

**Grangegorman Military Cemetery,
County Dublin, Republic of Ireland**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5365 PRIVATE

A. A. MURPHY

19TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND JUNE, 1918 Age 34

Pray For His Soul

A Good Son And Brave Soldier

R.I.P.

Arthur Andrew MURPHY

Arthur Andrew Murphy was born at Pine Grove, near Gulargambone, NSW in 1883 to parents John and Mary Bridget Murphy (nee Grimley, formerly Burgess). His birth was registered in the district of Coonamble, NSW.

Arthur Andrew Murphy attended Gulargambone Public School, NSW.

John Murphy, father of Arthur Andrew Murphy, died on 24th April, 1901 at Gulargambone, NSW.

Arthur Andrew Murphy was an apprentice Blacksmith for 12 months.

Arthur Andrew Murphy was a 32 year old, single, Forest Guard in the Coonamble & Dubbo Districts, NSW from Brightling, NSW when he enlisted at Dubbo, NSW on 17th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5365 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Murphy, Brightling, 3 T.P.O. West, NSW.

Arthur Andrew Murphy was posted to 46th Battalion, A.I.F on 17th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 19th Battalion on 24th June, 1916.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 22nd August, 1916 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 13th 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.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy was taken on strength in England & was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot on 13th October, 1916. Pte Murphy was marched in to 5th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 4th November, 1916.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy was written up for a Crime at Rollestone – Absent without leave from 08.00 on 26th December, 1916 till 08.00 on 27th December, 1916. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 6 days' pay.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 16th January, 1917 on *Princess Clementina*. He was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples France on 17th January, 1917.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy was taken on strength of 19th Battalion in France on 24th February, 1917.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy was with 19th Battalion in France on 12th December, 1917.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy was on leave from Belgium from 11th January, 1918.

19th Battalion

In 1917, the 19th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost five times as strong, at Lagincourt. The Battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy was admitted to The King George V Hospital, Dublin, Ireland on 28th January, 1918, whilst on leave in United Kingdom. He was admitted with Enteritis & was dangerously ill.

Mrs Murphy, mother of Pte A. A. Murphy, was advised on 10th May, 1918 that her son's condition was dangerously ill. Mrs Murphy was advised on 29th May, 1918 that her son's condition was critical.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy died at 12.15/12.20 am on 2nd June, 1918 at The King George V Hospital, Dublin, Ireland from Abscess of Liver.

A report from King George V Hospital, Dublin regarding the death of Private Arthur Andrew Murphy reads:

"With reference to the late 5365, Pte A. A. Murphy, 19th, A.I.F. Kindly note that this man was admitted here 28-1-18. He was kept under observation for some time before a definite diagnosis was arrived at.

On 20-2-18 he was complaining of cough with pain in the right side, his temperature being normal. His condition remained much the same except for an occasional rise of temperature. He lost flesh and complained of abdominal pain.

On 1-4-18 the liver was explored in several places but no pus was found. Temperature continued irregular and elevated: his general condition became worse and he was unable to take solid food. After consultation it was decided to further explore under anaesthetic and he was operated on 25-4-18 by Colonel Taylor, "Surgical Specialist. Portion of the rib was removed and a large abscess of liver evacuated. A drainage tube was left in, and the abscess drained well; but temperature commenced to "spike" after two days. Subsequent operation on 14-5-18 when a large abscess was evacuated through middle line in epigastric region, large drainage tube left in. Temperature sub-normal for two days but has since been irregular.

25-5-18 patient is not making progress. Abscesses are draining well, but takes nourishment badly and is losing weight.

30-5-18 patient much weaker, taking very little nourishment. He died 12.15 a.m. 2-6-18.

The disease which was the cause of death was contracted whilst on Military Service.

A death for Andrew Arthur Murphy, aged 34, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Dublin North, Ireland.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy was buried on 5th June, 1918 in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland – Plot number Aust. RC. 1 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Arthur Andrew Murphy - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths which were sent by friends and Hospital Staff. Gun Carriage, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were present. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Arthur Andrew Murphy contains several letters giving updates on his condition over several weeks.

One letter from a Red Cross Visitor on 18th April, 1918 reads: *"I have been seeing him at least once a week for nearly three months. He was taken ill while on leave in Ireland with Enteritis subsequently contracted Pleurisy, and is still in King George V Hospital. He writes home to his people each week. He does not seem to improve at all and has been having treatment for liver by injections. About 1st of this month he had a small exploratory operation to see if there were any pus, but nothing was found. The Doctor in attendance says Murphy is suffering from some obscure disease, which they cannot at present diagnose. He is looking very bad and his condition is serious. Until just lately he has been in good enough spirits but is now depressed at his failure to improve. I shall send another report as soon as there is any change in his condition."*

Another letter written by O. E. H. Beatty which reads: *"Re 5365 L/Cpl. A. A. Murphy 19th A.I.F. a patient in King George V Hospital Dublin. I am sorry to have to inform you that he died at 12.10 am today just after midnight. The abscess seems to have eaten right into his liver, and in spite of two operations and the best medical attention and nursing, he could not be saved. I am glad to day he had every care and attention, and I also saw him practically every day for the last five or six weeks and will now write to his people and give them his last messages."*

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy requested in his Will, dated 22nd May, 1917, that all his property and effects be given to his brother – Clarence John Murphy (of Gulargambone, NSW).

Mrs Murphy wrote a reply letter in 1919 & the letter reads: *"Your letter of the 20th June, 1919 duly received. Regarding my late sons rank as L.Cpl, Sig. I beg to inform you that it was no mistake of the Hospital Staff that he was, as you state erroneously shown on some of his papers as L/Cpl. Sig. When my late son reached England with his Battalion in 1916, he entered the Signalling School which he passed through with very high marks and he was granted a first class certificate as signaller which I suppose can be proved by the Signalling School Books and my late son went over to France as Signaler attached to the 19th Battalion, A.I.F. and the rank of L/Cpl in the Signaler was conferred on him on the Battle-field on or about the 12th August 1917. My late son earned his rank by his bravery and when he went into hospital he wore the insignia of his rank on his Arm, so the hospital staff could make no mistake. I cannot understand how you, the O.C. could not see the Badges on his arm when he presented himself at Headquarters for Pay when he was going on leave. I wrote to the Officer in Charge of Records, Victoria Barracks, Sydney and enclosed photo of my late son in his uniform which was taken January 1918. This letter with photo was forwarded in to Officer in Charge of Records, Melbourne, who wrote and informed me that same was forwarded on to Horseferry Road Headquarters and I expect is now in your hands. As my late son earned his rank on the Battlefield, I think it very unjust to deprive him of his rank after his death. He was a brave soldier and of unblemished character. He gave his life for his King and Country and it is a poor reward to deprive him of his rank even if it is not a very high one. My late son cannot feel it but his bereaved and sorrowing mother can. Yours truly, (Sgd) M. Murphy. (Note - the letter above in the Service record file of Pte A. A. Murphy was titled "Copy" & was typed. Transcription is as per typed letter. The original letter was located further on in the Service Record file).* The photo of Pte Murphy taken about 12th January, 1918 showed 1 stripe and 2 crossed flags on right sleeve of tunic. A.I.F. Headquarters, London replied that no record was held of the appointment to Lance Corporal & that the correct rank was that of Private.

Base Records had written to Mrs Murphy in 1918 stating that *"It is noted you refer to the late soldier as Lance Corporal Signaller. I may state there is no such rank as Signaller."*

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Murphy, mother of the late Pte Murphy, in March, 1921 stating that it was noted that she was registered on the records of the late Pte A. A. Murphy as the next of kin but were enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself 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. & specifically asked if the late Pte Murphy's father was still alive. Mrs Murphy replied that Pte Murphy's father was deceased & she was a widow. She also stated again in the letter that at the time of his death her son was "Signaller Lance Corporal." Enquiries were made by Base Records regarding the rank of the late Pte Murphy as being Lance Corporal & a search was made through all available records without success.

Private Arthur Andrew Murphy was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Murphy's mother – Mrs M. Murphy, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

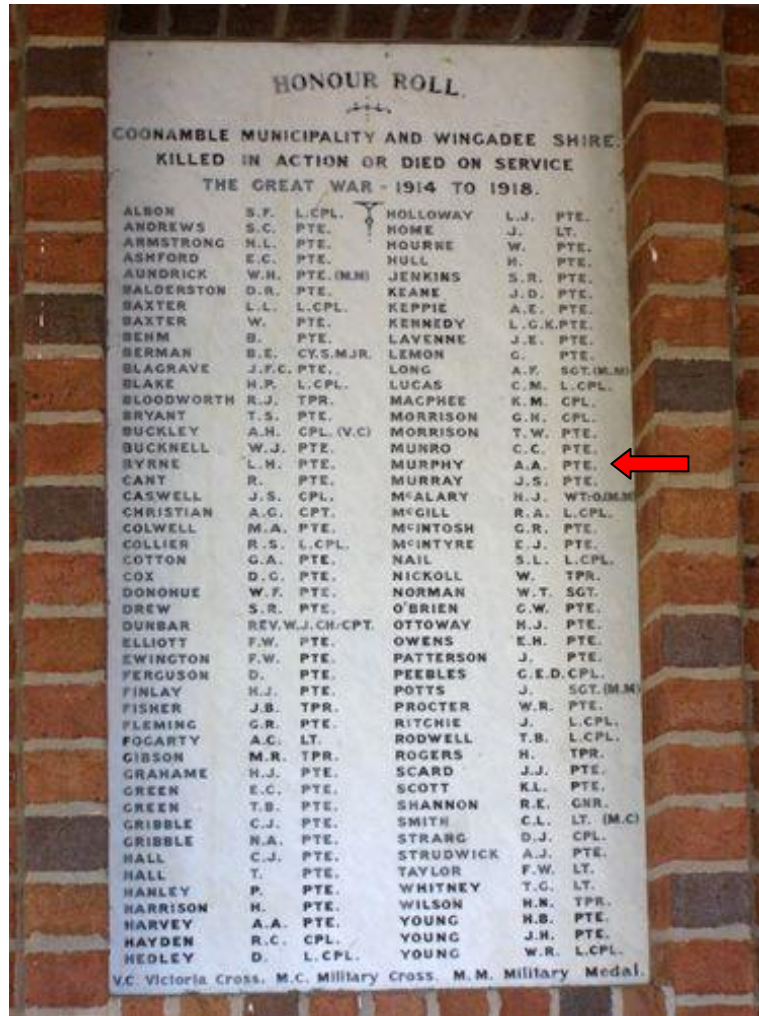
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Andrew Murphy – service number 5365, aged 34, of 19th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Mary Murphy, of Pine Grove, Brightling, New South Wales. Born at Pine Grove, Gulargambone.

Private A. A. Murphy is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 89.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. A. Murphy is remembered on the Coonamble Municipality & Wingadee Shire Honour Roll, located in Coonamble Shire Council, 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble, NSW.



Coonamble Municipality & Wingadee Shire Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

A. A. Murphy would be remembered on the Coonamble District Honour Roll, located in Coonamble Shire Council, 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble, NSW.



Coonamble District Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

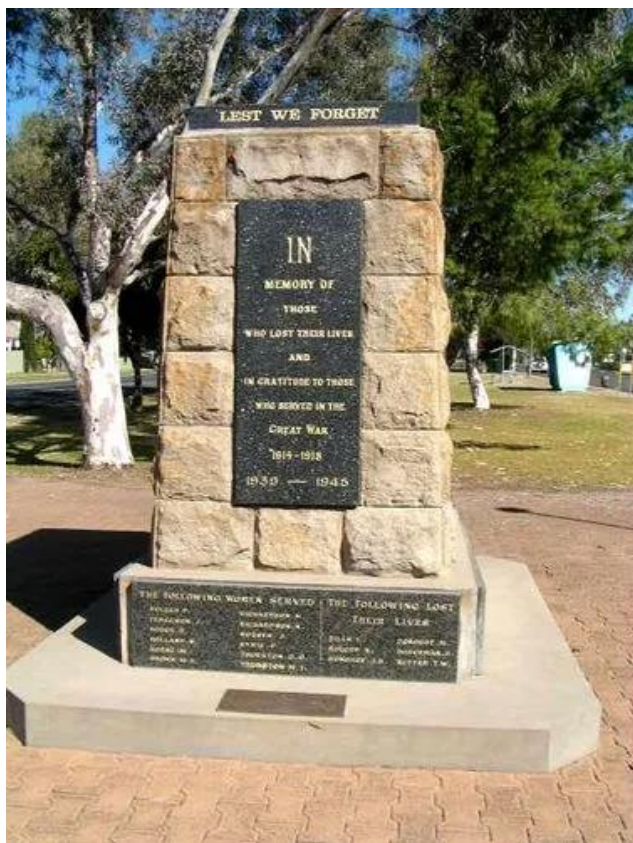
A. A. Murphy is remembered on the Coonamble War Memorial, located at Coonamble Shire Council, 80 Castlereagh Street, Coonamble, NSW.



Coonamble War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)



A. A. Murphy is remembered on the Gulargambone War Memorial, located in Gulargambone Park, Castlereagh Highway, Gulargambone, NSW.



Gulargambone War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Diane Watson)

(87 pages of Pte Arthur Andrew Murphy'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

Pte A. A. MURPHY, Brightling

(*Sunday Times*, Sydney, NSW – 31 March, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

MURPHY – Died of illness, Dublin, Ireland, June 2, 1918, Lance-corporal Signaller Arthur A. Murphy, 19th Batt., dearly beloved and youngest son of Mrs J. Murphy, Pine Grove, Gulargambone. R.I.P. He heard the call, and answered.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 13 June, 1918)

HONOR ROLL

MURPHY – Died of illness, in Dublin (Ireland) June 2, 1918, Lance-Corpl Signaller Arthur A. Murphy, 19th Battalion, dearly beloved and youngest son of Mrs J. Murphy, Pine Grove, Gulargambone. - R.I.P.

(Dubbo Dispatch and Wellington Independent, NSW – 14 June, 1918)

410th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte ARTHUR ANDREW MURPHY, Brightling

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 June, 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)

Miss V. E. Murphy, 6 Nicholson Street, Chatswood, NSW, wrote to Base Records in November, 1927 requesting that the inscription on the Headstone of No. 5365 Signaller Arthur A. Murphy, 19th Battalion, A.I.F. died 2/6/18 should read "Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

Miss V. E. Murphy, 6 Nicholson Street, Chatswood, NSW, wrote to Base Records in October, 1929 asking to ".....Please inform me if the Military Authorities erect headstones on such graves, and if so, kindly supply full details."

Miss V. E. Murphy, 6 Nicholson Street, Chatswood, NSW, wrote to Base Records in February, 1930 stating that she had received word from the Finance Dept. Imperial War Graves Commission London, asking to "*forward the sum of 11/8 for the cost of engraving 40 letters – personal inscription- on the headstone of Pte A. A. Murphy, 19th Aus. Inf. in Grangegorman Cem. Ireland. In a previous communication from you I understood that a certain number of letters were engraved free. Please inform me if such is correct.*" Base Records replied "that with the exception of the personal inscription the whole of the expense of providing the headstone is being borne by the Government which is also responsible on a contributory basis for the future maintenance and upkeep of the military cemeteries abroad."

Private A. A. Murphy does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Pray For His Soul

A Good Son And Brave Soldier

R.I.P.

Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland

Grangegorman Military Cemetery was opened in 1876 and was used for the burial of British service personnel and their near relatives. It contains war graves from both world wars. Some of the graves were re-located to this site at a later date (nine from King George V Hospital grounds, two from Trinity College grounds, three from Portobello (Barracks) Cemetery, two from Drogheda (Little Calvary) Cemetery and one from Oranmore Old Graveyard).

The "Leinster" graves are in several trenches in the different denominational plots.

A Screen Wall Memorial of a simple design standing nearly two metres high and fifteen metres long has been built of Irish limestone to commemorate the names of those war casualties whose graves lie elsewhere in Ireland and can no longer be maintained. Arranged before this memorial are the headstones of the war dead buried in Cork Military Cemetery but now commemorated here.

There are now 613 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, 2 of which are unidentified, and 12 of the 1939-1945 war, 1 of which is unidentified, commemorated here.

There are 7 Australian War Graves from World War 1 & 1 New Zealand War Grave (born in Australia).

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Grangegorman Military Cemetery



4 Australian Graves in Grangegorman Cemetery –(left to right) Byrne/Smith/Bardon/Murphy
(Photo from Magicfingers)

Photo of Private A. A. Murphy's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland.



(Photo courtesy of Richard J. Edgar)