

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1288 PRIVATE

E. H. TREEBY

19TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 36

Rest In Peace

Ernest Hamilton TREEBY

Ernest Hamilton Treeby was born at Cooma, NSW in 1881 to parents Charles and Ellen Treeby (nee Harrison).

Ernest Hamilton Treeby attended Public School at South Goulburn, NSW.

Ernest Hamilton Treeby was a 35 year old, single, Stonemason from Bethungra, NSW when he enlisted at Cootamundra, NSW on 3rd April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1288 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Treeby, of Goulburn, NSW.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was posted to “B” Company, 3rd Battalion at Cootamundra on 3rd April, 1916 for recruit training. Pte Treeby was transferred to “B” Company of 1st Battalion on 20th April, 1916 then to “C” Company, 1st Battalion on 8th May, 1916 & to “A” Company, 1st Battalion on 9th June, 1916. He was transferred to “B” Company, Depot Battalion at Goulburn on 6th July, 1916. Pte Treeby was transferred to Light Trench Mortar Battery at Menangle on 5th August, 1916.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 7th October, 1916 with the Light Trench Mortar Battery, 2nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 21st 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.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was marched in to A. Details, No. 3 Camp, Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 22nd November, 1916.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was transferred from 2nd L.T.M.B. (Light Trench Mortar Battery) to 19th Battalion & was taken on strength of 19th Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 6th February, 1917.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby proceeded overseas to France from 5th Training Battalion at Rollestone via Southampton on 14th June, 1917. He was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 15th June, 1917.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was taken on strength of 19th Battalion in France on 3rd July, 1917.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was sent to Hospital on 19th September, 1917. He was admitted to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station on 19th September, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. “N” (Not yet diagnosed Neurosis – Shell shock) then transferred to Ambulance Train. Pte Treeby was admitted to 53rd General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 20th September, 1917 with Debility then transferred on 22nd September, 1917 to 32nd Stationary Hospital at Wimereux.

War Diary – 19th Battalion

18/19th September, 1917 – Bellewarde Ridge, Belgium:

Took over front line from 22nd Aust. Bn. “B” Co front line, “A” CO. Support on WESTHOEK RIDGE. “D” CO. Reserve BELLEWARDE RIDGE. “C” Co Y-wood.

19th September – Westhoek Ridge:

4.30 am – Relief not completed until 4.30 am owing to machine barrages & retaliation

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

The 7th New Zealand Stationary Hospital reported that Pte Treeby had previously reported as N.Y.D.N but now reported “No Casualty- Debility.” A Report was completed on Pte Treeby on 4th October, 1917 “*who without any visible wound, became non-effective from physical conditions claimed or presumed to have originated from effects of British or enemy weapons in action.*” The Report stated that Pte Treeby on admission had no tremor & his speech was normal. He stated “*he was shelled out of position and then lost his way – that he was not unconscious.*”

The CO of 19th Battalion wrote to OC of NZ Stationary Hospital on 19th October, 1917 regarding Pte E. H. Treeby, 1288A which reads: *"Attached is report from this man's Company Commander which explains that nothing is known regarding the man's movements until notification was received from Field Ambulance. It might be added that the area in which Pte Treeby's Company was situated was continually under heavy shell fire."* The O/C of "B" Company wrote on 13th October, 1917: *"Nothing definite is known about this matter, beyond the fact that the man was with his platoon in the front line for a certain period & was posted missing until word was received that he has passed through Field Amb."*

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was transferred to Rest Camp on 29th October, 1917 then marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 1st November, 1917. Pte Treeby was marched out to his Unit from 2nd A.D.B.D. on 2nd December, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion in Belgium on 4th December, 1917.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was on leave to UK from 7th March, 1918 & returned from leave on 26th March, 1918.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was wounded in action in France on 8th August, 1918. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 8th August, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to leg then transferred the same day to 61st Casualty Clearing Station. From the Casualty Clearing Station, Pte Treeby was transferred to Ambulance Train. Pte Treeby was admitted to 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Outreau, France on 9th August, 1918 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth* on 11th August, 1918.

War Diary – 19th Battalion

8th August, 1918

3.45 am – All Companies in position on J.O. line 1000x. P21 P26 . Night very dark; ground sodden from recent rain. Enemy flares normal and movement drew machine-gun fire, but without casualties. Bn H.Q. moved to dug-out in trench P26d 6.7 (within barrage line). Tanks move up to assembly position in rear of Bn, making objects invisible at 20x.

4.20 am – Zero hour. Barrage open (creeping). Fog very thick. Enemy's reply scattered and comparatively light. Troops move off, but fog hampers them, many becoming temporarily lost. Others who kept moving forward overcome enemy's resistance, which was not serious. Officers on the spot collect stragglers from our trenches and push forward, assisting tanks and flank troops with directions. Enemy fired machine-guns at random, and was located by sound and information obtained from prisoners on the spot, small parties of our troops frequently overpowering them or driving them back. Enemy shelling brisk 4.30 to 5 am, tanks being several times struck. Not much resistance shown by enemy in trenches and outposts, and soon after 5 am our advanced parties reported having attained their objective, i.e. trench 800x west of WARFDUSEE-ABANCOURT, astride the main road.

6 am- The fog cleared about 6 am, enabling troops and tanks to get their bearings, and rejoin their units. Bn H.Q. moved up to trench P28c6.6. Weather became fine and clear from 7 am on. For times of various phases of operation and detail of prisoners and booty obtained, see Appendix 10.

WARUSEE-ABANCOURT (Trenches W of) – Bn remained in the captured trenches throughout the day. Trenches were cleared of enemy dead, litter, etc and made fit for habitation. Captured material was assembled and dumped for transport; dugouts ransacked for documents, papers and articles of value. Other assaulting troops, guns, supply tanks, transport, armored cars, cavalry etc move up along roads, going east. Our aircraft intensely active. Enemy shelled area with long-range gun at intervals.

Total strength 34 Off 590 O/R B.C. 2 off 46 O/R Rcts 1 off 10 O/R. (1 Off killed, 1 Off wounded; 11 o/r's killed and d. of w.; 35 o/r wounded; 2 O/R/ missing). Trench strength, 22 Off; 328 O/R.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

19th Battalion

In 1917, the 19th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost five times as strong, at Lagincourt. The

Battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

The spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive that the 19th Battalion helped to stop. For his actions during the fighting around Hangard Wood on 7 April, Lieutenant Percy Storkey was awarded the Victoria Cross. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the 19th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaufort Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle. The casualties of 1918, combined with long-term leave for 1914 enlistees, and dwindling new enlistments had sapped the strength of the AIF. On 10 October 1918 the 19th Battalion was disbanded to reinforce other battalions in the brigade.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England on 11th August, 1918 with gunshot wounds to left leg.



Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby died at 7.30 pm on 26th August, 1918 at Norfolk War (General) Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from wounds received in action - gunshot wounds to left leg & Pyaemia.

A death for Ernest H. Treeby, aged 38, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Blofield, Norfolk, England.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was buried on 30th August, 1918 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Plot number 54. 701 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Ernest Hamilton Treeby - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Bugler and Pallbearers being supplied by the Hospital. The coffin was mounted on a Gun Carriage, draped with the "Union Jack" and surmounted by flowers and an artificial wreaths ent by comrades in hospital. A larged number of patients from the War Hospital, Norwich attended the funeral. Prior to the interment a service was conducted at the graveside by Rev. J. T. Mumford, S.C.F. Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Ernest Hamilton Treeby contains a letter from Matron Mary Hamer, Norfolk War Hospital which reads: *“Re Pte E. H. Treeby. He was admitted to this Hpl. on 11-8-18, suffering from severe G.S.W. in the left leg, and his general condition was serious from the first. Every possible attention was given him by the surgeons and staff, also by the representative of the Australian Red Cross. Several letters reached him from home which the ward sister read to him and he was able to understand and appreciate them. For some three or four days he was unconscious, but regained consciousness for a time, and it was thought he would rally, but he again became unconscious and remained so till the end, which came on 26th August. The Australian patients in Hpl. subscribed and bought a floral and an artificial wreath, and a number of them attended his funeral at Norwich Cemetery at 3.45 pm on 30-8-18. The number of his grave is 701, Section 54 and he rests there among others who have made the Great Sacrifice for our Nation. Please convey our sympathy to his relatives.”*

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby requested in his Will, dated 12th July, 1917, that all his personal estate be bequeathed to Mrs Ellen Treeby, Goulburn, NSW.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Treeby, of 27 Clinton Street, Goulburn, NSW, mother of the late Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby, in April, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & in particular if Pte Treeby's father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs Ellen Treeby replied to Base Records in May, 1921 stating that she was the nearest next-of-kin as her husband was dead.

Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Treeby's mother - Mrs E. Treeby, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

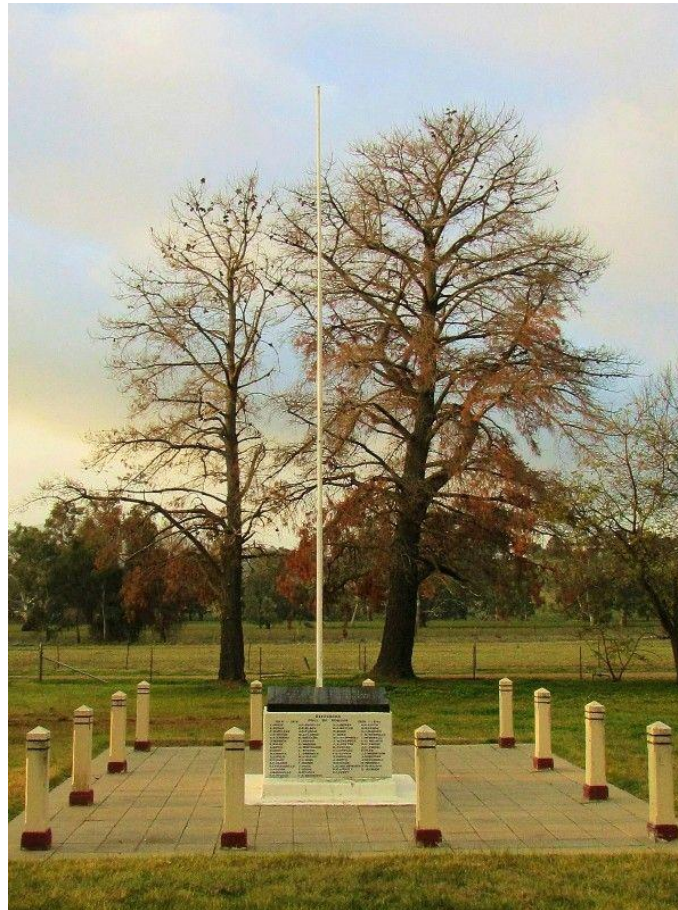
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ernest Hamilton Treeby – service number 1288, aged 36, of 19th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles and Ellen Treeby, of 21 Clinton St., Goulburn, New South Wales, Australia.

Private E. H. Treeby is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 90.

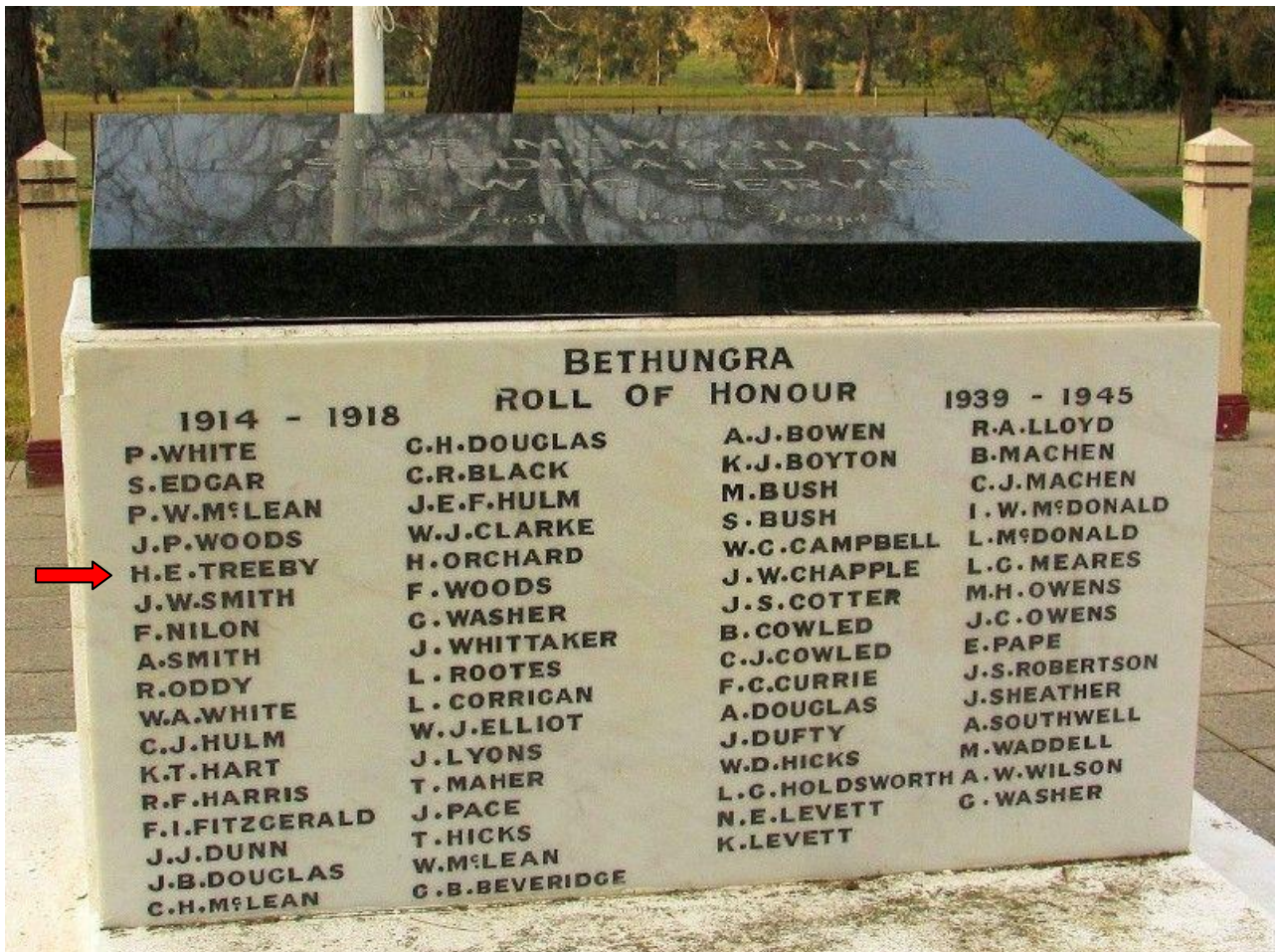


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. E. Treeby is remembered on the Bethungra War Memorial, located on Olympic Highway, Bethungra, NSW.



Bethungra War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)



E. H. Treeby is remembered on the Rocky Hill War Memorial Tower and Honour Roll, located on Memorial Road, Goulburn, NSW.

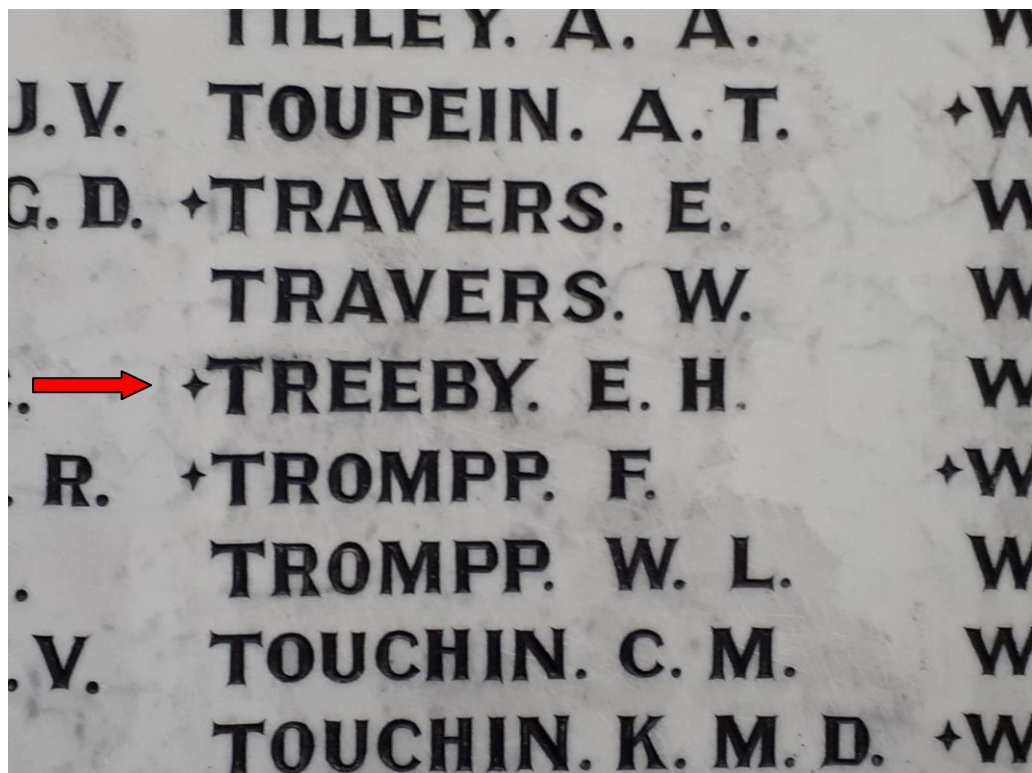


Rocky Hill War Memorial Tower, Goulburn





Honour Roll inside the Rocky Hill War Memorial Tower, Goulburn (Photos by Kevin Sedgwick)



(66 pages of Pte Ernest Hamilton Treeby'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

CASUALTY LIST

The 351st list of casualties was issued yesterday.

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte ERNEST HAMILTON TREEBY, Goulburn

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 8 November, 1917)

Goulburn and the War

WOUNDED

Mrs E. Treeby, Goulburn, has be advised that Pte E. H. Treeby, was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, England on 11th August, suffering from gunshot wound in the left leg.

(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 27 August, 1918)

MORE SAD NEWS!

PTE ERNEST HAMILTON TREEBY

The wife of Mr. A. E. Orchard, Bethungra, has received the sad news of the death of her brother, Pte. E. H. Treeby, who left Bethungra in September of 1916 — just two years ago. He was gassed in France on October 23rd, 1917, and returned to duty. A report came recently that he was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, England, last month, suffering from gunshot wounds, and on Monday news reached his relatives that he had died of wounds on 26/8/18. Much sympathy is felt for the relatives. The hero had resided in the Bethungra district for a period extending over 14 years. Harry was a good sport, and well liked by everyone who knew him; and his death will cause much regret.

(Cootamundra Herald, NSW – 6 September, 1918)

427th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte ERNEST HAMILTON TREEBY, Goulburn

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 6 September, 1918)

Goulburn and the War

Pte Ernest Hamilton Treeby, who died of wounds on 26th August, was the only son of Mrs E. Treeby, Auburn-street.

(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 7 September, 1918)

IN LOVING MEMORY

Of Ernest Hamilton Treeby (Pte), 19th Battalion, A.I.F, died of wounds received in France, August 26, 1918, at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Thorpe, England, aged 36 years.

Rest in Peace.

Inserted by his loving mother, sister and brother.

(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 28 August, 1919)

IN LOVING MEMORY

Of Ernest Hamilton Treeby, died of wounds received in France, Aug. 26, 1918.

Rest in Peace.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Goulburn.

(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 27 August, 1921)

IN LOVING MEMORY

Of Pte E. H. Treeby, died of wounds, 26th August, 1918. Inserted by his loving mother and sister.

(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 27 August, 1925)

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 E. H. Treeby does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Rest In Peace

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

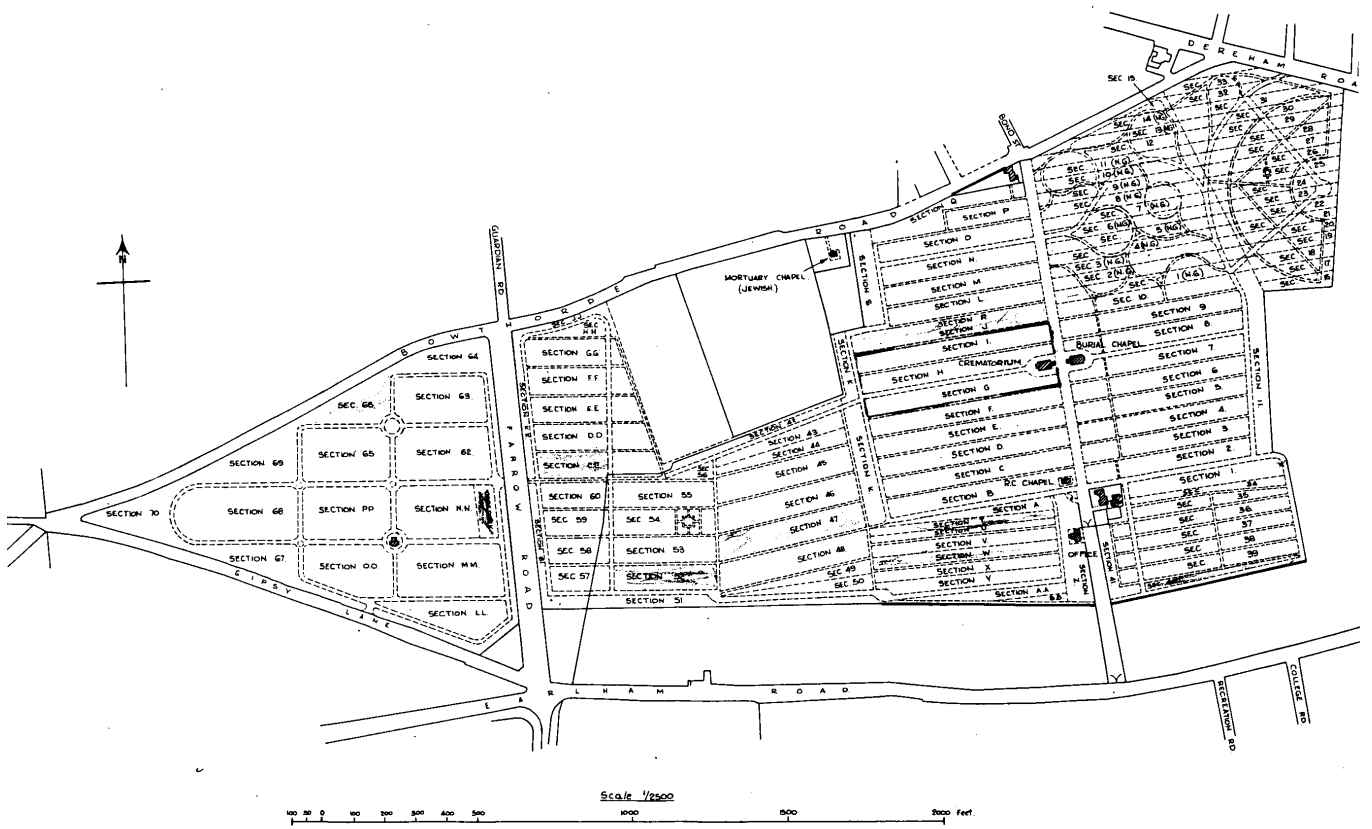
(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private E. H. Treeby's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

