

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,
Birmingham, West Midlands
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3920 PRIVATE

F. MURRELLS

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 19

Frank MURRELLS

Francis Murrells was born at Mathoura, New South Wales on 3rd October, 1897 to parents John and Elizabeth Murrells (nee Wilson).

Frank Murrells was an 18 year old, single, Clerk from Deniliquin, NSW when he enlisted on 20th August, 1915 at Bendigo, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3920 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Murrells, Deniliquin, NSW. Frank Murrells sated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets – 67th Infantry.

As Frank Murrells was under the age of 21 years, his parents' were required to sign their consent for the son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. John Murrells & E. Murrells both signed their consent.

Private Frank Murrells was posted to Depot (Battalion) on 20th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 11th October, 1915.

Private Frank Murrells embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 23rd November, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements.

Private Frank Murrells was taken on strength of 5th Battalion on 22nd February, 1916 at Serapeum from Reinforcements.

Private Frank Murrells embarked from Alexandria on 25th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on Troopship *City of Chester*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 31st March, 1916.

Private Frank Murrells was wounded in action in France on 25th July, 1916. He was admitted to 57th Field Ambulance with Bomb wounds multiple on 25th July, 1916. Private Murrells was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 28th July, 1916 with Bomb wounds to leg, shoulder & hands. Private Murrells embarked on Hospital Ship *St Patrick* on 30th July, 1916 for England. He was listed as dangerously ill. (Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he embarked on Hospital Ship whereas Statement of Service form recorded he embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St Patrick* then 2 lines under recorded he embarked on Hospital Ship *St. George*.)

5th Battalion

The 5th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders then returning to the Somme for winter.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 5th Battalion

25th July, 1916 – Forward Line Trenches Pozieres:

At 0200 after intensive artillery bombardments rushed and captured first objective O.G.1. and portion of enemy's communication trench in a N.E. direction almost to its intersection with O.G.2. Second objective O.G.2. was also taken but owing to strong counter attack by enemy accompanied by strong bomb attacks made it advisable to withdraw to O.G.1 and make sure of holding & consolidating it.

Our Casualties were heavy being 6 Officer & 39 ORanks killed, 6 Officers & 242 ORanks wounds, 1 Officer and 158 ORanks missing.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frank Murrells was admitted wounded to 1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Rd, Birmingham, England on 1st August, 1916. He was reported to be dangerously ill on 30th August, 1916.

Mr J. Murrells, Deniliquin, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 3rd August, 1916 that his son Private Frank Murrells was dangerously ill with gunshot wound to shoulder, arm & leg.

Mr J. Murrells sent a Telegram to Base Records on 8th August, 1918 "*please say how progressing reply paid.*" Base Records replied on 9th August, 1916 "*No further information received respecting son. Will notify receipt progress report.*"

Mr J. Murrells, Deniliquin, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 16th August, 1916 that his son Private Frank Murrells was progressing favourably.

Private Frank Murrells died on 5th September, 1916 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Rd, Birmingham, England from wounds received in action in France, followed by Acute Emphysema.

A death for Frank Murrell, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Birmingham, Warwickshire, England.

Private Frank Murrells was buried in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – Site B. 10 Grave No. 347.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Murrells, Railway Reserve, Deniliquin, NSW, on 28th April, 1920 with the following "*With reference to my communication of 28th April, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 3920 Private F. Murrells, 5th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which show that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave No. 547, Section "B" 10, Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

Private Frank Murrells' name is remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 547 as he does not have a headstone.

Private Frank Murrells was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Murrells' father – Mr J. Murrells, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frank Murrells – service number 3920, aged 19, of 5th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Murrells, of Railway Reserve, Deniliquin, New South Wales.

Private F. Murrells is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 44.

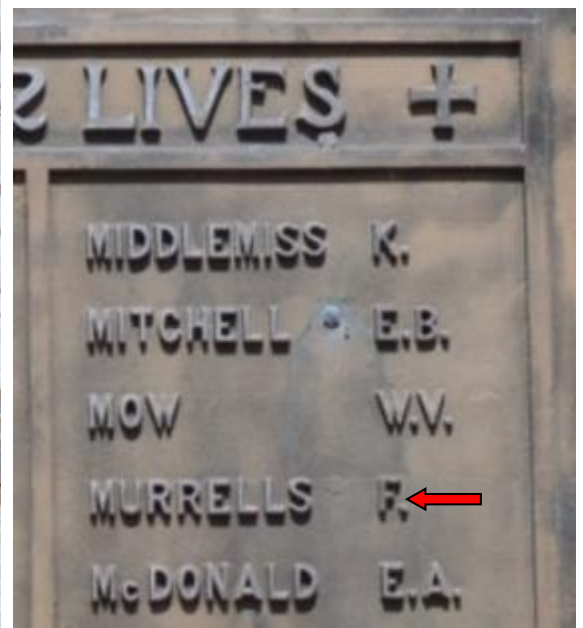
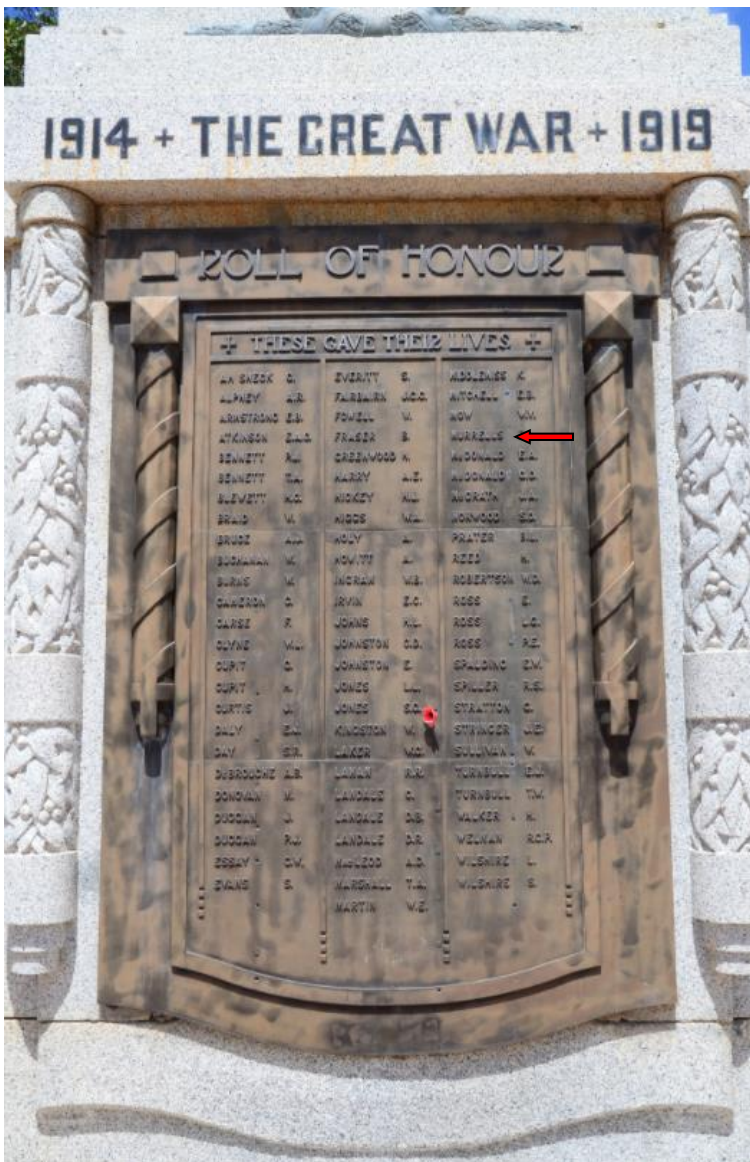


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. Murrells is remembered on the Deniliquin Cenotaph / War Memorial, located at Waring Gardens, Corner Cressy and Napier Streets, Deniliquin, NSW.

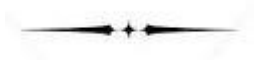


Deniliquin Cenotaph / War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(63 pages of Private Frank Murrells' 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



Connected to Private Frank Murrells:

Older brother – Sydney Murrells – Enlisted 25th May, 1916 – Labourer, aged 23. Embarked as Private No. 6315 from Melbourne, Victoria with 7th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements on 11th September, 1916.

Wounded in action 25th February, 1917. Returned to Australia 25th August, 1917. Medically discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 29th November, 1917.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Newspaper Notices

OPEN COLUMN

On Thursday evening of last week the local staff of the Deniliquin and Moama Railway Company, together with a few friends, met at Mr J. Heavyside's Railway Hotel to say au revoir to Private Frank Murrells, who, prior to his enlistment for the front, was employed as clerk in the Company's office. Mr Neil Robertson, who presided, apologised for the absence of Mr Tennant, manager of the Company, but stated that that gentleman had handed Private Murrells a cheque from the Company in appreciation of his services, and wished him success. During the evening the guest was presented with a fountain pen, a silver-mounted pencil, and a wallet.

(The Independent, Deniliquin, NSW – 29 October, 1915)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

192nd LIST ISSUED

WOUNDED AND DANGEROUSLY ILL

VICTORIA

Pte F. MURRELLS, Deniliquin, NSW.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 August, 1916)

OUR SOLDIER BOYS

Profound regret was expressed throughout the town on Tuesday afternoon last when the death of Private Frank Murrells was announced. Deceased, who was a bright and intelligent lad of 19 summers, was wounded in action in France some few weeks ago, but we understand the immediate cause of death was bronchitis. To his parents we extend our deepest sympathy in their hour of trial, but we trust it will ameliorate their grief to know that he died for King and country.

(The Independent, Deniliquin, NSW – 6 October, 1916)

LATEST CASUALTY LISTS

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The 232nd casualty list show:

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of wounds: Private F. Murrells (Denilquin)

(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 10 October, 1916)

CASUALTIES IN FRANCE

Private Frank Murrells, son of Mr Murrells, of the Deniliquin and Moama Railway Company, who was severely wounded in France, has since died in London. Prior to enlistment he was a clerk in the employ of the Railway Company. He was 19 years of age.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 October, 1916)

AUSTRALIANS IN FRANCE

DENILIKUIN – Private Frank Murrells, 19, son of Mr Murrells, of the D. and M. Railway Co., who was severely wounded in France, has since died in London. Prior to enlistment he was a clerk in the employ of the Railway Company.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 October, 1916)

OUR ROLL OF HONOR

Below is published a list of volunteers who have left Deniliquin and district, also the names of several former residents who have joined the colors.....

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MURRELLS, Frank (died of wounds)

.....

MURRELLS, Stanley

(The Independent, Deniliquin, NSW – 17 November, 1916)

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.

Private Frank Murrells does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



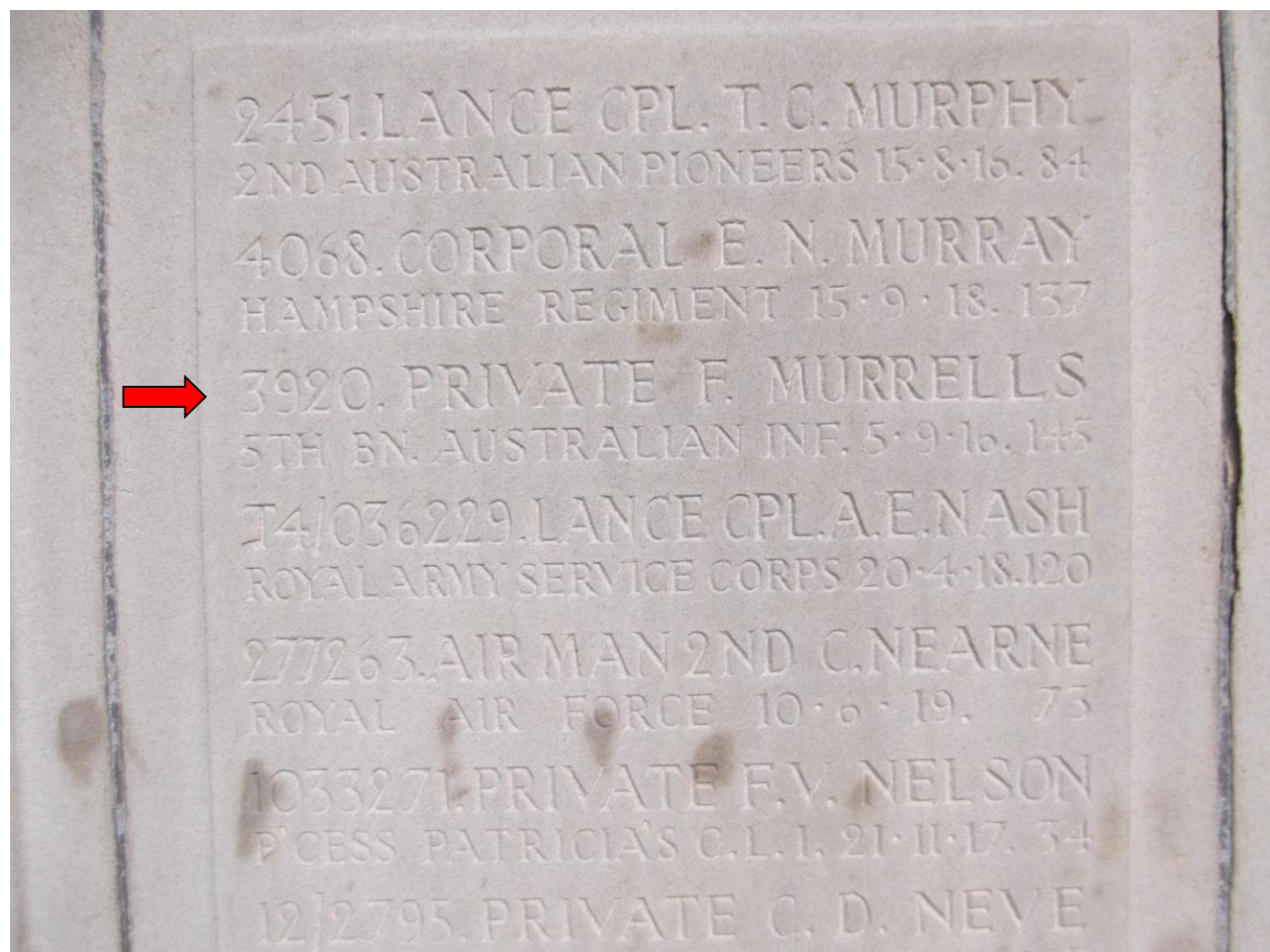
(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)



Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham (*Photos from CWGC*)



Photo of Private F. Murrells' name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)





WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

Lodge Hill Cemetery

