

**Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery,
Bristol, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2116 PRIVATE

E. H. O'NEILL

18TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH JUNE, 1918

R.I.P.

Edward Harold O'NEILL

Edward Harold O'Neill was born at Goulburn, NSW around 1891. His father was James O'Neill (information from Attestation Papers.)

Edward Harold O'Neill was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from Casino, Richmond River, NSW when he enlisted on 12th October, 1915 at Moree, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2116 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – James O'Neill, Casino, Richmond River, NSW (His father was listed as next-of-kin on the Embarkation Roll, however his sister – Mrs A. Musto, of Casino, NSW was listed as next-of-kin on his Attestation Papers.) Edward O'Neill stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service at Mungindi.

Private Edward Harold O'Neill was posted to 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment, 14th Reinforcements for recruit training.

Private Edward Harold O'Neill embarked from Sydney, NSW on RMS *Osterley* on 15th January, 1916 with the 1st Light Horse Brigade, 1st Light Horse Regiment, 14th Reinforcements. He was written up on 3rd February, 1916 for "Leaving "Osterley" & being ashore without permission" & forfeited pay of 5/-. Private O'Neill was written up on 4th February, 1916 for being "absent from parade without reason". He was awarded 3 days _____. Private O'Neill was written up for an Offence on 10th February, 1916 while at Sea on *Osterley* – AWL (absent without leave) from Parade. He forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Edward Harold O'Neill was taken on strength of 1st Light Horse Regiment at Heliopolis on 1st March, 1916.

Private Edward Harold O'Neill was transferred to 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) as Gunner on 10th March, 1916 at Zeitoun. He was appointed Acting Driver on 19th March, 1916 & posted to No. 1 Section.

Acting Driver Edward Harold O'Neill embarked from Alexandria on 20th March, 1916 on H.T. *Magdelene* & proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916.

Acting Driver Edward Harold O'Neill was attached to 20th A.S.C. (Army Service Corps) in France on 15th April, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 25th April, 1916.

Acting Driver Edward Harold O'Neill was transferred to 2nd Base Details at Calais, France as Gunner on 20th May, 1916 from 2nd D.A.C.

Acting Driver Edward Harold O'Neill was transferred to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 5th July, 1916.

Acting Driver Edward Harold O'Neill rejoined 2nd D.A.C. in France on 4th September, 1916.

Acting Driver Edward Harold O'Neill was transferred to 22nd F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) in the Field on 3rd November, 1916. He was taken on strength of 22nd F.A.B. as Gunner & posted to 20th Battery on the same day.

Gunner Edward Harold O'Neill was transferred to 5th F.A. Bde (Field Artillery Brigade), 13th Battery on 27th January, 1917. He was taken on strength of 13th Battery in France on 28th January, 1917.

Gunner Edward Harold O'Neill was sent sick to Hospital in France on 18th March, 1917. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance on 18th March, 1917 with a S.T.A. (Septic traumatic abrasion) left Heel then transferred the same day to 2nd D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station). He was discharged to duty on 3rd April, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 9th April, 1917.

Gunner Edward Harold O'Neill was transferred to 18th Battalion as Private on 14th May, 1917.

Private Edward Harold O'Neill was sent sick to Hospital on 5th July, 1917. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance on 5th July, 1917 – P.U.O. (pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He rejoined his Battalion on 14th July, 1917.

Private Edward Harold O'Neill was sent sick to Hospital on 2nd September, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 2nd September, 1917 with Balanitis then transferred to 10th Stationary Hospital at St. Omer,

France. Private O'Neill was transferred on 12th September, 1917 & admitted to 39th General Hospital at Havre, France with V.D. He was discharged to Base on 30th October, 1917. Total period VD – 59 days. Private O'Neill was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 30th October, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 4th November, 1917 & rejoined 18th Battalion in the Field on 5th November, 1917.

Private Edward Harold O'Neill was wounded in action in France on 16th May, 1918. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 16th May, 1918 with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to Buttock & arm. Private O'Neill was transferred & admitted to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 16th May, 1918 then transferred to Ambulance Train 32. He was admitted to 1st U.S.A. General Hospital at Etretat, France on 18th May, 1918. Private O'Neill embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle* on 16th June, 1918.

18th Battalion

.....In 1917 the 18th was involved in the follow-up of German forces during their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was involved in some particularly heavy fighting around Warlencourt in late February. The battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out: the second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France; and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

After another winter of trench duty, the spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive that the 18th Battalion helped to repel.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 18th Battalion

Ville Sur Ancre Sector – 16th May, 1918:

12.30 am – Patrol returned without casualties. No contact with enemy (Patrol Report attached).

1 am – Patrol of 1 Officer (Lt A. A. Walls, M.M.) 15 O.P.s and 1 L.G went out for 2 ½ hours to patrol Northwards and endeavour to gain identification.

3.30 am – Patrol returned without casualties. No contact with enemy (Patrol Report attached).

5 am – The following works were carried out during the night by parties from the Battalion. 80 yards Communication Trench dug from Left front line towards Left Local Support Line. Strong Point at K.7.c.50.50. deepened and improved. Extensive deepening and cleaning of front line and all existing trenches.

9 am – Weather Fine and Clear

12.30 pm – G.O.C. and B.M. at Battn. H.Q. to discuss projected operation.

5 pm – Situation quiet during the day. Scattered shelling with 4.2" and 5.9"

10 pm – Patrol of 1 Officer, 15 O.R.s and L.G. went out for 2 ½ hours to patrol Battn. front and endeavour to gain identifications.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Edward Harold O'Neill was admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England on 17th June, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to Buttock & right arm. He was reported as dangerously ill.

Communications addressed to Mr J. O'Neill, Casino, Richmond River, NSW were returned to Base Records unclaimed. Base Records contacted the 2nd Military District, NSW on 18th June, 1918 requesting a later address & if no later address was known they requested that a notice be placed in the Press for the next-of-kin to contact Base Records. The 2nd Military District replied to Base Records on 3rd July, 1918 stating that the matter had been referred to the Press & if the address of the next of kin is ascertained, they would be informed. The 1st Military District, Brisbane replied to Base Records on 11th July, 1918 stating that "Every effort has been made by the Roman Catholic Clergyman, and Town Clerk of Casino to locate the Next of Kin, but up to the present have been unable to trace same."

Private Edward Harold O'Neill died at 6.30 pm on 18th June, 1918 at Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) Hip, severe fracture of Ilium, Haemorrhage & shock.

A death for Edward H. O'Neill, aged 25, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Edward Harold O'Neill was buried at 2 pm on 21st June, 1918 in Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bristol, England – Plot number C.2. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Edward Harold O'Neill - *Coffin was elm lacquered with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral, Gun Carriage, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent by the Matron, Nurses and Patients in Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, and the Red Cross Society, Bristol. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Prior to the interment a service was conducted by Rev. Father Murphy. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Private Edward Harold O'Neill requested in his Will, dated 17th August, 1917 in France, which reads "Dear Grace if any thing should happen me you can apply to that Bank and get the money as I have my will made out to you."

Mrs Grace D. Power, Post Office, Blacktown, NSW wrote to Base Records in August, 1921 stating that she had seen in the "daily paper you are wanting to hear from the next-of-kin of Pte E. H. O'Neill....I received all his pay and his deferred pay, has (?) next of kin, he had no relations, that he was aware of, and he left me what he had, as he called me his foster sister."

Base Records wrote to 2nd Military District, NSW on 8th September, 1921 asking with whom the estate of the late Private E. H. O'Neill had been finalised with. The 2nd Military District replied that the estate of the late deceased soldier had been paid to Mrs G. Muston (foster-sister), of Blacktown, NSW as beneficiary under the Soldier's Will.

Base Records wrote to 2nd Military District on 15th March, 1923 requesting details to whom the War Gratuity for the late Private E. H. O'Neill has been allotted to & listed Casino, Richmond River, NSW as the address of the father of the late soldier. . The 2nd Military District replied to Base Records on 20th March, 1923 stating that no War Gratuity had been claimed in respect of the late Private E. H. O'Neill & no later address was known for his father.

Private Edward Harold O'Neill was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private O'Neill's next of kin, however no next of kin was able to be located so the Medals etc were sent to Untraceables. (Scroll & Plaque sent October, 1922 to Untraceables).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private E. H. O'Neill – service number 2116, of 18th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private E. H. O'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 86.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. O'Neill is remembered on the Casino & District Memorial Hospital Honour Roll, located at the Casino & District Memorial Hospital, Canterbury Street, Casino, NSW.



Casino & District Memorial Hospital Honour Roll (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Graeme Bray)

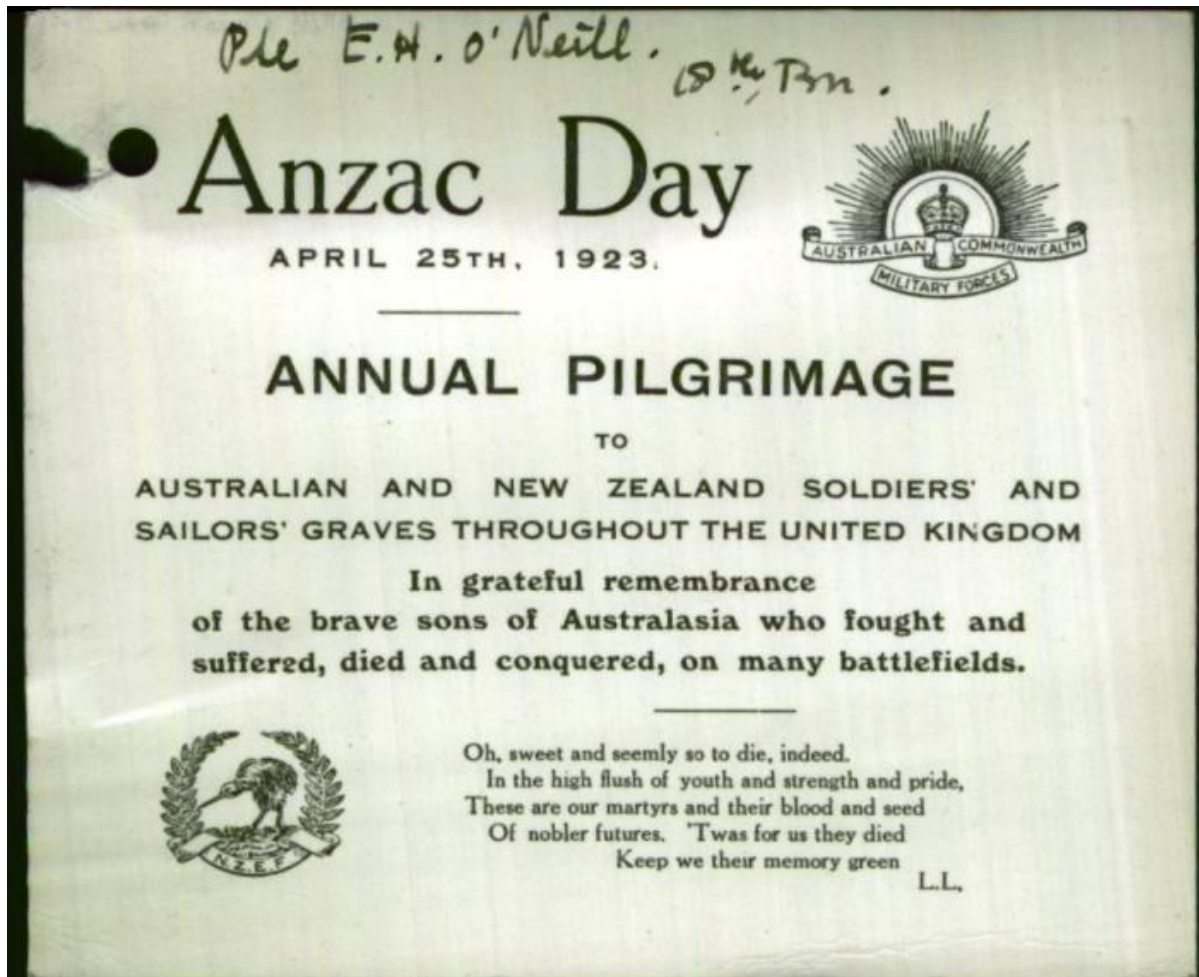


(115 pages of Private Edward Harold O'Neill's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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

The following copies of items were located in the Service Record file of the late Private Edward Harold O'Neill. They were intended for the next-of-kin but being in the Service Record file indicates that they were either not sent (address details of next-of-kin unknown) or they were returned unclaimed. Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England sent photos, Anzac Day Memorial Cards & newspaper clippings to the next-of-kin of the Australian WW1 Soldiers buried in Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bristol. (Photos in same order as in Service Record file)

With Mr. R. G. Bush's Compliments.
Bishop's Knoll.
Stoke Bishop
Bristol.



June 4th - 1926.

BISHOP'S KNOLL,
STOKE BISHOP,
BRISTOL.

With Mr. R.E. Buck's
friend regards - love & love
sending you a newspaper
giving a short account of
the Anzac Memorial
Service held in Bristol -
also a photograph taken
in a very bad light -

Private H. O'Neill. 18th Batt.

Anzac Day

APRIL 25TH, 1925.



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

TO

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOLDIERS' AND
SAILORS' GRAVES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

In grateful remembrance
of the brave sons of Australia and New Zealand who fought
and suffered, died and conquered, on many battlefields.



This is their epitaph. "Traveller south or west
Go, say at home we heard the trumpet call,
And answered. Now in the 'Old Home' we rest.
Our end was happy if our country thrives.
Much was demanded. Lo! our store was small—
That which we had, we gave—it was our lives."


L.L.



2116. Pte E. A. O'Neil. 18th Bn.

Anzac Day


APRIL 25TH. 1924.



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

TO
 AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOLDIERS' AND
 SAILORS' GRAVES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

In grateful remembrance
 of the brave sons of Australia and New Zealand who fought
 and suffered, died and conquered, on many battlefields.



Yet where the brave man lies, who fell in fight
 For his dear country, there his country is.
 And we will mourn them proudly as of right—
 For meaner deaths be weeping and loud cries:
 They died pro patria !!!

L.L.

The following photos & a copy of the "Western Daily Press" from 27th April, 1925, describing the pilgrimage to the graves of the Fallen, were located in the Service Record file of the late Private Edward Harold O'Neill. Similar items were found in the Service Record file of the late Private Frank Gordon Jess & had been sent to his next-of-kin by Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England but were returned to Base Records as unclaimed.



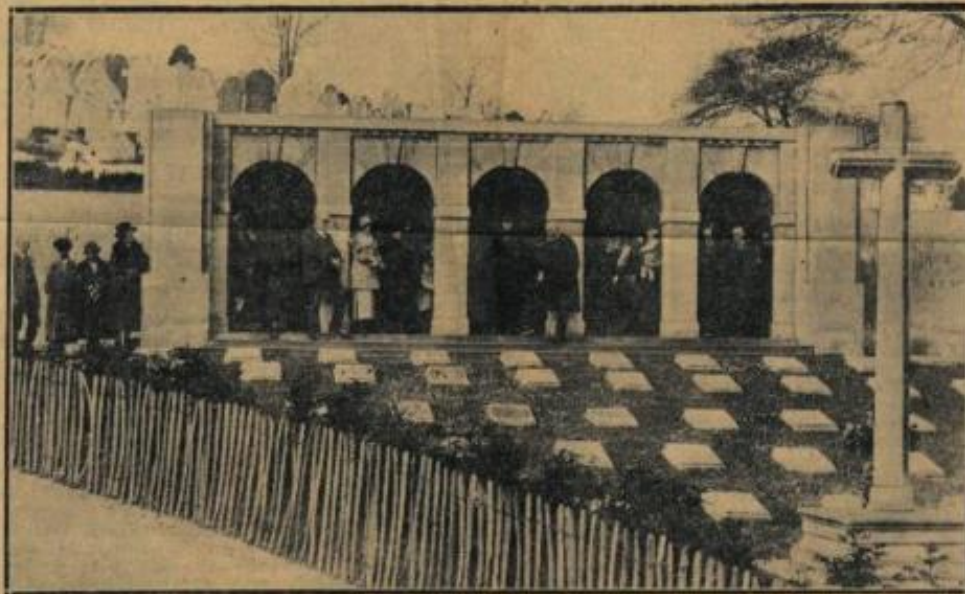
(Reverse reads "Soldiers Corner Arno's Vale Cemetery Bristol")





Y. APRIL 27, 1925.

GALLIPOLI DAY COMMEMORATION



THE SOLDIERS' CORNER, ARNO'S VALE.

Each year, on the 25th of April, a service of remembrance is held for those who died in Bristol of war wounds, and are buried in Soldiers' Corner, Arno's Vale. On Saturday, in the beautiful sunshine of a typical English spring morning, there assembled many who were associated with hospital work in Bristol for overseas troops, Bishop's Knoll, which, as most people know, was given over as a war hospital from 1914 to 1918, was represented by Mr E. E. Bush (Commandant), Mr and Miss Philp, Mrs Herapath, the Misses Nora and Doris Burt, Miss Vera Savile, Miss Goldsmith, Miss Stafford Jones, Miss Fenne, the Misses Spofforth, Miss Thursfield, Mr E. C. Philp, and Mr A. G. Powell. Mrs E. E. Bush was away from Bristol, and Miss Hall-Houghton and others were unavoidably absent. Miss Laing, another devoted worker at Bishop's Knoll, took a wreath to the one Australian soldier who was buried at Greenbank Cemetery.

Most of these present brought flowers. Mr E. E. Bush placed a very beautiful emblem—the work of one of the Bishop's Knoll sisters—at the foot of the cross in the "Corner," and Mr Philp contributed a wreath of daffodils. Spring flowers there were in plenty, a postman in uniform contributing a bunch of wallflowers, and other sympathetic folk adding their tender tributes.

Bishop Clifford, in his short address, said: "We are gathered here on this 10th anniversary of Gallipoli day to reverently and affectionately commemorate our brethren from various parts of the British Empire who, after having valiantly fought and honourably suffered in the Great War, were brought to this city of Bristol and here breathed their last breath. We laid their bodies in the earth at this spot, and here they rest in hope till the Day of Resurrection. We gratefully cherish their memory. We renew it to-day, and will never allow it to pass from our mind and heart. God's mercy and peace be with them, as is our affectionate regard, and may that great cause for which they gave their lives be ever upheld and prosper and ever honoured among men of goodwill."

Prayer was said, and this simple service which will so greatly comfort the relatives was over.



MR E. C. PHILP AND MR R. E. BUSH PLACING WREATHS ON THE CROSS.

Newspaper Notices

410th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte EDWARD HAROLD O'NEILL, Casino

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 June, 1918)

416th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte EDWARD HAROLD O'NEILL, Casino

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 July, 1918)

PITH AND POINT

Communications addressed to Mr James O'Neill, Casino, relative to No. 2116, Private Edward Harold O'Neill, have been returned unclaimed. The addressee is asked to communicate in writing with the Assistant Adjutant-General, Victoria Barracks, Paddington, at the earliest possible moment.

(The Richmond River Express and Casino Kyogle Advertiser, NSW – 12 July, 1918)

The next-of-kin of the late 2116 Private Edward Harold O'Neill, 18th Battalion, is requested to communicate with the O.C., Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 1 June, 1921)

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 E. H. O'Neill does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

R.I.P.

Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bristol, England (also known as Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery)

The cemetery was begun in 1856. During both wars, there were a number of military hospitals at Bristol and the city was the depot of the Gloucestershire Regiment. During the Second World War there were also a number of Royal Air Force stations and prisoner of war camps in the area. Bristol (Arnos Vale) Roman Catholic Cemetery contains 52 First World War burials, mostly of men who died at the local hospitals, particularly the 2nd Southern General and the Beaufort, many of whom were landed at Avonmouth from hospital ships from the Mediterranean. Forty of the graves form a war plot, marked by a screen wall bearing the names of the dead. The cemetery also contains 11 Second World War burials and ten Belgian and Portuguese war graves.

(Information from CWGC)



Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery (Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)





Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery (Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)



Australian World War 1 CWGC Headstones in Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery

Private E. H. O'Neill – back row; 3rd from left

(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private E. H. O'Neill's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bristol, England.



(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)