

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3127A PRIVATE

G. HURLEY

56TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH OCTOBER, 1916

*Dearly Loved
Son & Brother
Of Mrs Hurley & Family
Of Nth Sydney*

George HURLEY

George Hurley was born in 1893 at Tempe, in the district of St. Peters, Sydney, New South Wales to parents Michael James & Ann Jane Hurley (nee Turner).

Michael James Hurley, father of George Hurley, died on 26th September, 1898 at St. Leonards, NSW.

George Hurley attended North St. Leonard's Superior Public School, Crow's Nest, NSW.

George Hurley was a 22 year old, single, Fireman (with NSW Govt. Railways) from Wollombie, Nesbit Street, North Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Holsworthy, Sydney, NSW on 10th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3127 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A. Hurley, of Wollombie, Nesbit Street, North Sydney, NSW.

Private George Hurley embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 20th December, 1915 with the 20th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

Private George Hurley was allotted & proceeded from Zeitoun to join 56th Battalion on 16th February, 1916. He was taken on strength of 56th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 16th February, 1916 from 20th Battalion.

Private George Hurley was awarded 1 day Field Punishment No. 2 for mounting Guard with a dirty rifle at Ferry Post on 4th April, 1916.

Private George Hurley embarked from Alexandria on 19th June, 1916 to join the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private George Hurley proceeded to Paris on 12th July, 1916 to attend a Review. He rejoined his Battalion in France on 19th July, 1916.

Private George Hurley was wounded in action in France on 21st July, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to head & skull fracture. Pte Hurley was transferred to 1st Canadian Clearing Station then transferred to Ambulance Train on 29th July, 1916. He was admitted to 35th General Hospital at Calais, France on 29th July, 1916. Pte Hurley embarked for England from Calais on 2nd August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Brighton* with gunshot wounds to head.

Mrs A. Hurley, "Wollombi", Nesbitt Street, North Sydney, NSW, was advised on 9th August, 1916 that No. 3127 Private G. Hurley 56th late 20th Battalion had been reported wounded.

56th Battalion

The 56th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 4th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 4th, the 56th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 30 June 1916, the battalion entered the frontline trenches for the first time on 12 July and fought its first major battle at Fromelles a week later. The battle was a disaster, resulting in heavy casualties across the division. Despite these losses the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 56th Battalion

Bac St. Maur Sector – 21st July, 1916

6 am – 2nd Lieut. F. H. Day and 4 men in the Bn., were wounded, whilst out in "No man's land" assisting the wounded. Enemy reported to be repairing their wire, which was badly cut by our Artillery.

8 am – A start was made in stacking spare equipment – rifles and other gear, in various Saps along the original firing line and 300 yards trench, with a view to having same taken to the rear. Work was also commenced to improve our own parapets, which were in places, badly smashed. The remainder of the day was devoted to clearing the trenches of dead, also bringing in wounded men who crawled in from “no man’s land”, to the rear. A fair amount of sniping was indulged in, which prevented the enemy from carrying out improvements in their trenches.

6 pm – Message received from Bde. Hqrs., that Bn., would be relieved by the 58th Bn., at 10 pm

7 pm – Billeting party under Lieut. Plomley, left for Bac St. Maur.

10 pm – Operation Order re Relief was received from Bde. Preparations were immediately made for a move back to Billets at Bac St. Maur.

10.15 pm – Relief commenced and Bn., all clear of trenches at 12 pm. During the relief the enemy indulged in indirect machine gun fire, of which a fair amount was directed on the RUE PETILLON resulting in 6 men being wounded. A. Co., as a result, altered their route for departure, and were able to avoid casualties.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Hurley died on 16th October, 1916 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from wounds received in action in France – Gunshot wound & compound fracture to skull & syncope. (Note – Some forms in the Service Record file for Private George Hurley have his date of death as 18th October, 1916. The Casualty Form – Active Service, Field Service form & a letter from Base Records, dated 6th March, 1917, have the date of death as 16th October, 1916. There is no Hospital Admissions form in the Service Record file to verify the date of death.)



A death for George Hurley, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Blofield, Norfolk, England.

Private George Hurley was buried on 21st October, 1916 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Section 25, Plot number 241.

A letter was sent on 19th April, 1920 from Base Records to Mrs A. Hurley, “Wollombi”, Nesbitt Street, North Sydney, NSW, mother of the late Private G. Hurley, advising that “now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from the former site, and re-interred in Grave No.692 Section 54, Norwich Cemetery, Norwich. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”

Private George Hurley has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter was sent to Base Records on 26th October, 1916 from Arthur Hurley, of Laurel St, Willoughby, NSW, brother of the late Private George Hurley which reads: “Having just received a notification from Colonel Larcomb conveying the news of my Brother’s Death (3127 Private G. Hurley, 56th Battalion) and there being a certain amount of mystery

surrounding the wounding & subsequent Death of my Brother. I would be very grateful if you could supply me with definite information & proper details. We received official notice that he was wounded 3 months ago, from which date we have got no news till 16th Oct when we received a letter from himself from Norfolk War Hospital England saying he was pretty well & had been out of bed for a week at time of writing. Then we get another official notice of his death, mind not a line or word officially or other wise, not even a mention of his name in the progress reports in the daily papers, together with the return of some letters (written to him by our Mother) on which were stamped. unable to trace. Even when his name appeared in the casualty list he was not reported severely wounded. Don't you think it a strange thing that he could presumably have been in Hospital for six weeks, evidently very badly wounded and no word communicated to his mother. It surely is not necessary to cause such anxiety to the mother of one who has done his duty to his country & who has another son in camp. I may add that we have positive private information that my Brother was well on the 16th Oct & yet the official notice says he died on the 18th Oct. Hoping you will endeavour to straighten out what to me seems a very strange happening.” Base Records replied on 4th November, 1916 “....and to point out that, though the soldier stated in a letter dated 16/10/16 that he was “pretty well”, it is evident his wound subsequently developed seriously, resulting in his death in 18/10/16. The soldier’s mother will have already been advised that the cause of death is reported as gunshot wound, fractured skull, and syncope. With regard to your statement that, since the report that he was wounded, till the report of his loss, no information was received, it is desired to state that, unless a case is considered serious, progress reports are not furnished if the soldier is progressing favourably. Evidently you brother appeared to be making satisfactory progress until the time of his relapse.”

A War Pension was granted to Anne J. Thompson (known as Hurley) of “Wollombi”, Nesbitt Street, North Sydney, NSW, mother of the late Private G. Hurley, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 25th December, 1916. A War Pension was rejected for Eileen Thompson, of “Wollombi”, Nesbitt Street, North Sydney, NSW, half-sister of the late Private G. Hurley, on the grounds that she was not a dependent. A War Pension was rejected for Norman Woods, of “Wollombi”, Nesbitt Street, North Sydney, NSW, on the grounds that he was not a member of the family.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Hurley, “Wollombi”, Nesbitt Street, North Sydney, NSW, mother of the late Private G. Hurley, in October, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & in particular if Pte Hurley’s father was still alive, due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs Hurley replied in October, 1921 stating that she was the closes next-of-kin as his father was dead.

Private George Hurley was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Hurley’s widowed mother – Mrs A. Hurley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Hurley – service number 3127A, of 56th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Ann Jane Hurley, of 16 Nesbitt St., North Sydney, Australia, and the late Michael James Hurley.

Private G. Hurley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 162.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. Hurley is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial, located in St. Leonard's Park, corner Walker & Ridge Street, North Sydney, NSW.



North Sydney War Memorial (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)



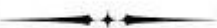
(34 pages of Pte George Hurley's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

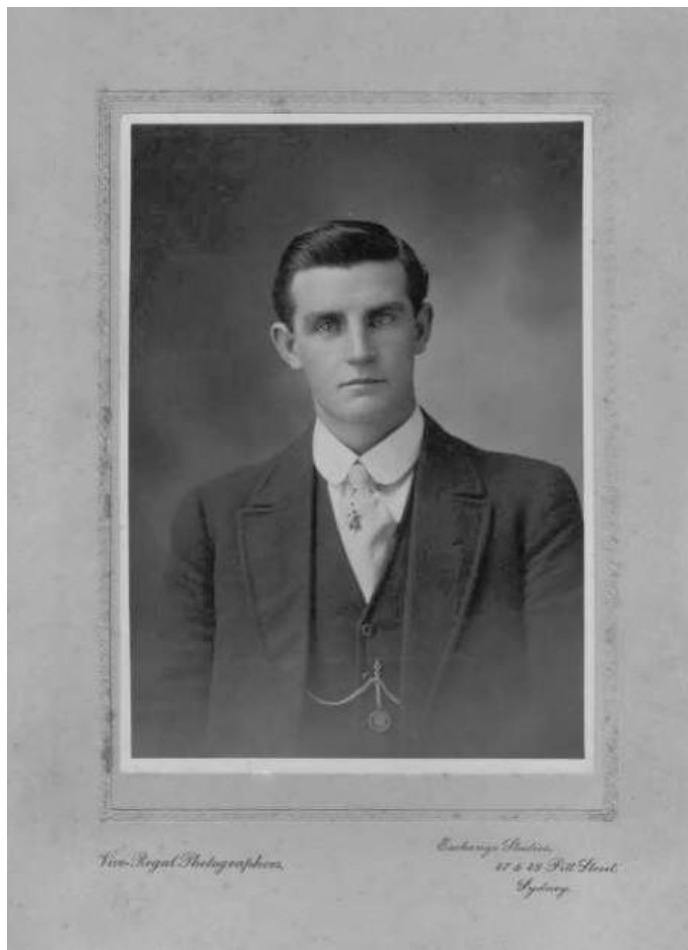
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



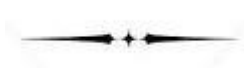
Connected to Private George Hurley:

Younger Brother – Lance Corporal William Henry Hurley, 6320, 18th Battalion. Died of wounds 1st September, 1918. Buried Suzanne Communal Cemetery Extension, France – B. 24.





Private George Hurley



Newspaper Notices

241st LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Wounds

Pte G. Hurley, North Sydney

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 10 November, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

HURLEY – In loving memory of our son and brother, Private George, died Norwich War Hospital, England, October 18, 1916, of wounds received in France.

One of the best God ever sent.

A loving son, brother, and true friend.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brother, Annie, Eileen and Norman, Nesbitt-street, North Sydney.

HURLEY – In loving memory of my dear brother, George, who died October 18, 1916, of wounds received in France.

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Throughout my life, in pain or pleasure,
I'll think of you, forget you never.

Inserted by his loving brother, Will (on active service).

HURLEY – In loving memory of our dear brother and uncle, Private George, who died of wounds received in France, October 18, 1916.

A young life that promised well,

At the will of God a hero fell.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Kitty, Horrie, Stanley and baby, Lilydale, Wahroonga.

HURLEY – In loving memory of my dear friend, George, died of wounds October 18, 1916.

A soldier and a man.

Inserted by his sincere friend, Syd. Crummer (on active service)

HURLEY – Died of wounds, October 18, 1916, Private George Hurley, the dear friend of Mr and Mrs Rendall and family, North Sydney.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 18 October, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

HURLEY – In loving memory of our dear brother, George, who died October 18, 1916, of wounds received in France.

A soldier and a man.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Arthur and Tib.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 October, 1917)

On Active Service

HURLEY – Corporal George Hurley, died of wounds October 18, 1916, Norwich War Hospital, aged 23 years.

In years though tender, as a friend ever true,

None but his own half his worth ever knew.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brother, Annie, Eileen, Norman.

HURLEY – In loving memory of Corporal George Hurley, who died of wounds received in France, October 18, 1916.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Arthur and Tib.

HURLEY – Corporal George Hurley, died October 18, 1916, aged 23 years. Faithful unto death. Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Kitty and Horrie, also little nephew and niece, Stanley, Lily Dale, Wahroonga.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 18 October, 1918)

On Active Service

HURLEY – In memory of our dear friend, Pte George Hurley, died of wounds, England, 1916. Inserted by Mr and Mrs Bendall and family.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 19 October, 1918)

On Active Service

HURLEY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Cpl. G. Hurley, died of wounds, October 18, 1916, Norfolk War Hospital, England, aged 23 years; also dearly loved brother of the late L. Cpl. W. Hurley.

We miss you most who loved you best.

Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters, Arthur, Norman, Kitty, Annie, sister-in-law Tib, brother –in-law, Horrie, Dale, Robert Gray, nieces and nephews May, Jack, Phylis Hurley, Lily and Stanley Dale.

HURLEY – Corporal George Hurley, died of wounds, 1916, the dear friend of Mrs and Mr Bendall and family.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 18 October, 1919)

On Active Service

HURLEY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Cpl. G. Hurley, died of wounds, October 18, 1916, aged 23 years; also dearly loved brother of the late Lance-corporal. W. H. Hurley. Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters, Nisbett-street, North Sydney.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 18 October, 1920)

On Active Service

HURLEY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal George, died of wounds, October 18, 1916, aged 23 years; also dearly loved brother of the late Lance-corporal. W. H. Hurley. Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters, Nisbett-street, North Sydney.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 18 October, 1921)

On Active Service

HURLEY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal. G. Hurley, died of wounds, October 18, 1916, aged 23 years; also dearly loved brother of the late Lance-corporal W. H. Hurley. Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters, Nisbett-street, North Sydney.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 18 October, 1923)

George Hurley is remembered on a plaque in Macquarie Park, Sydney, New South Wales – Section E. Row 3



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 G. Hurley does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dearly Loved Son & Brother Of Mrs Hurley & Family Of Nth Sydney

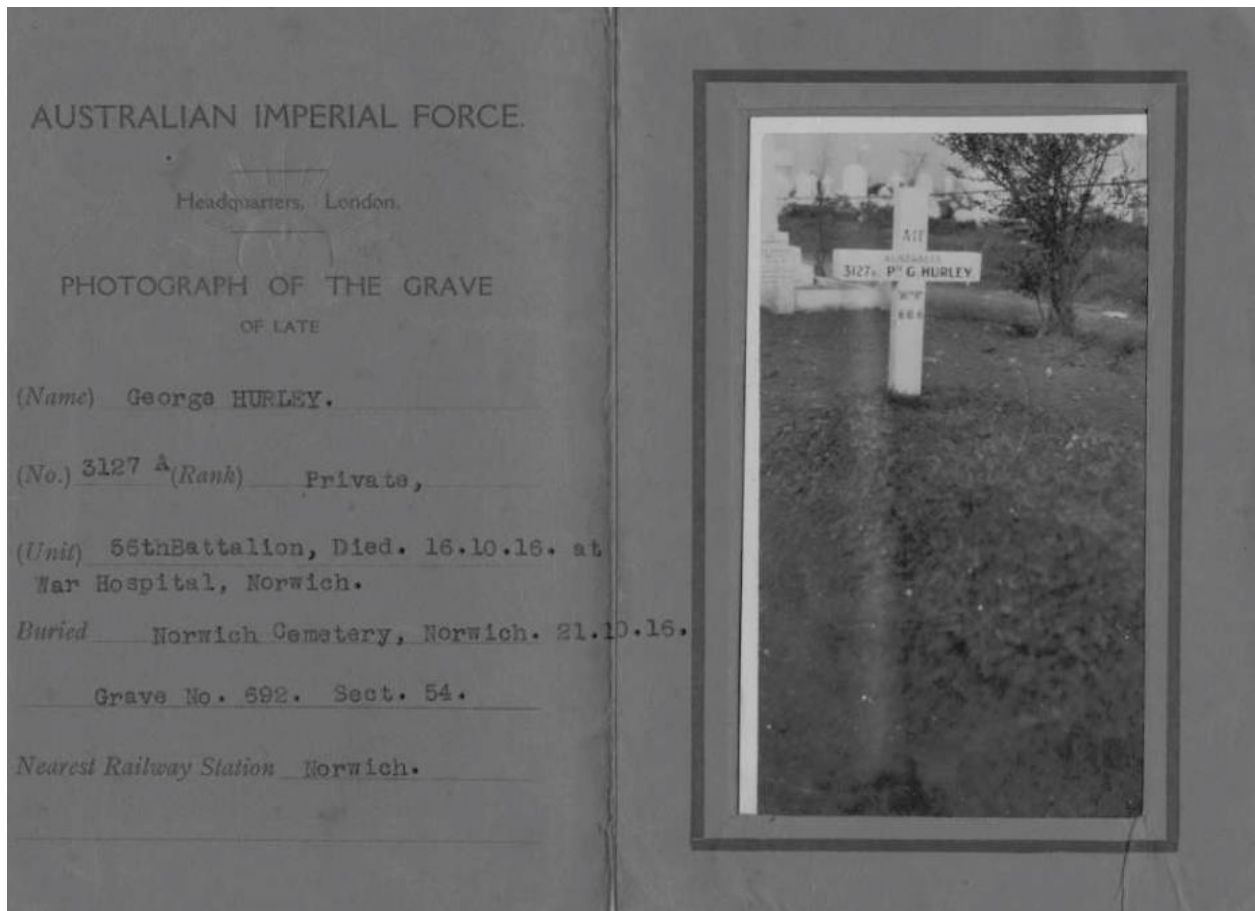
Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

(Information & photo from CWGC)



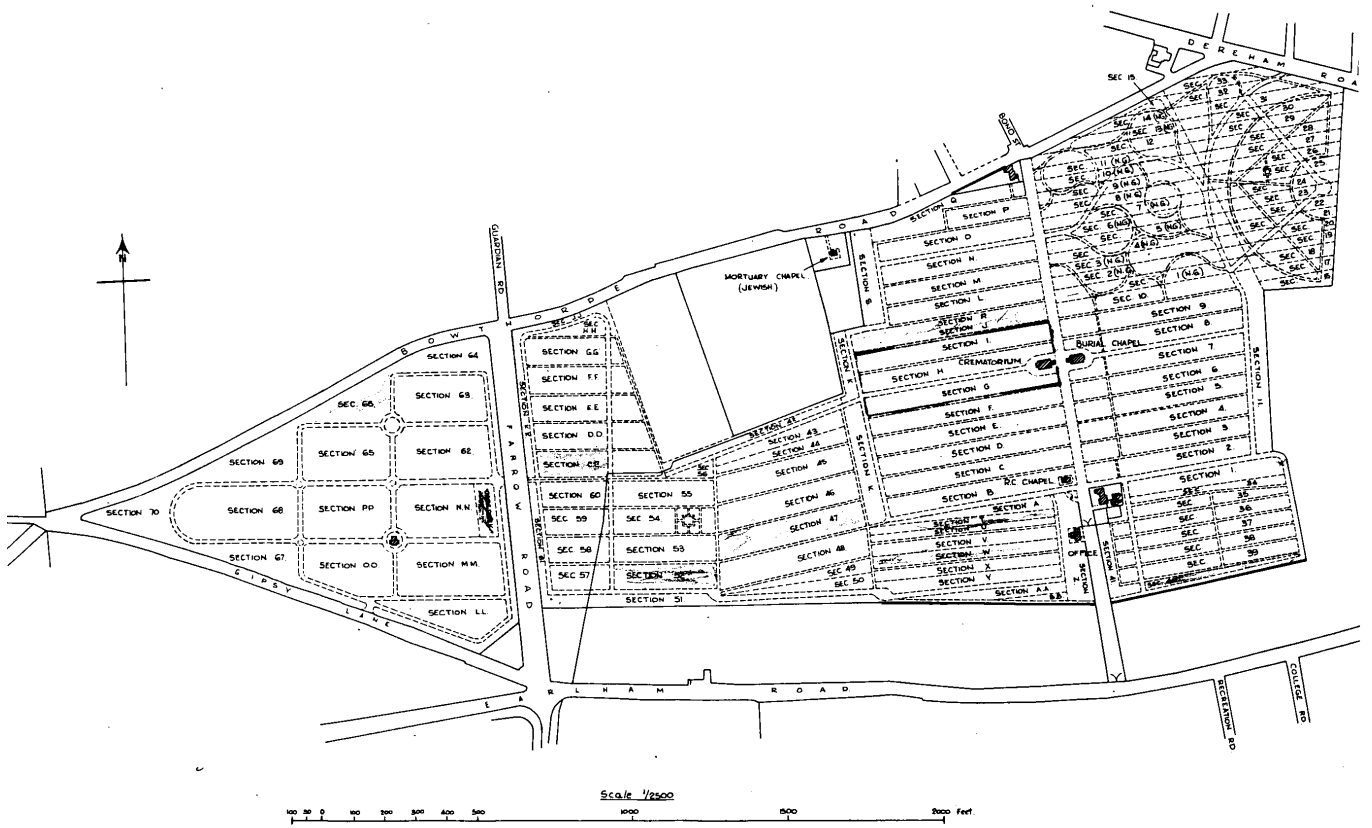


The original cross on Private George Hurley's grave

Photo of Private G. Hurley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

