

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



19438 GUARDSMAN

C. C. MITCHELL

SCOTS GUARDS

16TH MAY, 1920 Age 20

Sweet Jesus

Grant Him Eternal Rest

Inserted By

His Loving Parents

Cyril Clarence MITCHELL

Cyril Clarence Mitchell was born at Cowan Street, Gawler, South Australia on 17th May, 1900 to parents Clarence and Mary Frances Mitchell (nee Macdonald). Clarence Mitchell was listed as a Police Constable at Gawler on Cyril's Birth Certificate.

Cyril Clarence Mitchell completed his "*Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force*" form on 30th October, 1918. As he was under the age of 21, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. His parents certified that Cyril Clarence Mitchell was born on 17th May, 1900 at Gawler, South Australia & both signed their names – C. Mitchell & M. F. Mitchell.

Cyril Clarence Mitchell was an 18 year old, single, Electrician from Moonta, South Australia when he enlisted at Moonta, South Australia on 3rd November, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was S/15771 & his religion was Church of Christ. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mary Mitchell, 219 Halifax Street, Adelaide, South Australia. Cyril Mitchell stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets for 4 years & had been discharged in July, 1918.

Private Cyril Clarence Mitchell was posted to "B" Company, Base Depot at Mitcham, A.I.F. Camp on 6th November, 1918 for recruit training.

Private Cyril Clarence Mitchell was written up on Company Conduct Sheet on 11th November, 1918 for being absent without leave from 6.30 am Parade on 11th November, 1918. He was awarded 2 days confined to Barracks.

Private Cyril Clarence Mitchell was written up on Company Conduct Sheet on 12th November, 1918 by Hut Police – "*left his hut from 3 pm to 10 pm*". This was reported by Corporal West. Private Mitchell was fined 5/- & forfeited 1 days' pay by order of Lieutenant Colonel Dollinan, Camp Commandant.

Private Cyril Clarence Mitchell was written up on Company Conduct Sheet on 14th November, 1918 by Hut Police No. 17 – "*left his hut from 3 pm to 10 pm on 14th November, 1918*". This was reported by Corporal West. Private Mitchell was fined 5/- & forfeited 1 days' pay by order of Lieutenant Colonel Dollinan, Camp Commandant.

Private Cyril Clarence Mitchell was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 24th December, 1918 at Mitcham A.I.F. Camp in consequence of cessation of Hostilities. He had served for 51 days

From information provided in a letter to Base Records in 1920 (see below) Cyril Clarence Mitchell joined Scots Guards to join Russian Relief Force. He was posted to L Company, 1st Battalion, Scots Guards. His rank was Guardsman & his Service Number was 19438.

Scots Guards

In 1918, the rank of Private was replaced in the Foot Guards by the title Guardsman. The Scots Guards, while in Germany, joined the British Army of Occupation in Cologne before returning home in 1919, where it marched in London as part of the Guards Division. Both battalions would remain in the United Kingdom for the majority of the inter-war years where it carried out the usual public duties, though would, at times, be deployed abroad.

(Wikipedia)

North Russian Relief Force (NRRF) 1919

[[Background](#)]:

At the end of World War 1 Russia was engulfed in a bloody civil war as the Bolshevik regime sought to establish itself. In mid 1918 a small British-French-American expeditionary force seized Murmansk and Archangel to retrieve Allied supplies which had been given to the crumbling White Russian forces of the Czar, but with the fanciful further goal of creating a situation which might lead to the fall of the new Bolshevik regime.

A number of British and Australian soldiers, particularly those who had enlisted late in the war, volunteered to join the force raised to relieve British and Allied troops already in Russia. The campaign was to last more than a year, a year of hard-fought battles against strong Bolshevik forces.

The Australian volunteers were enlisted in the British Army for the duration of the campaign, and allotted to the 45th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers or to a Machine Gun battalion. Two companies of the 45th Battalion were entirely Australian. The British brigade mounted a major offensive on 10 August 1919 that enveloped and destroyed a large enemy force, inflicting heavy casualties and taking 3000 prisoners. On 29 August the two Australian companies of the 45th Battalion routed another Bolshevik force in a violent bayonet charge.

The British actions were instrumental in opening the way for peace negotiations which lead to the evacuation of the Allied forces in September and October 1919.]
(Digger History info)

The following text is from:

Lionel Wigmore, They dared mightily, 2nd revised edition, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1986, pp. 181—182

No Australian units were engaged in the operations in Northern Russia but a number of men of the AIF who were in England in 1919, awaiting repatriation to Australia, joined a volunteer force raised to relieve British and Allied troops already in Russia. The new force was designated the British North Russian Relief Force. In order to join this body the Australians had first to obtain their discharges from the AIF, and this was done in the UK. They were then enlisted in the British Army, and were allotted to the 45th Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers and the 201st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps. Two companies within the 45th Battalion were composed of Australians. Thus, between 200 and 300 Australians were prepared to accept a further period of vigorous active service.

The volunteer brigade of the relief Force was commanded by Brigadier-General LW de V. Sadlier-Jackson, and arrived in Russia on 5th June 1919. The Australians were prominent in several actions, their first of major importance being on 23rd July. On this occasion, 150 of them had gone with General Ironside when he went to investigate a meeting of White Russian forces at Obozerskaya. It was this group who repulsed a Bolshevik attack on a railway in the area. The Australians surprised the enemy during a relief of their forward blockhouses, killed thirty with the bayonet, wounded many others and set fire to the blockhouses before withdrawing.

Brigadier-General Sadlier-Jackson launched an attack with his brigade, including the Australians, on the Dwina front on 10th August and this also was a complete success. Over 3,000 prisoners were taken and heavy losses inflicted. The objective of enveloping and destroying the enemy was attained, thus opening the way for the peaceful evacuation of British and Allied forces. Nineteen days later, the two Australian companies were again employed in routing the Bolsheviks in a bayonet charge on the railway near Seleskoe.

By this time General Lord Rawlinson had arrived in the country to direct the evacuation of all Allied forces and, on 10th September, the withdrawal to Archangel commenced. This operation was completed by the 23rd, and the troops embarked for home five days later. Of the Australian volunteers, two received the Victoria Cross, Corporal Arthur Percy Sullivan 45th Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers and Sergeant Samuel George Pearse, 45th Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers.

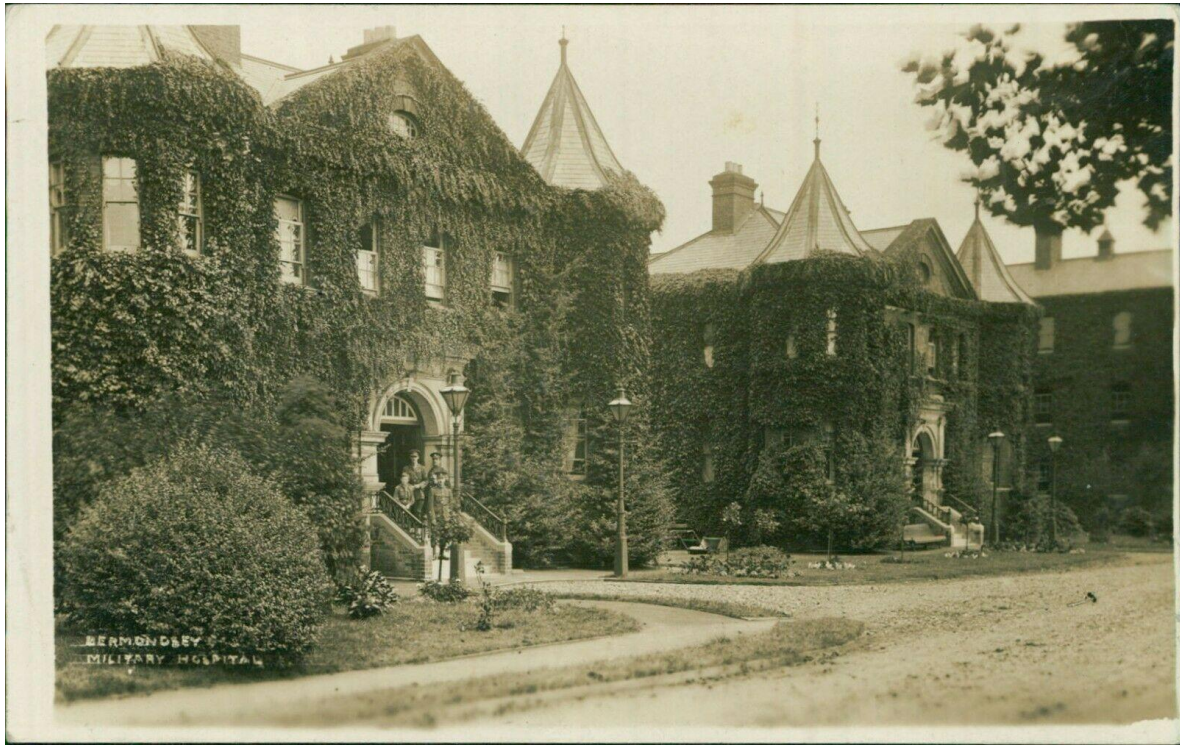
(Information from Australian War Memorial)

Cyril Clarence Mitchell died on 16th May, 1920 at Bermondsey Military Hospital, London, England (assume Tuberculosis).

Bermondsey Military Hospital, London

Bermondsey Institution on Ladywell Road in Lewisham had been taken over by the military early in the war and had become Bermondsey Military Hospital. The hospital had 796 beds, of which 103 were for tuberculosis patients, 25 for isolation and 6 for dysentery cases.

A death for Cyril C. Mitchell, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1920 in the district of Lewisham, London, England.



Bermondsey Military Hospital

Guardsman Cyril Clarence Mitchell was buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records the Grave as Memorial reference – XII. C. 11. Guardsman C. C. Mitchell has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Miss M. S. Phillips, General Secretary of The League of Loyal Women of Australia, Gawler Chambers. North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 9th April, 1920 with the following:

"I am writing on behalf of Mrs C. Mitchell, 219 Halifax St, Adelaide to ask if your department can give her word of her son C. C. Mitchell who attested at Moonta S.A. 3rd November 1918, was placed in B. Coy Base Depot, Mitcham and subsequently discharged on the signing of the armistice. He then went to England and joined other Australians the Scots Guards for service in Russia, his address then being

No. 19437 Gdsm. C. C. Mitchell, L. Company, 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, Victoria Barracks, Windsor, England.

After serving in Russia for five months he wrote from Military Hospital, Bermondsey, Ladywell, London to say that he had been very ill and the doctors were unable to do anything further for him as he was suffering from tuberculosis. This letter reached his mother some time ago. She has had no official notification of her son's illness and has no friends in England to who to apply.

I should be glad if you will do what you can in the matter."

Base Records replied to Miss M. S. Phillips on 21st April, 1920 stating that "ex-Private C. C. Mitchell, was not a member of the A.I.F. on his joining the Russian Relief Force, it is not considered likely that this branch would be notified of his illness. However, should you desire to make enquiries regarding him through the London War Office, the following is the cable address used:- Proeclicas, London.

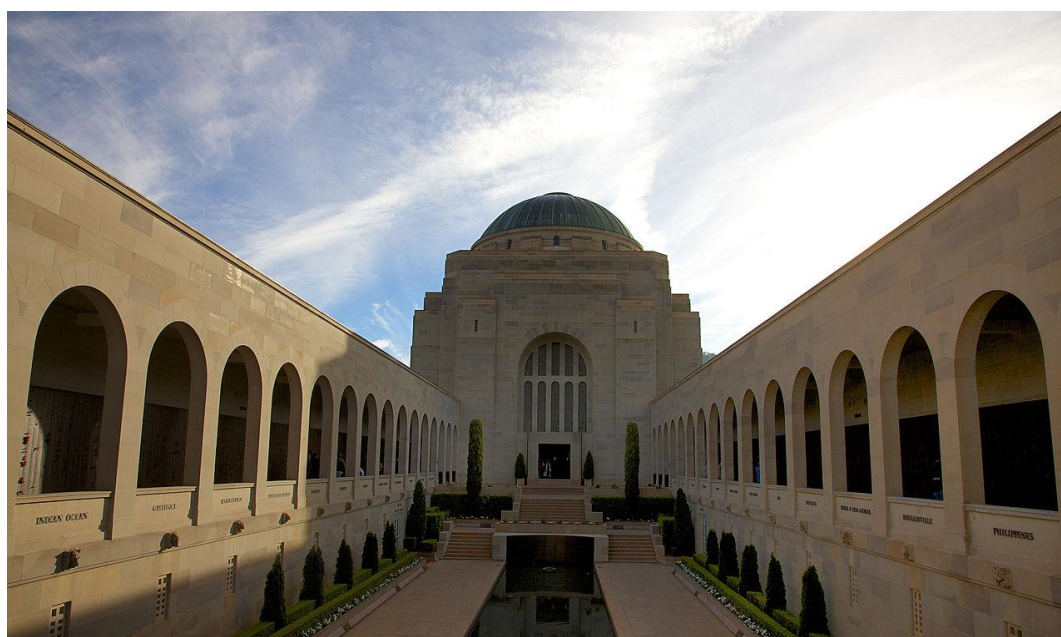
"Procelicas" being the cable indicator for London War Office. On the other hand, should this Office be informed of any casualty affecting the abovenamed, the information would be transmitted to his next-of-kin."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Guardsman Cyril Clarence Mitchell – service number 19438, aged 20, of 1st Battalion, Scots Guards. He was the son of Clarence and Mary Francis Mitchell. Native of Adelaide, South Australia.

Private Cyril Clarence Mitchell is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)

(38 pages of Private Cyril Clarence Mitchell's Australian Imperial Force Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll) & National Archives Australia



Newspaper Notices

DEATH

MITCHELL – On 10th September, at his residence, 219 Halifax street, Adelaide, William Stanley, the beloved eldest son of Clarence and Mary Mitchell, late of Wallaroo Mines Police Station, in his 25th year, after a long illness – “Rest in Peace.”

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

MITCHELL – On the 16th May, 1920, at Bermondsey Military Hospital, London, Guardsman Cyril Clarence Mitchell, No. 19438, 1st Batt. Scots Guards and late of A.I.F., and second son of Clarence and Mary Mitchell, No. 219 Halifax street, Adelaide, late of Wallaroo Mines Police Station, on his 20th Birthday. - “Rest in Peace.”

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

(The Kadina and Wallaroo Times, South Australia – 26 May, 1920)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

MITCHELL – In loving memory of our dear son, Cyril Clarence, who died in Bermondsey Military Hospital, London, on the 16th May, 1920.

Gentle in mind, patient in pain,
Our dear one has left us, heaven to gain.
Short was the call he had from above,
Not a word to his loved ones he could say.
His eyes closed with thoughts of home
As he silently passed away.

-Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brother.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 May, 1921) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 May, 1921)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

MITCHELL – In loving memory of our dear son, Cyril, who died at Bermondsey Military Hospital on May 16, 1920.

One by one our dear ones leave us,
And our sad hearts question why;
But we have God's own assurance,
That we will meet them by and by.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters and brother.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 May, 1922)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

MITCHELL – In loving memory of our dear son, Cyril Clarence, who died at Bermondsey Military Hospital on May 16th, 1920.

We had a darling brother once,
He was dearly loved by all,
But all we have to look at now
Is his photo on the wall.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters and brother.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 May, 1924)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

MITCHELL – In loving memory of our dear son, Cyril Clarence, who died at Bermondsey Military Hospital on May 17, 1920.

One by one our dear ones leave us,
And our sad hearts question why;
But we have God's own assurance,
That we will meet them by and by.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brother.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 May, 1925)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

MITCHELL – In loving memory of our dear son, Cyril Clarence, who died at Bermondsey Military Hospital on May 16, 1920.

He left on his last long journey,
In God's beautiful ship called Rest,
Away from this world of sorrow,
To a home of eternal rest.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brother.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 May, 1926) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 22 May, 1926)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

MITCHELL – In loving memory of our dear son, Cyril Clarence, who died at Bermondsey Military Hospital on 16th May, 1920.

Some day the mysteries of heaven will unfold,
And our sorrow to joy will be turned;
The morning will dawn, when united we stand,

With our loved ones, for whom we have mourned.

-Inserted by her loving parents, sister and brother.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 May, 1927)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Guardsman C. C. Mitchell does have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone & the personal inscription on his headstone reads:

Sweet Jesus Grant Him Eternal Rest

Inserted by His Loving Parents

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

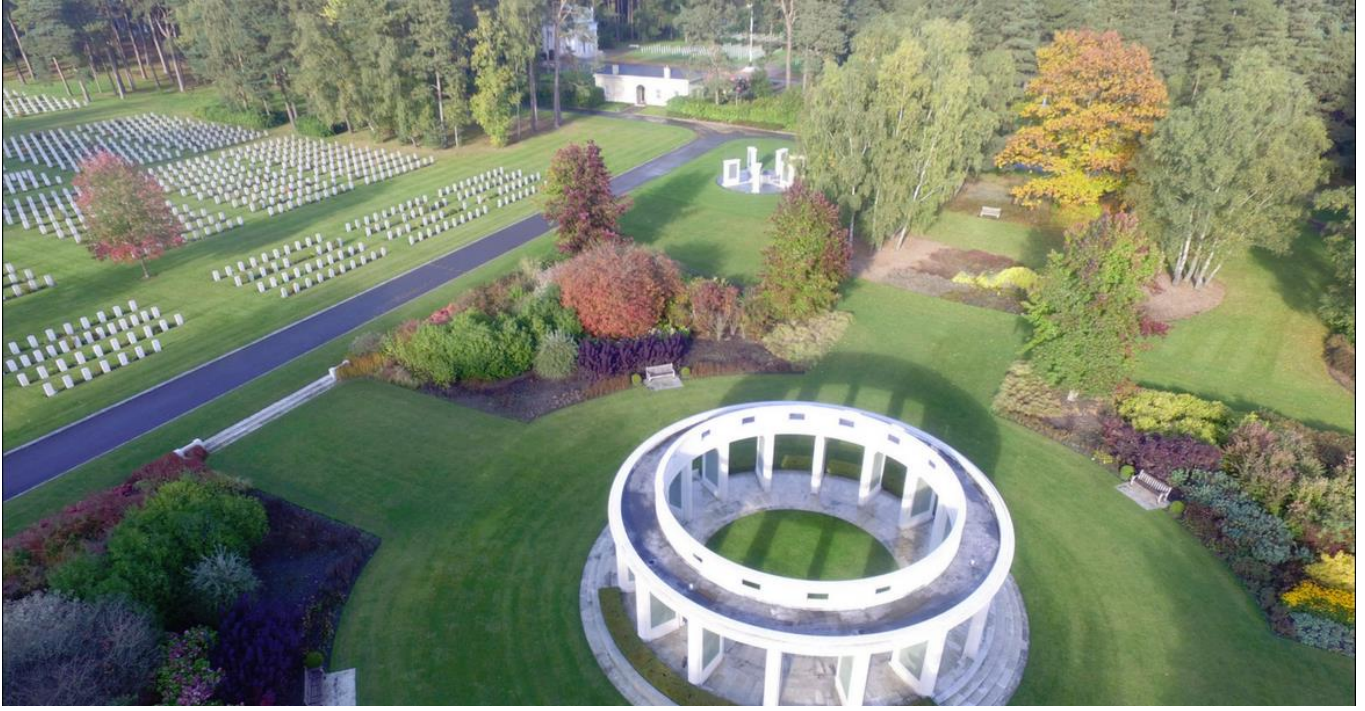
D00185

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 Guardsman C. C. Mitchell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

