

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1249 GUNNER

S. L. WAKELING

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

10TH JULY, 1917 Age 26

Gone & Forgotten By Some You

May Be

Never Forgotten Dear Son By

Me

Stephen Lawrence WAKELING

Stephen Lawrence Wakeling was born at Brookvale, Sydney, New South Wales in 1890 to parents Arthur Alfred & Kate Louisa Wakeling (nee Masterson).

Stephen Lawrence Wakeling was a 23 year old, single, Station Hand from Brookvale P.O., via Manly, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 7th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1249 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Catherine (Kate) Wakeling, Brookvale, via Manly, NSW. He stated he was currently serving with NSW Lancers.

Private Stephen Lawrence Wakeling was posted to 9th Reinforcements of 6th Light Horse Regiment.

Private Stephen Lawrence Wakeling (spelling as per Embarkation Roll) embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 30th September, 1915 with the 2nd Light Horse Brigade, 6th Light Horse Regiment, 9th Reinforcements.

Private Stephen Wakeling was taken on strength of Composite Light Horse Regiment at Heliopolis on 20th November, 1915.

On 18th January, 1916 Private Stephen Wakeling joined 6th Light Horse Regiment at Maadi. He was taken on strength of 2nd Reserve Light Horse Regiment at Maadi on 1st March, 1916. Private Wakeling was taken on strength of 15th Field Artillery Brigade at Tel el Kebir on 27th March, 1916; posted to 15th B.A.C. & was mustered as Gunner.

Gunner Stephen Wakeling was mustered as Driver on 18th April, 1916 at Ferry Post. He joined A.A.T.D. at Ferry Post (no date recorded).

Driver Stephen Wakeling embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 1st August, 1916 on *Manitoba* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force).

Driver Stephen Wakeling was taken on strength of A.A.T.D., No. 1 Camp, Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England on 1st October, 1916. He was marched out to Swanage on 8th November, 1916. Driver Wakeling was marched in to A.A.T.D. (Australian Artillery Training Depot) at Bulford, Wiltshire on 27th 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.

Driver Stephen Wakeling proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 16th January, 1917 on *Princess Clementine* from R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire. He was marched in the A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 17th January, 1917 from England.

Driver Stephen Wakeling was transferred to 5th Divisional Artillery on 11th February, 1917 from A.G.B.D. He was taken on strength of 13th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 15th February, 1917 & posted to 49th Battery.

Driver Stephen Wakeling reported sick on 2nd April, 1917. He was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance on 2nd April, 1917 – cause “*NYD Shell shock*” (N.Y.D. – not yet determined). Driver Wakeling was transferred to 47th Casualty Clearing Station on 7th April, 1917 then admitted to 1st S M Casualty Clearing Station the same day with shell concussion. He was transferred to 1st Ambulance train on 7th April, 1917.

Driver Stephen Wakeling was admitted to Hospital at Bethnal Green, London, England on 14th April, 1917. He was transferred to Fulham Military Hospital on 19th April, 1917 & reported to be seriously ill.

Mrs K. Wakeling, Brookvale, NSW, mother of Gunner Wakeling, was advised by Base Records on 1st May, 1917 that Gunner Stephen Wakeling had been admitted to Fulham Military Hospital on 19th April & was dangerously ill with Cerebro Spinal Fever. She was advised on 10th May, 1917 that Gunner Stephen Wakeling was progressing favourably.

Mrs K. Wakeling, Brookvale, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 23rd May, 1917 that Gunner Stephen Wakeling had been pronounced out of danger.

Gunner Stephen Lawrence Wakeling died at 5.20 pm on 10th July, 1917 at Fulham Military Hospital, Hammersmith, England from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

On 12th July, 1917 Captain Gray, R.A.M.C., in charge of Cerebro-spinal Section, Fulham Military Hospital, St. Dunstan's Road, Hammersmith wrote the following "*Report of the death of No. 1249 Dr. Wakeling, S.L. 13/Bde. 49/Bty, A.F.A. – This case was admitted to this Hospital from Bethnal Green Hospital on April 15th, 1917, suffering from Cerebro-spinal fever and Shell shock. He was actively treated with Anti-meningococcal serum and made at the time a fairly good recovery. Some slight disability remained however and at 5.20 pm July 10th, 1917 he suddenly died. The cause of death was shown by P.M. Examination to be Hydrocephalus following the attack of Cerebro-spinal fever.*"

A death for Stephen L. Wakeling, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Greater London, England.

Gunner Stephen Lawrence Wakeling was buried at 1.30pm on 13th July, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179514.

From the burial report of Gunner (Burial Report listed his rank as Driver) Stephen Lawrence Wakeling - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. Firing Party and Bugler attached to the Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London, took part, the "Last Post" being sounded at the graveside. The remains were borne to the grave by members of the Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London. A number of sick and wounded soldiers, who were wardmates with the deceased in the hospital were present. A wreath from the Nurses in the Ward and his sick and wound comrades in "F" Block of the hospital was placed on the coffin. No relatives were present at the funeral. Oak cross to temporarily mark the grave will be erected by the A.I.F.*

Base Records advised Mr A. A. Wakeling, West Street, Brookvale, Manly, NSW on 20th April, 1923 that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row E Grave 24. "*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 – XI. E. 24. Gunner S. L. Wakeling now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth Bank – Saving Bank Department wrote to The Secretary, Department of Defence on 23rd May, 1918 requesting the Death Certificate of Stephen Wakeling & the name of next-of-kin.

Base Records replied to Superintendent, Savings Bank Department, Commonwealth Bank of Australia on 29th May, 1918 enclosing a Certificate of report of death of the late No. 1249 Driver S. L. Wakeling, 13th Field Artillery Brigade. The details of his next-of-kin were advised as Mrs K. Wakeling (mother) Brook Vale, Manly, NSW.

Base Records wrote to Mrs K. Wakeling, West Street, Brookvale, Manly, NSW, on 7th September, 1920, stating she was registered in the records of the late No. 1249 Gunner S. L. Wakeling, 49th Battery, Field Artillery, as the next of kin & in order that the file may be brought up to date requested to learn if there were any nearer blood relations than herself & requested their names & addresses.

Kate Wakeling replied on 14th September, 1920 advising that Arthur Alfred Wakeling, father was alive & living at West Street, Brookvale, NSW.

Gunner Stephen Lawrence Wakeling was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Wakeling's father – Mr A. A. Wakeling, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Stephen Wakeling – service number 1249, aged 26, of 13th Bty., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Arthur & Kate Wakeling, of West St., Brookvale, Manly, New South Wales.

Gunner Steve L. Wakeling is remembered on the Manly War Memorial, located at The Corso, Manly, NSW.



Manly War Memorial

(Photo above from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams;
below from War Memorials Register NSW – David Roden)



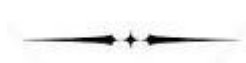
Gunner S. L. Wakeling is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 14.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(53 pages of Gunner Stephen Lawrence Wakeling'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

GAPS TO BE FILLED

TWO MORE CASUALTY LISTS

ILL

Gnr S. L. WAKELING, Manly (dangerously)

(*Sunday Times*, Sydney, NSW – 13 May, 1917)

Latest Casualties

326th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Gnr Stephen Laurence Wakeling, Manly (previously reported seriously ill)

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 27 July, 1917)

Australian Casualties

Lists Nos. 326 and 327

New South Wales

Died of Illness

Gnr S. L. WAKELING (Manly) 10/7/17

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 1 August, 1917)

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 S. L. Wakeling does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Gone & Forgotten By Some You May Be

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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.



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 (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



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

Photo of Gunner S. L. Wakeling's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

