

**Reading Cemetery,
Reading, Berkshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



417 SERJEANT

A. E. PHILLIPS

10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH DECEMBER, 1915

Albert Edward PHILLIPS

Albert Edward Phillips was born at Swindon, Wiltshire, England on 10th March, 1884 to parents Edward and Elizabeth Phillips.

Albert Edward Phillips attended Sandford Street School, Swindon, Wiltshire, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Albert E. Phillips as a 7 year old scholar living with his family at 23 Vilett Street, Swindon, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as Edward Phillips (Labourer – Railway Factory, aged 42, born Bristol, Gloucestershire) & Eliza Phillips (Dressmaker, aged 40, born Bristol, Gloucestershire). Albert was one of three children listed on this Census – James S. Phillips (Scholar, aged 9, born Swindon, Wiltshire) then Albert & Florence B. Phillips (Scholar, aged 4, born Swindon, Wiltshire). Also listed with the family were two Boarders - Alfred Hartnell (Carpenter, aged 48) & Joseph Reed (Labourer – Railway Factory, aged 50).

Albert Edward Phillips joined the Great Western Railway as a Boilermaker Apprentice on 10th March, 1898 (his 14th birthday). He signed up for a period of 7 years but only completed 5 years to join the Army.

The 1901 England Census recorded Albert E. Phillips as a 17 year old Boil maker's Apprentice – Railway, living with his widowed father & 2 siblings at 7 Carr Street, Swindon, Wiltshire. His father was listed as Edward Phillips (General Labourer, aged 56) & his siblings were listed as James S. Phillips (Boil maker's Apprentice – Railway, aged 19) & Florence B. Phillips (Housekeeper, aged 14).

Albert Edward Phillips enlisted in the British Army on 30th July, 1902 at Devizes, Wiltshire. He was an 18 year old, Boilermaker & was currently serving in the 3rd Wiltshire Regiment. His service number was 5996.

Albert Edward Phillips served at Home from 30th July, 1902 then served in the South African campaign from 7th February, 1903 to 21st May, 1903. He was on Home service from 22nd May, 1903 to 2nd February, 1906. Albert Edward Phillips served in India from 3rd February, 1906 until 3rd November, 1909 then on Home service again from 4th November, 1909.

Albert Edward Phillips married Olivia Alma Hicks at Goodwood, South Australia in 1912. A son, Albert Edward Phillips was born in 1913 in Adelaide.

Albert Edward Phillips was discharged on 29th July, 1914 after serving for 12 years.

According to information provided for the Roll of Honour by his wife Mrs O. A. Phillips, her husband came to Australia when he was 26 years old.

Albert Edward Phillips was a 30 year old, married, Boilermaker from 32 Gilbert Street, Goodwood, South Australia when he enlisted on 24th August, 1914 with the 10th Infantry Battalion "B" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 417 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs A. E. Phillips, of 32 Gilbert Street, Goodwood, South Australia.

Private Albert Edward Phillips was posted to "G" Company, 10th Infantry Battalion on 24th August, 1914. He was posted to Acting Corporal on 28th August, 1914 & confirmed Corporal on 1st September, 1914.

Corporal Albert Edward Phillips embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 20th October, 1914.

Corporal Albert Edward Phillips was appointed Sergeant on 15th December, 1914.

Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips embarked from Alexandria on 2nd March, 1915 on *Ionian* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli.

Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips was wounded in action on 2nd May, 1915. He was transferred from Hospital Ship *Galeka* to *Franconian* with Shrapnel wounds to his back on 22nd May, 1915. Sergeant Phillips was admitted to 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Mudros on 29th May, 1915 then transferred the same day to No. 16 Stationary Hospital at Mudros. Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips rejoined his Unit on 20th June, 1915.

Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips was sent sick to Hospital on 19th August, 1915 while posted at Gallipoli Peninsula. He was taken to No. 3 Field Ambulance with Influenza & Abscess to head. He was transferred from Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac to 25th Casualty Clearing Station at Imbros on 19th August, 1915. Sergeant Phillips was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Lemnos on 22nd August, 1915. Sergeant Phillips embarked for England on 21st October, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Aquitania*.

10th Battalion

The 10th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. The battalion was recruited in South Australia, and together with the 9th, 11th and 12th Battalions, formed the 3rd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked for overseas just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early December.

The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 and so was the first ashore at around 4:30 am. Two soldiers of the 10th Battalion, Lance Corporal Philip Robin and Private Arthur Blackburn, are believed to have penetrated further inland than any other Australians at ANZAC. Robin was killed later on 25 April and Blackburn soldiered on to be commissioned as an officer and awarded the Victoria Cross at Pozieres, the battalion's first major battle in France. The 10th Battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC position, and served there until the evacuation in December.

(Information from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips was admitted to War Hospital, Reading, Berkshire, England on 27th October, 1915 with gunshot wounds to back.

Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips died at 5 pm on 14th December, 1915 at Royal Berks Section, Reading War Hospital, Reading, Berkshire, England from wounds received in action at Gallipoli Peninsula – Sepsis following gunshot wound of left lumbar region received in action at Suvla Bay.

A death for Albert E. Phillips, aged 31, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Reading, Berkshire, England.

Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips was buried on 18th December, 1915 in Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England – Grave No. 16149, Division 72..

A letter was sent to Mrs O. A. Phillips of "The Nook", 7B Joslin Street, Wayville, South Australia, widow of late Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips, from Base Records, dated 19th April, 1920 which reads: *"...I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site and re-interred in Grave No. 16608, division 72, Reading Cemetery, Reading. The work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Those buried in Plot 72 of Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England & buried in other parts of the cemetery that do not have headstones marking their graves are named on the Memorial Screen Wall located near the Cross of Sacrifice. Their deaths are still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

A War Pension was grant to Olivia Alma Phillips, widow of late Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips, in the sum of £70 per annum from 14th February, 1916. A War Pension was also granted to the son of the Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips – Albert Edward Phillips Jnr. in the sum of £13 per annum from 14th February, 1916. The Pension for Albert Edward Phillips Jnr. was increased from 10/- to £1 fortnightly from 14th February, 1916.

Mrs O. A. Phillips, widow of late Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips, wrote to Base Records in November, 1919 to thank them for the photographs of the grave of her husband.

Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Phillips' widow - Mrs O. A. Phillips, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips – service number 417, of 10th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward and Elizabeth Phillips; husband of Mrs O. A. Phillips, of The Nook, 75 Jolsin St., Wayville, South Australia. Born at Swindon, England.

Sergeant A. E. Phillips is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 60.



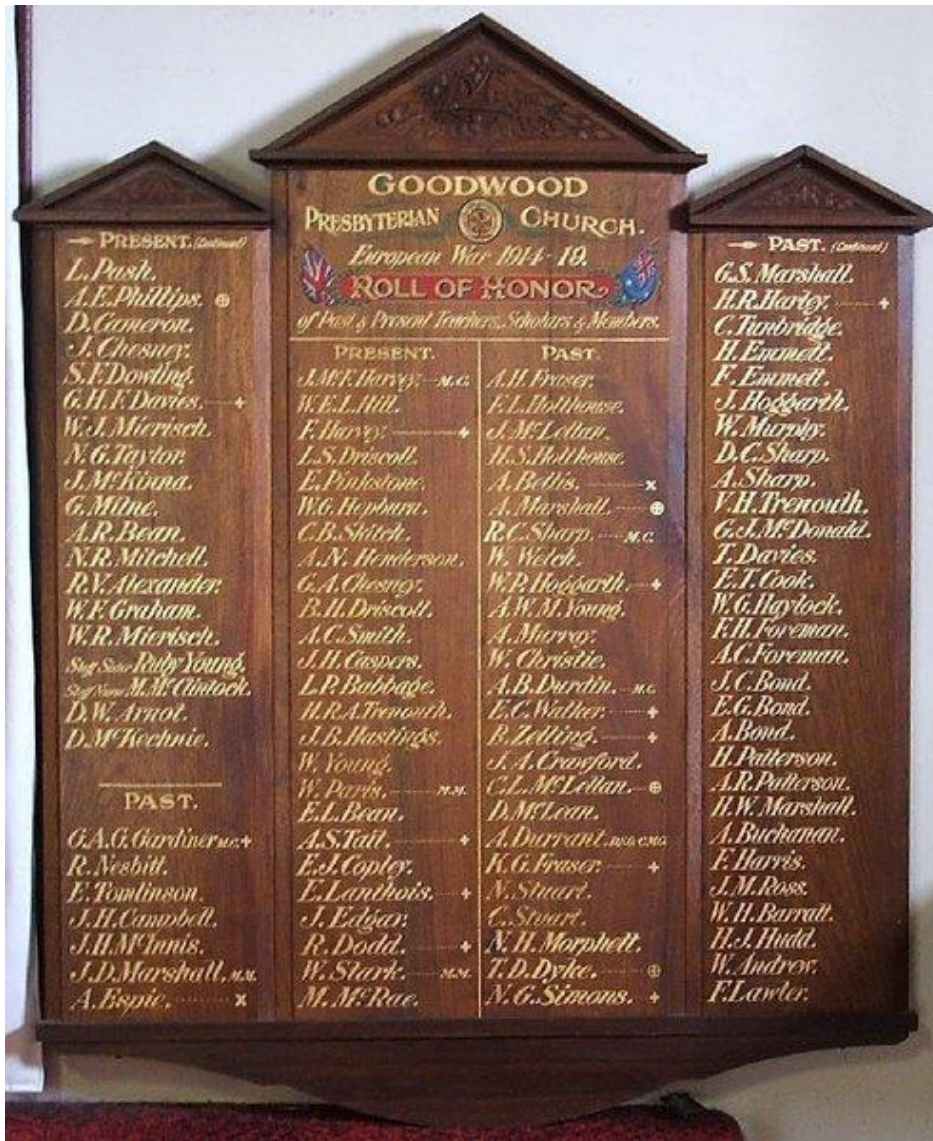
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Phillips is remembered on the Goodwood Anglican Church War Memorial located in the grounds of Anglican Church, 153 Goodwood Rd, Goodwood, South Australia.



Goodwood Anglican Church War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson/John Hutch)

A. E. Phillips is remembered on the Goodwood Presbyterian Church Honour Board (left panel, 2nd name). It was located at Arthur Street, Unley, Goodwood, South Australia but is now in Unley RSL Hall.



Goodwood Presbyterian Church Honour Board (Photo from RSL Virtual War Memorial)

A. E. Phillips is remembered on the Unley City Honour Roll, located at Unley Town Hall, Unley Road & Oxford Terrace, Unley, South Australia.



Unley City Honour Roll (Photo from RSL Virtual War Memorial)

A. E. Phillips is remembered on the Unley Memorial Arch, located in Memorial Gardens, Unley Road & Thomas Street, Unley, South Australia.



Unley Memorial Arch (Photos from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson/Nigel Daw)



A. E. Phillips is remembered on the South Australian Railways Honour Board located at North Terrace – Adelaide Railway Station concourse – north end, Adelaide, South Australia.



South Australian Railways Honour Board (Photo from RSL Virtual War Memorial)

A. E. Phillips is remembered on the Islington Railway Workshops Honour Roll, located at Railway Workshops Entrance, Churchill Road, Kilburn, South Australia.



Newspaper Report: from *The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 3 August, 1916

ISLINGTON ROLL OF HONOUR

An impressive ceremony was held in the boiler shop at Islington during lunch hour on Tuesday, when a roll of honour, containing the names of 62 men from the works who had volunteered and proceeded to the front, was unveiled by the Chief Mechanical Engineer (Mr B. F. Rushton). Patriotism was particularly prominent in the proceedings. The Railway Band played a march and the "Song of Australia."

*..... Four of the 62 employees whose names appear on the roll of honour – Sgts. C. J. Backman, **A. E. Phillips**, F. Causer and Paul – have been killed in action.*

A. E. Phillips is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(73 pages of Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips' 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



Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips

Newspaper Notices

127th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died of Wounds

417, Sergeant A. E. PHILLIPS, 10th Battalion, Goodwood, died December 14. Previously reported wounded.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 January, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

THE LATE SERGEANT ALBERT E. PHILLIPS

Sergeant Albert Edward Phillips left South Australia shortly after the outbreak of hostilities. He was present at the memorable landing on Gallipoli, where he was severely wounded. Recovering from his injuries, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and returned to the firing line, where he was again seriously wounded. He was removed to a hospital at Berkshire, England, where he succumbed as a result of his wounds.



Sergeant A. E. Phillips

At the time of enlistment, he was employed at the railway workshops, Islington, as a boiler-maker. He was popular with his work-mates and his comrades in khaki. He left a widow and one child who live at Prospect.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 August, 1916)

Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England

Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire contains 248 War Graves, 17 of those being from Australian Forces – World War 1.

The War Graves Plot is situated at the back of the cemetery, in the right hand corner from the entrance. A Screen Wall Memorial commemorates those buried in Plot 72 and those buried in other parts of the cemetery whose graves are not marked by headstones. There are 207 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 41 of the 1939-1945 war. There is also 1 Serbian burial.

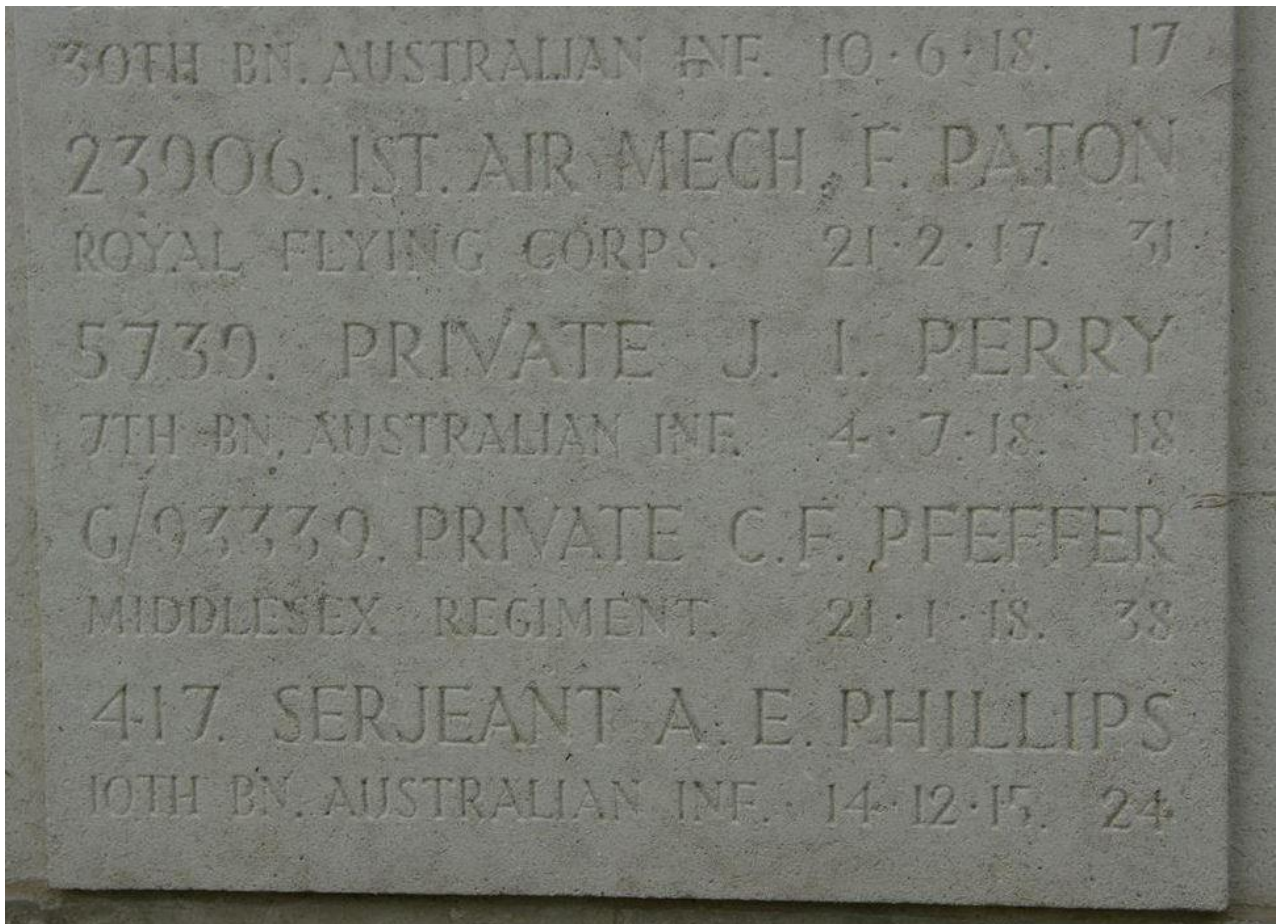
(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice & Memorial Screen Wall, Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Serjeant A. E. Phillips' name on the Screen Wall Memorial in Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Phil Wood)