

**Western Necropolis Cemetery,
Glasgow, Scotland
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



35280 GUNNER

C. J. PRUNSTER

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

19TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 25

May The Heavenly Winds

Blow Softly

In This Sweet

And Honored Spot

Charles Joseph PRUNSTER

Charles Joseph Prunster was born at Geraldton, Western Australia in December, 1893 to parents Augustine Gregory Prunster and Frances Emma Prunster (nee Smith).

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Dampier, subdivision of Geraldton, Western Australia listed Charles Joseph Prunster, Butcher, of Fitzgerald Street, Geraldton.

Charles Joseph Prunster was a 23 year old, single, Butcher from Fitzgerald Street, Geraldton, Western Australia when he enlisted on 27th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 35280 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Augustine Prunster, of Fitzgerald Street, Geraldton, Western Australia.

Private Charles Joseph Prunster was posted to 90th Depot on 27th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "X Depot" on 16th November, 1916 then transferred to Artillery Reinforcements on 1st December, 1916 with rank of Gunner. Gunner Prunster was transferred to Field Artillery Reinforcements at Maribyrnong on 18th January, 1917. He was transferred to Field Artillery 27th Reinforcements on 14th May, 1917.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Port Sydney (A15)* on 9th November, 1917 with the Field Artillery, 27th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 12th December, 1917.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster embarked from Alexandria on 18th December, 1917 & disembarked at Taranto on 22nd December, 1917. Gunner Prunster then disembarked at Southampton, England on 4th January, 1918.

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.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery), Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 4th January, 1918.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster proceeded overseas to France from Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 1st April, 1918. He was marched into Australian General Base Depot at Rouelles, France from England on 2nd April, 1918. Gunner Prunster

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster was transferred to 3rd Field Artillery Brigade on 14th April, 1918 from Artillery Reinforcements.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster was appointed Driver with 3rd Field Artillery Brigade from 7th May, 1918 under A.I.F order 785 then reverted back to Gunner on 17th June, 1918.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster was sent sick to Hospital on 24th November, 1918, having been injured accidentally. He was admitted to 58th Casualty Clearing Station with abrasions to face & neck. Gunner Prunster was discharged top duty on 3rd December, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in France on 6th December, 1918.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster was on leave to UK from 4th February, 1919.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster was admitted to Oakbank War Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland on 17th February, 1919 whilst on leave from France.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster died at 3.15 pm on 19th February, 1919 at Oakbank War Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland from Broncho-pneumonia.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster was buried on 25th February, 1919 in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland – Plot number N. 12 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster - *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 conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by beautiful flowers sent from:- Lady Primrose, and the Hospital Staff of Oakbank Hospital, Glasgow.*

The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Burial service conducted by Father Devine of Glasgow. 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.

Names of relatives & friends present at the funeral – A.I.F. Soldiers & Sailors.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster contains a letter from E. Moseley, Matron, Oakbank War Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland which reads: "Gnr. Charles Joseph Prunster was admitted on the 17th February and died on the 19th. He was very ill on admission and soon became delirious so of course he had to be kept extremely quiet. He did not talk as he was not in a condition to do so. Gnr Prunster was visited by an Australian sailor "Rupert Strongman" of the H.M.A.S. "Huon" who also came to his funeral accompanied by several other Australians from the Club. The funeral was on the 25th February to the Western Necropolis, Glasgow. Lady Primrose, who takes great interest in Australians sent a beautiful wreath, I am sorry I am unable to give any other information for although I saw him several times he was not able to do more than answer when I asked him how he was."

Charles Joseph Prunster requested in his Will dated 15th June, 1917 that all his real and personal estate be bequeathed to his father – Augustine Prunster, whom he also appointed as Executor.

Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Prunster's father - Mr A. Prunster, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

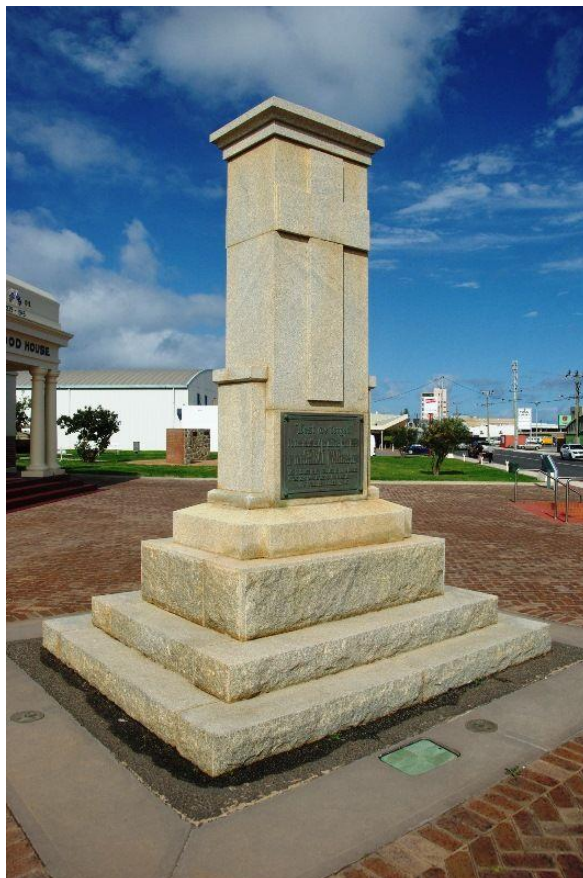
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster – service number 35280, aged 25, of 3rd A.F.A. Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Augustine and Frances Emma Prunster, of Geraldton, Western Australia.

Gunner C. J. Prunster is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 13.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Geraldton War Memorial, Chapman Road & Forrest Street, Geraldton, Western Australia does not list individual names.



Geraldton War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)

(62 pages of Gunner Charles Joseph Prunster'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



Newspaper Notices

PERSONAL ITEMS

His Lordship, Bishop Kelly has received the sad news that Private Charles Prunster, son of Mr and Mrs A. G. Prunster, of Fitzgerald Street, had died in Glasgow, Scotland, where he was presumably on furlough. The deceased soldier was 25 years old in December last and had been on active service just over two years.

(*Geraldton Guardian*, Western Australia – 1 March, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Hero

PRUNSTER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Gunner Charles Joseph, 3rd Army Brigade, late 27th A.F.A. Reinforcements, who died February 19, 1919, of pneumonia, at Glasgow; second son of A. and F. E. Prunster, Fitzgerald-street, Geraldton, beloved brother of Guss, Alberta, Leslie, Ron and Roma; aged 25 years.

His duty nobly done. R.I.P.

There are many sad homes in Australia to-day,
There is a vacant chair, there is a boy away;
There are falling tears and hearts that yearn
For a soldier boy that will never return.

PRUNSTER – A tribute to the memory of Charles Joseph Prunster, who died in Glasgow, on February 19, 1919, of pneumonia, Third Army Brigade, late 27th A.F.A. Reinforcements, second son of Mr and Mrs A. Prunster, Geraldton; aged 25 years. R.I.P.

Inserted by his friend, R.G.R.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 19 February, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

PRUNSTER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Gunner Charles Joseph, 3rd Army Brigade, late 17th A.F.A. Reinforcements, who died February 19th, 1919, of pneumonia, at Glasgow; second son of Mr & Mrs A. Prunster, Fitzgerald-street, Geraldton, beloved brother of Guss, Alberta, Leslie, Ron and Roma; aged 25 years. R.I.P.

“His duty nobly done”

(The W.A. Record, Perth, Western Australia – 19 February, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

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His duty nobly done. R.I.P.

(Geraldton Guardian, Western Australia – 18 February, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

PRUNSTER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Gunner Charles Joseph, who died in 19th War Hospital, Glasgow, February 19th, 1919, of pneumonia. Second son of Mr and Mrs A. Prunster, beloved brother of Augustine, Alberta, Leslie, Ronald and Roma. Aged 25 years.

His duty nobly done.

R.I.P.

(Geraldton Guardian, Western Australia – 19 February, 1924)



Charles Joseph Prunster



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)

Gunner C. J. Prunster does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

May The Heavenly Winds Blow Softly On This Sweet And Honored Spot

Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland

The Western Necropolis is a large cemetery complex north of Glasgow City Centre. Adjoining this site are the following large cemeteries: Glasgow Lambhill and Glasgow St Kentigerns Cemetery, all three are separate but adjoin each other. Glasgow Garnet Hill Hebrew Burial Ground and Glasgow Crematorium Memorial is also at this site.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Glasgow was one of the ports of embarkation for the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 and several military hospitals opened in the city during the First World War, including the 3rd and 4th Scottish General (1,200 beds each), and the Merryflats War Hospital (500 beds). Battalions of a number of Scottish regiments had their headquarters at Glasgow during both wars, most notably the Highland Light Infantry. The Clydeside shipyards were targeted by German bombers during the Blitz, and Glasgow suffered a particularly ferocious attack on the night of 13/14 March 1941 when many civilians and servicemen were killed.

Glasgow Western Necropolis contains 355 First World War burials, many of them grouped together in Section P, with a small group of Australian graves in Section N. A screen wall near the main entrance carries the badges of the regiments represented in Sections P and H. The 124 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, although there are two among the earlier war graves in Section P. Also in this group are two inter-war service burials and two German war graves.

There are 11 Australian Soldiers from World War 1 buried in Western Necropolis Cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Gunner C. J. Prunster's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.



(Photo from Ben – Find a Grave)



Some of the Australian Headstones in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland (Photo from CWGC)

Gunner C. J. Prunster's headstone marked with red arrow

