

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



727 PRIVATE

W. A. ORCHARD

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

11TH APRIL, 1918 Age 45

A Good Son

And A Good Brother

William Augustus ORCHARD

William Augustus Orchard was born at Westbury, Tasmania on 18th April, 1870 to parents William & Louisa Elizabeth Blandford Orchard (nee Dale). (Note: 2 dates of birth are recorded on Ancestry – Australian Birth Indexes 1788 – 1922 for William Orchard – 18th April, 1870 & 23rd March, 1873. There is a death registered for William Orchard, died 31st March, 1873, aged 8 days. The Tasmanian Libraries online Tasmanian Names Index records William Augustus Orchard was born on 18th April, 1870.)

William Augustus Orchard attended State School at Westbury, Tasmania.

William Henry Orchard, father of William Augustus Orchard, died on 22nd June, 1909 at Launceston, Tasmania.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Wilmot, subdivision of Beaconsfield, Tasmania recorded William Augustus Orchard, Farmer from Forester's Hill.

William Augustus Orchard stated he was a 43 year old, single, Farm Labourer from Launceston, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 16th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 727 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Louisa Orchard, Wellington Road, Launceston, Tasmania. William Orchard had a slight defect – deficient teeth but not sufficient to cause rejection.

According to information provided for the Roll of Honour – William Augustus Orchard had served with Launceston Artillery "some years ago".

Private William Augustus Orchard was written up for an Offence on 3rd April, 1916 while in Camp at Claremont, Tasmania – "*Absent from 6.30 am Parade 2.4.16.*" He was fined 2/6.

Private William Augustus Orchard embarked from Hobart, Tasmania on HMAT *Berrima (A35)* on 1st July, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 40th Infantry Battalion "C" Company & disembarked at Devonport, England on 22nd August, 1916.

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.

Private William Augustus Orchard was posted to Lark Hill, Wiltshire on 23rd August, 1916.

Private William Augustus Orchard proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd November, 1916. He was attached for duty with 10th Machine Gun Company at Rouen, France from 40th Battalion on 9th December, 1916.

Private William Augustus Orchard reported sick on 4th April, 1917. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 4th April, 1917 with Septic Sores on his Leg then was transferred to 5th April, 1917 to D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station). Private Orchard was admitted to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 6th May, 1917 with septic sores to right leg. He was transferred to 12th Casualty Clearing Station on 8th May, 1917 with boils on left leg. Private Orchard was discharged to duty on 17th May, 1917 & rejoined 10th Machine Gun Company on 18th May, 1917.

Private William Augustus Orchard was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 4th August, 1917- P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) then transferred to 9th Field Ambulance on 7th August, 1917. He was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on 7th August, 1917 then discharged to D.R.C. (Discharge and Reception Centre) on 15th August, 1917. Private Orchard rejoined his Unit – 10th Machine Gun Company on 17th August, 1917.

Private William Augustus Orchard was transferred from 40th Battalion to 10th Machine Gun Company on 30th August, 1917 & was taken on strength the same day.

Private William Augustus Orchard was wounded in action on 4th October, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 5th October, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Chest. Private Orchard was transferred to

Casualty Clearing Station then on 13th October, 1917 he was admitted to 14th General Hospital. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St Denis* on 14th October, 1917.

10th Machine Gun Company

Machine Gun Companies were units attached to the Brigade with the same numeric designation, in this instance, the 10th Brigade. Later in the war they were consolidated into Battalions of four Machine Gun Companies, attached to each Division. They were allocated to sections of the line in detachments of varying sizes depending on the task, but generally as a minimum in pairs as a 'section'.

The 10th Brigade comprised the 37th (Vic) 38th (Vic), 39th (Vic) and 40th (Tas) Battalions. The 10th MG Company was later absorbed into the 3rd MG Battalion.

MG Companies and Battalions were equipped with the legendary Vickers Medium Machine Gun. This weapon was served by a crew of three and mounted on a tripod. It was not easily portable and was generally sited in a prepared fixed position. Its direct counterpart on the German side was the Maxim 'Spandau' MG08, a weapon of similar appearance and capability.....

The Vickers was renowned for its reliability and it could maintain blistering rates of fire for extended periods, thanks to its robust design and the fact that it was water-cooled. These weapons were capable of firing at extended ranges, out to 3,000 yards.

They would be sited to provide flanking fire across a defensive front, often covering belts of barbed wire or other obstacles forcing the enemy to attack through their line of fire with devastating results; a tactic known as "enfilade fire"....

Some machine gun teams would also be assigned to follow the assaulting formations where they were to establish themselves in order to provide defensive fire across the front of the "limit of exploitation" of the attack as protection against counter attack by the enemy.

Machine guns and artillery between them were the dominant influences on the battlefields of the Great War until late in the war when manoeuvre regained importance with the advent of armoured vehicles and ground attack aircraft that could suppress enemy defences....

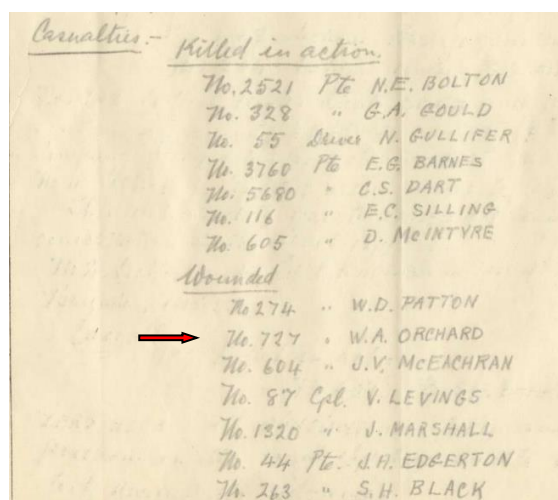
(Extract of Machine Gun information from VWMA – Steve Larkins)

War Diary – 10th Machine Gun Company

4th October, 1917 – Square Farm (c.30.b)

6am – ZERO HOUR. All objectives are taken and No. 4 Section take up positions in the final objective with three guns (one had been lost during the advance).

Zero + - Nos 1 & 3 sections move forward to new barrage position in vicinity of VAN ISACKERE FM [D.21.a]



(Another page contained 16 more names)

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Augustus Orchard was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England on 14th October, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Spine – v 1 – 3 & Paraplegia. He was reported to be dangerously ill. An X-Ray was taken on 17th October, 1917 – G.S.W. chest & back.

The Hospital Admissions form recorded:

4 Oct 17 Wounded France

15 Oct 17 On admission Legs, loss of motor power. Chest weak, breath sounds over left apex, Rhonchi present.

18 Oct 17 Xray Fract. L. Clavicle. Suprapubic performed.

Mrs L. Orchard, Wellington Road, Launceston, Tasmania, mother of Private William Augustus Orchard, was advised by Base Records on 30th October, 1917 that he had been admitted to King George Military Hospital, London, England on 14th October, 1917 suffering from a gunshot wound to Back – severe.

(Note: Louisa Elizabeth Blandford Orchard, mother of Private William Augustus Orchard, had died on 8th May, 1917 but Base Records had not been notified)

A Medical Report was completed on Private William Augustus Orchard on 2nd November, 1917 at The King George Hospital. His disability was listed as “G.S.W. Spine. Paraplegia” which had originated in France on 4th October, 1917. *“Patient states that he was wounded in France on Oct. 4th, 1917. He was hit over the outer end of the left clavicle by what he thinks was a sniper’s bullet. He immediately fell down and became “doubled up like a ball” and felt numbed all over. About 20 minutes later he regained the feeling in his arms, neck and face; but none from level of nipples downwards. He has no control or knowledge of micturition and defecation. He states that he coughed up a good deal of blood during the 24 hours following the wound. On admission to this Hospital 14/10/17 Legs- Flaccid paraplegia, Haemorrhagic cystitis. 18/10/17 Suprapubic cystotomy performed by Mr Thomas Walker under a local anaesthetic.”* The Officer in charge of the medical case recommended that Private William Augustus Orchard be discharged as permanently unfit as his disability was 100%. The Medical Board also agreed that he be discharged as permanently unfit & would need further Hospital treatment.

Mrs L. Orchard, Wellington Road, Launceston, Tasmania, mother of Private William Augustus Orchard, was advised by Base Records on 30th November, 1917 that his condition was stationary. Mrs Orchard was advised on 4th December, 1917 that Private W. A. Orchard was progressing favourably.

Mrs L. Orchard, Wellington Road, Launceston, Tasmania, mother of Private William Augustus Orchard, was advised by Base Records on 27th March, 1918 that Private W. A. Orchard was still progressing favourably.

Private William Augustus Orchard died at 9.30 am on 11th April, 1918 at The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England from Wounds received in Action – G.S.W. to Spine – paraplegia.

A death for William A. Orchard, aged 47, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private William Augustus Orchard was buried at 1.30 pm on 13th April, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180, 835.

From the burial report of Private William Augustus Orchard - Coffin was good, Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and surmounted by a beautiful wreath. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were supplied by the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. The grave will be turfed immediately 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 and friends present at the Funeral – Nephew No. 2028 Cpl Orchard, L.D., A.F.A. 37th Bty A.I.F. attached A.Q.M.G. Dept, A.I.F. Hqrs, Tidworth. Cousin Mr E Perriman, 101 Burdett Road, Bow, London, E.

Base Records wrote to Mr C. E. Orchard, 156 Charles St., Launceston, Tasmania on 5th March, 1923 to advise that the site of his brother’s grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row E Grave 17.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. E. 17. Private William Augustus Orchard now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

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The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for William Augustus Orchard contains several updates on his condition throughout his time as a patient in The King George Hospital, London. The Matron of The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London wrote the following letter *"In reply to your enquiry concerning Pte W. A. Orchard, 10/M.G.C., A.I.F. – This patient was admitted on Oct. 19th, 1917 suffering from gun shot wound of spine, resulting in complete paralysis of the lower part of his body. An operation was performed, but only revealed a hopeless condition of the spine. Pte Orchard was very ill on admission, and the greater part of the time he was here – from February especially. He was visited by a nephew shortly before his death on April 11th, he was buried at Brookwood Cemetery and the funeral was attended by his nephew and also by a distant relative, a Mr E. Perriman of Bow, London, E. After Pte Orchard's death the Ward Sister wrote to his sister, Mrs Hunt of Forester's Hill, Tasmania, giving her all particulars."*

Private William Augustus Orchard requested in his Will dated 2nd October, 1917, that in the event of his death the whole of his property and effects be given to his sister – Bertha Isobell Hunt, of Foresters Hill, West Tamar, Tasmania.

Base Records contacted Mr C. E. Orchard, 156 Charles Street, Launceston, Tasmania, on 17th January, 1922 stating he was noted as the registered next-of-kin of the late No. 727 Private W. A. Orchard, 10th Machine Gun Company, but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself & specifically asked of their father was living or has he any brothers older 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.

Mr C. E. Orchard, 156 Charles Street, Launceston, Tasmania, replied to Base Records on 23rd January, 1922 regarding his brother the late W. A. Orchard No. 727 *"...as next of kin I claim to be nearest though I have an elder brother who also had a son killed at the War and who would receive his medal, the reason I claim to be nearest to him is that I bought a farm for him and he was working on it when he went to the war and two days before he died he wired me to keep the Farm till he came home also he used to make my home his home and as we were so attached to one another any memento would be welcomed by me. Also I am having a few lines put on his headstone in the English Cemetery."*

Base Records replied to Mr C. E. Orchard, 156 Charles Street, Launceston, Tasmania, on 2nd February, 1922 acknowledging his letter dated 23rd January, concerning the affairs of his brother. The letter continues with *"...as requested in my previous communication, shall be much obliged if you will kindly favour me with advice as to whether deceased's father is living, and if so, his present address. If he no longer survives, will you please furnish me with the name and address of your eldest surviving brother, so that I may communicate with him and ascertain his wishes with regard to the disposal of the mementos. Full and sympathetic consideration will be given to your claim before a decision is arrived at..."*

Base Records contacted Mr C. E. Orchard, 156 Charles Street, Launceston, Tasmania on 6th December, 1922 stating they had written on 2nd February, 1922 *"Asking whether the father of the late No. 727 Private W. A. Orchard, 10th Machine Gun Company is still alive, and if he no longer survives, the name and address of the eldest surviving brother, but so far no reply has come to hand. This information is necessary under the Deceased Soldiers Estates Act of 1918 to enable me to properly dispose of the War Medals, etc., issuable on account of the abovementioned soldier's service....."*

Mr C. E. Orchard replied to Base Records on 11th December, 1922 advising *"...I wrote you giving you all the particulars I could. My father has been dead for years, my eldest Brother has his son's medal. I come next my late brother and I were one as far as this worlds things were concerned in fact just before he enlisted I bought him a farm for him and my brother-in-law and I lost them both if you feel inclined to send me the medal on the above grounds I would value it very much for the sake of my brother. By the way I have heard nothing re the verse that your department asked me to make up for insertion on Headstone they told me there would some charge made but so far I have head no word about it."*

Base Records wrote to District Finance Officer, 6th Military District on 2nd May, 1923 asking to whom the War Gratuity of the late No. 727 Private W. A. Orchard, 10th Machine Gun Company, had been allotted & also asked if

they had any later address than 156 Charles Street, Launceston, Tasmania – Mr Charles E. Orchard – the late soldier's brother.

The District Finance Officer, 6th Military District, Hobart replied to Base Records on 7th May, 1923 to advise that the *“War Gratuity was applied for by the sister of the deceased soldier, but was rejected as she was not a dependent, although beneficiary under the soldier's Will. The latest address of Mr C. E. Orchard is the same as given in your memorandum. I would suggest that you write to the Superintendent of Police, Launceston, who I have no doubt would be able to trace Mr Orchard, as I think there are other members of the family resident in Launceston.”*

Base Records wrote to Mr A. W. Orchard, Working Men's Club, Elizabeth Street, Launceston, Tasmania on 15th May, 1923 stating *“I understand that you are the eldest surviving brother of the late No. 727 Private W. A. Orchard, 10th Machine Gun Company, and shall be glad to learn whether you would have any objections to the War Medals, etc., issuable on account of his service being handed over to his second eldest brother, Mr C. E. Orchard, who has made application for the mementoes.”*

Mr A. W. Orchard, Working Men's Club, Elizabeth Street, Launceston, Tasmania, replied to Base Records on 21st May, 1923 with *“In answer to yours of 15th inst I would only be too pleased if you would kindly forward me any medals &c. issued on account of my late brother No 727 Private W. A. Orchard. Awaiting receipt of same.”*

Private William Augustus Orchard was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Orchard's brother – Mr A. W. Orchard (Scroll & Plaque sent June, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Augustus Orchard – service number 727, aged 45, of 10th Coy, Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of William and the late Louisa Elizabeth Orchard.

Private W. A. Orchard is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 179.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. A. Orchard is remembered on the Launceston Cenotaph, located at Paterson Street, near Bathurst Street Overpass, Launceston, Tasmania.



Launceston Cenotaph (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



William Augustus Orchard is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."

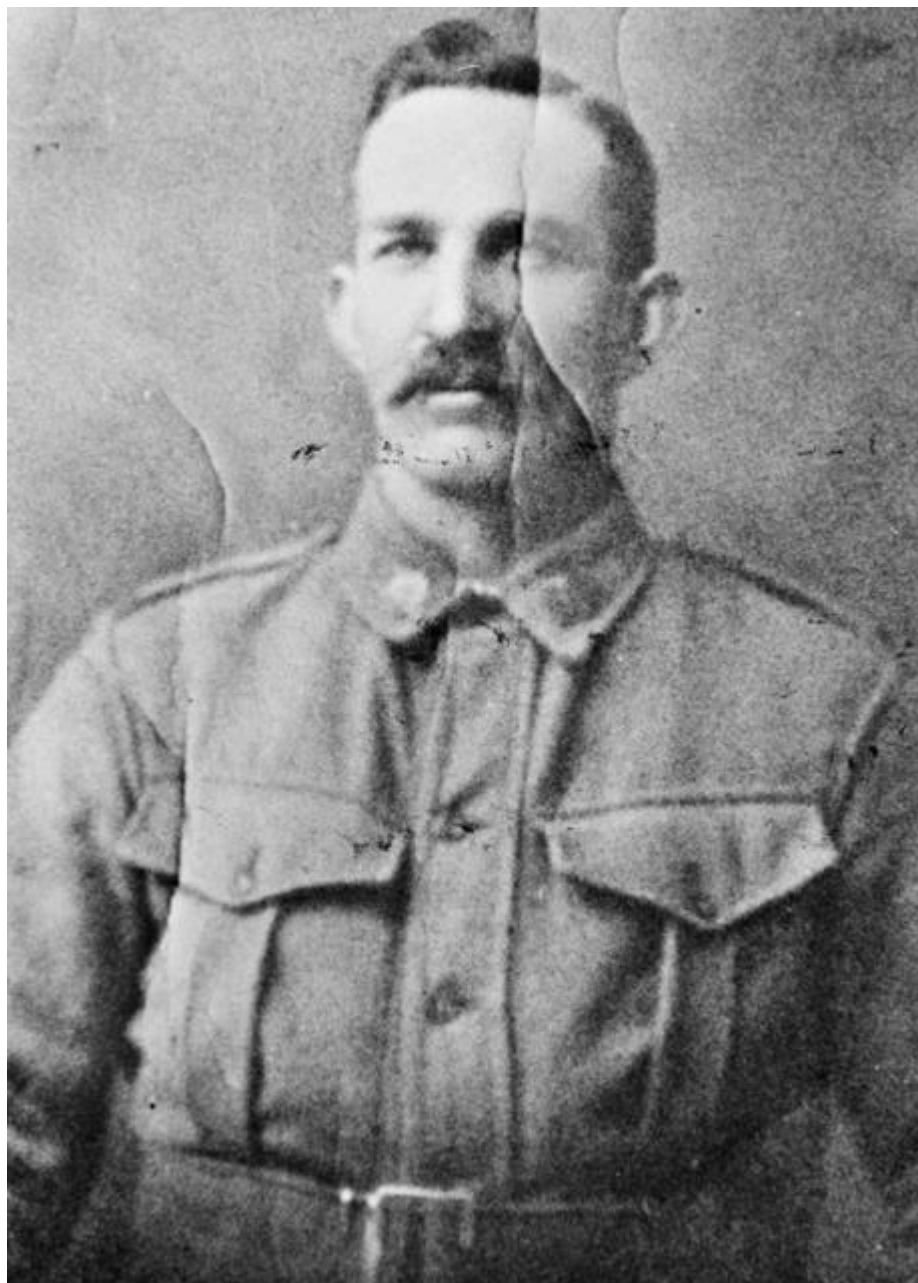


Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

14713	Sapr	McNeil	Alan Douglas	28.03.1918	27	1st Fd Coy Engrs	Hobart	ANZAC
1852	Maj	McPherson MID	Herbert Angus	24.12.1918	28	12th Inf Bn	Ulverstone	ANZAC
459	L/Cpl	McRae	Alexander	23.04.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC
3083	Pte	McVan	Allan	31.08.1918	21	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	
8317	Pte	Medwin	Percy Reginald E	01.10.1918	20	40th Inf Bn	Kindred	
1909	Pte	Mesner	Max Adolf	20.07.1918	20	12th Inf Bn	Flinders Island	
785A	L/Cpl	Milbourne	Hugh Lyell	28.03.1918	23	40th Inf Bn	Devonport	
1655A	Pte	Miller	Montie Vaughan	23.08.1918	22	12th Inf Bn	Waretah	ANZAC
1550	Cpl	Mills	Kenneth Douglas	10.04.1918	19	49th Inf Bn	Hobart	
5252	L/Cpl	Moore	Edwin Horace	17.04.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC
7052	Pte	Moore	Cyril Arthur	18.08.1918	28	46th Inf Bn	Devonport	
52852	L/Cpl	Moorey	Henry	25.08.1918	25	12th Inf Bn	Gladstone	
5383	L/Cpl	Moorey MM	Thomas David Lewis	21.08.1918	33	NZEF Rif Bde	Devonport	
84941	Pte	Morrell	Harry Havelock	07.09.1918	32	14th Fd Amb Coy	North Hobart	
3197	Sgt	Morris	James Egbert	24.11.1918	40	Depot rec (Aust)	Burnie	
3384	Pte	Morris	James Walter	28.03.1918	28	47th Inf Bn	Burnie	
28356	Cpl	Murray	Aram Benjamin	18.07.1918	34	40th Inf Bn	Campbelltown	
1757	Capt	Murrell	Herbert Edward	30.09.1918	30	NZEF AR	Evandale	
6004	Pte	Murrell	Sydney Allen	04.11.1918	26	NZEF WIB	Hobart	ANZAC
3256	Pte	Naden	Sydney	25.08.1918	28	12th Inf Bn	Castle Forbes Bay	
2482	Cpl	Nailer	Nigel Christopher	09.05.1918	28	40th Inf Bn	Sandy Bay	
8858A	Pte	Nathan	Henry Hobart	12.08.1918	23	12th Inf Bn	Pyengana	ANZAC
3150	Pte	Naylor	Myer	23.05.1918	19	24th Inf Bn	Hobart	
459	Trpr	Nelson MID*	Frederick Alexander	28.03.1918	21	40th Inf Bn	St Helens	
3639	Pte	Neuteboom	Sydney John	24.10.1918	25	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Longford	ANZAC
1882	Pte	Newman	Pete	29.07.1918	24	29th Inf Bn	Hobart	
5184	Dvr	Newman	Henry	25.08.1918	29	40th Inf Bn	Zeahan	
8327	Pte	Newton	Clarence Richard	10.09.1918	24	3rd Fd Arty Bde	Launceston	
26181	Gnr	Nicholson	Richard	05.04.1918	27	52nd Inf Bn	New Norfolk	
38223	Gnr	Norman	John Howard	10.08.1918	21	13th Fd Arty Bde	Devonport	
3163	Pte	Nunn	Sydney Herbert L	20.10.1918	45	3rd Fd Arty Bde	Cressy	
247	Pte	O'Brien	James Leslie	16.03.1918	23	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	
4385	Sgt	O'Brien MM	Stanley Gordon	28.03.1918	21	40th Inf Bn	Collinvale	
8846	Pte	O'Malley	Bernard James	29.03.1918	27	15th Inf Bn	Cygnat	
8396	Pte	O'Neill (Smith)	Anthony	27.09.1918	25	12th Inf Bn	Ranelagh	
3814	Dry	Oldham	Stanley Howard	23.08.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	
727	Pte	Orchard	Oscar McGregor	02.06.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	
(108)	Capt	Outhwaite MC	William Augustus	11.04.1918	48	10th MG Coy	Pyengana	
			MID Reginald	18.05.1918	29	46th Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC

(89 pages of Private William Augustus Orchard'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



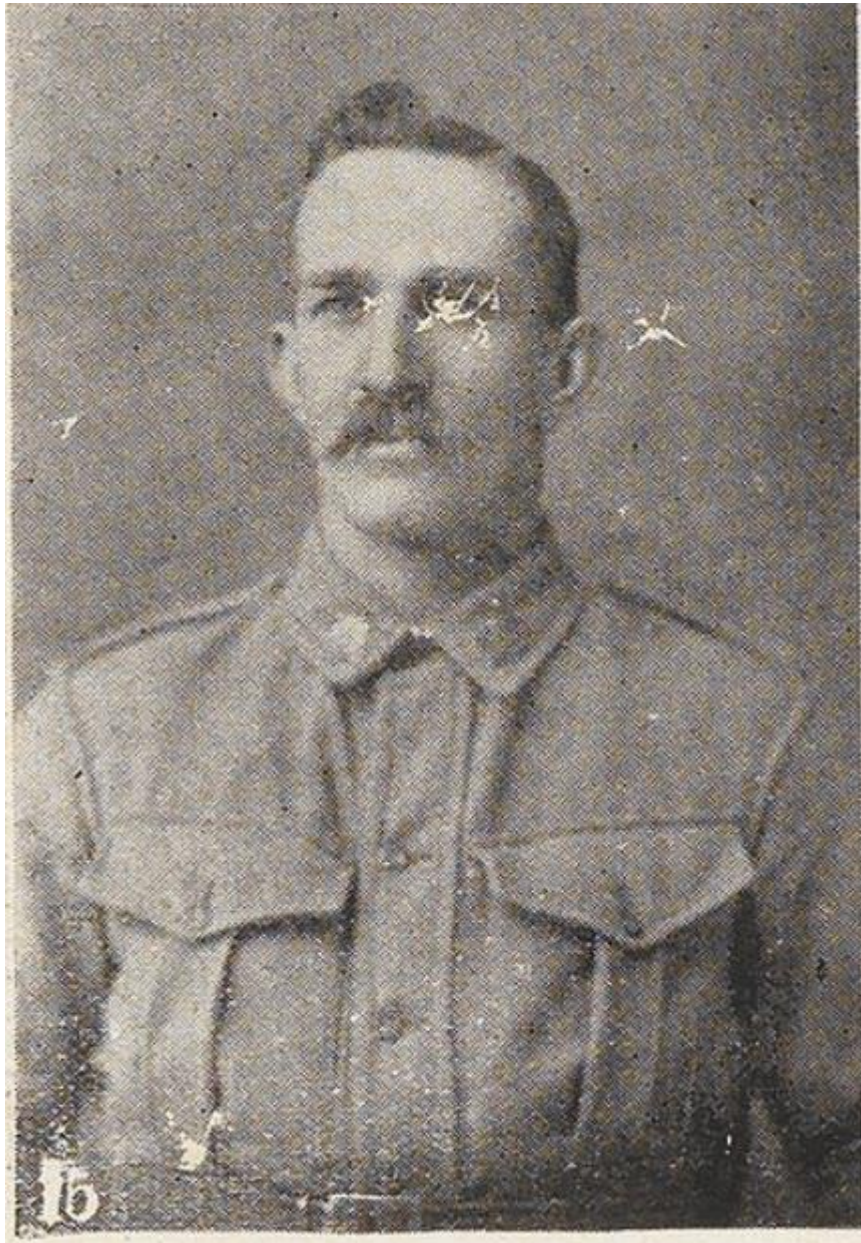
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05554.003

William Augustus Orchard

*Studio portrait of 727 Private (Pte) William Augustus (Gus) Orchard,
10th Company, Machine Gun Corps, of Launceston, Tas.*

A farm labourer prior to enlisting on 16 March 1916, Pte Orchard embarked from Hobart, Tas, aboard HMAT Berrima on 1 July 1916. He was wounded in France and died of those wounds, on 11 April 1918, in Brookwood, Surrey, England, aged 45.



15—PRIVATE W. A. ORCHARD, 40th Battalion, of Forester's Hill, Bridgenorth, brother of Mr. A. W. Orchard, Launceston.

(*The Weekly Courier*, Tasmania - 23 November, 1916)



Newspaper Notices

RECRUITING

AT LAUNCESTON

There were no recruits declared unfit at the medical examination held at Launceston yesterday. The following were accepted: For Active Service.....W. A. Orchard.....

(*Daily Telegraph*, Launceston, Tasmania – 4 March, 1916)

THE TASMANIANS ON SERVICE

ENTERED CLAREMONT CAMP

The undermentioned men (35) joined the Claremont Camp in Thursday:-..... W. A. Orchard.....

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – 18 March, 1916)

ABOUT PEOPLE

Another old resident of Tasmania passed away yesterday in the person of Mrs. William Orchard, who died at her residence, 24 Wellington-road, within a month of her 76th birthday. The deceased arrived in Tasmania when a girl of seventeen, and lived in the Westbury district for many years, where she was married. Amongst those of her children are Mr. A. W. Orchard, of the "Daily Telegraph" staff; Mr. C. B. Orchard, grocer, of Charles-street; Mfr. T. W. Orchard, who resides at Golconda; and another son, Mr. W. A. Orchard, who left Tasmania with the 40th Battalion, and is still at the front. There are also three married daughters. The deceased was a very active woman right tip to her last illness, and her sudden death from an attack of pleurisy will be a great surprise to her many friends. The funeral is to leave her residence this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 9 May, 1917)

HOSPITAL CASES

Mr A. W. Orchard has been advised that his brother, Pte W. A. Orchard, who was with a machine gun company, was on October 14 admitted to King George Military Hospital, suffering from a gunshot wound in the back (severe).

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 2 November, 1917)

MEN AND WOMEN

Mr A. W. Orchard has been officially informed by the Base Records Office, Melbourne, that his son, Private W. A. Orchard, was admitted to the King George Military Hospital, London, on October 14. Private Orchard is suffering from a severe gunshot wound. He left Tasmania in July, 1915.

(*Daily Post*, Hobart, Tasmania – 2 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

356TH AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST

TASMANIAN NAMES

SEVERELY WOUNDED

Private W. A. Orchard, Launceston

(*Zeehan and Dundas Herald*, Tasmania – 26 November, 1917)

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

PERSONAL NOTES

The official news came to hand yesterday that Private W. A. Orchard, of Forester's Hill, Bridgenorth, who enlisted in the 40th Battalion, had died of wounds in the King George Military Hospital. The deceased soldier was a son of the late Mr and Mrs William Orchard, of Launceston, and bother of Messrs A. W. and C. E. Orchard. He was shot in the back in October, 1917, which resulted in paralysis. His death took place on the 11th inst, at the age of 48.

(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 17 April, 1918)

Deaths on Active Service

ORCHARD – Died of wounds, on the 11th April, at King George Military Hospital, William Augustus, third son of the late William Orchard, and brother of A. W. and C. E. Orchard, of Launceston, aged 48. Late of Forester's Hill, Bridgenorth, and one of the 40th Battalion.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 17 April, 1918) & (Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 17 April, 1918)

& (Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 20 April, 1918)

MORE TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

Another Casualty List – the 394th – was last night released.....

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte W. A. Orchard, Launceston – 11/4/18

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 27 April, 1918)

Roll of Honour

Mr. A. W. Orchard, of Launceston, is in receipt of the following letter from Senior Chaplain A T. Holder, under date April 13, regarding the death of his brother, Private W. A. Orchard: "It has been my sad duty to-day to bury the remains of your late brother, Private 727 W. A. Orchard. He was wounded in the field on October 4, 1917, embarked for England October 14, 1917, and admitted to the King George's Hospital on October 14, 1917, with injuries to the spine and paralysis. He was in hospital for five months 27 days, and died on April 11, 1918. The remains were buried at the Brookwood Cemetery (twenty miles from London), in the Australian military section. His cousin and nephew (your son) were present at the service, which was also attended by several Australian soldiers, who formed the firing party, and at the close 'The Last Post' was sounded. He has faithfully served his King and country, and now having made the supreme sacrifice, has gone to his eternal reward."

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 19 July, 1918)

In Memoriam

On Active Service

ORCHARD – In loving memory of our dear brother, William Augustus Orchard, 10th Machine Company, who died of wounds at King George's Hospital, London, on April 11th, 1918, aged 48.

Duty nobly done.

-Inserted by his brothers, A.W. and C.E. Orchard, Launceston.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 11 April, 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 was sent from Base Records, dated 27th July, 1921, to Mrs L. Orchard, Wellington Road, Launceston, Tasmania advising that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late No. 727 Private W. A. Orchard, 10th Machine Gun Company, had not been answered as far as they were able to trace. Another blank form and addressed envelope were sent & Base Records requested it to be filled in & returned in the next few days as the information was urgently needed to enable work in connection with Brookwood Cemetery to be completed. The non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Base Records wrote to Mr C. E. Orchard, 156 Charles Street, Launceston, Tasmania, on 25th August, 1921 with the following "*I have to acknowledge receipt of Form A completed by you (presumably on behalf of your mother) in respect to your brother, the late No. 727, Private W. A. Orchard, 10th Machine Gun Company. The Star of David, which you desire engraved on the permanent headstone to be erected over your late brother's grave, is the symbol of the Jewish faith as the Cross is the emblem of Christianity, and not of any particular denomination thereof. As the late Private Orchard was a member of the Methodist persuasion, kindly advise whether you would prefer to have the Cross inscribed.*"

Mr C. E. Orchard replied to Base Records on 1st September, 1921 stating "*As the Star of David is of the Jewish faith and not being a Jew I very much prefer the Cross thanking you for your kindness....*"

Private W. A. Orchard does have a personal inscription on his headstone & the Christian Cross.

A Good Son And A Good Brother

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.

Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private W. A. Orchard's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

