

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3372 PRIVATE**

**R. KELLY**

**14TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**4TH MARCH, 1917 Age 19**

*He Died That We Might Live*

*May His Soul Rest In Peace*

## Richard Bartholomew KELLY

Richard Bartholomew Kelly was born on 26th December, 1897 at 25 Hamilton Street, Footscray, Melbourne, Victoria to parents Michael (Doolan alias Kelly) and Bridget Kelly (nee Brown). (Attestation Papers record that Richard Kelly was born near the town of Yarraville, Victoria).

Richard Kelly was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from Brunswick, Victoria when he enlisted on 16th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3372 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr M. Kelly, 54 Hope Street, Brunswick, Melbourne, Victoria.

As Richard Kelly was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to sign their consent for the son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. A letter was written on 21st July, 1915 to the Enrolling Officer: *“As it is my son’s desire to join the Forces, I am quite willing to give him my consent to do so.(signed) Michael Kelly & Bridget Kelly”*

Richard Kelly was posted to Seymour 74th Company from 26th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to Ballarat B Company from 10th August, 1915 then transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 14th Battalion at Broadmeadows, Victoria from 17th September, 1915.

Private Richard Kelly embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor (A71)* on 11th October, 1915 with 4th Infantry Brigade, 14th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Richard Kelly was admitted to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 14th January, 1916 with Gastritis. He was discharged to duty on 29th January, 1916.

Private Richard Kelly joined 14th Battalion at Tel el Kebir on 4th March, 1916 & was posted to “C” Company.

Private Richard Kelly proceeded from Alexandria on 1st June, 1916 on Troopship *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th June, 1916.

Private Richard Kelly was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 8th November, 1916 with a sprained foot.

Private Richard Kelly’s Unit was queried on 11th January, 1917 - re date of evacuation & and if he had rejoined and what date in regards to him being admitted to 5th General Hospital on 8th November, 1916.

Private Richard Kelly was wounded in action in France on 6th February, 1917 **\*\***(Date as per Casualty form – Active Service & Statement of Service form). He was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 5th February, 1917 with “H.E. Erudation of brain Occipat” then transferred to 45th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Kelly was transferred to 1/1 S. M. D. (South Midland) Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to No. 21 Ambulance Train on 6th February, 1917. He was admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 9th February, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head & fractured Cranium depression & was reported as dangerously ill. Private Kelly embarked for England on 23rd February, 1917 on Hospital Ship *West Australian* with GSW & compound fracture of Head.

### 14th Battalion

The Headquarters of the 14th Battalion opened at an office at 178 Collins Street, Melbourne in the last week of September 1914. On 1 October it relocated to Broadmeadows Camp where the battalion’s recruits, principally from Melbourne and its suburbs, were taken on strength and trained. With the 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions, the 14th formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the AIF expanded and was reorganised. The 14th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 46th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August 1916. Along with most of the 4th Brigade,

the battalion suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. It spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium, advancing to the Hindenburg Line.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 14th Battalion:

Gueudecourt – 5th February, 1917:

2nd S.O.S. at 3.5 pm Counter attack repulsed.

At dawn B & D Coys returned to SWITCH TR.

At 6 pm B & D Coys returned to POSSUM TR.

C Coy returned to SWITCH TR at 8 pm

Night Quiet Casualty report attached Appendix 9

Gueudecourt – 6th February, 1917:

A B & D Coys returned to SWITCH TR at dawn

At 6 pm Lts ALDRIDGE and EDMONDS with 100 men dug communication from GREASE and new captured trench.

Casualties 1 OR wounded. Capt HANSEN Died.

New Trench called FOURTEENTH ALLEY. Casualty report attached Appendix 10

Total Casualties from 4/2/17 to 8/2/17

	Officers	OR
Killed	1	18
Wounded	0	54
Missing	0	0
Sick	0	20

Casualty Report to 11 am 6th February, 1917:

CASUALTY REPORT *Appendix 9 11 am 6/2/17*

NO.	RANK.	NAME.	UNIT.	DATE.	NATURE OF CASUALTY
1927	Cpl.	Curwin.H.P	"A"	6/2/17.	Sick.
6618	Pte.	Wilkinson.L.C.S.	"A"	"	Wounded.
6061	"	Pearce.F.L.	"D"	"	Sick.
5462	"	Smith.J.J.	"C"	"	Killed.
3127	"	Rebins.L.	"C"	"	Killed.
6580	"	Hitchens.A.R.	"C"	"	Killed.
1643	"	McAskell.A.D.	"C"	"	Killed.
6083	"	Falwell.E.J.	"C"	"	Killed.
5463	"	Walten.A.	"C"	"	Died Of Wds.(prv W)
5405	"	Keating.T.J.	"C"	"	Sick.
6086	"	Ross.H.	"C"	"	Missing.
6326	"	Mc Mahen.J.	"C"	"	Missing.
1504	"	Ritchie.G.	"C"	"	Missing.
5444	"	Bourne.J.A.	"C"	"	Missing.
401	"	Wallace.L.	"C"	"	Missing.
6065	"	Halley.T.B.	"C"	"	Missing.
6106	"	Thomas.F.	"C"	"	Wounded.
1500	"	Pellars.T.	"C"	"	Wounded.
5977	"	Adams.G.I.	"C"	"	Wounded.
5110	"	Hamilton.A.D.	"C"	"	Wounded.
5759	"	Tape.T.G.	"C"	"	Wounded.
6602	"	Thomas.H.J.	"C"	"	Wounded.
5653	"	Collins.A.S.	"C"	"	Wounded.
6642	"	Harefield.D.	"C"	"	Wounded.
5975	"	Ayden.E.J.	"C"	"	Wounded.
4921	"	Stinson.L.	"C"	"	Wounded.
5559	"	Mulchhy.S.R.	"C"	"	Wounded.
5372	"	Kelly.R.	"C"	"	Wounded.
2056	"	Emmett.H.F.	"C"	"	Wounded.
6115	"	Williamson.W.A.	"C"	"	Wounded.
5688	"	Elton.G.H.	"C"	"	Wounded.
5680	"	Gray.A.	"C"	"	Wounded.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Richard Kelly was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England on 25th February, 1917 with G.S.W. to Head.

Mr M. Kelly, 54 Hope Street, Brunswick, Victoria, father of Private Richard Kelly, was advised by Base Records on 16th February, 1917 that Private R. Kelly had been admitted to 1st South Midland Casualty Clearing Station on 6th February, 1917 with a gunshot wound to head – dangerous. The letter was returned to Base Records marked “Unclaimed at Brunswick” & “Not known by Letter Carriers Brunswick.”

A further communication had been sent to Mr M. Kelly on 5th March, 1917 advising that Private Kelly had been removed from the seriously ill list. Another communication was sent on 7th March, 1917 advising that Private R. Kelly had been transferred to 3rd London General Hospital on 25th February, 1917.

Private Richard Kelly died at 4.45 am on 4th March, 1917 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head.

A death for Richard Kelly, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wandsworth, Greater London, England.

Private Richard Kelly was buried on 8th March, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 178 885.

From the burial report of Private Richard Kelly - *Coffin was good, Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. Firing party comprising members attached to the Administrative Headquarters Staff, A.I.F., London, were present. The “Last Post” was sounded at the grave side by an Australian Bugler. Prior to the interment of the deceased soldier’s remains a Memorial Service was held in the Chapel at the Brookwood Cemetery. No relatives were present at the Funeral.*

Base Records wrote to Mr M. Kelly, 26 Napier Street, Fitzroy, Victoria on 3rd November, 1923 advising that the site of No. 3372 Private R. Kelly, 14th Battalion was officially registered as Plot 11 Row F Grave 21.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. F. 21. Private R. Kelly now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

An application for a War Pension for Michael Kelly, 68 Lygon Street, Brunswick East, father of the late Private Richard Kelly, was rejected – “*not dependent.*” A War Pension was granted to Bridget Kelly, 21 Albert St, E. Brunswick, mother of the late Private Richard Kelly, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 8th May, 1917.

Bridget Kelly, mother of Richard Kelly, died on 29th September, 1917 in Melbourne, Victoria.

Base Records wrote to District Finance Officer on 30th March, 1922 regarding No. 3372 Private R. Kelly, 14th Battalion (deceased) asking “*Does the War Gratuity file disclose the present address of Mr Michael Kelly, deceased’s father, or any other blood relation ? To whom was the War Gratuity allotted please?*”

A reply was received stating “*The War Gratuity has been paid to deceased’s soldier’s father Mr Michael Kelly of 68 Lygon St, E. Brunswick.*”

This letter was stamped “*Mails returned Unclaimed. War Medals Etc to Untraceables*”

Private Richard Kelly was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal . A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private Kelly’s father – Mr M. Kelly, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent September, 1921, however both were marked “*readdressed November, 1923*”. The Plaque had previously been recorded as to be sent to “*Untraceables.*”).

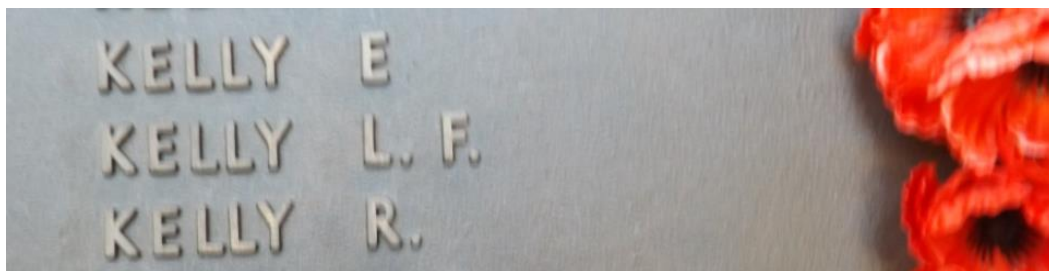
Michael Kelly signed for receipt of Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque on 10th November, 1923.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Richard Kelly – service number 3372, aged 19, of 14th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Michael and Bridget Kelly.

Private R. B. Kelly is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 73.



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



(58 pages of Private Richard Kelly'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*







**Private Richard Kelly**



Connected to Private Richard Kelly:

Older brother: Michael Kelly – Enlisted 8th July, 1915 as a 29 year old Glazier. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 11th October, 1915 on HMAT Nestor as Private 3342 with 6th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Transferred to 5th Pioneer Battalion on 3rd March, 1916.

Returned to Australia 13th April, 1919.

Older brother: Edmund Kelly – Enlisted on 29th January, 1916 as a 24 year old Labourer. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 1st April, 1916 on HMAT Suffolk as Private 5118 with 6th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements.

Died of wounds 9th March, 1917 at 45th Casualty Clearing Station, France.

Buried in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery, Extension, France.



**Privates Michael (left) & Richard Kelly (right)**

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **AUSTRALIA'S ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **274th CASUALTY LIST**

##### **SEVERELY WOUNDED**

Victoria

R. Kelly, Brunswick

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 February, 1917)

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### **DEATHS**

#### **On Active Service**

KELLY – Private Richard Bartholomew Kelly, 21 Albert-street, Brunswick (late of 105 Leveson-street, North Melbourne, died of wounds, 3rd London General Hospital, 4th March, aged 20 years. R.I.P.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 March, 1917)

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### **THE 280th CASUALTY LIST**

The Victorian names are:-

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Private R. Kelly, Brunswick

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 21 March, 1917)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

KELLY – A tribute to the memory of our brave shopmate, Pte R. Kelly, 14th Batt., died of wounds in France, on the 4th March, 1917.

One of Australia's best.

-(Inserted by J. Marsh and Sons and employees, Villiers street, North Melbourne.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 March, 1918)

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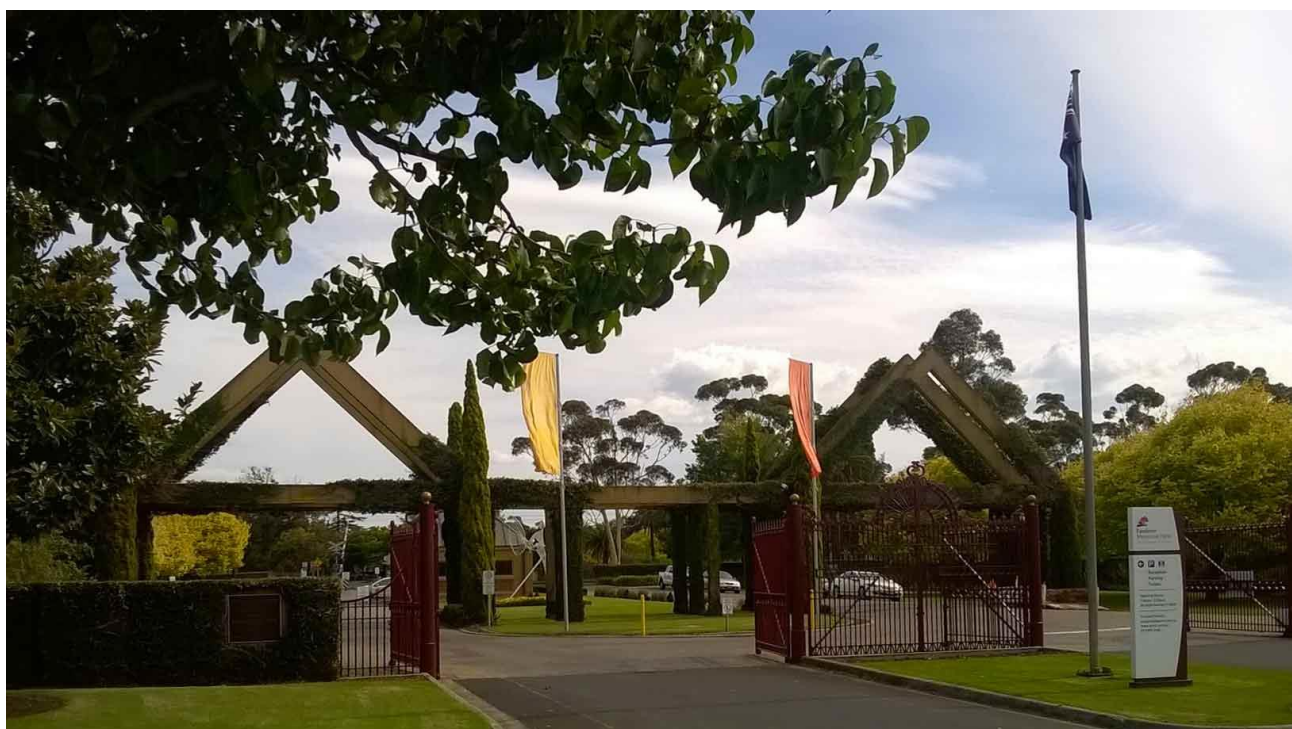
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(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 March, 1919)

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Richard & his brother Edmund Kelly are remembered on their parents headstone in Fawkner Memorial Park Cemetery, Victoria – Roman Catholic A Grave -487

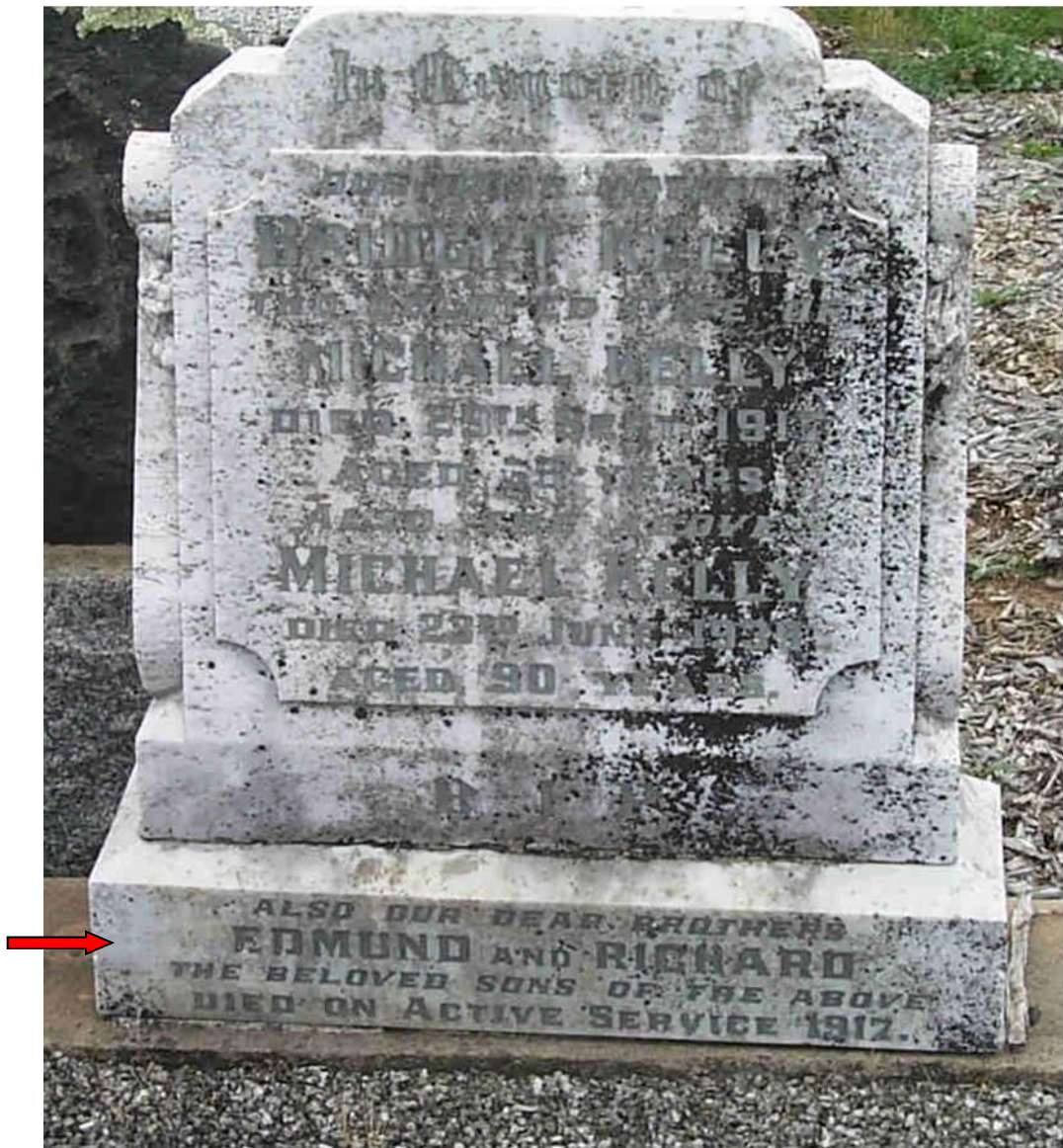


**Fawkner Memorial Park** (Photo from Find a Grave – ivjones)





Kelly Family Grave





*Also Our Dear Brothers*

*EDMUND and RICHARD*

*The Beloved Sons Of The Above*

*Died on Active Service 1917*

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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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 16th July, 1921, to Mr M. Kelly, 68 Lygon Street, E. Brunswick, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 3372 Private R. Kelly, 14th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private R. Kelly does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Died That We Might Live*

*May His Soul Rest In Peace*



## 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 R. Kelly's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

