

**Cambridge City Cemetery,  
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**438 SERJEANT**

**J. G. PHILLIPS**

**AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS.**

**1ST NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 25**

*Sleep On Beloved  
Until The Day Dawn  
With Love From  
Father And Mother*

## James George PHILLIPS

James George Phillips was born at Toowoomba, Queensland on 11th July, 1893 to parents James Robert and Eliza Josephine Phillips (nee Donald).

James George Phillips was a 22 year old, single, Coachbuilder (information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour records he was a Carriage Painter in his father's coachworks) care of Fire Station, Toowoomba, Queensland when he enlisted on 19th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 438 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. R. Phillips, of Toowoomba, Queensland. James George Phillips state don his Attestation Papers that he had 11 years continual Service & was now Acting Sergeant Machine Gun Section, 3rd Light Horse, Queensland.

Private James George Phillips was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 18th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Machine Gun Regiment on 20th June, 1916 then transferred to 3rd Machine Gun Company on 4th August, 1916. Private Phillips was promoted to Corporal on 10th August, 1916 at Seymour, Victoria then was reduced in rank to Lance Corporal on 20th October, 1916 & was reduced again to Private.

Private James George Phillips embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 20th October, 1916 with the 3rd Machine Gun Company, 6th Reinforcements. He transferred to HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* at Sierra Leone on 5th December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 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 James George Phillips was marched in to Australian Details at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1916.

Private James George Phillips was transferred to 5th Divisional Machine Gun Company from Australian Details at Perham Downs on 13th February, 1917. He was taken on strength of 5th Div. M. G. Coy from 3rd Brigade M.G.C. on 13th February, 1917.

Private James George Phillips was appointed Lance Corporal on 23rd February, 1917 (under para 213 A.I.F. Orders dated 19/8/016).

Mr J. R. Phillips, father of Private James George Phillips, was advised by Base Records by telegram on 11th May, 1917 that his son had been wounded. Base Records contacted Mr J. R. Phillips on 31st July, 1917 stating that the information stated in the telegram dated 11th May, 1917 was now reported to be incorrect.

Private James George Phillips was reported wounded, now reported Not Wounded (undated).

Lance Corporal James George Phillips was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire from Perham Downs for bombing instruction from 27th May, 1917 to 1st June, 1917.

Lance Corporal James George Phillips proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from No. 1 Camp at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 7th September, 1917. He disembarked at Havre, France on 7th September, 1917.

Lance Corporal James George Phillips was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 30th September, 1917 vice 250 Cpl. G. Ludivigan promoted to T/Sergt. on 29th September, 1917.

Temporary Corporal James George Phillips was promoted to Corporal on 10th October, 1917, vice 1519 T/Sgt. Leon Blackwood to command rank.

Corporal James George Phillips was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 10th October, 1917, vice Sgt. Eldridge commissioned.

Temporary Sergeant James George Phillips to Machine Gun School at Camiers on 7th December, 1917 & rejoined his Company on 3rd January, 1918.

Temporary Sergeant James George Phillips promoted to Sergeant on 10th January, 1918, vice 4180 Sgt. S. G. Eldridge commissioned.

Sergeant James George Phillips, of 35th Australian Machine Gun Company. 5th Australian Division, was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal or a Meritorious Service Medal on 3rd March, 1918. *“At the Battle of Passchendaele, whilst under extremely heavy hostile shelling, this Sergeant showed an utter disregard for personal danger and his bearing throughout contributed largely to the excellent behaviour of the very young soldiers, in action for the first time, who comprised the two machine gun crews under control of this now commissioned officer. His devotion to duty and good soldierly qualities have been maintained to the present date. Date of before mentioned Battle 4.10.17 to 8.10.17.”*

Sergeant James George Phillips was selected to proceed to England for Infantry Cadet course commencing on 10th May, 1918. He was detached from France on 20th April, 1918 to Officer's Cadet Battalion in England.

Sergeant James George Phillips joined 2nd Officers Cadet Battalion on 10th May, 1918 and was appointed Cadet & was to attend Machine Gun Course on completion of Infantry School.

Sergeant James George Phillips was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette – 7th November, 1918, page 2114 & London Gazette – 17th June, 1918, page 114*).



***Meritorious Service Medal***

New designation for Sergeant James George Phillips – 5th Machine Gun Battalion (Auth AIF Order No. 1151).

Cadet James George Phillips was sent sick to 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England on 21st October, 1918. He was admitted the same day dangerously ill – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

Sergeant James George Phillips died at 01.15 am on 1st November, 1918 at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England from Influenza.

A death for James G. Phillips, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Sergeant James George Phillips was buried on 4th November, 1918 in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England – Plot number C. 3483 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sergeant James George Phillips - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several wreaths sent by:- C. Company O.C.B. & Officers No. 2 Company, O.C.B. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. Simpson officiated 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.*

Mr J. R. Phillips, father of the late Sergeant James George Phillips, received notification from Base Records, Melbourne, Victoria on 22nd November, 1916 stating "*I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder a copy of extract from Third Supplement No. 30750, to the London Gazette dated 17th June, 1918, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, the late No. 438 Sergeant J. G. Phillips, 5th Machine Gun Battalion.*"

X X X X

*AWARDED THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL*

*"HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Meritorious Service Medal to the undermentioned non-commissioned Officer, in recognition of valuable service rendered with the Forces in France during the present war:-*

*No. 438 Sergeant J. G. PHILLIPS."*

X X X X

*The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. 173, dated 7th November, 1918.*

Sergeant James George Phillips was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Phillips' father – Mr J. R. Phillips, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

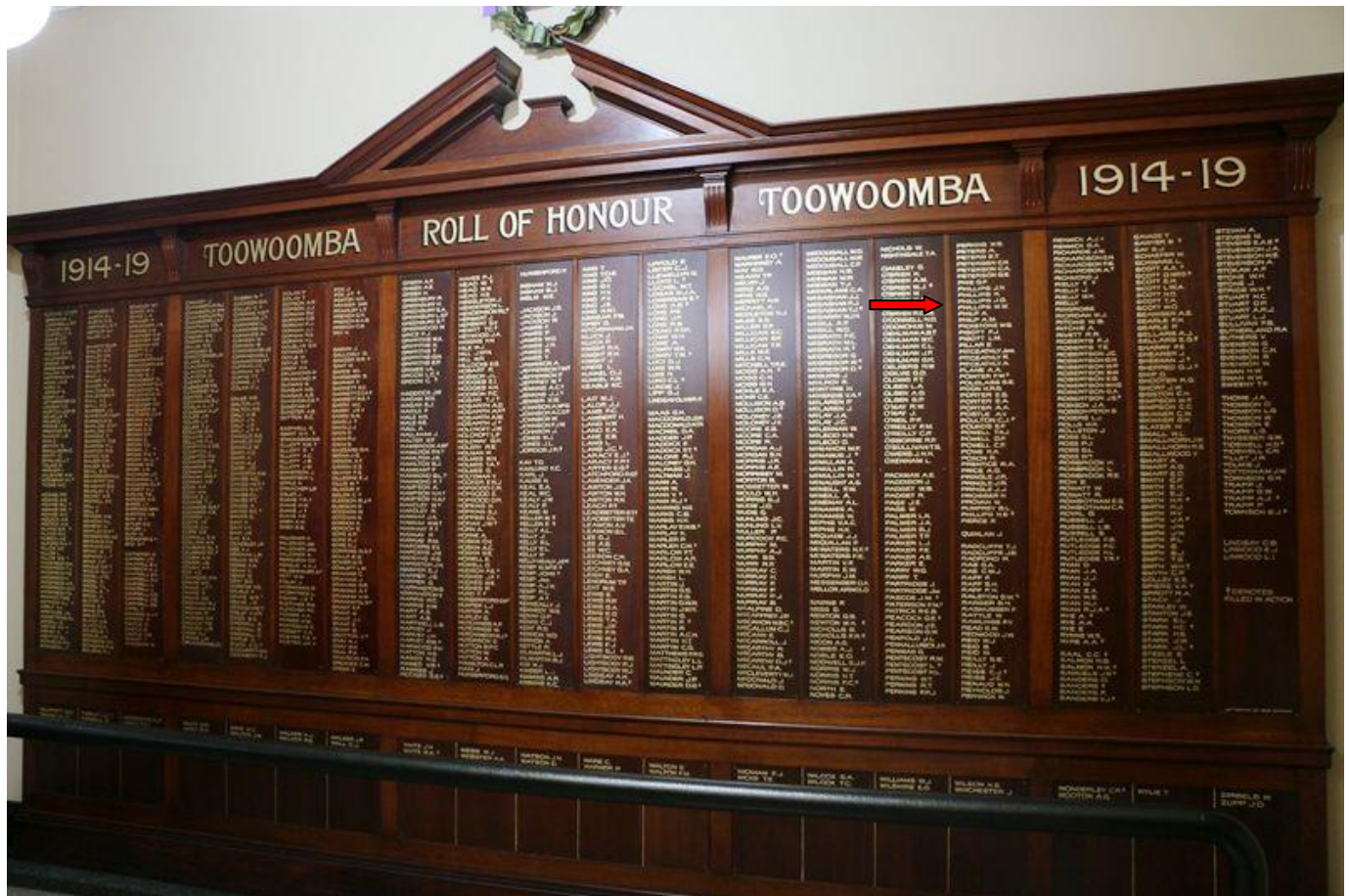
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant James George Phillips – service number 438, aged 25, of Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of James Robert and Eliza Josephine Phillips, of Neil St., Toowoomba, Queensland. M.S.M. (Meritorious Service Medal).

Sergeant J. G. 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 176.



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

J. G. Phillips is remembered on the Toowoomba Roll of Honour, located in the Toowoomba R.S.L., 549 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, Queensland.



**Toowoomba Roll of Honour** (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

(67 pages of Sergeant James George 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





**J. G. Phillips**

*(The Queenslander Pictorial, supplement to the Queenslander, 10 February, 1917)*



## Newspaper Notices



Corporal J. G. PHILLIPS, of the machine gun section, son of Superintendent and Mrs J. R. Phillips, of the Toowoomba Fire Brigade. Corporal Phillips leaves for England on Thursday.

*(Darling Downs Gazette, Queensland – 30 September, 1916)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **CASUALTY LIST NO. 429**

REPORTED NOT WOUNDED  
Private J. G. Phillips, Toowoomba

*(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 10 August, 1917)*

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### **CASUALTIES**

#### **THE 443th AND 449th LISTS**

##### **DIED OTHER CAUSES**

J. G. Phillips, Toowoomba, 1/11/18 (illness)

*(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 30 November, 1918)*

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### **PERSONAL**

In November last the death occurred in England of Sergt. J. G. Phillips from pneumonia following on influenza. Sergt. Phillips, who was a son of Mr. J. Phillips, superintendent of the Toowoomba Fire Brigade, had three years' service to his credit and prior to his death had just gained his commission after a successful term at Cambridge. For his work in the field in France he was awarded the meritorious service medal but the young soldier died before the honour was presented to him. The Mayor of Toowoomba (Ald. T. S. Burstow) has now received the medal for presentation to Sergt. Phillips' parents and it is likely that it will be handed over on the first occasion that a suitable public gathering is held.

*(Darling Downs Gazette, Queensland – 1 July, 1919)*

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## **M.S. MEDAL AWARDED**

### **THE LATE SERGEANT G. PHILLIPS**

At the conclusion of his address the Mayor presented to Mrs. James Phillips (wife of Supt. J. Phillips, of the Toowoomba Fire Brigade), the meritorious service medal which had been awarded to her son for service in France. Mrs. Phillips was accompanied by her husband, and others on the platform were Major C. Fortescue, D.S.O., M.C., and Chaplain Captains J. Lundie and A. Davies.

In presenting the medal to Mrs. Phillips, the Mayor referred to the sacrifices made by Australians in the war, and spoke of the 59,000 Australians who lie in silent graves in foreign lands. Sergt. Phillips was a Toowoomba boy, he said, and was a progressive and promising lad. He enlisted in April, 1916, and on arrival overseas was in training as an instructor in the 25th Machine Company. He took part in the great fighting at Ypres in September and October of that year and it was for his service there that he received the award of the meritorious service medal. Sergt. Phillips subsequently journeyed to England to study for his commission and two days before he was to receive that honour he lost his life, from influenza. He felt sure that they all participated in the joy at the presentation of the medal and also in the sorrow because the winner of it was not present to receive the medal himself. He congratulated Mrs. Phillips on the award won by her son, who though sprung from Toowoomba had earned meritorious recognition at the hands of his King. In pinning the medal on Mrs. Phillips' breast the Mayor said he was proud indeed to have had the pleasure of presenting the medal. (Cheers.)

Major Fortescue said that, with Chaplain Captains Lundie and Davies, he was present that morning to represent the returned soldiers. Those of them who had got back to Australia appreciated how fortunate they were, but those who would never return had fulfilled their duty to their country and had helped to maintain Australia's honour. (Applause.)

'THE LAST POST.'

Following the idea adopted all over the Commonwealth the Mayor called for silence at 12 noon out of respect for those who have paid the supreme sacrifice during the war. Many a tear was shed as those present thought of loved ones who would never return, having been cut down in the fulfilment of their duty to their King and Empire. After a minute or two's impressive silence the 'Last Post' was sounded by Warrant Officer James Compton, the general secretary of the Celebration Committee.

*(Darling Downs Gazette, Queensland – 21 July, 1919)*

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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)*

Serjeant J. G. Phillips does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Sleep On Beloved Until The Day Dawn*

*With Love From Father And Mother*



## **Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England**

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge (known locally as Newmarket Road Cemetery) contains 1,019 Commonwealth War Graves – 186 from World War 1 & 833 from World War 2.

The 1st Eastern General Hospital, with 1,173 beds, was posted to Cambridge during the First World War, initially at the Leys School and Trinity College, later in huts. The First World War burials in Cambridge City Cemetery are mostly in two plots, one in the southern part of the burial ground, known as the Dominion Plot, and the other on the northern boundary. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western border of the Dominion Plot, while in the centre of the other is a memorial cross of Portland stone which was erected by private subscription. The Second World War graves are also mainly in two War Graves Plots with a few others scattered throughout the cemetery. The general Service plot was established in 1940, and the Air Force plot in 1942 for the burial of casualties from the Air Force stations set up in the eastern counties during the war. These included Bomber Command bases in Lincolnshire and fighter stations in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Stone of Remembrance, which was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder in July 1951, stands near the centre of the Air Force plot. Cambridge City Cemetery contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 829, (inclusive 3 unidentified), from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains four non-war service burials and ten war graves of other nationalities.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



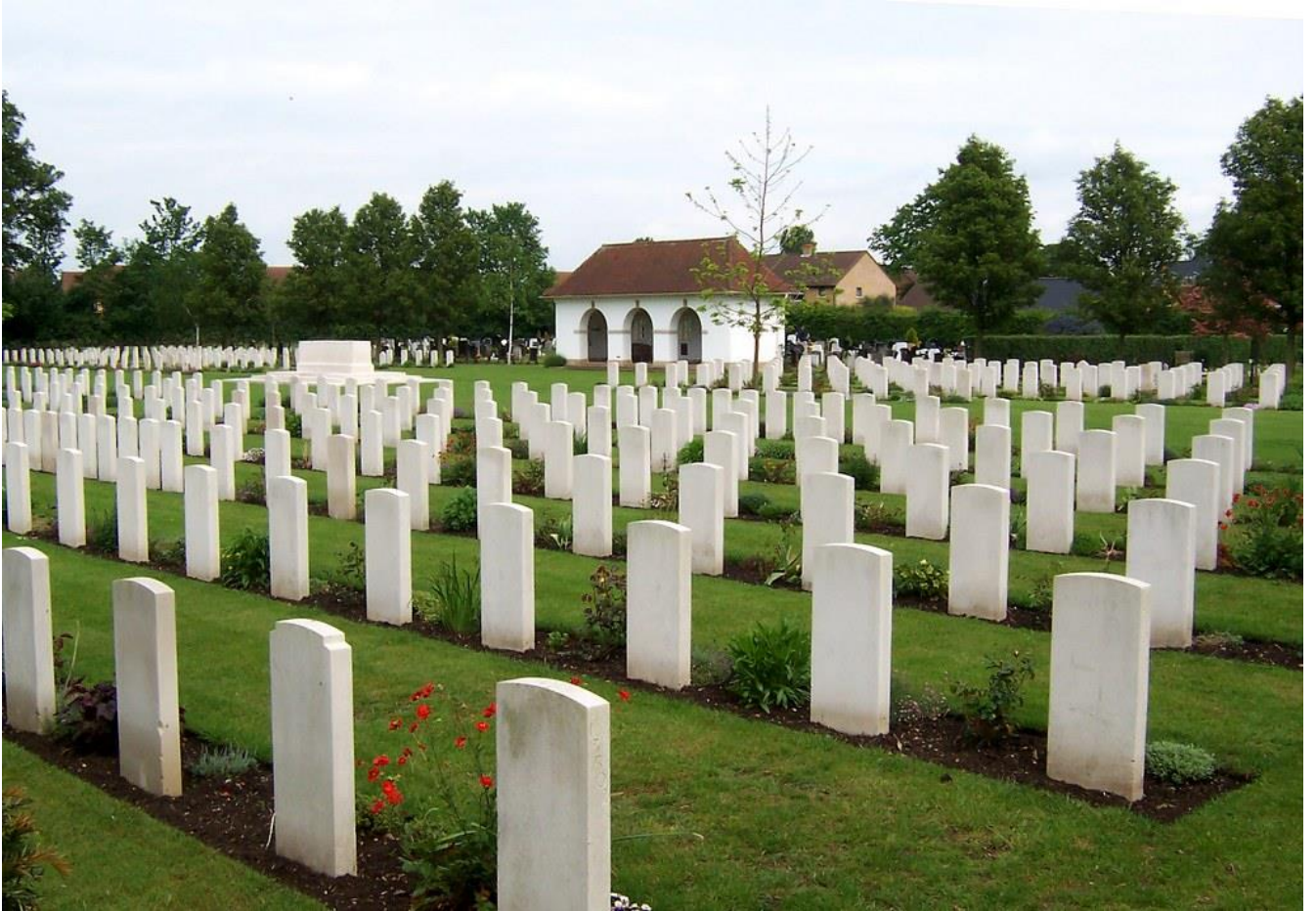


Photo of Serjeant J. G. Phillips' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.



*(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo from CWGC)



**Entrance to Cambridge City Cemetery & Map (below)** (Photos by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

# Cambridge City CEMETERY

