

**Brookwood Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



COMMANDER

A. TRUSCOTT

H.M.S. GUNNER

ROYAL NAVY

4TH JUNE, 1918

Arthur TRUSCOTT

Arthur Truscott was born on 8th November, 1866 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia to parents James Mitchell Truscott & Jane Truscott (nee King)

Jane Truscott, mother of Arthur Truscott, died on 26th or 28th April, 1887 at Carlyle Street, Enfield, Sydney, NSW.

Arthur Truscott gained a Certificate of Competence as Second Mate – Certificate No. 015513, on 23rd April, 1885 which he had passed at London, England. His permanent address was listed as Nicholson Street, Burwood, Sydney, NSW, Australia – James Mitchell Truscott. Arthur Truscott's Statement of Service recorded that he had served as an apprentice on *Gladstone* from 28th February, 1881 to 28th May, 1883. He had been promoted to 3rd Mate on the *Gladstone* & served from 28th May, 1883 till 2nd March, 1885. Arthur Truscott had served 4 years & 24 days at Sea & had produced Certificates for that time.



An "Arthur Truscott", born Sydney, aged 25, was listed as Crew (4th Mate) on the *Lusitania* which had departed from the port of London, England to Sydney, New South Wales on 2nd October, 1891.

Arthur Truscott joined Royal Naval Reserve in 1893. He was commissioned as Sub-Lieutenant on 21st February, 1893 & transferred 2 years later on 31st October, 1895 to the Royal Navy.

Lieutenant Arthur Truscott was attached to *Research* – Surveying Vessel from 23rd January, 1905 (*UK Navy Lists*).

The 1911 England Census recorded Arthur Truscott, Lieutenant Royal Navy, aged 44, Owner of "Leda" Houseboat which was situated at Thames Ditton, Surrey, England on the night of the Census. Fred Ellis (Pupil, Hydrography, aged 20, born Fareham, Hants) was listed as a Guest.

Commander Arthur Truscott (retired) was Superintendent of Chart and Chronometer Depot from 6th October, 1911 (*UK Navy Lists 1913*).

From *The London Gazette* – 10 November, 1911:

Admiralty. 8th November, 1911.

In accordance with the provisions of Order in Council of 29th June, 1895 –

Lieutenant Arthur Truscott has this day been placed on the Retired List with permission to assume the rank of Commander.

Newspaper Notice – *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, England – 19 October, 1915:

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS

The following Naval appointments have been notified at the Admiralty:-

Commander Arthur Truscott, to the Victory, additional

The UK Navy Lists for Active Officers of the Royal Navy for August, 1917 recorded Commander Arthur Truscott as retired.

James Mitchell Truscott, father of Arthur Truscott, died on 23rd April, 1918 at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW. He was buried in Waverley Cemetery, Sydney, NSW

Commander (retired) Arthur Truscott died on 4th June, 1918 at Royal Naval Hospital, Granton, Edinburgh, Scotland from Apoplexy. The Register of Deaths and Injuries at Granton Naval Base listed the cause of death as "*Arterio Sclerosis. M.C.O. Apoplexy.*"

Newspaper item *Truth*, London, England – 12 June, 1918:

Commander Arthur Truscott, one of the first batch of supplementary lieutenant, joined the R.N.R. in 1893 and transferred two years later. He spent some years as navigating officer of cruisers in the Mediterranean, China, and Australia, but from 1906 until his retirement five years later he was employed mainly in surveying service and at the Admiralty. Shortly after the outbreak of war he was appointed Resident Naval Officer at Suez, but after a year or so he left this to take command of a vessel in the Auxiliary Patrol. At the time of his unexpected death he was serving at an auxiliary base in the North.

Commander Arthur Truscott was buried in Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, England – Plot number Y.181112 & has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper item – *The Scotsman*, Edinburgh, Scotland – 7 June, 1918:

NAVAL OFFICER'S FUNERAL IN EDINBURGH

The funeral of Commander Arthur Truscott, R.N., whose death occurred suddenly in the Royal Naval Hospital at Edinburgh, took place yesterday afternoon and attracted considerable notice in the streets on the way to Waverley Station. The remains were being removed for burial in London, and the cortege had, with naval honours, unusual spectacular features. The coffin, which was of oak, was mounted on a gun carriage and covered with the Union Jack, and was followed by about 300 naval officers and bluejackets, and, a notable inclusion in the procession, a detachment of the Women's Royal Naval Service. A military pipe band played the funeral music. The scene in the Waverley Station was an impressive one. The officers, men, and women of the service were lined up on the platform while the buglers sounded the "Last Post." Admiral Sir Cecil Burney, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief, Coast of Scotland, was represented by Flag-Lieutenant-Commander Henry B. Pilcher, and among those present were Commodore Sir James Startin, K.C.B., R.N.R. (Admiral, retired); Commander A. Hambly, D.S.O., R.N.; Commander Knox, R.N.; Commander Worthington, R.N.' Commander Crawford, R.N., and Commander Ball, R.N.

Newspaper item – *Daily Record*, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland - 8 June, 1918:



COMMANDER OF THE BROKE – *The remains of Commander Truscott, who died suddenly in Edinburgh from a heart affection, were taken from Pilton Hospital to Edinburgh Waverley Station for conveyance to London. Commander Truscott commanded H.M.S. Broke in the Channel fight.*

Probate details:

Truscott, Arthur, of 1 Walton Road, Woking, Surrey, Commander R.N. died 4 June 1918 at Royal Naval Hospital, Granton, Edinburgh, North Britain. Administration (with Will) London 15 August to Frederick William Arthur Hobbs, Bombardier, Australian Field Artillery. Effects £641 0s. 10d.

Commander Arthur Truscott was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal – as per UK Naval Medal and Award Rolls).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Commander Arthur Truscott, aged 44, of H.M.S. "Gunner", Royal Navy. He was the son of James Mitchell Truscott, of Sydney, New South Wales.

H.M.S. *Gunner* was an Auxiliary Patrol Base at Lerwick, Shetland .

Commander Arthur Truscott is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)



Newspaper Notices

DEATH OF COMMANDER TRUSCOTT ANNOUNCED

Commander Truscott, of H.M.S. Broke, which gained fame in the Channel fight, has died suddenly from a heart affection in Edinburgh. The body has been conveyed to London, and will be buried to-day.

It will be recalled that in April of last year the destroyers Swift and Broke encountered a raiding party of German destroyers and at once attacked them. Two of the enemy vessels were sunk in a memorable running fight. The Broke rammed one of the hostile destroyers, and with the boats locked together a fight between the crews took place with cutlasses and fists, reminiscent of the boarding adventures of Nelson's time.

(Daily Record, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland - 7 June, 1918)

NAVAL HERO'S BURIAL



At the funeral of the late Commander Truscott, of H.M.S. Broke. He left all his property to his servant and friend, A.B. Walter Mair, whose father, mother and sister follow the coffin.

(Daily Mirror, London, England - 8 June, 1918)

CASUALTIES IN THE SERVICES

THE NAVY

Died – Comdr. A. Truscott, R.N.

(Aberdeen Press and Journal, Aberdeen, Scotland – 10 June, 1918)

FAMOUS FIGHT RECALLED

Hero of H.M.S. Broke Dead.

Commander Truscott, of H.M.S. Broke, is dead. He was buried at Brookwood on June 7 in a grave next to that of Able Seaman Walter Mair, of Woking, his servant and friend. The Broke took part in the famous fight in the Channel on April 20, 1917 when five German destroyers made a dash from Zebrugge and bombarded Dover. Two British destroyers belonging to the Dover patrol, attacked the Germans, and after a fight full of incident, in which one of the enemy craft was rammed, two Hun destroyers were accounted for.

Prior to the battle Commander Truscott made a will in Mair's favour leaving him all his possessions. Commander Truscott died in a hospital in Edinburgh.

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 14 August, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Commander Arthur Truscott has a Private Headstone.

Newspaper item – *Illustrated Police News*, London, England – 13 June, 1918:

HEROES BURIED TOGETHER

It became known in Woking that Commander Truscott, H.M.S. Broke, one of the heroes of the Channel engagement, had died suddenly in hospital in Edinburgh. He was greatly attached to his servant, Able Seaman Walter Mair, of Woking, who died last March from the effects of wounds received in the Dover fight. Commander Truscott in his will expressed the wish that he should be buried in a grave next to Mair's at Brookwood, the commander having purchased two plots in the cemetery.

(A similar story also appeared in the Western Mail, Cardiff, Wales – 6 June, 1918; Dundee Courier, Dundee, Angus, Scotland – 6 June, 1918; Hampshire Telegraph, England – 7 June, 1918 & Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia – 29 August, 1918)

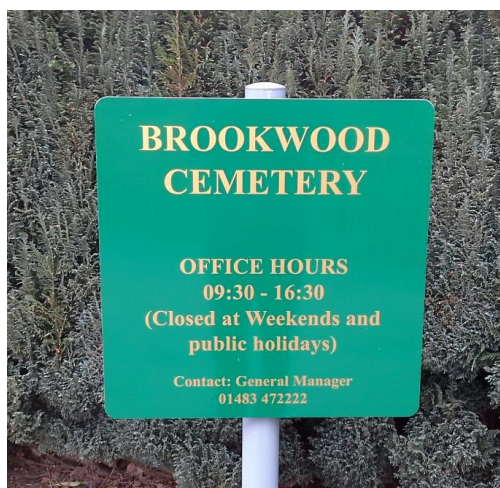


Commander Arthur Truscott (left) & Able Seaman Walter Frederick Mair (right)

Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, England

Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis) was established in 1851, and covers 500 acres. It belongs to the London Necropolis Company. Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to it. The war graves are scattered, except for the small Nurses' plot, on St. Peter's Avenue, in the Westminster ground (mainly from Millbank Hospital), and the Indian plot in the North-West corner. There are 141 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war here, 1 being an unidentified Indian soldier. There are a further 51 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-45 war. There are also 5 Foreign National war burials in C.W.G.C. care here.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo by Kim Hill – Find a Grave)

Photo of Commander Arthur Truscott's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, Surrey, England.

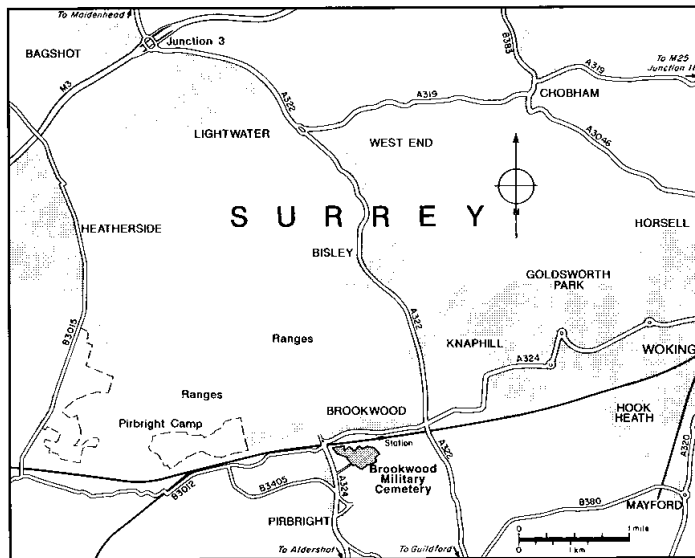
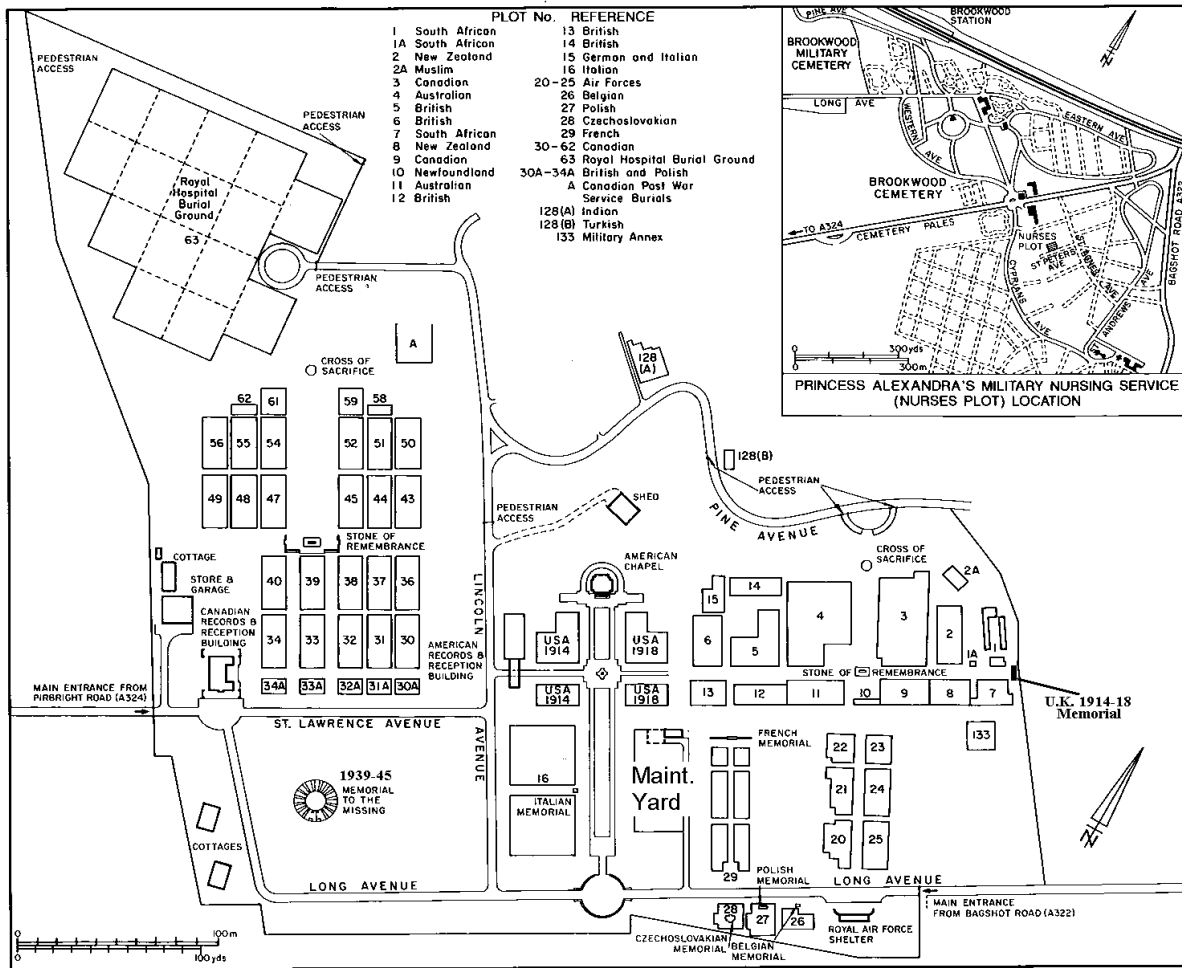


(Photo by julia&keld,- Find a Grave)

In Memory Of
ARTHUR TRUSCOTT
Commander R.N.
Died June 4TH 1918
Aged 53
At Rest



(Photo from CWGC)



(From CWGC)