

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

**H. W. HOMER M.M.**

**26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**1ST JUNE, 1917 Age 23**

*In Memory Of Dear Bert*

*Beloved Son Of*

*Mr And Mrs Homer*

*Of Kington*

## Herbert William (Bert) HOMER

Herbert William Homer was born at Kington, Herefordshire, England on 1st March, 1894 to parents Benjamin George and Elizabeth Sarah Homer (nee Williams).

The 1901 England Census recorded Herbert W. Homer as a 7 year old, living with his family at Mill Street, Kington, Herefordshire, England. His parents were listed as Benjamin G. Homer (Builder (Employer), aged 37, born Kington Herefordshire) & Elizabeth S. Homer (aged 34, born Lyonshall, Herefordshire). Herbert was one of six children listed on this Census (all born Kington) – Lauderdale G. Homer (aged 8), Herbert W. Homer, Harry R. Homer (aged 6), Ernest T. Homer (aged 4), Alfred C. Homer (aged 2) & Edith M. Homer (aged 2 months).

Herbert William Homer attended Lady Hawkins' Grammar School, Kington, Herefordshire, England.

Herbert William Homer was employed by the Great Western Railways – Operating, Traffic & Coaching Departments as a Clerk in Passenger Department at Leamington. He commenced work on 2nd July, 1909.

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Herbert William Homer came to Australia when he was aged 16 years. The family arrived on 21st December, 1910 on *Norseman*.

[The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Taringa, Queensland listed Herbert William Homer, Clerk from Belgrave Rd, Indooroopilly. Also listed as the address – Benjamin George Homer, Carpenter, Elizabeth Sarah Homer, Home Duties & Lauderdale George Homer, Carpenter.]

Herbert William Homer was a 20 year old, single, Railway Clerk from Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland when he enlisted on 2nd September, 1914 in Brisbane, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. S. Homer, Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland.

A second lot of Attestation Papers were completed for Herbert William Homer who was a 21 year old, single, Railway Clerk from Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland when he enlisted on 22nd February, 1915 in Brisbane, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3509 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. S. Homer, Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland.

Herbert William Homer was posted "Unallotted" to A.M.C. (Army Medical Corp) from 22nd February, 1915 to 16th April, 1915. He was positioned as Waggon Orderly with 7th Field Ambulance from 16th April, 1915.

Private Herbert William Homer embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 24th May, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 7th Field Ambulance, A.M.C., "A" Section.

Private Herbert William Homer was appointed Lance Corporal on 19th July, 1915.

Lance Corporal Herbert William Homer proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 4th September, 1915.

Lance Corporal Herbert William Homer was to be Temporary Corporal from 18th October, 1915 (Vice L/ Sergeant Bell evacuation sick on 17th October, 1915).

Temporary Corporal Herbert William Homer was admitted to 1st Field Ambulance at Mudros with Jaundice on 15th December, 1915. He was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance at Anzac on 17th December, 1915. Temporary Corporal Homer reported for duty on 25th December, 1915.

Temporary Corporal Herbert William Homer was to be Temporary Sergeant from 2nd January, 1916 whilst carrying out duties of Sergeant Clerk.

Temporary Sergeant Herbert William Homer disembarked at Alexandria on 10th January, 1916 (after the evacuation of Gallipoli). He was to act as Sergeant Clerk from 11th January, 1916 vice Sergeant Bailey evacuated & rejoined his Unit on 12th January, 1916 from Transport Details.

The rank of Corporal was confirmed on 18th February, 1916 at Ismailia vice Corporal Pearce placed on Supernumerary List.

Corporal Herbert William Homer embarked from Alexandria on 14th March, 1916 on *Minneapolis* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 19th March, 1916.

The rank of Sergeant Clerk was confirmed on 2nd April, 1916 at Fort Rompu, France vice Sergeant Bailey evacuated sick on 2nd January, 1916.

Sergeant Herbert William Homer was recommended for a Military Medal on 18th June, 1916 for "*Constant and unfailing devotion to duty as a bearer, Gallipoli Peninsula from 13.9.15 until evacuation.*"

Sergeant Herbert William Homer was awarded the Military Medal. (*London Gazette* – 27 October, 1916 & *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 19 April, 1917)

### **Military Medal**

The Military Medal (MM) was a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other arms of the armed forces, and to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914, and was awarded to other ranks for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire". (*Wikipedia*)



**Military Medal (MM)**

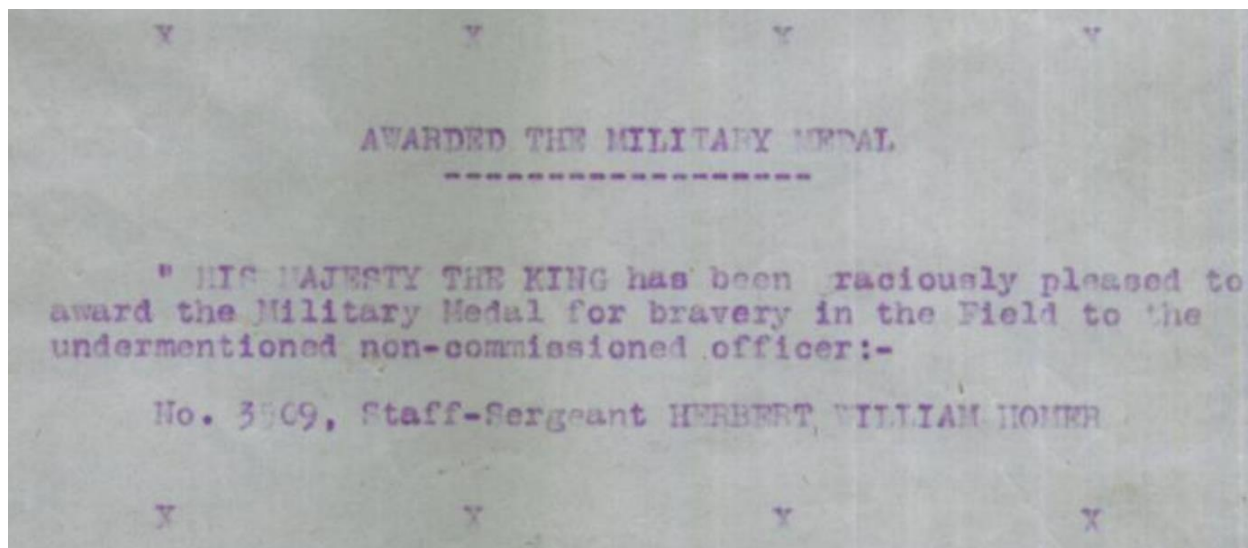
Sergeant Clerk Herbert William Homer was to be Staff Sergeant from 25th September, 1916 while posted in Belgium.

Sergeant Herbert William Homer was recommended for a Meritorious Service Medal on 3rd October, 1916 by O.C. 7th Australian Field Ambulance for "*This N.C.O. has also done consistently good work since the Unit arrived in France. He has been acting as Senior Sergeant Clerk since January, 1916 and has been untiring, most conscientious in carrying out his duties, which were most arduous during the large number of evacuations during the fighting on the SOMME.*"

Sergeant Herbert William Homer was transferred from 7th Field Ambulance to 26th Infantry Battalion on 12th March, 1917.

Sergeant Herbert William Homer was appointed 2nd Lieutenant on 7th April, 1917 (A.I.F. List 165).

Mrs E. S. Homer, Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, Queensland, was advised by Base Records on 25th April, 1917 "*I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Second Supplement No. 29794 to the London Gazette of 20th October, 1916, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, No. 3509, Staff Sergeant W. H. Homer, 7th Field Ambulance....*"



Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer was wounded in action in France on 3rd May, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 3rd May, 1917 with Bomb wound to Back. Second Lieutenant Homer was transferred & admitted to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd May, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Back & was placed on the Seconded List for being evacuated wounded. He was transferred to 3rd Ambulance Train on 15th May, 1917 & admitted to 2nd Stationary Hospital at Abbeville, France on 16th May, 1917. Second Lieutenant Homer was transferred to Le Havre on 19th May, 1917 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

### **26th Battalion**

The 26th Battalion was raised at Enoggera, Queensland, in April 1915 from recruits enlisted in Queensland and Tasmania, and formed part of the 7th Brigade. It left Australia in July, and, after training in Egypt, landed at Gallipoli on 12 September. At Gallipoli, the 26th played a purely defensive role and at various times was responsible for the defence of Courtney's and Steele's Posts, and Russell's Top. It withdrew from the peninsula on 12 December.....

In early 1917, the 26th Battalion joined the follow-up of the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line and attacked at Warlencourt (1-2 March) and Lagincourt (26 March). For his valorous actions at Lagincourt, Captain Percy Cherry was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. On 3 May, the Battalion was also involved in the second attempt to breach the Hindenburg Line defences around Bullecourt. Later that year the focus of the AIF's operations switched to Belgium.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 26th Battalion

*Vaulx – May 1, 1917:*

*On the night of April 30th / May 1st the Bn was relieved by 21st & 23rd Bns & moved to tent camp near Fav\_\_\_\_ H.10.C*

*May 2, 1917:*

*On the night of 2/3 the Bn moved forward & occupied the railway embankment i.e. the position that was handed over in the evening of April 30 / May 1st.*

*May 3, 1917:*

*The two Bns relieved took part in the Hindenburg line attack on the morning of 3rd while the 26th Bn's duty was to hold part of railway embankment from which the attack was launched (for full details see attached report & sketch). Later the 26th Bn was ordered into the attack to protect the right flank of the 6th Bde (see attached report). Later the same evening the 26th Bn was withdrawn to Longath-Noreuil sunken road. Almost immediately on arrival the Bn*

*“stood to” as the huns attempted to counter attack. Nothing came of this however and the Bn was engaged in digging during the remainder of the night. (see report)*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 20th May, 1917.

Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer died at 3 pm on 1st June, 1917 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (gun shot wound/s) to Supra Clavicular region.

A death for Herbert W. Homer, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Wandsworth, Greater London, England.

Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer was buried on 5th June, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179,362.

*From the burial report of Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer - Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased Officer was buried with full Military Honours. Band, Firing Party and a party of mourners provided by the 9th Reserve Battalion stationed at Deep Cut, near Farnborough, were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag, and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes. Prior to the interment a Service was held in the Chapel at the Cemetery by Chaplain Richards of the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, London. The coffin was borne to the graveside by members attached to the Administrative Headquarters. Private E. T. Homer (brother) 7th Field Ambulance, A.I.F. of No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Miss V. Mills (friend) 3 Ormond House, Cheltenham and Mr J. M. Campbell, representing Queensland Government, and of 409 Strand, E.C. were present at the funeral.*

*Lieut. Niven of the Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London, represent the Commonwealth Military Authorities at the funeral. Temporary oak memorial to be erected by Commonwealth Mil. Authorities. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside.*

Base Records wrote to B. G. Homer, Esq., Station Road, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, Queensland 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 E Grave 8.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference - XI. E. 8. Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Staff Sergeant Herbert William Homer requested in his Will, dated 16th February, 1917, that in the event of his death all his “worldly possessions” to be given to his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Sarah Homer. £50 to be left to Miss Violet Mills, 3 Ormond Terrace, Regent Street, Cheltenham, England & his collection of English Bird's Eggs to Mr George Gall Junior, “Albert” Pinkenba, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

A War Pension was granted to Elizabeth Sarah Homer, Belgrave Rd, Indooroopilly, mother of the late Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 11th August, 1917 “in addition to pension of 10/- p.f. already granted in respect of Harry Raymond Homer, 3593, Pte 7th F.A.”

Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Second Lieutenant Homer's father – Mr B. G. Homer, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer, of 26th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Benjamin George and Elizabeth Sarah Homer, of Station Rd., Indooroopilly, Queensland.



Second Lieutenant H. W. Homer, M.M. is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 107.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

H. W. Homer & his brother H. R. Homer are both remembered on the Indooroopilly War Memorial (also referred to as Indooroopilly Fallen Sailors and Soldiers Monument), located in Keating Park, Coonan Street & Belgrave Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland.



**Indooroopilly War Memorial** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Brendan Downs)





INDOOROOPILLY  
FALLEN  
SAILORS AND SOLDIERS  
MONUMENT.  
1914 — 1919

BARDWELL. H. W.  
BOYLE. J. J.  
BRADLEY. W. J.  
BRYDON. K. M.  
BURNS. A.  
DAVIDSON. E. R.  
DAVIDSON. P.  
ELLIOTT. R. V.  
ELLIOTT. T. W.  
GREGORY. E. G.  
GREGORY. C.  
HAYS. J. W.  
HOMER. H. R.  
HOMER. H. W.  
HEMMING. V. C.  
HAYMEN. F. G.  
LARKIN. J.  
MUNRO. C. C. ROSS.  
MUNRO. K. ROSS.  
MCDONALD. S.  
NEVILL. J. H.  
REYNOLDS. P.  
ROBERTSON. F. J. K.  
TAYLOR. K. R.  
WEBB. N. R.

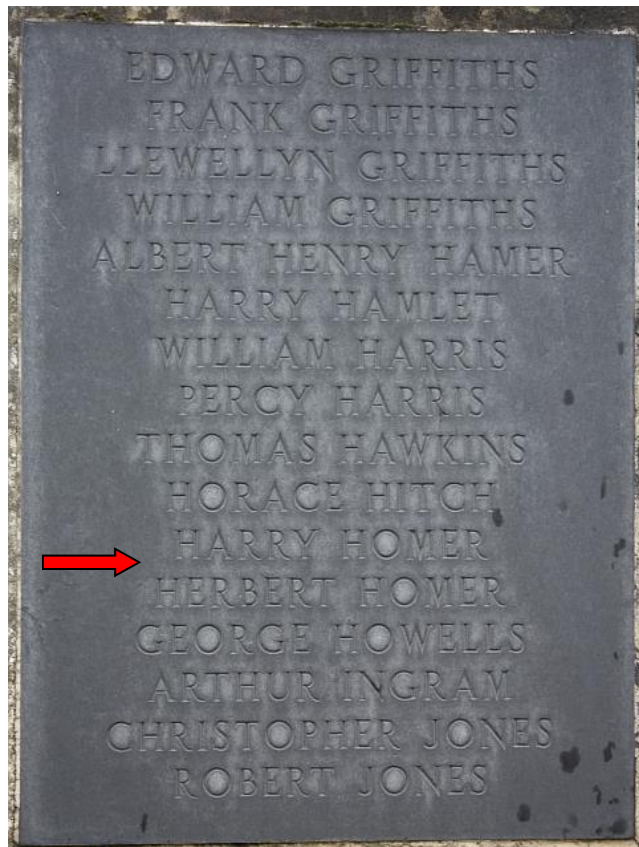
THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD,  
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD;  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,  
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN,  
AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Indooroopilly War Memorial

Herbert & his brother Harry Homer are both remembered on the Kington War Memorial, located at The Square, Kington, Herefordshire, England.



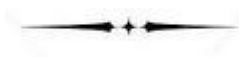
**Kington War Memorial** (Photo above from War Memorials Online; below by Bob Embleton)





(53 pages of Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer'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*



**Military Army Battlefield Souvenirs of Herbert William Homer**

*(Photo from Queensland Museum Network- H5273.1)*

The photo shows pebbles (19 in all) that were collected from Anzac Cove Beach, Gallipoli/Turkey in 1915.

**Brief description**

*White pebble with orange & grey colourations, one of 19 small pebbles of varying sizes. Various colours, all showing rounding typical of beach or river wear.*

**Subject Notes**

*This pebble from Anzac Cove was among the items collected by Queensland soldier Herbert William Homer while he served as a stretcher bearer at Gallipoli from September 1915 until the December evacuation that year. Private Homer was awarded a Military Medal for this role, and a Meritorious Service Medal for his actions on the Somme in 1916. Herbert Homer died of wounds in June 1917.*



**Herbert William Homer**



**Lance Corporal H. W. Homer** (*The Queenslander Pictorial*, 1916)



STAFF-SERGT. H. W. HOMER,  
Who has received the Military  
Medal. He was a clerk in the Rail-  
way Inquiry Office, Brisbane, prior to  
enlistment.



**Staff Sergeant H. W. Homer** (*The Queenslander Pictorial*, 1917)





**Herbert William Homer**



**Herbert Homer & Dick Keen, Enoggera encampment, 23rd May 1915**

*(Photo from State Library of Queensland)*

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Herbert William Homer was one of four brothers who enlisted & all were on active service with A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Force).

*"I have no objection & am only pleased that I have another loyal son who is willing to offer his life to win the war ... He is my fifth son who has enlisted, two having paid the supreme sacrifice ... I have no more sons to send, only a little Boy aged 10 yrs at home"*

### Brothers:

Lauderdale George Homer (b. 1893) – Previously served 4 years with 1st Herefordshire Territorials before leaving England. Enlisted with Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 21st August, 1914 as a 21 year old Carpenter.

Discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 3rd September, 1914 as Medically unfit.

Harry Raymond Homer (b. 1895) – Enlisted with Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 16th November, 1914 as a 19 year old Carpenter from Indooroopilly, Queensland. Embarked from Brisbane, Queensland with 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance. Service number 505, later 3593. Died of Jaundice on 12th November, 1915 No. 16 Casualty Clearing Station, Anzac, Gallipoli. Buried Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey.

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



“Bert” at Harry’s Grave at Gallipoli

Ernest Thomas Homer (b. 1896) – Enlisted with Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 3rd February, 1916 as a 19 year old Clerk from Indooroopilly, Queensland. Embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on 27th October, 1915 on HMAT Marathon (A74) as Private No.15750 with Army Medical Corps, October 1916 Reinforcements.

Returned to Australia from England on 13th March, 1918 for discharge due to Pleurisy. Medically discharged on 24th June, 1918.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Alfred Charles Homer (b. 1898) – Enlisted with Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 13th July, 1918 as a 19 year old Clerk from Indooroopilly, Queensland. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on HT *Port Darwin* on 14th September, 1918 with 5th General Service Reinforcements as Private No. 63995

Returned to Australia on 17th April, 1920. Discharged from A.I.F. on 7th July, 1920.

Entitled to British War Medal only as he did not enter a Theatre of War.

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## **Newspaper Notices**

### **PERSONAL**

Staff-sergeant Herbert William Homer (of the 7th Field Ambulance), who has been awarded the military medal, is a son of Mr and Mrs Homer, of Indooroopilly, and prior to enlisting was employed as a clerk in the Railway Enquiry Office, in the city. His brother (Harry) was killed at Gallipoli, and another brother recently left for the front.

*(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 5 January, 1917)*

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### **MILITARY MEDALS**

Staff-sergeant Herbert William Homer, 7th Field Ambulance, a recipient of the Military Medal, was a clerk in the Railway Enquiry Office, in Brisbane, prior to his enlistment. Staff-sergeant Homer is a son of Mr and Mrs Homer, of Indooroopilly, and a grandson of Mrs W. Williams, Penlan Farm, Kington, Herefordshire, England. He comes of an old military family, his father having served for 30 years in the 1st Hereford Infantry. Mr Homer was a noted shot, and was a member of the celebrated rifle club known as the Twenty Club. He holds records of prizes which he won at Bisley and Wimbledon, and at several country meetings. In the 1st Hereford's he held the rank of colour-sergeant.



Mr and Mrs Homer and family have been in Brisbane for about six years, having come direct from Herefordshire. One son, Harry, was killed at Gallipoli, and another boy, Thomas (a clerk in the A.M.E.), recently left for the Front.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 5 January, 1917)*

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## PERSONAL

Mrs Plant has been notified that her nephew, Sergeant Herbert William Homer, 7th Field Ambulance, has, on the recommendation of General Birdwood, been awarded the military medal.

*(The Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 10 January, 1917)*

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## Roll of Honour

The 303rd Australian casualty list was released by the censor....

### WOUNDED

2nd-Lt. H. W. Homer, Indooroopilly

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 26 May, 1917)*

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## Personal Notes

Mrs Homer, Indooroopilly, has just received a second telegram from the base records office, Melbourne, stating that her son, 2nd-Lieutenant H. W. Homer (Bert), 26th Battalion (late 7th Field Ambulance), admitted hospital, 17th May gunshot wound in back – severe.

*(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 8 June, 1917)*

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## QUEENSLAND OFFICER DEAD

Mrs. E. S. Homer, Belgrave road, Indooroopilly, has received the sad news of the death of her son, Second Lieutenant Herbert William Homer, on 1st June, at the 3rd London General Hospital, from gunshot wounds in the supra clavicular region. On 30th May a cablegram was received, stating that the deceased soldier, who had been previously reported wounded, expected to leave for Australia shortly. The late Lieutenant Homer left Brisbane for the front on 24th May, 1915. He was through the Gallipoli campaign, and later went to France. He was 23 years of age at the time of his death. Prior to enlisting he was in the city office of the Railway Department. One of the deceased's brothers was killed during the fighting on Gallipoli, another brother is at the front, and the deceased's father is on his way there.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 16 June, 1917) & (The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 18 June, 1917) &*

*(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 June, 1917) & (The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 23 June, 1917)*

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## AUSTRALIAN LOSSES

The Commonwealth Defence Department last night released the 314th casualty list....

### QUEENSLAND

#### DIED OF WOUNDS

2nd-Lieut. H. W. Homer, Indooroopilly, . 1/6/17

*(The Daily Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 23 June, 1917)*

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## TOWN & COUNTRY

Mrs. E. S. Homer, Belgrave-road, Indooroopilly, has received the sad news of the death of her son, 2nd Lieut. Herbert William Homer, on June 1, at the 3rd London General Hospital, from gunshot wounds. The late Lieut. left Brisbane for the front on May 24, 1915. He was through the Gallipoli campaign, and later went to France. He was 23 years of age at the time of his death. Prior to enlisting he was in the city office of the Railway Department. One of the deceased's brothers was killed during the fighting on Gallipoli, another brother is at the front, and the deceased's father is on his way there.

(*Cairns Post*, Queensland – 25 June, 1917) & (*The Northern Herald*, Cairns, Queensland – 29 June, 1917)

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## IN MEMORIAM

HOMER – In loving memory of 2nd Lieutenant H. W. Homer (Bert), who died of wounds received in France, in No. 3 Military Hospital, London, on 1st June, 1917, aged 23 years, second son of Mr and Mrs Homer, Belgrave-road, Indooroopilly, and grandson of the late Mr William Williams, Penlan Farm, Kington, Herefordshire, England.

“He gave his life for a noble cause.”

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

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 2 July, 1917)

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## PERSONAL NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. Homer, of Belgrave-road, Indooroopilly, have received the following letter from Chaplain R.H. Richard in connection with the death, while on active service, of their son, the late Lieutenant H. W. Homer :—“He was buried by me at Brookwood Cemetery yesterday (June 5). May the Friend of the sorrowing sustain you in your great sorrow, He fought bravely suffered patiently, and died nobly. That he served his country so faithfully will be some little comfort to you in your sadness. His funeral was marked by the greatest military respect. Detachments of soldiers were present to do honour to his memory. An A.I.F. officer represented headquarters; a military band played the solemn 'Dead March' and about 10 buglers of a London regiment sounded the 'Last Post.' The cemetery is in a beautiful part of the country, and is beautifully kept, resembling a magnificent park and gardens. Your dear boy lies side by side with his comrades, and you may be assured that his grave will be cared for. Your son of the Field Ambulance was present as chief mourner—I spoke to him and tried to comfort him. A gentleman from the Agent-General of Queensland's office was also present. I am telling you the above because I can enter into your feelings at this time. I, too, have had two sons who have suffered by reason of this war, but, thank God, their lives have been spared. May God bless you in your sorrow.” A long and eulogistic letter has also been received by the dead soldier's parents from H. C. Weathrel, G. A. Garton, S. R. Eggleton, C. A. Schwab, N. de Saxe, W. E. Dobson, W. Price. J. Cornock, D. J. West, G. K. Aitken, R. E. D. Gani. W. S. London, G. R. Rice, A. G. Toope, C. Kidman, J. Cunningham, and A. Wright, all members of the sergeants' mess of the Australian Field Ambulance.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 20 September, 1917) & (*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 29 September, 1917)

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

HOMER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lieut. H. W. Homer, M.M. 26th Btn., who died of wounds, in the 3rd London Military Hospital, on June 1, 1917.

“Sadly missed by all who knew him.”

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

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 1 June, 1918)

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

HOMER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lieut. H. W. Homer, M.M. 26th Battalion, who died of wounds in the 3rd London General Hospital, June 1st, 1917, of wounds received at Bullecourt, France.

“Nobly he did his duty.”

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

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 2 June, 1919)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

HOMER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, 2nd Lieut. H. W. Homer (Bert), 26th Battalion, who died June 1st, 1917, of wounds received in France.

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

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 1 June, 1920)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

HOMER – In loving memory of Lieut H, W. Homer, 26th Battalion, killed, Bullecourt, 1917.

Inserted by all at home.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 1 June, 1921)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

HOMER – In loving memory of Lieut H, W. Homer (Bert), 26th Battalion, who died at Wandsworth Hospital, London, from wounds received in France, June 1st, 1917.

Though lost to sight, to memory dear,

Inserted by his loving father, sisters and brothers.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 1 June, 1922)*

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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. 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)*

Second Lieutenant H. W. Homer does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of Dear Bert*

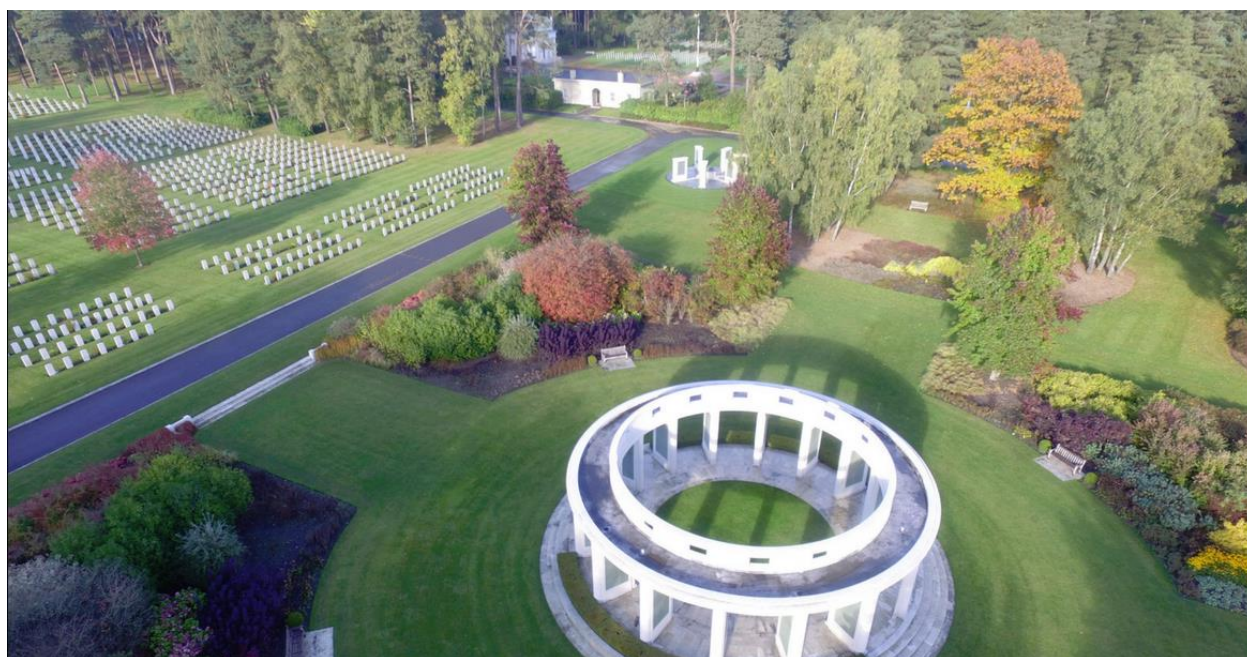
*Beloved Son Of Mr And Mrs Homer Of Kington*

## **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.



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** *(Photo from CWGC)*



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** (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 Second Lieutenant H. W. Homer's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

