

Hither Green Cemetery

London, England

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3085 PRIVATE

GEORGE HARRIS

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD AUGUST, 1916

George HARRIS

George Harris was born at Lee, near Lewisham, Kent, England in 1890 to parents George & Sarah Harris (nee Pring).

The 1891 England Census recorded George Harris as a 9 month old, living with his mother & grand parents at 41 Ronver Road, Lee, London, England. His grandparents were listed as Benjamin Pring (General Labourer, aged 44) & Martha Pring (aged 43). Eight of Benjamin & Martha's children were listed on this Census (all born at Lee, London) – George Pring (Labourer, aged 24), Sarah Pring (Laundress, aged 20), Charles Pring (Labourer, aged 17), Ellen Pring (aged 14), Alfred Pring (Scholar, aged 13), Elizabeth Pring (Scholar, aged 11), Rose Pring (Scholar, aged 9), Benjamin Pring (Scholar, aged 6) & George as 9 month old grandson.

George Harris married Sarah Pring in the December quarter, 1891 in the district of Lewisham, Kent/London, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded George Harris as a 10 year old, living with his family at 53 Ronver Road, Lee, London, England. His parents were recorded as George Harris (Carman, aged 34, born Dadford, Bucks) & Sarah Harris (aged 30, born Lee, Kent). George was the oldest of five children listed on this Census (all born Lee, Kent)– George then Frederick Harris (aged 8), William Harris (aged 5), Albert Harris (aged 2) & Nellie Harris (aged 1 month). Also listed was Ellen Pring - sister-in-law of George Harris (senior) (Laundress, aged 24).

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – George Harris came to Australia when he was 21.

The New South Wales Railways listed George Harris in 1914 as a casual cleaner at Eveleigh, Sydney, NSW.

George Harris was a 25 year old, single, Engine Cleaner (on Railways) from "Idsall", Mallett Road, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Holdsworth (Holsworthy), Sydney, NSW on 9th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. Harris, 61A Lower Road, Lee, London, S.E.

Private George Harris was posted to 7th Reinforcements of 18th Battalion on 14th October, 1915.

Private George Harris, Service number 3085, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 20th December, 1915 with the 18th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

18th Battalion

The 18th 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 George Harris was allotted to 3rd Battalion direct from Training Camp on 14th February, 1916. He was taken on strength of 3rd Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 14th February, 1916 from 18th Battalion.

Private George Harris embarked from Alexandria on HMT *Grampian* on 22nd March, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private George Harris was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance on 20th June, 1916 with Tonsillitis & was discharged to his Unit on 24th June, 1916. He rejoined his Unit in France on 24th June, 1916.

Private George Harris was wounded in action in France between 22 – 27th July, 1916 (dates as per Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to No. 26 General Hospital at Etaples, France on 25th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Thigh (mild). Private Harris embarked from Calais, France on 28th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Dieppe* for England with G.S.W. Legs.

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.....

In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 3rd Battalion

La Boissell – July 22nd, 1916:

Officers & NCO's carried out further reconnaissance of enemy front – Operation for this night cancelled and on a larger scale announced by Brigadier at conference of C.O.'s and preparatory orders issued.

The Brigade was to assault three objectives in enemy line before POZIERES & these were given to BN's wide operation orders attached to summary of 23rd inst.

22.00 – BN moved up to assembly trenches immediately in rear of 1st BN & occupied trenches prepared the previous night in rear of the Parados and along the POZIERES – CONTALMAISON ROAD.

1 O/Rank Killed 3 O/Ranks Wounded 1 O/Rank to Hospital

Pozieres July 23rd, 1916:

No hitch occurred & the action commenced punctually and each objective was assaulted and taken without any serious resistance from the enemy. The chief difficulty in consolidating the third objective was in getting touch with both flanks and being sure of the main road which was so much defaced by shells as to be almost unrecognisable. The consolidation was carried out successfully and along the line laid down. By daybreak the men were in trenches about four feet deep. That this work was so successfully accomplished is largely due to the energy and initiative displayed by Capt. J. R. O. Harris who commanded D. Co. and was the senior officer of my BN on the spot. My dispositions immediately after the position was gained were D and C Coys, four Lewis Guns & two sections of bombers in front line & in BDE original front line:- A & B Cos, 4 Lewis Guns, 2 Sections bombers & scout platoon & H. Qrs.

Demands for more men & guns were received and two Ptns with 2 Lewis Guns were sent forward. These were required to fill the gap on the right flank. On the 3rd Australian BDE connecting up these men were no longer required & were withdrawn leaving two Cos and 6 Lewis Guns in the line.

The work of consolidation and establishing communication was pushed ahead. The enemy shelled intermittently. NO Counter attack was launched on my front.

Patrols were pushed forward into POZIERES during the day and captured nine prisoners. These patrols were hindered in their work by our own artillery barrage which did not lift sufficiently to allow them to work freely.

Two large calibre enemy field guns were captured during this engagement on ground which was afterwards taken over by 3rd Aust. Bde. A claim for these to be returned as trophies to the Battalion after the war has been submitted.

Casualties 23rd to 27th inclusive shown under date 27.7.16

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Casualties 23rd to 27th inclusive

91 O/Ranks to Killed

350 O/Ranks to Wounded

43 O/Ranks to Missing

27th July 5 O/Ranks from Hospital

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2023

Private George Harris was admitted to County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England on 28th July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to both Legs – severe.

Private George Harris died on 3rd August, 1916 at County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England from wounds received in action in France -G.S.W. left Thigh & Malignant Oedema. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Patient died of gas gangrene Aug 3. The leg was amputated Aug 2*".

A death for George Harris, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Epsom, Surrey, England.

Private George Harris was buried in Hither Green Cemetery, Verdant Lane, Catford, London, England – Gravesite "A" Grave No. 651 (now listed by CWGC as Plot number A. 651) and has a shared Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private George Harris contains a letter that reads: "*Pte Harris was in No 26 Gen. Hosp. on July 25th 1916, with wounds in both thighs caused by a high explosive shell. He was about 1 ½ miles from the scene of action of the 3rd Battn when it charged at Pozieres on July 23rd and he was carrying water at the time. He reported to me that he was out of touch with the Battn when wounded and will, he believes, be reported as missing.*"

Private George Harris requested in his Will (extracted from his Pay Book) that "*In the event of my death I give half of my pay to Mrs G. Harris, 61a Ronver Rd, Lee, London, and the remaining half to Miss H. E. Piddlesdon, Valcyrria, Milsons Rd, Cremorne, Sydney, NSW.*"

The personal effects of the late Private George Harris were sent to his friend – Miss Hilda Piddlestone, Naleyria, Nelson Rd, Cremorne, NSW.

Private George Harris was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Harris' next of kin in England (Scroll & Plaque returned to England for issue (Scroll January 1922 & Plaque November, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Harris – service number 3085, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private G. Harris is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 36.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

George Harris is remembered on the NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour, located at Country Trains Concourse, Eddy Avenue, Haymarket, Sydney, NSW.



NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)

SMITH, STUART, H	TRAFFIC
WEST, SAMUEL	TRAM
STEENSON, G	LOCO
DUCKWORTH, A	TRAFFIC
BRABAZON, S. H	PER. WAY
BUTTERS, ALFRED	TRAFFIC
LEE, ALBERT	LOCO
WALTON, THOMAS	PER. WAY
HODGSON, WALTER	TRAFFIC
HARRIS, GEORGE	LOCO
BYRNS, WILLIAM	PER. WAY
WAILES, HERBERT	TRAFFIC
M'LEOD, HECTOR	PER. WAY
MEYER, FRED, H. G	TRAM
HARTLEY, WILLIAM	SIGNAL



NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT
RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS
ROLL OF HONOUR
HIS MAJESTY'S AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

HESTER WILLIAM	TRAM	WALSH LESLIE	PER WAY	WATSON JAMES	LOCO	SMITH STUART	TRAM
STEVENS WILLIAM	LOCO	BOULEY CHAS. E.	TRAM	WILLIAMS, A. E.	TRAM	WEST BARCEL	LOCO
TAYLOR ALBERT	TRAM	EDMOND WILLIAM	LOCO	SMITH WILLIAM	F PER WAY	STEWSON G.	LOCO
DORAN JAMES	PER WAY	CARTER DAVID	W TRAM	SCORSE WALTER	F TRAM	CHICKENOR W. A.	TRAM
COTTELL A. P.	LOCO	CAMPS VICTOR A.	PER WAY	ADSHED WILLIAM	TRAM	DUNN ALFRED	LOCO
BROWN LESLIE	TRAM	ROBERTS HERBERT	TRAM	HUGHES, T.	PER WAY	WALTON THOMAS	PER WAY
MIDGHALD, R.	PER WAY	WAUGH CHARLES	STORES	HULAN DONALD	TRAM	WALTON THOMAS	PER WAY
ANDERSON W. H.	TRAM	ANDREWS, C. A.	TRAM	WATERS LESLIE	LOCO	HARRIS GEORGE	LOCO
BYVOY CLAUD W.	E LOCO	RADDEN V. J.	LOCO	BRETH ARTHUR	TRAM	WELLS WALTER	TRAM
MULLER HENRY	PER WAY	BRUNAGE ENRICH	LOCO	MCDONALD W. A.	TRAM	HARRIS GEORGE	LOCO
ANDERSON W. H.	TRAM	REBERTH L.	TRAM	MCILLICHOE W. L.	TRAM	WELLS WALTER	TRAM
REID HERBERT A.	LOCO	ANDERSON J.	TRAM	HURRY WILLIAM	TRAM	HEVER FRED H. G.	TRAM
DAVIDS THOMAS	PER WAY	ROMANOW F.	PER WAY	WILLIAMS A.	PER WAY	WELLS WALTER	TRAM
SCHMUTTER C. V.	TRAM	SMITH ARTHUR	TRAM	MCILLICHOE W. L.	TRAM	ROBINSON W. R.	TRAM
PARKER EDWARD	TRAM	CAIRNS ARTHUR	LOCO	SMITH HARRIS	PER WAY	HOPE EDWARD	PER WAY
BRADY PERCY	TRAM	THORNTON ALBERT	PER WAY	LAND WILLIAM	PER WAY	ADYTON HAROLD	LOCO
DOOLEY JOHN Y.	LOCO	LAWRENCE T. J.	TRAM	FLEMING ARTHUR	TRAM	ROBINSON S. J.	TRAM
HARRISON HENRY	PER WAY	ARRIBLAGE WALTER	LOCO	BREIDEN JOHN A.	LOCO	FRICKY ARTHUR	TRAM
JEFFCOCK A. B.	TRAM	RAMSAY A.	PER WAY	BEHNS S.	TRAM	BUCKLEY T. A.	LOCO
HANSON A.	TRAM	EATHER JOHN	LOCO	MC DONALD F.	LOCO	RICHARDS J. P.	PER WAY
MITCHELL	LOCO	WRIGHT JAMES D.	PER WAY	MC GIBBY SWAN	TRAM	JACKSON W. V.	LOCO
IBBOTT ALBERT E.	TRAM	LAKE THOMAS J.	TRAM	MC GIBBY SWAN	TRAM	CHARNOCK T.	LOCO
OVEREND ROBERT	PER WAY	REID NORMAN F.	PER WAY	HANDERS J. D.	PER WAY	BELL JOHN H. E.	TRAM
HURLEY GEORGE	LOCO	WALSH STANLEY	LOCO	TRICLAND J. M.	LOCO	SEVER WALTER	LOCO
ARNOLD ARTHUR	TRAM	WALSH STANLEY	LOCO	GIBBS GEORGE	TRAM	HUGHES GORDON	ELEC
CAMERON ROY	TRAM	KELSO CYRIL	LOCO	MITCHELL HENRY F.	TRAM	JENKIN A. P.	LOCO
ANDERSON EDWARD	LOCO	WARDEN ROBERT	TRAM	COLLINS MATHY	TRAM	MERRICK PERCY	TRAM
STUBBS GREGORY F.	TRAM	GARDNER WALTER	LOCO	PAXTON ROBERT	LOCO	WILSON W. C.	TRAM
LODGE ROY	TRAM	WALSH STANLEY	LOCO	HARRIS GEORGE	PER WAY	JENNINGS C. W.	PER WAY
MC GIBBY EDWARD	LOCO	WALSH STANLEY	LOCO	TAYLOR GEORGE H.	TRAM	CHEESEMAN R.	LOCO
FELYN THOMAS	TRAM	LATTER ALBERT C.	TRAM	DUBOURN A.	LOCO	ROBERTS FRED	PER WAY
ROSS DONALD	PER WAY	MADDEN T. E.	LOCO	KING GEORGE	TRAM	BAIKS A. J.	TRAM
CLARK JAMES	LOCO	BRENNAN JOSEPH	PER WAY	BROWN AUBREY	TRAM	JARRETT W. J.	TRAM
MOFFITT J. A.	TRAM	SADLER E. W. H.	TRAM	ROBIN HARRIS	LOCO	BITTON C. F.	PER WAY
ROSE WALTER	STORES	CAMPBELL FRED	TRAM	CANE ARTHUR S.	TRAM	DOYLE MICHAEL	LOCO
WUTCHINSON B. B.	TRAM	FRICE WILLIAM	LOCO	PENDLTON FRED	LOCO	WILSON W. C.	TRAM
BRIDGES C.	PER WAY	JONES EVANS	TRAM	MURPHY W. J.	TRAM	LE SUEUR W. J.	LOCO
FARRELL JAMES	TRAM	CRILELAND A.	LOCO	FORBES JAMES	LOCO	AVARD ALLAN H.	TRAM
FRITCHARD L.	LOCO	LENEHAN A.	LOCO	TOONE W. J.	TRAM	STONELL ALFRED	LOCO
SLAYDON FELTON	TRAM	ROBINSON ROBERT	LOCO	WILES HERBERT	ELEC	WHITE RICHARD	TRAM
MADDEN WILLIAM	LOCO	WILLIAMS V. E.	TRAM	SEASE JOSEPH	LOCO	TANSEY MARTIN	LOCO
GOODMAN W. J.	LOCO	BRUCE GEORGE H.	TRAM	BUCKLE THOMAS	TRAM	KECK ROBERT	TRAM
KEEFE JAMES	LOCO	WINDERS S. H.	TRAM	FITZPATRICK J.	TRAM	SHANNON E. F.	TRAM
RUSSELL ARTHUR	PER WAY	ALSTON ARTHUR	LOCO	STEWART G. W.	PER WAY	WATTS HORACE	LOCO
COLLIER JOHN S. C.	LOCO	RICHARDSON G.	TRAM	BROMLEY ALBERT	TRAM	MC BRACKEN CLIVE	TRAM
HOLLOWAY FRED	PER WAY	SMITH HENRY	TRAM	CLINMAN ALEX S.	PER WAY	MC BRACKEN CLIVE	TRAM
SIPPELL ALBERT	LOCO	SMITH HENRY	TRAM	RICHARDS LESLIE	TRAM	SPENCER ROBERT	TRAM
JONES JOHN	TRAM	SMYTHE W. A.	TRAM	SWINDELLS FRANK	LOCO	CLARE W. L. W.	TRAM
HOUD ROY R.	TRAM	HANNESS E. G.	LOCO	DEBLET FRED	LOCO	DEWAR FRANCIS	LOCO
HAYWARD S.	LOCO	BROWN JAMES S.	TRAM	MC DOOY T. J.	LOCO	WEST CLAUDE B.	TRAM
POOLE F. C.	LOCO	MILLER HAROLD H.	LOCO	SARRELL R. J.	LOCO	TWIGGS B.	TRAM
TROTTER JOSEPH	TRAM	NOAKES JACK	PER WAY	DODGE GEORGE N.	TRAM	JORDAN EDWIN	LOCO
SHEDDEN LESLIE	LOCO	CAVANAGH M. J.	TRAM	JENNINGS C. E.	LOCO	TOOD ROBERT G.	TRAM
PORTER DANIEL	STORES	BOOKER W. J.	LOCO	CAWE EDWARD	TRAM	GOODER R.	TRAM
NEWBURY HENRY	LOCO	SATTON JOHN	PER WAY	DALY FRANCIS H.	TRAM	KENNEDY JOSEPH	TRAM
MOLAN CECIL J.	TRAM	BURNS GEORGE E.	TRAM	FISHER WILLIAM	ELEC	BURROGHAM A. H.	TRAM
GREATER JOE	TRAM						
JONES GEORGE	TRAM						
MURRAY JOHN	PER WAY						

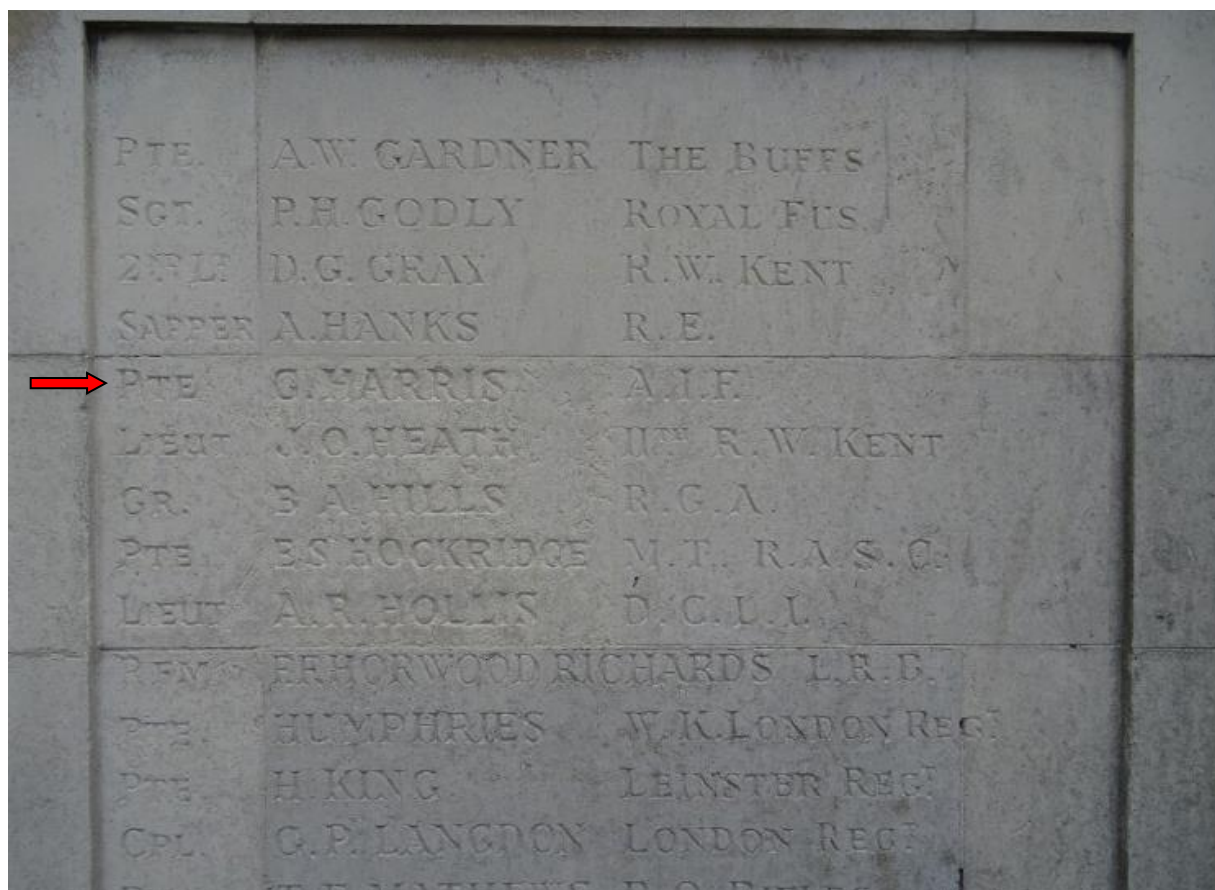
AYRES GEORGE	PER WAY	LINSELY GEORGE	TRAM	DAVIS WILFRED	TRAM	STYLES C. H.	TRAM
POOLE F. C.	LOCO	NAVEY THOS P.	TRAM	BROWN FRANCIS	TRAM	SHARROCK H. W.	TRAM
WRIGHT THOMAS	LOCO	MALLOD N. L.	TRAM	REIDMAN J.	TRAM	HURRY JOHN J.	TRAM
HICKY M. J.	TRAM	CROWE W. H.	LOCO	CORMACK ALLAN	TRAM	AMOS OWEN A. E.	CONST
COLLINS JOHN D.	TRAM	CHAPMAN Wm.	LOCO	GOAD REGINALD	LOCO	RITCHIE ROBERT	TRAM
HENRY ARTHUR R.	TRAM	SANDELS J. R.	LOCO	BAILEY R. H.	LOCO	WELLS WALTER	TRAM
BROGGS F.	TRAM	ROBERTS S. T.	LOCO	RAINE THOMAS F.	TRAM	TARRAN HARRY	LOCO
ALLEN F. J.	LOCO	BUTTERWORTH R.	PER WAY	LUCK THOMAS	TRAM	MURRAY R. H. K.	LOCO
ALLEN JAMES	LOCO	ROBERTS E. H.	LOCO	SEAGE ALLAN J.	TRAM	WALLACE T.	LOCO
ROBERTSON W.	LOCO	JONES RUPERT C.	PER WAY	MACPHERSON E.	LOCO	GUTTON D.	PER WAY
LYONS JOHN W.	TRAM	ROBERTS J. H.	PER WAY	REYNOLDS Wm.	LOCO	GIBBS FRED	LOCO
HOWARD A. E.	TRAM	ROBERTS J. H.	PER WAY	ELLIS GEORGE	TRAM	HODGES V. W. H.	LOCO
FRANZENFELDER E. F.	TRAM	CULLEN THOMAS	PER WAY	RYAN RICHARD	TRAM	BOWEN F. P.	TRAM
JONES JOHN	TRAM	COLLINS LONEL	PER WAY	FELTHAM F. D.	LOCO	BURTON V. R.	LOCO
TOOMEY S. T.	TRAM	SMITH JOHN G.	PER WAY	OWEN CHARLES	TRAM	TEAKEL C.	TRAM
RICHENS E. W.	TRAM						

(Photo by Jennifer Edmonds)

G. Harris is remembered on St. Mildred's Church War Memorial, located in the grounds of the Church at St. Mildred's Road & Helder Grove, Lee Green, Lewisham, London, England.



St. Mildred's Church War Memorial, Lee (Photos from IWM)



(38 pages of Private George Harris' 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 Australia



Newspaper Notices

Australian Casualties

Lists Nos 202 to 204

New South Wales

Died of Wounds

Pte G. HARRIS (England), 3/8/16

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 6 September, 1916)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private George Harris has a shared Private Family Headstone.

Hither Green Cemetery, London, England (also known as Lee Cemetery, Lewisham Crematorium & Verdant Lane Cemetery)

There are 42 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 198 of the 1939-1945 war here. Those whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a Screen Wall memorial in the main War Plot. There are also 12 non war service burials here.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Steve Johnson)

Photo of Private George Harris' shared Private Family Headstone in Hither Green Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo by Phil Evans)

In Loving Memory Of

GEORGE HARRIS

Died 29TH April 1952

Aged 85 Years.

Also His Beloved Wife

SARAH HARRIS

Died 12TH March 1952

Aged 81 Years

And Their Son

GEORGE HARRIS

Died Of Wounds 3RD August 1916

Aged 26 Years



(Photo from CWGC)