

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1652 PRIVATE

C. WARNECKE

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

18TH JANUARY, 1919 Age 21

*He Carried His Cross
And Has Gained A Crown
Deeply Mourned*

Clarence WARNECKE

Clarence Warnecke was born in West Perth, Western Australia in 1897 to parents Thomas Warnecke & Sarah Elizabeth Warnecke (nee Pryor).

Clarence Warnecke attended school at Ballarat (McArthur Street), Victoria.

Clarence Warnecke was an 18 year old, single, Tentmaker from 65 Tinning Street, Brunswick, Victoria when he enlisted on 18th September, 1915 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist (as listed on Embarkation Roll, however his religion was listed as Wesleyan on his Attestation Papers) & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sarah Warnecke, 65 Tinning Street, Brunswick, Victoria as his father was on Active Service. Clarence Warnecke stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to his teeth.

Private Clarence Warnecke was posted to 23rd Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 20th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Depot Battalion at Bendigo on 11th October, 1915 then transferred to Broadmeadows where he was posted to Reserve Company on 15th March, 1916. Private Warnecke was transferred to 18th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 12th April, 1916 then on 16th May, 1916 he was posted to "A" Company 3rd Pioneers.

Private Clarence Warnecke, Service number 1652, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wandilla (A62)* on 6th June, 1916 with the 3rd Pioneer Battalion, "A" Company & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 26th July, 1916. Private Clarence Warnecke's father also embarked on HMAT *Wandilla (A62)* on 6th June, 1916 with the 3rd Pioneer Battalion as Private Thomas McKnight Warnecke, Service number 34.

3rd Pioneer Battalion

The 3rd Pioneer Battalion was an Australian infantry and light engineer unit raised for service during the First World War as part of the all volunteer Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Formed in Victoria in March 1916, the battalion subsequently undertook further training in the United Kingdom before arriving in France in late 1916. It later served on the Western Front in France and Belgium until the end of the war.

The 3rd Pioneers were raised in Victoria, in March 1916, from volunteers drawn from Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia and was subsequently assigned to the 3rd Division.

Trained as infantrymen, the pioneers were tasked with light combat engineer functions in the field, with a large number of personnel possessing trades from civilian life. The concept had existed within the British Indian Army before the war, but was adopted by the Australian Army in early 1916 to meet a need for troops with construction and engineering skills to assist with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and undertaking battlefield clearance. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. At the same time, they could be pressed into the line to fight alongside regular infantry where required.

A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF during the war, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. The battalions consisted of four companies, under a headquarters company. To identify the 3rd Pioneer Battalion's personnel, they were issued with a purple and white Unit Colour Patch. The colours were in common with other Australian pioneer battalions, while the horizontal oval shape denoted that the unit was part of the 3rd Division.

The battalion's first commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Robert Law, and upon establishment it was decided that the unit would be an "all States" unit, meaning that personnel would not just be drawn exclusively from one particular state, but would instead draw recruits from all around Australia. The headquarters and 'A' Company were recruited from Victoria, and was established at Ascot Vale, before moving to Campbellfield in March, while 'B' Company was composed of New South Welshmen, 'C' Company came from Queensland and 'D' Company was a composite sub-unit drawn from South Australia and Western Australia. After the sub-units had formed in their home locations – Liverpool, Bathurst, Brisbane, Blackboy Hill, and Adelaide – the battalion began concentrating at Campbellfield in April 1916.

Detailed training began at Campbellfield shortly after concentration and in May the battalion marched through the streets of Melbourne, before being presented with its unit colour. They were subsequently laid up at St Paul's

Cathedral in Melbourne prior to embarkation. They departed Australia on the transport Wandilla on 6 June 1916, and endured a seven-week voyage to the United Kingdom, sailing via Cape Town. After arriving in the United Kingdom, the battalion subsequently concentrated with the rest of the 3rd Division around Larkhill on Salisbury Plain, in Wiltshire. Between July and November 1916, the 3rd Pioneers carried out intensive training to prepare them for their arrival on the Western Front. Finally, on 25 November the battalion entrained at Amesbury bound for Southampton from where they were ferried across the English Channel to Le Havre.

(Extract of Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

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 Clarence Warnecke was written up for a Crime: A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from Pioneer Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire from midnight on 6th November, 1916 until 5 pm on 8th November, 1916. He was awarded 3 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited a total of 5 days' pay.

Private Clarence Warnecke proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 24th November, 1916 from Pioneer Battalion.

Mrs T. Warnecke, advised Base Records on 24th February, 1917 that she had moved from 68 Tinning Street, Brunswick to 46 Victoria Street, East Brunswick.

Private Thomas McKnight Warnecke, father of Private Clarence Warnecke, was killed in action in France on 2nd May, 1917.

Private Clarence Warnecke reported sick on 3rd May, 1917 & was admitted to W. Lancs Field Ambulance with Neurasthenia (Neurasthenia was used to refer to the strange disorders that some soldiers presented after nearby shell explosions. At first, British doctors believed that the condition was related to the physical effects of explosions. However, it was later perceived as "neurasthenia," a nervous breakdown precipitated by stress of war). He was transferred to Wessex Field Ambulance on 4th May, 1917 & transferred the same day to 57th Divisional Dressing Station. He was discharged to duty on 12th May, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the Field on 13th May, 1917.

Private Clarence Warnecke was sent to Signal School at Morbique from 15th May, 1917 & rejoined 3rd Pioneer Battalion on 6th June, 1917.

Private Clarence Warnecke proceeded on Leave to England on 18th January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from Leave on 30th January, 1918.

Private Clarence Warnecke's Casualty Form – Active Service has the next record as "*Two Blue Chevrons due.*" (no date recorded)

Blue chevrons

In January 1918 the Australian Imperial Force approved the wearing of the overseas service chevrons which had been adopted by the British Army. These were embroidered or woven inverted chevrons worn above the cuff on the right arm. Due to a shortage of supply, some men had chevrons privately made. For each year of war service a blue chevron was awarded and those men who had embarked in 1914 received a red chevron to indicate that year's service.



Private Clarence Warnecke reported sick on 14th June, 1918 while in France. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 14th June, 1918 with NYD Pyrexia (Not yet determined Pyrexia - Fever). He was transferred the same day to 5th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Warnecke was discharged to duty on 18th June, 1918 & rejoined his unit on 19th June, 1918.

Private Clarence Warnecke was written up for a Crime: *“Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline in that he in the Field on 30.9.18 neglected to obey an order given by a superior officer.”* He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 2 by C. O. 3rd Div. Pioneers Battalion on 2nd October, 1918 in France.

Private Clarence Warnecke was on Leave to UK from 18th November, 1918 to 2nd December, 1918. (another entry on Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he proceeded on Leave to UK on 16th November, 1918).

Private Clarence Warnecke reported sick on 23rd November, 1918 whilst on Leave in England. He was admitted to War Hospital, Croydon, England on 23rd November, 1918 with Influenza.

Mrs S. Warnecke, 46 Victoria Street, East Brunswick, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 9th January, 1919 that No. 1652 Private C. Warnecke had been admitted to War Hospital, Croydon, England on 25th November, 1918 suffering from Influenza – seriously ill.

Private Clarence Warnecke died at 18.40 on 18th January, 1919 at The Crescent War Hospital, Croydon, England from Pericarditis. A request for a Post Mortem had been granted as *“cause of death obscure.sister-in-law agrees”*

A death for Clarence Warnecke, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Croydon, Surrey, England.

Mrs S. Warnecke, mother of Private Clarence Warnecke, was advised by Base Records on 21st January, 1919 that Private C. Warnecke's condition was stationary.

Private Clarence Warnecke was buried on 25th January, 1919 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 182780.

From the burial report of Private Clarence Warnecke - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths sent by relatives and friends of deceased. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev: Bladen of the A.I.F. London. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives or friends present at the Funeral – Cpl F. J. Frampton, Mrs Warnecke, Mrs Nobel, Miss Stovell.

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. Warnecke, 46 Victoria Street, East Brunswick, Victoria on 18th April, 1923 stating that the site of her son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row K Grave 14. *“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 - IV. K. 14. Private C. Warnecke now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Clarence Warnecke requested in his Will dated 27th May, 1916 *“I give devise and bequeath all my property both real and personal to my beloved, Mother Sarah Warnecke of Brunswick, Victoria.”* Sarah Warnecke was also appointed as Executrix of the Will.

Private Clarence Warnecke was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Warnecke's widowed mother – Mrs S. Warnecke, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Clarence Warnecke – service number 1652, aged 21, of 3rd Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Thomas McKnight Warnecke and Sarah Warnecke, of 46 Victoria Street, E. Brunswick, Melbourne.

Private C. Warnecke is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Warnecke & his father T. McK, Warnecke are remembered on the Brunswick Town Hall Honour Roll, located in Brunswick Town Hall Foyer, 233 Sydney Road, Brunswick, Victoria.





Brunswick Town Hall Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Bruce Garrett)



(65 pages of Private Clarence Warnecke'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

DA1 5058

(Photo c 30 April, 1916)

Studio portrait of two unidentified men standing and **1652 Private Clarence Warnecke**, 3rd Pioneer Battalion who was an 18 year old tent maker from Brunswick, Victoria when he enlisted and embarked for overseas with A Company from Melbourne on 6 June 1916 aboard HMAT *Wandilla*. After serving in France, he was admitted with influenza to the War Hospital Croydon, England where he died on 18 January 1919. He is buried in the Australian Military Burial Ground, Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England. This is one of a series of photographs taken by the Darge Photographic Company which had the concession to take photographs at the Broadmeadows and Seymour army camps during the First World War. In the 1930's, the Australian War Memorial purchased the original glass negatives from Algernon Darge, along with the photographers' notebooks. The notebooks contain brief details, usually a surname or unit name, for each negative. The names are transcribed as they appear in the notebooks.



Private Clarence Warnecke



Information from the Roll of Honour provided by the late Private Clarence Warnecke's mother:

"Father and three sons enlisted in the A.I.F. and his grandfather was in the Waterloo Battke, Grandfather was in the Crimea War as King's Trumpeter."

Connected to Private Clarence Warnecke:

Father – Thomas McKnight Warnecke: Enlisted on 7th July, 1915 as a 42 year old, married, Tentmaker from 68 Tinning Street, Brunswick, Victoria. Private Thomas McKnight Warnecke, Service number 34, 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wandilla* (A62) on 16th June, 1916.

Killed in action 2nd May, 1917 & buried in Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France.

Brother - Thomas William Warnecke: Enlisted on 18th October, 1915 as a 22 year old, married, Tentmaker from 10 Brett Street, East Brunswick. Private Thomas William Warnecke, Service number 4220, 24th Battalion, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire* (A18) on 7th March, 1916.

He returned to Australia on 31st October, 1917.

Brother – Robert Henry (Harry) Warnecke: Enlisted on 30th April, 1915 as a 20 year old, single, Labourer from 68 Tinning Street, Brunswick, Victoria. Private Robert Harry Warnecke, Service number 2437, 8th Battalion, embarked from Melbourne on HMAT Demosthenes (A64) on 16th July, 1915.

He returned to Australia on 16th November, 1918.

Waterloo Hero's Descendants True to Name

Military instincts have been inherited by Private T. M.K. Warnecke, of 68 Tinning street, Brunswick, who is attached to the Pioneer Battalion. His father fought in the Indian Mutiny, his grandfather in the Crimean War, and his great-grandfather in the Battle of Waterloo. His four sons are with him in the Australian Army.



FIG. T. M.K. WARNECKE
(Father)



FIG. CLARENCE WARNECKE



FIG. T. J. HAMPTON
(Son-in-law)



FIG. T. W. WARNECKE



FIG. R. H. WARNECKE

PRESIDENTIAL FIGHT

CONVENTIONS UNDECIDED

REMARKABLE SCENES

(Independent Cable Association)

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 June, 1916)

Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES AND FATALITIES

AT THE HOSPITAL

The following cases were treated at the Hospital yesterday – Clarence Warnecke, aged 14, of Macarthur street, broken ankle caused by a fall from a bicycle.....

(The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 20 April, 1911)

TAILOR'S BILLS

Mrs Rowe, of Sydney road, Moreland, sued A. Stevenson, Harry Johnson, Clarence Warnecke, Henry Warnecke (gone to war), Fred. Delehey and G. Tulloch and others for money owing for goods (tailor's clothes) sold and delivered, and obtained verdicts. Mr Campbell Douglas appeared for her. In Tulloch's case he alleged a misfit in one suit made, but instead of returning the clothes kept on wearing them; until the Bench made the order against him.

(The Brunswick and Coburg Leader, Victoria – 13 August, 1915)

DEATHS

On Active Service

WARNECKE – Died of influenza at Croydon, England, on 18th January, Clarence, dearly beloved third eldest son of the late Thomas (killed in action 2nd May, 1917) and Sarah, brother of Delia, William, Harry (returned), Violet, Eve, Olive, Elsie, Alfred, Alma, Ronald, aged 21 years 6 months.

Could I, his mother, have clasped his hand,
The son I loved so well;
To kiss his brow when death was near,
And whisper a last farewell.
Father and son reunited.

-Inserted by his loving mother, 46 Victoria -street, East Brunswick.

WARNECKE – On the 18th January, Sig. Clarence, 3rd Pioneers, died of illness, Croydon, England, after two years and a half active service. Dearly beloved brother of Will (returned), Harry (returned), and third eldest son of Private T. Warnecke, killed in cation, France, aged 21 years 6 months. A noble young life ended.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Will, and sister-in-law, May.

WARNECKE – On the 18th January, at war hospital, Croydon, England, Clarence, died of illness (influenza).

The war is really over,
To some these words sound nice;
But, oh, the sad, sad hearts of those
Whose loved ones paid the price,
The hardest part is yet to come
When all the boys return,
And we'll miss among the merry throng
Dear Clarrie, who will never return.

No one knows the silent heartbreak,
Only those can tell
Who have lost their soldier brother,
And could not say farewell.

Our hero.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Harry (returned), 46 Victoria-street, Brunswick East.

WARNECKE – On the 18th January, Sig. Clarence Warnecke, No. 1652, 3rd Pioneer Batt., died of illness (influenza) at Croydon, England, after two years and a half active service, third eldest son of the late Private T. McK, (killed in action) and Sarah Warnecke, aged 21 years 6 months.

One of the bravest and best.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Corp. T. J. Frampton (on active service abroad).

WARNECKE – Died of influenza in War Hospital, England, 18th January, Clarence Warnecke.

One of the best.

-Inserted by C. and A. Williams.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 January, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WARNECKE – In fond and loving memory of my dear Clarence, who died of influenza at Croydon, England on 18th January, 1919, after two and a half years' service. My hero.

For three long years, I hope and prayed,
But prayers were all in vain,
The boy I loved so dearly
Will never come again.
This secret grief within my soul
No human eye can trace,
For many a broken heart lies hid
Behind a smiling face.
And sunshine is all shadow, dear,
Life's pleasures do not thrill,
For in my heart there's something wantin;
I miss you, sweetheart, still.

-Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten, by your loving Ada, Albert Park.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 January, 1920)

**Newspaper notices were also placed in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 & 1944.

Sarah Warnecke, mother of the late Private Clarence Warnecke, died on 9th March, 1944.

Clarence Warnecke & his father are remembered on his mother's headstone in Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton, North, Victoria.



Melbourne General Cemetery (Photo from Find a Grave – Rebecca McIntosh)





In loving memory of

Our dear parents

Sarah E. WARNECKE

Died 9TH March 1944 Aged 71 yrs

also THOMAS

Beloved husband of above

Killed in action France

2ND May 1917 Aged 41 yrs.

also their beloved sons

CLARENCE

Died on active service England

18TH Jan 1919 Aged 21 yrs.

and FREDDIE 18 mths.

AT REST.

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 C. Warnecke does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Carried His Cross And Has Gained a Crown

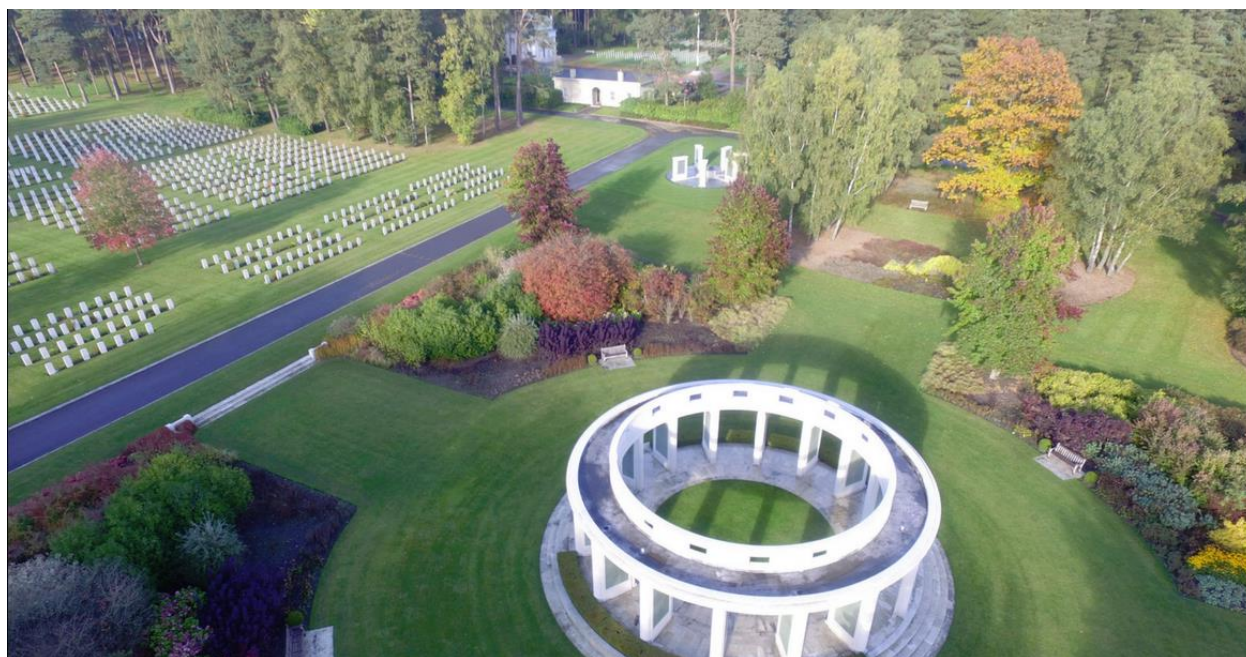
Deeply Mourned

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 C. Warnecke's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

