

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1864 PRIVATE

A. W. HOLMES

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH MARCH, 1917 Age 25

On The Field Of Battle

Ready To Do His Duty

Dear Angus Fell

Angus William HOLMES

Angus William Holmes was born at Ellendale, Tasmania on 10th November, 1891 to parents Charles John & Phoebe Emma Holmes (nee Donaldson).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Franklin, subdivision of Hamilton, Tasmania recorded Angus William Holmes, Labourer from Ellendale.

Angus William Holmes was a 23 year old, single, Carpenter from Ellendale, Macquarie Plains, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 20th January, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1864 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Charles John Holmes, Ellendale, Macquarie Plains, Tasmania.

Private Angus William Holmes embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 19th April, 1915 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.

Private Angus William Holmes was taken on strength of 12th Battalion at Gallipoli on 26th May, 1915 from Reinforcements.

Private Angus William Holmes reported sick on 24th July, 1915 & was admitted to No. 3 Field Ambulance at Gallipoli with Influenza. He was transferred to No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 25th July, 1915 then transferred to Fleet Sweeper (used to evacuate wounded soldiers from Anzac Cove/North Beach, to the Hospital Ships further out) the same day. Private Holmes was admitted to General Hospital at Gibraltar on 6th August, 1915 with Enteric Fever. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Mauretania* on 1st October, 1915 for England.

[The Service Record file does not record which Hospital Private Holmes was admitted to on arriving in England]

Private Angus William Holmes was admitted to Verne Military Hospital, England with V.D. on 27th October, 1915 & was discharged on 6th November, 1915 – a period of 11 days. He was reported again for a period of 8 days to 4th December, 1915 while in UK.

Base Records advised Mr C. J. Holmes, Ellendale, Macquarie Plains, Tasmania, father of Private Angus William Holmes, on 9th October, 1915 that a report had been received by post from the General Officer Commanding, Gibraltar date 9th August, 1915 advising that his son Private A. W. Holmes, 12th Battalion had disembarked from Hospital Ship *Somali* on 6th August & was admitted to hospital at Gibraltar, suffering from "*Enteric Fever, improving.*"

Mr C. J. Holmes was advised on 25th October, 1915 by Base Records that his son who had been admitted to hospital at Gibraltar, suffering from "*Enteric Fever severe, convalescent.*" He was advised again on 18th November that Private A. W. Holmes who was admitted to hospital at Gibraltar, "*Suffering from enteric fever, slight; was convalescent on that date.*"

Private Angus William Holmes arrived at Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 1st January, 1916 from Hospital.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire & also in the county of Dorset. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Private Angus William Holmes was transferred from Monte Video, Dorset to Perham Downs, Salisbury, Wiltshire on 28th June, 1916.

Private Angus William Holmes was admitted to Bulford Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 18th July, 1916 with V.D. from 3rd Training Battalion. He was discharged on 28th July, 1916. Total period of V.D. – 11 days. Private Holmes was admitted to General Hospital at Bulford on 6th August, 1916 with V.D.

Private Angus William Holmes was written up for an Offence while posted at Perham Downs – Absent without Leave from 06.45hrs on 1st September, 1916 to 18.00hrs on 6th September, 1916. He was awarded 144 hours detention & forfeited 6 days' pay.

Private Angus William Holmes was written up for a Crime while posted 3rd Training Battalion, Perham Downs, Wiltshire – Being out of Bounds without a pass on 10th October, 1916. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Camp.

Private Angus William Holmes proceeded Overseas to France on 15th October, 1916. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 16th October, 1916. Private Holmes proceeded from 1st A.D.B.D. on 9th November, 1916 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 12th Battalion in the Field on 17th November, 1916.

Private Angus William Holmes was wounded in action in France on 27th February, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 27th February, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Left Buttock. Private Holmes was transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 1st March, 1917. He embarked for England on 2nd March, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*.

12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

The battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC position, and in August contributed two companies to the attack on Lone Pine. It was the only battalion in the brigade to do so. The 12th served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....

In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 12th Battalion

27th February, 1917:

At dawn "A" Coy moved up West side of LE BARQUE & cleared & occupied MALT TRENCH. "B" Coy established a post of 1 Officer & 25 Men at N.I.C.1.2 in RED CUT RD. "D" Coy moved up on eastern side of village & systematically cleaned it & established a post at QUARRY at N.I.C. 6.4 this surrounding both LE BARQUE & LIGNY.

At 1800 in co-operation with 11th Bn. we established strong posts at N.I.C.8.5 & N.I.D.6.7. thus capturing LIGNY-THILLOY which was cleared by 11th Bn. Relieved by 4th Bn at 2340.

Moved back to No. 3 Camp BAZENTIT-LE-PETIT.

CAPT J. E. NEWLAND, H. WEBBER & 2nd LT M. BENSLEY wounded.

Total casualties whilst in line:-

Killed 1 Officer 27 other ranks

Wounded 9 Officers 61 other ranks

Missing 2 other ranks

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Angus William Holmes was admitted to Edmonton Military Hospital, London, England on 3rd March, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "G.S.W. Lt Thigh & Buttock, Wd left thigh & left buttock c̄ fracture of structural tibia (?) only. He was reported as dangerously ill on 6th March, 1917.

Base Records advised Mr C. J. Holmes, Ellendale, Macquarie Plains, Tasmania, father of Private Angus William Holmes, on 13th March, 1917 that Private Angus Holmes had been admitted to Hospital on 6th March dangerously ill.

Private Angus William Holmes died on 14th March, 1917 at Edmonton Military Hospital, Edmonton, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. Left Thigh & Left Buttock. The Hospital Admissions form recorded “*Death from Gas Gangrene.*”

A death for Angus Holmes, aged 25, was registered in March quarter, 1917 in the district of Edmonton, Middlesex, England.

Private Angus William Holmes was buried on 20th March, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 178,960.

From the burial report of Private Angus William Holmes - *Coffin was good, Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The remains were borne to the graveside by members of the Administrative Headquarters Staff, A.I.F., London. Chaplain Collick officiated at the graveside. No relatives were present at the funeral. Lt. Gallagher represent the Commonwealth Military Authorities was present at the Funeral.*

Base Records wrote to Mr C. J. Holmes, Ellendale, Macquarie Plains, Tasmania, on 29th March, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row F Grave 2.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. F. 11. Private Angus William Holmes now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Angus William Holmes contains a letter from The Matron, Edmonton Military Hospital, Silver Street, Upper Edmonton which reads: “*In reply to your enquiry re the late Pte Holmes, No. 1864, 12th Battn, A.I.F. He was admitted here on March 2nd, 1917 with a serious wound of the thigh. He was very ill and became gradually worse and passed away on March 14th. Before he died he asked the Sister to send his love and his photograph to his mother. He was conscious until the last and spoke of his home and surroundings. The A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Rd, S.W. will give you full particulars respecting his burial.*”

Phoebe Emma Holmes, Ellendale, mother of the late Private Angus William Holmes, applied for a War Pension but it was rejected as she was not considered a dependant.

Private Angus William Holmes was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Holmes' father – Mr C. J. Holmes, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Angus William Holmes – service number 1864, aged 25, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles John & Phoebe E. Holmes, of Ellendale, Tasmania.

Private A. W. Holmes is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 66.

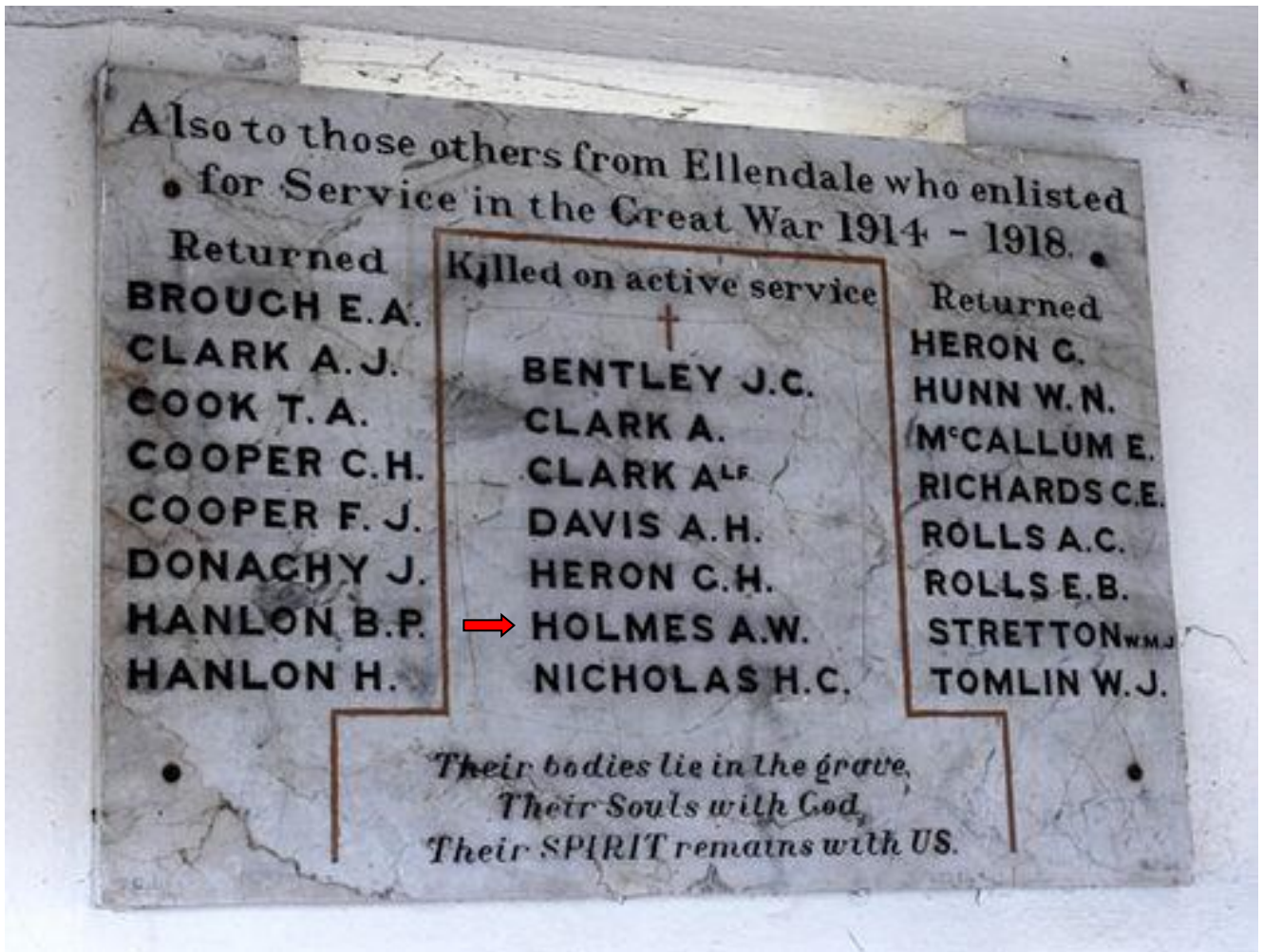


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. W. Holmes is remembered on the Ellendale Recreation Ground & Lych Gate, located on Ellendale Road, Ellendale, Tasmania.



Ellendale Recreation Ground & Lych Gate (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)



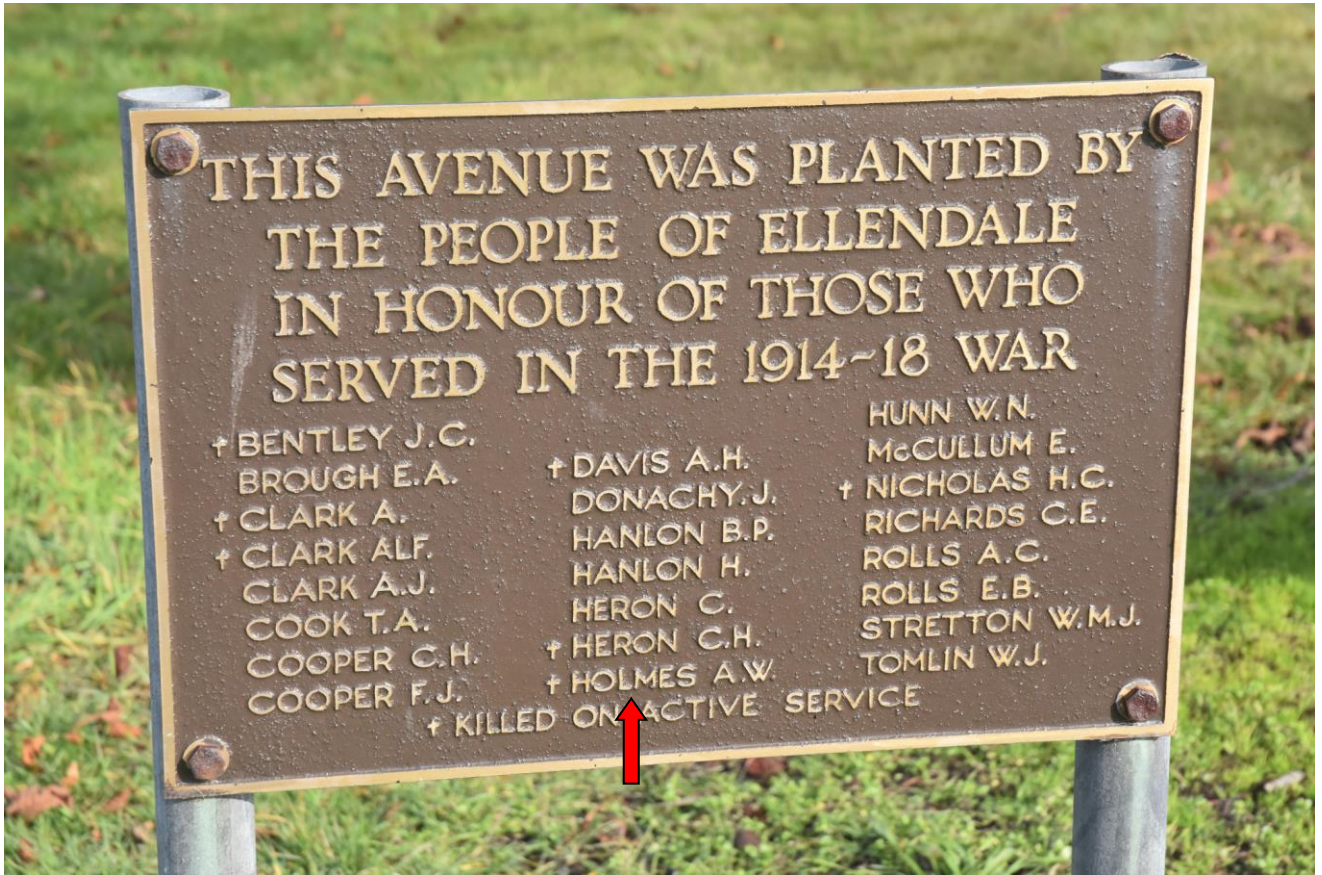
A. W. Holmes is remembered on the Ellendale Roll of Honour, located in Ellendale Hall, Ellendale Road, Ellendale, Tasmania.



Ellendale Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride - Arthur Garland)

A. W. Holmes is remembered on the Ellendale Avenue of Trees, located on The Avenue, Ellendale, Tasmania.





(Photos from AWM Places of Pride - Arthur Garland)



According to Tasmanian War Memorials Data Base compiled by Fred Thornett - A. W. Holmes is remembered on the Ellendale State School Honour Board which was removed from the defunct Ellendale School; refurbished & hung in Westerway School, Tasmania.

A. W. Holines (should be Holmes) is remembered on the Hamilton Municipality Roll of Honour, located in Council Offices, Tarleton Street, Hamilton, Tasmania.



Hamilton Municipality Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride - Arthur Garland)

A. W. Holmes is remembered on the Circular Municipality Honour Roll, located in Smithton RSL Club, 123 Nelson Street, Smithton, Tasmania.

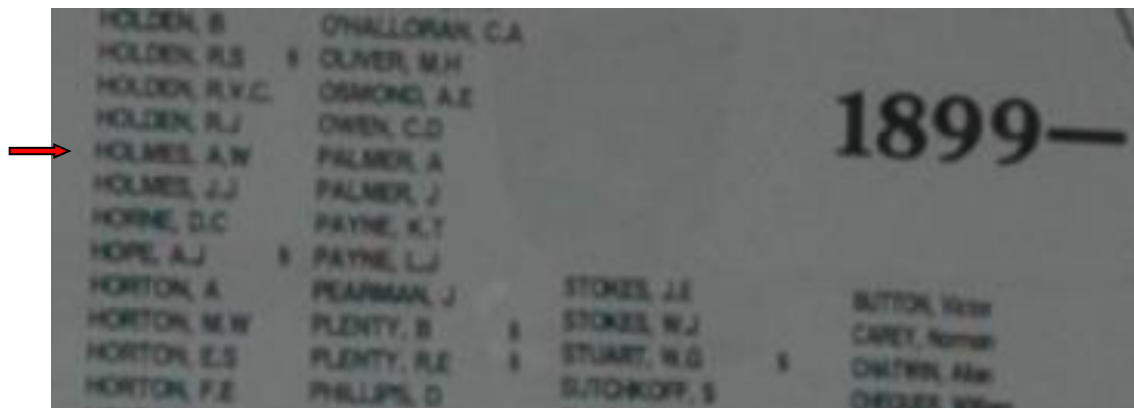


Circular Municipality Honour Roll (Photo from AWM Places of Pride - Arthur Garland)

A. W. Holmes is remembered on the Municipality of Circular Head Honour Roll, located in Smithton RSL Club, 123 Nelson Street, Smithton, Tasmania.



Municipality of Circular Head Honour Roll (Photo from AWM Places of Pride - Arthur Garland)



Angus William Holmes is remembered on the Gretna War Memorial, located on Lyell Highway, Gretna, Tasmania.



Gretna War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride - Arthur Garland)



(48 pages of Private Angus William Holmes' 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



Private Angus William Holmes

Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Launceston, Thursday – The 99th and 100th casualty lists were officially released.....

TASMANIAN NAMES

REPORTED IN HOSPITALS

1864 – Private A. W. Holmes, 12th Battalion, 4th Reinforcements, Macquarie Plains, ill, Gibraltar

(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania – 29 October, 1915)

AUSTRALIA'S

ROLL OF HONOR

CASUALTY LIST No. 282

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

HOSPITAL CASES

Private A. W. Holmes. Ellendale, second occasion, dangerously, previously reported returned to duty.

(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 28 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HOLMES – Died of gunshot wounds, March 14, 1917 at Egmonton Military Hospital, Private Angus William, third son of Charles and Phoebe Holmes, Ellendale, in his 26th years. For King and country.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 27 March, 1917)

Roll of Honour

Casualty List – No. 283

Tasmania Casualties

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte A. W. HOLMES, Macquarie Plains, 14/3/17; previously reported dangerously ill, second occasion.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 30 March, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Died on Active Service

HOLMES – Died in Military Hospital, England, of wounds received in France on March 14, 1917, Angus William, third dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs C. J. Holmes, Ellendale, in his 26th year. For King and Country.

He sleeps not in his native land,
But under foreign skies,
Far, far from those who loved him,
In a hero's grave he lies.

He never shunned his Country's call,
But gladly gave his life, his all;
He died the helpless to defend,
An Australian soldier's noble end.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, sister and brothers.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 14 March, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Died on Active Service

HOLMES – Died in Military Hospital, England, of wounds received while fighting in France on March 14, 1917, Angus William, third dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs C. J. Holmes, Ellendale, in his 26th year. For King and Country.

He has sailed on his last commission
In a beautiful ship called Rest,
And his head is softly pillowed
On his great Commander's breast.

No one he loved was by his side
To hear his last faint sigh,
Or whisper just one loving word,
Or even say good-bye.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters and brothers.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 14 March, 1919)

*** Notices were also placed in 1920, 1921, 1922 & 1925



Original Cross Marker for Private Angus William Holmes

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 A. W. Holmes does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

On The Field Of Battle Ready To Do His Duty

Dear Angus Fell

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 A. W. Holmes' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)



(Photos courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Private A. W. Holmes – Plot 11 Row F Grave 11



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

