

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6601 SERJEANT**

**C. C. ROEBUCK**

**AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS**

**2ND SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 40**

*Rest Till The Dawn Breaks*

*And The Mists Are Vanished*

## Charles Clement ROEBUCK

Charles Clement Roebuck was born at Auckland, New Zealand on 28th May, 1877 to parents Frederick & Eliza Roebuck (nee Page).

According to information provided by his widow for the Roll of Honour – Charles Clement Roebuck came to Australia when he was 3 years old.

Charles Clement Roebuck married Edith Jane Ross in 1904 at Petersham, Sydney, New South Wales. They had the following children – Ross Roebuck (born 3rd February, 1906); Kenneth Haldon Roebuck (born 1908) & Raymond Clement Roebuck (born 10th March, 1911).

Eliza Roebuck, mother of Charles Clement Roebuck, died on 27th October, 1909 at Leichhardt. Sydney, NSW.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Hartley, subdivision of Blackheath, New South Wales recorded Charles Clement Roebuck, Carpenter & Edith Jane Roebuck, Domestic Duties from Blackheath.

Charles Clement Roebuck was a 38 year old, married, Saddler from 256 Norton Street, Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 10th April, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6601 & his religion was Congregational. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Edith J. Roebuck, 256 Norton Street, Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW.

Private Charles Clement Roebuck was posted to A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 20th April, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Field Ambulance on 13th August, 1915 as Sergeant.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 10th November, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 8th Field Ambulance.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was transferred to duty to Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Ferry Post on 27th May, 1916. He was marched in to Details at Tel-el-Kebir on 31st May, 1916

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was admitted to 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 2nd June, 1916 with Dysentery. He was transferred to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbassia from 3rd June, 1916 with Gastroenteritis. He was transferred to B.R.C.C.H. at Montazah on 6th June, 1916 & was discharged to duty on 5th July, 1916. (The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Sergeant Roebuck was admitted to No. 2 AGH on 22nd June, 1916 & discharged on 22nd July, 1916 with Gastroenteritis.)

Mrs E. J. Roebuck, Empire Street, Haberfield, Sydney, NSW was advised by Base Records on 14th June, 1916 that No. 6601 Sergeant C. C. Roebuck, 8th Field Ambulance had been admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital on 4th June, 1916 suffering from Gastro-enteritis (mild).

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was marched in to Divisional Troop Depot at Tel-el-Kebir on 5th July, 1916. He embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on *Arcadian* on 29th July, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force).

[Note: Normally to join the B.E.F. the soldier would be sent straight to France, however, the following details are recorded next on Casualty Form- Active Service for Sergeant Roebuck: He embarked from Folkestone, England on 21st August, 1916 on *Invicta* & disembarked at Boulogne, France on 21st August, 1916. Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck joined the 2nd A.D.B. (Australian Divisional Base) Depot at Etaples on 22nd August, 1916 from England.]

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was marched out from 2nd A.D.B.D. at Etaples, France on 28th September, 1916 & joined A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) the same day. He was marched out to 2nd Divisional A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) on 9th October, 1916 & was marched in at Poperhinghe on 15th October, 1916.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was marched out to 2nd Divisional A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) on 6th November, 1916. He was attached for duty with 7th Field Ambulance in France on 10th November, 1916.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was transferred from 7th Field Ambulance to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) for duty on 23rd March, 1917. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. at Etaples, France on 25th March, 1917.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was sent to Segregation Camp at Etaples on 30th March, 1917 & rejoined A.G.B.D. from Segregation Camp on 11th April, 1917.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was marched out to Artillery Riding School, Etaples, on 5th May, 1917. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. on 18th May, 1917 from Artillery Riding School.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was marched out from A.G.B.D at Etaples on 23rd May, 1917 to join 5th Field Company Engineers. He was attached for duty with 5th Field Company Engineers on 12th June, 1917 from 1st Anzac Reinforcements Camp. Sergeant Roebuck was detached & despatched to Base Depot at Havre on 11th July, 1917. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. at Rouelles on 13th July, 1917 from 5th Field Company.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was marched out from A.G.B.D. at Rouelles to 8th Field Ambulance. He was taken on strength of 8th Field Ambulance on 3rd August, 1917.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was transferred to A.G.B.D. on 4th August, 1917 as he was On Leave to UK from 5th August, 1917.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was admitted to Westminster Hospital, London, England on 7th August, 1917 with a fractured Skull whilst on Leave from France. The fractured Skull was the result of a Street Accident.

Base Records advised Mrs E. J. Roebuck, Empire Street, Haberfield, NSW on 16th August, 1917 that Sergeant C. C. Roebuck had been admitted to Westminster Hospital, England, on 7th August, 1917 suffering from a fractured skull, accidentally received. Communications to his address were returned to Base Records marked "not known".

Base Records advised Mrs E. J. Roebuck, 256 Norton St, Leichhardt, NSW on 16th August, 1917 that Sergeant C. C. Roebuck had been admitted to Westminster Hospital, England, on 7th August, 1917 suffering from a fractured skull, accidentally received. The same message was sent on 25th August, 1917.

Base Records advised Mrs Roebuck, 256 Norton St, Leichhardt, NSW on 29th August, 1917 that Sergeant Charles Roebuck was now dangerously ill. Mrs Roebuck was advised on 4th September, 1917 that Sergeant Charles Roebuck's condition was stationary.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck died at 10.55 pm on 2nd September, 1917 at Westminster Hospital, Broad Sanctuary, London, England from fracture of base of Skull.

A death for Charles C. Roebuck, aged 40, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of St. George Hanover Square, London, England.

Newspaper item – Westminster & Pimlico News, England – 7 September, 1917:

### **SOLDIER'S TRAGIC END**

### **A PARLIAMENT SQUARE FATALITY**

### **FULHAM CONDUCTRESS'S EVIDENCE NOT OBTAINABLE**

*An inquest was held at the Westminster Coroner's Court yesterday (Thursday), by Mr H, Wellington, on a soldier named Sergt Charles Clement Roebuck, from the Australian Headquarters, Westminster, who died in Westminster Hospital as a result of a fall from a bus on which Sarah Oliver, 19 Woodlawn-road, Fulham, was the conductress.*

*The Coroner's officer (Sergeant Overton) said that Miss Oliver had gone away on her holidays, and a letter sent to an address at Norwich, where she was supposed to have gone, had not been replied to.*

*Sergeant John Burke, Australian Forces Record Office, said that deceased had no relatives or personal friends in this country. Witness was able to identify him by his records. He was a sergeant in the Australian Engineers, and met with an accident in Parliament-square on August 7th last and fractured his skull.*

*Dorothy Miller, Clare-gardens, Muswell Hill, said she was on the bus on August 7th and saw the deceased jump on at Parliament-square. He stood on the footboard as the bus was full. He had only been standing there a few minutes when she heard someone scream and, looking up, saw the deceased had fallen off the bud. She had previously heard the conductress tell him to stand inside. The conductress was coming down the stairs at the time the accident happened.*

*P.C. Wilkins, 806T, said that he was riding in the bus at the time if the accident. He saw the deceased jump on the footboard, and about 300 yards further along another person jumped on. The deceased leaned back against the handrail to allow another person room, and he suddenly seemed to lose his balance and fall on the back of his head. The bus was only travelling about five or six miles an hour, and there was no bumping which might have seem likely to shake the man off.*

*Dr Thomas, house surgeon at Westminster Hospital said he saw the deceased when he was admitted on August 7th. He was bleeding from the mouth, nose and ears, and seemed to be suffering from a fractured base of the skull. Deceased was unconscious and suffering from concussion. He lingered on and died on Sunday last, and since death witness had made a post-mortem examination and found that he had an extensive fracture of the skull and the left half of the brain was practically smashed to a pulp. The heart was also found to be in an extreme state of fatty degeneration.*

*Charles Henry Cole, the bus driver, who lives at Teddington, said two soldiers got on the bus at Strutton-ground, and he had not further stop until he got to Great Smith-street. The bell was then rung for him to proceed across Parliament-square, and he had got up a speed of about eight miles an hour when he has the bell to stop, and Miss Oliver informed him that an Australian soldier had fallen off the bus. He got down and saw the deceased, who was taken to Westminster Hospital. At the time of the accident the vehicle was being driven practically on the straight, and there was no jerking whatever.*

*The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."*

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was buried at 1 pm on 8th September, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179 746.

*From the burial report of Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck - Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Party and Bearers being supplied by Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. A Service was conducted at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. R. G. Crawford, Presbyterian Minister, Australian Imperial Force, A.I.F. London. The "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of the Australian Imperial Force, London. No relatives were present at the funeral. One wreath from the Nurses and Comrades in Westminster Hospital, London, S.W. was placed on the grave. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. J. Roebuck, "Waimamaku" Hampden Rd, Abbotsford, Sydney, NSW on 29th March, 1923 stating that the site of Sergeant C. C. Roebuck's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row E Grave 20. "

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. E. 20. Sergeant Roebuck now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck contains a letter from The Assistant Sister, Percy Wards, Westminster Hospital, England which reads: "Sgt Roebuck was brought into this hospital the night of 7th August after having been accidentally thrown off a bus and was found to be suffering from a severe fracture of the base of the skull. He was quite unconscious and grew rapidly worse from the first there was little hope of recovery. He was operated upon and for the first day or so he was rather restless as the result of – or rather from the effects of the operation, but after that he lay in a state on unconsciousness from which he never rallied. In all that time we were of the opinion he was suffering no pain. He merely grew weaker and died on 2.9.17 as the result of the accident. His fall was entirely accidental, had it been due to alcoholism we should have detected that on admission, but the relatives may be somewhat consoled in their loss to learn that as a result of the inquest held the reporters gave it as "Death due to an act of courtesy" as Sgt Roebuck was stepping aside to let someone enter or leave the bus when it started and he was thrown violently to the ground. As he was a big and powerful man he fell with great force on the pavement and the inquest revealed the fact that his skull was badly damaged. Everything possible was

*done for him but his case was almost hopeless from the first. Everyone in the Ward was interested in him and genuinely sorry that such a splendid specimen of physical humanity could not be restored to health and strength. The funeral was held this afternoon (Saturday Sept. 8th) and a beautiful wreath inscribed for by all the patients in the Percy Ward was placed on the coffin as a mark of sympathy from fellow soldiers – all but one of whom were British.”*

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck requested in his Will (extracted from his Pay Book) that anything accruing to be left to his wife & children.

A War Pension was granted to Edith Jane Roebuck, 256 Norton St., Leichhardt, widow of the late Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck, in the sum of £2/13/9 per fortnight from 6th November, 1917. Pensions were also granted to the three children of Sergeant Charles Clement & Edith Roebuck – Ross Roebuck (£1); Kenneth Haldon Roebuck (15/-) & Raymond Clement Roebuck (10/-) – all granted per fortnight from 6th November, 1917.

Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Roebuck's widow – Mrs E. J. Roebuck, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck – service number 6601, aged 40, of 8th Field Amb., Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of Frederick & Eliza Roebuck; husband of Edith J. Roebuck, of “Waimamaku” Hampden Rd, Abbotsford, Sydney.

Sergeant C. C. Roebuck is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



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

C. C. Roebuck is remembered on Leichhardt War Memorial, located in Pioneers Memorial Park, Norton Street, Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW.



Leichhardt War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



C.C. Roebuck is remembered on the Vaucluse First World War Honour Rolls, located at Dunbar House, 9 Marine Parade, Watsons Bay, Sydney, NSW.



Vaucluse First World War Honour Rolls (Photos from War Memorial Register NSW)



Charles Clement Roebuck is remembered by the New Zealand War Graves Project.



The screenshot shows the website header for the New Zealand War Graves Project, featuring a red banner with the project name and a white cross. Below the banner is a navigation bar with a 'Home' link and the name 'Charles Clement Roebuck'. The main content area includes a photograph of a white stone grave marker with a cross, set in a grassy area. To the right of the photo, the text identifies the subject as 'Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck'. It lists his conflict as WW1 and provides additional information: he is the son of Frederick and Eliza Roebuck, the husband of Edith J. Roebuck, and was born in Waimamaku, Hampden Rd., Abbotsford, Sydney. He is noted as a native of New Zealand. A references section lists two sources: CWGC and National Archives of Australia.

(60 pages of Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck'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*



**Charles Clement Roebuck**





**Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck**



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **KILLED IN ACTION**

#### **To-day's Casualty List**

ILL

Sergt. C. C. ROEBUCK, Haberfield

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 1 July, 1916)*

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### **KILLED THROUGH COURTESY**

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned at a Westminster inquest on Wednesday on Charles Clement Roebuck, aged 39, an Australian soldier on leave from France.

It was stated that he stood on the platform of a full bus for 300 yards, and when another person attempted to enter the vehicle he leant back against the handrail to make room. Overbalancing, he fell into the roadway, fracturing his skull.

*(Hull Daily Mail, Hull, Yorkshire, England – 7 September, 1917)*

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### **FATAL ACT OF COURTESY**

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned, at a Westminster inquest, on Thursday, on Chas. Clement Roebuck, aged 39, a Sergeant in an Australian Regiment on leave from France.

It was stated that on August 7 Roebuck stood on the platform of a full omnibus for 300 yards, and that when another person attempted to enter the vehicle he leaned back against the handrail to make room for the newcomer, overbalanced, and fell into the roadway, fracturing his skull. He died in Westminster Hospital from his injuries on September 2.

*(Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, England – 8 September, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

ROEBUCK – Died September 2, 1917, of wounds received in France, Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck, third son of F. Roebuck, of Leichhardt, Watson's Bay. After life's fitful fever he sleeps well.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Australia – 12 September, 1917)*

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### **FALL FROM A BUS**

An inquest was held at Westminster on Charles Clement Roebuck, forty, a sergeant in an Australian regiment, who was fatally injured on August 7 by falling from an omnibus in Parliament-square. Roebuck was admitted to the Westminster Hospital suffering from a fracture of the base of the skull.

Miss Dorothy Millar, a passenger on the omnibus, said she saw Roebuck standing on the footboard, and she heard the conductor tell him to get inside.

Police-constable Wilkins said that he saw Roebuck get on the bus. His companion got inside, but Roebuck remained on the footboard. The bus travelled about 300 yards, and another person jumped on, when Roebuck, leaning against the rail, lost his balance, and fell head first into the roadway.

Dr. Thomas, of the Westminster Hospital, said that the man was unconscious when admitted, and he died on September 2. The heart was in a very degenerated condition.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

*(Illustrated Police News – 13 September, 1917)*

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## **Latest Casualties**

### **338TH LIST**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

Died of Injuries

Sgt. C. C. Roebuck, Leichhardt (previously reported injured)

*(The Land, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 21 September, 1917)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

ROEBUCK – Died 2/9/17, in England, of wounds received in France, Sergeant Charles Clement Roebuck, brother of Fredk. Percy Roebuck, Abbotsford.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Australia – 18 October, 1917)*

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## **A FATAL ACT OF COURTESY**

A verdict of accidental death was returned at a Westminster inquest on the 6th instant on Charles Clement Roebuck, aged thirty-nine years, a sergeant in an Australian regiment on leave from France, says the "British Australasian" (London) of the 13th of September. It was stated that on the 7th of August Roebuck stood on the platform of a full omnibus for 300 yards and that when another person attempted to enter the vehicle he leaned back against the handrail to make room for the newcomer, overbalance, and fell into the roadway, fracturing his skull. He died in Westminster Hospital from his injuries on the 2nd instant.

*(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 3 November, 1917)*

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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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 29th July, 1921, to Mrs E. J. Roebuck, 256 Norton Street, Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late No. 6601 Sergeant C. C. Roebuck, 8th Field Ambulance, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Sergeant C. C. Roebuck does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Rest Till The Dawn Breaks*

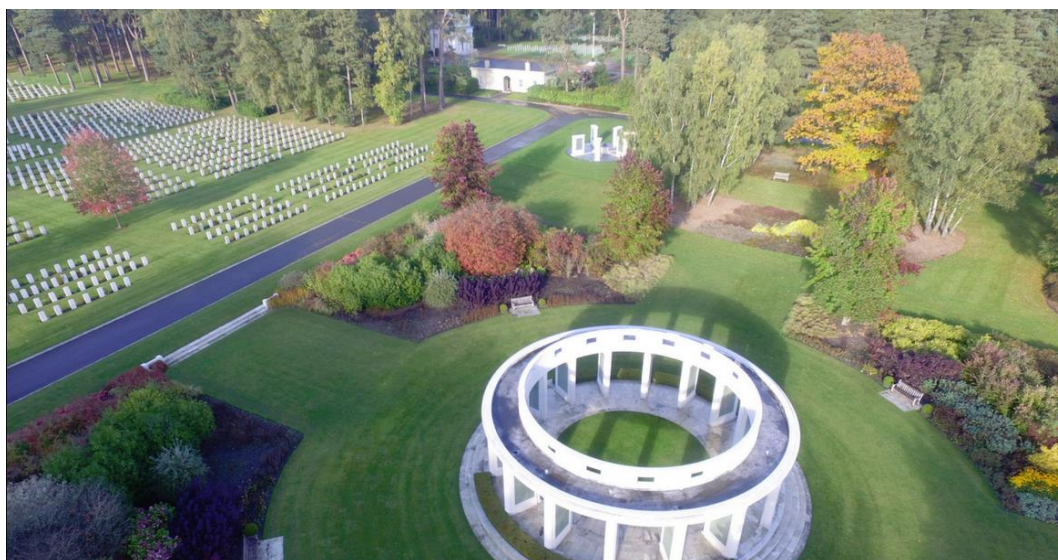
*And The Mists Are Vanished*

### **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 Serjeant C. C. Roebuck's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.







(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

