

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1160 PRIVATE

W. HAMMOND

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

24TH DECEMBER, 1916

William HAMMOND

William Hammond was born at Brighton, Sussex, England in 1890 to parents William & Ellen Hammond (nee Brown).

The 1901 England Census recorded William Hammond as a 10 year old living with his family at 20 Hanover Street, Brighton, Sussex, England. His parents were listed as William Hammond (Labourer in Electricity Works, aged 35, born Brighton, Sussex) & Ellen Hammond (aged 35, born Tunbridge Wells, Kent). William (junior) was the eldest of six children listed on this Census (all born Brighton, Sussex) – William then Alfred (aged 9), Ellen (aged 8), Grace (aged 7), Susey (aged 4) & Dorothy (aged 2). Frederick Welfare, a Boarder (Wine Merchant Assistant, aged 21) was also listed.

The 1911 England Census recorded William Hammond as a 21 year old Shop Assistant living with his family at 10 Coleman Street, Brighton, Sussex, England, which was a five roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as William Hammond (Municipal Labourer, aged 48) & Ellen Hammond (aged 47). William & Ellen Hammond had been married for 22 years & had a total of 8 children, one having since died. William (junior) was the eldest of seven children listed on this Census (all born Brighton, Sussex) – William then Alfred (Baker's Assistant, aged 19), Ellen (Domestic Servant, aged 18), Grace (Domestic Servant, aged 16), Lucy (Domestic servant, aged 14), Dorothy (School, aged 11) & Alexandra May Hammond (School, aged 8).

William Hammond married Gertrude Devey on 10th April, 1912 at St. John's Church, Fremantle, Western Australia. A birth had previously been registered for Wallace William Hammond in Fremantle, Western Australia. He was born 2nd November, 1910.

William Hammond was a 25 year old, married, Shop Assistant when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 20th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1160 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Gertrude Hammond, 32 Holland Street, Fremantle, Western Australia.

Private William Hammond was posted to Area No. 1 on 19th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Company, 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion on 15th April, 1916.

Private William Hammond embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wandilla (A62)* on 6th June, 1916 with the 3rd Pioneer Battalion "D" Company & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 26th July, 1916. Private Hammond had been reported Absent without leave for 6 hours while at Cape Town on 3rd July, 1916. This was admonished & he forfeited 1 days pay. The Conduct Sheet for William Hammond recorded that he was "A.W.L. from 9.0 am 3/7/16 to 9.0 am 4/7/16"

3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

The 3rd Pioneer Battalion was an Australian infantry and light engineer unit raised for service during the First World War as part of the all-volunteer Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Formed in Victoria in March 1916, the battalion subsequently undertook further training in the United Kingdom before arriving in France in late 1916. It later served on the Western Front in France and Belgium until the end of the war.

The 3rd Pioneers were raised in Victoria, in March 1916, from volunteers drawn from Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia and was subsequently assigned to the 3rd Division.

Trained as infantrymen, the pioneers were tasked with light combat engineer functions in the field, with a large number of personnel possessing trades from civilian life. The concept had existed within the British Indian Army before the war, but was adopted by the Australian Army in early 1916 to meet a need for troops with construction and engineering skills to assist with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and undertaking battlefield clearance. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. At the same time, they could be pressed into the line to fight alongside regular infantry where required.

A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF during the war, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. The battalions consisted of four companies, under a headquarters company. To identify the 3rd Pioneer Battalion's personnel, they were issued

with a purple and white Unit Colour Patch. The colours were in common with other Australian pioneer battalions, while the horizontal oval shape denoted that the unit was part of the 3rd Division.

The battalion's first commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Robert Law, and upon establishment it was decided that the unit would be an "all States" unit, meaning that personnel would not just be drawn exclusively from one particular state, but would instead draw recruits from all around Australia. The headquarters and 'A' Company were recruited from Victoria, and was established at Ascot Vale, before moving to Campbellfield in March, while 'B' Company was composed of New South Welshmen, 'C' Company came from Queensland and 'D' Company was a composite sub-unit drawn from South Australia and Western Australia. After the sub-units had formed in their home locations – Liverpool, Bathurst, Brisbane, Blackboy Hill, and Adelaide – the battalion began concentrating at Campbellfield in April 1916.

Detailed training began at Campbellfield shortly after concentration and in May the battalion marched through the streets of Melbourne, before being presented with its unit colour. They were subsequently laid up at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne prior to embarkation. They departed Australia on the transport Wandilla on 6 June 1916, and endured a seven-week voyage to the United Kingdom, sailing via Cape Town. After arriving in the United Kingdom, the battalion subsequently concentrated with the rest of the 3rd Division around Larkhill on Salisbury Plain, in Wiltshire. Between July and November 1916, the 3rd Pioneers carried out intensive training to prepare them for their arrival on the Western Front. Finally, on 25 November the battalion entrained at Amesbury bound for Southampton from where they were ferried across the English Channel to Le Havre.

(Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

Private William Hammond was admitted to Kitchener's Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England on 30th November, 1916 with Sarcoma left thigh & was reported to be dangerously ill.



Private William Hammond died at 1.30 pm on 24th December, 1916 at Kitchener's Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from Sarcoma left Femur Pulmonary Metastasis and Asthenia.

A death for William Hammond, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

Private William Hammond was buried on 29th December, 1916 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZGV. 50 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private William Hammond 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 Private Hammond's widow – Mrs G. Hammond, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Hammond – service number 1160, of 3rd Australian Pioneers. No family details are listed.

W. Hammond is remembered on a Memorial Plaque in St. John's Memorial Choir Vestry, located in St. John's Church in the Square, Queen & Adelaide Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia.

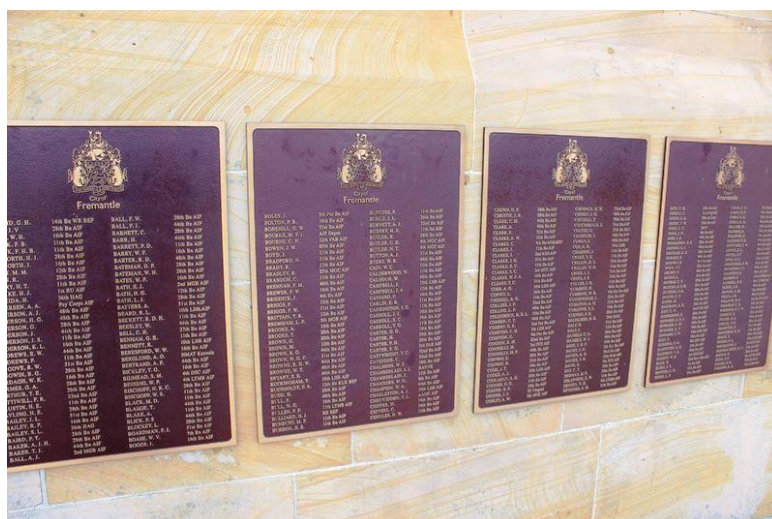


(Photo from Monument Australia)

W. Hammond is remembered on Fremantle's 849, located at War Memorial, Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, High & Swanbourne Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia. Twelve plaques contain all 849 names of the Fremantle servicemen who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The plaques were created as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations.



Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



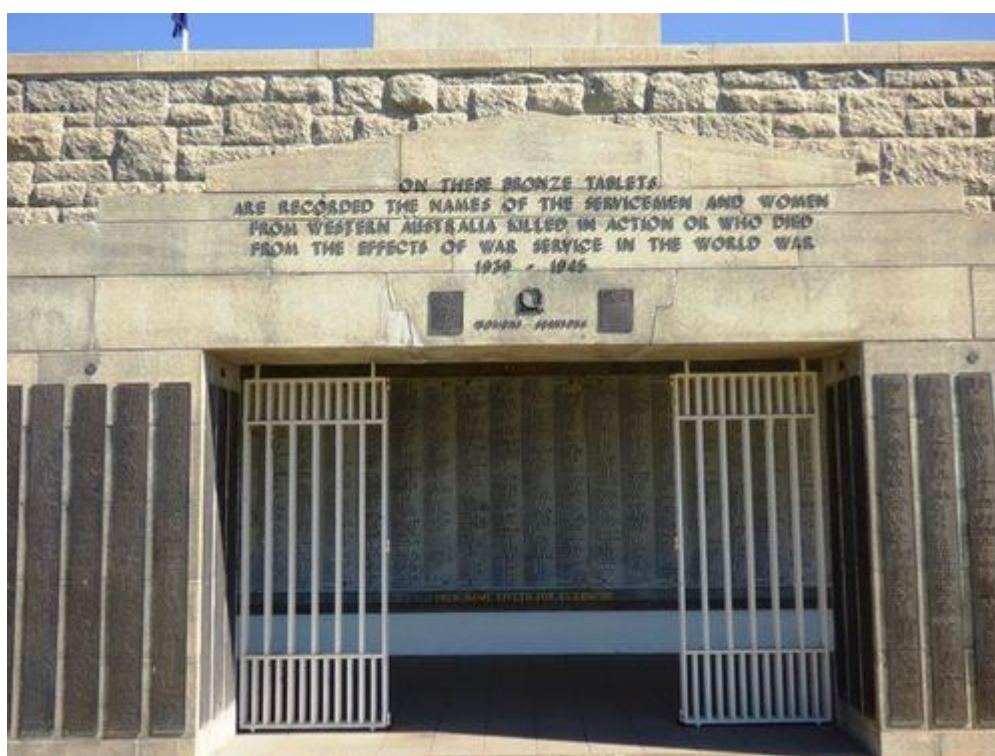
W. Hammond is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

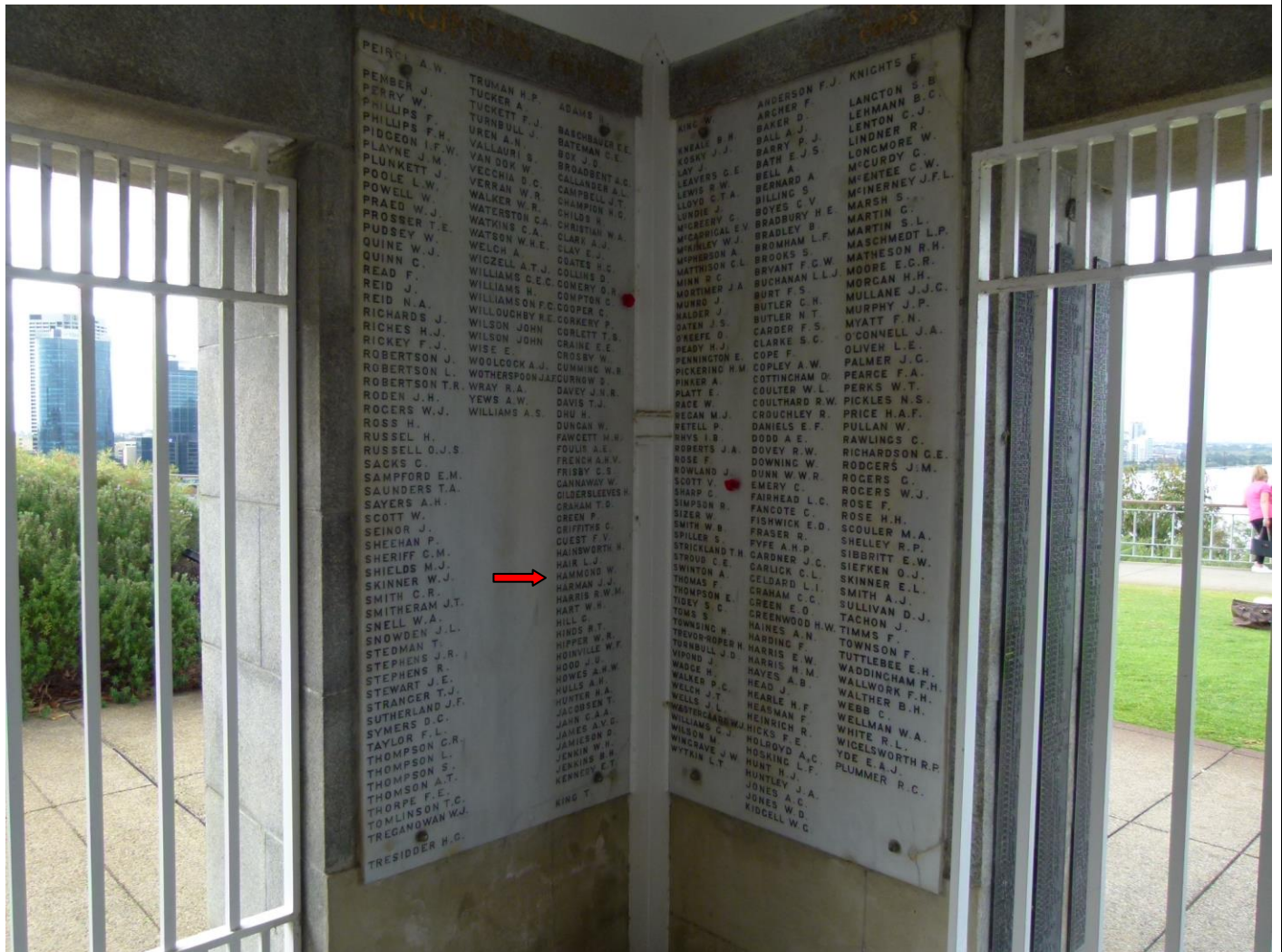
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



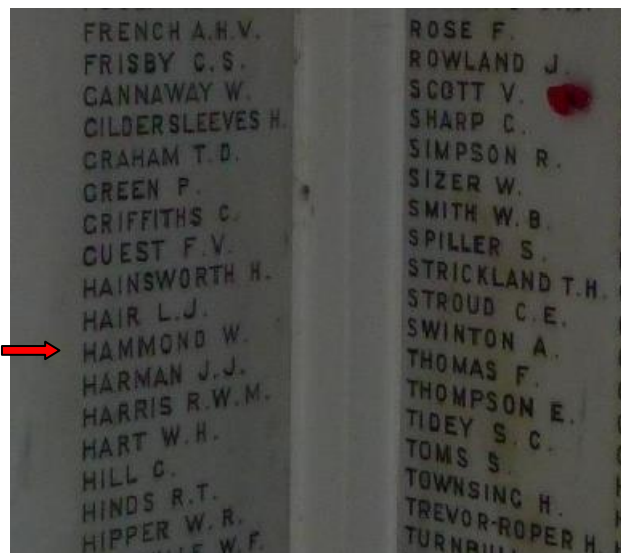
**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



Private W. Hammond is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. Hammond is remembered on the Brighton War Memorial, located in North Steine Gardens, Brighton, Sussex, England.



Brighton War Memorial (Photo above by Simon Carey; below by Nick)

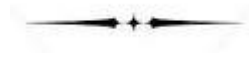


Brighton War Memorial (Photo by David Larkin)



(52 pages of Private William Hammond'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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

252nd AND 253rd CASUALTY LISTS

III

W. Hammond (Fremantle), dangerously

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 19 December, 1916)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

262nd CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

W. Hammond (Fremantle), previously reported dangerously ill

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 12 January, 1917)

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 14th July, 1921, to Mrs G. Hammond, 180 Holland Street, Fremantle, Western Australia advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her late husband - the late Private W. Hammond 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. This letter was redirected on 4th October, 1921 after receiving notification from District headquarters, Perth that the new address for Mrs G. Hammond was 60 Stirling Street, Fremantle, W.A.

Private W. Hammond does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private W. Hammond's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham)



(Photo from CWGC)