

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2440 PRIVATE

L. A. E. RUSSELL

45TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH MARCH, 1917 Age 19

*Silently
Angels Have Taken Him
To The Beautiful
Mansions Above*

Leslie Arthur Eugene RUSSELL

Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was born in Hobart, Tasmania around 1896 to parents Robert Griffin Russell and Lucy Elizabeth Russell

Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell attended Battery Point Public School, Hobart, Tasmania.

Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was an 18 year old, single, Driver from 186 Bulwura Road, Pyrmont, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 1st June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2440 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs L. Russell, of 186 Bulwura Road, Pyrmont, Sydney, NSW. As Leslie Russell was under the age of 21 years, his parents' were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Lucy Russell, mother of Leslie Russell signed her consent n 1st June, 1915.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was posted to 13th Battalion.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 20th August, 1915 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell joined the 13th Battalion at Mudros on 23rd October, 1915.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros from H.T. *Tunisian* on 3rd January, 1916.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was absent from Parade at 09.00 on 31st January, 1916. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Barracks.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was sent to Hospital at Moascar from 9th February, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 12th February, 1916.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was transferred from 13th Battalion to 45th Battalion on 3rd March, 1916.

45th Battalion

The 45th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 2 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 13th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 13th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men from New South Wales.

As part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division, the 45th Battalion arrived in France on 8 June 1916, destined for the Western Front.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was transferred to 10th Field Artillery Brigade on 17th March, 1916 with the rank of Gunner & was posted to 39th Battery at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from 22.00 on 30th April, 1916 to 22.30 on 4th May, 1916 while posted at Serapeum. He was awarded 7 days F.P. No. 2 (Field Punishment) & forfeited 5 days' pay for his absence.

Gunner Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was mustered as Driver from 1st June, 1916

Driver Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 5th June, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 13th June, 1916.

Driver Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was sent sick to Hospital on 25th June, 1916. He was admitted to 13th Field Ambulance with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Driver Russell was admitted to Australian Hospital at

Wimereux, France on 9th July, 1916 with Influenza. He embarked from Boulogne on Hospital Ship *St David* on 10th July, 1916 for England.

Driver Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was admitted to the County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, England on 11th July, 1916 with Influenza. He was discharged on 8th September, 1916.

Mrs L. Russell, mother of Driver L. A. E. Russell, was advised on 24th July, 1916 that her son had been admitted to the County of Middlesex War Hospital, England on 11th July with Influenza – severe. She was advised on 5th August, 1916 that her son was progressing favourably & again on 31st August, 1916.

Driver Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was marched out from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 13th October, 1916 & marched in to No. 3 Command Depot – Bovington, Camp, Wool the same day.

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.

Driver Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was marched in to 12th Training Battalion at Codford from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 15th December, 1916.

Driver Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was marched in to Australian Details No. 7 Camp at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 21st December, 1916 from Fovant, Wiltshire.

Driver Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 8th January, 1917 on S.S. *Henrietta* from 12th Training Battalion, Codford, Wiltshire. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples on 13th January, 1917.

Driver Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell rejoined 45th Battalion in the field on 18th January, 1917 from 10th Field Artillery Brigade & reverted to the rank of Private.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was wounded in action in France on 19th February, 1917. He was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance with bullet wounds to buttock on 20th February, 1917 then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on the same day. Private Russell was transferred to No. 31 Ambulance Train on 2nd March, 1917 & admitted to 7th Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 2nd March, 1917 with gunshot wounds to right buttock – severe. Private Russell embarked from Calais, France on Hospital Ship *Brighton* on 15th March, 1917.

War Diary – 45th Battalion

19th February, 1917 – Guedecourt

Enemy artillery moderately active on our sector. Trench mortars also active. Enemy's block in STORMY Trench and wire examined again on the night of the 18th.

Casualties – 1 OR Killed 1 OR Wounded.

Mrs L. Russell, mother of Driver L. A. E. Russell, was advised on 9th March, 1917 that her son had been reported wounded.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England on 15th March, 1917.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell died at 3am on 28th March, 1917 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to right buttock. Advice was sent from Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, Norwich on 28th March, 1917 to the O/C 45th A.I.F., 130 Horseferry Road Westminster that Private Leslie Russell, 2440, "A" Company, 45th A.I.F. had died from "G.S.W. abdomen. Penetrating."

A death for Leslie Russell, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Norwich, Norfolk, England.



Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was buried on 30th March, 1917 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Section 25, Grave No. 247.

A letter was sent on 19th April, 1920 from Base Records to Mrs R. Russell, 186 Bulwarra Road, Pyrmont, NSW, mother of the late Private L. A. E. Russell, advising that *“now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from the former site, and re-interred in Grave No.707, Section 54, Norwich Cemetery, Norwich. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”*

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell contains a letter from Secretary, Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, Norwich, England which reads: *“I regret to inform you of the death of the above mentioned man, which took place at this Hospital at 3 am yesterday. Pte Russell was admitted here on the 15th inst. suffering from gunshot wounds of the right buttock and abdomen, and on the 27th inst, his condition was so serious that I telegraphed to the Australian Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Road, S.W. giving them the address of his mother, and asking that a cable might be sent to her at 186, Bullawarra Road, Pyrmont, Sydney, as he had no relatives or friends in England. The Sister of the Ward has written to Mrs Russell to tell her of her son’s last hours, and one of our other Australian patients has offered to visit her on his return home, to give her any other information which she may wish. We have here a ring, knife, pocketbook, and a few letters etc. belonging to Pte Russell, and I shall be obliged if you will please inform me whether these should be sent to you.”*

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell requested in his Will that “I leave everything to my mother – Mrs Lucy Russell.”

Base Records contacted Mrs L. Russell, 186 Bulwarra Road, Pyrmont, NSW, in August, 1920, stating she was registered on the records of the late Private L. A. E. Russell as next-of-kin. Base Records were enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself 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. Lucy Russell replied with a list of family members – father – R. G. Russell, mother – Lucy Russell, 2 brothers & sister.

Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Russell's father – Mr R. G. Russell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

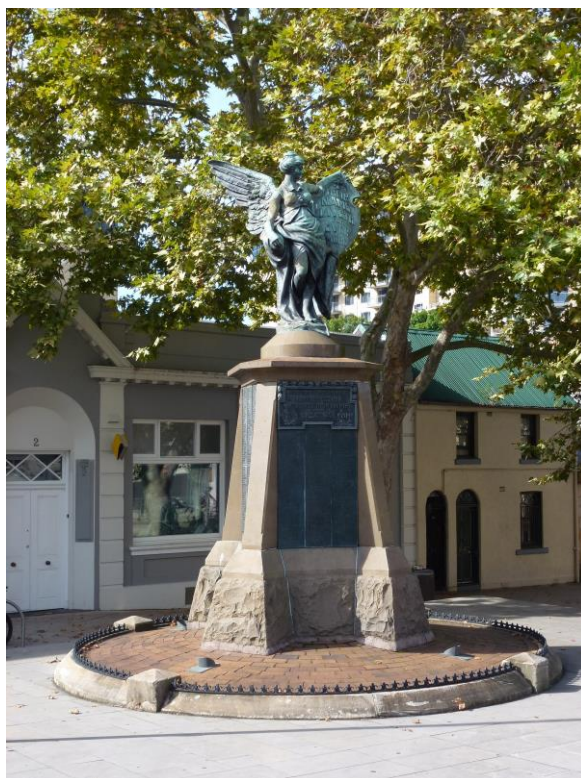
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie Russell – service number 2440, aged 19, of 45th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Robert Griffin Russell and Lucy Elizabeth Russell, of 186 Bulwarra Road, Pyrmont, Sydney, New South Wales.

Private L. A. E. Russell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 140.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

L. A. E. Russell is remembered on the Pyrmont and Ultimo War Memorial, located at Union Square, Harris Street, Pyrmont, Sydney, NSW.



Pyrmont and Ultimo War Memorial (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden)



(45 pages of Private Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell'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

Connected to Leslie Arthur Eugene Russell:

His Father – Robert Griffin Russell, Plasterer, aged 43 – Enlisted on 17th January, 1916. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on 3rd June, 1916 on HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on with 1st Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements with a service number of 5760.

Prisoner of War – Interned at Kreigs Gef: Alexandrianen Strassen, Berlin. 5th November, 1916. Repatriated & arrived at Ripon, England on 14th December, 1918.

Returned to Australia 5th March, 1919. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Australian Prisoner of War – Pte Robert Griffin Russell.

Newspaper Item – Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 15 March, 1939:

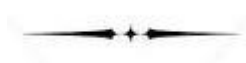
CHARGE CHANGED TO MURDER

Sydney, Tuesday

A charge of having inflicted grievous bodily harm to Robert Griffin Russell, at Pymont, on February 27, preferred against William Smith, 38, seaman, at Central Police Court to-day, was altered to one of murder.

Russell died yesterday, the Police Prosecutor (Constable Magnay) informed the Court.

Smith was remanded pending the inquest. Bail was not sought.



Newspaper Notices

DIED OF WOUNDS

GUNNER L. A. E. RUSSELL.

Mrs. Russell, of 186 Bulwarra-road, Pymont, wife of Private R. G. Russell, who is a prisoner of war in Germany, has received Information that her son, Gunner L. A. E. Russell, has died of wounds received in France. He went through the Gallipoli campaign prior to serving in France, and was twice wounded. He had not long returned to the firing line when he was fatally wounded.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 April, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

RUSSELL – Died of gunshot wounds received in France, March 28, 1917, Private Leslie Arthur Eugene, aged 19 years, eldest dearly beloved son of Private R. G. Russell (on active service), and Mrs Lucy Russell, beloved brother of Bob and Sid, of 186 Bulwarra-road, Pymont.

Gone is my son I loved so dear,
Silent the voice I loved to hear,
He sleeps in a lonely grave,
Far away from those he loved.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother and father (on active service), brother, Bob and Sid.

RUSSELL – Died of gunshot wounds received in France, March 28, 1917, Private Leslie Arthur Eugene, aged 19 years, eldest dearly beloved son of Private R. G. Russell (on active service), and Mrs Lucy Russell, of 186 Bulwarra-road, Pymont.

Your death has saddened us, dear brother,
Its made us weep and sigh;
But you died an Australian soldier,
The greatest death of all.

Inserted by his only sister and brother-in-law, and nieces, Nancy, Lucy, WHiity.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 April, 1917)

286th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Wounds

Pte L. A. E. Russell, Pymont

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 13 April, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM
On Active Service

RUSSELL - In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Leslie A. E. Russell late 45th Batt., died of wounds received at Bapaume, March 28, 1917, aged 19 years and 6 months. (Anzac)

You are always in my thoughts, dear Les,

It is sweet to breathe your name.

In life I loved you dearly,

In death I do the same.

Never forgotten by his ever-loving mother and father (Prisoner War), brothers, Bob, Sid, 186 Bulwarra-road, Pymont.

RUSSELL - In sad but loving memory of our dear brother. Private Leslie A. E. Russell, late 45th Batt., died of wounds received at Bapaume March 28 1917. (Anzac)

Sadly we are thinking of our soldier brother brave,

Who fought and died for his country, and won a hero's grave.

Inserted by his only sister and brother-in-law, Winnie and Tom Whitty

RUSSELL - In sad but loving memoir of our dear nephew and cousin, Private Leslie A. E. Russell, died of wounds, March 28, 1917. He died as he lived, nobly. Inserted by his loving Aunt Grace, Aunt Mary, Uncle Charley, Uncle Peter and cousins, Grace, Lucy, Elsie, Willie (Melbourne).

RUSSELL -In dear memory of my dear mate and comrade, Private Leslie A. E. Russell, died of wounds, March 28, 1917. Never forgotten by his dear comrade, Gunner J. W. Harrison (on active service).

RUSSELL.-In loving memory of my dear comrade, Gunner Leslie E. A. Russell died of wounds, on March 28, 1917. Inserted by his sincere friend, Gunner Joseph Harrison, Pymont, also Mr and Mrs Marshall.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 March, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM
On Active Service

RUSSELL – In ever loving memory of our beloved son, Private L. A. E. Russell, 45th Batt., late 13th, died of wounds received at Bapaume, March 28, 1917. An Anzac.

Days of sadness still come o'er me,

Hidden, secret tears still flow;

For memory keeps my dear son near me,

Loving remembrance loves for ever.

Never forgotten by his ever loving mother and father, Lucy and Private R. G. Russell, 186 Bulwarra-road, Pymont.

RUSSELL – In memory of our dear brother, Private L. A. E. Russell, 45th Batt., died of wounds, March 28, 1917. An Anzac.

We miss you, for we loved you;

As memories we recall;

For the parting of my darling brother

Was the saddest day of all.

Inserted by his only sister and brother-in-law, Winnie and Tom Whitty.

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RUSSELL – In ever loving memory of our beloved brother, Pte L. A. E. Russell, died of wounds, March 28, 1917. Never forgotten by his ever loving brothers, Bob and Sid Russell. An Anzac. We miss you most who loved you best.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 March, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

RUSSELL – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private L. A. E. Russell, No. 2440, 45th Batt., late 13th, died of wounds, March 28, 1917. Norwich Hospital, England. An Anzac. Never forgotten by his loving mother, father, brothers, Bob and Sid, his only sister, Winnie, brother-in-law, Tom Whitty, Nancy and Lucy.

RUSSELL – In sad but loving memory of our dear comrade and friend, Private L. A. E. Russell, 2440, 45th Batt., late 13th, died of wounds, March 28, 1917, Norwich Hospital, England. (An Anzac.)

To-day brings back memories fresh,
Of you, dear friend, laid to rest.

Inserted by his loving comrade, Joe Harrison (returned) and friends Mr and Mrs Marshall.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 30 March, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

RUSSELL – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private L. A. E. Russell, 13th Battalion, died of wounds received in action at Bapaume, France, March 28, 1917. (Anzac.)

Too dearly loved to be forgotten

Inserted by his ever-loving mother, father, brothers, Bob, Sid, sister, Winnie, brother-in-law, Tom Whiting.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 March, 1921)

On Active Service

RUSSELL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, L. A. E. Russell, died of wounds, March 28, 1917, late 13th Batt. An Anzac.

In memory ever dear.

Inserted by his ever loving mother, father, brothers, Bob and Sid Russell.

RUSSELL – In memory of our dear brother, Private L. A. E. Russell, 45th Batt., died of wounds, March 28, 1917. An Anzac.

One of the best that God could send,
A loving brother and faithful friend.

Inserted by his only sister and brother, and nieces, Winnie, Tom, Nancye, Winnie Whitty.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 March, 1922)

On Active Service

RUSSELL – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, L. A. E. Russell, died of wounds, March 28, 1917, late 13th Battalion (an Anzac.) At rest.

Inserted by his ever loving mother, father, sisters, brothers, Bob, Sid Russell, brothers-in-law, Tom Whittey, Maney, Winnie. 186 Bulwarra-road, Pymont.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 March, 1923)

On Active Service

RUSSELL – In sad but loving remembrance of my dear son, brother, nephew, Private L. A. E. Russell, who died of wounds, England, March 28, 1917 (late 13th Battalion). Ever remembered.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother, father, brothers, sister, aunt and cousins.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 March, 1924)

On Active Service

RUSSELL – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private L. A. E. Russell, died of wounds, March 28, 1917. Inserted by his loving mother and father, brothers, Bob and Sid, and sister-in-law, Kathleen.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 March, 1925)

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)

Base Records wrote to Mrs L. E. Russell, 186 Bulwarra Road, Pymont, NSW on 24th June, 1920 advising that the inscription chosen exceeded the limit imposed by the Imperial War Graves Commission & it would be necessary to abbreviate the inscription. No reply was received by 27th July, 1921 & the Inscription was abbreviated by Base Records.

Private L. A. E. Russell does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Silently Angels Have Taken Him To The Beautiful Mansions Above

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

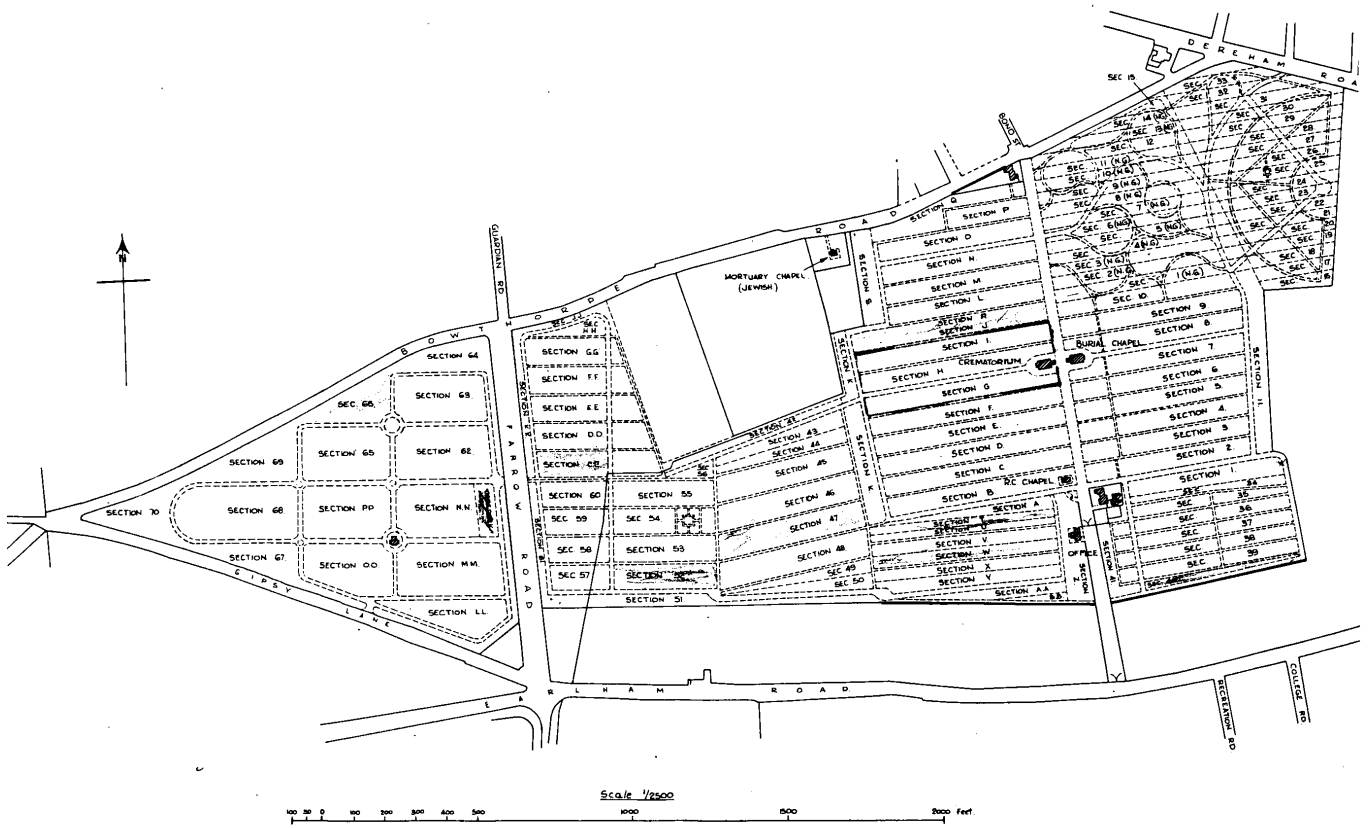
(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private L. A. E. Russell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

