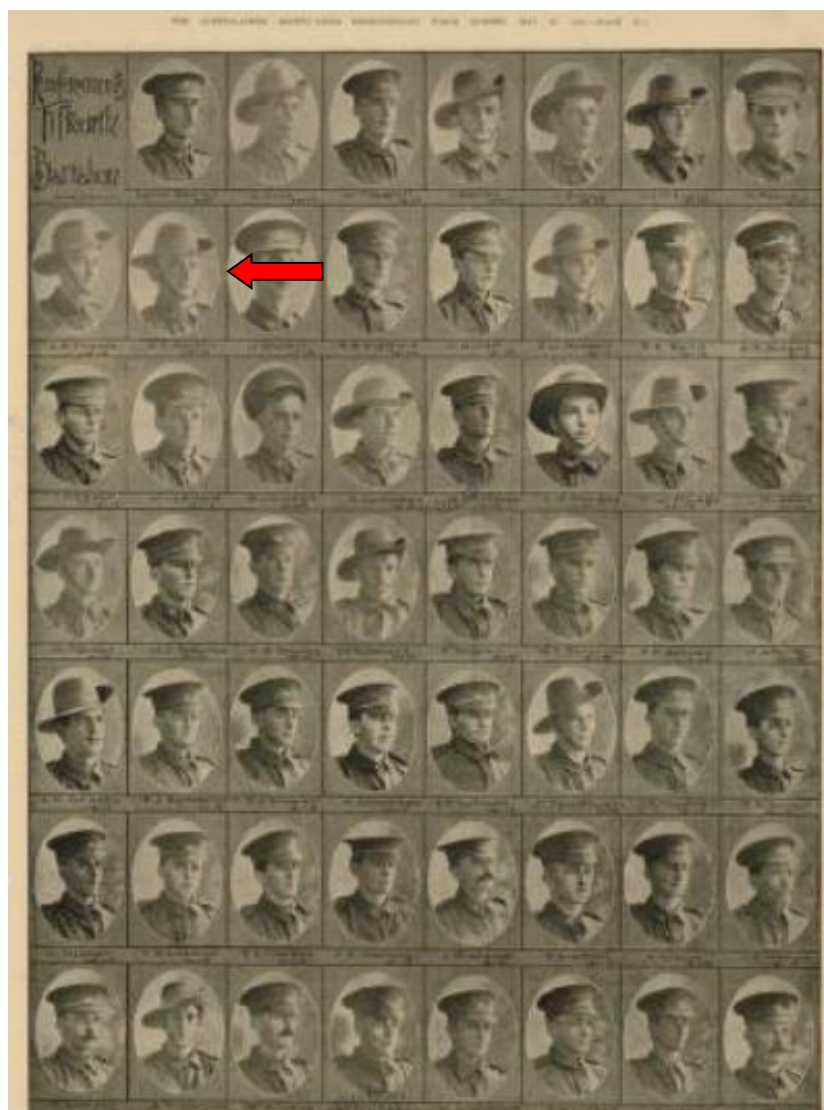
LISTS No. 206 AND 207

Died from Wounds

Lance Corporal S. C. Griffin (Jackson)

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 16 September, 1916)

Reinforcements Fifteenth Battalion



(Queensland Pictorial – 27 May, 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)

Honoria L. Griffin, "Thorpedale" via Jackson, Queensland wrote to Base Records on 19th July, 1920 regarding a letter that Base Records had sent: "*Your letter re the headstone & the "Star of David" it's the first I knew about it being the Jewish emblem, so please have the cross. Trusting you will see carefully to this matter also the verse.*"

Lance Corporal Solomon Clive Griffin does not have a headstone.

Wadsley Churchyard, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England

Wadsley Churchyard contains war burials of both wars. Almost half of the First World War burials are in a special plot made by the Wharnccliffe War Hospital where the men died, and was furnished by the hospital with a stone kerb and central memorial. The rest of the 49 First World War and four Second World War burials are scattered throughout the churchyard.

(Information from CWGC)

Information provided by Tony Jordan, Graveyard Volunteer:

The South Yorkshire Asylum was cleared of patients to create the Wharnccliffe War Hospital with 2039 beds from 1st April 1915 to 1920. Over 36,000 passed through and amazingly only just over 200 died. Of these 23 were not taken away by their families and are buried together in Wadsley Churchyard, with the stone memorial and stone kerb stones surrounding the plot. 4 more died in the hospital and are buried in family graves. Originally this was a "grass" area but was concreted about 20 years ago to tidy it up, as the surrounding area was very overgrown.

The graves are numbered on the kerb stones, there are no other headstones for these men.





Number 3 on kerb – indicating Lance Corporal Solomon Clive Griffin's grave

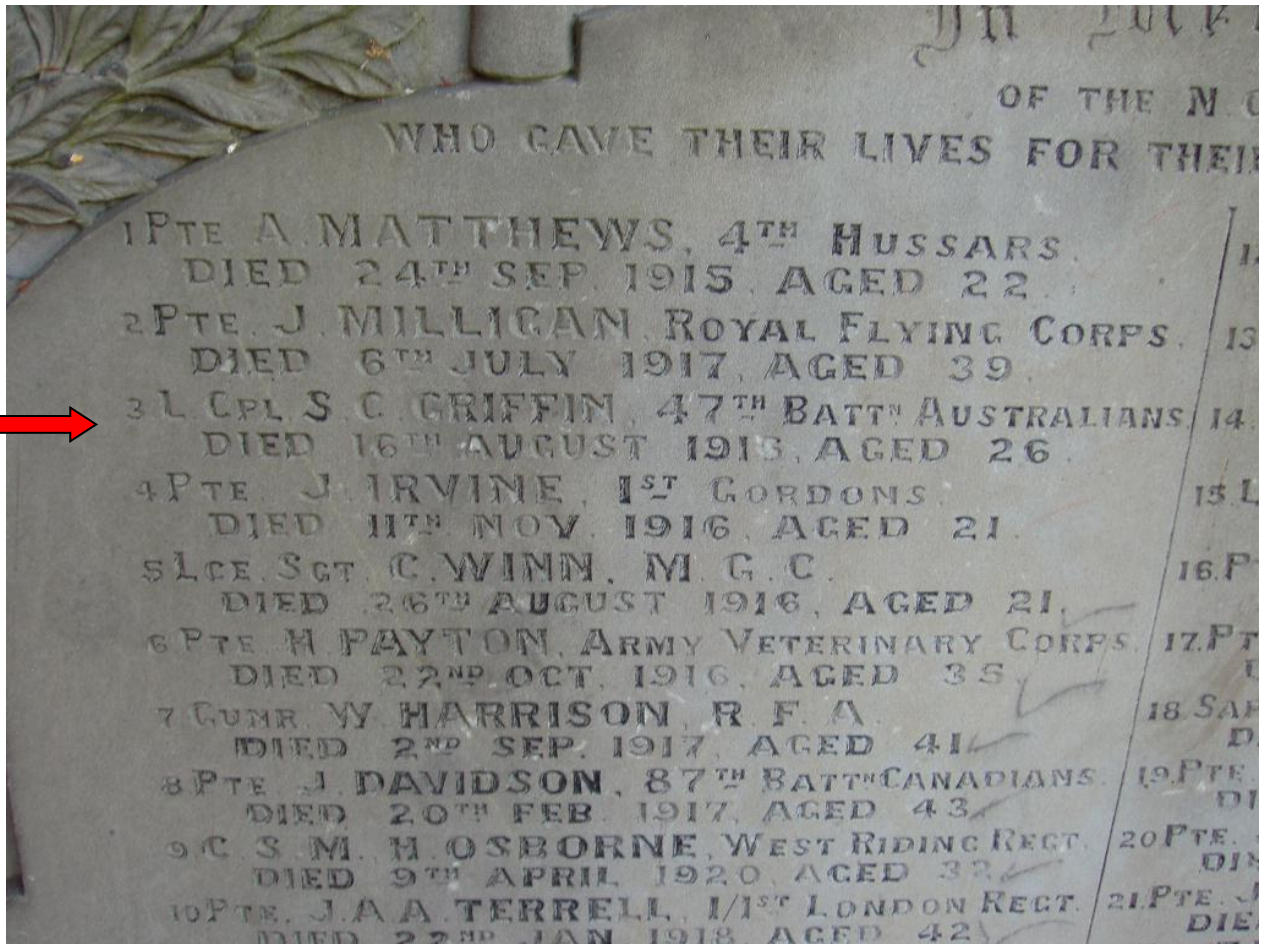
(photos courtesy of Tony Jordan)

Photo of Lance Corporal Solomon Clive Griffin's name on the Wharncliffe War Hospital Memorial in Wadsley Churchyard, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England.



(Photos by Geoffrey Gillon)

3 L. CPL. S. C. GRIFFIN, 47TH BATT. AUSTRALIANS
DIED 16TH AUGUST 1915. AGED 26.



Prior to concrete slab



(photo courtesy of Tony Jordan)



(photo courtesy of Tony Jordan)



(photo courtesy of Tony Jordan)



(photo courtesy of Tony Jordan)