

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**5445 PRIVATE**

**H. A. J. WOODS**

**24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**29TH NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 27**

## Harold Arthur Jasper WOODS

Harold Arthur Jasper Woods was born at Surrey Hills, Victoria on 17th February, 1890 to parents Walter John Loretto Woods & Elizabeth Woods (nee Lay).

Harold Arthur Jasper Woods attended schools at Balwyn & Surrey Hills, Victoria.

Elizabeth Woods, mother of Harold Arthur Jasper Woods, died on 26th August, 1904 at Canterbury Road, Surrey Hills, Victoria.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Ballarat, subdivision of Ballan, Victoria recorded Harold Arthur Jasper Woods, Labourer from Colbrook.

The 1916, 1917 & 1919 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Ballarat, subdivision of Ballan, Victoria recorded Harold Arthur Jasper Woods, Labourer from Greendale.

Harold Arthur Jasper Woods was a 26 year old, single, Labourer from Ballan, Victoria when he enlisted on 28th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Walter J. Woods, Bentleigh, Victoria.

Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods was posted to "C" Company, 23rd Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 11th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company 24th Battalion from 31st May, 1916. Private Woods was transferred to 24th Battalion on 12th June, 1916. He was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 24th Battalion on 30th June, 1916.

Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods, Service number 5445, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) on 1st August, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th September, 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 Harold Arthur Jasper Woods was marched in to 6th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire, England on 26th September, 1916.

Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 19th November, 1916 on S.S. *Onward* from 6th Training Battalion. He was posted to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 20th November, 1916 from England. Private Woods was taken on strength of 24th Battalion in France on 9th January, 1917.

Walter John Loretto Woods, 46 Chomley Street, Windsor, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 5th June, 1917 regarding 5445 Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods, 14th Reinforcements, 24th Battalion & 457 Private Cyril Earnest Rupert Woods, 2nd Reinforcements, 2nd Cycling Battalion with the following letter: "*Their father writes notifying change of address from Vickery Street Bentleigh to the above address. "Re" 5445 Private Harold Woods I have heard indirectly from my relatives in Ballan where he resided for 9 years prior to enlisting that he is wounded. Not having heard from you I should be glad if you would furnish me with what news you may have & as his father I claim to have the first news he being unmarried.*"

Base Records replied to Mr W. J. L. Woods on 11th June, 1917 noting his change of address for his two sons. The letter continued with "*No official advice of any casualty effecting the former soldier has been received, but if you can forward to this office documentary evidence, such as a letter from the Front, containing the information that he is wounded, upon receipt o same enquiries will, if warranted, be instituted. Should any cable report come to hand in the meantime you will be at once notified.*"

Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods was wounded in action on 4th October, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 4th October, 1917 with shrapnel wound/s to Neck. Private Woods was transferred & admitted to 10th Casualty Clearing Station on 4th October, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 7th October, 1917. He

was admitted to 16th General Hospital at Le Treport on 8th October, 1917. Private Woods was invalided to England on 11th October, 1917.

## **24th Battalion**

The 24th Battalion was raised in a hurry. The original intent was to raise the fourth battalion of the 6th Brigade from the "outer states", but a surplus of recruits at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria led to a decision being made to raise it there. The battalion was formed during the first week of May 1915.....

The Battalion got little rest during the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between the front and labouring tasks. When patrolling no-man's land the men of the 24th adopted a unique form of snow camouflage - large white nighties bought in Amiens.

In May 1917 the battalion participated in the successful, but costly, second battle of Bullecourt. It was involved for only a single day ' 3 May ' but suffered almost 80 per cent casualties. The AIF's focus for the rest of the year was the Ypres sector in Belgium, and the 24th's major engagement there was the seizure of Broodseinde Ridge.....

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

### War Diary – 24th Battalion

*October 4th, 1917:*

*Bn moved out from GORDON AREA at 11pm proceeding via route as per operation order to assembly position at D 27 d 3.4 Position at the assembly position was moved 100<sup>x</sup> closer to the road leading to TOKIO on account of enemy artillery fire on and around ALBANIA. Companies had assembled and were quiet at 3.30 am. Casualties at this stage were two o/ranks wounded. At 4 am A Coy leading followed by B, C & D Coys in order moved out to the JOT. All were in position at 4.45 am making use of shell holes and old trench systems.*

*The enemy put down a terrific barrage on and as far back as 600<sup>x</sup> in rear. A J.O.T. at 5.30 am. Minnenwerfers and all guns up to 8" calibre were employed, type of shell being chiefly high explosive. At 6 am (zero hour) our barrage opened and in sound made the enemy's sound insignificant. Casualties on JOT were 2 Officers – Lt MUROHY and 2/Lt WORRALL killed and about 40 o/ranks at least out of action. Advance commenced meeting with resulting m gun fire from southern tip of ZONNEAEKE LAKE. Enemy yellow cluster flares were fired from line along D28a64.82.*

*No difficulty was experienced in mopping up m gun posts. Group A pill boxes at D286.1.2 provided numerous prisoners of 5th GUARD Grenadiers and 458 R.I.R. DOCILE TRENCH did not offer any resistance ditto DE KNOET FARM RED LINE was reached at 6.50 and digging immediately commenced by 22nd BN. At 7 am 24 Bn moved through 22nd BN and formed up in rear of RED PROTECTIVE BARRAGE. Enemy was seen evacuating block house at D29a2.7. Rifle & L. Gun fire opened upon them with good results. Enemy brought a light M Gun into action at D 29 a 3.4. Stokes Mortar under Lt PAYNTER silenced this. At 8.10 am leading waves moved behind the barrage over BROODSEINDE-BECELAERE ROAD and ridge and immediately coming under m gun and sniper's fire. Enemy sniping was particularly active from RIDGE around D 23 d 3.4. Two 77mm guns were captured just prior to crossing ridge. These were subsequently made use of by 2nd AUST DIV ARTILLERY on 9th Oct. CAPT GODFREY MC, CAPT HARRIOTT, LT WILCOX were killed at this time.*

*As soon as smoke barrage was apparent digging in commenced on approximate blue line. Enemy m gun fire and sniping continued in spite of our barrage. BN right flank D 29 a 80.82 left flank. D 23 C 90.25 at 9.30 am. CAPT LLOYD MC wounded but remained on duty, 2/LT PICKNELL, 2/LT BAXTER wounded and evacuated.*

*9.30 am Flanks connected and secure. Aggressive sniping continued. Owing to loss of carrying parties at J. O.T. it was necessary to ask for SA A & water to be brought up from the rear.*

*Casualties – Killed 4 Off 45 O/Ranks Wounded 5 Off 184 O/Ranks.*

*3.30 pm – Following observation of enemy movement in CHINA WOOD a successful short und (?) F.O.O. was carried out. Night was quiet.*

*Weather – Showery at zero house – ground satisfactory.*

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

Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods was admitted to 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England on 15th October, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Neck.

Base Records advised Mr W. J. Woods, 46 Chomley Street, Windsor, Victoria, on 28th October, 1917 that Private H. A. J. Woods had been admitted to 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England, on 15th October, 1917 suffering from gunshot wound to Neck.

Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods died at 8 pm on 29th November, 1917 at 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, London, England from wounds – Shell wound to Neck.

A death for Harold A. J. Woods, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, London, England.

Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods was buried at 1.30 pm on 4th December, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180116.

*From the burial report of Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods - Coffin was good polished Elm & brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party, Buglers and Pallbearers were supplied by the City of London Regiment, stationed at Deep Cut. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by the relatives and Hospital Staff. The graves will be turfed immediately, and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

*Names of relatives or friends present at the Funeral – Brother – No. 487A Driver C. R. E. Woods, 24th M.G.C., 4th Division, A.I.F., France. Cousins – Miss B. Woods & Miss H. Woods, 17 Rowhill Mansions, Clapton, London.*

Base Records wrote to Mr W. J. Woods, "Woodlands" Launching Place, Victoria on 17th April, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row F Grave 2. "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. F. 2. Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods contains a letter from the Matron, 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England which reads: "H. A. J. Woods, 5445 – Died of wounds. He was admitted to 40 Ward on Oct 15th 1917 with g.s.w. through the neck. He was fed through the oesphagus. The tube was removed and the patient fed naturally. The wound healed very quickly until very little leaked through it. Pte Woods was allowed up on October 24th and was about the ward till Nov. 5th when he had a rise in temperature and was kept in bed. He had a stabbing pain between the shoulders and on Nov. 17th commenced to have violent headaches. A lumber puncture was done on three occasions Nov. 18th 22nd and 26th two ounces of fluid being withdrawn each time. For four days previous to his death on Nov. 29th he had no pain and was quite conscious, he talked to Sister and discussed what they would do at Xmas. She thinks that he knew then that he was dying but he was conscious up till 1 pm on 29th when she read him a letter from his brother in France; he passed away at 8 pm. The headache was due to meningitis. His brother arrived from France in time for the funeral which took place at Brookwood on Dec. 4th. He was of course buried with full Military Honours. The Sister of his ward, night nurse, brother, two cousins (Misses Woods) were at the funeral. He was a great favourite with the men and staff of his ward and the patients sent two wreaths and the sister and nurses sent one. There were also wreaths from his brother, two of his cousins and Matron sent a spray of flowers "from Absent Friends." He was buried by the Australian Chaplain who took all the cards off the wreaths and said he would send to his people with particulars of the funeral."

Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods advised on 2nd May, 1917 that his Will was in the hands of his sister – Mrs Percy Richards, 34 Shamrocks Street, West Brunswick, Melbourne,

A request was made to Enquiry Office, Base Records on 22nd February, 1918 by Mr W. J. Woods, "Ivanhoe" 20 Highbury Grove, Windsor, for a Certificate of Death for No. 5445 Private H. A. J. Woods, 24th Battalion.

A reply was sent to Mr W. J. Woods on 26th February, 1918 from Base Records including a certificate of report of death of his son the late No. 5445, Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods, 24th Battalion.

Mrs Ruby Richards, 27 Davidson St, Brunswick, wrote to Base Records on 30th August, 1921 with the following letter: "I have just heard what you are advertising for the next of kin of my late brother Private H. A. J. Woods, 24th Battalion. Not having heard or seen anything of my father for some considerable time I don't know if he has already applied to you. I thought it would be as well if I replied in answer to your add as my husband was left executor for my late brother's will."

Base Records replied to Mrs R. Richards on 13th September, 1921 advising "*... the advertisement in connexion with the late No. 5445 Private H. A. J. Woods, 24th Battalion, was inserted with a view to ascertaining the present address if the late soldier's father. This is required in order to redirect the Memorial Scroll issuable on account of the late soldier's services which was previously forwarded to Mr W. J. Woods, "Ivanhoe", 20 Highbury Grove, Windsor, and returned unclaimed. Should you become aware of his present whereabouts I should be glad if you would advise this office.*"

A notice was prepared for the Press on 13th April, 1922 to locate the current address for the next of kin of the late Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods.

Walter John Woods, "Woodlands" Launching Place, wrote to Base Records on 24th April, 1922, enclosing an advertisement in the newspapers "*Soldiers' Relatives Sought*" where the next of kin of deceased soldiers had been requested. "*Pte Harold Arthur Jasper Woods, 24th Btn – Mr W. J. Woods (father), formerly of "Ivanhoe" 20 Highbury Grove, Windsor*" had been advertised for. Mr Woods had written "*was my son prior to his decease.*"

Base Records replied to Mr W. J. Woods, "Woodlands" Launching Place, Victoria on 28th April, 1922 advising "*... Your address was advertised for as the Memorial Form "A" (dealing with inscription on war graves, etc) had been returned unclaimed from your former residence. The form is now enclosed herewith, and I should be obliged if you would complete same as soon as possible.*"

Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Woods' father – Mr W. J. Woods, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

Walter John L. Woods, "Woodlands" Launching Place, wrote to Base Records on 20th November, 1923 regarding Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods, 5445, 24th Battalion: "*I am in receipt of the gilt (Victory) medal also the bronze plaque but as yet I have not received the silver medal to which I as his father am entitled to. If you will give this your attention and forward the same I shall glad, yours respectfully.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods – service number 5445, aged 27, of 24th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Walter John L. & Elizabeth Woods, of Woodlands, Landing Place, Victoria.

H. A. J. Woods is remembered on the Memorial Cross located in Surrey Gardens, Union Road, Surrey Hills, Victoria.



**The Shrine** (background) & **Memorial Cross in Surrey Gardens** (1933) *(Photo from Victorian Collections)*



*(Photo from AWM Places of Pride)*



**Surrey Gardens Memorial Cross** (Photos from VWMA – Peter Sneddon)

H. Woods is remembered on the Ballan War Memorial, located in front of the Post Office, 125 Inglis Street, Ballan, Victoria.



**Ballan War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Nancy Alford)

Private H. A. J. Woods is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 103.



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

(72 pages of Private Harold Arthur Jasper Woods' 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*



**Harold Arthur Jasper Woods**



## Newspaper Notices

### TWO CASUALTY LISTS

Casualty Lists Nos 356 and 357 were released by the Defence Department today. Details follow of the Victorian casualties:-

Wounded

Pte H. A. J. Woods, Windsor

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 November, 1917)

### DIED ON SERVICE

WOODS – Died of wounds and meningitis, November 29, at London General Hospital. Harold A. J., loved eldest son of W. J. Woods, Highbury grove, Windsor, dearly loved brother of Mrs Lambie (Surrey Hills), Mrs Meyer (Western Australia), Gertrude (Sydney), Mrs P. Richards (Brunswick) Cyril (on active service), and Clara, Herbert, and Claude (Windsor), aged 27 years 9 months.

His life so nobly given.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 December, 1917) & (*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 December, 1917)

### SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS

Mrs P, Richards, of Shamrock street, Brunswick, has received news that her eldest brother, No, 5445 Private H. A. J. Woods, of the 24th Battalion, has died of wounds received in action in France. Prior to enlisting in February, 1916, he was employed in farming work in Ballan.

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 December, 1917)



### ROLL OF HONOR: VICTORIANS KILLED AND WOUNDED



**Pte. H. A. J. Woods**  
(Melbourne) Died Wounds.

(*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 December, 1917)

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### **376TH CASUALTY LIST**

#### **VICTORIAN DETAILS SHOWN**

Died of Wounds

Pte H. A. J. WOODS, Windsor, 29/11/17

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 December, 1917)

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#### **WINDSOR**

Private H. A. J. Woods is reported to have died on November 29 of wounds received in action.

(*The Prahran Telegraph*, Victoria – 5 January, 1918)

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#### **IN MEMORIAM**

##### **On Active Service**

WOODS – On loving memory of our dear brother, Pte Harold A. J. Woods, C Co., 24th Battn., died of wounds 1st General Hospital, London, November 29, 1917.

A faithful brother, true and kind,  
No one on earth like him we'll find;  
One year has passed, but none can tell  
The loss of a brother we loved so well.

-(Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, R. and P. Richards).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 November, 1918)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

WOODS – In loving remembrance of our dear Harold, who so nobly gave his life for the principles of peace and liberty, and crossed to the Golden Shore on November 29, 1917. (Inserted by his loving father, brothers, and sisters)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 November, 1918)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

WOODS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Harold, who died of wounds 1st General Hospital, London, November 20, 1917.

Two years have passed, but none can tell  
The loss of a brother we loved so well;  
His heart was true, his spirit brave,  
He is resting now in a soldier's grave.

-(Inserted by his loved ones)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 November, 1919)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

WOODS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Harold, who died of wounds, 1st General Hospital, London, 29th November, 1917.

A faithful brother, true and kind,  
No one on earth like him we'll find;  
Two years have passed, but none can tell  
The loss of a brother we loved so well;

-Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 November, 1919)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

WOODS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Harold, who died of wounds at General Hospital, London, November 29, 1917.

He has crossed the grand horizon,  
Eternity's great span;  
He has earned the crowning glory  
Of a soldier and a man.

-(By his loving sisters and brothers)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 November, 1920)

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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)*

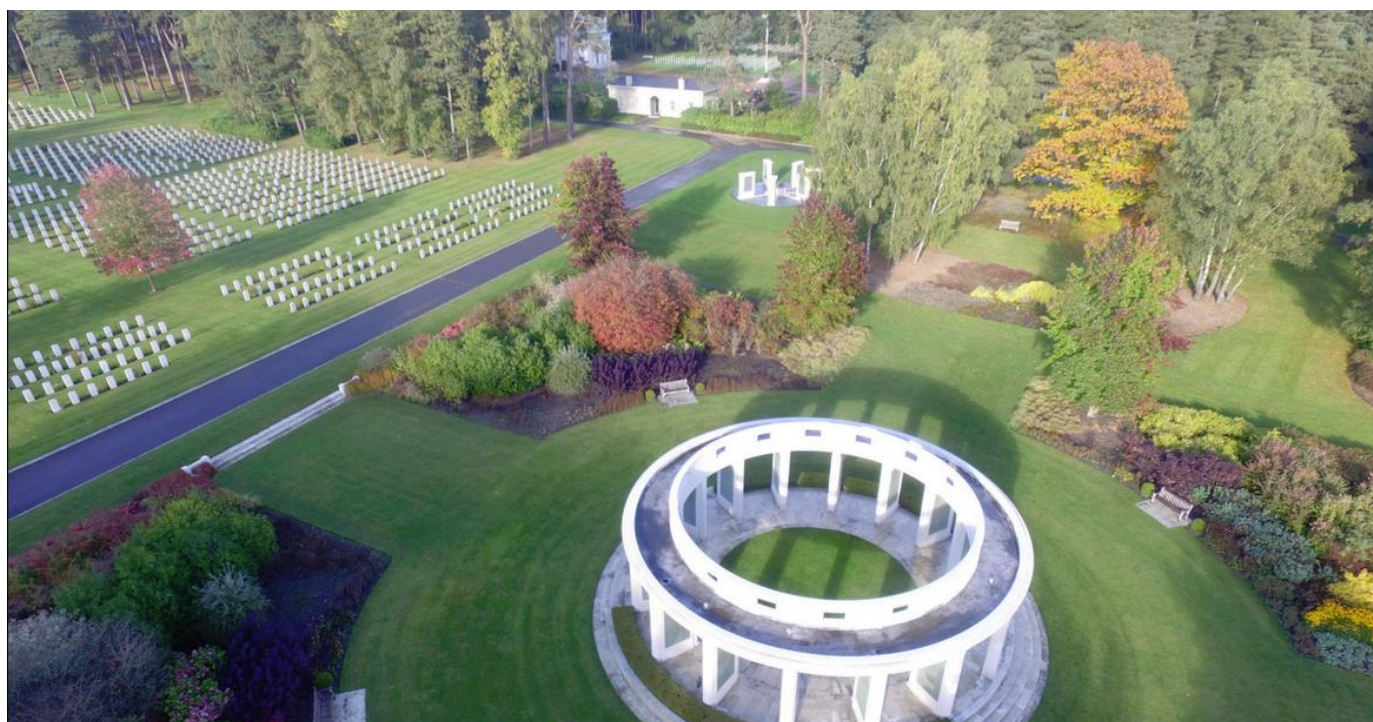
Private H. A. J. Woods does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **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 H. A. J. Woods' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)*





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

