

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3559 GUNNER**

**ARTHUR EDWARD WILLIAMS**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**22ND FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 22**

## Arthur Edward WILLIAMS

Arthur Edward Williams was born at Cootamundra, New South Wales on 4th December, 1897 to parents Charles & Louisa Matilda Rosabella Williams (nee Hardwick). (Note: His birth was registered in the district of Cootamundra, NSW & according to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Arthur Edward Williams was born at Cootamundra. Arthur Williams listed his place of birth as Young, NSW on his Attestation Papers. Young is around 50 kms north-east of Cootamundra).

Charles Williams, father of Arthur Edward Williams, died 25th November, 1901.

Arthur Edward Williams attended school at Auburn, NSW.

Arthur Williams was a 19 year old (age listed as 18 years & 10 months on Attestation Papers), single, Farmer from Guildford, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 29th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3559 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his friend – Mrs E. Hunter, Guildford Road, Guildford, NSW. Arthur Williams answered “*No – exempt area*” to the question - Have you ever served in His Majesty’s Service?

Arthur Williams was posted to 4th Reinforcements of 20th Battalion on 29th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion on 1st October, 1915.

Private Arthur Williams embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 13th October, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 13th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Arthur Williams was taken on strength from Reinforcements at Tel-el-Kebir on 4th March, 1916.

Private Arthur Williams was transferred to 4th Divisional Artillery on 12th March, 1916. He was taken on strength of 10th Field Artillery Brigade from 13th Battalion & posted to 39th Battery on 13th March, 1916 with the rank of Gunner.

Gunner Arthur Williams was mustered as Driver on 1st June, 1916.

Driver Arthur Williams proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 5th June, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 13th June, 1916.

Driver Arthur Williams was reported to be with his Unit on 1st July, 1916.

[Note: There is no record of Driver Arthur Williams’ movements from 2nd July, 1916 until 20th April, 1917]

Driver Arthur Williams proceeded on leave to England from 20th April, 1917.

Driver Arthur Williams proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 10th June, 1917 from H & D Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire under escort to rejoin his Unit.

Driver Arthur Williams was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France on 11th June, 1917. He was marched out to duty on 19th June, 1917.

Driver Arthur Williams was transferred to 4th D.A.C. on 20th June, 1917 & was transferred to 10th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 21st June, 1917.

A F. G. C. M. (Field General Court Martial) was held on 29th June, 1917 with Driver Arthur Williams charged with A.W.L. (absent without leave) from 30th April, 1917 until apprehended on 31st May, 1917 in London, England. Finding of Court Martial - Driver Arthur Williams was sentenced to 40 days F.P. No. 2 (Field Punishment) and forfeited 60 days’ pay on 29th June, 1917. Period in arrest awaiting trial – 28 days. Total forfeiture – 100 days’ pay.

Driver Arthur Williams was sent to Hospital sick on 8th December, 1917. He was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 8th December, 1917 with Scabies then transferred & admitted to “3 C. *Scab Detn*” the same day. Driver Williams was discharged to duty on 11th December, 1917 & rejoined 39th Battery on 13th December, 1917.

Driver Arthur Williams was sent to Hospital sick on 30th December, 1917. He was admitted to 57th Field Ambulance on 30th December, 1917 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Driver Williams was transferred to

Ambulance Train & admitted to 16th General Hospital at Le Treport on 5th January, 1918 with P.U.O. He was transferred to Base Depot on 15th January, 1918.

Driver Arthur Williams was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles on 16th January, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 4th February, 1918 & he rejoined 39th Battery on 7th February, 1918.

Mrs Louisa Grosvenor, 6 Henrietta St, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 17th December, 1917: "*Having just found the whereabouts of my son. I found out that he had enlisted from Auburn, N.S.W. in the 39th Battery, 10 Division of the A.F. Artillery as Driver Reg. No. 3599. Now having found that he has signed his Allotment Papers over to a Mrs E. Hunter as next of kin. I beg to inform you that she is no relation whatever, as I am his Mother (Mrs Louisa Williams) and to see if you could let me be the first to hear if anything should happen to him. How we were separated was on account of me marrying the second time. I had three sons by the first Husband and I have the other two near me and now I am in touch of the third. I am forwarding you a letter that he wrote to a friend of mine to make Enquiries for his relations as this Mrs E. Hunter made him believe that his Mother was dead, and through that letter I was able to trace him. I have written to him these two Mails, but as yet received no reply, and as I have not the means to Cable him, I beg of you to give me all details. I believe he enlisted at Auburn N.S.W. on the 29.7.15, and embarked from Sydney 14.8.15 Cert 575 Auburn N.S.W. formerly Cert. No. 53 Guildford N.S.Wales. He only turned 20 years of Age on the 4th of this month. The Brother he mentioned in his letter enlisted here in Sydney in the Red Cross, and after being in Camp for nine months, was discharged medically unfit. He went and saw this Mrs Hunter and she identified him as his Brother for they are so much alike. As I think I gave you plenty of Details, but if more is required I can furnish you with them, as all his relations lives in a town called Young N.S.Wales...*"

The next-of-kin recorded for Gunner Arthur Williams was changed on 23rd May, 1918 from his Friend to his Mother – Mrs F. Grosvenor, 3 Henrietta Street, Chippendale, Sydney, NSW.

Driver Arthur Williams reverted to rank of Gunner on 1st October, 1918 at his own request - still with 10th Field Artillery Brigade.

Gunner Arthur Williams embarked\* from France on 31st January, 1919 (\*as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service) to be transferred to England for R.T.A. (Return to Australia). Gunner Williams was marched out to England from A.G.B.D. as part of Quota 7 – 1915 Personnel for R.T.A. on 10th February, 1919. He disembarked at Weymouth on 11th February, 1919 & was marched in to 3rd Training Brigade Convalescent Camp.

Gunner Arthur Williams was admitted to City of London Military Hospital, Clapton on 18th February, 1919 with Influenza.

Gunner Arthur Edward Williams was reported to be dangerously ill at Military Hospital, Clapton on 20th February, 1919.

Gunner Arthur Williams died at 8.45 am on 22nd February, 1919 at City of London Military Hospital Clapton, London, England from Influenza & Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form reported: "*Admitted 18.2.19. Temp 104. Developed Left Lobar Pneumonia. Died suddenly 22.2.19.*"

A death for Arthur Williams, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Hackney, London, England.

Gunner Arthur Williams was buried on 27th February, 1919 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground Grave No 183071 C of E Section.

From the burial report of Gunner Arthur Edward Williams - *Coffin was oak. 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 conveyed to the graveside where the "Last Post" was sounded and the burial service conducted by Chaplain Rev: Ed Makeham, C. of E of the A.I.F. London. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Base Records wrote to Mrs F. Grosvenor, 48 Burnett Street, Redfern, NSW, on 17th April, 1923 stating that the site of her son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row I Grave 7. "*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. I. 7. Gunner Arthur Edward Williams has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mrs Louisa Grosvenor, 48 Burnett St, Redfern Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 3rd September, 1919 to advise them that she had "received my son's (Gun. 3559 A. Williams) parcel, with very many thanks." The letter continued to advise of her new address at Redfern with her "latter address which was No 3 Henrietta St. Chippendale, Sydney."

Mrs Louisa Grosvenor, 48 Burnett St, Redfern Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 10th February, 1920: "I beg to apply for my Son's No 3559 Gunner A. E. Williams 10th Field Artillery Brigade, "Records" as I would like to have them, and you would greatly oblige his Mother."

A list was compiled on 19th February, 1920:

RECORD OF SERVICE OF THE LATE No. 3559 GUNNER A. WILLIAMS,  
10th FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

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29. 7.15 Enlisted in the A.I.F.  
14.10.15 Embarked for active service, with 11th Rfts. 13th Battn.  
12. 3.16 Transferred to 4th Divisional Artillery.  
13. 3.16 Taken on strength of 10th Field Artillery Brigade and  
posted to 39th Battery as Gunner.  
1.6. 16 Mustered Driver.  
5. 6.16 Proceeded to join British Expeditionary Force.  
13. 6.16 Disembarked, Marseilles.  
11. 6.17 Marched in to Aust. General Base Depot from England.  
19. 6.17 Marched out to 4th Divl. Artillery from Aust. Gen. Base  
Depot.  
20. 6.17 Taken on strength of 4th Divl. Ammunition Column ex  
Aust. Gen. Base Depot.  
21. 6.17 Transferred to 10th Field Artillery Brigade.  
21. 6.17 Rejoined 39th from England ex 4th Divl. Ammunition Column.  
8.12.17 To hospital sick. Admitted to 12th Australian Field  
Ambulance suffering from scabies.  
11.12.17 Discharged to duty.  
13.12.17 Rejoined 10th Field Artillery Brigade ex hospital.  
30.12.17 To hospital sick.  
30.12.17 Admitted to 57th Field Ambulance and transferred to  
Ambulance Train suffering from pyrexia.  
3. 1.18 Admitted to 16th General Hospital, pyrexia.  
15. 1.18 Transferred to Base Depot, pyrexia.  
16. 1.18 Marched in to Aust. General Base Depot ex hospital  
4. 2.18 Marched out to unit.  
7. 2.18 Rejoined 10th Field Artillery Brigade ex hospital.  
1.10.18 Reverts to Gunner at own request.  
31. 1.19 Embarked for England for return to Australia.  
10. 2.19 Marched out to Quota No.7.  
11. 2.19 Disembarked, Weymouth.  
11. 2.19 Marched in to 3rd Training Brigade Concentration Camp.  
20. 2.19 Admitted to Military Hospital, Clapton, dangerously ill.  
22. 2.19 Died from Influenza and Pneumonia.

Gunner Arthur Williams was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Williams' remarried mother – Mrs L. Grosvenor, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Arthur Edward Williams – service number 3559, aged 22, of 10th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Louisa and the late Charles Williams, of 48 Burnett St., Redfern, Sydney.

Gunner A. E. Williams is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 16.



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

(68 pages of Gunner Arthur Edward Williams' 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**

### **462nd CASUALTY LIST**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

##### **DIED, OTHER CAUSES**

Gnr. ARTHUR WILLIAMS, Guildford (illness)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 April, 1919)*

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### **CHIPS**

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In the latest casualty list appears the name of Sapper Arthur Williams, of Guildford, whose death is reported from illness.

*(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 2 April, 1919)*

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## On Active Service

WILLIAMS – In sad and loving memory of my darling son, Gunner A. E. Williams, of the 39th Battery, of the A.F.A., who departed this life February 22, 1919.

The face we loved is now laid low,  
His fond, true heart is till,  
A hand that always helped us so  
Lies now in death's cold chill.  
Two years have passed, our hearts still sore,  
As time goes on we miss you more;  
Your loving smile, your welcomed face,  
There is no one to fill your place.  
You are gone, but not forgotten,  
Nor the good advice you gave;  
Sweet thoughts will ever linger  
Around our darling brother's grave.

Inserted by his loving mother and family.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 22 February, 1921)*

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## 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 Arthur Edward Williams 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.



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** (Photo by Magicfingers)





**Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)







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



Photo of Gunner Arthur Edward Williams' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



