

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



470 PRIVATE

H. E. LING

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD OCTOBER, 1917 Age 39

In Loving Remembrance

Harold Edward LING

Harold Edward Ling was born at Bathurst, New South Wales on 6th August, 1878 to parents Henry & Fannie Caroline Ling (nee Croft). (Date of birth listed on Attestation Papers as "6/8/76", however his birth was registered in 1878)

Harold Edward Ling attended Manly Public School, New South Wales.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Middle Harbour, subdivision of Manly, New South Wales recorded Harold Edward Ling, Gas Stoker from 71 Stuart Street. Also listed at the same address – Fanny Ling, Dressmaker, Bertha Grace Ling, Domestic duties & Mildred Fanny Ling, Dress maker.

Harold Edward Ling stated he was a 39 year old, single, Farm Labourer from c/o Mr C. J. Britten, Tamworth, NSW when he enlisted in Armidale, NSW on 31st December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 470 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs F. Ling, Stewart Street, Manly, NSW.

Private Harold Edward Ling was written up for a Crime while posted at Armidale, NSW – Absent without Leave from 6.30 am on 24th January, 1916 till about 7.30 am on 25th January, 1916. He was fined 10/- & forfeited 2 days' pay.

Private Harold Edward Ling was written up for a Crime on 5th February, 1916 while posted at Armidale, NSW – Drinking intoxicating liquor whilst on duty. He was fined £1.

Private Harold Edward Ling was posted to "B" Company, 33rd Battalion on 2nd February, 1916.

Private Harold Edward Ling embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 4th May, 1916 with the 33rd Infantry Battalion "B" Company & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9th July, 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.

Private Harold Edward Ling was written up on 11th August, 1916 while posted at Larkhill, Wiltshire, England – Drunkenness in that he was found in a state of intoxication while on Parade with "B" Company. He was awarded 3 days Confined to Barracks to commence on 14th August, 1916.

Private Harold Edward Ling was transferred to 1st Battalion on 10th September, 1916 then transferred on 29th September, 1916 to 2nd Battalion.

Private Harold Edward Ling proceeded overseas to France to join 2nd Battalion on 16th September, 1916 from 1st Training Battalion. He was taken on strength of 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 17th September, 1916. Private Ling joined 2nd Battalion in Belgium on 29th September, 1916.

Private Harold Edward Ling was wounded in action on 12th October, 1916 with a bomb wound to right Thigh. He was admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance on 12th October, 1916 & transferred to Casualty Clearing Station. From there he was transferred & admitted to No. 14 General Hospital at Wimereux, France on 15th October, 1916. Private Ling embarked from Boulogne, France on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* on 16th October, 1916 for England.

2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in

the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 2nd Battalion

12th October, 1916:

1900 – Bn moved at 1900 from WOODCOTE HOUSE to OTTAWA Camo by route march.

1815 – Raiding party attacked enemy's trenches as per Operation Order attached...

Enemy discovered part on NO MANS LAND before it got into position and immediately opened up a bombing attack. Enemy's trenches were successfully entered. Two prisoners being captured and war material.

Casualties 1 Off Killed LT C. De Winton

1 OR Killed and 7 OR Wounded

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mrs F. Ling, Stewart Street, Manly, NSW, mother of Private Harold Ling, was advised by Base Records on 31st October, 1916 that Private H. E. Ling has been admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital on 16th October, 1916 suffering from shrapnel wounds to thigh – mild.

Private Harold Edward Ling was transferred from 1st Southern General Hospital to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, England on 11th December, 1916. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Bomb wound of right thigh outer aspect. Flesh wound only. Nearly healed but requires dressings still.*"

Private Harold Edward Ling was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 14th December, 1916 from Southall. He was medically examined on 15th December, 1916 – Bomb wound Right Thigh "*Superficial wound back R thigh. Not yet healed. 22/12/16 - nearly healed. 28/12/16 - Not quite healed. 10/1/1917 - A Class (fit for active service).*"

Private Harold Edward Ling was admitted to Isolation Hospital at No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth from 30th January, 1917 to 31st January, 1917 with a virus. He was transferred to Verne Military Hospital, Portland on 31st January, 1917 with Gonorrhoea & discharged to Military Hospital, Bulford on 5th February, 1917.

Private Harold Edward Ling was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 4th February, 1917 with V.D. from No. 2 Command Depot. His medical reports: "*23/3/17 – returned from Bulford after gono. Frost-bitten in toe while there, ___ulcer. 27/3/17 – Ulcer. 3/4/17 – Ulcer. 18/4/17 – Ulcer. 24/4/17 – R. ___.* 3/5/17 – *nearly healed. 7/5/17 – nearly healed. 11/5/17 - B. 1 A. 2 (fit for overseas training camp in 3 – 4 weeks). 18/5/17 – Carry on. 22/5/17 – Improving. 28/5/17 – Another week. B.1 A. 3. (fit for overseas training camp in 2 - 3 weeks). 12/6/17- A3 (Medically & dentally fit – ready for active service.)" He was marched back in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 22nd March, 1917. Total V.D. period – 47 days.*

Private Harold Edward Ling proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 20th June, 1917 from Training Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England. He was marched in to 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot at Havre, France on 20th June, 1917 & rejoined 2nd Battalion in France on 14th July, 1917 from wounded.

Private Harold Edward Ling was wounded in action (2nd occasion) in France on 21st September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 22nd September, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head then transferred the same day to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with G.S.W. to Head - penetrating. Private Ling was transferred to Ambulance Train 32 on 24th September, 1917 & was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 25th September, 1917. He embarked for England on 28th September, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew*.

2nd Battalion

In early 1917 the German Army withdrew to the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line. As the 2nd Battalion advanced towards these defences in April 1917, Private T. J. Kenny attacked several enemy machine gun positions with grenades, earning the 2nd Battalion's only Victoria Cross. The battalion spent much of the rest of 1917 fighting in increasingly horrendous conditions around Ypres.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 2nd Battalion

HOOGE – 21st September, 1917:

The Bn relieved the 9th & 10th Bn in the front line, relief commenced at 1900 see Appendix 8.

D Co and C Co in front line and A & B Cos in close support. Relief was complete by 0035. Disposition Sketch Appendix 9.

Bn H.Q. was in GLENCOURSE WOOD at J14B1590

A description of the Bn tour of duty of front line is given in the commanding offices report Appendix 10.

Appendix 10:

... On the Assault Day, Sept. 20th, the 2nd and 3rd Brigades moved against the enemy positions at 0.5.40.... The Line was shelled by guns of all calibre and, to reach it, troops had to pass through enemy barrages. One company here lost three officers and 22 others.

On the 21st the Bn was ordered to take over the newly-gained country from the 3rd Brigade, One Co., took over the new Front Line, "Green Line" from the 9th Bn; one Co., from the 10th Bn; and two Cos., were placed in Support, partly in the "Blue Line" and part in the newly-dug trench between the Blue and Green lines....

CASUALTIES

Killed		Wounded		Missing	
Officers	O.R.	Off	O.R.	Off.	O.R.
2	33	8	143	1	8

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Harold Edward Ling was admitted to 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England on 28th September, 1917 with Shell wound to Head. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "*Shell wound to Head - Penetrating left mastoid region & cerbillar fossa. Septic meningitis.*"

Private Harold Edward Ling died at 7.55 pm on 3rd October, 1917 at 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head & Meningitis.

A death for Harold E. Ling, aged 41, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, London, England.

Private Harold Edward Ling was buried at 1 pm on 9th October, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179861.

From the burial report of Private Harold Edward Ling - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. A Firing Party of 100 men and N.C.O.'s in charge of an Officer, four buglers and a band were supplied by the 1st (Reserve) London Regiment, and bearers were supplied by the Australian Imperial Force, Administrative Headquarters, London. The burial service was conducted by Chaplain A. P. Bladen. The "Last*

Post” was sounded at the graveside. Three beautiful wreaths (one from the Sisters and Nurses of Ward 40 of which deceased had been an inmate, one from the patients of Ward 40, and one from the Hospital) were placed on the grave. Sister Henderson and Sister Barker of the 1st London General Hospital, attended the funeral.

Base Records wrote to Mrs F. Ling, Stewart Street, Manly, NSW on 12th May, 1923 stating that the site of her son’s grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row B Grave 15. “

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference - XI. B. 15. Private H. E. Ling now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Harold Edward Ling requested in his Will (extracted from his Pay Book) that in the event of his death the whole of his money & property be given to his nieces Joyce & Olive Glasson, of Union Street, Lismore, NSW, in equal shares.

The District Agent for the Public Trustee, Court House, Lismore, NSW, wrote to Base Records on the 29th July, 1918 with the following information regarding the late Harold Edward Ling, Private No. 470: *“I have the honor to inform you that the father of the abovenamed deceased has informed me that the deceased, who left a Will, bequeathed his pay and other property to his two sisters who are both minors, and the Paymaster, Sydney, has advised the father of the deceased to hand over the estate to the Public Trustee. The father of the deceased has decided to do this, and I would be glad to be informed by you whether you have the Will in your possession, and if so that you will be so good to forward the same to me for the purpose of the application of Probate. Will you also be so good as to forward to me the Military Certificate of the death of the deceased. This document is required for the purpose of the application for Probate.”*

A Death Certificate for the late Private H. E. Ling was forwarded to the District Agent for the Public Trustee, Court House, Lismore, NSW on 9th August, 1918.

Base Records forwarded one package of the personal effects of the late Private H. E. Ling on 3rd September, 1918 to District Agent for the Public Trustee, Court House, Lismore, NSW for disbursement to the two named Legatees.

Base Records contacted Mrs F. Ling, Stewart Street, Manly, NSW, on 11th January, 1922 stating that she was noted as next of kin on the records of the late No. 470 Private H. E. Ling, but requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his 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.

Base Records wrote to Mrs F. Ling, Stewart Street, Manly, NSW, again on 6th April, 1923 stating that they had written to her on 11th January, 1922 but had received no reply to whether his father was still alive. The information they explained was required in order to dispose of the late soldier’s War Medals etc.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 2nd District Base on 23rd September, 1923 explaining that they had sent a communication to Mrs F. Ling, Stewart Street, Manly, NSW, mother of the late No. 470 Private H. E. Ling, 2nd Battalion, *“asking her to let me know whether the father was still alive, and if so, his address. No reply has so far been received and I shall be obliged for any action you may be able to take that will obtain the desired information. Possibly the War Gratuity files may assist. The late soldier’s religious denomination is shown as Methodist. The favour of early attention is requested.”*

Private Harold Edward Ling was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Ling’s closest next-of-kin. (Note: not record was made as to who the Scroll & Plaque were issued to)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harold Edward Ling – service number 470, aged 39, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry & Fannie Caroline Ling, of 71 Stuart St., Manly, New South Wales.

Private H. E. Ling is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 33.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. Ling is remembered on the Manly Superior Public School Roll of Honour, located at Manly Village Public School, Darley Road & Wentworth St, Manly, NSW.

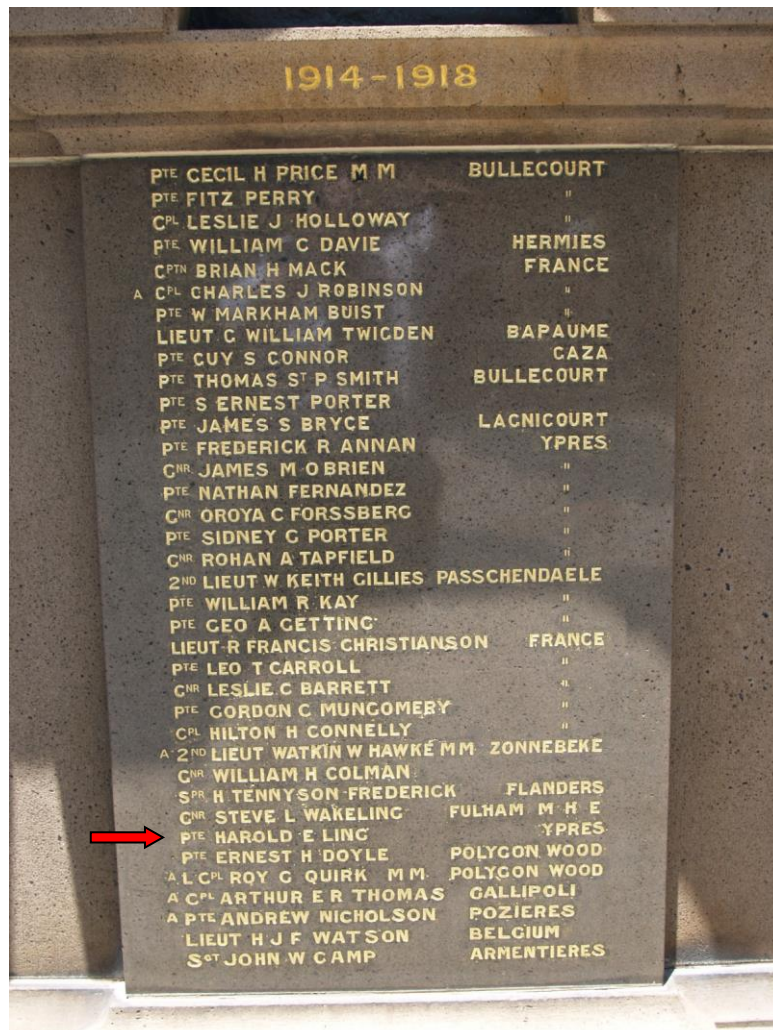


Manly Superior Public School Roll of Honour (Photo from Northern Beaches Recollect)

Harold E. Ling is remembered on the Manly War Memorial, corner The Corso & Belgrave Street, Manly, NSW.



Manly War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW)



(63 pages of Private Harold Edward Ling'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



Newspaper Notices

TAMWORTH RECRUITS

Another Big Batch

Since November 5 last the following presented themselves at the Tamworth police station for the purpose of enlisting for active service abroad:-H. E. Ling.....

(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 18 January, 1916)

MORE WOUNDED SOLDIERS

242nd LIST

WOUNDED

Pte H. E. LING, Manly

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 November, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

LING – Died of wounds, October 3rd, Private Harold E. Ling, eldest son of Mrs F. Ling, Stuart Steet, Manly.

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

Australian Casualties

Lists Nos. 345 and 346

New South Wales

Died of Wounds

Pte H. E. LING (Manly), 3/10/17

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 31 October, 1917)

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 20th July, 1921, to Mrs F. Ling, Stewart Street, Manly, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late No. 470 Private H. E. Ling, 2nd 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 H. E. Ling does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

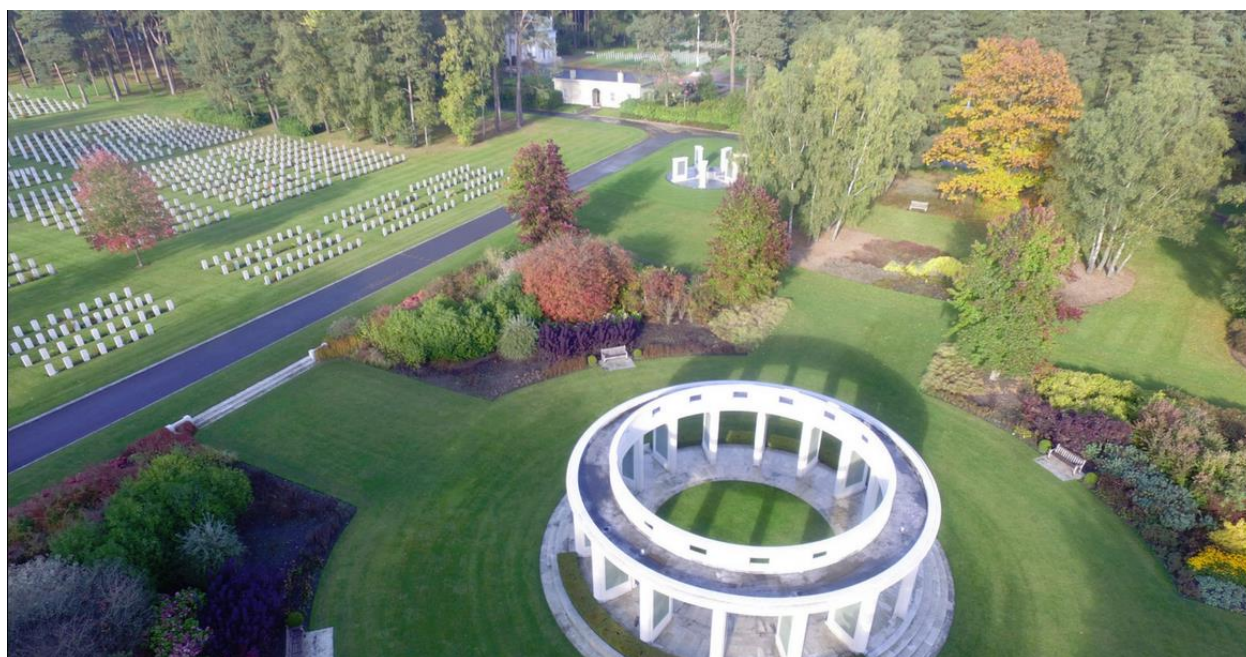
In Loving Remembrance

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 Private H. E. Ling's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

