

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**25643 GUNNER**

**C. V. SPRIGGS**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**4TH DECEMBER, 1917 Age 22**

*The Lord Gave  
And The Lord  
Hath Taken Away*

## Charles Vivian SPRIGGS

Charles Vivian Spriggs was born at Wollongong, New South Wales in 1895 to parents Francis Thomas & Eliza Alice Spriggs (nee Searle).

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Charles Vivian Spriggs had served as Lieutenant with Citizen Forces.

Charles Vivian Spriggs was aged 20 years & 5 months, single & a Coal Miner from Keiraville, Wollongong, NSW when he enlisted at Casula, Sydney, NSW on 24th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 25643 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr F. T. Spriggs, of Keiraville, Wollongong, NSW. Charles Spriggs stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Militia for 4 years.

Charles Vivian Spriggs was posted to “B” Company, Depot Battalion at Casula, Sydney, NSW on 24th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to F.A.R. 5/7 (Field Artillery Reinforcements ?) as Gunner on 1st February, 1916. Gunner Spriggs was transferred to 4 D.A.C. 4 (4th Divisional Ammunition Column, 4th Reinforcements) on 5th April, 1916.

Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 29th July, 1916 with the 4th Divisional Ammunition Column, 4th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th September, 1916. Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs had been E.D.P (Extra duty Pay) Corporal from 29th July, 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.

(E.D.P.) Corporal Charles Vivian Spriggs was marched out to Bulford – A.A.T.D. (Australian Artillery Training Depot) on 21st October, 1916. (Note: An entry on Casualty Form Active Service recorded he was to be Acting Corporal (without pay) from 25th October, 1916. This was later recorded as incorrect & to delete complete entry.)

(E.D.P.) Corporal Charles Vivian Spriggs reverted to rank of Gunner from 15th December, 1916.

Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 18th December, 1916 from A.A.T.D. (Australian Artillery Training Depot). He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 19th December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 4 D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) in the Field on 31st December, 1916.

Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs was transferred to 10th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 5th January, 1917 & was taken on strength of 10th F.A.B. on the same day. He was posted to 39th Battery.

### 10th Field Artillery Brigade

The 10th Field Artillery Brigade formed in Egypt in early 1916 to support the newly raised 4th Division. It went on to serve in *Egypt: Defence of Egypt*, *Western Front: Retreat to the Hindenburg Line*, Bullecourt, Messines, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Villers Bretonneux, Hamel, Amiens, Albert, Hindenburg Line.

10th Field Artillery Brigade February 1916 – past November 1918

- 37th Field Artillery Battery
- 38th Field Artillery Battery
- 39th Field Artillery Battery
- 110th Field Artillery (Howitzer) Battery
- 10th Brigade Ammunition Column

(Information from VWMA)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01240

**Members of 39th Battery, Australian Field Artillery – 30 October, 1917**

*An abandoned enemy gun, near Hannebeek, in the Ypres Sector, being removed by members of the 39th Battery of Australian Field Artillery during the intervals between barrages.*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01240K

*Identified: Sergeant (Sgt) W. Bethune (1); unidentified (2); Gunner (Gnr) J. Burke (3); Corporal T. A. Palmer (4); Driver R. Ross (5); unidentified (6); unidentified (7); unidentified (8); Sgt J. W. Nelson (9); Gnr A. L. Morgan (10); Lt A. Priddle (11); unidentified (12); Gnr J. Holleley (13); Gnr H. R. Schofield (14); Gnr G. Fitzmaurice (15); unidentified (16); unidentified (17); Gnr S. J. Dutton (17A); unidentified (18); Cpl C. W. King (19); Bombardier D. J. Kinghorn (20).*

Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs was wounded in action on 1st November, 1917. (Note: previously recorded as "Reported Missing in Action" then crossed out to show "wounded in action"). Gunner Spriggs was admitted to 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 31st October, 1917 (date as per Casualty Form Active Service) having been aerial bomb wounded. He was transferred to Ambulance Train 22 on 5th November, 1917 & admitted to 1st Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 6th November, 1917 with Shrapnel wound/s to head. Gunner Spriggs was invalided to England from 1st Canadian General Hospital at Etaples on 12th November, 1917.

#### War Diary – 10th Australian Field Artillery Brigade

*31/10/17 – Fine clear day. 12 Guns taken to Light Railway for transport to Reninghelst. Task expected to be complete tomorrow. In early morning Enemy Aircraft very active bombing vicinity of (Whins?) but no damage.*

#### *RENINGHELST 1/11/17*

*Day clear & dry. Salving of guns complete. Enemy plane bombed wagon lines during night. 2 O/Rs killed. 19 Wounded. 35 Horses Killed 19 Wounded.*

(War Diary information from The Australian War Memorial)

Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England on 14th November, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head / Skull – severe. The Hospital Admissions for also reported "*(trephined) Deaf*". His condition was later reported as "*Gradually getting weaker. Vomiting. Coma. Death.*"



**The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London**

Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs died at 9.15 pm on 4th December, 1917 at The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. Head.

A death for Charles V. Spriggs, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth. London/Surrey, England.



Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs was buried at 1.30 pm on 8th December, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Grave No. 180132 Australian Military Burial Ground. From the burial report of Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party, Buglers and Pallbearers were supplied by the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. The coffin was surmounted a beautiful wreath. 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.*

*Names of relatives or friend present at the Funeral – Cousins – Mr & Mrs George Seaward, 26, Morton Road, Kensington, W.*

Base Records wrote to Mr F. T. Spriggs, Keiraville, Wollongong, NSW on 20th April, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row E Grave 2. "*While the actual place of burial remains unchanged the previous registration allotted thereto has been altered to conform with the uniform layout of this Cemetery.*" This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference - Plot number XI.E.2. Gunner Spriggs has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Alice Eliza Spriggs, mother of the late Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 8th February, 1918.

Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Spriggs' father – Mr F. T. Spriggs, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

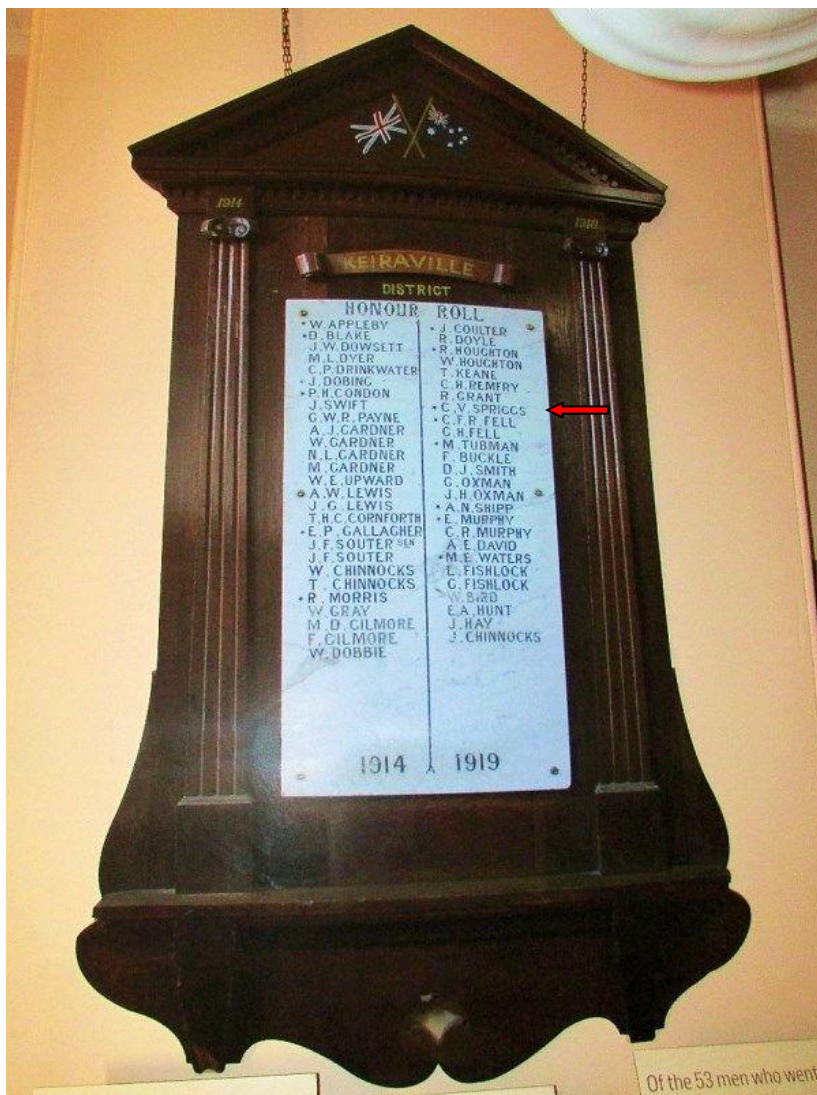
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs – service number 25643, aged 22, of 10th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Francis Thomas and Alice Eliza Spriggs, of Keiraville, Wollongong, New South Wales.

Gunner C. V. Spriggs is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 16.



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

C. V. Spriggs is remembered on the Keiraville District Honour Roll 1914 -1918 which is located at Illawarra Museum, 11 Market Street, Wollongong, NSW.



Keiraville District Honour Roll 1914 -1918 (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)



Charles Vivian Spriggs is remembered on the "Illawarra Remembers 1914 – 1918" website.





(57 pages of Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs' 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



**British War Medal & Victory Medal along with Badge from 37<sup>th</sup> Illawarra Infantry  
issued to Charles Vivian Spriggs**

*(Photo courtesy of Wazza McWazza – great nephew of Gunner Spriggs)*





**A family photo returned** (Photo courtesy of Wazza McWazza – great nephew of Gunner Spriggs)





**Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs**





**Gunner C. V. SPRIGGS**  
of Wollongong,  
died of wounds, 1/1

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 28 December, 1917)*



**Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs** *(Photo courtesy of Wazza McWazza – great nephew of Gunner Spriggs)*





## **Newspaper Notices**

### **News of the Cadets**

All the senior cadets of 37B area will be free from drills from the 13th December till about the 15th January, and no doubt will thoroughly appreciate the rest.

Boys born during the year 1900 must register for senior cadet training immediately.

Staff-Sgt Major McFeely leaves on a well-merited holiday on Monday.

Lieut. K. Shipp, at the last half yearly examination of officers of the Citizen Forces, gained 89 marks out of 100 in the subject "Defence Act and Regulations."

At the examination of senior cadet officers which was recently held in Sydney the following officers passed in an examination for promotion, with the marks in each subject shown after their names. The possible marks in each subject were 100 : —

Lieut. J. N. Harrison, 81, drill — all subjects ; 75, regulations ; 86, map reading. ,

Lieut. E. P. Byrnes, 79, 71, 75.

**" C. V. Spriggs, 70, 68, 59.**

" C. T. P. Parsons, 70, 66, 53.

Lieut. Harrison's was a distinguished pass.

*(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 12 December, 1913)*

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### **Mount Keira – Keiraville**

A letter received from Corporal C. V. Spriggs, states that he is in the best of health and he is going through a school of instruction before leaving England for the front.

*(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 12 January, 1917)*

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### **Mount Keira – Keiraville**

Word was conveyed to his parents on Tuesday last by the Rev. Stubbin, that Gunner C. V. Spriggs had died of wounds. He was wounded on the 14th November and died in King George's Hospital on the 4th December. The wound was a gun-shot one in the head. Gunner Spriggs was 22½ years of age, and before enlisting had a good military career, he being second lieutenant in charge of the Keiraville squad of cadets for a few years. He resigned this position, and went into the Citizen Forces as a private, but quickly rose to second lieutenant, which position he resigned to enlist. Gunner Spriggs was also well known in sporting circles; he was a member of the Mount Keira Cricket Club, with which he played first and second grade, the Rugby League and Keiraville Soccer football clubs. He was respected by all who knew him, and much sympathy is expressed for the bereaved parents and relatives.

*(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 14 December, 1917)*

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## DISTRICT NEWS

### Keiraville

#### DEATH OF A HERO

This week the Rev. C. A. Stubbin had the sad duty of conveying to Mr. F. T. Spriggs, the news that his son, Gunner C. V. Spriggs, of the Field Artillery, had died of wounds on the 4th inst. Gunner Spriggs was about 22 years of age. He had been employed at Mount Keira Colliery prior to enlisting, and was a member of Keira C.C. He was a Lieutenant in the Senior Cadets, and afterwards in the Citizen Forces. He resigned from the commissioned ranks when he enlisted about two years ago. Captain W. Appleby (killed), Sergeant W. Dowsett (returned.), and Gunner C. Spriggs all passed for Lieutenant at the one examination, whilst training with the Citizen Forces.

*(Illawarra Mercury, Wollongong, NSW – 14 December, 1917)*

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#### FALL OF GUNNER C. V. SPRIGGS

Mr and Mrs. Spriggs, of Keiraville, have received several letters from friends, of their son, who died of wounds some time ago. Among them is one from the chaplain who conducted the burial service, which reads as follows: — Australian Imperial Forces, 130 Horseferry road, London, S.W., December 10th, 1917. Dear Mr. and Mrs. Spriggs, — I am writing to express my sincere sympathy in the great loss you have sustained in the death of your son, Gunner C. V. Spriggs, of the 10th F.A.B. Perhaps the thought that he has made the complete sacrifice for his country and for all that we hold so dear, may be of some solace to you in your great sorrow. He has fought bravely, suffered patiently and died nobly and now he rests the warrior's rest, side by side with his comrades from Australia. I am sure you will desire to know all that we can inform you about the last sad rites. Your dear boy was buried on Saturday last (December 8th), at Brookwood Cemetery, about 29 miles from London. The cemetery resembles a country gentleman's park, with its profusion of trees, flowers and shrubs. A section of the ground is set apart for Australian burials. The graves are covered with sods and are lovingly attended to; a wooden cross painted white marks the grave. Australian lads formed the firing party and his relatives, uncle and aunt, were the chief mourners. I conducted the full Church of England service. Your son has been promoted to a higher life; may the Friend of the sorrowing be your strength and stay. — Robert H. Richards, archdeacon, Acting S. Chaplain, A.I.F.

Another was received from Gunner J. Swift, who enlisted from Keiraville, with Gunner Spriggs, and was with him nearly all the time they have been away. Gunner Swift writes expressing his deepest sympathy, and says that nobody in the battery thought his wounds were so severe, and they were all sorry to hear of his death. He also states that Gunner Spriggs was the most popular lad in the battery, both with officers and men. Still another was from Gunner S. E. Crump, who met Gunner Spriggs the first day he was in camp and stayed with him until they were separated in France. He states he went to see Gunner Spriggs while he was in hospital, but as he was unconscious he was not able to see him. And the next day he rang up the hospital to see how he was, and was told he was dead. He expressed his heartfelt sympathy stating he felt the death of Charlie as though it was his own brother. He said Gunner Spriggs was always just and upright, and always acted up to all the obligations entrusted to him, an example to anyone to follow in his footsteps.

*(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 22 February, 1918)*

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#### ROLL OF HONOUR

SPRIGGS - In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs, 10th F.A.B. (late 4th Division), died of wounds in King George's Hospital, London, 4th of December, 1917; aged 23 years.

Thy will be done.

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 4 December, 1918)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

SPRIGGS - In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Gunner Charles Vivian Spriggs, 10th F.A.B. (late 4th Division), died of wounds in King George's Hospital, London, 4th of December, 1917; aged 23 years.

"Thy will be done."

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

*(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 6 December, 1918)*

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## ON ACTIVE SERVICE

SPRIGGS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Charles Vivian Spriggs, who died of wounds in King George's Hospital, London, on December 4th, 1917. At Rest.

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

*(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 5 December, 1919)*

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## ANZAC DAY

### WOLLONGONG CELEBRATIONS

The day is Anzac Day,

Made Sacred by the memory

Of those who fought and died,

and fought and lived,

And gave the best that men may give,

For love of land

Quinn.

The vast body of the Crown Theatre, Wollongong, was filled to overflowing on Sunday afternoon when a combined religious service to commemorate Anzac, and all that it stands for in our National Life, was held. A procession, led by the Wollongong Town Band, and including over 100 returned soldiers, (mostly in uniform), V.A.Ds., Salvation Army Band, and motor cars, preceded the service, the route being from Jubilee Bridge to the Town Hall, where wreaths were placed on the railings, thence to the theatre.....

### THE WREATHS

The Sentiment of placing wreaths on the Town Hall railings at Wollongong was observed again this year, and some pretty wreaths were noticeable. The local branch of the R.S. and S.I. League sent a wreath in memory of "Fallen Comrades," and the Patron of the League, Mr W. J. Cochrane, O.B.E., also sent a wreath in memory of "Fallen Pals." Remembrances of the following soldier were also observed:- Private Reg. Morris, Segt Crawford, Capt. Appleby, **Gunner C. V. Spriggs**, Private David Brownlee,.....

*(Illawarra Mercury, Wollongong, NSW – 28 April, 1922)*

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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)*

Gunner C. V. Spriggs does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

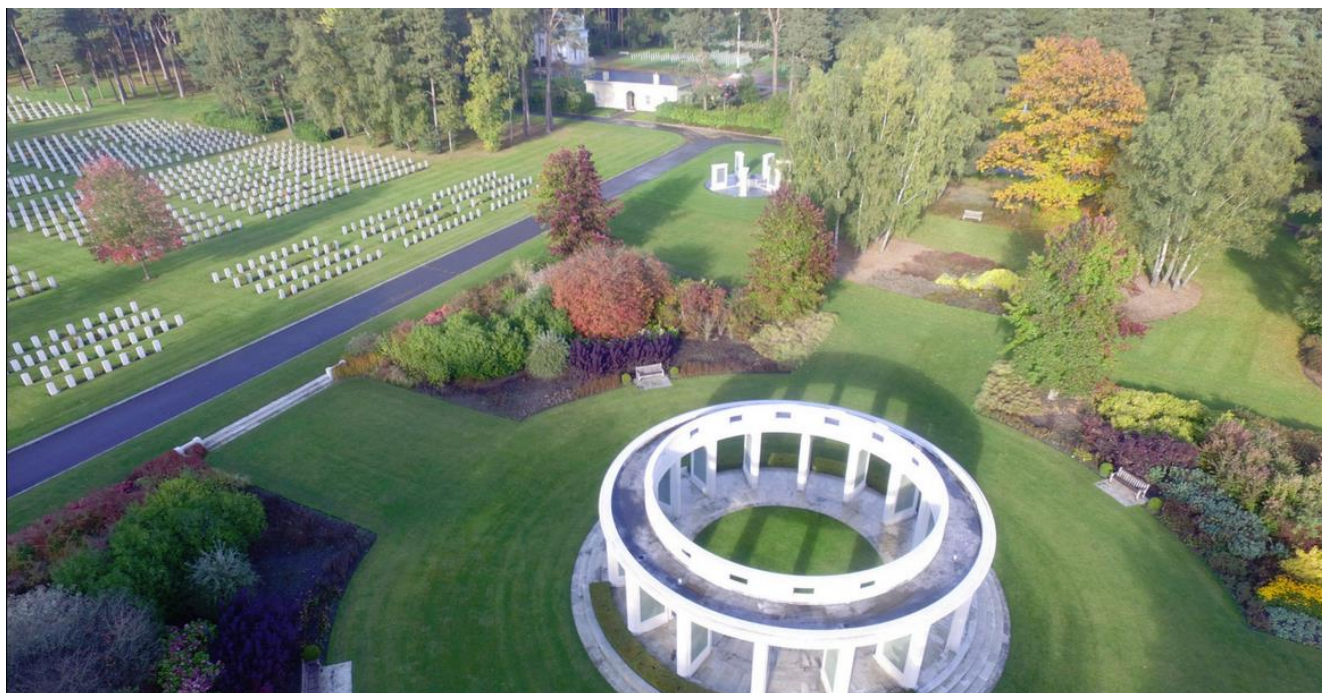
*The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away*

## **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)







**Australian War Graves** (Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)



Photo of Gunner C. V. Spriggs' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright - 2020)*

