

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,  
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**640 PRIVATE**

**A. A. HARRIS**

**AUST MACHINE GUN CORPS**

**27TH JULY, 1917 Age 23**

*ABIDE WITH ME*

*A LOVED ONE GONE*

*BUT NOT FORGOTTEN*

## Albert Arthur (Sonny) HARRIS

Albert Arthur Harris was born at Throckmorton, near Ranelagh, Tasmania on 14th December, 1893 to parents Arthur & Eliza Harris (nee Townsend). His birth was registered in 1894 in Victoria Huon, Tasmania.

Albert Harris was a 22 year old, single, Orchardist from Ranelagh, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania, on 12th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – A. Harris of Ranelagh, Tasmania.

Albert Harris was assigned to Military Police with 1st Depot Battalion from 12th April, 1916 until 8th December, 1916 when he was transferred to 3rd Military District. Albert Harris was given the rank of Private on 9th December, 1916 at Claremont (Tasmania) 6th M.D. (Military District) then transferred to Machine Gun Depot on 10th January, 1917.

Private Arthur Albert Harris, Service number 640, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 11th May, 1917 with 4th Machine Gun Company, 11th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19th July, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Albert Harris was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 19th July, 1917.

Private Arthur Albert Harris was admitted to Group Hospital at Codford on 23th July, 1917. His medical case sheet stated that he had pneumonia five years ago.

Private Albert Arthur Harris died at 4.15 p.m. on 27th July, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire. A Post Mortem was carried out on 27th July, 1917 & the cause of death was stated to be heart failure following blood infection – Septicaemia. Later reports state that Private Harris died of Septicaemia following Peritonitis. Private Albert Arthur Harris had died just over a week after disembarking at Plymouth.

A death for Arthur A. Harris, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Albert Arthur Harris was buried on 31st July, 1917 in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave No. 38, Australian Section. From the burial report - *Coffin was good condition, elm and brass. The deceased was buried with Military Honours.*

Private Albert Arthur Harris requested in his Will, dated 7th May, 1917, that he appoints his mother, Eliza Harris Executrix and bequeaths all his real and personal estate to her as well.

A War Pension was awarded to Private Harris' mother – Eliza Harris in the sum of 14/- per fortnight from 3rd April, 1918.

Private Albert Arthur Harris 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 Harris's father – Arthur Harris (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert Arthur Harris – service number 640, aged 23, of 4th Coy., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of Arthur & Eliza Harris, of Ranelagh, Tasmania.

Private A. A. Harris is commemorated 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

(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

A. A. Harris is remembered on an Honour Board in Ranelagh Memorial Hall "Past Scholars who have enlisted for King and Empire From Ranelagh State School". There are 61 names on the Honour Roll.



Ranelagh State School Honour Board (Photo by Arthur Garland – Monument Australia)



Albert Arthur Harris is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

**Front Inscription**

*Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918*

*The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.*

*"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."*



**Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania** (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

393	Pte	Gruy	Hedley Arthur	11.10.1917	31	40th Inf Bn	Launceston	
34422	Gnr	Gurr	Gilbert Rees	15.04.1917	24	40th Inf Bn	Wynyard	ANZAC
837	Pte	Gurr	Lancelot York	04.02.1917	20	3rd Fd Arty Bde	Riana	
1973	Gnr	Gutteridge	Arthur Herbert	03.11.1917	19	12th Inf Bn	Ringarooma	
8587	Pte	Haberle	Algernon Stanley C	26.03.1917	22	26th Inf Bn	Malthinna	
2490	Pte	Haines	Lionel	15.04.1917	20	42nd Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
4326	Pte	Haines	Eric Arthur	18.10.1917	22	52nd Inf Bn	Tunbridge	
1218	Pte	Hall	Ernest Victor	14.02.1917	26	40th Inf Bn	Newtown	
840	Pte	Hall	Ernest William	22.02.1917	26	12th Inf Bn	Patersonia	
4806	Pte	Hall	Frederick George	13.10.1917	42	40th Inf Bn	Tunbridge	
842	Pte	Hall	John	13.10.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Penguin	
2346	Pte	Hall	John Thomas	06.10.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Ulverstone	
4811	Pte	Hall	Keith Caplan	12.10.1917	20	40th Inf Bn	Goulds Country	
397	Pte	Hall	Clifford	21.10.1917	23	3rd Fd Amb Coy	Hobart	
6514	Pte	Hall	William August	06.04.1917	37	12th Inf Bn	Westbury	
8491	Pte	Hamilton	Robert Francis	07.10.1917	24	12th Inf Bn	Evandale	
5712	Pte	Hamilton	Claude Thomas	07.10.1917	24	40th Inf Bn	Westbury	
3046	Pte	Hamilton MM & Bar	Thomas	06.10.1917	26	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
4323	Cpl	Hammond MID	William Albert	06.05.1917	19	12th Inf Bn	Newtown	ANZAC
4329	Pte	Hanslow MID	Norman	22.04.1917	27	2nd Lt Horse Regt	Derby	
1094	Cpl	Hardman	Ernest Alfred	25.02.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Ringarooma	ANZAC
8281	Pte	Hardy	Charles Michael	21.10.1917	22	2nd Pioneer Bn	Launceston	ANZAC
2030	Pte	Hargreaves	Ambrose William	31.07.1917	32	1st Fd Arty Bde	Detention River	
1045	Pte	Hannan	Augustus Thomas	16.10.1917	37	15th Inf Bn	Ulverstone	
4378	Pte	Hannan	Lewis Henry	30.10.1917	19	14th Fd Arty Bde	Elderslie	
7427	Sgtr	Harper	Roy Bales	12.02.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	
875	L/Cpl	Harper	Edgar Vincent	13.10.1917	24	40th Inf Bn	Smithton	
3052	Pte	Harris	George	06.04.1917	39	12th Inf Bn	Georgetown	
3977	Pte	Harris	Herbert James	07.06.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	
2593	Pte	Harris	Leslie Robert	15.04.1917	20	12th Inf Bn	Macquarie Plains	
6101	Pte	Harris	William Andrew	19.09.1917	43	12th Inf Bn	Wynyard	
7028	Pte	Harris	William Henry	08.10.1917	30	12th Inf Bn	Ranelagh	
6285	Pte	Harris	Albert Arthur	27.07.1917	23	4th MG Coy	Launceston	
840	Pte	Harrison	Raymond Hill	16.05.1917	36	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	



(47 pages of Private Albert Arthur Harris' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



(Weekly Courier, Tasmania - 16 August 1917)

**MILITARY POLICE - CLAREMONT CAMP**

L-R Front row: P. Lahey, Cpl W Townsend, Sgt Major R P Conlan, Cpl F J Complan, W Neville

Second row: G Dalton, N. C. Roberts, **A A Harris**, J Clark.

Back row: Lance Cpl C Gower and W. Williams.







**Albert Arthur Harris – Sonny** *(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*



### **Newspaper Reports**

**HARRIS** – On July 22, 1917 at the New Zealand Hospital, Codford, England, Albert (Sonnie) dearly beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs A Harris, Ranelagh, aged 23 years. Gone, but not forgotten.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania, Tuesday 7th August, 1917)*

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

HARRIS – In loving Memory of our dear son and brother, Private Arthur Albert Harris (Sonny), who died at the New Zealand Hospital, Codford, England, on July 27, 1917.

He heard his country calling  
    For men to fight the foe;  
He felt that he was needed,  
    So he volunteered to go.

Just when his life was brightest,  
    Just when his hopes were best,  
He was called from this world of sorrow  
    To a home of eternal rest.

Sweet is the memory, that never will fade,  
Dear is the place where dear son is laid.  
Only those who have lost are able to tell  
The pain in the heart at not bidding farewell.

Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters, and brothers.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania, Saturday 27th July, 1918)*

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## **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

List No. 333 -Tasmania

DIED OF ILLNESS – A. A. Harris

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 28th August, 1917)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

HARRIS – In loving Memory of our dear son and brother, Pte. Arthur Albert Harris (Sonny), who died at the New Zealand Hospital, Codford, England, on July 27, 1917.

Nothing but memories as we journey on,  
Longing for a face that is dead and gone,  
None knows the depths of our regret,  
But we remember when others forget.

Gone from this earth so swiftly,  
Plucked like flowers in bloom;  
So young, so fair, so loving,  
Yet called away so soon.

Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters, and brothers.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania, Wednesday 27th July, 1921)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

HARRIS – In loving Memory of our dear son and brother, Private Arthur Albert Harris (Sonny), who died at the New Zealand Hospital, Codford, England, on July 27, 1917, aged 23 years.

Gone from the world of sorrow  
    To the beautiful home of rest,  
We are sad, for we loved you,  
    But God knows what is best.

It was the 27th of July,  
    That sad and fatal day.  
He gave his life that we might live  
    In a country far away.

Loved in life, honoured in death,  
    Treasured in memory.

Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters, and brother, Ranelagh.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania, Tuesday 29th July, 1924)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

HARRIS – In fond and loving Memory of our dear son and brother, Private Albert Arthur (Sonny), who died at the New Zealand Hospital, Codford, England, on July 27, 1917.

He faced life's battles bravely,  
    He patiently bore the test;  
God alone knew when He took him,  
    He knew He took one of the best.

A tender chord of memory,  
    Is softly touched to-day;

And never will the one we loved,  
From memory pass away.

'Tis sweet to know we'll meet again,  
    Where parting is no more;

And that the one we loved so dear,  
    Has only gone before.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, brother, and sisters, Ranelagh.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania, Wednesday 27th July, 1927)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

HARRIS – In fond and loving Memory of our dear son and brother, Private Albert Arthur (Sonny), who died at the New Zealand Hospital, Codford, England, on July 27, 1917.

In our hearts your memory lingers,

© Cathy Sedgwick/2013



Sweet, tender, fond and true;  
As the years go by, dear son,  
We will always think of you.

Although his voice is silent,  
And his smile we see no more,  
In our hearts his name will linger  
Just as fondly as before.

Inserted by his loving parents and family, A. and E. Harris, Lucaston, Huon

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania, Thursday 27th July, 1933)

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#### 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 at Codford War Graves Cemetery. 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.

A letter was sent to Mr A. Harris, father of late Pte Harris, dated 15th July, 1921, reminding him that a communication from the Defence Department regarding the permanent headstone of his son had not been received. Mr A. Harris was advised that non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would regrettably be accepted as indicating no further action was required.

(*Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921*)

Private A. A. Harris does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*ABIDE WITH ME*

*A LOVED ONE GONE*

*BUT NOT FORGOTTEN*

## St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

*(Information from CWGC)*

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00275



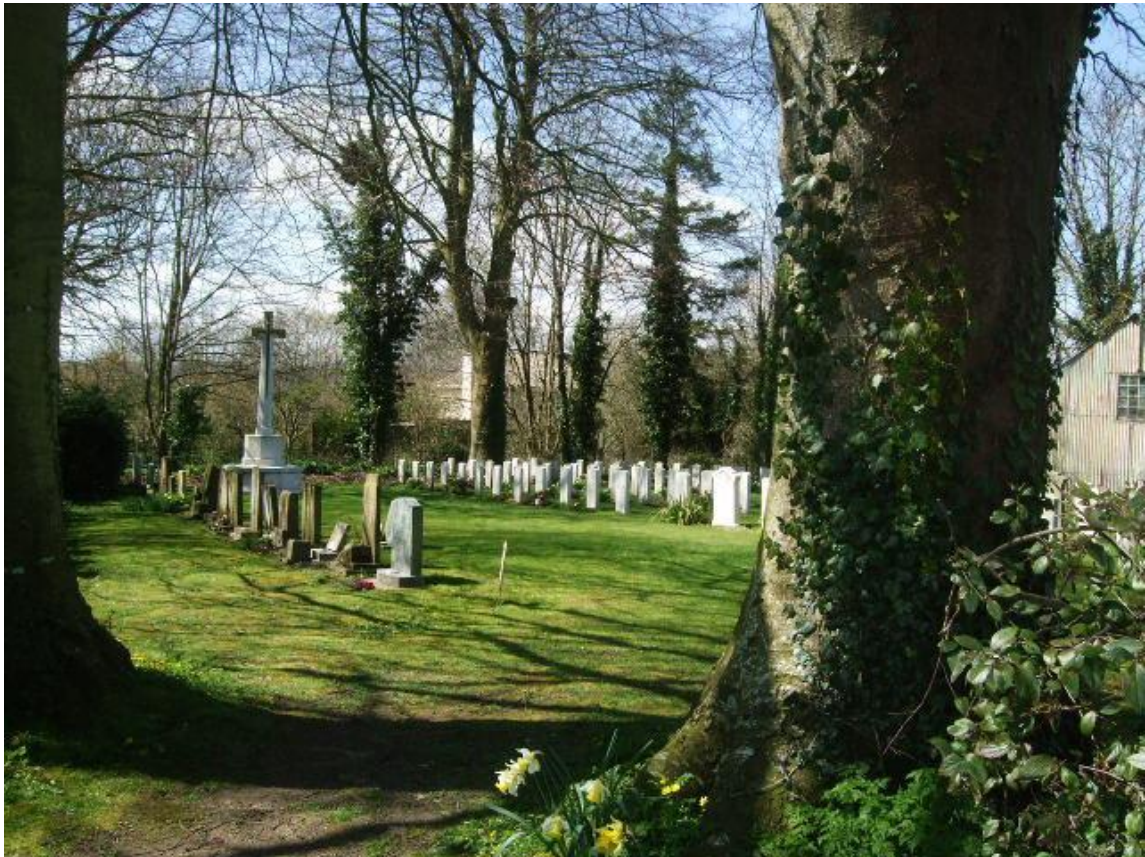
St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford *(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*





*(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)*





**New Zealand Section of Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery** *(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)*

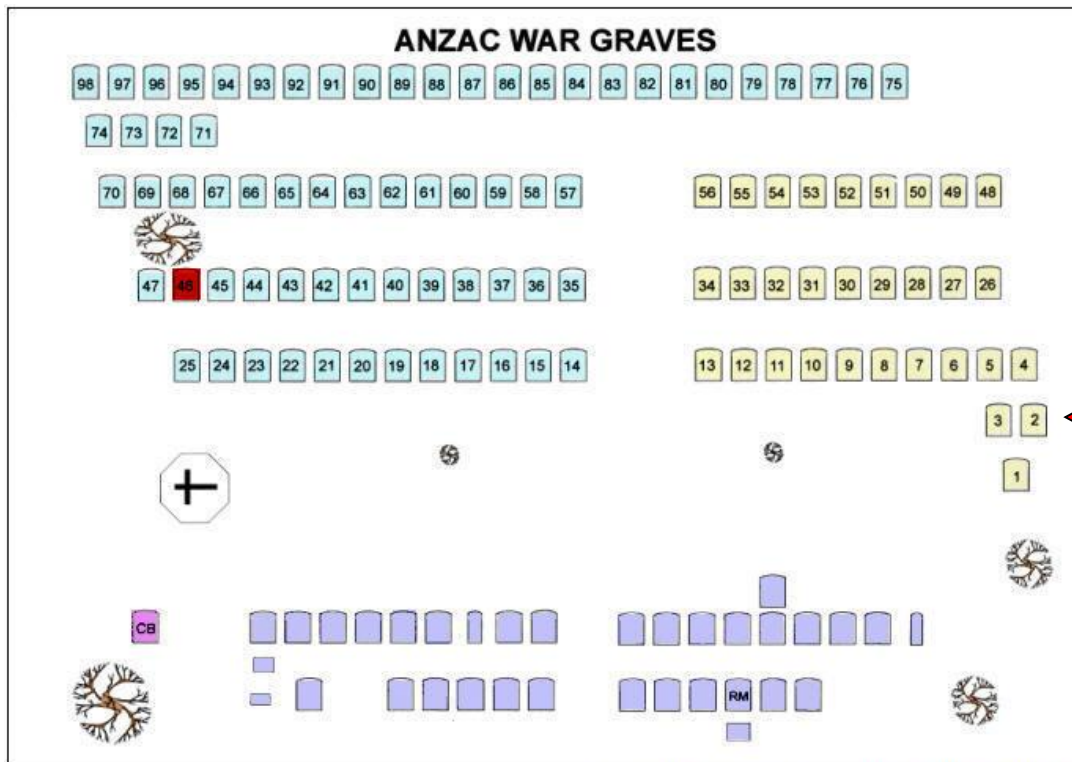


Photo of Private A. A. Harris' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private A. A. Harris is located in one of 2 Graves together at Front on Right Hand Side - Grave Plot #2 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 38)



- Australian Soldiers
- New Zealand Soldiers
- UK Soldier
- Welsh Soldier
- Local Burials

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth