

**Botley Cemetery,
Botley, Oxfordshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



692 PRIVATE

A. SUMMERS

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31ST OCTOBER, 1918 Age 26

The Dearly Beloved Son

Of Mr & Mrs Summers

Of Kyogle, N.S.W.

Andrew SUMMERS

Andrew Summers was born at North Codrington, NSW on 22nd September, 1891 to parents John and Hannah Wain Summers (nee Reid)

Andrew Summers was a 25 year old, single, Farmer from Eden Creek, Kyogle, NSW when he enlisted at Lismore, NSW on 2nd November, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 692 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Summers, Eden Creek, Kyogle, NSW. Andrew Summers stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 18 months with Australian Light Horse.

Private Andrew Summers was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 8th December, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Machine Gun Reinforcements on 2nd February, 1917 then transferred to 3rd Machine Gun Company on 19th February, 1917. Private Summers was transferred to Machine Gun Depot on 26th February, 1917 then transferred to “*Invalids 3rd Military District*” on 27th February, 1917 until 5th April, 1917.

Private Andrew Summers embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Suevic (A29)* on 21st June, 1917 with the 3rd Machine Gun Company, 12th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 26th August, 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 Andrew Summers was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 26th August, 1917 from Australia.

Private Andrew Summers was marched out from 1st Training Battalion on 13th November, 1917 to Isolation Hospital. He was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 13th November, 1917 with Bronchitis & was discharged to Lines on 23rd November, 1917.

Private Andrew Summers proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd January, 1918 to reinforce the 15th Battalion. He joined 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 24th January, 1918 & was marched out to his Unit on 26th January, 1918. Private Summers was taken on strength of 15th Battalion from 3rd Machine Gun Company on 29th January, 1918 in the Field.

Private Andrew Summers was wounded in action in France on 4th July, 1918. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 4th July, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to thighs & right arm. Private Summers was transferred & admitted to 47th Casualty Clearing Station on 4th July, 1918. He was transferred & admitted on 8th July, 1918 to 12th USA General Hospital at Rouen, France. Private Summers embarked for England from France on 29th September, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle*.

15th Battalion

The 15th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

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In March and April 1918, the battalion helped stop the German spring offensive.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 15th Battalion

4th July, 1918 – Attacked enemy positions in front of ACCROCHE WOOD. See narrative and maps in appendix.

Appendix:

Attack on Hamel and Vaire and Hamel Woods 4-7-18

General Scheme

4th Aust. Infantry Brigade were ordered to capture Vaire and Hamel Woods and consolidate on the spur East of those woods. Simultaneously the 6th Brigade on the right and the 11th Brigade on the left were to capture and consolidate a line as shown on attached maps.

The 15th Battalion jumping off line was from P.14.a.5.5 to P.5.c.8.8 to P.8.b.1.1 and their final objective a line from P.15.d.9.5 to P.10.d.7.3. Tanks were to co-operate – three at Pear shaped Trench, three to the right of it and six along inter-Brigade boundary, on which our left flank rested.

Three Vickers machine guns and two light trench mortars were to go over with the Battalion.

The attack was to be made under cover of a creeping artillery barrage, and Zero was timed for 3.10 am.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Andrew Summers was admitted to 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford, Oxfordshire, England on 30th September, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right thigh, compound fracture of femur, GSW to left thigh (flesh) & GSW to right shoulder (Flesh) – all shell wounds. His condition was listed as severe. The Hospital Admissions form records the following “*Wounded 4/7/18. Rt hip wd excised & F.B. removed at 12 Gen Hosp. On July 20 Streptococcus found in all wds (same hosp). Admitted 3 S. G. Hosp 30/9/18, when head of rt femur excised. Wd. remained very dirty, Developed Influenza 25 Oct & pneumonia 2 days later.*”

Private Andrew Summers died at 9.45 pm on 31st October, 1918 at 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford, Oxfordshire, England from wounds received in action – re-section of right hip & Pneumonia.

A death for Andrew Summers, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Oxford, Oxfordshire, England.

Private Andrew Summers was buried on 6th November, 1918 in Botley Cemetery, Botley, Oxfordshire, England – Plot number I1. 157 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Andrew Summers - *Coffin was good polished. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside where the “Last Post” was sounded by a Bugler of the A.I.F. London. The burial service was conducted by the Rev: Clement Wilson, of Holywell, Oxford. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Private Andrew Summers requested in his Will dated 11th June, 1917 while at Seymour Camp, that in the event of his death all his military estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Annie Summers, Eden Creek, Kyogle, NSW.

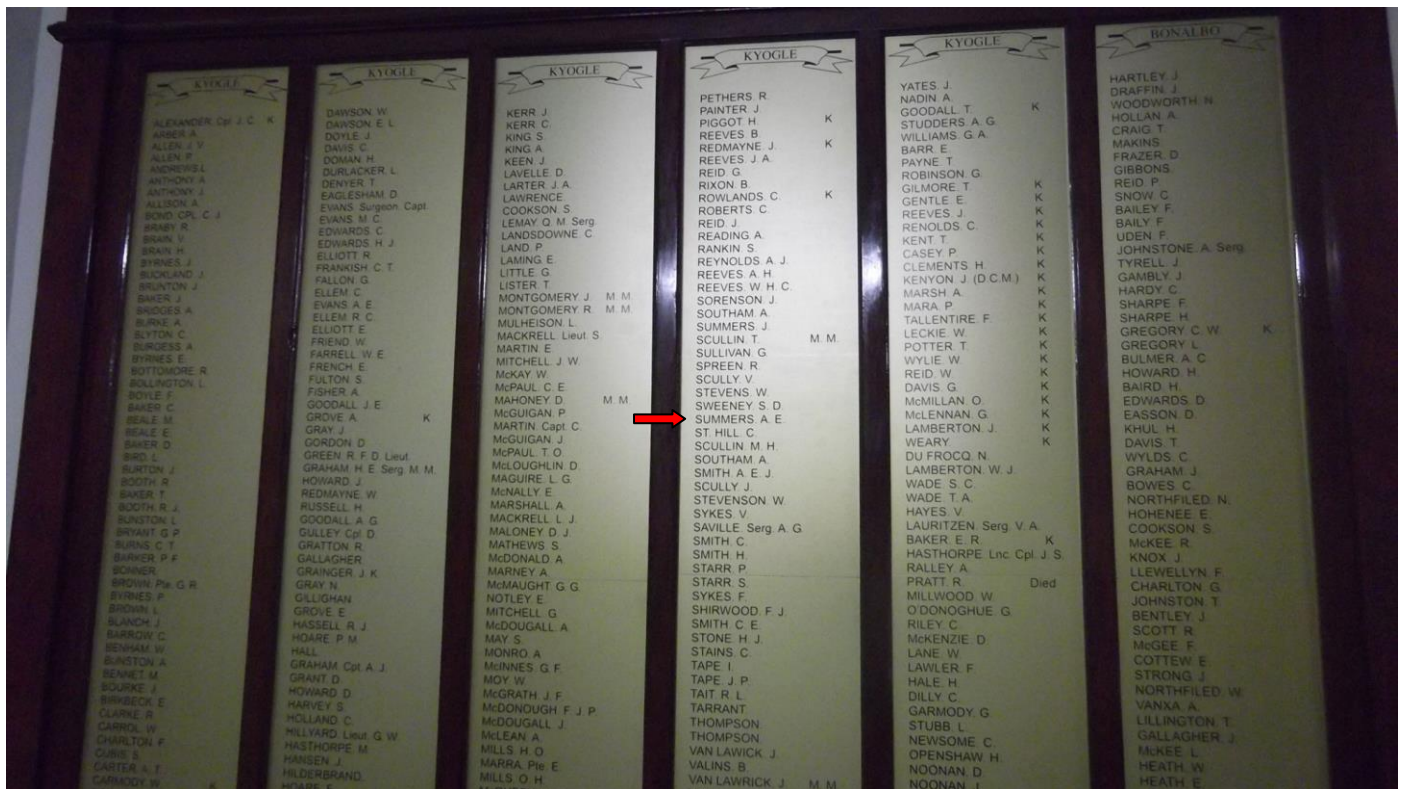
Private Andrew Summers was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Summers’ father - Mr J. Summers, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Andrew Summers – service number 692, aged 26, of 15th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Hannah Wain Summers, of Eden Creekm Kyogle, New South Wales.

A. E. Summers is remembered on the Kyogle Memorial Institute First World War Honor Roll, located in Kyogle Memorial Institute, Summerland Way & Stratheden Street, Kyogle, NSW.



Kyogle Memorial Institute First World War Honor Roll
(Photos from NSW War Memorials Register)



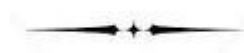
Private A. Summers is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 77.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(42 pages of Private Andrew Summers' 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



Private Andrew Summers



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08387.003

Private Andrew Summers



Newspaper Notices

WAR NOTES

Private Andrew Summers, of Kyogle, who was dangerously wounded on 8th July, has cabled his parents that he is doing well.

(The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser, NSW – 9 August, 1918)

THE 419th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

A. Summers (Kyogle)

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 20 August, 1918)

SIFTINGS

Mr and Mrs J. Summers, of Eden Creek, have been advised that their son, Private Andrew Summers who was recently wounded, has been pronounced out of danger.

(The Kyogle Examiner, NSW – 9 October, 1918)

Died of Wounds

Yesterday word was received from Base Records that Private Andrew Summers, second son of Mr. and Mrs. John Summers, of Eden Creek, had died in hospital after a lengthy illness. It is several months since Private Summers was wounded, and from time to time his parents have been advised as to his condition, the last official report being of a satisfactory nature. However, it is supposed that recovery was retarded by a serious illness, and this combined with the effects of wounds resulted in his death. Private Summers enlisted some two years ago, and had seen considerable fighting in France. He was about 23 years of age. His brother, Gunner J. Summers, M.M. returned from the front earlier in the year. The sympathy of that many friends will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Summers in their bereavement.

(The Kyogle Examiner, NSW – 9 November, 1918)

Roll of Honor

SUMMERS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte Andrew Summers, 3rd machine gun company, who died of wounds in England on the 31st October, 1918, aged 26 years and two months.

Forget not them who died for us

New peace has come once more.

We will always remember the lonely grave

Beyond the foreign shore

-Inserted by his loving father and mother.

(The Kyogle Examiner, NSW – 1 November, 1919)

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 A. Summers does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Dearly Beloved Son Of Mr & Mrs Summers Of Kyogle N.S.W.

Botley Cemetery, Botley, Oxfordshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

During the First World War, the 3rd Southern General Hospital (an Oxfordshire Territorial Unit) was housed in the Examination Schools and a number of other buildings in Oxford. Oxford (Botley) Cemetery contains 156 burials from the First World War, all in the war graves plot in section I/1. The cemetery was designated a Royal Air Force regional cemetery during the Second World War and was used by RAF stations in Berkshire and neighbouring counties. Practically all of the 516 Second World War burials (one of them unidentified) are in the war graves plot, which was extended from the section used during the First World War. The architectural features of the plot were designed by Edward Maufe, ARA. In addition to the Commonwealth war graves, Oxford (Botley) Cemetery contains almost 70 war graves of other nationalities.

There are eight Australian World War 1 War Graves.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo by Stephen Potts – Find a Grave)



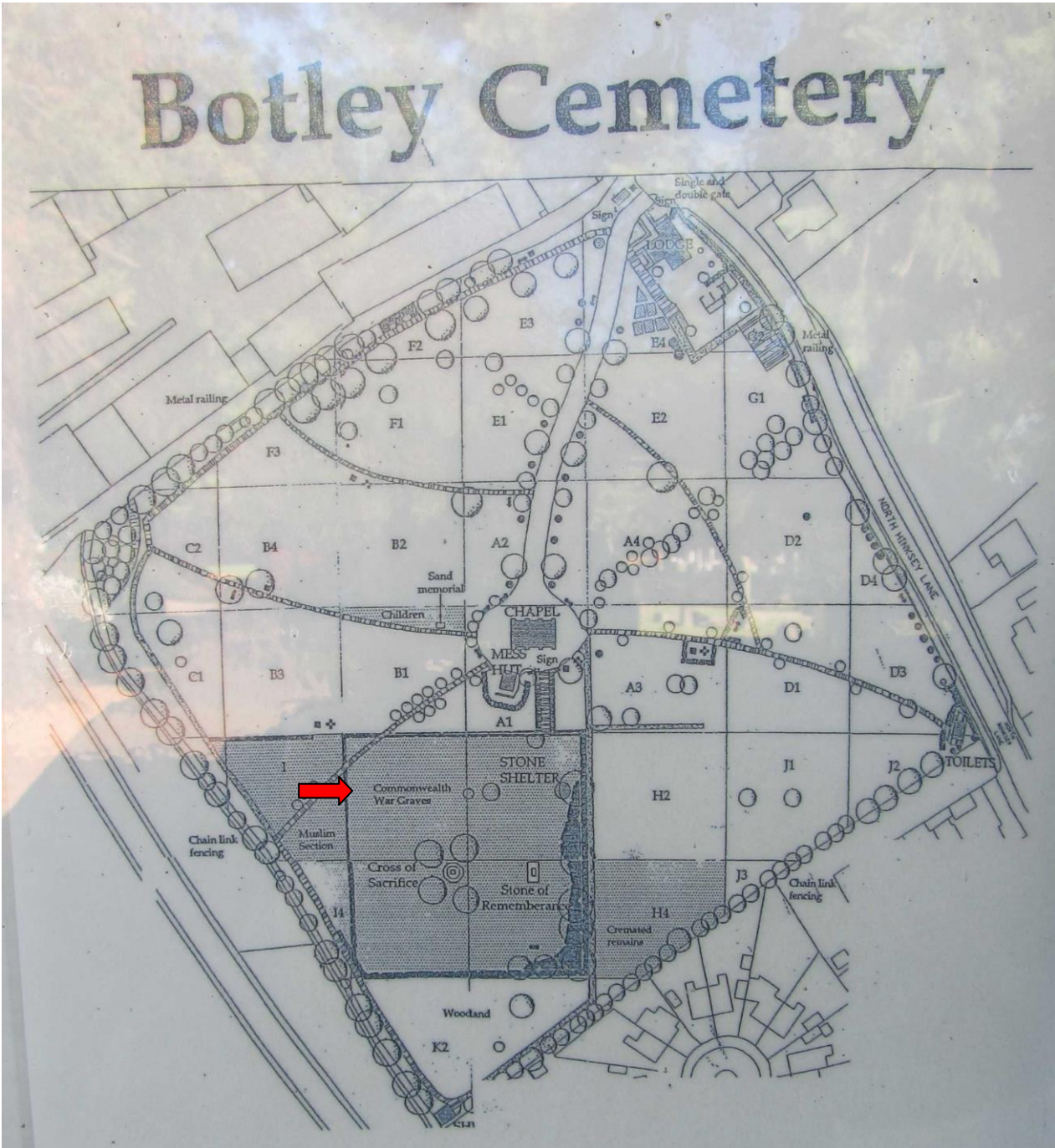
Botley Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private A. Summers' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Botley Cemetery, Botley, Oxfordshire, England.



(Photo by Stephen Potts – Find a Grave)



(Maps by Kevin Smith – Find a Grave)

