

**Western Necropolis Cemetery,
Glasgow, Scotland
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1379 GUNNER

N. E. NEILL

AUST. HEAVY ARTILLERY

27TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 30

He Hath Done All Things Well

Mark 7. 37

Nicholas Ernest (Ern) NEILL

Nicholas Ernest Neill was born at Sunday Creek, Broadford, Victoria on 7th September, 1888 to parents Abraham and Angelia Sophia Goldsworthy Neill (nee White).

Nicholas Ernest Neill was a 29 year old, single, Soldier (according to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour - Nicholas was a Master Sawmiller) from Elsternwick, Victoria when he enlisted at Queenscliff, Victoria on 1st March, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1379 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. Neill, of "Wakool", Allison Rd., Elsternwick, Victoria.

Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill was posted to 36th (Australian) Heavy Artillery Group, Nos. 54 & 55 Batteries, Royal Garrison Artillery on 1st March, 1918.

Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill embarked from Sydney, NSW on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 with the 36th Australian Heavy Artillery Group (54th and 55th Batteries), Siege Artillery, 18th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918.

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.

Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill was marched in to H.A.T. Dept. (Heavy Artillery Training Depot) at Devonport, England on 12th August, 1918.

Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill was admitted to 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland on 22nd September, 1918 with Influenza.

Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill died at 10.30 am on 27th September, 1918 at 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland from Pneumonia.

Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill was buried on 2nd October, 1918 in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland – Plot number N. 5 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner N. E. Neill - *The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and surmounted by beautiful wreaths sent from:- Lady Primrose, Mrs Jarvis, Hospital Patients and Staff. Patients from the Hospital followed the remains to the graveside and the last post was sounded. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill contains a letter from Robert Barr (Chaplain) 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland to Mr Abraham Neill, Allison Road, Elsternwick which reads: *"Dear Sir, Permit me taking the opportunity to inform you that your son Nicholas was yesterday laid to rest in the Western Necropolis, Glasgow. You will no doubt have been notified ere this, through the usual channels, of the death which took place on Saturday, 28th Sept. 1918. I understand that when he arrived in this country he went to the Depot in Devonport where he remained for some six weeks. Then before proceeding overseas to France he was granted seven days leave which he intended to spend in Glasgow. Before he left Devonport he appeared to be suffering from a slight attack of Influenza. He had only spent one night in Glasgow, staying in the Overseas Hotel, in Buchanan Street, when he was removed to this Hpl. The Influenza developed into Pneumonia and he died very suddenly at the end of four days after admission here. Everything possible was done for him by the doctors and nurses. I ministered to him during his illness, and I found him a lad of quiet disposition and Christian character. As already stated the funeral took place yesterday. There were present a representative from the Australian Red Cross Society in London, Lady Primrose, of Glasgow, Mrs Jarvis, Secretary of the Australian Red Cross Society in Glasgow, Pte James Taylor, a fellow soldier and fellow countryman from Queen's Cliff, Victoria and a number of convalescent soldiers. Lady Primrose laid upon the coffin, which was covered by the Union Jack, an exceedingly beautiful wreath of roses, Mrs Jarvis brought a floral Cross, made by herself, of flowers grown in her own garden. She had placed among the white and purple flowers a solitary red begonia to suggest the idea of a couple of Dr Mathieson's well known hymn:- "And from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be." A beautiful*

wreath was also contributed by the nurses and patients of the ward in which he died. The funeral was carried out with full Military honours. A piper played the lament as the cortege left the Hpl. grounds and as we approached the Necropolis. After prayer at the grave a firing party fired the salute and a bugler sounded the "Last Post". We then left him sleeping side by side with others who have fallen in the war – sleeping in an upland grave from which can be seen the Campsie and Kilpatrick range of hills and the lofty Ben Lomond in the distant background – sleeping "Till the day break and the shadows flee away." With my own sincere sympathy and that of all who knew your dear son in this Hpl.

Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Neill's father - Mr A. Neill, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill – service number 1379, aged 30, of 36th Brigade, Australian Heavy Artillery. He was the son of Abraham and Agatha Neill, of "Wakool", Allison Rd., Elsternwick, Victoria. Born at Sunday Creek, Broadford, Victoria.

Gunner N. E. Neill is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 19.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(55 pages of Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill'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

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CASUALTIES

Gunner Nicholas Ernest (Ern) Neill, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Abe Neill, of Elsternwick, but formerly of Swan Hill, is reported to have died of pneumonia on 27th September at the 4th Scottish General Hospital, Glasgow.

(Swan Hill Guardian and Lake Boga Advocate, Victoria – 7 October, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

The sad news has been received of the death of Gunner Nicholas Ernest (Ern) Neill, in the fourth Scottish General Hospital, Glasgow on 27th September, from pneumonia. The deceased soldier was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Abe Neill, now of Elsternwick, the family being well-known in the Balranald and Swan Hill districts, where they lived for many years past. The only other son Tom is still on active service.

(Riverina Recorder, Balranald, Moulamein, NSW – 9 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NEILL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Gunner N. E. Neill (Ern), died September 27, 1918, in 4th Scottish General Hospital, of pneumonia. (Inserted by his father, mother, brother returned, sisters, and brother-in-law returned.)

NEILL – In loving memory of our dear brother, Nicholas Ernest (Ern.), who died of pneumonia in Glasgow, Scotland, September 27, 1918.

Dearly loved, sadly missed.

-(Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Grave and Will).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 September, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WHITE-NEILL – A tribute to the memory of my two pals, Nicholas George White, who died on 15th July, 1919, at the Homeopathic Hospital, and his cousin, Nicholas Ernest Neill (Gunner), who died on 27th September, 1918, at Glasgow, Scotland.

Ever remembered.

-(Inserted by Jack Craven)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 July, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NEILL – In loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Gunner N. E. Neill (Ern), R.A.G.A., who died while on furlough in Glasgow, Scotland, on 27th September, 1918. ("Wakool", Elsternwick.)

NEILL – A tribute to the memory of my pal, Gunner N. E. Neill, R.A.G.A., who died on the 27th September, 1918, in Glasgow, Scotland.

Ever remembered.

-(Inserted by Jack Craven, East Melbourne)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 September, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NEILL – In loving memory of our son and brother, Gunner Nicholas Ernest Neill (Ern), who died on the 27th September, 1918, while on furlough in Scotland. (Wakool, Allison road, Elsternwick).

NEILL – A tribute of remembrance to my pal, Gunner N. E. Neill (Ern), who died in Glasgow, Scotland, on 27th September, 1918. (Inserted by Jack Craven, East Melbourne).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 September, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NEILL – In loving memory of our son and brother, Gunner N. E. Neill (Ern), who passed away on 27th September, 1918, at Glasgow (Scotland).

“Wakool”, Allison road, Elsternwick.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 September, 1922)

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*)

Gunner N. E. Neill does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Hath Done All Things Well Mark 7. 37

Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland

The Western Necropolis is a large cemetery complex north of Glasgow City Centre. Adjoining this site are the following large cemeteries: Glasgow Lambhill and Glasgow St Kentigerns Cemetery, all three are separate but adjoin each other. Glasgow Garnet Hill Hebrew Burial Ground and Glasgow Crematorium Memorial is also at this site.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Glasgow was one of the ports of embarkation for the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 and several military hospitals opened in the city during the First World War, including the 3rd and 4th Scottish General (1,200 beds each), and the Merryflats War Hospital (500 beds). Battalions of a number of Scottish regiments had their headquarters at Glasgow during both wars, most notably the Highland Light Infantry. The Clydeside shipyards were targeted by German bombers during the Blitz, and Glasgow suffered a particularly ferocious attack on the night of 13/14 March 1941 when many civilians and servicemen were killed.

Glasgow Western Necropolis contains 355 First World War burials, many of them grouped together in Section P, with a small group of Australian graves in Section N. A screen wall near the main entrance carries the badges of the regiments represented in Sections P and H. The 124 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, although there are two among the earlier war graves in Section P. Also in this group are two inter-war service burials and two German war graves.

There are 11 Australian Soldiers from World War 1 buried in Western Necropolis Cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Gunner N. E. Neill's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.



(Photo from Scottish War Graves Project)



Some of the Australian Headstones in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland (Photo from CWGC)

