

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**715A PRIVATE**

**A. WALLIS**

**51ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**7TH MAY, 1918**

## Alfred WALLIS

Alfred Wallis was born at Fremantle, Western Australia in 1893 to parents Richard & Annie Elizabeth Wallis (nee King). Alfred Wallis was baptised on 22nd November, 1893 at Fremantle, Western Australia.

Alfred Wallis was a 21 year old, single, Farm Hand from Ballidu Siding, via Wongan Hills, Western Australia when he enlisted at Perth, Western Australia on 13th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 715 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Richard Wallis, Ballidu Siding, via Wongan Hills, Western Australia.

Private Alfred Wallis was posted to 53 Depot on 15th March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 4th April, 1916 then transferred to 22 Depot on 24th April, 1916. Private Wallis was transferred on 27th April, 1916 to 1st Reinforcements of 44th Battalion.

Private Alfred Wallis was admitted to Clearing Hospital at Black Boy Hill, Western Australia on 3rd May, 1916 with Measles. He was discharged on 12th May, 1916.

Private Alfred Wallis was transferred to "D" Company, 44th Battalion on 1st June, 1916.

Private Alfred Wallis embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 6th June, 1916 with the 44th Infantry Battalion "D" Company. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 21st June, 1916 with Bronchial Cattarrh. He was discharged from Ship's Hospital on 25th June, 1916 but was re-admitted on 30th June, 1916. He was discharged on 11th July, 1916. Private Wallis disembarked at Plymouth, England on 21st July, 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 Alfred Wallis was transferred to 51st Battalion on 9th September, 1916. He embarked from England on *Princess Henrietta* on 2nd November, 1916 to reinforce 51st Battalion. Private Wallis was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. at Etaples, France on 3rd November, 1916 from 13th Training Battalion in England. He was taken on strength of 51st Battalion in France on 17th November, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private Alfred Wallis had the letter "A" added to his Regimental Number on 9th January, 1917. (This usually occurred due to a duplication of regiment numbers)

Private Alfred Wallis reported sick on 27th April, 1917. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 27th April, 1917 with "*Gas Diphtheria*." Private Wallis was admitted to 2/1 S.M. Casualty Clearing Station on 27th April, 1917. He was transferred to 2nd Stationary Hospital at Abbeville on 12th May, 1917 then transferred on 14th May, 1917 to 5th Convalescent Depot at Cayeux. Private Wallis was discharged to Base Depot on 4th June, 1917 & was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. at Havre, France on 5th June, 1917. He proceeded to join his Unit from 4th A.D.B.D. on 15th June, 1917 & rejoined 51st Battalion in the Field on 21st June, 1917.

Private Alfred Wallis was on Leave to England from 29th September, 1917 & rejoined from Leave on 12th October, 1917.

Private Alfred Wallis reported sick on 29th December, 1917. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 29th December, 1917 with Influenza. Private Wallis was transferred to C.R.S. on 29th December, 1917 then transferred to "64 W. Lanes" on the same day – NYD Pyrexia (fever). He was discharged to duty on 5th January, 1918 then admitted to 41st Stationary Hospital on 15th January, 1918 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Private Wallis was discharged to his Unit on 28th January, 1918 & rejoined 51st Battalion in the Field on 5th February, 1918.

Private Alfred Wallis was wounded in action on 5th April, 1918. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 5th April, 1918 with "*H.E. to arms & left leg*". Private Wallis was transferred to 29th Casualty Clearing Station on 5th April, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 7th Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 8th April, 1918. He embarked on Hospital Ship *Ville de Liege* for England on 12th April, 1918.

## 51st Battalion

The 51st Battalion was raised in Egypt in the first week of March 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 11th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 11th, the 51st was predominantly composed of men from Western Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the newly-formed 4th Australian Division.

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Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. On 2 April it attacked at Noreuil, a village which had been fortified to delay the Australian advance. Later in the year, the focus of the AIF's operations moved to the Ypres sector in Belgium. There the battalion fought in the battle of Messines between 7 and 12 June and the battle of Polygon Wood between 26 and 27 September. Another winter of trench routine followed.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This occurred in France in late March and the 4th Division moved to defend positions around Dernancourt on the River Ancre. The 51st Battalion assisted in the repulse of a large German attack on 5 April, launching a critical counter-attack late in the day. The German threat remained until late April.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 51st Battalion

*5th April, 1918 – Buire-Derbancourt:*

*Thick mist during the morning. Heavy hostile shelling of the Bn Area commenced 7 am, continued for 3 hours. A & C Coys moved to reinforce 52nd Bn which was heavily attacked by the enemy. Copy of Report of Action taken during operations on this day is attached & marked III.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Alfred Wallis was admitted to City of London Military Hospital, Clapton, London, England on 13th April, 1918 with shell wounds left arm & both legs (slight). He was transferred to No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England on 30th April, 1918 with Shrapnel wounds to Legs & left arm.

Mr R. Wallis, Ballidu Siding, via Wīngan Hill, W.A., father of Private Alfred Wallis, was advised by Base Records on 22nd April, 1918 that Private A. Wallis had been wounded. He was advised again on 1st May, 1918 that Private A. Wallis had been admitted to City London Military Hospital, England on 13th April, 1918 & was suffering from gunshot wound left arm, gunshot would left leg.

Private Alfred Wallis died at 4.30 am on 7th May, 1918 at No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England from multiple gunshot wounds, convulsions, heart failure & tetanus.

A Cablegram was sent from Dartford Hospital to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London on 7th May, 1918 which reads: *"The following who was reported Dangerously Ill on 6th inst. Died at 0430 7th inst. Next of kin not advised 715 Pte WALLIS, A. 51st Bn C.E. Permission requested for Post Mortem."*

A death for Alfred Wallis, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Dartford, Kent, England.

Private Alfred Wallis was buried on 11th May, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180974.

*From the burial report of Private Alfred Wallis - Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were present. The grave will be turfed immediately and oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Base Records wrote to Mr R. Wallis, Ballidu Siding, via Wongan Hills, W.A., on 20th April, 1923 stating that the site of No. 715A Private A. Wallis's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row A Grave 5. "*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. A. 5. Private A. Wallis now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Alfred Wallis contains a letter from W. Oman, London written on 13th May, 1918 which reads: "*This man died in the 3rd A.A. Hpl. Dartford, England. He was admitted here on the 30.4.18 having several wounds in the left thigh, leg and foot, but which were all clean, and in good condition. He complained of sore throat, and on examination, his tongue was found to be ulcerated. He had three injections of anti-lock jaw serum prior to admission, but as the throat and jaw seemed suspicious he was given a fourth the day after admission. He was watched until Sunday afternoon 5.5.18 during which time his condition became doubtful, and was moved to a special ward, where he was given active treatment and anti-lockjaw serum, as condition definitely proved to be one of lockjaw. The serum was injected into his spinal canal, but treatment proved of no avail, and he died at 4 am on the 7.5.18. He was attended by Capt. Juet, Cue W.A. and Capt. Landon of Fremantle, W.A. who in conjunction with Sister Brinsley did all that was possible. The Medical officers say that since anti lockjaw serum is given to men that are wounded, the cases of lockjaw have become rare. To make certain, cases received as many as three injections at intervals of a week, in spite of which cases occasionally occur amongst patients, who have received a large number of small wounds. This is the first case that has occurred in this hospital, although there are about 2,000 patients passing through monthly. Chaplain Major Neveridge visited him constantly until death and with whom he left messages of love to his Mother and Father, and all his sisters and brothers. He was conscious every time he visited him, and always seemed hopeful and brave, fighting hard, but at the same time perfectly resigned to meet his God, in whom he expressed his undoubted faith. Sister Beer, of Brisbane, Queensland, attended him from the time his case was specialised and was with him when he died. She wrote to his Mother giving her details of his sickness and death. Both Sisters Beer, and Sister Brinsley, testify to his patience and fortitude, during his illness. He was buried at the Brookwood Cemetery about 30 miles from London, on the 11.5.17, and his grave was marked with a cross bearing all his identification particulars. His Mother's address, Mrs A. Wallis, Hallinina Siding Via Wongan Hill, W.A. He also had two brothers in France, Pte H. Wallis, 16th Battn and 11186 Pte R. Wallis, 11th Field Ambulance.*"

D. Beevor, Ballidu Siding, via Wongan Hills, Western Australia, wrote to The Chief Officer on 23rd May, 1918 requesting them to send to his sister, Mrs Richard Wallis of Ballidu Siding, Western Australia her son's certificate of death – No. 715A Private Alfred Wallis 51st Battalion.

Base Records replied on 18th July, 1918 enclosing a certificate of report of the death of No. 715A Private A. Wallis, 51st Battalion.

Private Alfred Wallis was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Wallis' father – Mr R. Wallis, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Public Trust Office, Perth Western Australia, wrote to The Officer in Charge, A.I.F. Army Records, Canberra, ACT on 1st June, 1955 regarding the Estate of Frederick Wallis, deceased: "*The Public Trustee is administering the estate of the abovenamed and in that connection wishes to obtain a certificate or other evidence of the death of the deceased's brother, Alfred Wallis, who is understood to have died in England in June, 1918 whilst a member of the First Battalion, A.I.F.*"

A reply was sent on 10th June, 1955 enclosing a Certificate of death of the late 715A Private Alfred Wallis 51st Battalion.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private A. Wallis – service number 715A, of 51st Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

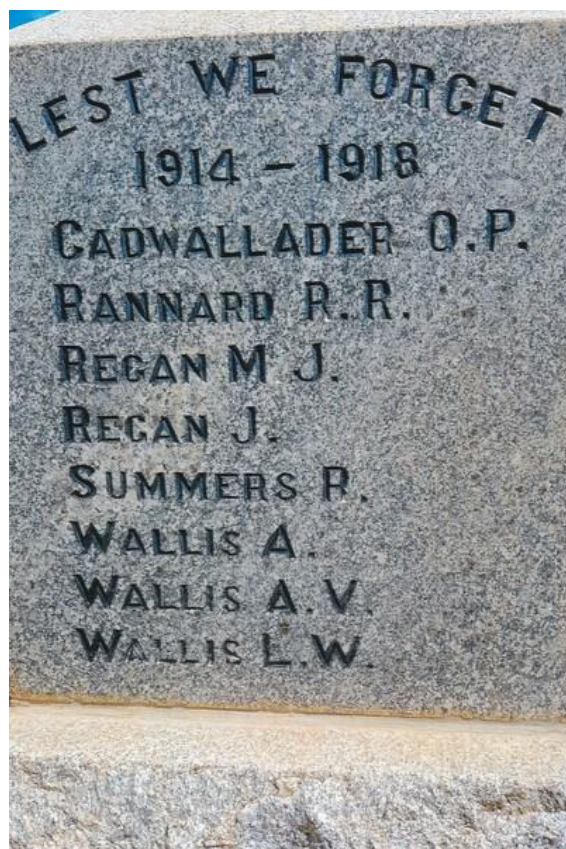


Private A. Wallis is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 154.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

A. Wallis is remembered on the Ballidu War Memorial, located on Federation Street, Ballidu, Western Australia.



**Ballidu War Memorial** (Photos from VWMA – Graham Bailey – Busselton)



A. Wallis is remembered on Fremantle's 849, located at War Memorial, Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, High & Swanbourne Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia. Twelve plaques contain all 849 names of the Fremantle servicemen who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The plaques were created as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations.



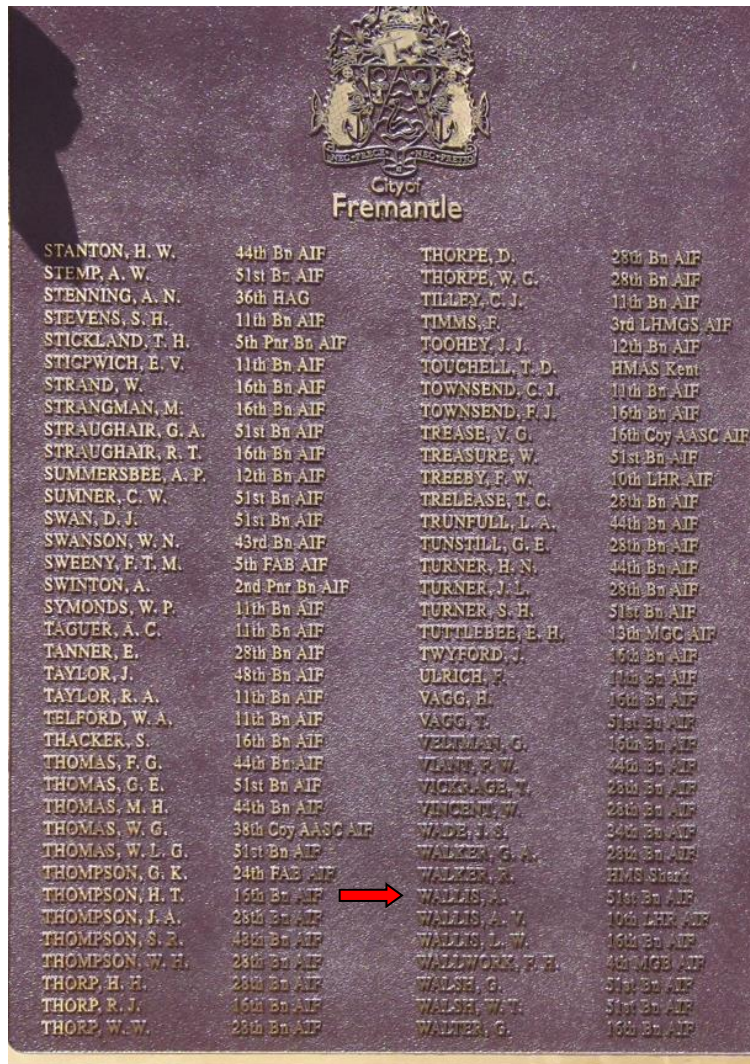
**Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)







Fremantle Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial Name Panels (Photos courtesy of Gordon Stuart)





A. Wallis 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.

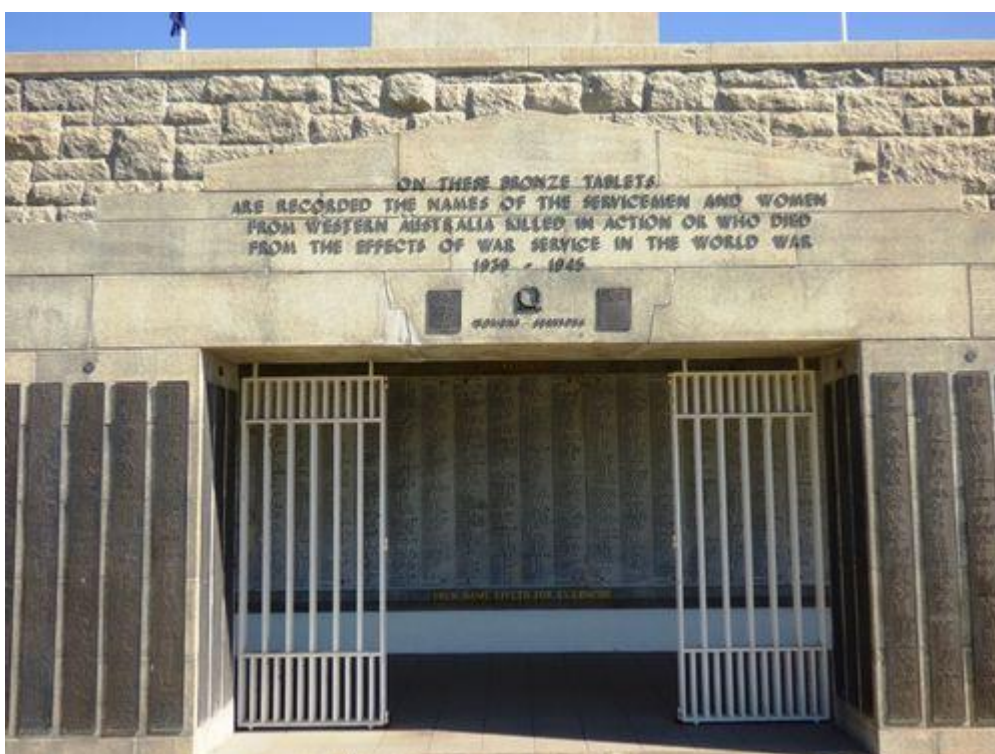
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a 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)*







51st Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(68 pages of Private Alfred Wallis' 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**

### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR LIST NO. 397**

WEST AUSTRALIA

WOUNDED

Alfred Wallis, Ballidu Siding

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 10 May, 1918)

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

Died of Wounds and Illness – A. Wallis (Ballidu Siding)

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 16 June, 1918)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **Anzac Heroes**

WALLIS – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother Private Alfred Wallis, 51st Battalion, who die dof wounds, May 7, 1918.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, sister and brothers.

WALLIS – In loving memory of our dear son, Private Alfred Wallis, late 44th Battalion, died May 7, from wounds received in France.

He died as he lived, manly, unselfish, and brave.

Inserted by his loving parents, Richard and Annie Wallis, Ballidu.

WALLIS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Alfred Wallis, 51st Battalion, who died of wounds, May 7, 1918.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Annie & Arthur Rannard.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1920)

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

WALLIS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Alfred Wallis, 51st Battalion, died of wounds, May 7, 1918.

We miss you most who loved you best.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1920)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

WALLIS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Alfred T. Wallis, who died of wounds, on May 7, 1918.

Till we meet again.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1923)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

WALLIS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Alfred Wallis, who died of wounds May 7, 1918.

Forever remembered by ones who loved you best.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1924)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

WALLIS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Alfred Wallis (A.I.F.), who died of wounds May 7, 1918.

Never shall in memory fade.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, Ballidu.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1925)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

WALLIS – In loving remembrance of our dear son, Private Alfred Wallis (Alf), 51st Battalion, died of wounds May 7, 1918.

A tender chord of memory is softly touched to-day.

Gone on; not forgotten.

Inserted by his parents, Ballidu.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1926)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

WALLIS – In loving memory of my dear son, Private Alf A. Wallis, 51st Battalion, died of wounds May 7, 1917.

Ever remembered

Inserted by his loving mother, R. Wallis, Ballidu.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1927)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

WALLIS – In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Alfred Wallis, who died of wounds on May 7, 1918.

God's greatest gift, remembrance.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters and brothers.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1928)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Anzac Heroes**

WALLIS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Alfred Wallis, who died of wounds on May 7, 1918.

Ever remembered

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, Ballidu.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1928)*

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\*\*Notices were also placed in 1930, 1931, 1932 & 1933



### 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)*

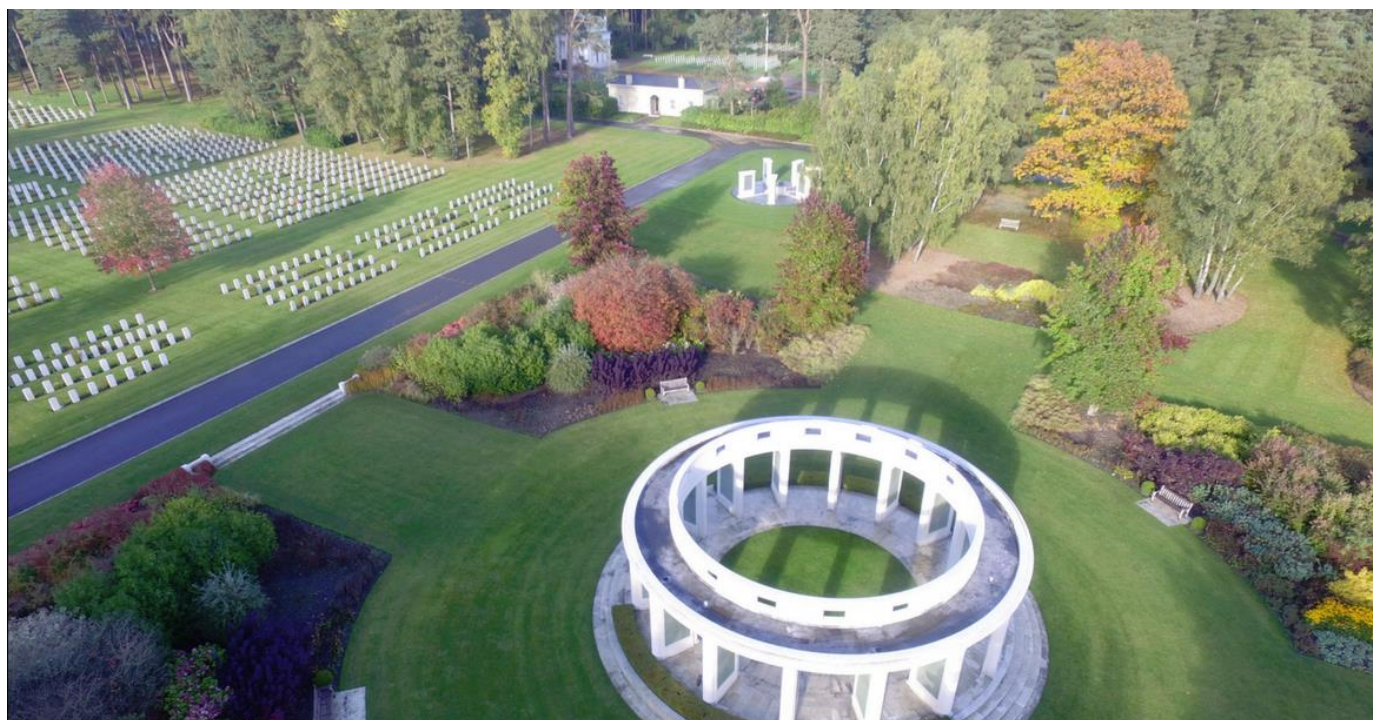
Private A. Wallis does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **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.



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** *(Photo from CWGC)*



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** (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 Private A. Wallis' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

