

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6162 PRIVATE

G. R. SHARPE

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 29

George Robert SHARPE

George Robert Sharpe was born at Booval, Queensland on 17th October, 1888 to parents George & Jane Sharpe (nee Williamson). (Note: the surname is listed as "Sharp" on the Queensland BDM website)

George Robert Sharpe attended Boys Central School, Ipswich, Queensland.

The 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Moreton, subdivision of Ipswich, Queensland recorded George Robert Sharpe, Bootmaker, Booval.

George Robert Sharpe was a 28 year old, single, Bootmaker from Station Road, Ipswich, Queensland when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 17th September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6162 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Jane Sharpe, Station Road, Booval, Ipswich, Queensland.

Private George Robert Sharpe was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 17th September, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 26th Battalion on 7th October, 1916.

Private George Robert Sharpe embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 27th October, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 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.

Private George Robert Sharpe was marched in the 7th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire, England on 9th January, 1917 from Australia.

On 22nd May, 1917 Private George Robert Sharpe proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from 7th Training Battalion. He was posted to 2nd Divisional Base at Havre, France on 23rd May, 1917. Private Sharpe proceeded from Base on 11th June, 1917 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 26th Battalion in France on 12th June, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private George Robert Sharpe was wounded in action in Belgium on 4th October, 1917. He was admitted to 11th Field Ambulance on 4th October, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left buttock then transferred to 44th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Sharpe was transferred to Ambulance Train on 5th October, 1917 & was admitted to 4th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 6th October, 1917. He was marked for transfer to England on 25th October with GSW to left Buttock & penetrating abdomen. Private Sharpe embarked for England on 26th October, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Newhaven*.

26th Battalion

The 26th Battalion was raised at Enoggera, Queensland, in April 1915 from recruits enlisted in Queensland and Tasmania, and formed part of the 7th Brigade.....

In early 1917, the 26th Battalion joined the follow-up of the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line and attacked at Warlencourt (1-2 March) and Lagincourt (26 March).... On 3 May, the Battalion was also involved in the second attempt to breach the Hindenburg Line defences around Bullecourt. Later that year the focus of the AIF's operations switched to Belgium. There, the 26th battalion fought in the battle of Menin Road on 20 September, and participated in the capture of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Mrs J. Sharpe, Station Road, Booval, Queensland, mother of Private George Robert Sharpe, was advised by Base Records on 25th October, 1917 that Private Sharpe had been wounded. She was advised later on 25th October, 1917 that Private George Sharpe had been admitted to Fourth General Hospital on 7th October with gunshot wound

to left buttock severe. Mrs J. Sharpe was advised by Base Records on 28th October, 1917 that Private George Sharpe had been removed from the Seriously Ill List.

Private George Robert Sharpe was admitted to 16th Canadian General Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England (as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service, however the Hospital Admissions form recorded the hospital as Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent) on 26th October, 1917 with GSW to left buttock and Abdomen - severe.

Private George Robert Sharpe died at 2 am on 5th November, 1917 at 16th Canadian General Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W Left Buttock, penetrating Abdomen. The Hospital Admissions for recorded "*Death from general peritonitis.*"

A death for George R. Sharpe, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Bromley, Kent, England.

Private George Robert Sharpe was buried at 1 pm on 8th November, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180006.

From the burial report of Private George Robert Sharpe - Coffin was good polished Elm and brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were supplied by the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. The grave will be turfed immediately and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Base Records wrote to Mr Sharpe, Station Road, Booval, Ipswich, Queensland on 11th May, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row B Grave 6.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference - XI. B. 6. Private George Robert Sharpe now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Jane Sharpe, Station Road, Booval, wrote to Base Records on 27th November, 1917 requesting four copies of Certificate of Death for Private George Robert Sharpe "*to enable us to complete assurance claims etc.*"

Jane Sharpe wrote to Base Records on 22nd January, 1917 regarding Private G. R. Sharpe, No. 6162, 26th Battalion, with the following "*kindly expedite the forwarding of four copies of death certificate of the above deceased soldier, as applied for by me on the 27th Nov, as several important matters are held up pending arrival of same. I might state his parents have had their military allow. stopped & are not yet receiving any pensions & so are practically existing on a few shillings ___ pensions so ___ understand the need for urgency.*"

Base Records replied on 6th February, 1918 enclosing four copies of report of death of the late No. 6162 Private G. R. Sharpe, 26th Battalion.

A War Pension was granted to Jane Sharpe, Station Road, Booval, mother of the late Private George Robert Sharpe, in the sum of £1:10:0 per fortnight from 10th January, 1918.

Private George Robert Sharpe was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Sharpe's father – Mr Sharpe, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Robert Sharpe – service number 6162, aged 29, of 26th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Jane Sharpe.

G. Sharp is remembered on the Booval War Memorial, located in Cameron Park, Green Street, Booval, Queensland.



Booval War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Brendan Downs)



G. R. Sharpe is remembered on the Ipswich Soldiers Memorial Hall Roll of Honour, located on 2nd Floor, Ipswich Soldiers Memorial Hall, 61 Nicholas Street, Ipswich, Queensland.



Ipswich Soldiers Memorial Hall Roll of Honour

(Photo above from Monument Australia; below from Queensland War Memorial Register)



Private G. R. Sharpe is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 109.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(52 pages of Private George Robert Sharpe'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

ROLL OF HONOUR

SHARPE – Died of wounds in Ontario Hospital, on 5th November, Private George Robert, youngest beloved son of Mr and Mrs G. Sharpe, Station-road, Booval, aged 29 years.

He fought for honour and for right. He died for King and country.

(Queensland Times, Brisbane, Queensland – 17 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SHARPE – Died of wounds, November 5th, 1917, Ontario Hospital, France, Private George R. Sharpe, youngest son of Mr and Mrs G. Sharpe, Booval, aged 29 years.

For King and country.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 17 November, 1917) & (The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 24 November, 1917)

PERSONAL NOTES

Word was received last Wednesday that Private G. R. Sharpe had died of gunshot wounds in Ontario Hospital, France, on November 5. Private Sharpe left Brisbane on October 27, 1916, and had been in France since May. The deceased soldier was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs George Sharpe, Booval, and a brother of Mesdames H. Macklin and H. Mauder (Brisbane), W. C. Ward (Charters Towers), F. Ford (Warwick), and Messes H. and J. Sharpe (Booval).

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 17 November, 1917) & (*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 24 November, 1917)

Roll of Honour

Queensland Casualties

Casualty list No. 355 released from the censor's office, on Nov 21.....

WOUNDED

George Robert Sharpe, Booval, sev

(*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 30 November, 1917)

362nd LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

George Robert Sharpe, Ipswich, 5/11/17 (prev. rep. ser, w'ded)

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 8 December, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SHARPE – In loving memory of Private G. R. Sharpe, who died of wounds at the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, England, on November 5, 1917.

Not dead to us, we loved him dear,

Not lost, but gone before;

He lives with us in memory still,

And will for evermore.

He gave his life for us,

A soldier brave and true.

(Inserted by his loving parents, his brothers and sisters, Mr and Mrs Geo. Sharpe, Booval).

(*Queensland Times*, Brisbane, Queensland – 5 November, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SHARPE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private G. R. Sharpe, who died of wounds at the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, England, on November 5, 1917.

When last we saw his smiling face,
 He looked so strong and brave;
We little thought how soon he'd be,
 Laid in a soldier's grave.
He gave his life for us,
 A soldier brave and true.

(Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters, Booval)

(Queensland Times, Brisbane, Queensland – 6 November, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

SHARPE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private G. R. Sharpe, who died of wounds at the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, England, on November 5th, 1917.

When last we saw his smiling face,
 He looked so strong and brave;
We little thought how soon he'd be,
 Laid in a soldier's grave.
He gave his life for us,
 A soldier brave and true.

(Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters, Mr and Mrs Geo. Sharpe, Booval)

(Queensland Times, Brisbane, Queensland – 6 November, 1921)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SHARPE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte G. R. Sharpe, who died of wounds received at Passchendaele, November 5th, 1917.

(Though lost to sight, to memory dear.)

(Inserted by his loving father, brothers and sisters.

(Queensland Times, Brisbane, Queensland – 4 November, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOUR

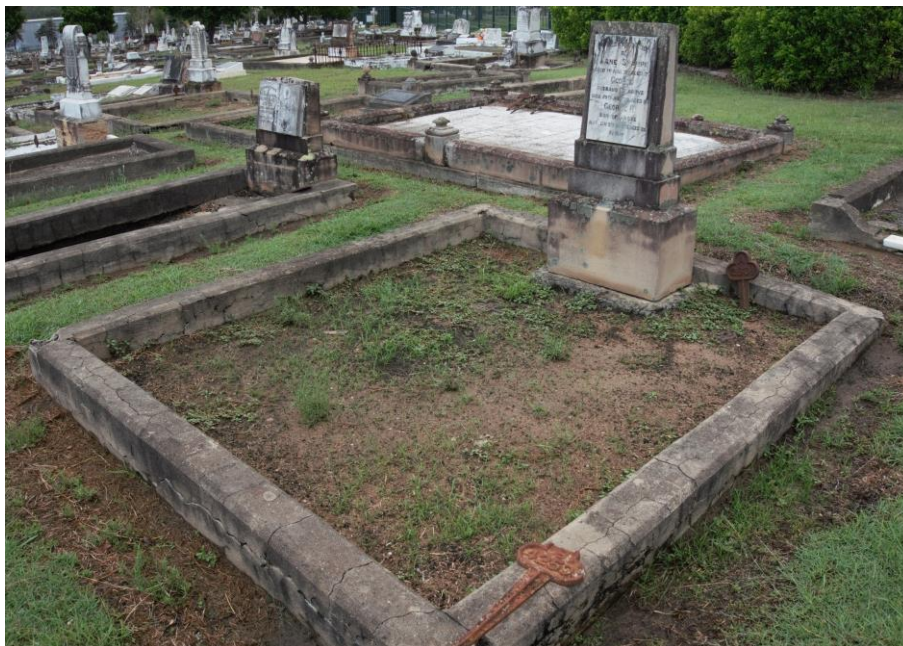
SHARPE – In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private G. R. Sharpe, who died of wounds at the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, England on November 5, 1917.

With us his memory ever lives

(Inserted by his loving father, brothers and sisters.

(Queensland Times, Brisbane, Queensland – 5 November, 1923)

George R. Sharpe is remembered on his parents' headstone in Ipswich General Cemetery, Ipswich, Queensland.



In Loving Memory

Of JANE SHARPE

Died 1st Aug. '22 Aged 77

GEORGE

Husband of Above

Died 29th July '29, Aged 87

GEORGE R.

Son of Above

A.I.F., D.W. 5th Nov. '17 Aged 29

At Rest





(Photos from Find a Grave – Liz R)

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)

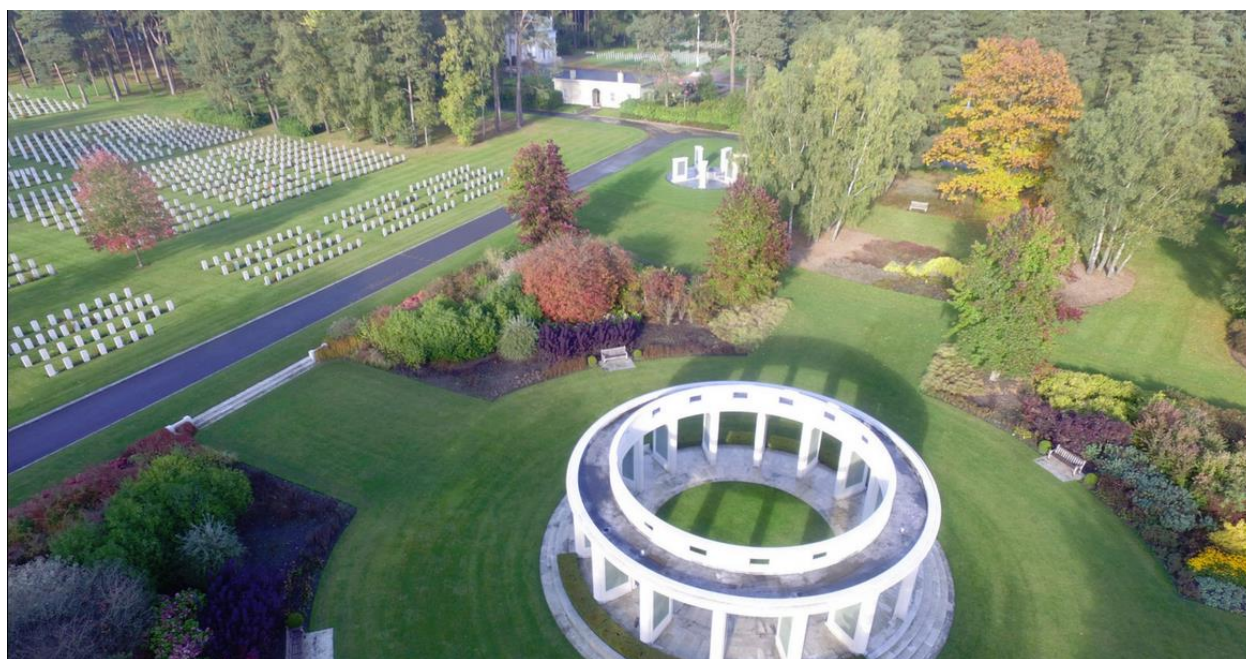
Private G. R. Sharpe does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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 Private G. R. Sharpe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

