

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2743 PRIVATE

H. G. MACKAY

21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH JULY, 1918 Age 20

As In Adam, All Die

Even So In Christ

Shall All Be Made Alive

Hugh Grant MACKAY

Hugh Grant Mackay was born at Carlton, Victoria in 1898 to parents David Grant Mackay and Mary Jane Mackay (nee Ryan).

Mary Jane Mackay, mother of Hugh Grant Mackay, died in 1905.

David Grant Mackay, father of Hugh Grant Mackay, married Annie Falconer McIntyre in 1906 in Victoria.

Hugh Grant Mackay attended school at Fairfield, Victoria.

Hugh Grant Mackay was a 21 year old, single, Brass Finisher when he enlisted on 17th July, 1915 at Bendigo, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2743 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr David Grant Mackay, 26 Alnion St, Richmond, Victoria.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was posted to 70 Company, at Seymour Camp on 26th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "A" Company at Bendigo on 10th August, 1915 then on 17th September, 1915 he was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 21st Battalion.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay embarked from Australia on 5th October, 1915 with the 6th Reinforcements of 21st Battalion. (Note: Private Hugh Grant Mackay does not appear to be listed on any Embarkation Roll on the Australian War Memorial website, His Service Record file does not record where or what he embarked from/on).

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was taken on strength of 21st Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 7th January, 1916.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 19th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 26th March, 1916.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was absent from Tattoo Roll Call on 2nd April, 1916. He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment on 4th April, 1916 while posted at Glomengern.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was absent from Tattoo Roll Call (5 minutes) on 7th May, 1916 while posted in France. He was awarded 120 hours Field Punishment No. 2 on 9th May, 1916.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was wounded in action in France on 15th November, 1916. He was admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 15th November, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Left Thigh. Private Mackay was transferred & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 17th November, 1916. He was listed for transfer to England on 24th November, 1916 & embarked from Havre, France on 27th November, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Asturia*.

21st Battalion

The 21st Battalion was raised, as part of the 6th Brigade, at Broadmeadows in Victoria in February 1915. Its recruits hailed from all over the state. The later enlistment of these men, and their average age of 29, would seem to indicate a more considered decision to enlist that set them apart from those who did so amidst the heady enthusiasm of late 1914.

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After evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, the 21st Battalion arrived in France in March 1916. In April, it was the first Australian battalion to commence active operations on the Western Front. During the battle of Pozieres it was engaged mainly on carrying duties, but suffered its heaviest casualties of the war during the fighting around Mouquet Farm.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 21st Battalion

13th November, 1916:

Heavy enemy shelling on WATTLE and CHEESE TRENCHES & FACTORY CORNER. Cable bearing and Forward Trench completed.

Weather very foggy.

Casualties 2 O.R. Killed 2 O.R. Wounded

14th November, 1916:

Heavy retaliation by Enemy to our Artillery. Water difficult to obtain owing to Enemy shelling of well.

Enemy aeroplane brought down.

6 pm – A & D Coys moved from CARLTON TRENCH to SWITCH TRENCH

10 pm - A & D Coys moved from SWITCH TRENCH to COBHAM TRENCH in support to 19th & 25th Battalions.

Lt Jacobs evacuated sick. Casualties 1 OR killed 20 wounded.

15th November, 1916:

Weather very cold & foggy.

5.30 pm – B & C Coys moved from WATTLE & CHEESE TRENCHES relieving 22nd Battalion in front line. 1 Coy of 24th Battn under Captain CARR attached to Battalion in line.

9.30 pm – Relief complete

A & D Coys relieved at COBHAM TRENCH and return under C.O. to CARLTON TRENCH.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, England on 28th November, 1916. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent on 11th December, 1916 with shrapnel wound/s to left thigh.

Base Records advised Mr David Grant Mackay, Gillies Street, Fairfield Park, Melbourne, on 9th December, 1916 that Private H. G. Mackay had been admitted wounded to the Beaufort War Hospital on 28th November, 1916.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 18th December, 1916 from Dartford. The Hospital Admission form recorded for 19th December, 1916: "*Wound not quite healed, very little disability. B1 a Grade I.*"

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was written up for an Offence while posted at Wareham – A.W.L. (absent without leave) from 3 pm on 3rd January, 1917 to 3 pm on 4th January, 1917. He was awarded 2 days Field Punishment No 2 by Lieutenant A. M. Wallis on 9th January, 1917. He was in custody awaiting trial for 4 days & was awarded a total forfeiture of 8 days' pay.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was written up for an Offence while posted at Wareham – absenting himself on 11th February, 1917 from Town Picquet after having been duly warned. He was awarded 48 hours detention by Captain A. W. Hamilton on 13th February, 1917.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was written up for an Offence while posted at Wareham – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 8.30 am on 5th March, 1917 to 10 am on 12th March, 1917. He was awarded 8 days detention by Captain A. N. Hamilton on 13th March, 1917 & a total forfeiture of 16 days' pay.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay reported sick on 15th April, 1917 while posted at No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham, Dorset, England. He was admitted to 16th Field Ambulance on 15th April, 1917 with V.D. then transferred to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 19th April, 1917. Private Mackay was discharged on 10th May, 1917 & was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham on the same day. Total V.D. period – 26 days.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was transferred to 65th Battalion on 15th May, 1917 & was taken on strength of 65th Battalion the same day from 21st Battalion. He was A.W.L. (absent without leave) on 17th May, 1917 from Windmill Hill.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was declared an illegal absentee on 30th June, 1917 by a Court of Inquiry held at Windmill Hill.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was marched in to 65th Battalion on 2nd July, 1917 from his illegal absence.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 65th Battalion at Windmill Hill from 30th July, 1917. He returned from A.W.L. on 7th August, 1917.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 9th August, 1917 from Warwick Square, London. He was marched out to Windmill Hill on 11th August, 1917 from Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

A District Court Martial was held on 20th August, 1917 at Perham Downs – President Lieutenant Colonel C. R. Davies. Private Hugh Grant Mackay was charged with 1. AWL at Wareham from 17th May, 1917 till he was apprehended by the Military Police at about 2.15 pm on 2nd July, 1917. 2. At Ludgershall on 24th July, 1917 – disobeying a lawful command given by his Superior Officer. 3. At Ludgershall on 30th July, 1917 – when in confinement escaping. Private Mackay pleaded guilty on 1st & 3rd Charges but no guilty on 2nd Charge. The Finding – Guilty of all charges. He was sentenced to undergo detention for 150 days. In custody awaiting trial – 48 days & forfeited a total of 245 days' pay.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was admitted to Hereford Detention Barracks, England on 30th August, 1917. He was transferred to Detention Barracks at Lewes on 23rd November, 1917. Private Mackay was transferred to 21st Battalion from 65th Battalion on 23rd November, 1917, while undergoing detention at Lewes Barracks.

Remission of Sentence: "*Ref. DO 43/3495E 22.9.17 which reads D.C.M. held at Perham Downs 20.8.17. Sentenced to undergo detn for 150 days 20.8.17. The unexpired portion of the above sentence (23 days) is remitted as from 24.12.17. Released by A.F.C. 392A under K.R. paras 622 & 623.*"

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was discharged from A.I.F. Detention Barracks at Lewes on 24th December, 1917 to Overseas Training Brigade. He was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire, England on 25th December, 1917 from Lewes Detention Barracks.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was written up for an Offence – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 8.30 am on 11th January, 1918 until reporting back at 9 pm on 16th January, 1918. He was awarded 18 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited a total of 24 days' pay.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 7th February, 1918 from Sandhills Camp, Longbridge Deverill. He was marched in to A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 8th February, 1918. Private Mackay joined 21st Battalion in the Field on 13th March, 1918.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 1.30 am until 5 am on 1st April, 1918. He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 2 by C.O. 21st Battalion.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay report sick on 28th April, 1918. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 29th April, 1918 then transferred to 20th Casualty Clearing Station with Gastritis. Private Mackay was transferred to Ambulance Train 37 on 29th April, 1918 & admitted to 24th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 30th April, 1918. He was invalided to England on 13th May, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* with Tubercular Peritonitis.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was admitted to Frensham Hill Military Hospital, England on 14th May, 1918. He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, England on 13th June, 1918.

Base Records advised Mr David Grant Mackay, Gillies Street, Fairfield Park, Melbourne, on 5th June, 1918 that Private H. G. Mackay had been admitted to Frensham Hill Military Hospital, Farnham, England on 14th May, 1918 suffering from Tubercular Peritonitis.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay died at 7.55 pm on 25th July, 1918 at 1st Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from Tubercle of Peritoneum.

A death for Hugh G. Mackay, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was buried at 2.30 pm on 27th July, 1918 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number Aust. 59 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Hugh Grant Mackay – *A. I. F. Coffin. Officer in Charge of funeral – Hon. Capt J. F. S. Murray, M.C. Firing Party and bugler supplied by Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. A number of patients and a few of the Staff followed the body to the grave. A wreath was supplied by C. Billyard-Leake Esq., of Harefield.*

The Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited, Melbourne, wrote to Base Records on 9th August, 1918 requesting an official Certificate of Death of No. 2743 Private Hugh Grant Mackay.

David G. Mackay, c/o Mrs J. D. Grigg, Warnock St, Maldon, wrote to Base Records on 5th July, 1919 stating he had received a package containing the personal effects of his late son 2743 Private Hugh Grant Mackay, 21st Battalion & advised he was enclosing a signed receipt for items as requested. He also advised that his new address was as above.

Base Records replied on 11th July, 1919 stating that the change of address had been noted on the records of his son, the late No. 2743 Private H. G. Mackay, 21st Battalion.

Private Hugh Grant Mackay was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Mackay's father - Mr D. G. Mackay, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Hugh Grant Mackay – service number 2743, aged 20, of 21st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of David Grant Mackay and Mary Jane Mackay, of Templeton St., Maldon, Victoria, Australia.

Private H. G. Mackay is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 94.

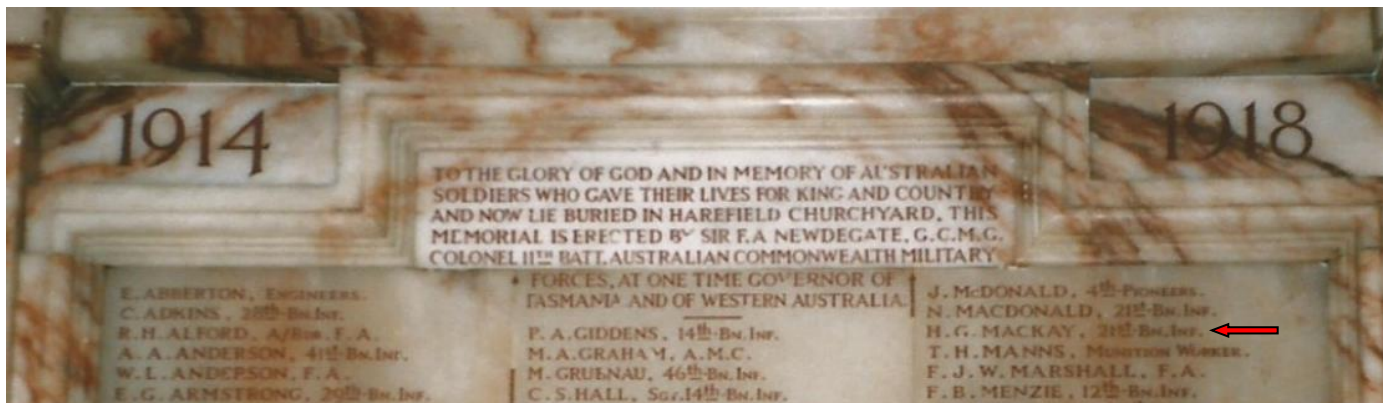


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. G. Mackay is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



(104 pages of Private Hugh Grant Mackay'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

THE 252nd and 253rd CASUALTY LISTS

WOUNDED

Private H. G. Mackay, Fairfield

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 20 December, 1916)

THIS WEEK'S CASUALTIES

ILL

Private H. G. Mackay, Fairfield

(Northcote Leader, Victoria – 22 June, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

MACKAY – Died of illness 25th July, First Australian Auxiliary Hospital, England, Private Hugh Grant, second beloved son of D. G. and A. F. Mackay, of 201 Gillies street, Fairfield; brother of Maggie, Mrs Gilbert, Alec (H.M.A.S. Australia), Ethel and Henry, aged 26 years.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 August, 1918)

AUSTRALIA'S HEROES

CASUALTY LIST No. 423

VICTORIA

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Pte H. G. Mackay, Fairfield Park

(The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 19 August, 1918)

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 H. G. Mackay does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

As In Adam, All Die

Even So In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield





St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



Photo of Private H. G. Mackay's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield *(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield *(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

