

**Efford Cemetery,
Plymouth, Devon, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



777 LANCE CPL.

H. H. MILLER

4TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH APRIL, 1917 Age 37

*Greater Love Hath No Man
That He Lay Down His Life
For His Country*

Harold Herbert MILLER

Harold Herbert Miller was born at Ravensworth, Patrick Plains, New South Wales on 9th May, 1880 to parents Henry & Phoebe Ada Miller (nee Cooper). (Harold Herbert Miller stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born near the town of Singleton, NSW).

Harold Herbert Miller joined NSW Government Railways on 5th December, 1910 as a fuelman in the Locomotive Branch. He resigned on 10th February, 1911 & was re-employed from 26th September, 1912 resuming his original position. Harold Miller was reassigned on 5th October, 1913 to tube cleaner. He was released to join the Australian Expeditionary Forces.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Tamworth – Werris Creek Polling Place recorded Harold Herbert Miller, Fuelman, from Werris Creek, New South Wales.

Harold Herbert Miller was a 34 year old, single, Locomotive Hand from West Tamworth, NSW when he enlisted at Kensington, NSW on 29th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 777 & his religion was left blank on his Attestation Papers. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Phoebe Miller, West Tamworth, NSW.

Private Harold Herbert Miller embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 20th October, 1914 with the 4th Infantry Battalion "F" Company.

Private Harold Herbert Miller embarked from Alexandria on 5th April, 1915 on Troopship *Lake Michigan* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force).

Private Harold Herbert Miller was admitted to No. 15 Casualty Clearing Station at Gallipoli on 30th July, 1915 with Influenza. He was transferred to Fleet Sweeper & admitted to 16th Casualty Clearing Station at Lemnos on 30th July, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Devanha* on 2nd August, 1915 & disembarked at Malta where he was admitted to St. George's Hospital on 5th August, 1915 with Diarrhoea. Private Miller was transferred to St. Patrick's Hospital at Malta on 21st August, 1915. He embarked from Malta on 21st October, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Regina De Italia* for England.

Mrs T. Miller, West Tamworth, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 15th August, 1915 that her son Private H. H. Miller was sick (slight) & had disembarked at Malta ex *Devanha* on 5th August.

Private Harold Herbert Miller was admitted to 5th London General Hospital at Lambeth, London, England on 30th October, 1915.

Base Records advised Mrs P. Miller, West Tamworth, NSW, mother of Private Harold Herbert Miller, on 13th November, 1915 that No. 777 Private H. H. Miller, 4th Battalion had landed at Malta from Hospital Ship on 5th August & he was suffering from Dysentery. She was advised that he has since embarked for England.

Mrs P. Miller was advised by Base Records on 15th November, 1915 that her son Private H. H. Miller, was in Hospital in London, England suffering from Shock.

Private Harold Herbert Miller was written up for a Crime on 31st January, 1916 at Weymouth – Absent without Leave from Tattoo on 27th January, 1916 till 9.30 pm on 28th January, 1916 while posted at Australian Base Depot at Monte Video, Weymouth, Dorset, England. He was awarded a forfeiture of 2 days' pay.

Mrs P. Miller, West Tamworth, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 11th February, 1916 that No. 777 Private H. H. Miller had returned to duty in Egypt.

Private Harold Herbert Miller was returning with No. 17 Draft to rejoin M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) from England. (no date recorded). He was posted to Overseas Base at Ghezireh on 14th February, 1916 & rejoined his Unit at Serapeum on 6th March, 1916.

Private Harold Herbert Miller embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 23rd March, 1916 on Troopship *Simla*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th March, 1916.

Private Harold Herbert Miller was to be Lance Corporal from 21st April, 1916 while posted in France.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance on 28th June, 1916 then transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 29th June, 1916. Lance Corporal Miller was transferred to Ambulance Train on 30th June, 1916 & admitted to 25th General Hospital, Dannes, Camiers the same day with Cystitis. He was transferred to No. 1 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne, France on 3rd July, 1916. Lance Corporal Miller was discharged to Base Details on 27th August, 1916.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was posted to Australian Base Depot at Etaples, France on 28th August, 1916.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 12th September, 1916 with Synovitis Knee. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Brighton* at Calais, France on 1st October, 1916 for England.

4th Battalion

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

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. The commander of the 4th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel A. J. O. Thompson, was killed the next day. At ANZAC, the battalion took part in the defence of the beachhead and in August, along with the rest of the 1st Brigade, led the charge at Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

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)

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was admitted to 3rd Northern General Hospital at Sheffield, England on 1st October, 1916 with Myalgia. He was marched out to Tidworth on 18th October, 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 & Dorset. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was taken on strength of No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 19th October, 1916 from Hospital. He was granted furlough from 20th October, 1916.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 4th November, 1916 from furlough & was medically classified as B1A.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was marched out from No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire & marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 8th November, 1916.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was listed as having Shell Shock (3/7/16). He was medically classified on 10th November, 1916 as B1A & on 30th November, 1916 as B1 A3 (fit for Overseas Training Camp in 2 – 3 weeks).

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was written up for an Offence while posted at Wareham – AWL (Absent without Leave) from midnight on 16th December, 1916 till midnight on 26th December, 1916. He was reprimanded by Major G. W. Show on 29th December, 1916 & forfeited 10 days' pay.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was medically classified at No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham on 28th December, 1916 with the comment "*now quite alright – some pyorrhocy (?) B1 Ax.*"

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was marched in from Wareham to Infantry Draft Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 17th January, 1917. He was marched out on 17th March, 1917.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 19th March, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller on 21st March, 1917 where his disability was listed as Debility. His Debility had originated in France & England in 1916. "*He has lately become very weak, has lost weight, and feels unable to carry on. He suffered from Shellshock on Gallipoli & again in France, and was evacuated with weak bladder in Oct 1916. He has had indigestion for years.....*" Lance Corporal Miller's present condition was listed as "*he is 37 years of age, is anaemic, weak and Debilitated. His pulse is very weak & feeble, increased in rate. He is tender over the abdomen, but there is no palpable neoplastic mass.*" The Officer in charge of the medical case recommended that Lance Corporal Miller be discharged as permanently unfit. The Medical Board Finding – Temporarily unfit for General Service for more than six months and unfit for Home Service. He was marched out on 24th March, 1917.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 24th March, 1917.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was to be returned to Australia & embarked from England on 27th April, 1917 on board H.M.A.T. *Themistocles* (A32).



H.M.A.T. *Themistocles* (A32) (Photo taken 28 July, 1916)

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller died at 12.45 on 28th April, 1917 on board H.M.A.T. *Themistocles* (A32) (the day after he embarked) from Haemoptysis and Heart Failure. His body was sent to Military Hospital, Devonport, England while waiting for his funeral to be organised.

A death for Harold H. Miller, aged 37, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Plymouth, Devon, England.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was buried on 2nd May, 1917 in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number R.C. C. 3482 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller - *Coffin was Military. Funeral was Military. The funeral arrangements were carried out by the 3rd Devon Regt. A wreath was placed on the gun carriage by the nurses on board H.M.A.T. A. 32 "Themistocles".*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller contains an account from informant – Lieutenant G. W. Rickwood, 1st Battalion who wrote the following account: *"I knew Miller – he died at Plymouth last May on the ship "Themistocles" – he had been wounded. I saw his will in his Brother's favour, his pay-book showing credit of £21, £2/19/5 ½ cash in his pocket; the sale of his kit realised £18, and funds from a concert between £30 and £40. Lieut. Tait, Adjutant Transport Service, headquarters, Melbourne, will have all these. His mother is :- Mrs C. B. Miller, West Tamworth, NSW."*

Private (at the time of writing his Will) Harold Herbert Miller requested in his Will dated 6th July, 1915 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mrs Phoebe Miller, West Tamworth, New South Wales.

Mrs Phoebe Miller, West Tamworth Railway Station, wrote to Base Records on 5th January, 1918 with the following: *"the Loco Department where my son No 777 Pte H. H. Miller was working before enlisting require his Will to be passed Probate & I cannot get it done without an official record in writing of his death signed by you...."*

Base Records replied on 10th January, 1918 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 777 Lance Corporal H. H. Miller, 4th Battalion.

Base Records contacted Mrs P. Miller, West Tamworth, New South Wales on 4th August, 1920 stating that she was registered on the records of the late No. 777 Lance Corporal H. H. Miller, 4th Battalion as the next of kin, but in order for their files to be updated asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive.

Mrs P. Miller, West Tamworth Railway Station, replied to Base Records on 9th August, 1920 stating that Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller's father was still alive & his details were Mr Henry Miller, West Tamworth Railway Station.

Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Miller's father – Mr H. Miller, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller – service number 777, aged 37, of 4th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry & Phoebe Miller, of West Tamworth Railway Station, New South Wales.

Lance Corporal H. H. Miller is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 41.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. H. Miller is remembered on the Anzac Park Memorial Gates, located in Anzac Park, Brisbane Street, Tamworth, NSW.



Tamworth Anzac Park Memorial Gates (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Penny Smith)



Harold H. Miller is remembered on the NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour, located at Country Trains Concourse, Eddy Avenue, Haymarket, Sydney, NSW.



NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)



COLLUM, JOHN, S. C	LOCO	KNIGHT, CHARLES	LOCO	BUTLER, THOMAS	TRAFFIC	KEEN, RICHARD	TRAFFIC
HOLLYDAKE, FRED	PER. WAY	WINDER, S. H.	TRAM	FITZPATRICK, J.	TRAM	SHANNON, E. F.	TRAM
ROBINSON, H.	TRAFFIC	JAMIESON, W. H.	TRAFFIC	STEWART, G. V.	LOCO	WATTS, HORACE	LOCO
SIPPELL, ALBERT	SIGNAL	RICHARDSON, G.	TRAM	BROMLEY, ALBERT	TRAFFIC	M'CRACKEN, CLIVE	TRAFFIC
JONES, JOHN	TRAM	ALSTIN, ARTHUR	LOCO	CLINGAN, ALEX. S.	PER. WAY	EDWARDS, H.	PER. WAY
NOUD, ROY, R.	TRAFFIC	SMITH, HENRY	TRAM	RICHARDS, LESLIE	TRAFFIC	DEWAR, ROBERT	TRAM
MAYNARD, S.	LOCO	SMYTHE, W. A.	TRAFFIC	SWINDELLS, FRANK	LOCO	CLARK, W. L. M.	TRAFFIC
TROTTER, JOSEPH	TRAFFIC	HAMENCE, E. G.	LOCO	DERLEY, FRED*	PER. WAY	SPENCER, FRANCIS	LOCO
SHOEMARK, LESLIE	LOCO	BROWN, JAMES, S.	TRAM	M'COOKEY, T. J.	LOCO	WEST, CLAUDE, B.	TRAFFIC
PORTER, SAMUEL	ST	MILLER, HAROLD, H.	LOCO	GASKELL, R. J.	SIGNAL	TWIGDEN, G.	ELEC
NEWBURY, HENRY	LOCO	NOAKES, JACK	PER. WAY	GOODE, GEORGE, N.	TRAM	JORDAN, EDWIN	LOCO
HOYLAN, CECIL, J.	TRAFFIC	CAVANAGH, M. J.	TRAM	JENNINGS, C. E.	LOCO	TODD, SYDNEY, C.	TRAFFIC
GREAYER, JOE	TRAM	BOOKER, W. J.	LOCO	CAWE, EDWARD	TRAFFIC	GOODYER, R.	TRAM
JONES, GEORGE	TRAFFIC	SAXTON, JOHN	PER. WAY	DALY, FRANCIS, M.	TRAM	KENNEDY, JOSEPH	TRAFFIC
MURRAY, JOHN	PER. WAY	BURNS, GEORGE, E.	TRAFFIC	FISHER, WILLIAM, H.	ELEC	BURROGRAM, A. H.	TRAM

(75 pages of Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller'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



Connected to Lance Corporal Harold Herbert Miller:

Younger brother - George Alphonsus Miller (b. 1882) - Enlisted 17 September, 1914 as a 27 year old, married Painter. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 22 December, 1914 on HMAT Ulysses (A38) with 13th Infantry Battalion "B" Company as Private 194.

Wounded at Gallipoli Peninsula on 30 April, 1915 – GSW to right Arm – amputated.

Returned to Australia per *Runic* on 7 November, 1915. Medically discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 18 April, 1916.

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Younger brother - Meldon John Miller (b. 1887) - Enlisted 17 September, 1914 as a 27 year old (age as per Embarkation Roll), married, Painter. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 22 December, 1914 on HMAT Ulysses (A38) with 13th Infantry Battalion "B" Company as Private 195.

Wounded 3 May, 1915.

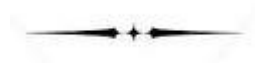
Returned to Australia 5 July, 1915. Medically discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 16 December, 1915.

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.





Harold Herbert Miller



Newspaper Notices

WEST TAMWORTH SOLDIER DEAD

Pte H. H. Miller

News has been received that Private H. H. Miller, son of Mrs P Miller, of West Tamworth, had died from heart failure on board a transport. The officer commanding the 4th Batt. to which deceased belonged, has wired to the young soldier's mother offering the deep sympathy of their Majesties the King and Queen and the Commonwealth Government in the loss he and the army had sustained by his death.

The deceased soldier enlisted in August, 1914, and was in the first landing at Gallipoli. Just before the Lone Pine battle Private Miller was buried in a trench by the explosion of a shell. He was badly knocked about, but after recuperating in hospitals in Malta and England went to France where he was for seven months before he returned to hospital suffering from shell shock. It is not known whether the deceased was returning to the firing line or going back to hospital when his death occurred.

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 9 May, 1917)

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

The 297th list of casualties sustained by Australian troops was issued yesterday...

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte H. H. MILLER, W. Tamworth (prev. rep. ill)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 May, 1917)

RETURN THANKS

MR and MRS H. MILLER, of West Tamworth, desire to return sincere thanks to all friends and relatives for expressions of sympathy and cards in their recent sad bereavement in the death of their son, Lance-Corpl. H. H. Miller, who died of wounds received in France.

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 26 May, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

MILLER – In loving memory of our dear son, Lance-Corporal Harold H. Miller, died 28th April, 1917, on transport, buried Plymouth, England.

His country called, and honor bade him to go.

A battle 'aganst a grim and deadly foe;

He helped to bring Australia into fame,

To build for her a never-dying name.

Foremost was he, in thickest strife,

For King and Country laid he down his life.

Inserted by his sorrowing parents, H. and P. Miller

MILLER - In loving memory of our dear brother, Lance-Corporal Harold H. Miller, died 28th April, 1917, on transport, buried Plymouth, England.

Greater love hath no man than this,
That he lay down his life for his friends

Inserted by his sorrowing brothers and sisters, Private G. and M. Miller (returned), M. Kearns and L. Cartwright.

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 29 April, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

MILLER – In loving memory of our dear Son, Lance-Corporal Harold H. Miller, died April 28, 1917, on transport, buried Plymouth, England.

His duty called him, he was there
To do his bit and take his share;
His heart was true, his spirit brave,
Ans there he sleeps in a hero's grave.

The hardest part has yet to come,
When the other boys return;
We'll miss among the happy throng
Our dear son, who will never return.

Inserted by his sorrowing parents, H. and P. Miller

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 28 April, 1919)

SOLDIERS HONORS

PRESENTATIONS TO-DAY

At Tamworth Showground

The Military authorities forwarded yesterday to the Secretary of the Tamworth sub-branch of the R.S. and Sl. League a number of 1914/15 Stars and British war medals won by members and deceased members of the sub-branch in the Great War.....

DECEASED SOLDIERS' HONORS

.....

BRITISH WAR MEDALS

Lance Corporal H. H. Miller: Father, Mr H. Miller, Railway Station. West Tamworth

(The Northern Daily Leader, Tamworth, NSW – 23 April, 1921)

Harold H. Miller is remembered on his sister's headstone in Tamworth General Cemetery, NSW.



Tamworth General Cemetery (Photo from Find a Grave – Possum)

Newspaper item – *The Bathurst Times*, NSW – 4 October, 1913:

MYSTERIOUS REVOLVER SHOT

TAMWORTH, Friday

Miss Veronica Hyacinth Miller, aged 17 years, met her death at, West Tamworth on Wednesday afternoon apparently accidentally. The circumstances surrounding the fatality are not exactly known, as nobody witnessed the occurrence. The girl had been making a pinafore, and when she had it completed she told two younger girls that she was going to her bedroom to get dressed. Her father on returning home went to his daughter's bedroom, where he saw her lying peacefully on the floor. She was fully dressed with the exception of a blouse. Thinking the girl had only fainted, he at once set about restoring her. Becoming alarmed, he sent for his married daughter, who discovered that a bullet had penetrated the left breast, and that life was extinct.

It would seem that she was examining a revolver, which was found near her body, when the weapon exploded. One of the other theories advanced is that when the deceased was taking her clothing from a drawer the revolver might have fallen out and exploded. Mrs. Miller is away in Sydney attending a dying niece.





A.I.F. 4TH B

In Loving Memory

Of

Our Dear Son

777 L. Cpl HAROLD H. MILLER

Died April 28TH, 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)

Lance Corporal H. H. Miller does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Greater Love Hath No Man That He Lay Down His Life For His Country

Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area. Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth. PLYMOUTH (EFFORD) CEMETERY contains 338 scattered burials of the First World War. The 109 Second World War burials, including 5 unidentified, are also scattered apart from a small group in Section C, in a plot set aside for service burials that was actually little used. The Commission also maintains five non-war burials within the cemetery and 12 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Greek merchant seamen. PLYMOUTH CITY CREMATORIUM is situated in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery and 61 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on a screen wall set into a recess in the hedge behind the Cross of Sacrifice.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Cross of Sacrifice in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photos courtesy of Rebecca Smith)*

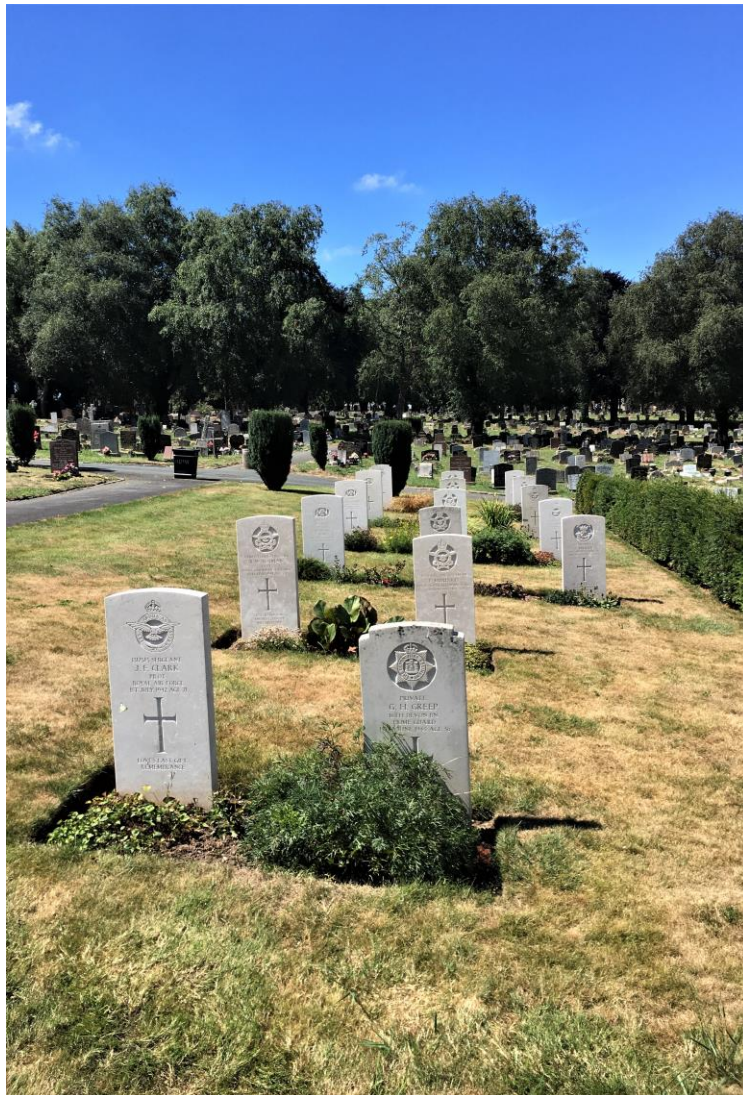


Photo of Lance Corporal H. H. Miller's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.

