

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5190 SERGEANT

E. L. SKINNER, M.M.

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

13TH AUGUST, 1918

Ernest Lee SKINNER

Ernest Lee Skinner was born at Heston, near London, Middlesex, England on 4th November, 1888 to parents Thomas Ambrose Steigenberger Skinner & Evelyn Maude Skinner (nee Lee). He was baptised on 9th December, 1888 in the parish Church of Heston, Hounslow, England. The Skinner Family lived at New Heston at the time of the baptism & Thomas Skinner was listed as a Gentleman.

[According to information in a newspaper article – Ernest Lee Skinner came to Australia with his family when he was 18 months old.]

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Swan, subdivision of Albany, Western Australia recorded Ernest Lee Skinner, Farmer, from Carbarup, Mount Barker. Also listed was Edith Mary Skinner, married, Carbarup, Mount Barker & Thomas Skinner, Orchardist, from Carbarup, Mount Barker.

Ernest Lee Skinner was a 27 year old, single, Orchardist from Mount Barker, Western Australia when he enlisted on 6th January, 1916 at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr T. Skinner, Semaphore, South Australia. (Ernest Lee Skinner had been passed medically fit for active service on 26th December, 1915 at Albany, Western Australia.)

Private Ernest Lee Skinner was posted to 41st Depot on 6th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "A" Company, No.7 Depot Battalion on 3rd March, 1916 then transferred on 13th March, 1916 to 16th Reinforcements of 16th Battalion.

Private Ernest Lee Skinner, Service number 5190, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 31st March, 1916 with the 16th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements.

Private Ernest Lee Skinner was left at Suez on 24th April, 1916 – "on guard" at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Ernest Lee Skinner was transferred to Cyclists Corps on 15th May, 1916. He was posted to 4th Division Cyclists Company on 18th May, 1916.

Private Ernest Lee Skinner embarked from Alexandria on H.M.T. *Britton* & disembarked at Plymouth, England (no dates recorded).

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 Ernest Lee Skinner was marched out from Cyclists Training Battalion in England on 7th September, 1916 to 28th Battalion.

Private Ernest Lee Skinner was taken on strength of 44th Battalion in England on 23rd September, 1916 from 28th Battalion.

Private Ernest Lee Skinner was written up for an Offence at Larkhill, Wiltshire – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from midnight on 3rd November, 1916 to 6.30 am on 6th November, 1916. He was awarded 3 days Field Punishment No. 2 By Commanding Officer of 44th Battalion on 8th November, 1916 & a total forfeiture of 6 days' pay.

Private Ernest Lee Skinner proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 25th November, 1916.

Private Ernest Lee Skinner was attached for instruction to 11th Australian Machine Gun Company on 7th December, 1916. He was detached from duty on 20th July, 1917.

Private Ernest Lee Skinner was awarded the Military Medal on 16th August, 1917 in connection with Messines Offensive Operations on 31st July, 1917. (The Statement of Service form recorded he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field in France on 28th September, 1917 (Auth: A.I.F. List 240). (*London Gazette* - 28 September, 1917 & *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 24 January, 1918)

Military Medal

The Military Medal (MM) was a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other arms of the armed forces, and to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914, and was awarded to other ranks for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire". (*Wikipedia*)



Military Medal (MM)

44th Battalion

The 44th Battalion was raised at Claremont, Western Australia in February 1916. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division, and soon became known as "Old Bill's Thousand" after its first commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel William Mansbridge. The battalion left Australia on 6 June and proceeded to Britain for further training. It arrived in France on 27 November and entered the front line trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 29 December.

The 44th spent the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between service in the front line, and training and labouring in the rear areas. This routine was broken by only one major raid, an ill-fated effort involving almost half the battalion on 13 March 1917. The battalion fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7 and 10 June. In the months that followed it was heavily employed in the Ypres sector, taking part in another major battle to capture Broodseinde Ridge on 7 June, and participating in costly defensive operations in horrendous conditions.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 44th Battalion

31st July, 1917:

Heavy artillery fire especially at night S O S sent up three times during the night. Sniping prevalent at long range by enemy during advance by British Troops on our left. Our defences badly damaged by enemy fire and weather. Patrols report everything quiet. Enemy aeroplanes flew over our front line and posts.

Total casualties for month of July.

<i>Killed</i>	<i>21 other ranks</i>
<i>Wounded</i>	<i>3 Officers and 67 other ranks</i>

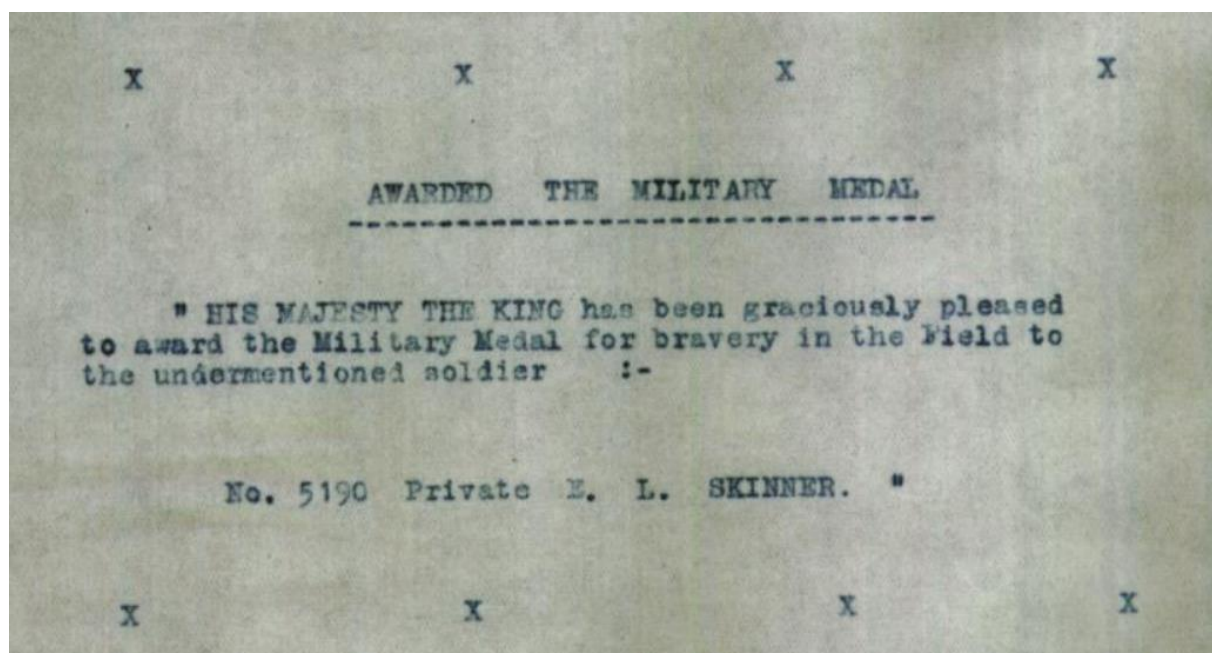
(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Ernest Lee Skinner was transferred to 11th Machine Gun Company on 8th October, 1917 from 44th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 11th Machine Gun Company on 8th October, 1917 & was promoted to Temporary Corporal the same day.

Temporary Corporal Ernest Lee Skinner was promoted to Corporal on 1st December, 1917 vice Kilpatrick promoted. He was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 1st December, 1917 vice Norman evacuated sick.

Temporary Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner was marched out on 19th December, 1917 for Anit-Aircraft duty. He was detached to Brigade N.C.O. School from 27th December, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from detachment on 5th January, 1918. Temporary Sergeant Skinner rejoined his Unit from School on 19th January, 1918.

Base Records wrote to Mr T. Skinner, Semaphore, S.A. on 13th February, 1918 with the following: *"I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Ninth Supplement No. 30312 to the London Gazette dated 25th September, 1917, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, No. 5190 Private E. L. Skinner, 28th Battalion*



The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 9 dated 24th January, 1918."

Temporary Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner was promoted to Sergeant in the Field on 26th February, 1918 vice Sergeant Norman evacuated sick to Hospital on 22nd October, 1917.

Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner proceeded to join Machine Gun Training School in England on 28th February, 1918. He was marched in to Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham, England on 3rd March, 1918 from France.

Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner was sent to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 22nd June, 1918 with "VD 42". He was admitted to Military Hospital, Bulford on the same day with a Cyst on Penis. The Medical card recorded he had contracted VD in London with a prostitute 23 days prior. Sergeant Skinner was discharged on 27th June, 1918.

Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner was examined at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 28th June, 1918 & was found fit.

Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner's body was found in Tidworth Wood, Wiltshire, England on 17th August, 1918. A Telegram was sent from Tidworth on 18th August, 1918 to Administrative Headquarters AIF. London advising "Body of 5190 Sgt SKINNER. A.M.M. 11th Machine Gun Coy found in Tidworth wood last night AAA Inquest being held probably Monday 19th inst AAA."

Coroner's Inquest – held 19th August, 1916:

PROCEEDINGS OF A CORONERS INQUEST.

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5190 Sergeant Ernest Lee SKINNER. 11th. Aust.

M.G. Company. A.I.F.

INQUEST HELD AT TIDWORTH HOUSE, TIDWORTH, on the 19th. DAY OF AUGUST, 1916 on the BODY OF SERGEANT ERNEST LEE SKINNER of the 11th. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY, of the AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

1st. Witness. Sergeant William Christopher Bedlington (M.M.) of the 4th. Australian Machine Gun Company, stationed at Parkhouse, stated that he knew the deceased Sgt. Ernest Lee Skinner of the 11th. Machine Gun Company, and that he last saw him alive on the night of the 13th. inst at about 7.30 p.m. on the Tidworth Railway Station. He was then in good spirits, and asked witness if he was wanting any money, witness stating that he did not. The deceased had just taken a draft of 20 machine gunners to France and had just returned. He appeared to be quite cheerful. His age was about 29 years.

2nd. Witness. George Ennets, Rifle Range Superintendent, stationed at Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, stated that he did not know the deceased. At about 2.30 p.m. last Saturday the 17th. August 1916 I was gathering blackberries, when I discovered the body in a open copse (Ashdown Copse) Tidworth. When I came across the dead body, which is now laying in Tidworth Mortuary. I went straight for the Police Sergeant to report the circumstances to him. There was no blood about the spot where the body was lying, and I noticed nothing close to, nor in his hand. The Witness described the position in which the body was lying thus:- The body was lying on it's left side with the right hand over the jaw, and the left hand under the body, the knees being slightly doubled up.

3rd. Witness. Walter George Frampton, Police Sergeant, Hants Constabulary stationed at Tidworth stated that on last Saturday August 17th. 1916 at about 3 p.m. the last witness called at the Police Station Tidworth, and in consequence of what he told witness he obtained an ambulance, and in company with him went to Ashdown Copse. About 80 yards from the Centre Ride on the far side of the wood was some thick bush, to where the second witness took him, and he here found the body lying in the position previously described on its left side, with the left arm under the left leg and the right hand up to the throat. The revolver produced (Army Pattern Webley) was lying close behind the body with one spent cartridge in it. The Witness then removed the body to the Tidworth Mortuary. On the body was found a wallet, watch and chain, two dummy cartridges, - 9 - 1d postage stamps and 2-1d postage stamps. Several photographs and a letter from a chum in France signed "Jim Clothier". The deceased was not holding pistol, but it had apparently dropped from his hand. No money was found on the body and no pay book. There was a wound in the throat of the deceased. There were no signs on the ground of any disturbance.

(Here the foreman of the ~~foreman of the~~ Jury pointed out that the first witness Sgt. W. Bedlington, stated that the deceased had offered to give Bedlington any money if he was wanting it, and the evidence of the Police Sergeant went to show that the deceased had no money when found)

P.T.O.

4th. Witness. Major James Charles Power Strachan of the Australian Army Medical Corps, Australian Imperial Force, stated that at about 6 p.m. on last Saturday 17th. August he saw the body in question at the Tidworth Mortuary. He did not know Sgt. Skinner. He examined the body and found that it had a wound of entrance of a bullet in the central line of the neck at the thyroid cartilage, and a wound of exit two inches below the angle of the left jaw. He could see no powder stains on the neck. There was post-mortem staining along the left side and left front of the body. The deceased had evidently been lying huddled up, on the left side and face, there was marks of commencing decomposition on the left side and the right thigh, and marks where the body had been pressing on the left arm and wrist. There were no marks of violence, excepting the bullet wound. The wound was such a one as might be caused by a right handed man endeavouring to shoot himself, and it was the cause of death, which would probably have occurred one or two minutes after the bullet was discharged. The body had the appearance of having lain in the copse for two or three days. He could not accurately say whether the wound was caused on Tuesday or on Wednesday. It was rather more likely than not that the wound was inflicted on Tuesday evening.

EXTRACTS FROM THE CORONER'S ADDRESS.

The evidence here is short, but very conclusive, as far as the cause, but you have to find when, where, and by what means the deceased came to his death.

We have no direct evidence to shew whether he was alive or dead between Tuesday last and Saturday (four days) Death might have occurred any time between these two periods. There are circumstances that point very strongly to the early part of these four days as being the time probably Tuesday, and least on Wednesday. The deceased, had he been alive after Wednesday, would very likely have been seen by somebody and what is stronger still there is a good deal of evidence of post mortem discolouration, pointing to the fact that the body had been dead for two or three days.

As to where it took place, the medical evidence stated that in all probability it took place where the body was found, and it may be presumed that this was so.

By what means it was caused, We have no evidence to prove how the pistol was discharged. The whole of the circumstances of the case appear to me to point to the fact that no one was present, or had anything to do with it, excepting the deceased. I cannot suggest that the evidence proves that anyone else was the cause of death.

If this pistol caused the death, and was discharged by the man himself there is no evidence to shew the state of the deceased's mind, when it was discharged. We are not very concerned exactly how it was discharged. If we find that the man was killed by a bullet discharged by himself, the question of course, as to whether it was done intentionally or accidentally arises, Nothing can be positive, but the whole affair has the appearance of suicide. I can suggest that he shot himself, but I offer no other suggestion. It is for you to hesitate to say if the man shot himself intentionally or not. the probabilities point very much in that direction. I should not concur heartily at all in your finding that it was accidental, because there is no evidence that it was accidental, and which appears to me to be contrary to the facts. If you find that he did it intentionally you should go into the question of whether he was responsible for his actions, and whether he knew what he was about. We have no evidence that he was out of his mind and the law presumes that he was in his right mind until it is proved that he was not. You will have to find a verdict whether

(3)

he shot himself feloniously or not, but there is not sufficient evidence to show why he shot himself.

When seen at the station he may have apparently been in his right mind, but it may have been possible that later he got into a state of mind, produced perhaps by drinking, etc. that resulted in his action.

It is probable, anyhow, that he was killed by a shot from the pistol that has been produced, but whether the shot was fired accidentally or intentionally there is not sufficient evidence to show.

THE FINDING OF THE JURY IS THAT:-

The said Ernest Lee Skinner, a male of the age of 29 years, between the thirteenth day of August and the fifteenth day of AUGUST in the year aforesaid, was killed by the discharge of a bullet from a revolver, but whether such discharge was intentionally or accidental the said jury say that in their opinion, there is not sufficient evidence to show.

CERTIFIED CORRECT.

(Sgd) L.M. Addis, Lieut.
for Lieut. & Adjt.,
Australian Provost Corps.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

24 SEP 1918

Manning Capt.

Finding of the Jury:

"The said Ernest Lee Skinner, a male of the age of 29 years, between the thirteenth day of August and the fifteenth day of AUGUST in the year aforesaid, was killed by the discharged of a bullet from a revolver, but whether such discharged was intentionally or accidental the said jury say that in their opinion, there is not sufficient evidence to show."

Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner had been killed by the discharge of a bullet from a revolver on 13th August, 1918.

A death for Ernest L. Skinner, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Andover, Hampshire/Wiltshire, England.

Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner was buried on 20th August, 1918 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 312 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. Brass mountings. The late Sgt Skinner was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band. The funeral was attended by 6 Officers and 300 N.C.O.'s and men of deceased's Company. Six Sergeants, comrades of the deceased, acted as Pallbearers. Pte A. E. Lee, 3rd A.A.H. (Uncle) attended as Chief mourner. The late Sgt Skinner was held in very high esteem by both Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Aust. M.G.T. Depot and all regret the loss of so good a comrade. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the funeral – Uncle – Pte A. E. Lee, 3rd A.A.H. Dartford.

Ernest Lee Skinner stated on 16th September, 1917 that he had *"made a will and that it is lodged with T. Skinner, Carbarup, West Australia."* The Will was completed on 30th March, 1916: *".....I revoke all prior testamentary dispositions and I devise and bequeath all my real or personal estate of whatsoever kind or description and wheresoever situate to my brother THOMAS SKINNER residing at Carbarup in the state of Western Australia who I hereby appoint as Executor and Trustee....."*

A Telegram was sent on 28th August, 1918 from Mount Barker, Western Australia to Base Records, Melbourne: *"No fiftyone ninety pte ernest leo skinner sixteenth reinforcement sixteenth battalion fourth brigade reported found dead is so please conform write particulars. T Skinner Carbarup."*

A reply was sent on 29th August, 1918 from Base Records: *"Skinner Carbarup (W.A.) No particulars regarding death Sergeant Skinner other than transmitted investigations being made. Your change address noted."*

Thomas Skinner, Jetty Road, Largs Bay, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 1st September, 1918: *"Can you please oblige me with any details concerning the death of my son the late No 5190 Sergeant E. L. Skinner MM, 3rd Machine Gun (late 16th) Battalion AIF who was "found dead at Tidworth" Thanking you in anticipation."*

Base Records replied to Mr Skinner on 6th September, 1918 with the following: *"....I have to state the only information yet available is contained in the brief cable intimation to the effect that he was found dead at Tidworth Wood. However, later official advice coming to hand by mail will, it is anticipated, give further particulars, and these, on receipt, will be promptly transmitted to you, at the address hereunder."*

Haynes, Robinson & Watkins, Solicitors and Notaries, Albany, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 19th September, 1918 with the following letter: *"Mr T. Skinner, of Carbarup, near Mount Baker, W.A., informs us that word ahs been received that his brother Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner, No. 5190, 16th Reinf., 16th Battalion, 4th Brigade, has died in England, and he has instructed us to apply for Probate of his Will, whereof our client is Executor. We send you copy of the Will herewith, and shall be obliged if you will let us have, at your earliest convenience, the official certificate of death, and any further information you may be able to furnish concerning the deceased, or his effects."*

Base Records replied to Messrs Haynes, Robinson & Watkins on 5th October, 1918 advising *".... The necessary official confirming documents covering the report of death of the late No. 5190 Sergeant Lee Skinner, 3rd Machine Gun Battalion, have not yet been received from abroad. Your request, however, has been noted for compliance at the earliest possible date.*

The only information at present to hand regarding the death of this soldier is that he was killed by the discharge of a bullet from a revolver on 13th August, 1918. His body was found in Tidworth Wood, England.

Any personal effects that may be recovered will be returned to his Office for transmission in accordance with the instructions contained in the Will. The Military Paymaster, Perth, will adjust all military financial matters in this instance, and it is necessary that the original Will be produced to that Officer for notation. The copy you furnished to this Office is attached hereto, and I should be obliged if you would have same duly certified and returned."

Thomas Skinner, Jetty Road, Largs Bay, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 25th May, 1919 enquiring about the effects of his son the late Sergeant E. L. Skinner, M.M., No 5190.

Base Records replied to Mr Thomas Skinner on 31st May, 1919 advising “...no personal effects of your son, the late No. 5190 Sergeant E. L. Skinner, M.M., 3rd Machine Gun Battalion, have been received at this office to date. Large consignments are coming to hand from overseas, and should any of your son’s property be included, same will be promptly forwarded to Mr Thomas Skinner, Carbarup, W.A., brother of deceased, in accordance with his testamentary instructions.”

A package (no. 47691) containing the personal effects of the late Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner were forwarded on 2nd August, 1919 to Mr Thomas Skinner, Pier Road, Largs Bay, South Australia.

Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Skinner’s father – Mr T. Skinner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner – service number 5190, of 3rd Bn., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was awarded the Military Medal. No family details are listed.

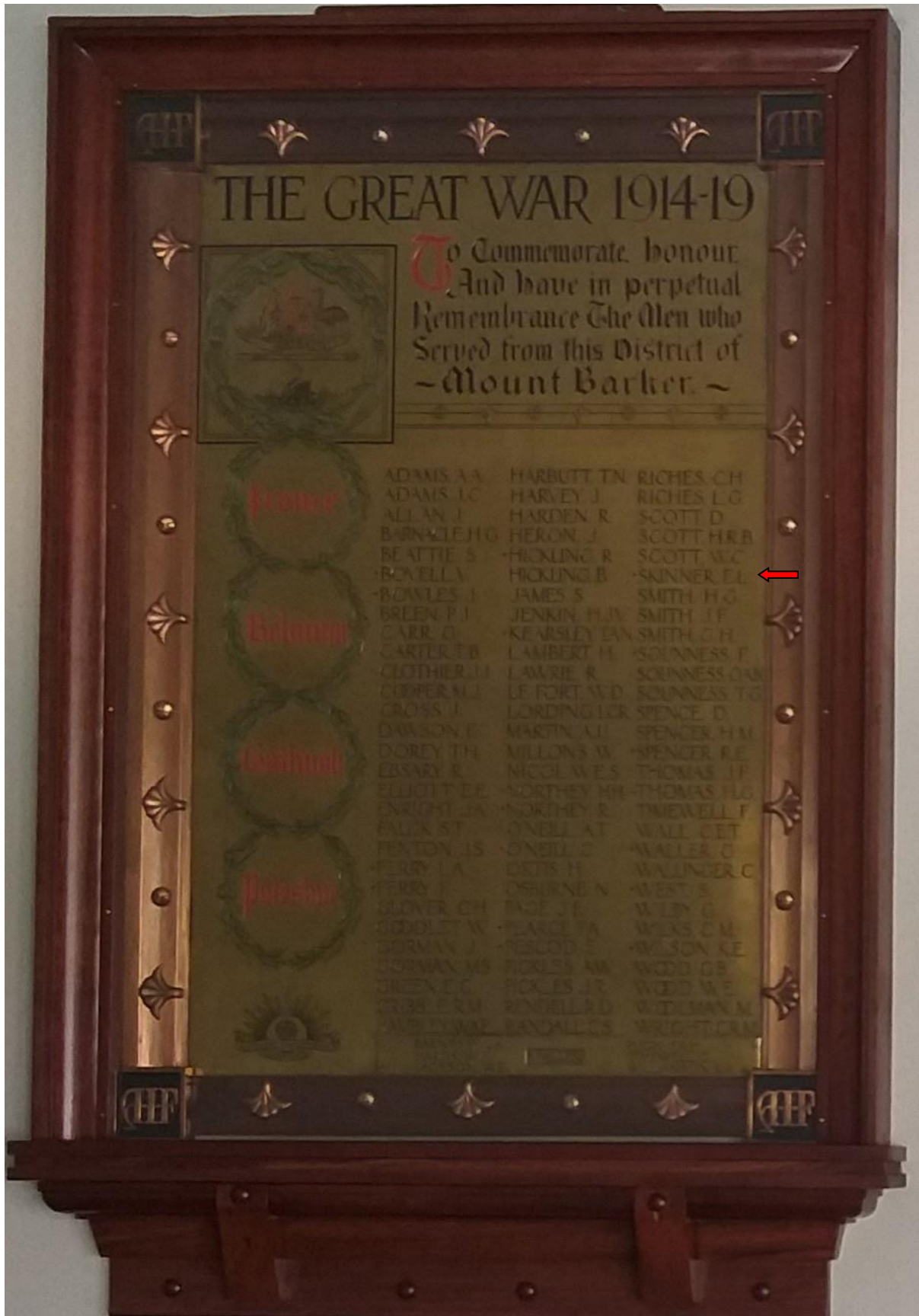
Sergeant E. L. Skinner is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 176.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



E. L. Skinner is remembered on the Mount Barker & District Roll of Honour, located at Lot 250 Memorial Road, Mount Barker, Western Australia.



Mount Barker & District Roll of Honour

(Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Western Front Association Central Victoria Branch)



Mount Barker War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Western Front Association Central Victoria Branch)

E. L. Skinner is remembered on the Albany Roll of Honour, located at Visitors Centre, Princess Royal Fortress, 7 Forts Road, Mount Clarence, Western Australia.



Albany Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Western Front Association Central Victoria Branch)



E. L. Skinner is remembered 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. The memorial 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.

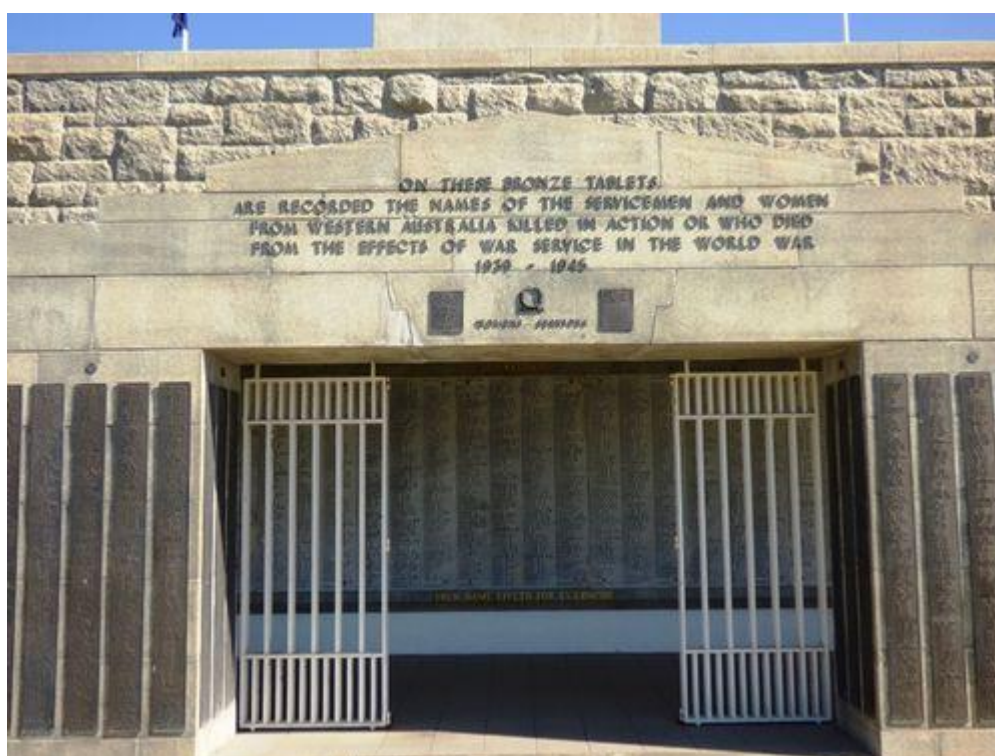
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a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

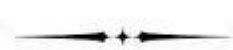




(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(72 pages of Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner'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

MT. BARKER BOY'S DISTINCTION

The many friends of Lance-Corporal E. L. Skinner, of Carbarup, Mt Barker (late of Albany) will be pleased to know he has been awarded the military medal for gallant action on July 31.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 16 November, 1917)

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the Field to the undermentioned Ladies, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men:—

- Nursing Sister DOROTHY GWENDOLINE CAWOOD, A.A.N.S.
- Nursing Sister CLARE DEACON, A.A.N.S.
- Staff Nurse MARY JANE DERRER, A.A.N.S.
- Nursing Sister ALICE ROSS-KING, A.A.N.S.
- No. 255 Private (Acting Corporal) J. H. ALLARD, Infantry.
- No. 25451 Driver A. K. ALLSOP, Artillery.
- No. 13254 Private D. V. K. ANDERSON, A.M.C. (since deceased).
- No. 1667 Gunner (Acting Corporal) E. LE R. ANDERSON, Artillery.
- No. 2846 Sergeant C. F. ARNOLD, Trench Mortar Battery (since deceased).
- No. 11030 Corporal T. ARMSTRONG, Engineers.
- No. 15632 Gunner E. ATKINS, Artillery.
- No. 1132 Sergeant J. BARRACLOUGH, Infantry.
- No. 1051 Sergeant F. BATTEN, Artillery.
- No. 10219 Lance-Corporal W. E. BENNETT, Engineers.
- No. 235 Acting Sergeant A. N. BISHOP, Infantry.
- No. 8805 Sapper G. BLACKMORE, Engineers.
- No. 1611 Private T. BLACKWELL, Infantry.
- No. 4439 Sergeant D. G. BOCK, Infantry (since deceased).

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No. 348 Bombarrier A. W. BEAULT, Artillery.
 No. 1344 Driver A. G. BIRSWY, Artillery.
 No. 3633 Corporal G. L. BIRSWY, A.M.C.
 No. 1307 Sergeant C. W. BIRSK, A.M.C.
 No. 1144 Gunner B. BIRNLEY, Artillery.
 No. 2017 Private J. W. BYRON, Infantry.
 No. 29913 Gunner H. C. CROCKETT, Artillery.
 No. 3690 Corporal J. CROFT, Artillery.
 No. 1238 Driver J. B. DICKENS, Artillery.
 No. 318 Corporal J. DICKENS, Trench Mortar Battery.
 No. 13484 Driver V. A. DYER, A.S.C.
 No. 7318 Sergeant J. FYZEVANTICK, A.M.C.
 No. 0600 Driver F. T. FORD, Artillery.
 No. 302 Private A. H. M. GAVE, Infantry.
 No. 213 Private J. GEMMY, Infantry.
 No. 12391 Lance-Corporal W. D. GIBBS, A.M.C.
 No. 14763 Sapper J. C. GIBBS, Engineers.
 No. 8771 Private F. H. GUNWELL, A.M.C.
 No. 2181 Private J. H. GUNWELL, Infantry.
 No. 124 Corporal W. C. HADGIST, Infantry.
 No. 2164 Private G. L. HAMPTON, Infantry.
 No. 905 Bombarrier G. T. HARRISON, Artillery.
 No. 2144 Bombarrier A. W. HARRISON, Artillery.
 No. 15470 Gunner F. HARRISON, Artillery.
 No. 3205 Sergeant W. A. HARMY, Artillery.
 No. 1842 Lance-Corporal C. HARRISON, Infantry.
 No. 10588 Gunner H. R. HOWARD, Artillery.
 No. 8010 Driver B. HUNTER, Artillery.
 No. 989 Private D. J. INGLE, Infantry.
 No. 11983 Lance-Corporal E. R. JAMESON, A.M.C.
 No. 1915 Corporal W. J. JONES, Infantry.
 No. 1293 Gunner F. J. KERRAN, Artillery.
 No. 104 Acting Sergeant B. W. ROBERTSON, Infantry.
 No. 636 Private W. J. KIM, Infantry.
 No. 1070 Driver (Acting Bombarrier) L. LOAN, Artillery.
 No. 398 Corporal (Acting Sergeant) W. C. McCANNON, Infantry.
 No. 329 Private J. McCLELLAN, Infantry.
 No. 12290 Acting Bombarrier W. A. McDOVEY, Artillery.
 No. 7044 Private C. W. McDOVEY, Machine Gun Corps.
 No. 5412 Sapper D. O. McDOUGALL, Engineers.
 No. 343 Sapper J. McDOUGALL, Engineers.
 No. 1077 Bombarrier C. J. McEVAN, Artillery.
 No. 2808 Gunner E. McEVAN, Artillery.
 No. 12346 Lance-Corporal J. B. MCKAY, A.M.C.
 No. 1469 Sergeant J. J. McNEIL, Artillery.
 No. 6764 Private (Lance-Corporal) A. W. McNEIL, Infantry (since deceased).
 No. 2201 Gunner A. J. MURRAY, Artillery.
 No. 6128 Gunner T. NEASE, Artillery.
 No. 2682 Sergeant N. A. NELSON, Infantry.
 No. 813 Driver C. N. PENNINGTON, Artillery.
 No. 1035 Sergeant H. PATEY, Infantry.
 No. 273 Private N. RENDLE, Infantry.
 No. 11900 Acting Bombarrier P. C. RIBSON, Artillery.
 No. 2078 Private C. RIBSON, Infantry.
 No. 5053 Driver E. C. T. SHERWELL, Artillery.
 No. 274 Private T. SHIRK, Infantry.
 No. 4014 Gunner H. B. SHERRIFF, Artillery (since deceased).
 No. 316 Sergeant G. J. SIMPSON, Artillery.
 No. 9990 Sergeant W. SINCLAIR, Artillery.
 No. 3100 Private E. L. SKINNER, Infantry.
 No. 822 Gunner H. E. SLOAN, Engineers.

No. 12316 Gunner G. J. SUTHER, Artillery.
 No. 6251 Sergeant F. L. SWAIN, Engineers.
 No. 178 Sergeant J. SWAIN, Artillery.
 No. 22203 Acting Corporal E. G. THOMAS, Artillery.
 No. 11403 Gunner W. SCOTT, Trench Mortar Battery.
 No. 8444 Driver A. H. J. STOKES, Artillery.
 No. 4325 Sergeant W. SYMONDS, Artillery.
 No. 20701 Gunner P. SWAIN, Artillery.
 No. 3040 Gunner W. R. L. TAYLOR, Artillery.
 No. 17 Corporal C. E. TERRY, Infantry.
 No. 420 Gunner R. E. THOMSON, Artillery (late Light Horse).
 No. 960 Private E. THOMPSON, Infantry.
 No. 12006 Private W. N. THORNTON, A.M.C.
 No. 2587 Private (Lance-Corporal) J. D. TUNLEY, Machine Gun Corps (late Infantry).
 No. 1181 Gunner H. V. WALKER, Artillery.
 No. 3240 Lance-Corporal C. R. WATSON, A.M.C.
 No. 1121 Sergeant C. E. WEATHERS, Artillery.
 No. 395 Gunner C. R. WICKHAM, Artillery.
 No. 417 Gunner W. WICKHAM, Artillery.
 No. 1817 Gunner F. E. WICKHAM, Artillery.
 No. 12414 Corporal T. L. WILKINSON, A.M.C.
 No. 3400 Sapper G. WILSON, Engineers.
 No. 2174 Private W. WILSON, Infantry.
 No. 102 Gunner C. WINDHAM, Trench Mortar Battery.
 No. 105 Sergeant M. A. YOUNG, Engineers.
 No. 11251 Corporal W. YOUNG, Artillery (since deceased).

Home and Territories Department,
 Melbourne, 14th January, 1918.

It is hereby notified for general information that His Excellency the Governor-General, with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, has declared his assent to the undermentioned Ordinance which has been passed by the Legislative Council of Papua—

"Past Officers' Superannuation Ordinance, 1917."
 P. McM. GLYNN,
 Minister for Home and Territories.

Home and Territories Department,
 Melbourne, 16th January, 1918.

It is hereby notified for general information that His Excellency the Governor-General, with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, has declared his assent to the undermentioned Ordinance which has been passed by the Legislative Council of Papua—

"Superannuation Ordinance, 1917."
 P. McM. GLYNN,
 Minister for Home and Territories.

Home and Territories Department,
 Melbourne, 14th January, 1918.

It is hereby notified for general information that His Excellency the Governor-General, with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, has declared his assent to the undermentioned Ordinance which has been passed by the Legislative Council of Papua—

"Superannuation Ordinance, 1917 (No. 21)."
 P. McM. GLYNN,
 Minister for Home and Territories.

WAR PRECAUTIONS (ENEMY SHAREHOLDERS) REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS by Regulation 8 of the War Precautions (Enemy Shareholders) Regulations, it is amongst other things enacted that the

- No. 9990 Sergeant W. SINCLAIR, Artillery.
- No. 5190 Private E. L. SKINNER, Infantry.
- No. 822 Gunner H. E. SLOAN, Engineers.

(Commonwealth of Australia Gazette - 24 January, 1918)

THE AUSTRALIANS

BIOGRAPHICAL

SGT SKINNER, M.M.

Capt. T.A. S. Skinner, of Largs Bay, has been informed that his second son, Sgt. E.L. Skinner, has received the military medal for conspicuous bravery. Sgt. Skinner, who is 29 years of age, was born in England, but was only 18 months old when his parents brought him to Australia. He settled for the greater part of his life in Western Australia. He spent two years in South Australia, where he made many friends; but deciding to take up fruitgrowing, returned to Western Australia, where he enlisted. He left Australia two years ago, and has served with the 16th and 28th Battalions. He is now with the 11th Machine Gun Section. He is a grandson of the late Mr. H.B. Lee, of Sydney.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 March, 1918) & (*Port Adelaide News*, South Australia – 1 March, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

SKINNER – In loving memory of my dear friend, Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner, M.M., who died suddenly at Tidsworth, England, in August, 1918, after two years and five months' service.

He was other people's hero,

But just my boy.

-Inserted by his loving fiancée, Ethel Garraty, Albany.

(*The Albany Advertiser*, Western Australia – 7 September, 1918) & (*West Australian*, Perth, W.A. – 10 September, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

SKINNER – In loving memory of my dear friend, Sergeant Ernest Lee Skinner, M.M., August, 1918, died suddenly at Tidsworth, England, after two years and five months' service.

-Inserted by his loving fiancée, Ethel Garraty, Albany.

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 13 September, 1918)

440th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Accidentally Killed

5190 Sgt E. L. SKINNER, M.M., Largs Bay, 13/8/18, p.r. died c.n.std.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 November, 1918)

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)

Sergeant E. L. Skinner does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00479

The Australian section of the cemetery.

Identified, left to right: 3349A Private (Pte) A. G. Bosanquet, 52nd Battalion, died 22 July 1918; 7251 Pte L. F. Cooper, 12th Battalion, died 24 July 1918; 18282 Driver J. T. Jackson, Details Australian Field Engineers, died 30 October 1917; **5190 Sergeant (Sgt) E. L. Skinner MM, 3rd Machine Gun Battalion, died 17 August 1918**; 17445 Pte R. T. Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 1879 Gunner (Gnr) S. E. D. Fox, 5th Divisional Ammunition Column, died 25 September 1918; 31712 Gnr J. A. McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917; 50727 Pte R. J. Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918. **Note the Roll of Honour shows date of death 13 August 1918 for Sgt Skinner.**



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)*



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Sergeant E. L. Skinner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)

