

**Cambridge City Cemetery,
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2124 PRIVATE

D. G. JOHNSTON

50TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH MAY, 1917 Age 24

The Paths Of Glory

Lead But To The Grave

Douglas Gordon JOHNSTON

Douglas Gordon Johnston was born at Oakbank, South Australia on 6th February, 1893 to parents Andrew Deans Johnston and Effie Florence Johnston (nee James).

Douglas Gordon Johnston attended St. Peter's College, Adelaide, South Australia.

Andrew Deans Johnston, father of Douglas Gordon Johnston, died on 24th November, 1913 at Oakbank, South Australia.

Douglas Gordon Johnston was a 22 year old, single, Bank Clerk (with the Bank of Adelaide) from Oakbank House, Oakbank, South Australia when he enlisted in Adelaide, South Australia on 19th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2124 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Effie F. Johnston, of Oakbank House, Oakbank, South Australia.

Private Douglas Gordon Johnston was posted to "B" Company on 19th August, 1915 for recruit training. (Statement of Service form states "G" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion). He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 27th Battalion on 16th October, 1915 then N.C.O. from 1st November, 1915. Sergeant Douglas Gordon Johnston was posted to "C" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion from 1st January, 1916 then was posted as Company Sergeant Major from 16th January, 1916.

Douglas Gordon Johnston was posted to 2nd Military District – Duntroon Officers' School from 22nd January, 1916.

Douglas Gordon Johnston was posted to "C" Company on 16th June, 1916 then transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 50th Battalion on 16th June, 1916.

Private Douglas Gordon Johnston embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Ballarat (A70)* on 12th August, 1916 with the 4th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England then entrained to Codford, Wiltshire arriving at 6 pm on 30th September, 1916.

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.

Lance Sergeant Douglas Gordon Johnston was with 50th Battalion and reverted to the rank of Private on 30th September, 1916 on marching in to 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire.

Private Douglas Gordon Johnston was promoted to Sergeant (Provost) from 4th October, 1916 with extra duty pay.

Sergeant (Provost) Douglas Gordon Johnston was written up for an Offence Overstaying leave from 1 am to 8.30 am on 9th October, 1916. He was reprimanded & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Sergeant (Provost) Douglas Gordon Johnston reverted to the rank of Corporal (Provost) on 14th December, 1916 & was appointed Lance Sergeant on 14th December, 1916. Lance Sergeant Johnston was to be Provost Sergeant (E.D.P. – Extra Duty Pay) from 1st January, 1917, while posted at Codford. He was Acting Sergeant until 16th January, 1917.

Acting Sergeant Douglas Gordon Johnston proceeded overseas via Folkestone on *S.S. Princess Victoria* on 16th January, 1917 from 13th Training Battalion.

Acting Sergeant Douglas Gordon Johnston arrived at Base - 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France from England on 17th January, 1917 & reverted back to rank of Private on marching in to 4th A.D.B.D.. He was taken on strength of 50th Battalion in the Field on 28th January, 1917.

Private Douglas Gordon Johnston was wounded in action on 2nd April, 1917. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 2nd April, 1917 with gunshot wounds to knee. Private Johnston was transferred to 9th Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd April, 1917 with gunshot wounds to knee & head then transferred to Ambulance Train.

Private Johnston was admitted to 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 4th April, 1917. He embarked for England on 26th April, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*.

50th Battalion

The 50th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 26 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were veterans from the 10th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 10th, the 50th was predominantly composed of men from South Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division and was dubbed "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred", after its first CO, Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Hurcombe.

Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and attacked at Noreuil on 2 April. For his actions at Noreuil Private Joergen Jensen was awarded the Victoria Cross.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 50th Battalion

Front Line – April 2, 1917:

Zero hour was set down at 5.15am. The tape was laid out on the jumping off line shortly after midnight & coys commenced to move from their old positions at 2.30 am. There was no rain of snow & the weather was cold & fine. The attack though met by strong opposition was quite successful. All objectives were gained & held. The prisoners taken belong to the 119th R.I.R. & 120 R.I.R

.... The Battalion suffered very heavy casualties amongst Officers.....

The Battalion casualties were as under:-

	<i>Officers</i>	<i>O/Ranks</i>
<i>Killed</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Died of wounds</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Wounded</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>163</i>
<i>Wounded, still with Bn.</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>88</i>

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mrs E. Johnston, of Oakbank, South Australia, was advised on 22nd April, 1917 that Private Douglas Johnston had been admitted to Hospital on 5th April with gunshot wound to head & knee & his condition was listed as dangerous.

Private Douglas Gordon Johnston was admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England on 27th April, 1917 with gunshot wounds to leg.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Douglas Gordon Johnston while a patient at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge (date recorded as 4._ (?). 17). Private Johnston's disability was listed as Pneumonia & GSW Thigh. The Report states that he was wounded April 2, 1917 at Bapaume & Pneumonia April 3, 1917. Pte Johnston was "*Wounded - very exhausted. Pneumonia supervened*". He had a "*bullet wound above right knee..... no TB found*". The Medical Board recommended that Private Johnston be discharged as permanently unfit.

Mrs E. Johnston, of Oakbank, South Australia, was advised on 1st May, 1917 that Private Douglas Johnston was pronounced out of danger.

Private Douglas Gordon Johnston died on 5th May, 1917 at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England. A Post Mortem was conducted by Captain W. Malden, Pathologist. "*Rather thin man, not*

emaciated, no marks of ext. violence. Thorax – no obstruction in air passages. Rt. Lung much bound down by fine adhesions principally on diaphragm & to ribs behind. Large empyema cavity containing many pints of thick pus and lymph. Lung very collapsed, containing very little air. Heart – exposed surface much enlarged and deviated to left of sternum two inches outside nipple line. On opening pericardium, a good deal of clean pericardial fluid escaped. Rt. side of heart lying in front nearly covered the left side except at extreme apex. Rt side of heart very dilated, auricle wall much thickened also ventricle wall. Valves normal. Left side of heart appeared normal. Diaphragm and liver depressed by collection of pus in thorax”. Cause of death was from Heart failure caused by empyema & anaesthetic.

A death for Douglas G. Johnston, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Mrs E. Johnston, of Oakbank, South Australia, was advised on 7th May, 1917 that Private Douglas Johnston had been removed from the Seriously Ill List.

Private Douglas Gordon Johnston was buried on 9th May, 1917 in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England – Plot number C. 3638 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Douglas Gordon Johnston - *Coffin was polished Elm. Military Funeral. The coffin was taken to Cemetery in a Hearse. Coffin Bearers were supplied by the R.A.M.C. 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge. The Last Post was sounded. A Burial Service was held at the Hospital in the Church of England Chapel by Capt. Chase. A large number of Australians were present at the Chapel and at the Cemetery. Three Mourning Coaches were there to convey wounded Soldiers. Floral wreaths were sent by Mrs Shannon, Miss Kelly and Miss Stephens. Mrs Shannon and Miss Kelly were present at the Funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Douglas Gordon Johnston contains a letter from Red Cross Visitor which reads *“He had many friend in this country and we hope that it will be somewhat of a comfort to his mother to know how three or four old family friends saw a good deal of him and almost at the end, when to us all, he seemed so bright and so likely to recover.”*

Douglas Gordon Johnston requested in his Will, dated 22nd July, 1916 that his mother Mrs Effie Florence Johnston be appointed Executrix and the whole of his worldly possessions be given to his mother, In the event of his mother pre-deceasing him, *“the whole of the estate should revert to my brothers and sisters in equal shares (i.e.) Bessie Margaret Johnston; Allan James Johnston; Colin Andrew Johnston, Mary H. Johnston, Janet Johnston and Barbara Johnston.”*

A War Pension was granted to Effie Florence Johnston, of Oakbank, widowed mother of the late Private Douglas Gordon Johnston, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 10th July, 1917.

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

Mrs Effie Florence Johnstone, widowed mother of the late Private Douglas Gordon Johnston died on 16th September, 1920 in Adelaide, South Australia.

Base Records contacted Mrs B. M. Saunders, of Oakbank House, Oakbank South Australia in March, 1924 which reads *“Appended hereunder is a copy of my communication of the 17th April, last, to which, so far, no reply has been received.*

“On the 15th July 1921 the Memorial Scroll of the late No. 2124 Sergeant D. G. JOHNSTON, 50th Battalion, was forwarded direct from this Office to the late soldier's mother, Mrs Effie F. Johnston, of Oakbank, South Australia, but it is noted that the receipt for same is signed by you, with the remark ‘for the late Mrs E. Johnston’ endorsed thereon.

I shall be glad to learn, however, what relationship you bear to the deceased soldier, and also the name and address of the person who is in receipt of the Memorial Plaque which was despatched from this Office on the 23rd November, 1921, to the late Mrs E, Johnston's address.

I note from the records that the late soldier left behind him two brothers, and four sisters, and as according to the instructions governing their disposal War Medals etc, may only be handed over in the following order of relationship – 'eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister...' it would be much appreciated if you would furnish me with the name and address of deceased's eldest surviving brother..... If no reply is to hand within twenty-one days from this date it is regretted that these items will have to be placed amongst the "Untraceables", to be, in all probability eventually destroyed." Mr J. A. Johnston replied to Base Records stating that his sister (Mrs B. Saunders) had handed him the letter from Base Records with reference to the forwarding of War Mementoes. He stated his sister has signed for the Scroll & she had it in her possession. He stated she was also the eldest surviving sister & he was the eldest surviving brother of the deceased soldier. Mr J. A. Johnston advised his address as c/o Dalgety & CO. Ltd, Currie Street, Adelaide.

The British War Medal & Victory Medal were received by Mr J. A. Johnston, eldest brother of the late Private Douglas Gordon Johnston, on 12th May, 1924.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Douglas Gordon Johnston – service number 2124, aged 24, of 50th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Andrew Deans Johnston and Effie Florence Johnston, of Oakbank, South Australia.

D. G. Johnston is remembered on the Oakbank Old Scholars Honour Roll, located in Soldiers Memorial Hall, 210 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Oakbank, South Australia.



Oakbank Soldiers Memorial Hall (Photo from Monument Australia – Bryan Cole)



First World War		Second World War	
Addison W. H.	+Pearson E. V.	Alley K. A.	Rollbusch A. L.
Appleton M. A.	Pike W. K. C.	Appleton M. J.	Rollbusch J. W.
Bray P.	Pike J. S.	Appleton R. J.	Rose J. M. A.
Bright R.	+Pike P. J.	Rottroff M. K.	Rose M. N.
Beasley H. J.	Pike J. G.	Glasohm C. M.	Schultz K. C.
+Carter T.	+Robinson T. S.	Connor K. A.	Skillabeer K. O.
Delchau E. R.	Rollbusch E. A.	Connor W. L.	+Skillabeer N. M.
Folley E. R.	Rollbusch A.	Faust H. R.	Size A.
Fishlock W. S.	Rollbusch A. L.	Fenwich E. E.	Size C.
Fishlock A. T.	Rose M. C.	Flegert A. A.	Size L.
Floyd T. H.	+Roe R. D.	Fishlock L. K.	Teakle G. E.
+Green J.	Sandercock J.	Floyd E. K. M.	Teakle R. J.
Hepworth D.	Schriever O. H.	Floyd R. J.	Thiele H. E.
Johnston J. A.	Schneider R. J. V.	Floyd Ron. J.	Thiele J. F.
Jenkinson L. L.	Schriever R. O.	Floyd W. R.	Thiele R. J.
Johncock J. A.	Schneider F. J. W.	Keen F. E.	Thomas L. W.
+Johnston D. G.	Size F. G.	Keen N. W.	Usher A. G.
Keen H. H.	Size J.	Keen R. A.	Usher G. I.
Keen E. C.	Size W.	Killmier A. K.	Weidenhofer D. M.
Lampe N. E.	Stodart H. R.	King L. J.	Weidenhofer H. F.
Leschke W.	Stodart E. C.	King R. J.	+West L. V.
+Mangelsdorf W.	Sutton C. R.	Lawrence W. H.	Williams A. M.
Marks E. A.	Tamblyn W. K.	Leschke R. A.	Williams K. P.
Mattner E. W.	+Thiele A. H.	+Martin E. T.	Miss Peacock M. R.
McMillan J.	Thiele V. G.	Morris W. M.	Miss Skillabeer Y. E.
Mitchell J.	Thomas A.	Olsen L. F. A.	Miss Weidenhofer M. E.
+Mitchell H.	Thomas W. H.	Peacock R. C.	
Moody J.	Usher G. J.	Pearson C. R.	
+Morrison L. G.	+Weidenhofer G. H.	Pearson R. A.	
Pearson A. G.	Whitfield H. W.	Pike B. R.	
Pearson J. W.	Williams C. H.	Rhodes J.	
	Williams H. L.		
	Yeates V. C.		

Oakbank Old Scholars Honour Roll (Photo from *The Honour Boards of the Adelaide Hills Council*)

D. G. Johnston is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

D. G. Johnston is remembered on the World War 1 Honour Roll in the Memorial Hall at St. Peter's College, Adelaide, South Australia.



St. Peter's College WW1 Honour Roll (Photos courtesy of Ms Andrea McKinnon-Matthews, School Archivist)



Private D. G. Johnston is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 150.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(63 pages of Private Douglas Gordon Johnston'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

POLICE COURT

MOTOR CYCLIST FINED

Before Messrs T. Gepp, S.M., and T. Gully, in the Adelaide Police Court yesterday, Douglas Gordon Johnston was fined £3, with 15/costs, for having on May 11 exceeded the regulation speed limit when riding a motor cycle along King William Street.

(Daily Herald, Adelaide, South Australia – 22 May, 1915)

THE AUSTRALIANS

291ST CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WOUNDED

2145 – Pte D. G. JOHNSTON, Oakbank (dang.)

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 May, 1917)

LATE PROVOST SGT. D. G. JOHNSTON

News from the military authorities states that Provost-Sgt. Douglas Gordon Johnston died of wounds at the First Eastern General Hospital on May 6. The deceased soldier, who was the eldest son of the late Andrew D. and Mrs Johnston, of Oakbank, was in his twenty-eighth year. He was born at Oakbank, where he received his early education. He afterwards attended St. Peter's College, where he was successful at sports and in the football field. After leaving college he joined the staff of the Bank of Adelaide, with which institution he remained until his enlistment. He was attached to the 50th Battalion, and left South Australia in August, 1916. The deceased soldier was highly esteemed.

(The Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 12 May, 1917) & (The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 May, 1917)

THE LATE PROVOST-SERGEANT G. JOHNSTON

News has been received that Provost-Sergeant Douglas Gordon Johnston died of wounds at the 1st Eastern General Hospital on May 6 last. The deceased soldier, who was the eldest son of the late Andrew D. and Mrs Johnston, of Oakbank, was in his 25th years. He was born at Oakbank, where he received his early education. He afterwards attended Hahndorf and St. Peter's Colleges. He was successful at sports and in the football field. On leaving St. Peter's College, he joined the staff of the Bank of Adelaide, where he remained until the time of his enlistment. He was attached to the 50th Battalion, and left South Australia in August, 1916.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 15 May, 1917) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 May, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

News has been received from the military authorities stating that Provost-Sergt. Douglas Gordon Johnston had died from wounds on May 6. The deceased soldier was the eldest son of the late Mr A. D. Johnston, and Mrs Johnston, of Oakbank. Both his parents were well known in Mount Gambier many years ago. Mr Johnston was a clerk in the National Bank here, and Mrs Johnston was a daughter of Mr Alfred James, who, for number of years, was landlord of the South Australian Hotel, and a sister of Mr S. T. James, of the local post-office.

(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia – 16 May, 1917)

300TH CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

2124 – Provost Sgt. D. G. JOHNSTON, Oakbank (May 5)

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 May, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

JOHNSTON – In loving memory of Douglas Gordon Johnston, of the 50th Battalion, wounded in France April 2, died May 5, 1917, at Cambridge Hospital, England – Inserted by his mother.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 May, 1918) & (The Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 May, 1918)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

JOHNSTON – In loving memory of Sgt. Douglas G. Johnston, 50th Battalion, A.I.F., wounded on the 2nd April (Noreuil), died on the 6th May, 1917, Cambridge Hospital. – Inserted by his mother, Oakbank

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 May, 1919) & (*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 May, 1919) &

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 May, 1919) & & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 May, 1919)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09291.127

Private Douglas Gordon Johnston



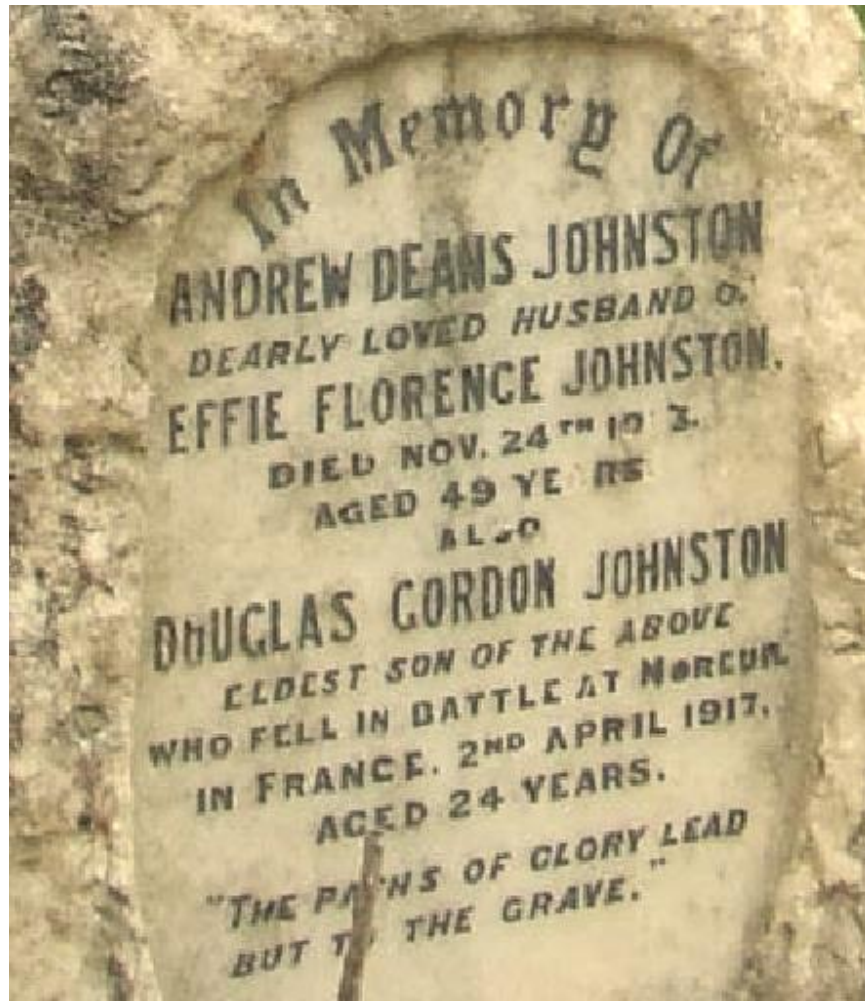
Mrs Andrew Johnston, widowed mother of the late Private Douglas Gordon Johnston, wrote to Military Pay Office, Adelaide, stating that she was having her "late son's name put on his Father's Tombstone. Could you tell me the Battle he was in on the 2nd April, 1917? He was wounded that day and died the 5th May." The letter was forwarded to Base Records, Melbourne on 26th October, 1917. No reply is located in the Service Record file for that late Private Douglas Gordon Johnston.

Private Douglas Gordon Johnston is remembered on his father's headstone in Inverbrackie Cemetery, South Australia.



Douglas Gordon Johnston remembered on his father's headstone in Inverbrackie Cemetery

(Paid Photo courtesy of Faithe Jones)



In Memory Of

ANDREW DEANS JOHNSTON

Dearly Loved Husband Of

EFFIE FLORENCE JOHNSTON

Died Nov. 24TH 1913

Aged 49 Years

Also

DOUGLAS GORDON JOHNSTON

Eldest Son Of The Above

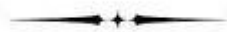
Who Fell In Battle At Noreuil

In France, 2ND April, 1917,

Aged 24 Years

"The Paths Of Glory Lead

But To The Grave."



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 D. G. Johnston does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Paths Of Glory Lead But To The Grave

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge (known locally as Newmarket Road Cemetery) contains 1,019 Commonwealth War Graves – 186 from World War 1 & 833 from World War 2.

The 1st Eastern General Hospital, with 1,173 beds, was posted to Cambridge during the First World War, initially at the Leys School and Trinity College, later in huts. The First World War burials in Cambridge City Cemetery are mostly in two plots, one in the southern part of the burial ground, known as the Dominion Plot, and the other on the northern boundary. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western border of the Dominion Plot, while in the centre of the other is a memorial cross of Portland stone which was erected by private subscription. The Second World War graves are also mainly in two War Graves Plots with a few others scattered throughout the cemetery. The general Service plot was established in 1940, and the Air Force plot in 1942 for the burial of casualties from the Air Force stations set up in the eastern counties during the war. These included Bomber Command bases in Lincolnshire and fighter stations in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Stone of Remembrance, which was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder in July 1951, stands near the centre of the Air Force plot. Cambridge City Cemetery contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 829, (inclusive 3 unidentified), from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains four non-war service burials and ten war graves of other nationalities.

(Information & photos from CWGC)

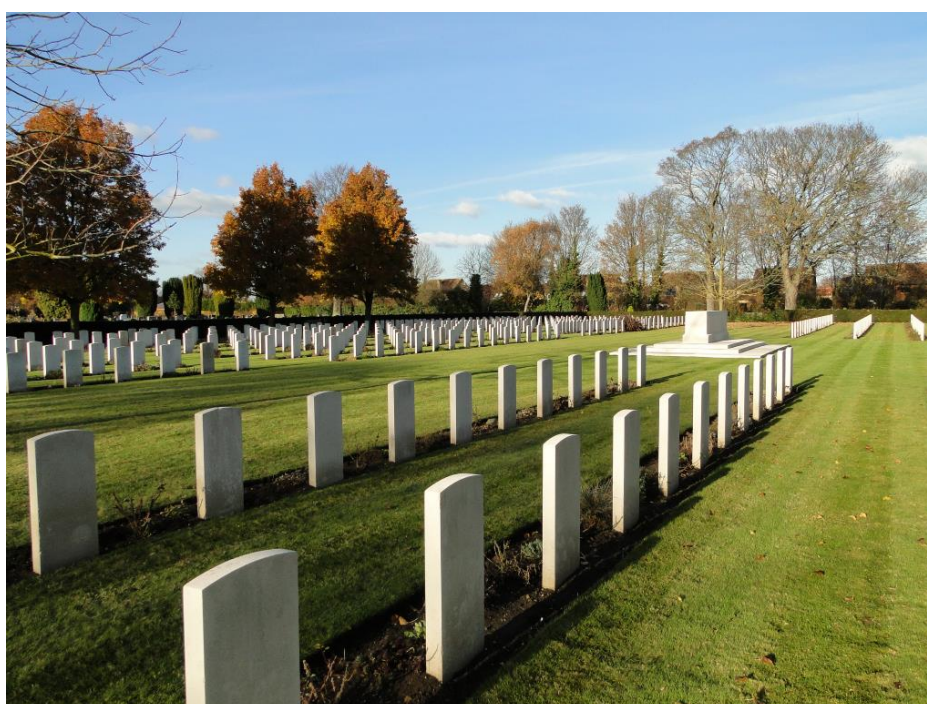




Photo of Private D. G. Johnston's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.



(Photo by Len – Find a Grave)



Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)



Entrance to Cambridge City Cemetery & Map (below) (Photos by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

Cambridge City CEMETERY

