

Queen Mary's Hospital Military Cemetery, Whalley, Lancashire, England

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



28900 GUNNER

F. T. M. SWEENY

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

21ST OCTOBER, 1917 Age 32

Called To A Higher Service

Francis Thomas Moody (Frank) SWEENEY

Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney was born on 29th September, 1884 at Canning, Western Australia to parents James Charles and Louisa Bessie Sweeney (nee Shea). (*According to date of birth listed for the Western Australian Railways – Francis was born 29th September, 1884, however records from FamilySearch show that Francis was listed as Franciscus Thomas Sweeney – born 29th October, 1884 & baptised 19th November, 1884 at Fremantle, Western Australia to parents Jacobi Sweeney & Ludovica Shea. The Western Australian Births, Deaths & Marriages records Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney born in 1884 at Canning, Western Australia to parents James Charles & Louise Sweeney (nee Shea).*)

Francis Thomas Sweeney started an apprenticeship with the Western Australian Railways as a Fitter at Fremantle on 7th November, 1898. He was an Apprentice Turner from 29th January, 1901 then listed again as an Apprentice Fitter from 18th February, 1902. Francis Thomas Sweeney was listed as a Fitter from 19th December, 1903. He transferred to Mid Junction as a Fitter on 5th January, 1905.

Francis T. M. Sweeney married Eva M. Keddie in 1914 in the district of Glebe, New South Wales.

Chargeman Sweeney, received permission to join the Expeditionary Forces from W. R. H. Melville, Assistant Engineer, Railways, Alexandria of the New South Wales Government Railways and Tramways.

Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney was a 31 year old, married, Engine Fitter from Forbes Street, Carrington, NSW when he enlisted on 15th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 28900 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mr E. M. Sweeney, of 51 Lambton Road, Broadmeadow, Newcastle, NSW. Francis Sweeney stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born in Newcastle, New South Wales. He stated that he had been apprenticed with the Western Australian Railway for 5 years. Francis Sweeney also stated that he had served in the Infantry for 7 years – not now serving.

Private Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney was posted to "B" Company, Newcastle Depot Battalion on 15th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 2nd Heavy Trench Mortar Battery, Menangle as Gunner on 4th July, 1916.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 30th September, 1916 with the Medium Trench Mortar Batteries, 2nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19th November, 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.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney was marched in to Australian Details at Perham Downs, Wiltshire from Australia on 20th November, 1916.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney was marched out to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 28th December, 1916.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney was appointed E.D.P. Driver from 6th January, 1917.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney was marched out to Fort Wallington from R.B.A.A., Larkhill on 13th January, 1917.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney was written up for a Crime on 27th January, 1917 at Fort Wallington – dismissing himself from stables without permission. He was awarded 5 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks).

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney was to be Acting Bombardier from 5th February, 1917 (without pay). (The Casualty Form – Active Service has date as 10th March, 1917 while posted at Fort Wallington).

Acting Bombardier Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney reverted to permanent rank of Gunner on 28th March, 1917.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 5th April, 1917 from R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 6th April, 1917. He was marched out from A.G.B.D. on 17th May, 1917 & was taken on strength of 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) on 18th May, 1917 in France from Trench Mortar Brigade Reinforcements.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny was transferred to 5th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) from 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) on 21st May, 1917 & was taken on strength of 15th Battery.

On 2nd June, 1917 Headquarters queried Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny's rank.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny was wounded in action in France on 24th September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 24th September, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to head. Gunner Sweeny was then transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 24th September, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to 54th General Hospital in France on 3rd October, 1917. Gunner Sweeny embarked on Hospital Ship *St Andrew* for England on 14th October, 1917.

Mrs Sweeny was advised on 10th October, 1917 that Gunner Francis Sweeny had been admitted to Third Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 26th September with gunshot wound penetrating head – dangerous.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny was admitted to Queen Mary's Military Hospital, Whalley, Lancashire, England on 14th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to head – severe. (*As per Hospital Admission form - Statement of Service form has the date of 4th October, 1917)

Mrs Sweeny was advised on 19th October, 1917 that Gunner Francis Sweeny was dangerously wounded & advised again on 23rd October, 1917 that his condition was stationary.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny died at 3.40 am on 21st October, 1917 at Queen Mary's Military Hospital, Whalley, Lancashire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to head, fractured skull & Lobar pneumonia.



Queen Mary's Military Hospital, Whalley

A death for Francis T. M. Sweeney, aged 34, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Clitheroe, Lancashire, England.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny was buried at 2.30 pm on 24th October, 1917 in Queen Mary's Hospital Military Cemetery, Whalley, Lancashire, England – Plot number 305 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny - *Coffin was Elm. Military*

Funeral. The Officer Commanding No. 3 District supplied firing party and Bugler. A funeral party of 20 men of the Det. 19th Coy. R.A.M.C. and a party of Australian patients accompanied the cortege.

Names of relatives of friends present at the funeral – *Mr J. Preston and brother, 30 Norfolk Street, Batley, Yorks.*

The Statement of Service form for Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny has the following as the last entry:

“This Soldiers promotion has formed subject of investigation & ruling has been made as follows:-

Gunner 30.9.16

Must Driver 6.1.17

Revs to Gnr 10.3.17

Appt'd A/Bdr 10.3.17

Revs to Gnr 28.3.17

The following Part II Order which affects rank is cancelled. D.O. 10/1493E/17. Entries referring to Soldiers movements and rank from Embarkation to 21.10.17 are amended to read in accordance with above ruling.”

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Francis Thomas Sweeny contains a letter from the R. C. Chaplain, Queen Mary's Military Hospital, Whalley, Lancashire, England which reads: *“The Matron has asked me to send you some particulars of the death of the above patient whom I attended during his sickness as R.C. priest attending the hospital. He was admitted here on Oct. 14th suffering a great deal of pain from gunshot wounds in the head. At first there seemed to be hope of recovery but after a few days he took a turn for the worse. I administered the last sacraments on Saturday 20th. His mind was quite clear then and I think he realised that he was not likely to recover. Afterwards he became unconscious and passed away on the Sunday morning about 3.30. We buried him on Wednesday in the Military Cemetery attached to the Hospital in the part reserved for Dominion soldiers. I think we may regard his death as a mercy. He passed away quite happily and contentedly. Had he lived he would probably have been a chronic invalid and in constant pain.”*

A War Pension was granted to Eva May Sweeny, widow of the late Gunner Francis Thomas Sweeny, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 26th December, 1917.

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Sweeny's widow - Mrs E. M. Sweeny, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Francis Sweeny – service number 28900, aged 32, of 5th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of James and Bessie Sweeny; husband of E. Sweeny, of Club Hotel, Carrington, New South Wales. Born in Western Australia.

Gunner F. T. M. Sweeny is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 14.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. Sweeney is remembered on the Connolly Park War Memorial Gates, located at Connolly Park, Cowper & Fitzroy Streets, Carrington, NSW.



Connolly Park War Memorial Gates, Carrington (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)



F. Sweeny is remembered on the Clarence Jeffries V.C. & William Curry V.C. Memorial Wall, located in Sandgate Cemetery, Maitland Road, Sandgate, NSW. The memorial consists of a brick wall with 5 large brass plaques for the names of those who served from Newcastle. In the centre is a plaque to Currey VC & Jeffries VC. In addition there are 100 small individual brass plaques dedicated to individual servicemen by the families. Immediately in front of the wall is a black stone obelisk with the words in white 'Lest We Forget' and a white cross.

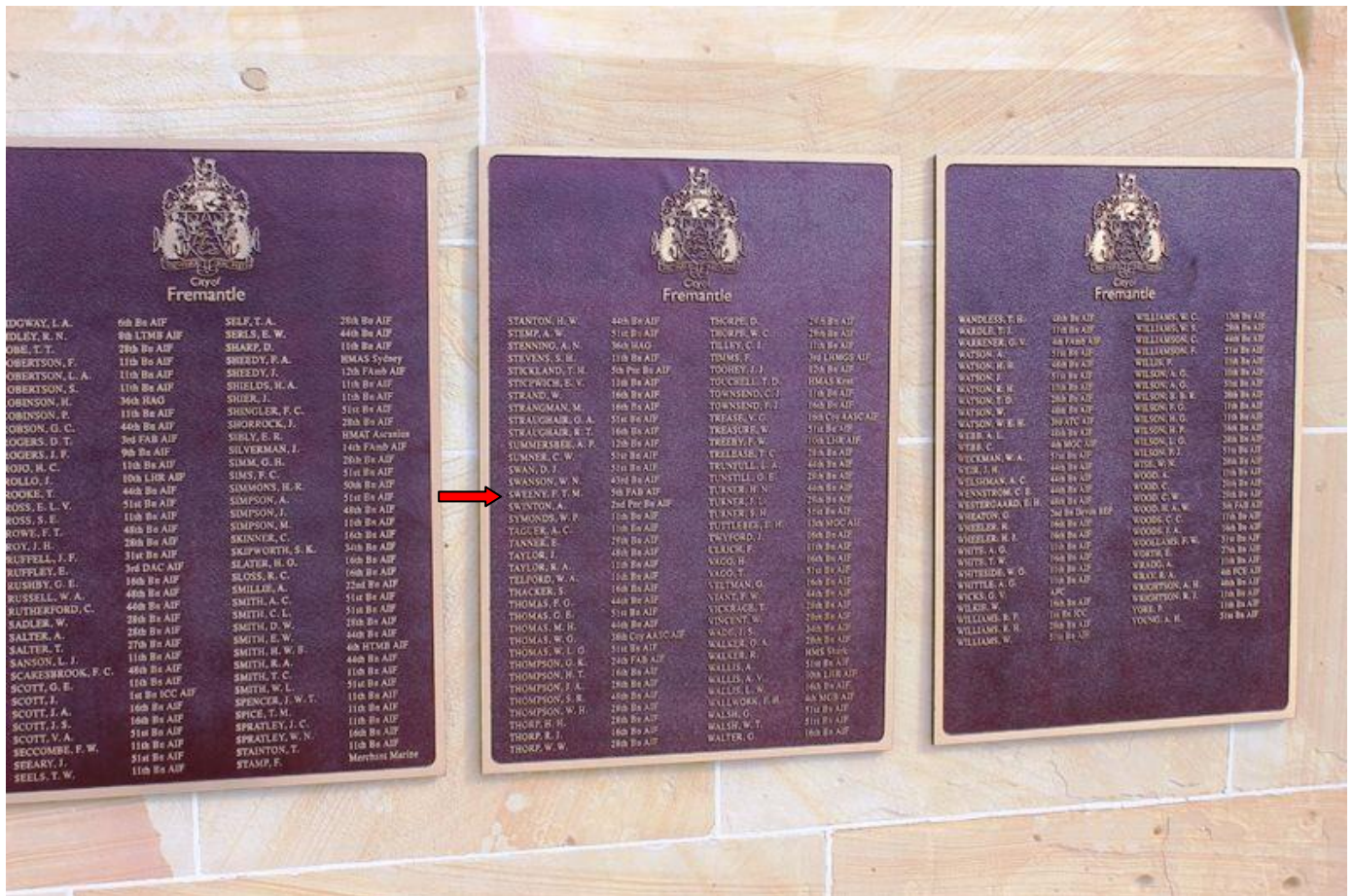


Clarence Jeffries V.C. & William Curry V.C. Memorial Wall (Photo from Monument Australia)

F. T. M. Sweeny is also remembered on the Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial located at Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, High & Swanbourne Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia. Fremantle's 849 - Twelve plaques contain all 849 names of the Fremantle servicemen who died in service or were killed in action during World War One.



Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial & Fremantle's 849 (Photos from Monument Australia)



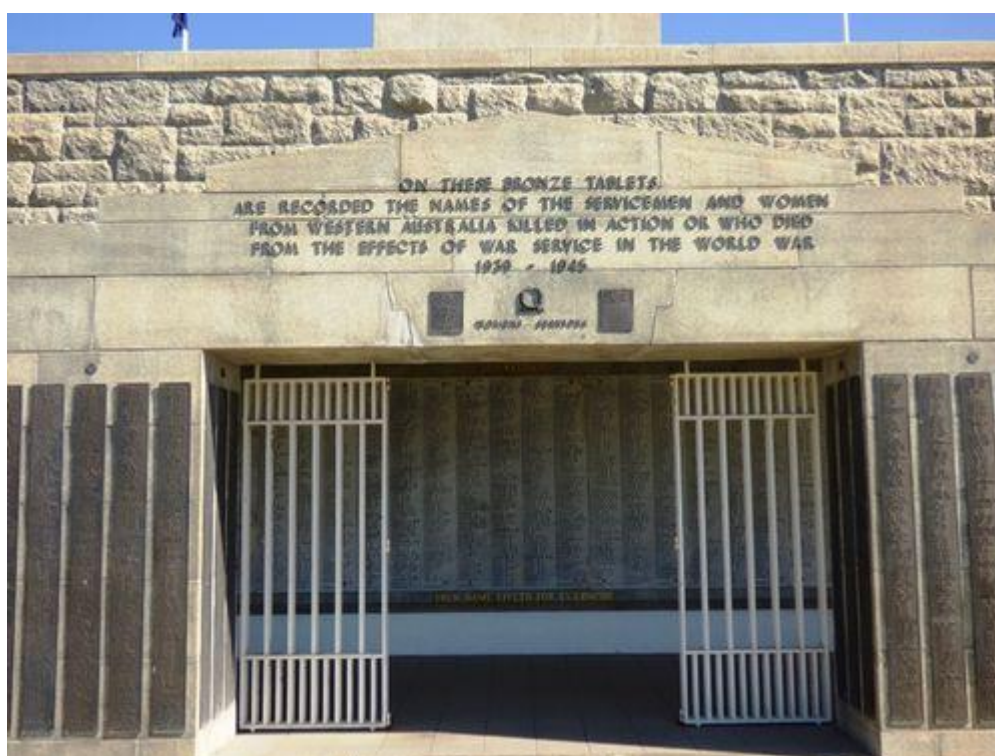
F. T. Sweeney is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a 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)





Other Corps Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(72 pages of Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeney'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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P07429.001

Gunner Francis Thomas Moody Sweeny



Newspaper Notices

MORE CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Gnr. FRANCIS THOS. SWEENEY, Broadmeadow, (dangerously)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney, NSW – 2 November, 1917)

KILLED IN ACTION

SWEENEY – On October 21, died of wounds received in France, Gunner F. T. M. (Frank) Sweeney, beloved husband of Eva Sweeney (Newcastle, NSW), fourth son of Mr J. C. Sweeney (14 Henderson-street, Fremantle), brother of Sergeant Alex. Sweeney (France), Sapper Bob Sweeney (France), Corporal Sep Sweeney (France), Mrs T. J. Condon (Fremantle), Miss Grace Sweeney (Fremantle), brother-in-law of Mrs A. Sweeney (Mt. Hawthorn), and Mr T. J. Condon (State Implement Works, North Fremantle).

(The West Australian, Perth Western Australia – 31 October, 1917) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 2 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SWEENEY – Died of wounds October 21, 1917, Gunner Francis (Frank), dearly loved husband of Eva M. Sweeney, 5 Lambton-road, Broadmeadow. – Called to a higher service.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 10 November, 1917)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr J. C. Sweeney and Family, of 14 Henderson street, Fremantle, desire to sincerely THANK their many friends for letters, cards, telegrams, and personal expressions of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement in the loss of their dear son and brother, Gunner F. T. M. Sweeney (Frank), who died in France on October 23, 1917, of wounds.

(The West Australian, Perth Western Australia – 14 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SWEENEY – In loving memory of my dear friend, Gunner Frank Sweeney, died of wounds October 21, 1917.
O. France, thou holdest one of the best.

Inserted by Gunner E. Stallard (on active service)

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 21 October, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SWEENEY – In affectionate remembrance of my dearly loved husband, Gunner Frank Sweeney, died Whalley Hospital October 21, 1917.

Ever regretted by his loving wife, Eva Sweeney, Broadmeadow.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 21 October, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SWEENEY – A tribute of love to the memory of my dear husband, Gunner (Frank) Sweeny, died of wounds October 21, 1917. – Inserted by his loving wife, Eva Sweeny, Carrington.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 21 October, 1920)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 28th June, 1921, to Mrs E. M. Sweeny, Club Hotel, Carrington, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late Acting Bombardier F. T. M. Sweeny had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

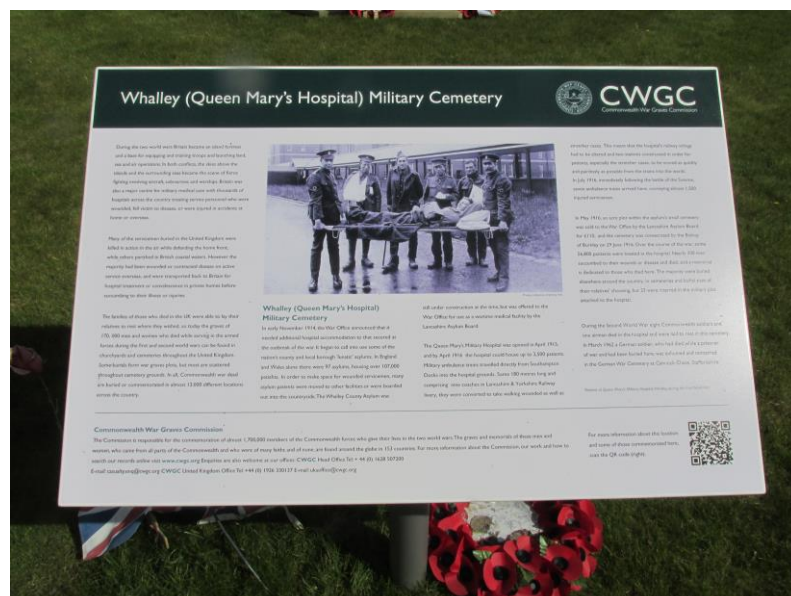
Gunner F. T. M. Sweeny does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Called To A Higher Service

Queen Mary's Hospital Military Cemetery, Whalley, Lancashire, England

During the First World War, the 2,000 bed Queen Mary's Military Hospital was housed in the County Asylum at Whalley, remaining there until June 1920. The Military Cemetery associated with the hospital is at the eastern end of the Mental Hospital Cemetery and was handed over to the War Department in February 1916. The cemetery has a Cross of Sacrifice and there is also a memorial to all the servicemen, nearly 300 of them, who died in the Hospital. The Military Cemetery contains 34 First World War burials and 9 from the Second World War.

(Information from CWGC)





Queen Mary's Hospital Military Cemetery, Whalley *(Photos by sefton – Find a Grave)*





Memorial in Queen Mary's Hospital Military Cemetery, Whalley (Photos by sefton – Find a Grave)



Photo of Gunner F. T. M. Sweeny's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Queen Mary's Hospital Military Cemetery, Whalley, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Mackay)

Gunner Frank Sweeny is remembered with a plaque in Sandgate Cemetery, NSW.



(Photo by Gary Mitchell - with permission)

Loving Memory

Gunner

FRANK SWEENY

Beloved Husband Of

EVA SWEENY

*Died of Wounds Received in
Action in France 21st Oct. 1917*

Aged 33 Years

Called To A Higher Service



(Photo by nettyne – Find a Grave)