

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3169 PRIVATE

C. E. WHITE

34TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD MAY, 1918 Age 20

May His Soul Rest In Peace

Charles Edward WHITE

Charles Edward White was born at Yass, New South Wales on 30th September, 1899 to parents James (Jim) & Ada Minnie White (nee Preece).

Charles Edward White stated he was a 19 year old, single, Labourer from Gum Creek, Boambola Roadside, via Yass, N.S.W. when he re-attested* on 19th January, 1917 at Liverpool, New South Wales with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – James White, Gum Creek, Boambola Roadside, via Yass, N.S.W.

[* According to Statement of Service form in Service Record file for Private Charles Edward White – “*All previous records lost whilst at Liverpool.*” One of the Attestation Papers recorded that he joined on 31st August, 1916.]

Private Charles Edward White was posted to 7th Reinforcements of 34th Battalion on 24th January, 1917.

Private Charles Edward White, Service number 3169, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 24th January, 1917 with the 34th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th March, 1917.

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 Charles Edward White was marched in to A.I.F. Details at Fovant, Wiltshire on 2nd April, 1917 from Australia ex Isolation at Plymouth.

Private Charles Edward White was marched out from A.I.F. Details at Fovant to 9th Training Battalion at Durrington Camp, Wiltshire on 7th April, 1917.

Private Charles Edward White was transferred to 63rd Battalion on 28th April, 1917 from 34th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 63rd Battalion at Windmill Hill on 28th April, 1917.

Private Charles Edward White proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd August, 1917 to reinforce 34th Battalion (having been declared medically fit on 10th August, 1917). He was marched in the 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 24th August, 1917 & was marched out from 3rd A.D.B.D. for the Front on 31st August, 1917. Private White was taken on strength of 34th Battalion in the Field on 2nd September, 1917.

Private Charles Edward White reported sick on 12th October, 1917. He was admitted to 1st New Zealand Field Ambulance on 18th October, 1917 then transferred the same day to 44th Casualty Clearing Station. Private White was transferred to Ambulance Train on 18th October, 1917 & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th October, 1917 with Trench Feet. He was transferred to England on Hospital Ship St. George on 23rd October, 1917.

Private Charles Edward White was admitted to Reading War Hospital, England on 24th October, 1917 with Trench Feet (slight). The Hospital Admissions for recorded he had contracted Trench Feet at Ypres on 17th October, 1917 then on 22nd November, 1917 he developed Appendicitis & had an Appendectomy.

Base Records advised Mr James White, father of Private Charles White, on 23rd November, 1917 that Private C. E. White had been admitted to Reading War Hospital, England on 24th October, 1917 suffering from Trench Feet mild.

Private Charles Edward White was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, Middlesex, England on 4th January, 1918 from Reading War Hospital. Private White was discharged to furlo from 7th January, 1918 to 21st January, 1918 & was then to report to No. 1 Command Depot.

Private Charles Edward White was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 23rd January, 1918 from Administrative Headquarters, London & furlo. He was medically classified as B1 A 2 (fit for Overseas Training Camp in 3 – 4 weeks).

Private Charles Edward White proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 14th February, 1918 from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 15th February, 1918. He was marched out from A.I.B.D. on 17th February, 1918 for the Front & rejoined 34th Battalion in the Field on 21st February, 1918.

Private Charles Edward White was wounded in action on 2/5th April, 1918 (date as per Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance on 6th April, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Chest then transferred & admitted to 46th Casualty Clearing Station. Private White was transferred to Ambulance Train on 9th April, 1918 & admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital on 6th* April, 1918 (* date as per Casualty Form – Active Service). He was transferred to Ambulance Train 15 on 17th April, 1918 & was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 18th April, 1918.

34th Battalion

The 34th Battalion was formed in January 1916 at a camp established at the Maitland showground in New South Wales. It was planned that the bulk of the battalion's recruits would be drawn from the Maitland area and thus it was dubbed "Maitland's Own". The first recruits for the 34th, however, hailed from the far north-west of the state and arrived at Maitland after joining a recruiting march that began at Walgett. These men were known as the "Wallabies".

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The 34th Battalion had to wait until the emphasis of British and Dominion operations switched to the Ypres Sector of Belgium in mid-1917 to take part in its first major battle; this was the battle of Messines, launched on 7 June. After several stints in the trenches, and a period of rest and training, the battalion entered battle again on 12 October around Passchendaele. The battlefield, though, had been deluged with rain, and thick mud tugged at the advancing troops and fouled their weapons. The battle ended in a disastrous defeat, and over 50 per cent casualties for the 34th.

For the next five months the 34th alternated between periods of rest, training, labouring, and service in the line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the battalion was part of the force deployed to defend the approach to Amiens around Villers-Bretonneux. It took part in a counter-attack at Hangard Wood on 30 March, and helped to defeat a major drive on Villers-Bretonneux on 4 April.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

From information from 34th Battalion War Diary – the 34th Battalion were located in the vicinity of Bois L'Abbe from 1st April, 1918 to 4th April, 1918. From 4th April, 1918 the 34th Battalion were at Villers Bretonneux.

In the Operation by 34th Battalion from 12 noon on 4th April, 1918 to 12 midnight on 5th April, 1918 – 4 other ranks were killed; 1 Officer wounded & 17 other ranks wounded.

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

Private Charles Edward White was admitted to The King George Hospital, London, England on 18th April, 1918 with G.S.W. to Chest penetrating the Spine & Paraplegia. He was reported to be dangerously ill on 19th April, 1918.

Base Records advised Mr James White, Gum Creek, Boambolo Roadside, near Yass, NSW, father of Private Charles Edward White, on 17th April, 1918 that No. 3169 Priv ate C. E. White, 34th Battalion had been reported wounded. Mr James White was advised on 8th May, 1918 that Private Charles White had been admitted to King George Military Hospital, England on 18th April with "*gunshot wound chest penetrating Spine Paraplegia dangerous.*" Mr James White was advised again on 19th May, 1918 that Private Charles White's condition was stationary.

Private Charles Edward White died at 6.10 am on 23rd May, 1918 at The King George Hospital, London, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) to Spine & Paraplegia.

A death for Charles E. White, aged 19, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, London/Surrey, England.

Base Records advised Mr James White, father of Private Charles Edward White, on 24th May, 1918 that Private Charles White's condition was still stationary.

Private Charles Edward White was buried on 25th May, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 181, 047.

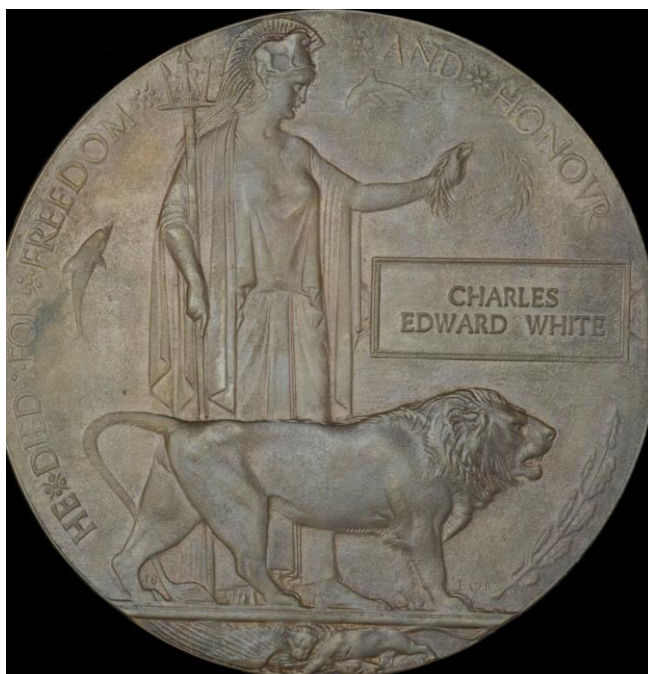
From the burial report of Private Charles Edward White - Coffin was good. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, and the coffin was draped with the Australian flag. Firing Party, Pall bearers and Bugler were supplied by the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. A short service was conducted at the graveside by Father Kelly, A.I.F. The grave will be turfed and a temporary oak cross erected. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. White, Mount Street, North Yass, NSW, on 11th May, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row E Grave. 20.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. E. 20. Private Charles Edward White now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Charles Edward White contains a letter from the Matron, King George Hospital, Stamford Street which reads: *"Dangerously Ill. Re 3169 Pte C. E. White, 34th A.I.F. He was admitted to this hospital suffering from gunshot wound of the spine resulting paralysis. His lungs were also affected through the wound and he had a troublesome cough. His condition on admission was very bad and never improved and he died 6.10 am May 23rd. He was buried at Brookwood Cemetery. The Ward Sister wrote to his mother giving all particulars."*

Private Charles Edward White was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private White's father – Mr J. White, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).



Memorial Plaque (also known as Dead Man's Penny or Death Penny)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Edward White – service number 3169, aged 20, of 34th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James & Ada Minnie White.

Private C. E. White is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 124.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. E. White's names was projected on the façade of the Australian War Memorial at 7.37 pm on 11th June, 2022. "Each evening between sunset and sunrise names from the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour are projected onto the façade of the Hall of Memory (the dome). The projections are a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice."



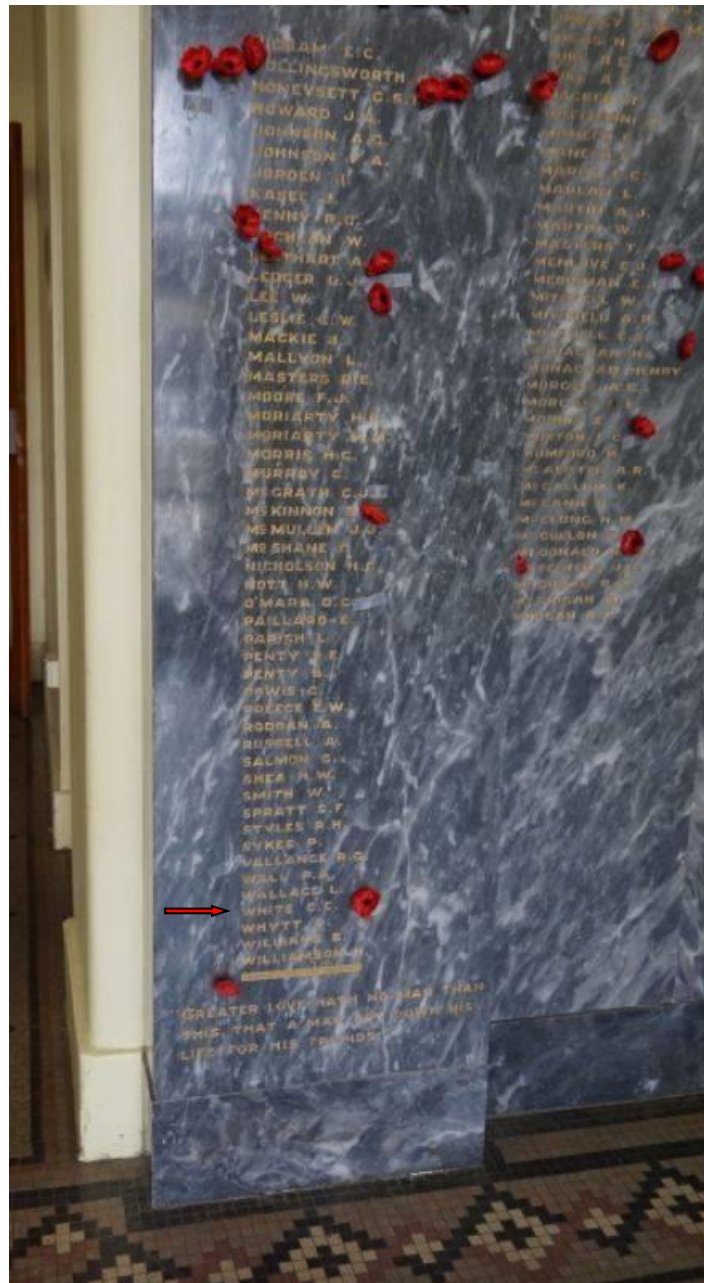
C. E. White is remembered on the Yass & District Roll of Honour, located in Soldiers Memorial Hall, 82 – 94 Comur Street, Yass, NSW.



Soldiers Memorial Hall, Yass (Photo from Monument Australia)



Yass & District Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



(69 pages of Private Charles Edward White'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

H05819

Studio portrait of 3169 Private (Pte) Charles Edward White, 34th Battalion from Yass, NSW.

A 19 year old labourer prior to enlisting on 31 August 1916, his original records were lost and he re-signed officially on 19 January 1917. He embarked for overseas with the 7th Reinforcements of the 34th Battalion from Sydney on 24 January 1917 aboard HMAT Anchises. Pte White was transferred temporarily to the 63rd Battalion on 28 August 1917 but returned to the 34th on 2 September 1917 after the two battalions joined forces. Private White had several periods in hospital suffering from trench feet and, later from appendicitis. He had an appendectomy at Ypres, Belgium on 12 November 1917. Sometime between 2 and 5 April 1918, while serving in the Somme sector, he was severely wounded in the spine, was transferred to a hospital in England on 18 April and died of his wounds on 23 May 1918. He is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey, UK.

Newspaper Notices

Australian Casualties

Lists Nos 373 and 374 and Part of Nos. 367 to 372

Ill in Hospital

Pte C. E. WHITE (Yass)

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 26 December, 1917)

WAR CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES LOSSES

395th AND 396th LISTS

Wounded

Pte C. E. WHITE, Yass

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 4 May, 1918)

THE CATHOLIC HONOR ROLL

Heroes of the Battlefield

News reached Yass of the death of Private C. E. White, son of Mr White, of Yass River. The deceased soldier, who was 19 years and 5 months old, died of wounds in France on the 22nd of May last. The Rev. Father Whelan, of the Redemptorist Monastery, Galong, celebrated Mass on Sunday week in St. Augustine's Church, Yass. For the soul of the gallant soldier, who had made the supreme sacrifice for his country and the Empire.

(Freeman's Journal, Sydney, NSW – 13 June, 1918)

Brevities

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In the latest casualty list it is announced that Pte C. E. White, of Yass, has died from wounds.

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(The Yass Courier, NSW – 17 June, 1918)

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. E. White does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

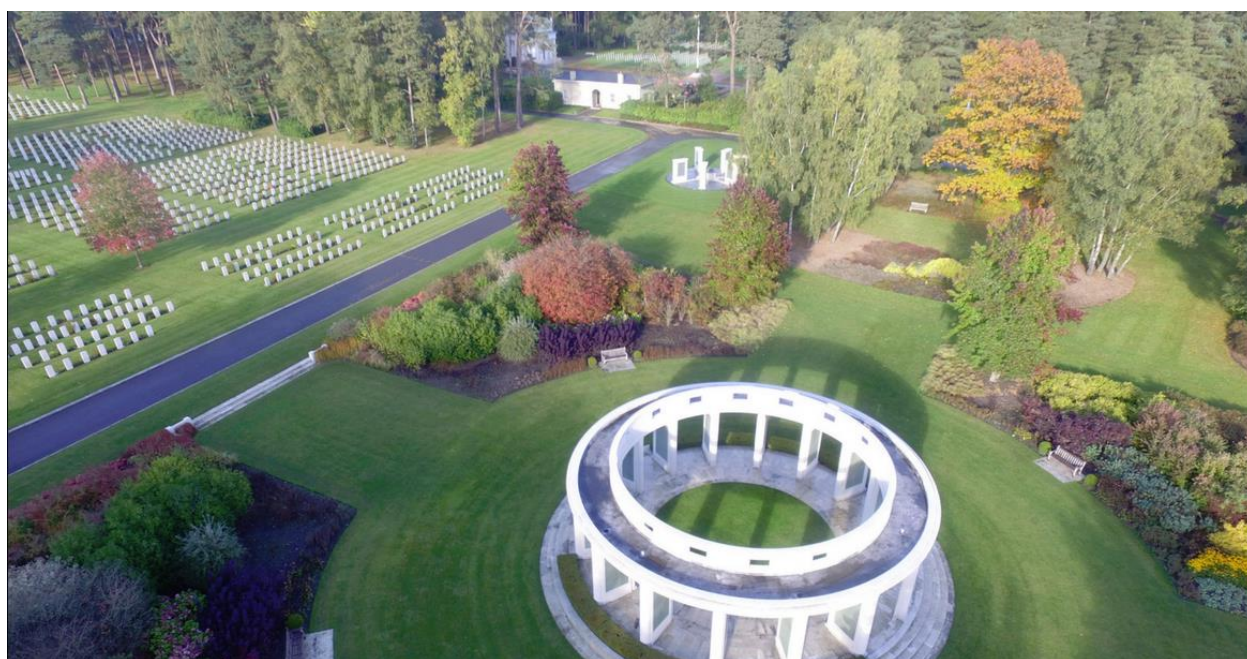
May His Soul Rest In Peace

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)



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. E. White's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

