

**Cathays Cemetery,  
Cardiff, Wales  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1546 PRIVATE**

**A. O'CONNELL**

**24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**1ST NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 25**

## Albert O'CONNELL

Albert O'Connell was born at Inglewood, Victoria in 1892 to parents John & Mary Ellen O'Connell (nee Fitzpatrick).

Albert O'Connell was a 22 year old, single, Labourer from Wedderburn, Victoria when he enlisted at Wedderburn, Victoria on 10th April, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1546A & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Smith, of Wedderburn, Victoria. Albert's older brother – John O'Connell, Labourer, aged 23 years enlisted the same day. He was given a service number of 1547A.

Private Albert O'Connell was posted to No. 10 Company Depot on 10th April, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Reinforcements of 24th Battalion on 5th May, 1915.

Private Albert O'Connell & his brother Private John O'Connell both embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 25th June, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcements.

Private Albert O'Connell was taken on strength of 24th Battalion on 26th August, 1915.

Private Albert O'Connell proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 30th August, 1915.

Private Albert O'Connell was sent to 6th Field Ambulance at Anzac on 29th September, 1915 with Dysentery. He was transferred on 2nd October, 1915 to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station with Pyrexia (fever).

Private Albert O'Connell was admitted to Brook War Hospital, Woolwich, England on 20th October, 1915 with Dysentery.

Mrs M. Smith, of Wedderburn, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 2nd November, 1915 that Private A. O'Connell had been admitted sick to Hospital at Woolwich, England.

Private Albert O'Connell was & was taken on strength at Abbey Wood on 25th March, 1916. He was reported as Temporarily Unfit at Abbey Wood on 15th April, 1916.

Private Albert O'Connell was taken on strength at No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth on 5th May, 1916 from Abbey Wood.

Private Albert O'Connell was transferred from Monte Video, Weymouth on 28th June, 1916 to Perham Downs, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training & Convalescing was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Albert O'Connell was taken on strength of 6th Training Battalion on 29th June, 1916 from No. 2 Command Depot.

Private Albert O'Connell was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 3rd July, 1916 with conjunctivitis.

Mrs M. Smith, of Wedderburn, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 21st July, 1916 that Private A. O'Connell had been admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 3rd July, 1916 suffering from conjunctivitis mild.

Mrs M. Smith, of Wedderburn, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 15th August, 1916 stating that she had received the notice that her son Private A. O'Connell was in Fargo Military Hospital but had heard no further information from her son or the Hospital & requested to know whether he was still there as her husband Sapper J. R. Smith was in England & her other son Private J. O'Connell was in the firing line in France & she had no news from him since June. Base Records replied that no further reports had been received regarding Pte A. O'Connell & in the absence of any report "*favourable progress may be assumed.*" Mrs Smith listed her address as C/o J. O'Connell, Reef Street, Wedderburn. Base Records reported that Private J. O'Connell had been reported wounded & that the memo dated 23rd would have been received by her. Addresses for her sons, her husband & her son-in-law she had mentioned in her letter were supplied by Base Records.

Private Albert O'Connell proceeded overseas to France from 6th Training Battalion on 5th September, 1916. He was taken on strength of 24th Battalion in Belgium on 19th September, 1916.

Private Albert O'Connell was sent sick to Hospital on 6th December, 1916. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 6th December, 1916 while posted in France. He was transferred & admitted to 38th Casualty Clearing Station the same day with bronchitis. Private O'Connell was transferred to Ambulance Train on 8th December, 1916 & was admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 9th December, 1916 with Enteritis. Private O'Connell was transferred & admitted to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 15th December, 1916 from 10th General Hospital. Private O'Connell was discharged from 2nd Convalescent Depot to Base Details on 21st December, 1916.

Private Albert O'Connell was transferred on 22nd December, 1916 from A.I.B.D (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Rouen to 2 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France & marched in on 23rd December, 1916. Private O'Connell rejoined his Battalion in France on 18th January, 1917.

Private Albert O'Connell was wounded in action in France on 3rd May, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd May, 1917 with gunshot wounds to right thigh. Private O'Connell was transferred to Ambulance Train on 3rd May, 1917 & admitted on 4th May, 1917 to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France with gunshot wounds to right thigh. He embarked for England at Havre on 13th May, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Panama*.

#### War Diary – 24th Battalion

*3rd May, 1917:*

*11 am – driven out by own shell fire. 23rd support right flank along Road during afternoon. 1 Coy 28th Bn. assist right flank OG2 afternoon continuous counter attack all day on right flank. Several during morning on left flank. Bombing on left flank by us to secure all Bde front. All but 50 yds taken. 10 pm (app) 28th Bn retired. We established blocks along deserted trench. Relieved 3 am.*

*Captured 50 prisoners, 1 M gun, 1 Automatic rifle, 2 T. mortars recaptured 1 Lewis Gun (British).*

*Casualties – Officers Killed [2 listed] Wounded Missing [2 listed] Wounded [9 listed]*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Albert O'Connell was admitted to Grove Military Hospital at Richmond, England on 14th May, 1917 with gunshot wounds to thigh. He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 25th May, 1917. Pte O'Connell was discharged from 1st Auxiliary Hospital on 13th June, 1917 for furlo & was then to report to Training Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 27th June, 1917.

Mrs M. Smith, of Wedderburn, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 19th May, 1917 that Private A. O'Connell had been wounded. Base Records followed up with notification on 30th May, 1917 that Private A. O'Connell had been admitted to Richmond Military Hospital, England on 14th May, 1917 suffering from gunshot wound to leg.

Private Albert O'Connell was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 27th June, 1917 from furlo & medically classified as B1A. (B1A1 – fit for light duty only – 4 weeks or observation)

Private Albert O'Connell was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 9th July, 1917 with V.D. He was discharged to C.T.C. (Convalescent Training Camp) at Bulford on 28th July, 1917.

Private Albert O'Connell was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs from Bulford Hospital on 4th August, 1917. Private O'Connell was then marched in to Overseas Training Brigade on 7th August, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot.

Private Albert O'Connell proceeded overseas to France from Overseas Training Brigade via Southampton on 5th September, 1917. He was marched in to 2 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France from England on 6th September, 1917. Private O'Connell rejoined 24th Battalion in the Field on 18th September, 1917.

Private Albert O'Connell was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 4th October, 1917. He was admitted to 64th Field Ambulance on 4th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to elbow. He was transferred to 11th Casualty Clearing Station on 5th October, 1917 & transferred the same day to Ambulance Train. Private O'Connell was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbeville on 5th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to elbow. He was discharged to duty on 18th October, 1917.

#### War Diary – 24th Battalion

*YPRES 3rd October, 1917:*

*.....Bn moved out from GORDON AREA at 11pm proceeding via route as per operation order to assembly position at D27d 3.4. Position at the assembly position was moved 100x closer to the road leading to TOKIO on account of enemy artillery fire on and around ALBANIA.*

*YPRES 4th October, 1917:*

*Companies had assembled and were quiet at 3.30 am. Casualties at this stage were two o/ranks wounded. At 4 am A Coy leading followed by B, C & D Coys in order moved out to the JOT. All were in position at 4.45 am making use of shell holes and old trench systems. The enemy put down a terrific barrage on and as far back as 600x in rear A J.O.T at 5.30 am. Minnewerfers and all guns up to 8" calibre were employed, type of shell being chiefly high explosive. At 6 am (zero hour) our barrage opened and in sound made the enemy's sound insignificant.*

*Casualties on JOT were 2 Officers LT MURPHY and 2/LT WORRALL Killed and about 40 o/ranks at least out of action. Advance commenced meeting with desultory m gun fire from southern tip of ZONNEBEKE LAKE. Enemy yellow cluster flares were fired from line along D28a6.4.82. No difficulty was experienced in mopping up m gun posts. Group A pill boxes at D28b1.2 provided numerous prisoners of 5th GUARD grenadiers and 458R.I.R DOCILE TRENCH did not offer any resistance with DE KNOET FARM REDLINE was reached at 6.50 am and digging immediately commences by 22nd BN. At 7 am 24 BN moved through 22nd BD and formed up in rear of RED PROTECTIVE BARRAGE. Enemy was seen evacuating block house at D29a2.7. Rifle and L. Gun fire opened up on them with good results. Enemy brought a light M Gun into action at D29a3.4 Stokes MORTAR under LT PAYNTER silenced this, At 8.10 am leading waves moved behind the barrage over BROODSEINDE – BECELAERE ROAD and ridge immediately coming under m gun and sniper's fire. Enemy sniping was particularly active from RIDGE around D23d3.4 Two 77mm guns were captured just prior to crossing ridge. These were subsequently made use of by 2nd AUST DIV ARTILLERY on 9th Oct. CAPT GODFREY, MC, CAPT HARRIOTT, LT WILCOX were killed at this time.*

*As soon as smoke barrage was apparent digging in commenced on approximate blue line. Enemy m gun fire and sniping continued in spite of our barrage. BN right flank D 29 a 80.82 left flank D 23 C 90.25 at 9.30 am. CAPT LLOYD MC wounded but remained on duty. 2/LT POCKNELL, 2/LT BAXTER wounded and evacuated.*

*9.30 am – Flanks evacuated and secure. Aggressive sniping continued. Owing to loss of carrying parties at J.O.T. it was necessary to ask for SAA (?) & water to be brought up from the rear.*

*Casualties – Killed 4 Off 45 o/Ranks*

*Wounded 5 “ 184 “*

*3.30 pm – Following observation of enemy movement in CHINA WOOD. A successful short \_\_\_ F.O.O was carried out. Night was quiet.*

*Weather showery at zero hour – ground satisfactory.*

[Note – JOT – Jump off Trench. F.O.O. – Forward Observation Officer – Artillery Officer observing from a forward observation post]

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Albert O'Connell was marched in to 2 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 19th October, 1917 from Abbeville. He rejoined his Battalion in the Field on 29th October, 1917.

Mrs M. Smith, of Wedderburn, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 13th November, 1917 that Private A. O'Connell had been wounded – 2nd occasion.

Private Albert O'Connell was wounded in action – Gassed (3rd occasion) on 22nd March, 1918. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 22nd March, 1918 with Gas wounds then transferred the same day to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station with Gas shell. Private O'Connell was transferred to Ambulance Train on 26th March, 1918 & admitted the same day to 7th General Hospital at St. Omer with Gas Wounds. He was transferred on 31st March, 1918 to 7th Convalescent Depot at Boulogne then transferred to 10th Convalescent Depot at Ecault on 3rd April, 1918. Private O'Connell was discharged on 11th April, 1918 to Base Depot from Convalescent Depot at Ecault.

#### War Diary – 24th Battalion

*Cara Combe 22nd March, 1918:*

*Evacuation and Salvage work in gassed area.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mrs M. Smith, of Wedderburn, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 9th April, 1918 that Private A. O'Connell had been wounded – 3rd occasion by effects of gas.

Private Albert O'Connell was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre on 13th April, 1918. He proceeded to join his Unit from A.I.B.D. on 30th April, 1918 & rejoined the 24th Battalion in the Field on 4th May, 1918.

Private Albert O'Connell was wounded in action (4th occasion) on 1st September, 1918. He was admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen on 2nd September, 1918 & embarked for England the same day.

#### War Diary – 24th Battalion

*MONT ST QUENTIN 1st September, 1918*

*6am – The attack was only partially successful as the enemy was strongly posted. Our casualties were extremely heavy the percentage of killed being very high. The attack stopped on the line I.15.a.8.8 to I.9.b.2.8. Lieutenants Gilchrist, McCarry and Salmon were killed. Captain Bowden O.C. of C Coy was wounded and Lieut, Gow O.C. A Coy was also wounded. At 12.15 pm our line was reinforced by "D" Coy 21st Battalion and our artillery opened for on the Mount preparatory to another attack. This was completely successful and the Munt was won. Our line was then established along PLEVNA Trench. During the first and second attacks prodigies of valour were performed by Lieut. Tamner of the 22nd Machine gun Company (2nd M.G., Battalion) Though severely wounded he refused to leave and displayed magnificent courage in the handling of his guns.*

*During the afternoon the enemy was observed to be moving his gins further back, and at 6 am on the 2nd the 7th Bn passed through to attack further objectives. The 6th A.I. Bde was relieved on the night of Sept. 2nd.*

*The battalion suffered a severe blow in the loss of so many officers. Lieut Salmon joined the Battalion on 23.7.1918 and had already won warm admiration for his courage, steadiness and soldierly qualities.*

*Lieutenants McCarry and Gilchrist had just returned from the OTC and were full of promise. Lieutenant McCarry joined the Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir in December 1915. He served with the battalion until wounded at Givchy in November 1916. He rejoined in October 1917 and was sent to the O.T.C. from LOCRE in December 1917. He was a splendid athlete and very popular with all ranks.*

*Lieut Gilchrist was also sent to the O.T.C. from LOCRE in December 1917. He was a very promising officer.*

*Amongst the killed was also Sgt. J. Cumming of A Coy, a noted football and athlete and a great favourite with all ranks.*

*Our total casualties were 9 Officers 152 O.R. Prisoners amounted to 120 and it is estimated that 200 of the enemy were killed.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

## 24th Battalion

The 24th Battalion was raised in a hurry. The original intent was to raise the fourth battalion of the 6th Brigade from the "outer states", but a surplus of recruits at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria led to a decision being made to raise it there. The battalion was formed during the first week of May 1915, and sailed from Melbourne at the end of that week.

Training shortfalls were made up in Egypt in July and August, and on 4 September 1915 the Battalion went ashore at Gallipoli. It spent the next 16 weeks sharing duty in the Lone Pine trenches with the 23rd Battalion. The fighting at Lone Pine was so dangerous and exhausting that battalions rotated every day.

The Battalion was reunited in Egypt in early 1916 and proceeded to France in March. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in July and August 1917. The Battalion got little rest during the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between the front and labouring tasks. When patrolling no-man's land the men of the 24th adopted a unique form of snow camouflage - large white nighties bought in Amiens.

In May 1917 the battalion participated in the successful, but costly, second battle of Bullecourt. It was involved for only a single day ' 3 May ' but suffered almost 80 per cent casualties. The AIF's focus for the rest of the year was the Ypres sector in Belgium, and the 24th's major engagement there was the seizure of Broodseinde Ridge.

Like many AIF battalions, the 24th was very weak at the beginning of 1918, but still played its part in turning back the German offensive in April. When the Allies took to the offensive, the 24th fulfilled supporting roles during the battles of Hamel and Amiens. At Mont St Quentin, however, it played a major role by recapturing the main German strong point atop the summit on 1 September. A diorama at the Australian War Memorial depicts this attack.

The battalion's last battles of the war were at Beurevoir on 3 October and Montbrehain on 5 October. It left the front line for the last time on 6 October 1918 and disbanded in May 1919.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Albert O'Connell was admitted to 3rd Western General Hospital, Cardiff, Wales on 6th September, 1918 with gunshot wounds to right shoulder, right leg, right side & foot. The Hospital Admissions form records "*Wounds all gaping & very foul. Under Anaesthetic Drainage of pus in shoulder joint. Died \_\_ Septic pneumonia.*"

Mrs M. Smith, of Wedderburn, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 18th September, 1918 that Private A. O'Connell had been admitted on 6th September to 3rd Western General Hospital, Cardiff Wales with gunshot wounds to right shoulder, right leg, right side & foot.

Private Albert O'Connell died at 10.35 am on 1st November, 1918 at 3rd Western General Hospital (Ninian Park Section), Cardiff, Wales from wounds received in action – gunshot wounds to right shoulder.

A death for Albert O'Connell, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Cardiff, Glamorganshire, Wales.

Private Albert O'Connell was buried on 9th November, 1918 in Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales – Plot number EB. 56 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Albert O'Connell - *Coffin was good polished Elm. 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 conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- Australian Red Cross and Nursing Staff. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev Father G. Elson. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

*Names of Relatives or friends present at the Funeral – Mrs Hedger Wallace, Australian Red Cross, 4 East Grove, Cardiff.*

Private Albert O'Connell requested in his Will dated 7th September, 1915 that in the event of his death the whole of his pay to be given to his mother – Mrs Mary Smith, Reef Street, Wedderburn, Victoria.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Smith, c/o Mr James, Station St., Sandringham, Victoria, in October, 1920 stating that she was registered on the records as the next-of-kin of the late Private A. O'Connell. Base Records asked 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 Pte O'Connell's father was still alive. Mrs Smith, mother of the late Private Albert O'Connell, had stated in a letter dated January, 1920 that his father was dead & that she was the sole claimant.

Mrs M. Smith wrote to Base Records in December, 1920 stating she had seen in the papers that she was to communicate with Base Records as the next-of-kin of the late Private A. O'Connell. Mrs Smith stated her address was Mrs M. Smith, High Street, Wedderburn.

Private Albert O'Connell was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte O'Connell's mother - Mrs M. Smith, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

Mrs E. Smith, High Street, Wedderburn, wrote to Base Records in July, 1922 after seeing reference in the papers to the Memorial Scroll & gave her son's details. Base Records replied in August, 1922 stating that the Memorial Scroll had been despatched to her in August, 1921 & if she had not received it to make enquiries at the local Post Office.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private A. O'Connell – service number 1546, of 24th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private A. O'Connell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 102.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*



A. O'Connell is remembered on the Jacka Park Soldiers Memorial located in Jacka Park, High & Chapel Streets, Wedderburn, Victoria.



**Wedderburn War Memorial / Jacka Park Soldiers Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)





A. O'Connell is remembered on the Town & Parish of Wedderburn Honour Roll, located in Wedderburn Mechanics Institute, High & Reef Streets, Wedderburn, Victoria.



Wedderburn Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

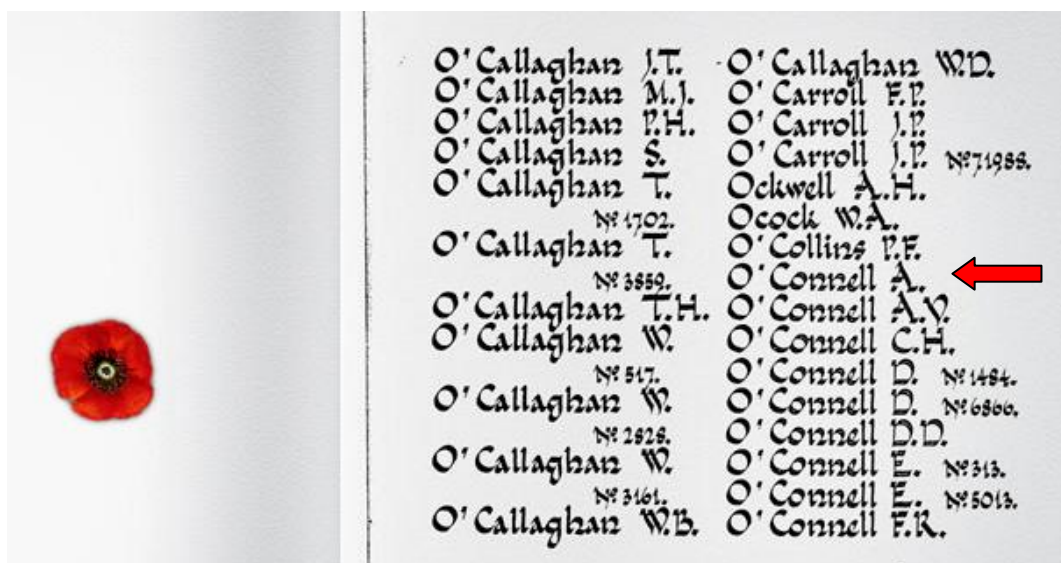






Section of Inglewood War Memorial

A. O'Connell is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

(101 pages of Pte Albert O'Connell'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*



### Connected to Private Albert O'Connell:

Older brother John O'Connell, 1547, 24th Battalion - Enlisted 10th April, 1915, aged 23. Embarked from Melbourne on 25th June, 1915 with 24th Infantry Battalion. Returned to Australia 11th January, 1918.

Stepfather – Sapper Joseph Richmond Smith, 3921, 5th Tunnelling Company Enlisted 18th January, 1916, 42 year old Miner. Embarked from Melbourne on 25th May, 1916 with Mining Corps, No. 5 Tunnelling Company. Returned to Australia 13th April, 1919.



## Newspaper Notices

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

Late casualty lists show that Private H. W. Hiles, of St. Arnaud, and Private A. O'Connell, of Wedderburn, are ill.

*(St. Arnaud Mercury, Victoria – 17 November, 1915)*

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### **Tidings of Soldiers**

#### **PTE A. O'CONNELL**

Mrs J. Smith, of Wedderburn, and formerly of Inglewood, has received the following letter from her son, Private O'Connell:-

Just a few lines, hoping they will find you as well as I am at present. I have just shifted into another camp, called Bolleston, at Salisbury Plain. It is a big camp, and there are a lot of soldiers here. I believe there were 1,000,000 here some time before I arrived. It is surprising who you meet. I've met nearly all the old boys who were on the Dardanelles with me. I met Harry Forest and young Batty, and one who I never expected to see here, old "Ginger" Hughes. I got quite a shock when I saw him, and so did he when he saw me. I was just talking about him when he hit me on the shoulder. He is quite well, but looks thin and miserable. Said he had not written home for a couple of months, so when you get this letter you can let Mrs Hughes know I am in the same camp. We can be together now, and will be alright. It is about a month since I heard from Jack, but as nearly all the troops are in England now I might see or hear of him, with the others."

*(Inglewood Advertiser, Victoria – 29 August, 1916)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **WOUNDED**

Pte O'Connell, A. Wedderburn

*(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 June, 1917)*

## **Tidings of Soldiers**

### **PTE A. O'CONNELL**

The above soldier, writing to his relatives at Wedderburn, states:- Just a line hoping to find you are well, as it leaves me. I am still in England (Perham Downs camp), but expect to leave for France shortly. "Ginger" Hughes is in this camp, also Jim Briggs, Jack Cardoza, A. Makepeace and Dan Rodgers. I see Jim Briggs ever night, and he is still the same "old stick." He is looking very well. All is if expect to go to France together. I have had a long spell here. It is just four months since I left the battalion, so I suppose it is time to go back.

*(Inglewood Advertiser, Victoria – 23 October, 1917)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

### **VICTORIAN LIST**

#### **WOUNDED**

Pte O'Connell, A. Wedderburn

*(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 December, 1917)*

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### **391st CASUALTY LIST**

#### **VICTORIAN DETAILS SHOWN**

##### **Gassed**

Pte A. O'Connell, Wedderburn (3rd occ, wnd)

*(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 April, 1918)*

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## **COUNTRY NEWS**

### **WEDDERBURN**

Pte A. O'Connell, a Wedderburn boy, is in hospital in Wales, suffering from gunshot wound in the right shoulder, right leg, side and foot. His actual condition was not stated in the communication received.

*(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 7 October, 1918)*

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## **VICTORIAN CASUALTIES**

### **LIST No. 439**

#### **WOUNDED**

A. O'Connell, Wedderburn (4th occ.)

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 November, 1918)*

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## **Tidings of Soldiers**

The 439th casualty list, published yesterday, contained the announcement that Pte A. O'Connell, of Wedderburn, has been wounded. The soldier was formerly an Inglewood resident, and has many friends here who will be pleased to learn of his speedy recovery.

*(Inglewood Advertiser, Victoria – 5 November, 1918)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

### VICTORIAN LIST

#### DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte A. O'CONNELL, Sandringham, 1/11/18

*(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)*

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#### 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)*

Private A. O'Connell does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

#### **Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales**

During the 1939-1945 War, the city of Cardiff was one of the Royal Naval bases of the Western Approaches Command. It was severely damaged by enemy air attack during the early part of the 1939-1945 War and has been largely rebuilt. The cemetery, known locally as Cathays Cemetery was opened in 1859 and has been extended to cover over 100 acres. The cemetery contains war graves of both world wars. Just over a third of the 1914-1918 burials are contained in a War Graves Plot in the portion of Section EB, this plot is on two converging roadways leading to the main entrance. The remainder of the graves are scattered in other parts of the cemetery. After the 1914-1918 War, a Cross of Sacrifice was erected in front of the plot in the angle formed by the junction of the two roadways, the whole forming a triangular island site. The 1939-1945 War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery in more than 30 different sections. A number of them are airmen who came from the Royal Air Force stations at Cardiff and St. Athan. There are now nearly 500, 1914-1918 and over 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. Some 40 French and Norwegian Foreign Nationals are also commemorated here.

*(Information & Photos from CWGC)*

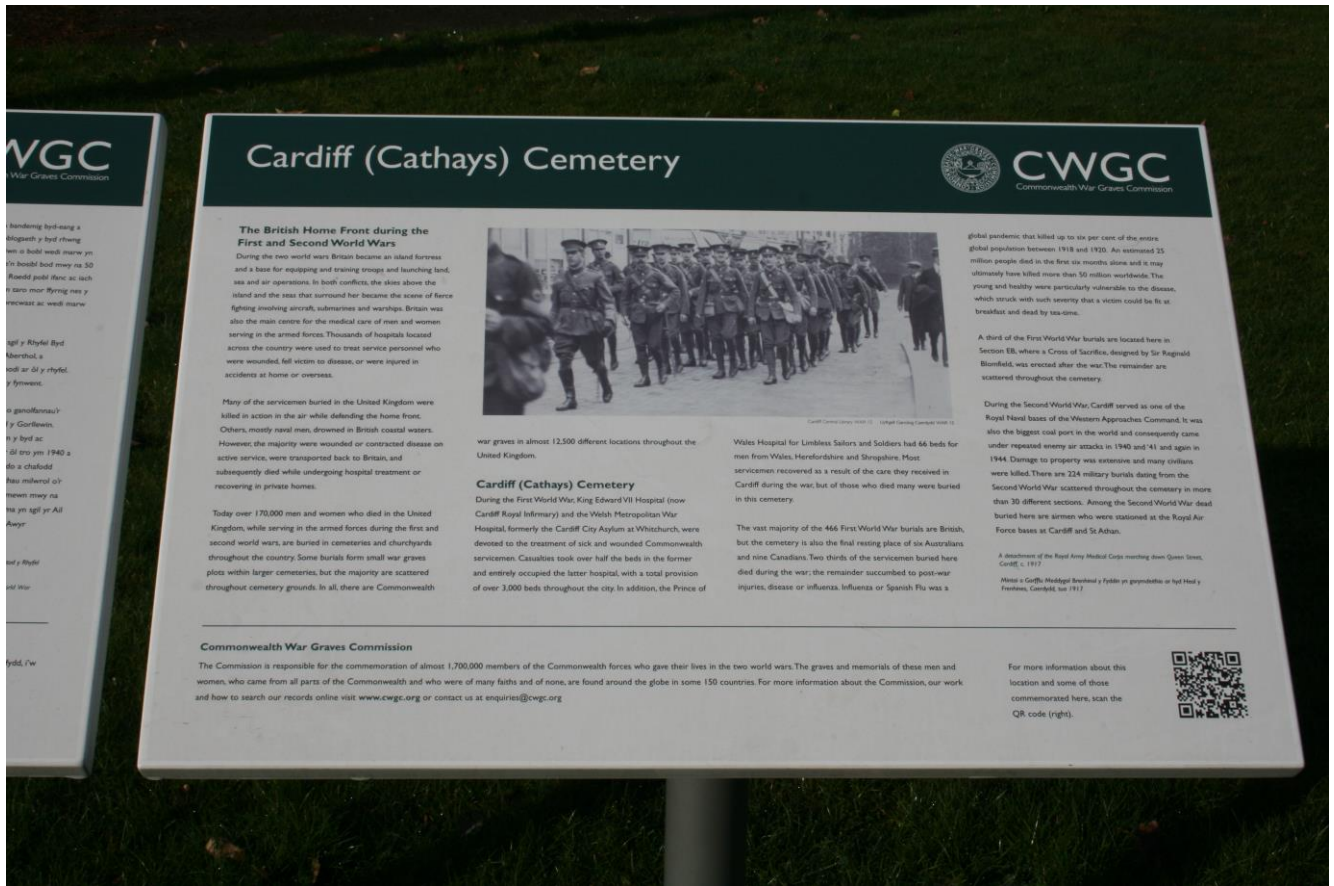






**Entrance to Cathays Cemetery** (Photo by Peter – Find a Grave)





**Cathays Cemetery** (Photos courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay’s Cemetery)





**Map Of Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff showing Section EB – Roll of Honour**

*(Courtesy of The Friends of Cathays Cemetery)*



		113	114	115		
103	104	105	106	107	108	109
96	97	98	99	100	101	102
89	90	91	92	93	94	95
82	83	84	85	86	87	88
75	76	77	78	79	80	81
	69	70	71	72	73	74
	63	64	65	66	67	68
	57	58	59	60	61	62
	51	52	53	54	55	56
	45	46	47	48	49	50
		40	41	42	43	44
		35	36	37	38	39
		30	31	32	33	34
		25	26	27	28	29
		20	21	22	23	24
			16	17	18	19
			12	13	14	15
			8	9	10	11
			4	5	6	7
			1A	1	2	3



**Australian CWGC Headstone**



**Private Headstone for Babbage**



**RASC CWGC Headstone for Pilkington**





**The five Australian CWGC Headstones in Cathay's Cemetery, Cardiff**

(left to right) **Leipold, Olsen, Waddups, McCleery & O'Connell** (red arrow)

*(Photos courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay's Cemetery)*







**The five Australian CWGC Headstones in Cathay's Cemetery, Cardiff**  
(left to right) **Leipold, Olsen, Waddups, McCleery & O'Connell** (red arrow)  
*(Photos courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay's Cemetery)*

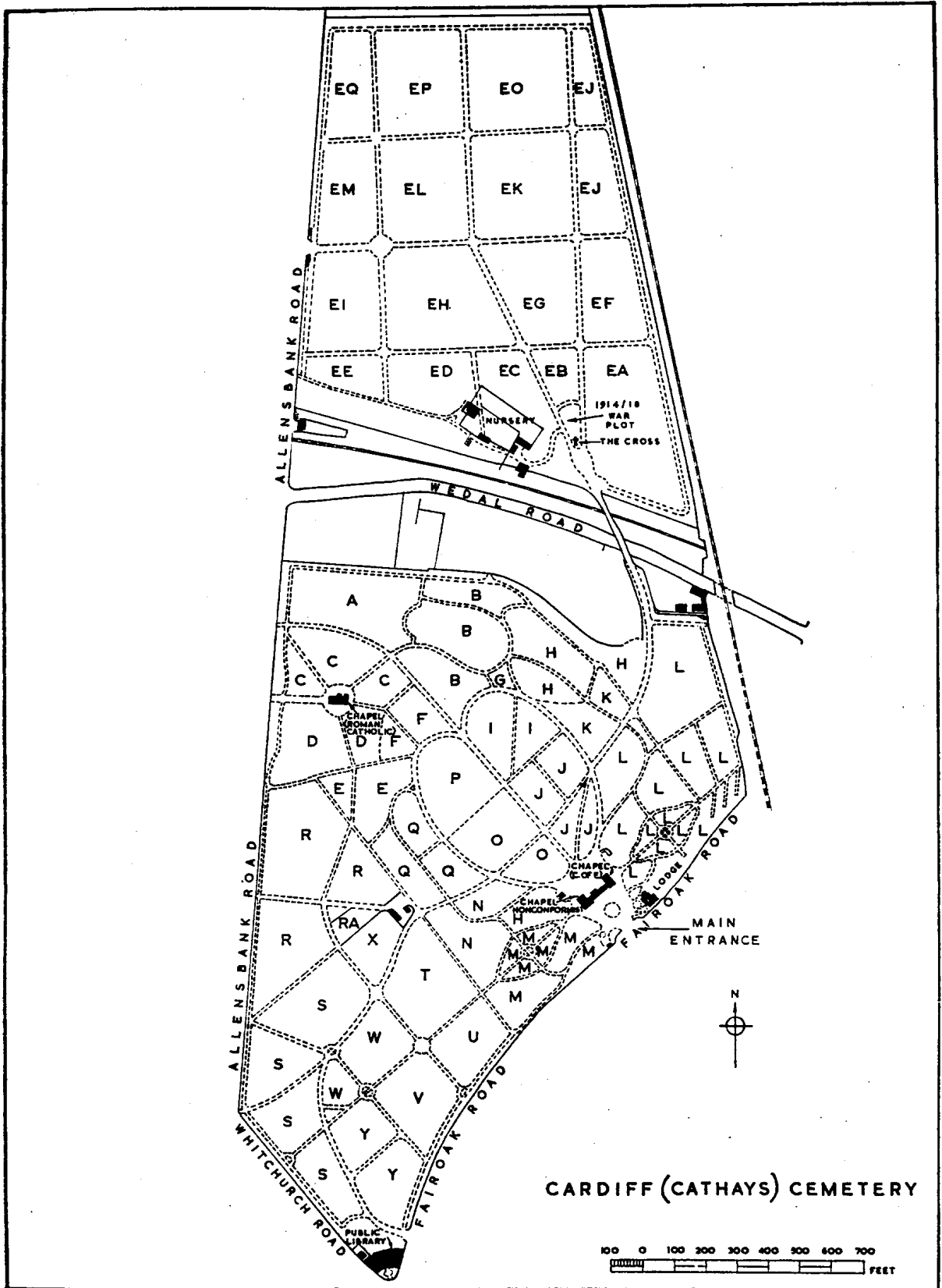




Photo of Private A. O'Connell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales.



*(Photo courtesy of The Friends of Cathays Cemetery)*



CARDIFF (CATHAYS) CEMETERY

Cemetery Plan from CWGC