

**Hartshill Cemetery,
Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3194/A PRIVATE

G. T. MURROWOOD

60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST AUGUST, 1916 Age 20

Though Lost To Sight

To Memory Ever Dear

George Thomas MURROWOOD

George Thomas Murrowood was born at Princes Hill, North Carlton, Victoria in 1896 to parents James and Mary Louisa Murrowood (nee Byrne).

James Murrowood, father of George Thomas Murrowood, died on 24th February, 1902 at Carlton North, Victoria. Mary Louisa Murrowood remarried on 2nd December, 1902 to Horatio George Brand.

George Thomas Murrowood attended Kew State School, Victoria.

The Marshall Show Co. Ltd, Burnely, Palmer & Murphy Streets, Richmond, Victoria wrote the following letter on 12th July, 1915: "*We hereby agree to suspend or cancel George Murrowood's indentures in order that he may enlist for the war.*"

George Thomas Murrowood was a 19 year old, single, Bootmaker from 23 Stawell Street, Kew, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 12th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3194 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Brand, 23 Stawell Street, Kew, Melbourne, Victoria. George Murrowood stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Senior Cadets for 3 years at Kew & was medically unfit for Citizen Forces. He also stated that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to his chest.

As George Murrowood was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad.

- H. G. Brand, 23 Stawell Street, Kew, wrote the following letter: "*This is to certify that George T. Murrowood is my stepson and I have no objection to his enlisting for service with the Expeditionary Force.*"
- Mrs M. Brand, 23 Stawell Street, Kew, wrote the following letter, dated 11th July, 1915: "*This is to certify that George Thomas Murrowood is my son and that I give my consent for him to enlist with the expeditionary force for service abroad.*"

Private George Thomas Murrowood was posted to Depot (Battalion) on 12th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 21st Battalion on 29th October, 1915.

Private George Thomas Murrowood embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 18th November, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

Private George Thomas Murrowood was transferred to 60th Battalion on 26th February, 1916 & was taken on strength of 60th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 26th February, 1916.

Private George Thomas Murrowood was admitted to 47th Field Ambulance at Serapeum on 30th March, 1916 with Sore Feet. He was transferred to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismalia on 31st March, 1916 with Blistered Feet the transferred to 8th Field Ambulance at Ferry Post, Ismalia on 31st March, 1916. Private Murrowood was discharged to his Unit on 1st April, 1916.

Private George Thomas Murrowood was sent sick then admitted to 15th Field Ambulance at Staging Camp, Ferry Post on 4th April, 1916 with Tonsillitis. He rejoined his Unit on 10th April, 1916.

Private George Thomas Murrowood was admitted to 8th Field Ambulance at Ferry Post on 28th April, 1916 with Influenza. He was discharged to his Unit on 1st May, 1916 & rejoined his Unit at Duntroom Plateau on the same day.

Private George Thomas Murrowood embarked from Alexandria on 18th June, 1916 on *Kinfauns Castle* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private George Thomas Murrowood was reported to have been wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 8th Stationary Hospital in France on 22nd July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right leg – compound fracture & was seriously ill. Private Murrowood embarked on Hospital Ship *St. David* from France on 28th July, 1916.

60th Battalion

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The majority of both groups were Victorians. The new battalion formed part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 28 June, the 60th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the battalion. In a single day, it was virtually wiped out, suffering 757 casualties. These losses meant the battalion saw little further offensive action in 1916.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 60th Battalion

19th July, 1916 – Trenches on Fromelles Front:

Coy Cmdrs and all other available officers received final instructions re assault at Batn Hdqtrs at 10 a.m.

Zero time 11 a.m. Head of battalion moved past Brigade Hqts at 1.30 and marched via V.C. Sap (?) to front line trenches under heavy enemy artillery bombardment. Friendly artillery very heavily bombarding enemy trenches. Battalion established in front line trench by 4.20, Lewis guns excepted, a few casualties having occurred, some serious. Battalion scaled parapet and advanced in four waves, the first wave leaving at 6.45, the last at 7. Each wave advanced under very heavy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, suffering very heavy casualties. Advance continued to within 90 yards of enemy trenches. The attack was held up, although it is believed some few of the battalion entered enemy trenches. During the night 19/20 a few stragglers, wounded and unwounded, returned to our trenches."

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Thomas Murrowood was admitted to Stoke-Upon-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England on 29th July, 1916 with G.S.W. right leg – Amputation (severe). The Hospital Admissions form recorded *"....Leg was amputated in France for gangrene."*

Private George Thomas Murrowood died at 6.30 am on 1st August, 1916 at Stoke-on-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) right leg.

A death for G. Murrowood, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, England.

Private George Thomas Murrowood was buried on 3rd August, 1916 in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England – Grave No. 51341.

Mrs M. Brand, 23 Stawell Street, Kew, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 19th April, 1920 that the remains of her son had *"been extracted from former site, Hartshill Cemetery, and re-interred in grave No. 15405, Block 39 of the same Cemetery. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Private George Thomas Murrowood's grave is now referenced by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Memorial Reference 15405 and he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mrs M. Brand, 23 Stawell Street, Kew, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 7th August, 1916 that No. 3194a Private G. T. Murrowood, 60th late 21st Batt, had been reported wounded.

A War Pension was granted to Mary L. Brand, mother of the late Private George Thomas Murrowood, in the sum of 14/- per fortnight from 12th July, 1917.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Brand, 23 Stawell Street, Kew, Victoria, mother of the late Private George Thomas Murrowood, on 7th October, 1920 stating it was noted on the records of the late Private G. T. Murrowood that she was the registered next-of-kin but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive, 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.

Mrs M. L. Brand, of 23 Walpole St, Kew, replied to Base Records on 15th October, 1920 with the following letter ".../ beg to state that his own father is not alive (step-father is). I, his mother, is his nearest blood relation..... Change of address above."

Private George Thomas Murrowood was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Murrowood's mother – Mrs M. L. Brand, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Thomas Murrowood – service number 3194A, aged 20, of 60th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mary Louisa Brand (formerly Murrowood), of 23 Walpole St., Kew, Victoria, Australia, and the late James Murrowood.

C. T. Murrowood is named on the World War 1 Memorial Plaque, located in Memorial Chapel at Holy Trinity Church Pakington Street, Kew, Victoria.



Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Kew



Holy Trinity, Kew - WW1 Memorial Plaques

(Photos courtesy of Darcey – Holy Trinity Kew Parish Office)

(Note: According to Victorian Heritage Database – G. T. Murrowood is named on a Stained Glass Window in Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Pakington Street, Kew, Victoria. The Holy Trinity Parish Office, Kew have advised that G. T. Murrowood is not named on any Stained Glass Window.)

Private G. T. Murrowood is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 170.

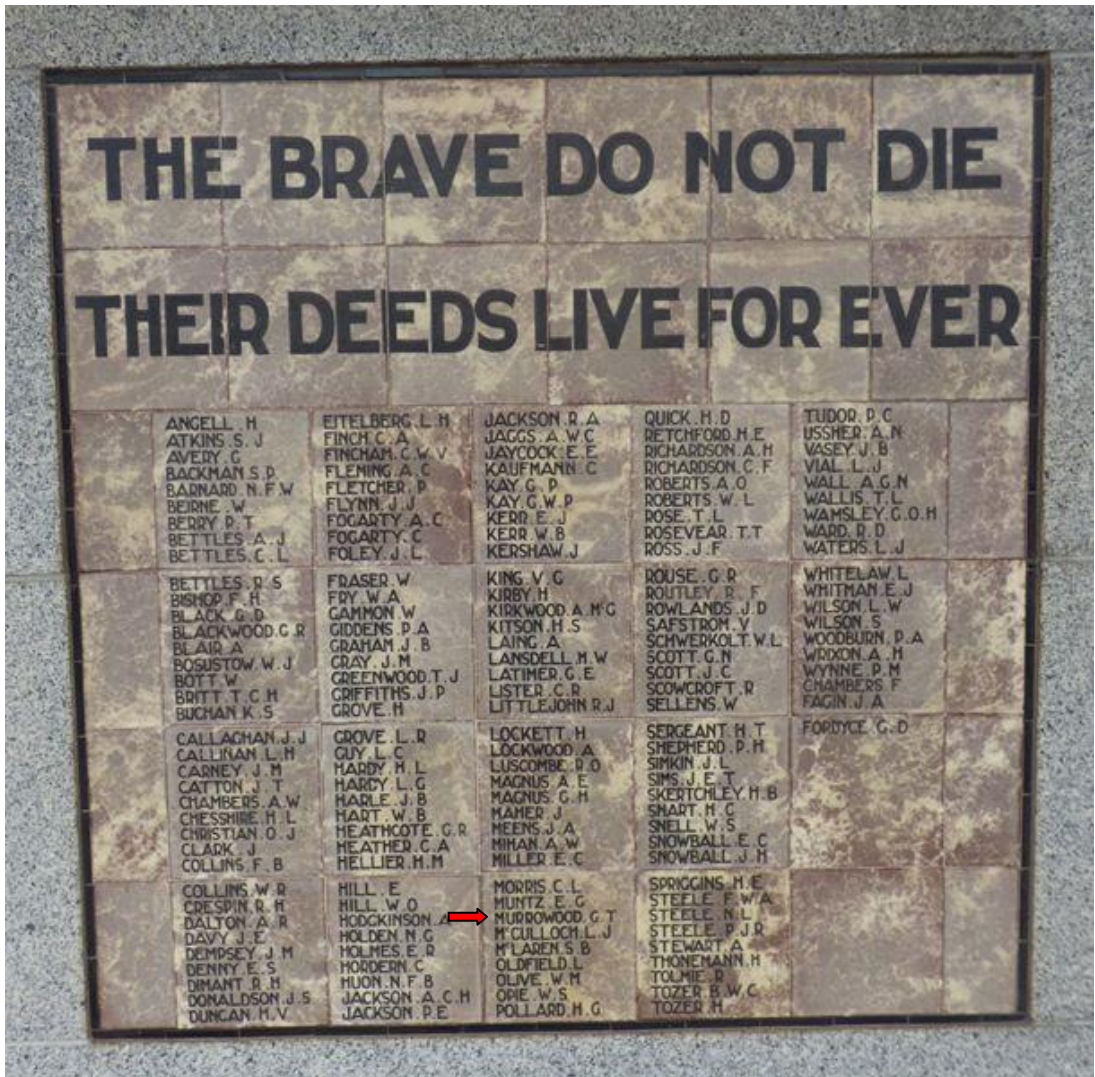


Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. T. Murrowood is remembered on the Kew War Memorial, located at Cotham Road & High Street, Kew, Victoria.



Kew War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



(51 pages of Private George Thomas Murrowood's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

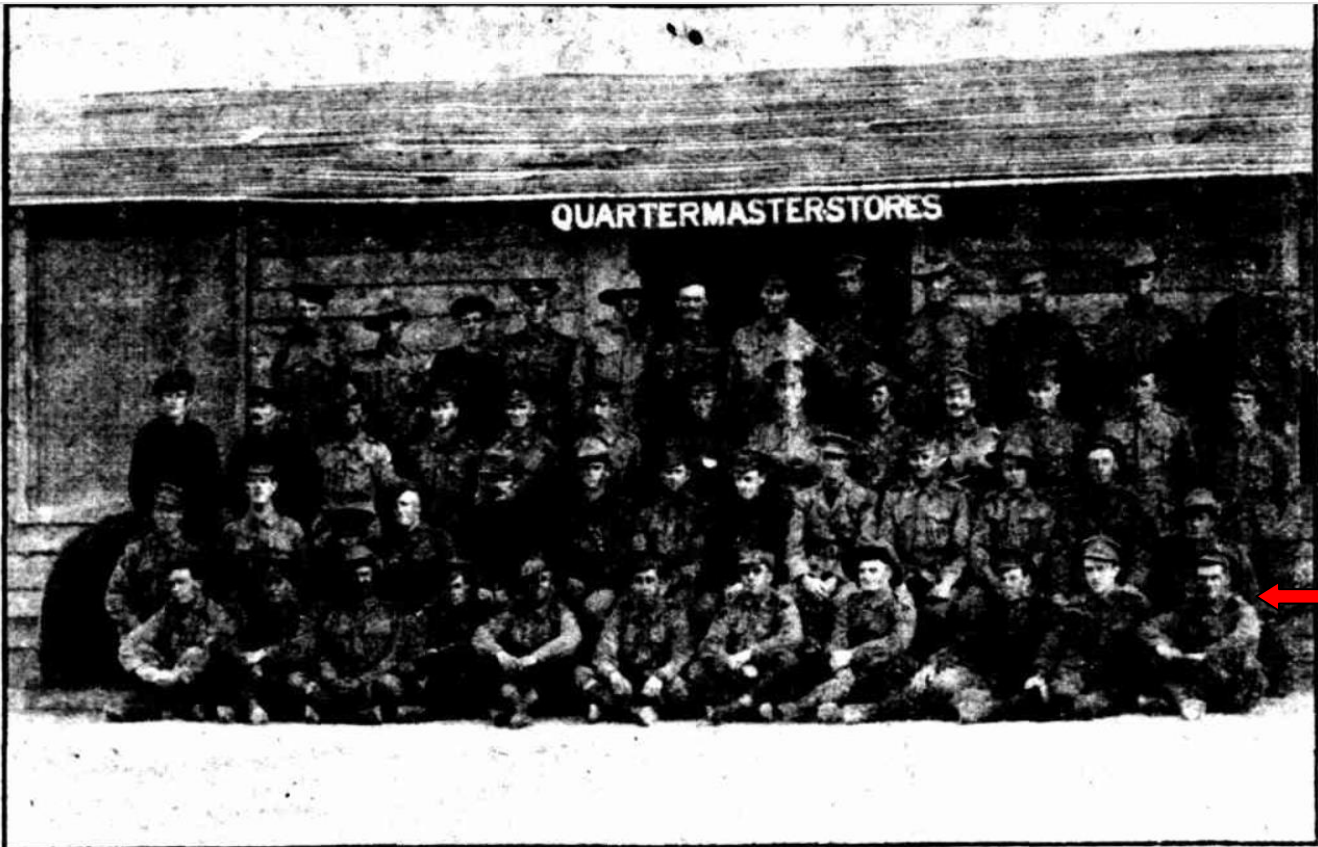
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Private George Thomas Murrowood

Newspaper Notices

GROUP OF KEW VOLUNTEERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE



GROUP OF KEW VOLUNTEERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

(Photographed in Egypt in February).

Front Row (from left to right)—Pte. T. Lowe, Pte. C. H. Russell, Pte. H. B. Johnston, Pte. G. B. Brinkley, Pte. V. Safstrom, Pte. F. Pinniger, Pte. G. Gange, Pte. A. Hodgkinson, Pte. B. Tozer, Pte. B. Horton, Pte. G. T. Murrowood.

Second Row (from left to right)—Pte. C. Goodwin, Cpl. H. T. George, Pte. R. Jackson, Signaller E. Cubbins, Pte. E. Simpkins, Pte. W. L. Ross, Sgt. G. R. Lloyd, Sgt. W. Cochrane, Lieut. S. C. Kilduff, Sgt. R. F. Routley, Cpl. G. T. Lynch, Pte. B. Richardson, and Pte. T. Baisley.

Third Row (from left to right)—Pte. W. Smith, Pte. J. Adair, Pte. W. P. Meagher, Pte. F. Underwood, Pte. R. Mackwell, Pte. W. I. Smith, Pte. R. Kitson, Lance Cpl. E. Lowry, Pte. J. C. Bell, Pte. T. E. Kilduff, Pte. O. J. Martin, Pte. F. F. Kay, Pte. G. F. Swallow.

Back Row (from left to right)—Pte. W. A. Mason, Pte. J. Yeoman, Pte. L. C. Morris, Pte. C. J. Pickering, Pte. P. Cox, Pte. C. A. Morris, Pte. E. W. Howse, Pte. A. H. Howse, Lance Cpl. W. Rice, Pte. W. J. Lindsay, Pte. D. S. Maher, and Pte. H. Denman.

(*The Reporter*, Box Hill, Victoria – 7 April, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

MURROWOOD – Killed in action, Pte G. T. Murrowood, dearly beloved son of Mrs H. G. Brand, and late James Murrowood, brother of A.H., P.J., R.S. Murrowood, of 23 Stawell street, Kew.

For King and country.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 August, 1916) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 August, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

MURROWOOD – On the 8th August, died of wounds received in action, Private G. T. Murrowood, dearly beloved nephew of Mr and Mrs J. T. Byrne, of Edgerton-street, Hawthorn, and cousin of Jack, May, Myrtle, and Kenny, aged 20 years.

His duty nobly done.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 August, 1916)

KEW TOWN COUNCIL

...

The mayor moved that letters of condolence be forwarded to the relatives of Lieutenant S. B. McLaren and Private G. T. Murrowood and R. R. Ward, who were killed in action. Councillors rose as the motion was carried in silence.

(*Camberwell and Hawthorn Advertiser*, Victoria – 26 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIA'S ROLL OF HONOR

200th and 201st CASUALTIES LISTS

DIED OF WOUNDS

Victoria

MURROWOOD, G. T., Kew

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 August, 1916)

BYADUK HONOUR ROLL

There was a large gathering at the Byaduk State school on Tuesday afternoon, when the honour roll of boys of the old school who have enlisted for service in the present war was unveiled. The roll, which was artistically done by the Rev. W. H. Guard, was unveiled by Mr. F. Kinghorn, sen. It contains 30 names, as follow :-Walter R. Kinghorn, J. A. Ross, Stanley Harper, Reuben Harmen, William Ross, Simon Fraser, John Scott, Samuel Ross, Charles J. Harman, Wilfred S. Merlin, Frederick Hindes, Leslie Whitehead, William T. Harper, Archibald McGillivray, James Monaghan, Albert Gibbins, Locksby Whitford, Walter Filmer, John Bunworth, Walter Stewart, Albert V. Harper, Percy Bishop, Horatio Brand, **George Murrowood**, Alan Holcombe, Michael Bunworth, John McGillivray, Andrew Ross, Bernhard Kosch, Paul Kosch.

Of the above, Privates Gibbins and **George Murrowood** and Bombardier Wilfred Merlin have died for their country in France. Speeches appropriate to the occasion were made by Mr. J. Holmes (chairman of the school committee), Cr. D. Eraser (chairman of the North Byaduk' school committee), Mr. F. Kinghorn, Mr. J. Scott, and Rev. W. H. Guard. The following songs were rendered by the school children:- National Anthem, "Rule Britannia," "Red, White and Blue," and "The Star Crossed Flag of Australia." Afternoon tea was afterwards handed round. On Sunday evening last, a memorial service to the late Bombardier W. S. Merlin and Private Cyril Iles was held in the Methodist church which was crowded. The Rev. W. H. Guard conducted the service, and preached a sympathetic sermon.

(*Hamilton Spectator*, Victoria – 21 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MURROWOOD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Geo. T., died of wounds received in France, 1st August, 1916, aged 20 years.

A true hero.

-Inserted by his mother, father (on active service), brothers and sisters.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MURROWOOD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, George, died of wounds on 1st August, 1916, at Newcastle, England.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his loving father (on active service), mother, brothers and sister, 23 Stawell-street, Kew.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MURROWOOD – In affectionate remembrance of our dear son and brother, George, late 60th Battalion, who died of wounds received at Fleurbaix on 1st August, 1916. Never forgotten.

-Inserted by parents, brothers and sister.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 August, 1919)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 23rd July, 1921, to Mrs M. L. Brand, 23 Walpole Street, Kew, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late Private G. T. Murrowood, 60th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

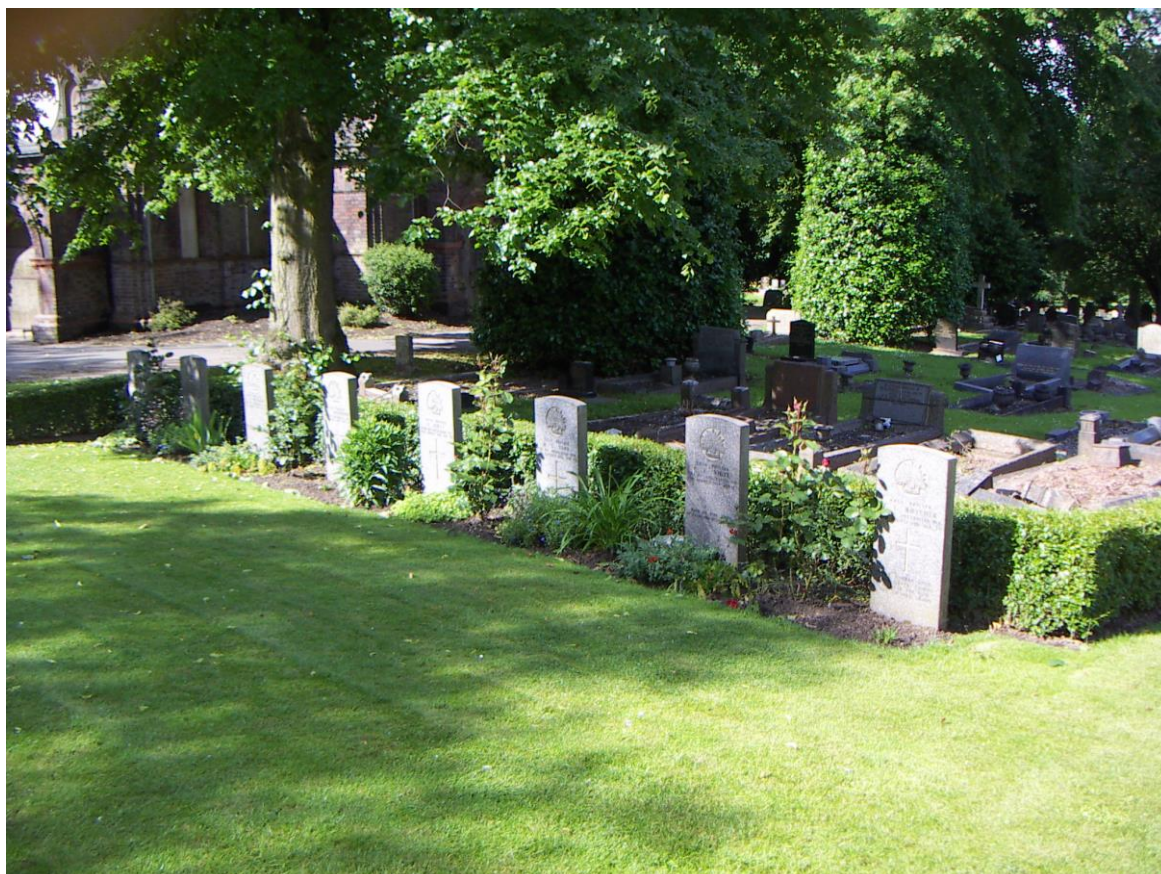
Private G. T. Murrowood does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Though Lost To Sight

To Memory Ever Dear

Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England

Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent contains 151 Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Graves – 91 from World War 1 & 60 from World War 2. There are 8 Australian WW1 Graves in this Cemetery.



8 Australian War Graves in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent

(Photo by ken perkins 2017 – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private G. T. Murrowood's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.



(Photo by Alf -28th61st)



8 Australian War Graves in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent

(Photo by Callan Chevin)