

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2142 PRIVATE

R. HACKETT

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

11TH NOVEMBER, 1917

Greater Love

Hath No Man Than This

That A Man Lay Down

His Life For His Friends

Roy Cyril HACKETT

Roy Cyril Hackett was born at Merriwa, New South Wales on 2nd November, 1895 to parents William & Sarah Jane Hackett (nee Buttle).

Roy Hackett was a 21 year old, single, Shop Assistant from Merriwa, via Muswellbrook, NSW when he enlisted on 29th June, 1915 [date as per Embarkation Roll. His Medical Examination was completed on 29th June, 1915 & his Attestation Papers were signed on 7th July, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW.] with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2142 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Hackett, Merriwa, via Muswellbrook, NSW.

Private Roy Hackett was posted to Depot Battalion on 29th Jun, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 17th Battalion on 27th August, 1915.

Private Roy Hackett embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 30th September, 1915 with the 17th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.

Private Roy Hackett was taken on strength of 17th Battalion on 10th January, 1916 from Reinforcements & was posted to "A" Company.

Private Roy Hackett embarked from Alexandria on 17th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd March, 1916.

17th Battalion

The 17th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Roy Hackett was transferred to 5th Australian Machine Gun Company on 9th December, 1916. He was taken on strength of 5th A. M. G. Co. on 18th December, 1916 from 17th Battalion.

Private Roy Hackett was admitted to 2nd Australian Casualty Rest Station on 14th January, 1917 with Dermatitis & discharged to duty on 19th January, 1917.

Private Roy Hackett was admitted to 6th Field Ambulance on 3rd April, 1917 with Trench Fever. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 4th April, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 5th April, 1917. Private Hackett was admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 6th April, 1917. He was transferred to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 8th April, 1917 then transferred on 10th April, 1917 to 11th Convalescent Depot at Buchy. Private Hackett was transferred to 8th General Hospital at Buchy on 25th April, 1917 with Scabies then transferred & admitted back to No. 2 Convalescent Depot at Rouen, France on 26th April, 1917. He was classified A (fit for Active Service) on 5th May, 1917 & was discharged to Base Depot.

Private Roy Hackett was posted to 4th Base Depot at Camiers on 16th May, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 9th June, 1917 & rejoined 5th Machine Gun Company in the Field on 9th June, 1917 from Hospital.

Private Roy Hackett proceeded on Leave to England on 10th July, 1917 & returned from Leave on 22nd July, 1917.

Private Roy Hackett was wounded in action on 20th September, 1917. He was admitted to 53rd General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 21st September, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head. Private Hackett was transferred to England on 14th October, 1917.

War Diary – 5th Australian Machine Gun Company

19th September, 1917 – Westhoek Ridge:

7 pm – Company Headquarters established at J8a1.8

Here follows detailed report of Operations of Sections.

The Company furnished one section of four guns each to the 17th, 18th & 20th Battalions respectively. The remaining section was at the commencement of the period, in Reserve on Westhoek Ridge.....

[Note: The War Diary has 7 ½ pages relating to the 3 Operations of Sections – Red, Blue & Green. It is not possible to determine which Operation that Private Hackett was designated to.]

.....

26th September, 1917:

Reorganisation and cleaning of gear.

Casualties in Operations 19th – 23rd: Killed 4 O.R. Wounded 24 O.R. Wounded at Duty 3 O.R. Sick 2 O.R. NYDN 1 O.R.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

William Hackett, Merriwa, NSW, father of Private Roy Hackett, was advised by Base Records on 9th October, 1917 that Private Roy Hackett had been wounded.

Private Roy Hackett was admitted to Military Hospital, Edmonton, England on 15th October, 1917. He was reported to be dangerously ill.

William Hackett, Merriwa, NSW, father of Private Roy Hackett, was advised by Base Records on 8th November, 1917 that Private Roy Hackett had been admitted to Edmonton General Military Hospital, London on 15th October, 1917 suffering from Gun shot wound to head & his condition was listed as dangerous.

Private Roy Hackett died at 2.35 am on 11th November, 1917 at Edmonton General Military Hospital, Middlesex, England from wounds received in action – Shell wound to scalp.

A death for Roy Hackett, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Edmonton, Middlesex, England.

Private Roy Hackett was buried at 1 pm on 15th November, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180, 033.

From the burial report of Private Roy Hackett - Coffin was good polished Elm with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearer, under the command of an officer, were supplied by the South African Regiment stationed at Woking. A beautiful wreath from No. 4504 Pte W. G. Hackett, brother of deceased soldier, was placed on the coffin. The grave will be turfed immediately, and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Names of relatives & friend present at the Funeral – Brother – No. 4504 Pte W. G. Hackett, 14th Bde Hqrs, (54th Bn) A.I.F. Friend – Pte Mudge of A.I.F. Kit Store, London.

Base Records wrote to Mr W. Hackett, Merriwa, via Muswellbrook, NSW on 28th March, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row B Grave 8.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. B. 8. Private R. Hackett now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Roy Hackett was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hackett's father – Mr W. H. Hackett, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Roy Hackett – service number 2142, of 5th Coy., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of W. H. and S. J. Hackett, of Bettington, St., Merriwa, New South Wales.

Private R. C. Hackett is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 178.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. C. Hackett & his brother W. G. Hackett are both remembered on the Men of Merriwa Shire Honour Roll, located in Merriwa RSL Club, 120 – 126 Bettington Street, Merriwa, NSW.



Men of Merriwa Shire Honour Roll (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

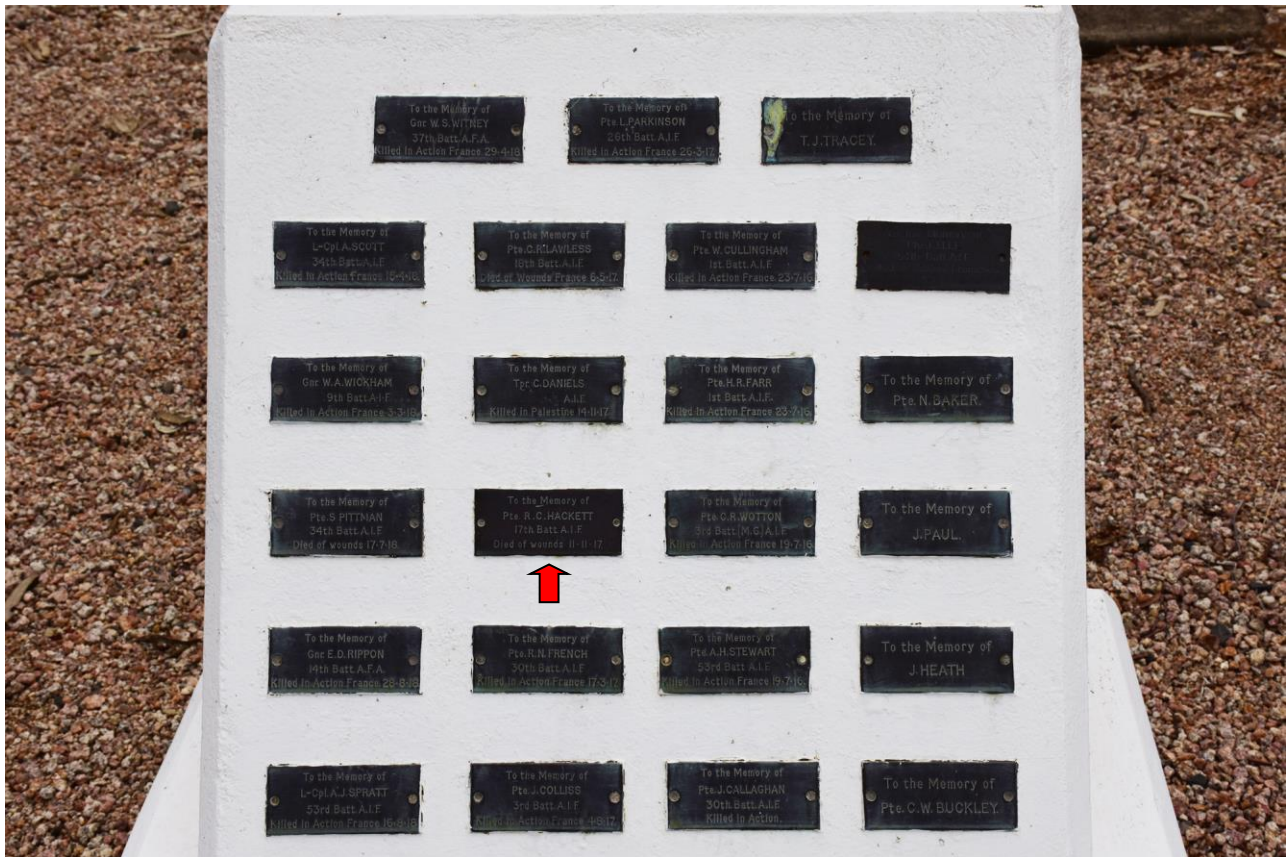
R. C. Hackett is remembered on the Merriwa War Memorial, located at Bettington & Marquet Streets, Merriwa, NSW.



Merriwa War Memorial

(Photo above from War Memorial Register of NSW; below from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)





**The white plinth is to the left of the War Memorial, bearing the WW1 names
while the plinth on the right bears the WW2 names**
(Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(41 pages of Private Roy Hackett'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



Connected to Private Roy Hackett:

Older brother - Winifred Godfrey Hackett - Enlisted 7th July, 1915 as a 26 year old, single, Auctioneer. Embarked with 13th Battalion, 14th Reinforcement on HMAT *Ballarat* (A70) from Sydney, NSW as Private 4504.

Wounded in action in France – G.S.W. abdomen - 19th- 20th July, 1916.

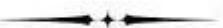
Wounded in action in France – 2nd occasion – Gas 24th April, 1918.

Returned to Australia 31st July, 1918 with Gas shell Poisoning & Chronic Bronchitis.

Medically discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 29th November, 1918.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Winifred Godfrey Hackett died on 15th August, 1959, age 69 & was buried in Merriwa General Cemetery, NSW.



Private Roy Hackett



Newspaper Notices

District News

Ptes Roy Hackett and Rex French, who are undergoing the usual course of training preparatory to entering military service, have been on a visit to their parents in Merriwa. Both young volunteers are looking very fit, especially Pte Roy in his regimental khaki uniform. Merriwa has indeed reason to be proud of her soldier sons.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 12 August, 1915)

District News

The latest recruits from among Merriwa men are Roy Hackett, Winifred Hackett, Rex French, Harold Farr (who has been in training for some considerable time), Jack Collins and Russell Collins, Norman Eustace, David Menzies, Constable Ribbon (Merriwa and district); Robert Train and Ernest Cornish (Cassilis). May they receive rapid promotion and return safely to their people.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 9 September, 1915)

MERRIWA ROLL OF HONOR

The following is a list of Merriwa soldier lads who have been accepted for the front.....

....

R. C. Hackett

W. Hackett

....

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 16 August, 1917)

Private Roy Hackett

Mr and Mrs Hackett, sen., have been officially informed that their youngest son, Private Roy Hackett, has been wounded. From the information received it is no possible to ascertain whether the wounds are serious or otherwise. The news was received with much regret by those who know the highly esteemed parents and family of this brave soldier, who enlisted not long after the outbreak of war.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 18 October, 1917)

WOUNDED HEROES

PRIVATE ROY HACKETT

Mr and Mrs W. Hackett, of Merriwa, have been officially informed that their youngest son, Private Roy Hackett, has been wounded.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 15 October, 1917) &

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 19 October, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

345th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte ROY HACKETT, Merriwa

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 25 October, 1917)

Personal Pars

Private W. Hackett, who is on leave in London, reports by cable to his parents that he has seen his brother, Private Roy Hackett, who was recently wounded, as is progressing well.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 1 November, 1917)

Private Roy Hackett

DIED IN HOSPITAL

MERRIWA, Thursday

Mr Frank Hackett has received a cable from his brother, Private Wyn. Hackett, to the effect that Private Roy Hackett had died in hospital in England.

Private Wyn. Hackett attended the funeral.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 15 November, 1917)

FALLEN IN BATTLE

PRIVATE ROY HACKETT

Yet another of our brave boys has paid the supreme sacrifice. It is with the deepest sympathy for his parents and relatives and friends that I have to record the name of Private Roy Hackett as one who has laid down his life for his country. The war had not long outbroken, when Private Hackett realised that the Empire was at stake, and rallied to the call. He sailed for the front in September, 1915, and saw service in Gallipoli and France. It was on October 15 last that Private Hackett was admitted to a hospital in England suffering from wounds, and it was there that he passed away. On Tuesday morning, November 13, Mr. F. C. Hackett (brother) received a cable from his brother, Private Win, to the effect that Private Roy had passed away on the previous Sunday, and that he was attending the funeral. Private Hackett enlisted at the age of 19, and spent three birthdays abroad.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 22 November, 1917)

371st and 372nd LISTS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Wounds

Pte R. Hackett, Merriwa (previously reported wounded)

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 21 December, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 371

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS OR OTHER CAUSES

Private R. Hackett, Merriwa

(*The Maitland Weekly Mercury*, NSW – 22 December, 1917)

Memorial Service

To mark the sad event of the anniversary of the death of Private Roy Hackett (died of wounds) a communion service was held in Holy Trinity Church on November 13.

(*Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative*, NSW – 21 November, 1918)



The Hackett Cousins

Back Row (reading left to right): Sergt. E. J. Hackett (wounded) and Pte. Frank Hackett, sons of Mr. D. J. Hackett, of Forbes.

Second Row: Trooper N. G. Hackett, son of Mr. J. Hackett, of Guy Fawkes; Pte. J. McD. Hackett, son of the late Mr. H. Hackett, of Little Plain; and Trooper G. F. Hackett (wounded), brother of Trooper N. G. Hackett.

Front Row: Pte Roy C. Hackett (died of wounds) and Pte W. G. Hackett (wounded and gassed), sons of Mr W. Hackett, Merriwa, New South Wales.

(*Sydney Mail*, NSW – 25 December, 1918)

A Roll of Honour in the form of a brass tablet (presented by ex-Chaplain B.C. Wilson) to commemorate those fallen in the War, and the men of the congregation who went on active service, will be unveiled by the Dean of Newcastle in the Merriwa Anglican Church on Thursday next, at 7.30 pm. A memorial tablet (from his fellow employees of the N.S.W. Bookstalls Ltd) will also be unveiled at the same time to the memory of our brave young soldier friend, Pte Roy Hackett, who made the supreme sacrifice on the 11th Nov. 1917.

(The Muswellbrook Chronicle, NSW – 20 July, 1920)

MEMORIAL TREES FOR PARK

On Saturday last a crowd gathered on the local park to witness the planting of trees in memory of the fallen soldiers. The work was done under the supervision of Messrs Harper and W. Hackett. Mr Woolley gave valuable assistance. The first tree was planted in memory of Private Roy Hackett and the task was performed by his mother. Mrs Colless also planted a tree in memory of Private Jack Colless. Mrs Rees planted a tree in memory of Private Cecil Lawless. There are quite a number of beautiful trees planted in the park, and when is has the soldiers' obelisk erected in it, it will present a beautiful sight.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 6 September, 1923)

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 R. Hackett does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Greater Love Hath No Man Than This
That A Man Lay Down His Life For His Friends*

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 R. Hackett's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

