

**Chichester Cemetery,
Chichester, West Sussex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2395 PRIVATE

J. W. SCREECH

43RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH MAY, 1918 Age 30

James William (Jim) SCREECH

James William Screech was born at Northam, Western Australia in 1896 to parents William John and Eliza Ann Screech (nee Watson). He was baptised on 19th September, 1886 at Northam, Western Australia. (Note: The Western Australian Births Deaths & Marriages website records that "George Screech" was born in 1896 at Northam to parents William John and Eliza Ann Screech (nee Watson).

The 1910 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Swan, subdivision of Northam, Western Australia, listed James William Screech, Labourer, from Meckering.

The 1913, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Dampier, subdivision of Northam, Western Australia, listed James William Screech, Labourer, from Meckering.

James William Screech was a 28 year old, single, Farm Hand from Wilberforce, Woodside, via York, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 7th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2395 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father James William Screech (as listed on Embarkation Roll – should be William John Screech), Meckering, Western Australia.

Private James William Screech was posted to 71st Depot on 2nd June, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 51st Battalion on 20th June, 1916 then transferred again on 5th September, 1916 to 4th Reinforcements of 43rd Battalion.

Private James William Screech embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 30th October, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Brigade, 43rd Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements & 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 William Screech was marched in to 11th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire from Australia on 29th December, 1916.

Private James William Screech proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on S.S. *Golden Eagle* on 25th February, 1917 from 11th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 26th February, 1917. Private Screech was marched out to his Unit on 1st March, 1917 & was taken on strength of 43rd Battalion in the Field on 3rd March, 1917.

Private James William Screech was sent sick to Hospital. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance on 7th April, 1917 with Scabies then transferred the same day to D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station). He was discharged to duty on 14th April, 1917 & rejoined 43rd Battalion in the Field the same day.

Private James William Screech was wounded in action on 5th June, 1917. He was admitted to 3/2 West Lancs Field Ambulance on 5th June, 1917 with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to abdomen. He was transferred & admitted to 51st Casualty Clearing Station on 6th June, 1917 then transferred to Base by Barge on 7th June, 1917. Private Screech was admitted to 30th General Hospital at Calais, France on 9th June, 1917. He was invalided to England on 18th June, 1917 & embarked from Boulogne, France on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen*.

War Diary – 43rd Battalion

During the period of 2nd to 12th June the 43rd Battalion were involved in the Battle of Messines.

The casualties for the period 2nd to 12th June

	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Wounded</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Officers</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>OR</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>137</i>

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James William Screech was admitted to Devonport Military Hospital, England on 19th June, 1917 with GSW to abdomen – severe.

Private James William Screech was granted furlo from 10th July, 1917 to 24th July, 1917 & was then to report to Depot at Weymouth.

Private James William Screech was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot on 23rd July, 1917 then transferred to No. 1 Command Depot on 28th July, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks).

Private James William Screech was sent sick to Hospital on 9th August, 1917. He was admitted to Brigade Hospital at Perham Downs on 9th August, 1917 with Boils. He was discharged to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 16th August, 1917.

Private James William Screech was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 16th August, 1917 & medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks).

Private James William Screech was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade on 18th September, 1917.

Private James William Screech was sent sick to Hospital & was admitted to Sutton Veny Military Hospital on 16th October, 1917 with a sprained knee. He was discharged to Depot on 31st October, 1917 & was medically classified as A3 (Fit for overseas training camp, to which transferred for hardening, prior to rejoining unit overseas). Private Screech was passed dentally fit on 2nd November, 1917. Private James William Screech was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 3rd November, 1917.

Private James William Screech proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 15th November, 1917 from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 16th November, 1917. Private Screech was marched out to his Unit on 18th November, 1917 & rejoined 43rd Battalion in the Field on 22nd November, 1917.

Private James William Screech was sent sick to Hospital. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 15th February, 1918 with Nephritis. Private Screech was transferred to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 16th February, 1918 then transferred to No. 35 Ambulance Train on 25th February, 1918. He was admitted to 4th General Hospital at Camiers, France on 25th February, 1918. Private Screech was reported as “dangerously ill” on 24th March, 1918. He was invalided to England on 3rd April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen*.

43rd Battalion

The 3rd Division was raised in Australia early in 1916. The 43rd Battalion was South Australia's contribution to the strength of the division. Along with the 41st, 42nd, and 44th Battalions, plus support troops, it formed the 11th Brigade.

The 43rd Battalion spent 1917 bogged in bloody trench warfare in Flanders. In June the battalion took part in the battle of Messines and in October the Third Battle of Ypres.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James William Screech was admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, Sussex, England on 4th April, 1918 with Nephritis - severe.

Private James William Screech died suddenly at 4.25 am on 24th May, 1918 at Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, Sussex, England from Suppurative Nephritis & Purulent Pericarditis. (The “Morning State of Sick” form has the time of death as 4.25 am, however a Telegram from O/C War Hospital, Chichester to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., has the time of death as 4.45 am.)

A death for James W. Screech, aged 31, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Chichester, Sussex, England.



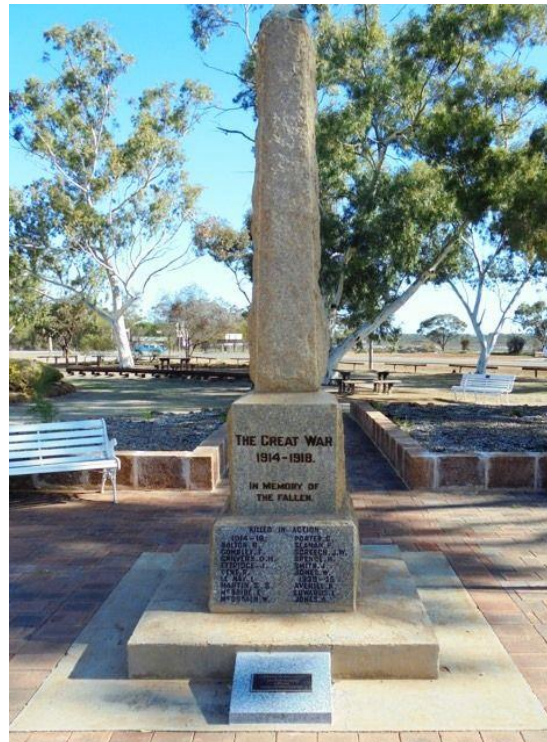
Private James William Screech was buried on 28th May, 1918 in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England – Plot number 121.1 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private James William Screech - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by two beautiful wreaths, which were sent by the Hospital patients and Nursing Staff. Firing Party and Bugler were present. Prior to the interment a service was held by Chaplain Birkett C.R in the Cemetery Chapel. Several of the Nursing Staff and a party of about 20 Australians (patients in the Graylingwell Mil. Hospital) followed the remains to the Cemetery. A temporary memorial (wooden cross) will be erected by the Chichester Corporation. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

James William Screech signed on 10th July, 1917 that “*I have made a will the same being lodged with my mother – Eliza Ann Screech.*”

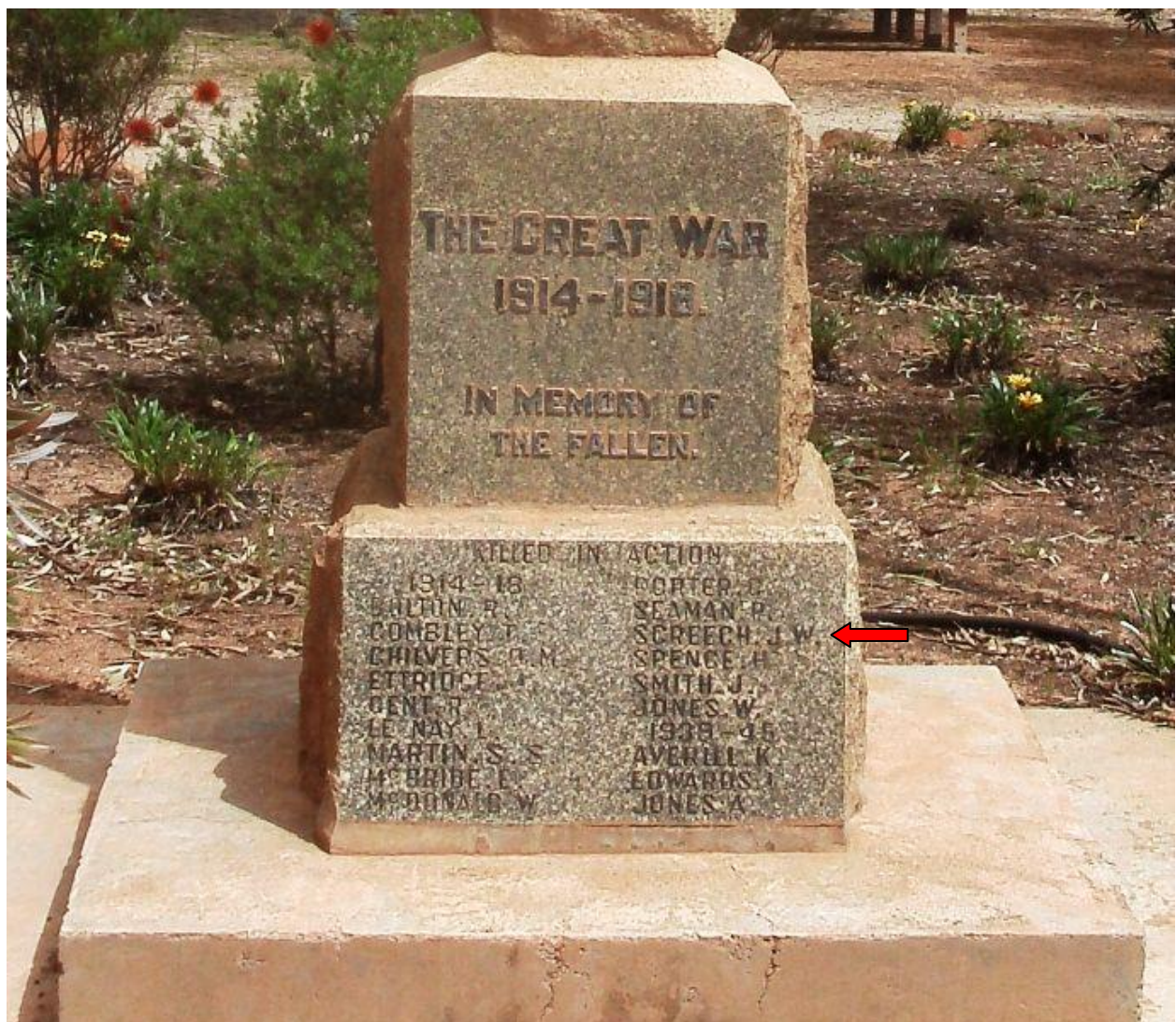
Private James William Screech was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Screech’s father – Mr W. J. Screech, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James William Screech – service number 2395, aged 30, of 43rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William John and Eliza Ann Screech.

J. W. Screech is remembered on the Meckering War Memorial, located at Gabbedy Place, Meckering, Western Australia.



Meckering War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



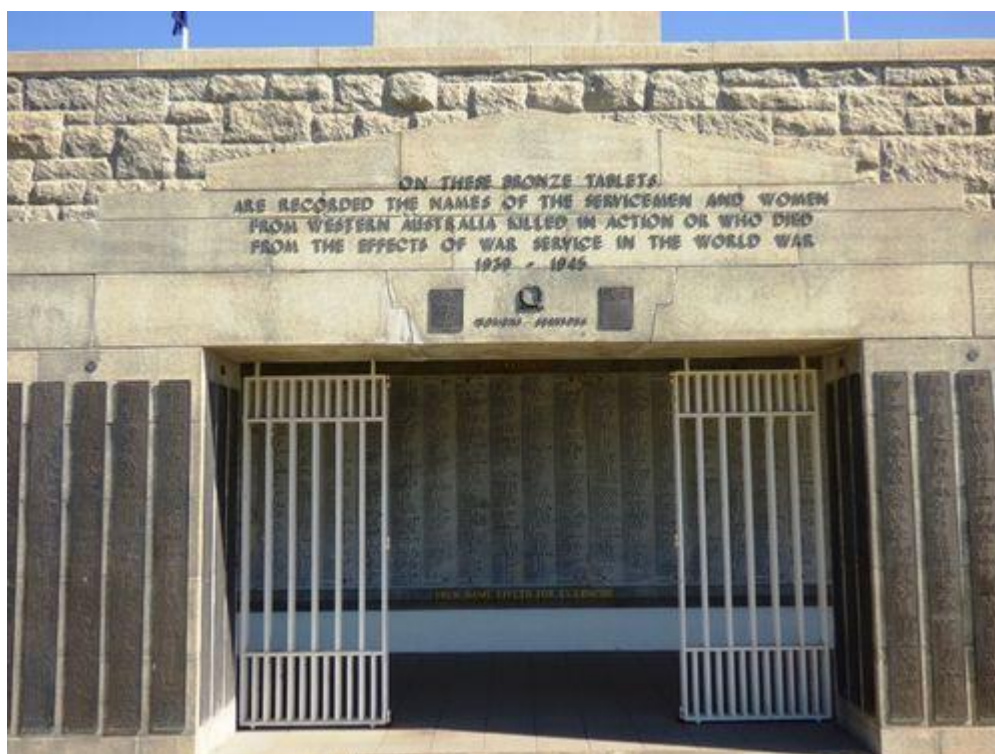
J. W. Screech is named on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. It was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

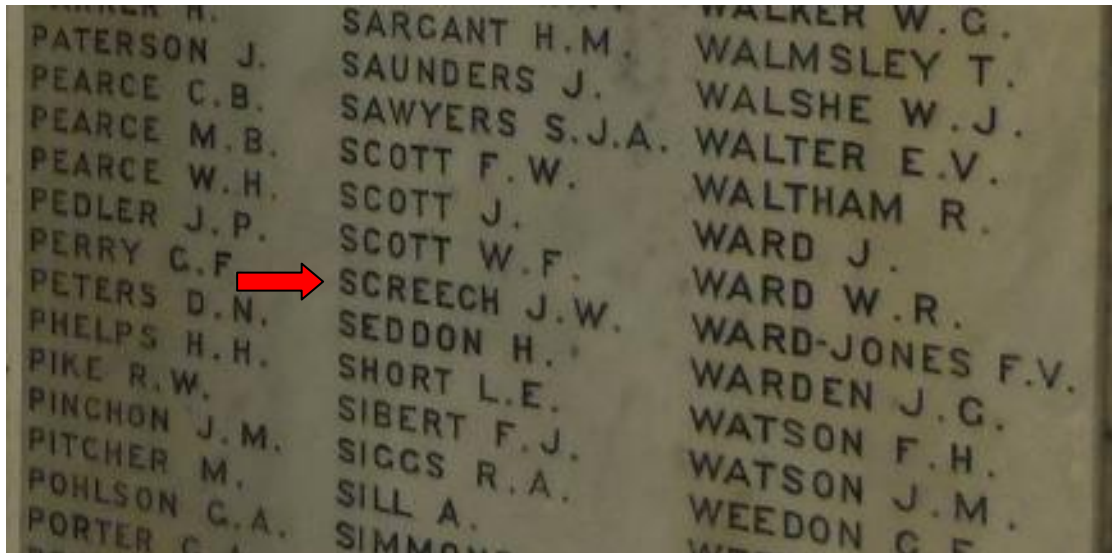
(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





Other Corps Panel – Kings Park Memorial

(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



Private J. W. Screech is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 137.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(67 pages of Private James William Screech'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



PTE. JAMES W. SCREAIGH.
(Wounded. Parents reside at Mecker-
ing.)

Newspaper Notices



PTE. J. W. SCREAIGH.
Wounded in France. Eldest son of Mr.
and Mrs. Screaigh.

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 14 April, 1918)

LOCAL NEWS

Mr and Mrs G. Screaigh, of York, have been notified of the death from illness in hospital of their nephew Private James Screaigh, of Meckering.

(*The Avon Gazette and York Times*, Western Australia – 1 June, 1918)

DEATH

SCREAIGH – Died in hospital, on France, on May 24, 1918. Private James Screaigh, son of Mr and Mrs W. Screaigh, of Meckering.

We picture your safe returning,
We longed to clasp your hand
But God has postponed our meeting
It will be in the better land.

-Inserted by his sorrowing aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs Geo. Screaigh and cousins Charlotte and Mabel.

(*The Avon Gazette and York Times*, Western Australia – 1 June, 1918)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

The 408th list of casualties amongst West Australian members of the A.I.F. is as under, men whose rank is not mentioned being private soldiers:-

DIED OF WOUNDS

James William Screech

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 13 June, 1918)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr and Mrs W. Screech and Family of Meckering wish to tender their sincere THANKS, to all kind friends and relations, for letters, cards, telegrams, and personal expressions of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement in the loss of their dear son and brother, who died of wounds, May 24.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 6 July, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

SCREECH – In loving memory of our dear son, James William Screech (Jim), late 51st Battalion, who died of wounds at Graylingwell Hospital, England, on May 24, 1918, aged 33 years.

No one knows the silent heartache,
Only those can tell
Who have lost their best and dearest,
Without a last farewell.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, Meckering.

SCREECH – In loving memory of our dear brother, James William (Jim), who died of wounds at Graylingwell Hospital, England, on May 24, 1918, aged 33 years.

We pictured your safe returning, dear Jim,
And longed to clasp your hand;
But God postponed our meeting
Until in a better land.

Inserted by his loving brothers and sisters, Meckering.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 26 May, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

SCREECH – In ever loving memory of our dear son and brother, James William (Jim), who died of wounds at Chichester, England, May 24, 1918.

Sadly we miss him and try not to grieve,
A little while longer and we, too, must leave,
To meet those we love who have just gone before,
Where partings are unknown and life is evermore.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, brothers, and sisters, Meckering.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 25 May, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

SCREECH – In loving memory of our dear father and mother, who passed away at Meckering, on April 18 and January 16, 1926; also our dear brother Jim (son of above), died of wounds Chichester, England, May 24, 1918.

Some time, some day, we know not when,
Our eyes will see the faces we hold in memory;
And God will link the broken chain
Still closer when we meet again

Inserted by their loving sons and daughters, Meckering.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 18 April, 1928)

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)

Private J. W. Screech does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England

Chichester Cemetery has 174 Commonwealth War Graves. Also known as Portfield Cemetery.

Of the 89 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, the majority are in a War Graves Plot in Squares 121 and 126 bordering a path on the far right hand side of the cemetery. This was constructed by the City Corporation, who also erected the War Cross at the eastern end of the enclosed plot especially designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and closely resembling the Commission's own Cross of Sacrifice. The names of the 1914-1918 war dead in the cemetery are engraved on the base of the Cross. There are also 75 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, mainly in two adjoining Church of England dedicated Squares, Nos. 115 and 159, in the south-western portion of the cemetery enclosed by a hedgerow on three sides, on the fourth side a wall bearing the inscription 1939-1945 THE MEN AND WOMEN BURIED IN THIS PLOT DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE. In the northern section a further Square, No. 42, is dedicated to Roman Catholic burials, there is a metal plaque bearing a similar inscription. There are also 7 non-Commonwealth war burials and 4 non World War burials in the care of C.W.G.C. within the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



Chichester Cemetery *(Photo by Adrienne – Find a Grave)*



Some War Graves in Chichester Cemetery (Photo above by Basher Eyre; below from CWGC)



Photo of Private J. W. Screech's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



Chichester Cemetery (Photo by Adrienne – Find a Grave)