

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

**S. H. PILKINGTON**

**AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS**

**24TH OCTOBER, 1917**

## Stanley Howard PILKINGTON

Stanley Howard Pilkington was born at Avondale, Auckland, New Zealand to parents Edmund and Jane Levie Pilkington (nee Cooper). His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1889 in Auckland, New Zealand.

Edmund Pilkington, father of Stanley Howard Pilkington, died on 2nd October, 1895 at Avondale, Auckland, New Zealand.

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded Stanley Howard Pilkington as a 12 year old Scholar, living with his grandparents at 46 Irvine Place, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. His grandparents were listed as Francis Cooper (Clerk, aged 76) & Janet Cooper (aged 71). Also listed in the household – Mary Cooper – daughter of Francis & Janet Cooper (Teacher of Music, aged 52); Maggie Cargill Levie – niece of Francis & Janet Cooper (Housekeeper, aged 37); Ivy Laura Pilkington – granddaughter of Francis & Janet Cooper & sister of Stanley (Scholar, aged 10).

Stanley Howard Pilkington was educated at Gordon's College, Aberdeen, Scotland.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Stanley Pilkington arrived in Sydney, NSW when he was 24 years old.

Stanley Howard Pilkington was a 27 year old, single, Fitter & Turner from Hassen's Wall Road, Lithgow, NSW when he enlisted on 11th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) at R.A.S. G. (Royal Agricultural Show Ground) Camp, Sydney, NSW. His service number was 1283 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Jane Pilkington, Beaconsfield Street, Gray Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand. Stanley Pilkington stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been an apprentice for 6 years with Clyne Mitchel & Coy, Aberdeen, Scotland. He also stated he had previously served with Territorials – Engineers & was discharge don going abroad. Stanley Pilkington had previously tried to enlist but had been rejected on account of his teeth.

Private Stanley Howard Pilkington was posted to Recruits at Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW from 11th October, 1916. He was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements, A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) from 16th October, 1916.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Howard Pilkington embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 6th December, 1916 with the 2nd Australian Flying Squadron, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 3rd March, 1917.

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.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Howard Pilkington was marched in to Australian Details – Camp 6 & 7 on 4th March, 1917. He was marched out to A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 6th March, 1917 & was marched in to A.F.C. Depot No. 6 Camp at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 7th March, 1917.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Howard Pilkington was On Command at School of Technical Training, A.F.C. Reading from 1st June, 1917.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Howard Pilkington was attached to No. 29 Training Squadron at Shawbury from 15th June, 1917 pending transfer. He was On Command for Instruction at Tern Hill (29th Wing) from 17th June, 1917.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Howard Pilkington was marched out to A.I.F. Headquarters on 6th July, 1917 as Cadet.

Having graduated as Flying Officer (Pilot) – Cadet Stanley Howard Pilkington was appointed Second Lieutenant in A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Force) (A.I.F. List 251) & was posted to Australian Flying Corps from 18th October, 1917.

On 24th October, 1917 Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington was piloting R.E.8 Serial number A3841 from No. 66 Training Squadron, Yatesbury, Wiltshire when it stalled & nose dived ½ mile east of Yatesbury Aerodrome. Wiltshire, England.

Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington died on 24th October, 1917 at Yatesbury, Wiltshire, England as a result of an aeroplane accident. A Medical Certificate was produced & "certified that Cadet S. H. Pilkington died as the result of fracture base of Skull on 24.10.17."

A Court of Enquiry was held at Yatesbury, Wiltshire on 24th October, 1917 by order of Major A. M. Morison, Commanding No. 66 Training Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, for the purpose of enquiring into the accident to RE 8 Machine No. 3841, Engine No. 29481 WD 12311, whereby the Pilot Cadet S. H. Pilkington, A.F.C. was killed on 24th October, 1917 near Yatesbury, Wiltshire, England.

7 NOV 1917

Capt.  
Lieut.  
for officer i/c Records.  
Army Form A. 2.

D. D. & L. London, E.C.  
Agents Wt. 171258/373 500/000 12/15 Sch. 2

Forms  
A. 2  
39

PROCEEDINGS of a<sup>o</sup> COURT OF ENQUIRY.

\*N.B. — The Form being applicable to any Board of Officers, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly.

The proceedings should be signed by each Officer composing the Board, etc.

assembled at YATESBURY.

on the 24th. October 1917.

by order of Major. A.M. Morison.

Commanding No.66. Training Squad. Royal Flying Corps.

RE8. 3841.  
Engine No. 29481.  
WD. 12311.  
No.66. T.S.  
YATESBURY.

for the purpose of enquiring into the accident to RE 8  
Machine No. 3841. Engine No. 29481 WD 12311, whereby the  
Pilot Cadet S.H.Pilkington A.F.C. was killed on  
24.10.17 near Yatesbury.

PRESIDENT.

Major. A.M.Morrison. R.F.C.,

MEMBERS.

Lieut. J.V.P. Markham. "

Lieut. E.L. Roberts. "

IN ATTENDANCE.

The COURT having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to  
take evidence.



EVIDENCE OF WITNESSES.

1st. Witness. Capt. O.C.W. Johnsen R.M.E. states:- I was in charge of "A" Flight on 24.10.17. and instructed Cadet Pilkington to take up RE8 Machine No. 3841. at 9.30 a.m. to carry out a practice shoot. The last Pilot to fly the machine Lieut. Collins, reported to me that the Machine and Engine were alright. Cadet Pilkington had flown for 6 hours. 10 minutes on RE 8's and I considered him quite capable. About 11 a.m. it was reported to me that the Machine had crashed about half a mile east of the Aerodrome. I went over and inspected the Machine RE8, 3841 and found Pilot had been removed dead. The machine was too badly smashed up to enable me to draw any conclusion as to the cause of the accident.

(Sgd) W. Johnson, Capt.,  
R.F.A. & R.F.C.

2nd. Witness. No. 56788. A/Cpl. Aylward B.R. states:- I examined the Engine on RE8 No. 3841 at 8.20 a.m. on 24.10.17 and found everything alright. I also asked the Pilot who had last flown the Machine whether the Engine was satisfactory and he said it was.

(Sgd) Aylward B.R.  
A/Corporal.

3rd. Witness. No. 69917. 2/A.M. Poulton W.J. Rigger states:- I examined RE8 No. 3841, on the evening on 23.10.17 at 5.p.m. after flying, and found the rigging satisfactory in every respect.

(Sgd) W.J.M. Poulton 69917.

4th Witness (Documentary)

Arthur George Pearce, Ploughman states:- About 11a.m. on 24.10.17 I saw a Machin Flying about 20 ft high over a field where we were ploughing, with the engine shut off. Machine suddenly put its nose down and crashed. I went up to the machine and found the Pilot quite dead. When machine fell its nose went straight down into the ground.

(Sgd) Arthur G. Pearce.

Certified true copy ( President :-  
(  
( MEMBERS.

5th. Witness. No. 22064 A/Cpl. Davies D. Rigger, states:- I examined RE8 No. 3841. previous to Cadet Pilkington taking the Machine up on the morning of 24.10.17. at about 10 O'clock and found the rigging of the machine quite satisfactory. I especially examined the left bottom place which had been reported by the previous Pilot as vibrating and found there was nothing whatever wrong with it.

(Sgd) Davies D.  
A/Cornl.

6th Witness.

2/Lieut. L.E. Collins, R.F.C. states:- I took up REB No. 3841, at 7.10 a.m. for 90 minutes on the morning of 24.10.17. The machine and engine were both satisfactory. I reported to Capt. Johnsen that the Engine was satisfactory.

(Sgd) L.E. Collins. 2/Lieut.  
R.F.C.

Medical evidence attached A.M. Morison.  
President. Major.

FINDING

The Court having heard the evidence examined the wreckage and log books of the Machine RE B No. 3841, and find as follows:-

- (1) The accident was due to a nose dive.
- (2) There is no evidence to show what caused the nose dive
- (3) Cadet Pilkington was a capable Pilot and able to fly the Machine.
- (4) The Machine and Engine was in good order when Cadet Pilkington left the ground.

The Accidents Committee has not investigated the cause of the accident.

(Sgd) A.M. Morison. Major.  
PRESIDENT.

Finding:

The Court found that the accident was due to a nose dive but there was no evidence to show what caused the nose dive. Cadet Pilkington was a capable Pilot & able to fly the machine. The machine & engine were in good order when Cadet Pilkington left the ground.

A death for Stanley H. Pilkington, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Marlborough, Wiltshire, England.

Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington was buried at 1.30 pm on 30th October, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179, 950.

From the burial report of Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased Officer was accorded a Full Military Funeral, Bagpipes, Band, Buglers and Firing Party, Part of Mourners and Bearers being supplied by the South African Regiment stationed at Woking. Wreaths were sent from the following:- Mrs F. Cooper, Grandmother, Aberdeen; Mr Frank Cooper, Birmingham; Mr Frank Cooper, London; Misses Dolson's; Mrs Crocker and family, Officers of the 66th Squadron, R.F.C. "His Brother Australian Officers"; Lieut. Dawson and from his lady friend Miss Cooke, Bristol. Captain Newland, Australian Flying Corps, represented the A.I.F. at the funeral. An oak cross will be erected on the grave by the A.I.F.*

*Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral – Mr Frank Cooper (Uncle), Mr Frank Cooper, Junr, (Cousin), Mrs Janet Binns (Cousin), Miss Lizzie Murray (cousin) and Mr Kite (a friend).*

Base Records wrote to Mrs J. Pilkington, 26 Beaconsfield St, Grey Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand on 3rd April, 1923 stating that the site of her son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row D Grave 20.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. D. 20. Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Glaister & McConnell, Barrister & Solicitor, Auckland, New Zealand, wrote to The Minister of Defence, Melbourne, Victoria on 31st October, 1917 with the following: *"I am acting for Mrs Jane Pilkington the mother of the late Stanley Howard Pilkington who is a member of the Australian Imperial Forces under Number 1283 Australian Flying Corps & was reported killed at Yatesbury, England on 24th October, 1917 as a result of an aeroplane accident. In order to obtain Probate of the Will of a deceased New Zealand soldier, we must obtain a certified copy of the entry of death from the Registrar General, who received the notice of the death from the Defence Authorities. I do not, however, know the procedure in Australia. I shall be obliged if you will have sent to me such certificate of death as is usually issued by your Department, or any other official in these cases."*

W. D. M. Glaister, Barrister & Solicitor, Auckland, New Zealand, wrote to Base Records on 27th November, 1917 in regards to Stanley Howard Pilkington, deceased, Australian Flying Corps: *"The above was reported killed at Yatesbury on 24th October 1917 as a result of an aeroplane accident I am acting for Mrs Jane Pilkington, the mother, who is sole executrix and beneficiary in the deceased's will, and I shall be obliged if you will let me have a certificate of death in order that I may lodge it on the application for probate."*

W. D. M. Glaister, Barrister & Solicitor, Auckland, New Zealand, wrote to Base Records on 14th January, 1918 regarding 2nd Lieutenant S. H. Pilkington: *"Pardon my enquiring, but I shall be obliged if you will let me know whether the necessary confirming documents with reference to the death of the above deceased have been received by your office."*

Base Records replied to W. D. M. Glaister, Esq., Solicitor on 31st January, 1918 enclosing a Certificate of report of death of the late 2nd Lieutenant S. H. Pilkington, 69th Squadron, Flying Corps.

Glaister & McConnell, Barrister & Solicitor, Auckland, New Zealand, wrote to Base Records on 24th April, 1918 with regards to regarding 2nd Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington: *"We are in receipt of your letter of 31st January last, addressed to our Mr Glaister enclosing Certificate of Death herein, but you refer to him as the 69th Squadron Flying Corps, Australian Imperial Force. It would appear, however, that he left Australia as No. 1283, and for the purposes of the application of Probate, we shall be glad if you will give us a certificate including his number as 1283 if that is correct."*

Private Frank C. Pilkington, Te Waikato Sanatorium, Cambridge, Auckland, New Zealand, wrote to Base Records on 4th August, 1918 with the following: *"I respectfully beg to make enquires in regard to any personal effects of my deceased brother, No. 1283, 2nd Lieut. Stanley Howard Pilkington, who was accidentally killed while flying at Yatesbury, Eng. On Oct. 24th 1917. While in England in March of this year my cousin, who was at the funeral, mentioned that several things belong to my brother were to be sent out to my mother in N.Z., but so far have not arrived. Am writing this on behalf of my mother, of 26 Beaconsfield St., Grey Lynn, Auckland; not that we desire to trouble you in any way, but merely that we desired some little memento of my brother if such has been sent to the Base Records in Melbourne. Thanking you in anticipation of a reply."*

Base Records replied to Private F. C. Pilkington on 19th August, 1918 advising *".... That any personal effects of the abovenamed soldier would be forwarded through the usual channels to Australia, for transmission, either to next-of-kin, (Mother) or in accordance with other testamentary instructions. It is pointed out that owing to the lack of shipping accommodation, considerable delay is experienced in having the belongings of deceased members of the Australian Imperial Force transferred to Australia."*

Base Records contacted Mrs J. Pilkington, 26 Beaconsfield St, Grey Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand, on 11th May, 1921 stating she was registered as the next-of-kin of the late 2/Lieutenant S. H. Pilkington, Australian Flying Corps, but required to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was still alive 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.



Jane Pilkington replied to Base Records in June, 1921 advising that “...I am the nearest relation to my late son, 2/Lieutenant S. H. Pilkington, Australian Flying Corps, having been a widow for the past 25 years...”  
Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Second Lieutenant Pilkington’s widow mother – Mrs J. Pilkington, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington, of 2nd Sqdn, Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Edmund and Jane Pilkington. Native of Avondale, Auckland, New Zealand.

Second Lieutenant S. H. Pilkington is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



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

Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington is remembered by RAAFA Aviation Heritage Museum.



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## PILKINGTON Stanley Howard

LEST WE FORGET

Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard PILKINGTON

Service No: 1283

Born: Auckland NZ, February 1889

Enlisted in the Army: 11 October 1916

Unit: No. 2 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps

Died: Injuries from an Aircraft Accident, England, 24 October 1917, Aged 28 Years

Buried: Brookwood Military Cemetery, Pirbright, Surrey

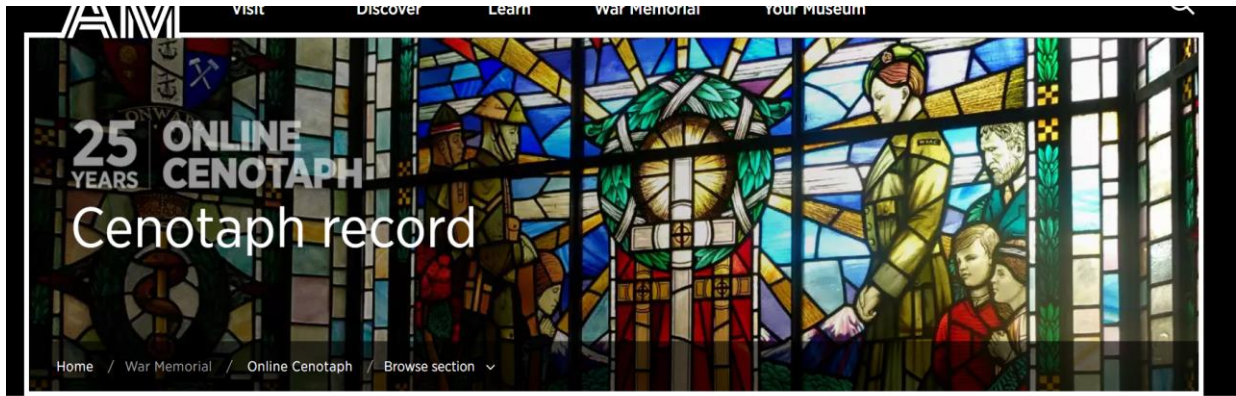
CWGC Additional Information: Son of Edmund and Jane Pilkington. Native of Avondale, Auckland, New Zealand

Place of Association: Sydney NSW

Remembered: Panel 188, Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT

On 24 October 1917, Second Lieutenant Pilkington died of injuries when RE aircraft 3841 that he was flying crashed at Yatesbury. A witness reported that the engine had been shut off prior to landing and the aircraft suddenly dived into the ground. The aircraft had been flown earlier in the day without incident and the cause of the accident was unable to be determined.

S. H. Pilkington is remembered in the World War 1 Hall of Memories, Auckland War Memorial Museum.



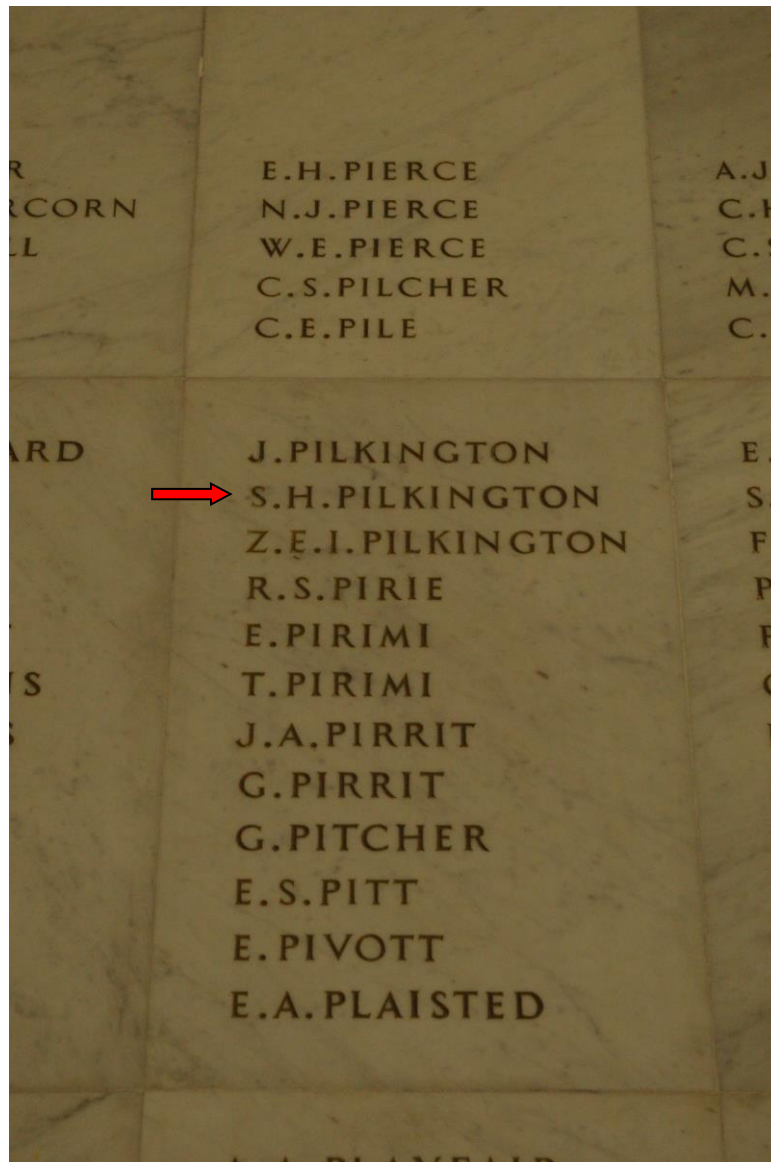
### Online Cenotaph

TE REO MĀORI ENGLISH

Person search

Stanley Howard Pilkington


Browse




(Photo by J. Halpin – 2010)




Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington is remembered by the New Zealand War Graves Project.



Home / Stanley Howard Pilkington



Second Lieutenant  
 **Stanley Howard Pilkington**

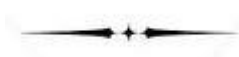
**Conflict:** WW1  
**Additional Information:** Son of Edmund and Jane Pilkington. Native of Avondale, Auckland, New Zealand.

**References:**

- [CWGC](#)
- [Martyn \(1998\)](#)

(82 pages of Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington'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*





SECOND-LIEUT. S. H. PILKINGTON,  
OF GREY LYNN,  
KILLED AS A RESULT OF AEROPLANE  
ACCIDENT.

*(Auckland Weekly News, New Zealand – 22 November, 1917)*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

PILKINGTON – On October 24, 1917, accidentally killed at Yatesbury, England, Cadet Stanley Howard Pilkington, of the Australian Flying Corps, beloved second son of Mrs Jane L. Pilkington, 26, Beaconsfield Street, Grey Lynn, aged 26 years.

*(New Zealand Herald, Volume LIV, Issue 16680 – 26 October, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

PILKINGTON – Killed in aeroplane accident at Yatesbury, Wilts, Cadet Stanley H. Pilkington, Australian Flying Corps, younger son of Mrs Pilkington, Auckland, New Zealand (late of Aberdeen).

*(Aberdeen Evening Express, Aberdeenshire, Scotland – 27 October, 1917) & (Aberdeen Press & Journal, Scotland – 27 Oct, 1917)*

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### **BEREAVEMENT NOTICES**

MRS PILKINGTON and Family sincerely thank all kind friends for expressions of sympathy in the sad loss of their son and brother, Stanley Howard Pilkington.

*(New Zealand Herald, Volume LIV, Issue 16687 – 3 November, 1917)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN FORCES**

#### **DIED RESULT OF AEROPLANE ACCIDENT**

Pilkington, Stanley Howard, 1283 Second Lieutenant (Mrs J. Pilkington, Grey Lynn, m.); October 24th

*(New Zealand Times, Volume XLII, Issue 9809 – 5 November, 1917) & (Auckland Star, Volume XLVIII, Issue 9809 – 5 Nov, 1917)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **LIST No. 355**

New South Wales

ACCIDENTALLY KILLED – 2nd Lieut. S. H. Pilkington

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 November, 1917)*

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Second Lieutenant Stanley Howard Pilkington is remembered on his parents' headstone in George Maxwell Memorial Cemetery, Avondale, Auckland, New Zealand.



*(Photos from Find a Grave – Frangipani)*





*In Loving Memory of*

*Edmond Pilkington*

*Died 2ND Oct. 1895*

*Also His Wife Jane Levie*

*Died 23RD June, 1930*

*Also Their Son*

**SECOND LIEUTENANT STANLEY HOWARD A.I.F.**

*Killed 24TH Oct. 1917.*



*(Photos by J. Halpin – September 2010)*



### 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)*

Second Lieutenant S. H. Pilkington does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **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.



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** *(Photo from CWGC)*





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** (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 Second Lieutenant S. H. Pilkington's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)*





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

