

**Bexhill Cemetery,  
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**SECOND LIEUTENANT**

**H. E. WHITEMAN**

**ROYAL FLYING CORPS**

**23RD OCTOBER, 1916    Age 21**

*Thy Will Be Done*

## Harold Ernest WHITEMAN

Harold Ernest Whiteman was born at Guildford, Western Australia in 1895 to parents Ernest & Hannah Whiteman (nee Haddrill).

Harold Ernest Whiteman attended Middle Swan State School, Western Australia. He attended Guildford Grammar School from 1908 until 1914 & was School Captain. Harold Whiteman then attended the Western Australian University.

Newspaper item – *The Swan Express*, Midland Junction, Western Australia – 8 January, 1915:

### **THIS YEAR'S RHODES SCHOLAR**

*As mentioned in our last issue, Harold E. Whiteman, of Middle Swan, has been selected as this year's Rhodes Scholar. He has had a remarkably successful scholastic record, the salient features of which are set out hereunder:*

*Elementary education at Middle Swan State School, where in 1907 he gained a Secondary Schools' Scholarship of £200, tenable for four years. In 1907 he also passed the Adelaide Primary in English, arithmetic, history and geography.*

*He entered the Guildford Grammar School in February, 1908. In 1909 he passed the Adelaide Junior in English, history, geography Latin, French, arithmetic, algebra and geometry; obtained 37th place in general honors' list (20th place among W.A. candidates).*

*In 1910 he passed the Adelaide Senior in English, Latin, French, arithmetic and algebra (with credit), geometry and trigonometry; obtained 4th place in arithmetic and algebra. In 1911 he passed the Adelaide Senior in English, history, Greek. Latin (with credit), French (with credit), arithmetic and algebra 1 (with credit), geometry (with credit); obtained 9th place on general honors' list (7th place among W.A. candidates), 11th place in Latin, 10th place in French, 3rd place in arithmetic and algebra, 9th place in geometry, and 2nd place in trigonometry. On the results of this examination he was awarded a Senior Exhibition of £25, tenable for one year.*

*In 1912 he passed the Adelaide Higher in Greek, Latin, French (with credit), algebra and trigonometry and geometry and trigonometry (with credit); obtained 3rd place on general honors' list (1st place among W.A. candidates), 3rd place in French, and 2nd place in geometry and trigonometry. On the results of this examination he was awarded a W.A. Government Exhibition of £150, tenable for 3 years.*

*Proceeding to the University in 1913 he passed First Year Arts in: English (with distinction), Latin (with distinction), Greek, French, logic and psychology (with distinction), mathematics (with distinction.)*

### *Athletic Record.*

*Of his strikingly successful athletic record at the Grammar School it is unnecessary here to speak, but since entering the University he has supplemented his earlier successes as follows:*

*Cricket.—Regular member of University "A" grade XI. during the latter part of 1913-14 season; and present season. Elected treasurer of University Cricket Club for the season 1914-15. Member of executive committee of University Cricket Club for the season 1914-15. Member of selection committee of the Cricket Club for the season 1914-15. Secretary of University "A" grade XI.*

*Football.—Regular member of XVIII. during 1914 season. Vice-captain of the XVIII. 1914. Member of selection committee of the XVIII. 1914.*

### *Other Qualifications.*

*Of life at the Guildford Grammar School the headmaster (Rev. Percy U. Henn) wrote as follows at the end of 1913 :*

*Harold Ernest Whiteman has been a scholar at the Guildford Grammar School during the past six years. His life and conduct during the time, his abilities and industry have been such that I have no hesitation in putting him forward as a representative of the School who fulfils the conditions laid down by the Rhodes' Trustees for the selection of Scholars, and is likely to prove a worthy representative of the School and State. The scholastic record speaks for itself: in the inner life of the school community he has been distinguished by a manly simplicity and a devotion to public duties—whether those of the playing fields, where he has taken a full share by participation in, and management of school sport, or those of the class-room and dormitory where as prefect and Captain of the*

*School he has upheld the best traditions of the place. He has also shown a spirit of camaraderie which has made and kept him popular in the school.*

*During the temporary absence of a master from the school he has taken charge of his forms, and for three weeks, proprio motu, gave them instructions in mathematics, showing real capacity to control and no little ability to teach. He is a boy of unblemished character and untiring industry: he has worked his way steadily right through the School, and no boy could have made better use of the Government Exhibition: in a quiet way his influence has been uniformly and strongly in the direction of whatsoever things are true and pure and just; he represents the best traditions of public school life.*

*To this tribute Mr. Henn added the following this year: I can only add, now that he has left school, that he served as a Prefect for our years, was Captain of School or three, founded and was president of the first School Debating Society, was joint editor of the School Magazine for four years, and was a member of the Choir.*

Harold Whiteman, aged 21, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on *Miltiades* which arrived in London, England on 25th October, 1915.

Harold Ernest Whiteman enlisted in the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps with the rank of Private & a service number of 8381. He gained a Commission as Second Lieutenant in the Hampshire Regiment in April, 1916.

From *The London Gazette* – 25 April, 1916:

*Hampshire Regt.*

*Pte Harold Ernest Whiteman, from the Inns of Court O.T.C., to be 2nd Lt. (on prob.) 21st Apr. 1916.*

Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman was attached to the Royal Flying Corps from Hampshire Regiment in May, 1916.

Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman was transferred to No. 7 Reserve Squadron on 30th September, 1916.

Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman was on his first solo flight on 23rd October, 1916 from Central Flying School, R.F.C. Upavon, Wiltshire in a Maurice Farman S. 11 Shorthorn, Serial A949 when he nose-dived into the ground near Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England.

Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman died on 23rd October, 1916 near Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England. as a result of an aeroplane accident.

A Court of Inquiry was held into the accident of Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman. It was concluded that the flying accident happened when Second Lieutenant Whiteman dived too steeply to flatten out & the accident was due to an error of judgement on the part of the pilot.

A death for Harold E. Whiteman, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Newspaper item – *Hampshire Telegraph* – 27 October, 1916:

### **FLYING OFFICERS DEAD**

### **HOW THEY WERE KILLED**

*Verdicts of "Accidental death" were returned on Wednesday at inquests on the bodies of two young officers of the Flying Corps, Lieut. W. H. Irvine, who was killed through falling with his machine on Wednesday morning, and Lieut. Harold Ernest Whiteman, who fell early on Monday morning.....*

*In the case of Lieutenant Whiteman, Captain Collins said it was his first solo trip. He had successfully come through his dual tests and was quite a capable pilot. The machine was seen to be in difficulties above Parkhouse. It vol-planed from a great height to within 150 feet of the ground, when it turned and nose-dived to earth.*

Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman was buried on 27th October, 1916 in Bexhill Cemetery, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, England – Plot number E. F. P2 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper item – Bexhill-on-Sea Observer – 28 October, 1916:

### **FLYING OFFICER KILLED**

#### **AUSTRALIAN'S FUNERAL AT BEXHILL**

*The funeral of Lieutenant Whiteman, Hants. Regiment, attached to the Royal Flying Corps, who was killed in an accident whilst flying at Salisbury, took place yesterday (Friday) at the Borough Cemetery.*

*The deceased officer met his death on the anniversary of his landing in this country from Australia.*

*His father was a brother of the late Mr Walter Whiteman, and went from Bexhill to Australia, where he is still living.*

*The service was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Gillmore, and the Band of Summerdown Camp, Eastbourne, attended, playing Beethoven's and Chopin's funeral march. The coffin was carried by six officers of the R.G.A., Cooden, which regiment also supplied the firing party and buglers, a body of officers and men following.*

*The principal mourners were:- Mrs W. Whiteman (aunt), Miss J. Whiteman, Private M. A. Whiteman, Private O. Whiteman, Private A. Whiteman, Private P. Davies, Miss Edith Whiteman, Miss O. W. Whiteman, Miss B. Whiteman, Mr E. Whiteman, Mrs A. C. Whiteman, Miss L. Whiteman (cousins), Mrs Payne and Miss De Wright.*

*Floral tributes were received from "Father, Mother, Sisters and Brothers, West Australia," "Aunt Polly and family," "Aunt Jennie and family," "Uncle Tew and family, West Australia," "Mr and Mrs A. J. Felton," "Mrs Brown and family," "Commandant B. Siege School, Officer Commanding B Depot and Officers at Cooden Camp," "No. 7 R. Squadron, R.F.C., Officer," "Mr and Mrs C. A. N. Wallich," and "Mrs Fred. N. Nichols."*

*The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr Geo. T. Sabin, 8-10 St. Leonards-road, Bexhill.*

Newspaper item – Camp Chronicle, Midland Junction, Western Australia – 25 January, 1917:

### **THE LATE LIEUT. WHITEMAN**

#### **HOW HE MET HIS DEATH**

*Mr. and Mrs. E. Whiteman, of Mid dle Swan, have received by mail the following letter from Captain Maybury, of the Royal Flying Corps, Wilts (Eng.), giving particulars of how their son, Lieut. Harold E. Whiteman, met his death. Lieut. Whiteman was the 1914 Rhodes Scholar from Western Australia, and on his arrival in England he enlisted, subsequently transferring to the Flying Corps. Capt. Maybury writes:*

*"Royal Flying Corps,*

*Netheravon, Wilts,*

*October 24, 1916.*

*"Dear Sir, — I have already cabled you with reference to an aeroplane accident in which your son, 2nd Lieut. H. E. Whiteman, met his death. He had been in the air with his instructor for nearly five hours, and had done excellently, showing complete mastery of the machine both on the ground and in the air. His instructor sent him up solo, fully satisfied with him when flying dual. He left the ground very satisfactorily and flew the machine for 25 minutes, when, for some unknown reason, he suddenly dived to earth. Why the accident happened I fear will always remain a mystery. His instructors think the boy must have fainted or lost his head. This latter is unlikely. I immediately got in touch with his relatives in England, and to-day I have seen two of his cousins, Miss Whiteman, of Bexhill, and Pte. M. A. Whiteman, of Hove, and I have arranged with them for the funeral to take place at Bexhill on Friday next. Full military honors will be accorded. . . . If I can be of any use to you concerning your son's affairs please let me know, and I shall be happy to assist."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman, aged 21, of Royal Flying Corps and 8th Bn., Hampshire Regiment. He was the son of Ernest and Annie Whiteman, of Janebrooke, Midland Junction, Western Australia. A Rhodes Scholar.

Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman 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 Area of the Australian War Memorial** (*Capital Photographer*)



Lt. H. E. Whiteman is remembered on the Old Guildfordians War Memorial, located in Guildford Grammar School, Terrace Road, Guildford, Western Australia.



**Old Guildfordians War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)

H. E. Whiteman is also listed in the Old Guildford Association Honour Roll as Rhodes Scholar in 1915 & Captain of School 1912 & 1913-1914.

Harold Whiteman is also listed as an Accomplished Old Guildfordian – Guildford Grammar School from 1908 to 1914. “Rhodes Scholar 1915. Harold was temporarily on the School staff in 1915 before leaving for Oxford in August to enter Exeter College. As War had broken out he was also expected to join the military force and serve in some capacity, which he did. After arriving in England he enlisted in the Inns of Court Officer’s Training Corps and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on Anzac Day 1916. At that time volunteers were called for the Royal Flying Corp and he joined immediately. Harold began flying with the No 7 Reserve Squadron on 30 September. After only three hours solo flying he was moved to an advanced squadron. Harold was killed on his first flight on 23 October 1916, aged 21.”





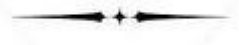
**Harold Ernest Whiteman**



**Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman**



**Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman** (Photo courtesy Dave Hatherell)





## **Newspaper Notices**

### **PERSONAL**

News has been received that Harold E. Whiteman, son of Mr L. Whiteman, of the Swan, has been killed. Young Whiteman, who was educated at the Guildford Grammar School, was chosen last year as Western Australia's Rhodes Scholar, and immediately on arrival in England he joined the forces there. Recently he transferred to the Aviation Corps, and was killed whilst making a flight, Details are not yet to hand.

*(The Swan Express, Midland Junction, Western Australia – 27 October, 1916)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **Anzac Hero**

WHITEMAN – In loving memory of Second Lieutenant H. E. Whiteman, who was killed in an aeroplane accident on Salisbury Plains on October 23, 1916.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brothers.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 24 October, 1917)*

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### **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.

Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman has a Private Headstone.

### **Bexhill Cemetery, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, England**

The cemetery, belonging to the Corporation, is on the North-West side of the town, at the crossing of the Little Common-Catsfield and Hooe-Sidley Green roads. It was made in 1900, and covers 34 acres. The South African Heavy Artillery was at Bexhill in 1915; Princess Patricia's Canadian Convalescent Hospital and other Canadian units and schools were here later.

*(Information from CWGC)*

There are 53 Commonwealth War Graves in Bexhill Cemetery – 33 from World War 1 & 20 from World War 2.



**Chapel in Bexhill Cemetery** (Photo by Robin Webster)



**Bexhill Cemetery** (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Second Lieutenant Harold Ernest Whiteman's Private Headstone in Bexhill Cemetery, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, England.



*(Photo courtesy Dave Hatherell)*

*In Loving Memory*

*of*

*HAROLD E. WHITEMAN*

*West Australian Rhodes Scholar 1914*

*Lieut. 7TH Reserve Squadron R.F.C.*

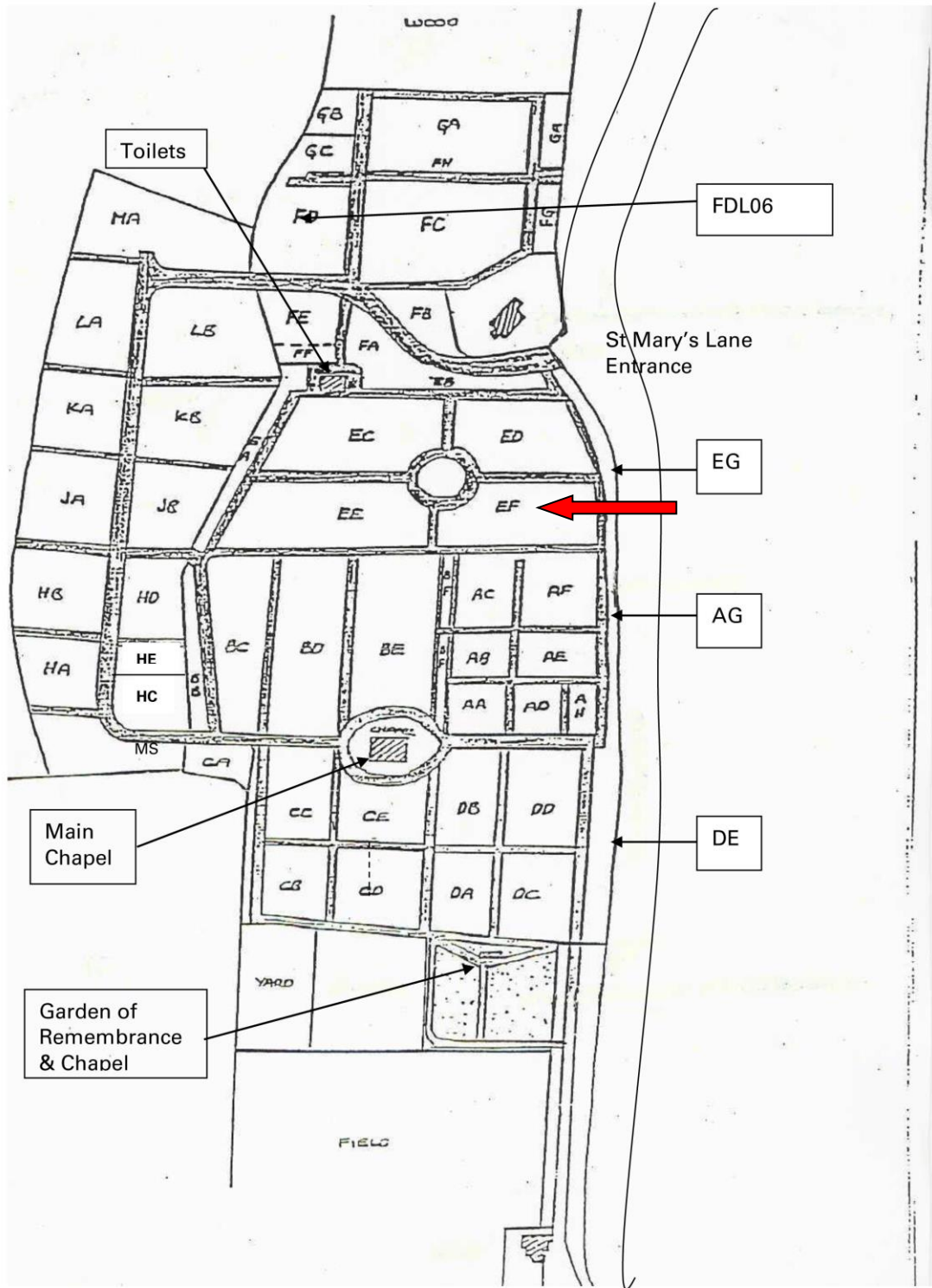
*Killed In An Aeroplane Accident*

*Salisbury Plains 23RD Oct. 1916*

*Aged 21 Years*

*“Thy Will Be Done”*

# BEXHILL CEMETERY



Turkey Road Entrance