

Our Fallen Heroes from Cherry Gardens



Remembering and celebrating the lives of the Cherry Gardens soldiers that fought and died during WW1. Researching their service records, finding their final resting places and creating a photographic record as an enduring memory to their sacrifice.



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

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Don has been living in Cherry Gardens since 1987. Don is married to Bev and has 2 kids, Amy and Thomas.

Don is active in the community and as well as having a passion for the history of the local soldiers from Cherry Gardens also has done an oral history of the district in 1994, collected and collated old photos and memorabilia of the district and is the editor and chair of the local Community Association that incorporates the Cherry Chatter newsletter. He is active with the CFS, the local Memorial Hall, the Recreation Ground and sporting clubs.

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Revision history

Revision 1	2008	First draft – Western Europe Cemetery Trip
Revision 2	2012	First edition – Our Fallen Heroes of Cherry Gardens
Revision 3	2016	Second edition – Our Fallen Heroes of Cherry Gardens Added some photos, replica honour board and details of the soldiers that served and returned.

[Cherry Gardens Soldiers Memorial Park](#)

Cherry Gardens is a small township located in the hills around 25km south of the city of Adelaide in South Australia. It was settled soon after the state of South Australia and the city of Adelaide were proclaimed and was predominantly a farming community until recent years.

The Great War of 1914 – 1918 saw large numbers of young men from the district enlist and many of them paid the supreme sacrifice. 39 men enlisted and a total of 13 of these did not return and in their memory a Soldiers Memorial Park was what the district wanted. Mr Henry Jacobs gave a piece of his land in 1920 and for each fallen man a Golden Cypress was planted along with many other trees.

The Cherry Gardens Memorial Park was opened on Saturday, 13th October 1923, by the commissioner of crown lands, the Hon. G.R. Laffer, M.P.

A Cross of Remembrance was unveiled in the Park on 28th April 1935 and the Flagpole on the 13th July in the same year.

The Memorial Park remained largely unchanged, except that the trees have flourished and grown, until 2002 when the Onkaparinga Council in cooperation with the local committee that managed the Memorial upgraded the Park by moving the Cross to a more accessible location in the Park and created a large paved area around it for people to gather and remember. A Lone Pine was planted and dedicated at a service in 2002.





*Cherry Gardens Soldiers' Memorial
Garden and Cross of Remembrance*



Relocated Cross of Remembrance



Cherry Gardens Soldiers Memorial Park taken around early 1930's



Soldiers Memorial Park looking south circa 1935



A WW1 German Machine Gun used to be in the Memorial Park but was removed by the Department of Defense when WW2 broke out



Cross of Remembrance dedication ceremony



People attend the Dedication ceremony at the Soldiers Memorial Park





Early ceremony held at Soldiers Memorial Park



ANZAC Day service being held on back of truck



A few locals gather for ANZAC Day in 1999



Rededication of the Cross of Remembrance following renovations in 2002. A Lone Pine was planted by Jack and Margaret Jacobs of Cherry Gardens. Their family donated the land for the Memorial Gardens at the end of WW1.



The Cherry Gardens Soldiers Memorial Park taken in 2008





ANZAC Day service at Cherry Gardens Soldiers Memorial Park



Plaque on the Cross of Remembrance, Cherry Gardens Soldiers Memorial Park



Stained Glass window in Cherry Gardens Uniting Church



Roll of Honour located in the Cherry Gardens Uniting Church. This is the most complete list of all Cherry Gardens men that enlisted and served during WW1. Note how many sets of brothers heeded the call to action. Those names with an asterix died on active service.

This Roll of Honour and the plaque on the Cross of Remembrance is the starting point for my research.



Replica of the Honour Board (from the Church) that is hung in the Cherry Gardens Memorial Hall. It includes the names of all soldiers and one nurse that served during WW1. It was prepared by the Cherry Chatter committee and dedicated at the Memorial Hall on the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC Day in 2015.

Preparation time

I started the research on the fallen heroes of Cherry Gardens as part of the Cherry Chatter project to research and document the history of Cherry Gardens and the people that lived here since the colony of South Australia was established. I have decided to write this booklet so others can share with me in remembering these brave young men who responded to the call to action and enlisted and served overseas in France and Belgium in the trenches of the Western Front and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I also wanted to share some of my experiences while in Europe during the last couple of weeks in September 2008 as I visit the cemeteries and final resting places for these men.

I will visit the WW1 cemeteries and memorials where the soldiers from Cherry Gardens that lost their lives are buried or remembered. Earlier this year as part of the research work the Cherry Chatter group found where they had served and died and were buried.

So this trip will see me visit these soldier's final resting place and remember them for everyone else back here in Cherry Gardens.

Hopefully those that read this booklet will find the information interesting and thought-provoking as we remember those brave men who set out on an adventure but were faced with the nightmare of trench warfare on the Western Front.



My Transport for the drive around France and Belgium

Plans finalized

The trip to Europe has been planned so that I visit all the cemeteries and memorials where the Cherry Gardens Soldiers rest. I start from Paris and drive to the western coast at Etretat to visit the Etretat Churchyard Cemetery where Clifford Jacobs is buried at Plot II. G. 12.

Then on the weekend I will drive to Ieper (used to be called Ypres) in Belgium and on the way visit several cemeteries and memorials.

- First stop will be the AIF Burial Grounds at Flers. There is no-one from Cherry buried there but it is an important memorial so would like to see it.
- Next will be the Vaulx Hill (CWGC) Cemetery where Albert Broadbent is buried at Plot I. G. 10.
- From here I head north towards Ieper (Ypres) but leave the highway to visit the Rue Petillon Military Cemetery where Archie Choat is buried at Plot I. L. 47.
- Close by is the V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial where Archie's brother, Raymond Choat, is remembered. His body was never found and his name is remembered on Panel 5A at this Memorial.
- I now travel into Belgium to the Dochy Farm New British Cemetery where Mark Betts is buried at Plot A. 13.
- The final stop for the day is in Ieper at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial where Ralph Broadbent who has no known grave is remembered at Panel 7-17-23-25-27-29-31. I hope to be here for the Last Post that occurs every day at 8.00pm

I then drive back to the Campanile Hotel in Peronne for a good night's rest!

On Sunday I am up early and head off to see a few more cemeteries before heading south to Clermont Ferrand.

- First stop for the day is the Dive Copse British Cemetery, Sailly-le-Sec where Charles (Gladstone) Ricks is buried at Plot III. C. 6.
- On the way to Villers-Bretonneux is the 3rd Division Memorial near Sailly-le-Sec
- Then on to the Villers-Bretonneux Australian Memorial where both Jesse Strange and James Brealey are remembered as they both have no known grave. Jesse's name is at 2225 under the 27th Infantry Battalion and James at 5998 under the 16th Infantry Battalion. I will also take a little time to visit the township and in particular the school where the

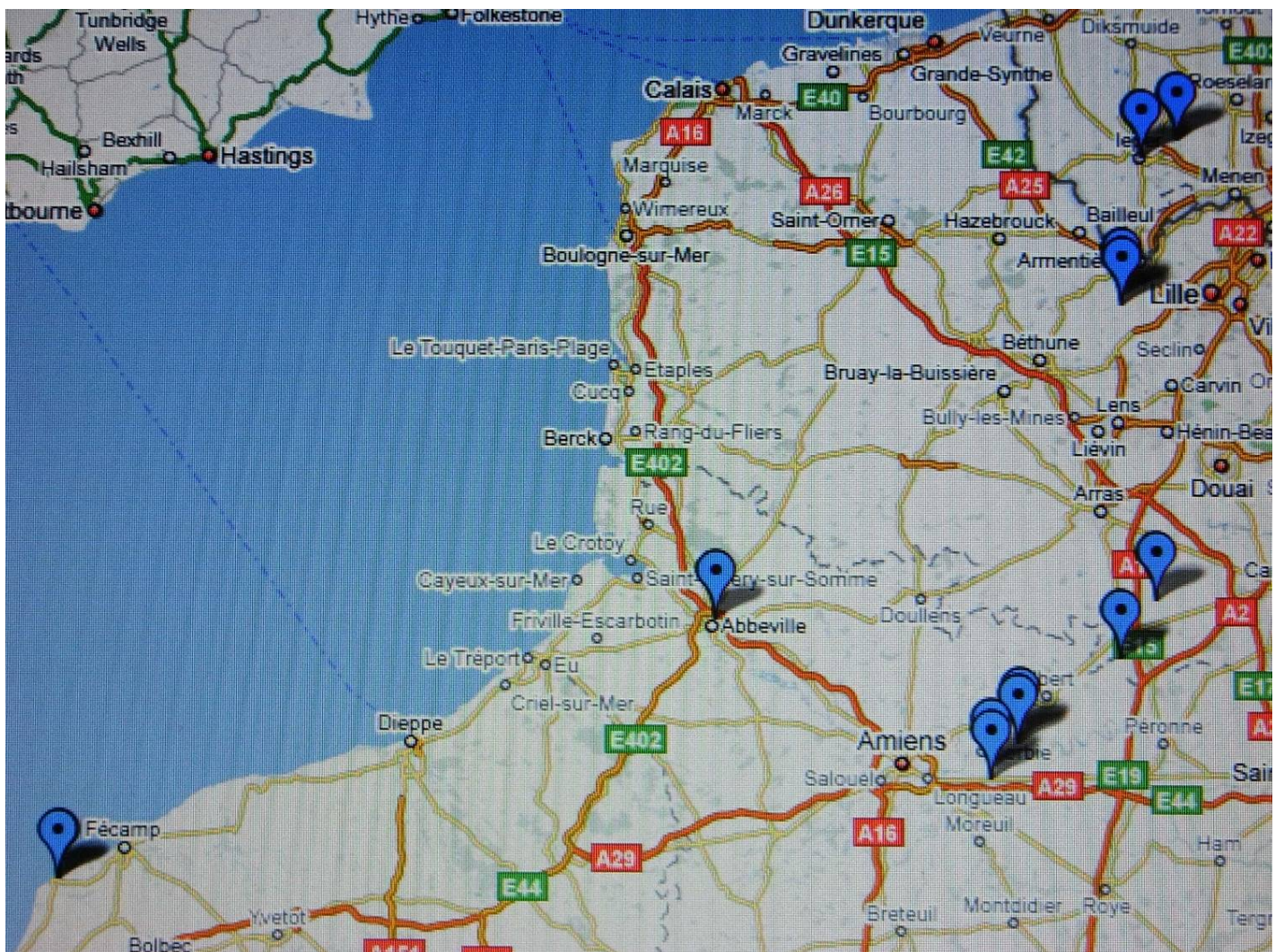
famous sign is "Do Not Forget Australia" remembering all the Aussies that saved their town and built the school.

- There is also the Villers-Bretonneux Adelaide Cemetery to visit although no Cherry soldiers are buried there but from this cemetery was taken the "unknown soldier" who is now buried at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.
- Another drive to Abbeville to visit the Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension where Eric Terrell is buried at Plot IV. K. 23.

The drive is over and now a long drive to Clermont Ferrand.

A lot of driving but should be a good weekend!

Here is a map of Northern France and the locations of each cemetery I will be visiting. The drive will go up the A1 motorway north to Belgium then back to Peronne and due west through Villiers Bretonneux, Amiens, to Abbeville.



There are 3 Cherry Gardens soldiers that died while on active service and not buried in France, Percy Scroop, Frederick Mitchell and Charles Brealey

[Baghdad North Gate Cemetery, Iraq, Percy George Scroop](#)

Percy Scroop enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 4th August 1915 at Coromandel Valley, South Australia. His Regimental number was 1601 and he joined the 9th Australian Light Horse.



Percy Scroop enlistment photo

His parents were James and Mary Scroop and they were living in Coromandel Valley when Percy enlisted however Percy was born in Cherry Gardens. Percy was 21 years and 10 months old when he enlisted and was a brown haired, blue eyed young man with a "fair" complexion whose occupation was a Lawyer. He was 5ft 9ins tall and weighed 156lbs.

On his medical history it was noted that Percy had good eyesight and two vaccination scars on his left arm. His teeth were in good condition. Percy's religious denomination was Methodist.

Percy embarked for the war on 12th November 1915 on the "Geelong" from Port Adelaide and sailed direct to the Suez disembarking and being taken on strength with the 9th Lighthouse Regiment on the 28th December 1915 at Heliopolis.

On the 27th February he was promoted to Lance Corporal and marched out to Serapeum. He was taken prisoner of war by the Turks on 9th August 1916 in the Canal (Suez) zone. The Turks transferred him Afion-Kara-Hissar to Angola around the 2nd October 1916. Percy died on 28th December 1916 of Dysentery. He had been overseas for exactly one year.

A repatriated prisoner of war reported that a number of Australians including Percy died of Dysentery during a 6 mile march while scantily clad through snow and were buried along the road side where they fell. This report was contrary to what the Military had told his parents initially. They reported that he was buried at the Catholic Cemetery in Angora.

Many years after the end of the war the Commonwealth Grave Commission finally established that Percy's body could not be found and decided to erect a Kipling Memorial at the Baghdad Cemetery for Percy and 264 other soldiers that perished and have no known grave. Separate permanent headstones were to be erected for each soldier as well as the memorial.

On the memorial the following inscription was to be added:

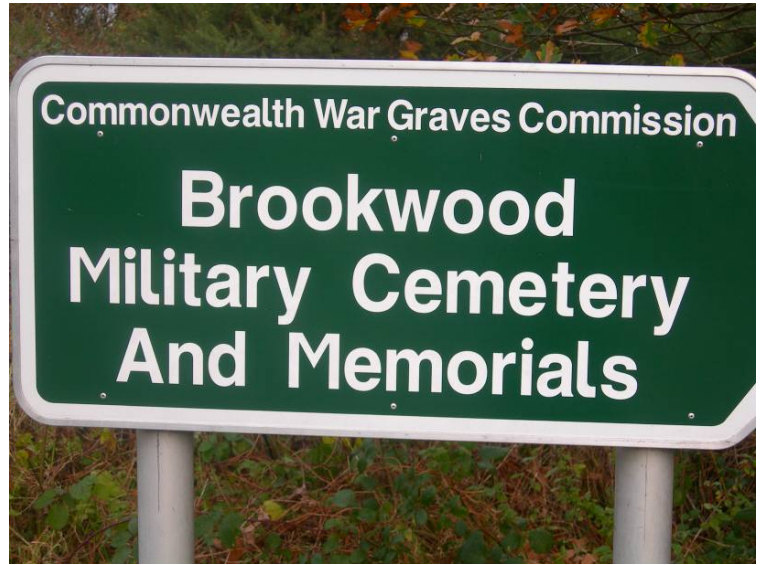
*To the memory of these 265 soldiers and sailors of the British Empire who died as Prisoners of War and were buried at the time at the cemetery of Angora, Ada Bazer Bozanti, Islahie, Hisibin but whose graves are now lost.
"Their Glory Shall Not Be Blotted Out"*

Percy's recovered personal effects were a Money belt, razor, 2 pipes in a case, cob pipe, 3 handkerchiefs, wallet containing 1 comb, 1 metal brooch, 1 coin testament, notebook in leather case, musketry book, wrist watch in a case, shaving brush, 2 pocket knives, 2 buttons, a bullet, a fork, 2 badges, notepaper, 2 photos, notebook, a fly veil, Arabic book, programme of sports, and these were returned to his parents back in Australia.

A photo of Percy's grave site is not yet available however this is a photo of the Baghdad North Gate Cemetery.



[Brookwood Cemetery, Sussex UK, Frederick Mitchell](#)



The Brookwood Military Cemetery in Sussex England

Frederick John Ernest Mitchell enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 22nd January 1916 in Adelaide. His Regimental number was 26101 and he joined the 3rd Mechanical Transport Company 4th Reinforcements, Field Artillery Unit, as a driver, for the term of the war.

His parents were Frederick (George) and Emily Mitchell. His father was living in Cherry Gardens but his mother was now living in Port Adelaide. Frederick had just turned 23 years of age when he enlisted and was a brown-haired, blue-eyed young man with a "fair" complexion whose occupation was a laborer. He was 5ft 6ins tall and weighed 138lbs.

On his medical history it was noted that Frederick had good eyesight and just the one vaccination scar on his left arm. Frederick's religious denomination was Church of Christ.

Frederick embarked for the war on 1st August 1916 on the Orsova out of Melbourne arriving in Plymouth, England on 14th September 1916. He remained in England until the 25th November 1916 when he proceeded overseas to France. He had some leave in England during January 1918 and then returned to France a couple of weeks later. He came down with Trench Fever on 15th May 1918 and was transferred back to England, on 29th May with severe pleurisy to the General Military Hospital in Colchester. He caught pneumonia and on the 5th June 1918 died from heart failure. Frederick had been in serving in France for just over a year and half.

Frederick had prepared his last will and testament on 18th July 1917 naming his mother as sole benefactor. He revised this will just before his death naming his sister, Gertrude Emily Mitchell, as sole benefactor.

Frederick's only personal effects were a metal wrist watch, 1 testament, 1 pocket wallet, 2 razors, 3 badges, 1 chain, 3 keys, 3 disks, 5 coins and 1 pay book and these were returned to his father back in Australia.

Frederick is buried in England at the Brookwood Cemetery in the Australian Military Burial Grounds Plot 4, row D, grave 16. In his service records it notes that he was buried in a polished elm coffin and was accorded a Military Funeral with a firing party being supplied and pallbearers by AIF soldiers on leave from France.

A service was conducted by Chaplain the Rev A.E. Forbes and the "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of the AIF London. An oak cross was then erected.



Frederick Mitchell's headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery



Inscription on Frederick Mitchell's headstone

The inscription on his headstone says "A Beloved Son of Fred and Emily Mitchell".



Another view of Brookwood Military Cemetery

Wooroloo Cemetery, Western Australia, Charles Brealey

Charles Brealey enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 2nd August, 1915, at Norseman in Western Australia. His Regimental number was 3803 and he joined the 4th Pioneer Battalion but was transferred to the 52nd Battalion when he was in North Africa.

His father was J. B. Brealey and his mother, M. Brealey from Cherry Gardens. Charles was one month short of his 37th birthday when he enlisted and was a dark brown-haired, brown-eyed young man with a "fresh" complexion whose occupation was a miner. He was 5ft 11ins tall and weighed 149lbs.

On his medical history it was noted that Charles had good eyesight and a vaccination scar on his left upper arm. He had a scar on the left side of his head from an axe cut and a faint scar on the centre of the left lumbar region. His teeth were in good condition. Charles's religious denomination was Church of England.

Charles embarked late in 1915 for North Africa on the Gellong. Within 2 months he had contracted mumps. Once he had recovered he served around Tel-el-Kebir for 1 month but contracted influenza. He was admitted to a hospital in Abbassia but transferred to another hospital, this time in Heliopolis, until returning to his unit on 20 April, 1916, in Tel-el Kebir.

He was transferred to the front line under the control of the BEF (British Expeditionary Forces) on 11th June 1916 and served along the front line for around 18 months.

In November 1917 he had a "septic tooth socket" treated, shortly followed by a "septic foot socket" and was hospitalized for about a month and half. He never returned to active service due to ongoing health issues and was diagnosed with tuberculosis in June 1918. He returned to Australia on 30th June and was subsequently discharged from the services but spent the next year in the Veterans Hospital in Wooroloo, Western Australia, until his death in August 1919 from tuberculosis. Charles prepared a will on 16th November 1915 bequeathing his estate in trust to his brother John William Brealey for sole use and benefit of his sister, Eleanor Ann. On the 3rd June, 1917, while in London he revised his will this time bequeathing his entire estate to another sister, Ellen M. Brealey, who was living in Cherry Gardens.

Charles is buried at the cemetery in Wooroloo, Western Australia. Church of England 153 5 153.



Charles Brealey Headstone

The inscription reads **"MY DUTY NOBLY DONE"**

[Etretat Churchyard Cemetery, Clifford Jacobs](#)



The flights across to France went off without a hitch and arrived into Charles De Gaulle airport very early. Collected the brand new Avis hire car, a Vectra diesel, and with my google maps headed off to the Hotel in Genevilliers, north of Paris.

I hit the road straight away for Etretat. Managed to negotiate the various motorways around Paris and I arrived at Etretat about an hour and half later.



The Etretat Cemetery

Etretat is a small coastal township nestled between steep cliffs either side of a broad stony beach. Etretat was a hospital centre throughout the war. I found the church cemetery and the extension located on the side of a westward facing hillside out the back of the church yard. The cemetery contains 557 WW1 graves including 41 Australians.

My first experience of a WW1 cemetery and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission organisation and the order that you see in all the cemeteries throughout France and Belgium.

It stirs many emotions as you stand for the first time amongst the many grave stones of fallen soldiers and try to imagine all these men as they arrived into France for the first time, not really knowing what was before them yet wanting to do their bit for their country.



Me next to Clifford Jacob's headstone



Original Clifford Jacobs Grave



Photo of Clifford taken while in France



Photo of Clifford taken in France



Clifford and Mate taken in Belgium



In Loving Memory
OF
Private Clifford Jacobs,

No. 1,933, 43rd Battalion, A.I.F.

Who Died from wounds in The Officers' 1st
General Hospital, England, on Sept. 29, 1918.

Aged 23 Years 10 Months.

Silently, peacefully, Angels have borne him
Into the beautiful mansions above,
Where he is waiting and watching for loved ones
When the call comes to join him above.
At the heavenly gate he'll meet us,
With the same sweet, loving smile,
For we are only parted
Just for a little while.

Not now but in the coming years—
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears;
Sometime—sometime we'll understand.

Memorial Card printed for Clifford Jacobs

Clifford Jacobs enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 27th March 1916 in Cherry Gardens, South Australia. His Regimental number was 1933A and he joined the 43rd Battalion Australian Infantry, for the term of the war.

His parents were Thomas & Maria Jacobs from Cherry Gardens. Clifford was 21 years and 5 months old when he enlisted and had a "fresh" complexion with grey eyes and brown hair whose occupation was a labourer. He was just over 5ft 11ins tall and weighed 138lbs.

On his medical history it was noted that Clifford had good eyesight and four vaccination scars on his left arm. His teeth were in good condition with just one cavity that needed filling. Clifford's religious denomination was Methodist.

Clifford embarked for the war on 12th August 1916 on the "Ballarat" out of Adelaide arriving in Devonport, England, on 30th September 1916. He remained in England until the 25th November when he proceeded overseas to France. He was taken on strength immediately and was sent to the front line where he remained until the 6th July 1917 when he was wounded by gunfire but as it did not penetrate he remained on duty. He was wounded again almost exactly one month later at Wimereux with a gun shot wound to his side and with this wound he was transferred to England to the 5th Northern General Hospital in Leicester. He remained in England until 10th November when he was returned to France and his Battalion.

He returned to England for two weeks leave on 20th March 1918 then back to France again. He was wounded in action for the third time on 26th May 1918 but this time by gas. After several weeks of treatment he returned to his Battalion on 17th July and returned to the front line again.

Then on 1st September 1918 Clifford was wounded by gunfire again but this time to his abdomen. On the 12th September he was transferred to the 1st General Hospital located at Etretat on the French coast but after fighting for his life for nearly one month on 29th September 1918, just a couple of months before the end of the war, at 1.35am Clifford died from his injuries. Clifford had been in serving in France for just over two years.

Clifford had prepared his last will and testament on 24th June 1916 naming his father as sole benefactor.

Clifford's only personal effects were 1 identity disc, a fountain pen, aluminum drinking cup, a knife, purse, metal chain, a YMCA wallet, cards, 1 letter, a pendant, 5 coins, a penny stamp, a metal souvenir, a song book, devotional book, cap comforter, scarf and 1 parcel containing 2 razor straps, 1 hone and these effects were returned to his parents back in Australia.



Where Clifford Jacobs is buried

I was on the search for Clifford Jacobs' headstone and found it without much trouble. I had already traced the plot site but even if I had not there was a reference book on site listing every soldier's name, background and plot site and map.

And there it was, the first of many Cherry Gardens men final resting place that I hoped to locate and photograph. I tried to imagine what Clifford

must have felt when he first arrived in France, looking for an adventure and getting the nightmare of trench warfare unlike anyone could ever have imagined.

On the headstone are the words "Greater Love Hath No Man Than This"



Clifford Jacobs' headstone inscription



Clifford Jacobs' headstone inscription

I struggled to leave the cemetery and wandered around reading the names of the many men buried there for a while until some gardeners turned up to do weeding and so I wrote a few words in the visitors book and with some sadness left Clifford behind and continued on with my journey that day.

I drove through to Caen which is in the heart of the Normandy district where the D Day landings took place in WW2. This took me across the Normandy Bridge which is a breathtaking structure and I then spent a couple of hours looking through the Memorial Museum there until making tracks back to Paris.



The Normandy Bridge

[AIF Burial Grounds Flers](#)



The car is gassed up, I have my Google maps, the weather is fine and I managed to get a few hours sleep last night so I feel ready. Today I plan to visit 6 cemeteries or memorials on a drive through northern France and into Belgium. I expect this to be a long day as I have to drive around 450km along the way.

I am on my way early and heading north on the A1 and I am surprised to find out that most of the motorways in France are toll roads. This could turn out to be a bit expensive!

About 160km into the drive and I am at the AIF Burial Grounds at Flers. The Cemetery is named after the First Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F) as it was begun by Australian medical units, posted in the neighboring caves, in November 1916-February 1917. These original graves are in Plot I, Rows A and B. The Cemetery was also known as Grass Lane Cemetery and it was very greatly enlarged after the Armistice when almost 4,000 Commonwealth and French graves were brought in from the battlefields of the Somme, and later from a wider area. The great majority of these graves date from the autumn of 1916.

There are now 3,475 servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 2,263 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to 23 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.



This is an aerial photo of the cemetery



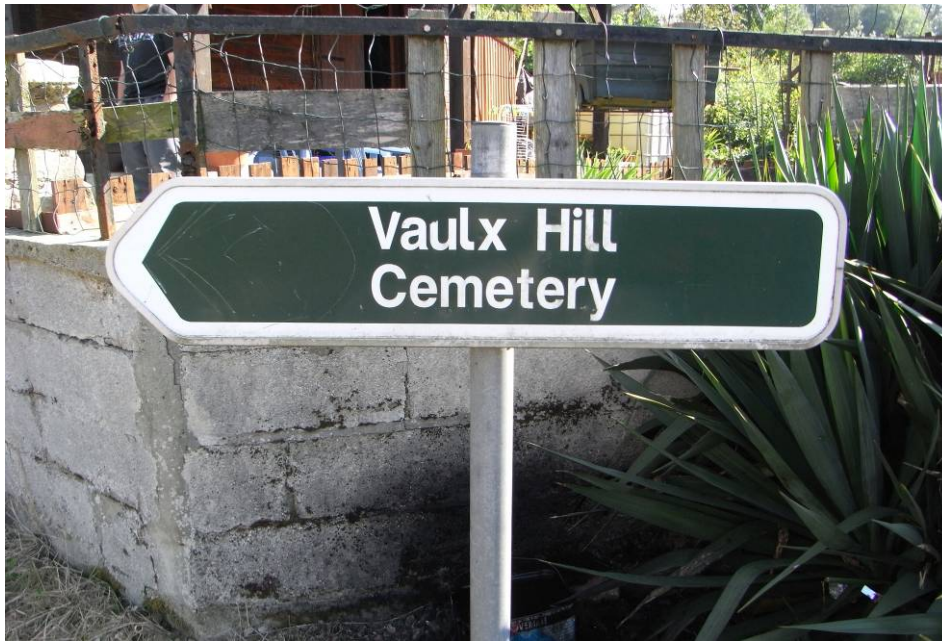
Me at the entry gate to the AIF Burial Grounds

There are no Cherry Gardens soldiers buried here however the cemetery is a significant first step for me and has introduced me to the fields of France and given me the first real sense of what the area is like.

Farming land is all around and it is flat. The wind beats constantly and there is almost no terrain to give you any protection and just the occasional stand of trees.

It is very peaceful, almost no traffic around and just the odd bird chirping. I wander around for a while and then some other visitors arrive so I decide to head off to the Vaulx Hill Cemetery just a short drive of 15km away.

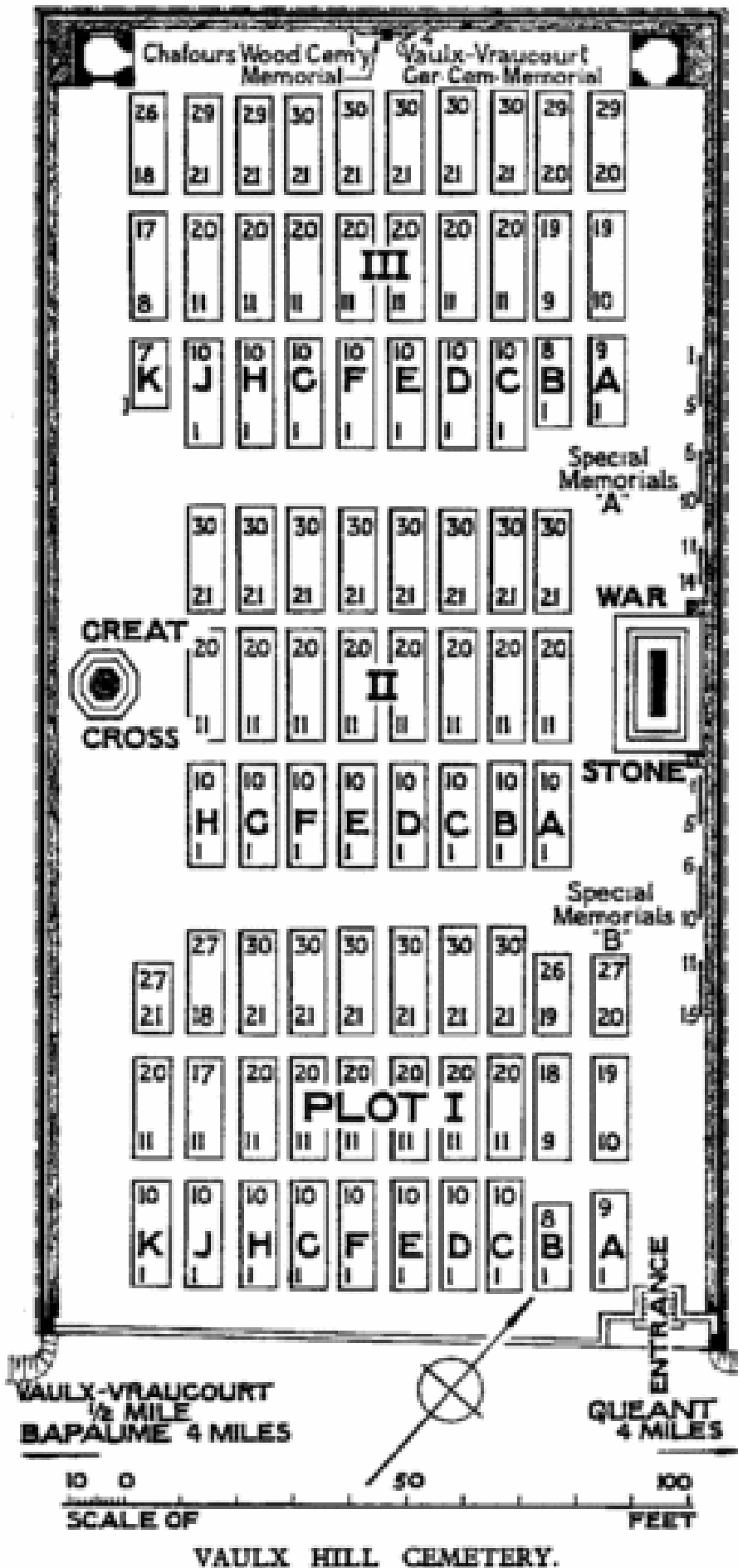
Vaulx Hill Cemetery, Albert Broadbent



The Vaulx Hill Cemetery lies just outside the small township of Vaulx Vraucourt which was captured from the Germans in April 1917, lost a year later but then recaptured in September 1918. This cemetery was opened after the recapture and continued in use after the armistice. It contains the graves of 686 British, 110 Australians, 58 New Zealand and 1 Canadian soldiers and airmen who fell in the surrounding area and battlefields. The town cemetery is directly opposite.



The Vaulx Hill Cemetery



The Vaulx Hill cemetery is where Albert George Broadbent is buried. Albert Broadbent enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 3rd April, 1916, at Southern Cross in Western Australia. His Regimental number was 2838A and he joined the 5th Australian Pioneer Infantry Battalion (6th reinforcements). This Battalion was part of the Engineers deployment and was involved in a lot of construction work with train lines, trenches, communications and other infrastructure required in support of the war.

His parents were Mr A. and Agnes Broadbent who were from Cherry Gardens but living in Southern Cross, Western Australia, at that time. Albert was single and 36 years 10 months of age when he enlisted and had a fair complexion with grey eyes and dark hair. Albert had a scar on the left side of his chin and left side of his neck and his occupation was a farm labourer. He was 5' 10 ½ inches tall and weighed 145lbs.

Albert had his medical at Dowerin in Western Australia the 4th March, 1916, and on his medical history it was noted that Albert had good eyesight and two vaccination scars on his left arm. His teeth were in good condition with just a slight dental defect noted. Albert's religious denomination was Methodist.

Albert embarked for the war on the 28th October, 1916, on the Port Melbourne out of Fremantle arriving in Devonport, England on 28th December 1916. He remained in England until the 28th February 1917 when he proceeded overseas to France on the S.S. Golden Eagle disembarking at Estaples. He was taken on strength on the 7th March 1917 and was sent to the front almost immediately.

Albert had been in serving in France for only 2 months when he was killed in action on 10th May 1917.

Albert's battalion had received orders to move out to Vaulz on the 8th May and had marched and travelled by light train there over the next couple of days from Fricourt Farm where they had been resting and training. On May 10th the Germans were shelling a couple of the Battalion companies and Albert would have been killed either when a shell landed in the tent he was resting in or while working on a communications trench at Noreuil near the Hindenberg Line.

Albert's only personal effects were his identity disc, a mirror, 2 combs, a belt, a wallet with a water-proof cover, some letters, cards, and a few photos and these were returned to his parents back in Australia around March of 1918.



Albert George Broadbent



Me at the final resting place for Albert Broadbent from Cherry Gardens

As with many of the cemeteries Vaulx Hill is wind swept and surrounded by the newly ploughed fields of France.

On leaving the cemetery I went back into the township and as I took a photo of the sign directing travelers to the cemetery one of the locals called out to me and I think he was asking if I was English. I responded that I was "Australie" the French for Australian. He beckoned me to come over and the man's son appeared and asked me to follow them. Around the back of their house they unlocked a shed and I was ushered in to their personal museum of WW1 artifacts. Their guns, shells, helmets and a vast collection of bottles, grenades and buttons, badges etc. The communication was by sign language and the few French words I could muster along with the few English words that they understood. I managed to communicate a little with Marc, the man's son and he brought out a photo album and showed me a variety of before and after photos of their town. Many of the photos had Australian soldiers in them and as it turned out I was able to learn that the site of their house was the Australian communications centre during the battles for the township.

It was great to meet some locals and feel some of the warmth that I had heard about between the French people and Australians. Marc found a few things to give to me that I brought back home as a memory of the chance meeting including several photos.

I will try to continue the communication link with Marc as I now have his address details.



Marc with part of his collection of WW1 memorabilia from around Vaulx Vraucourt

[Rue Petillon Cemetery, Archie Choat](#)



I now headed further north towards the border with Belgium. The drive was around 95km and the destination is the Rue Pettillon Cemetery where Archie Choat is buried.

The cemetery was begun in December, 1914, and used by fighting units until March, 1918. In April, 1918, it fell into the German hands, but one further burial was in September, 1918, after the German retreat. It consisted at the Armistice of twelve Battalion burial grounds, made by units which had occupied the Headquarters and Dressing Station at "Eaton Hall", adjoining the cemetery. It was enlarged later by the concentration of graves from other cemeteries and the battlefields over a wide area round Fleurbaix. Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery is irregularly arranged, because of the conditions under which it was made; and the groups of concentrated burials are among the original groups of graves. Rue Petillon cemetery is near the township of Fromelles where Archie was killed.





Archie Choat when he enlisted

Archie Choat enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 3rd June, 1915, at Keswick in Adelaide. His Regimental number was 66 and he was one of the first to join the 32nd Battalion A.I.F. which was being formed following the news of the Gallipoli landing. He was appointed to the "A" Company.

His parents were Alice Mary and Joseph Choat originally from Cherry Gardens who were now living in Clarence Gardens. Archie had just turned 18 years of age when he enlisted and was a brown-haired, blue-eyed young man with a "fresh" complexion whose occupation was a labourer. He was just over 5ft 4ins tall and weighed 137lbs. Archie's parents both

wrote to the Military Headquarters giving their consent for Archie to enlist due to his age.

On his medical history it was noted that Archie had good eyesight and three vaccination scars on his left arm. His teeth were in good condition. Archie's religious denomination was Methodist.

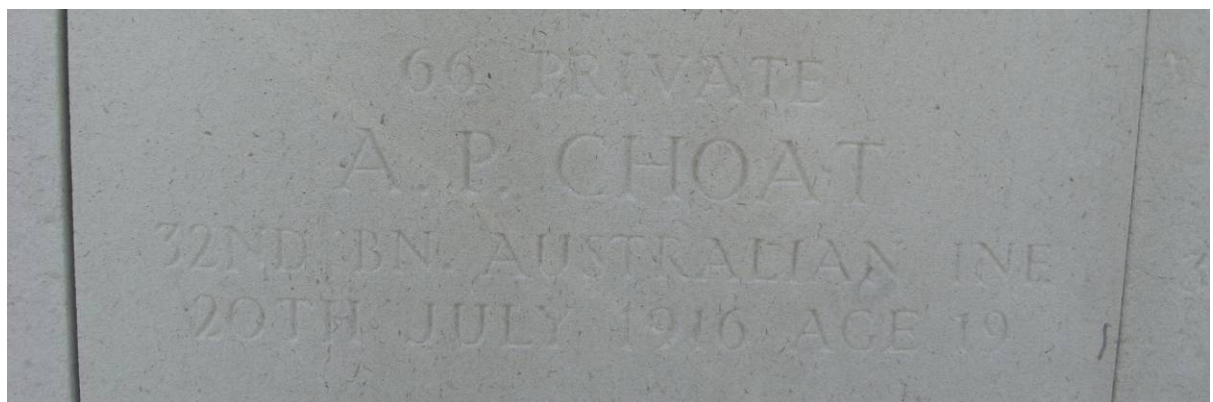
Archie embarked for the war in November 1915 on the Gellong and arrived in Alexandria at the Suez on 16th December where for the next few months they trained for trench warfare and formed into the division that they would serve under in France. He proceeded to Marseilles on the Transylvania disembarking on 23rd June 1916. The troops then travelled by train north across France and prepared to go into the trenches for the first time in July.

The 32nd Battalion was one of the Australian battalions that went into the trenches on July 19th at the infamous Fromelle's battle. Archie would have been one of the thousands of soldiers that climbed out of the trenches and headed across no-man's-land only to be cut to pieces by machine gun fire in this battle. Archie died on his first trip to the front line and he had been in France for less than 1 month.

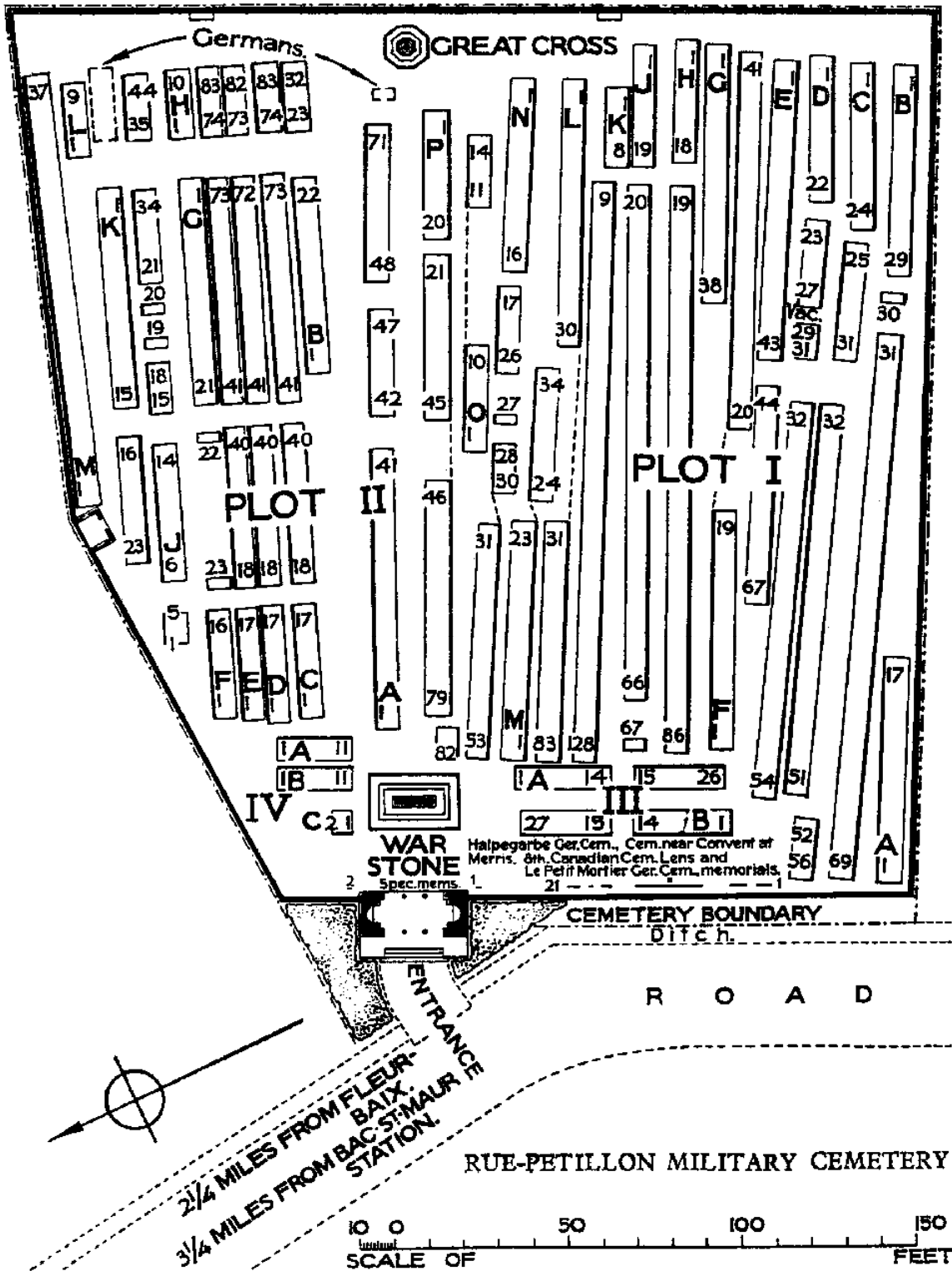
There were no personal effects recovered. Archie was buried in the Eaton Hall Cemetery at Croix, Blanche, which was later renamed the Rue Petillon Military Cemetery at Plot 1, Row L, Grave 47.

Archie's older brother Raymond was also killed in action at this battle on 20th July, 1916, and his brother Wesley was taken prisoner of war on this same date and held at "Dulmen I West Germany" and escaped via Holland to England around 13th January 1918.

On Archie's Headstone are the words "Called to a Higher Service. The dear son of J. & A. Choat".



Archie Choat Headstone inscriptions





The Rue Pettillon cemetery



Me at the Archie Choat grave site



Archie Choat Grave site and Headstone

V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, Raymond Choat



The V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial is only around 1km from the Rue Petillion Cemetery and 2 km from the small township of Fromelles. A stone's throw away is also the memorial for all those Australian soldiers killed at the Battle of Fromelles. The sculpture there is called "Cobbers". The purpose of the attack at Fromelles was to prevent the Germans from dispatching reinforcements south to the Somme front where the great British offensive, which began on 1 July 1916, was in full swing. The German front line over a 3.6 kilometre stretch on either side of the 'Sugar Loaf' was to be captured and held and a short advance from there undertaken to a supposed 'third' German line.

The consequences for the Australians of the Battle of Fromelles can be seen here at VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial. At VC Corner there are no headstones. Under two large concrete crosses set flat on the ground, to the left and right near the cemetery entrance, are the remains of more than 400 Australians who were killed in action or died of wounds. They died all around here. The cemetery is in the middle of the old no-man's-land between the Australian and German trenches of 19 July 1916. Beyond the cemetery is a memorial wall commemorating by name 1,299 Australians who died in the Battle of Fromelles and who have no known grave.

Together, the wall and the cemetery mark the location of perhaps the greatest disaster to befall the AIF on the Western Front in World War I. Raymond Choat is one of these soldiers whose grave is unknown and is remembered on Panel 5A of the memorial.



Raymond Choat when he enlisted

Raymond Choat enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 3rd June, 1915, at Keswick in Adelaide. His Regimental number was 67 and was one of the first to join the 32nd Battalion A.I.F. which was being formed following the news of the Gallipoli landing. He was appointed to the "A" Company.

Raymond enlisted with his two other brothers, Archie and Wesley, and all trained and served together.

His parents were Alice Mary and Joseph Choat originally from Cherry Gardens who were now living in Clarence Gardens. Raymond was 23 years and 4 months old when he enlisted and was a dark-haired, grey-eyed young man with a "medium" complexion whose occupation was a clerk. He was 5ft 8ins tall and weighed 136lbs.

On his medical history it was noted that Raymond had good eyesight and two vaccination scars on his left arm. His teeth were in good condition.

Raymond's religious denomination was Methodist.

Raymond embarked for the war in November 1915 on the Gellong and arrived in Alexandria at the Suez on 16th December where for the next few months they trained for trench warfare and formed into the division that they would serve under in France. He accidentally shot himself in the leg while cleaning his revolver and was admitted to the Australian Stationery Hospital at Ferry Post. A court of enquiry was held on the 11th of January and found that it was an accidental wound, self-inflicted. He was discharged to duty on the 20th of January and rejoined his Battalion on the 21st January. He continued to train in North Africa until 17th June 1916 when he was transferred to France along with his brothers and the rest of the Battalion.

He proceeded to Marseilles on the Transylvania disembarking on 23rd June 1916. The troops then travelled by train north across France and prepared to go into the trenches for the first time in July.

The 32nd Battalion was one of the Australian battalions that went into the trenches on July 19th at the infamous Fromelles battle. Raymond would have been one of the thousands of soldiers that climbed out of the trenches and headed across no-man's-land only to be cut to pieces by machine gun fire in this battle. Raymond was reported missing in action and was one of the many soldiers in this battle whose body was never found. This was his first trip to the front line and he had been in France for less than 1 month.

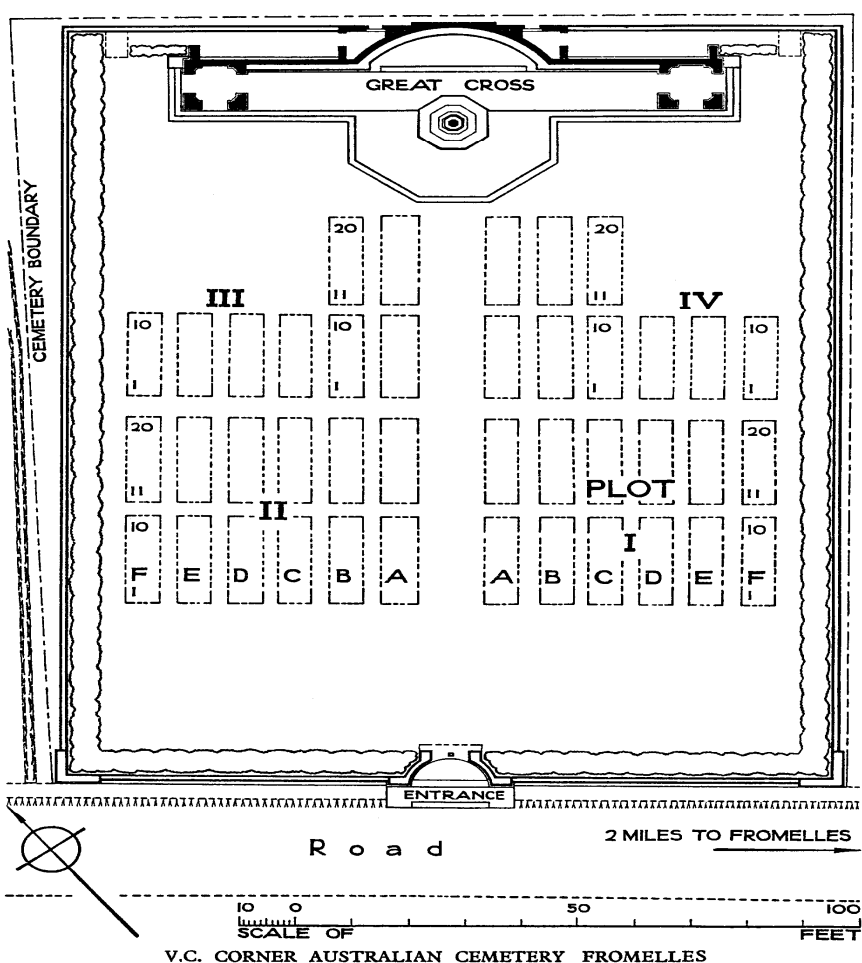
On 12th August 1916 a court of inquiry determined that Raymond had been killed in action on 20th July, 1916.

Raymond is remembered at the VC Corner Australian Cemetery near Fromelles, France. Next to this cemetery is the Cobbers Memorial that remembers the many Australian soldiers that died in this battle and the heroism of so many of the men that went back into no-man's-land to recover the wounded for days and nights after the battle.

Raymond's younger brother Archie was also killed in action at this battle on 20th July, 1916, and his brother Wesley was taken prisoner of war on this same date and held at "Dulmen I West Germany" and escaped via Holland to England around 13th January 1918.

This battle at Fromelles would have been their first front line action and their battalion was decimated with over 75% of soldiers either killed or injured.

Standing on this site is a very emotional time for me. I have heard and read about this battle and have come to feel quite close to the Choat brothers. My own grandfather served in the 32nd battalion although he enlisted in the 12th reinforcements that did not arrive into France for a number of months after this dreadful battle.





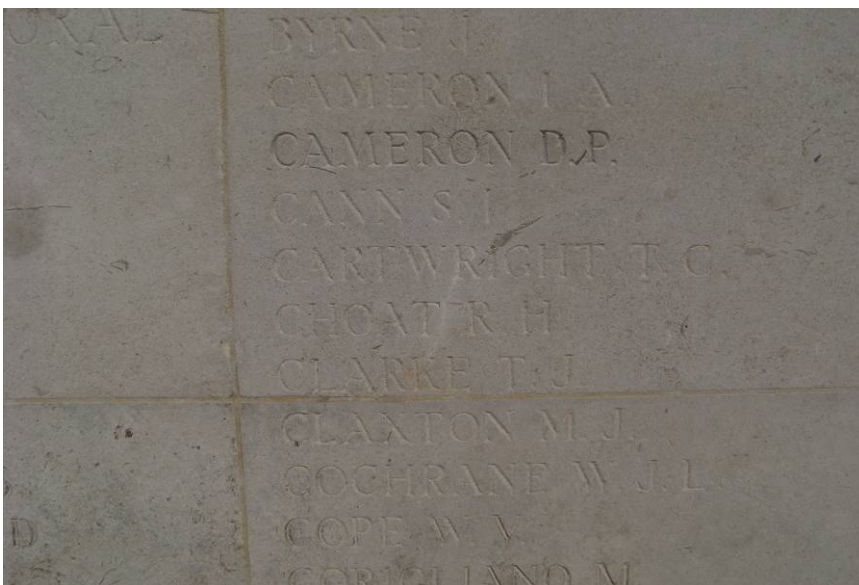
The V.C. Corner Cemetery near Fromelles



The panel 5A Memorial at VC Corner Cemetery



Raymond Choat Memorial on Panel 5A





Me at the Raymond Choat memorial

32nd Battalion Diary excerpts

This is an extract from the 32nd Battalion Diary for the month of July where they participated in the disastrous attack at Fromelles on the 19th/20th. During this attack both Archie and Raymond Choat were killed and Wesley was taken prisoner.

29

Date 1916	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
July 18 th	N 10 A.C. 10:30am	A & C Coys moved from hills at FLEURBAIX to reduce B & D Coy in firing line
	1:30pm	B & D Coys moved back to hills at FLEURBAIX
	10:20pm	Patrols from A & C Coy reconnoitred enemy wire and NO MANS LAND and cut over wire
		10 AM returned from PARIS Review Casualties wounded 6
19 th	do	A & C Coys repairing trenches
	2pm	B & D Coys left hills at FLEURBAIX and took up position in 300° Trench
	4:15pm	
	5:30pm	A & C Coys closed to right to take up position for attack
	5:45pm	B & D Coys arrived in front line in position for attack
	5:53pm	1 st wave went over parapet
		See Appendix A attached

D. 388/9.14.—C. 11094.

30

Date 1916	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
July 20 th	FLEURBAIX 7:30am	B ² withdrew to 300° line
	8:30am	B ² marched to hills at FLEURBAIX
		Casualties Killed 4 officers - Major J. HAGON, Lieut F. HULKS, Lieut E. CHINNER, Lieut T. P. HAGON. Wounded 8 Officers
		Capt. S. TREATMAN, Capt. F. C. LOYD, Lieut J. ION, Lieut A. RUSSELL, Lieut J. B. O'CONNOR, 2/Lieut S. E. G. MILLS, 2/Lieut A. CAMPBELL, 2/Lieut C. B. THOMAS. Missing 5 Officers - Major J. J. HUGHES, Capt. R. A. KEAY, 2/Lieut J. BENSON, 2/Lieut A. PATERSON, 2/Lieut R. T. GRIFFEN. O.R. Killed 67, Wounded 367, Missing 214
July 20 th	do. 6pm	5 Officers Lieut W. HAVERTON, 2/Lieut T. M. DRUMMOND, 2/Lieut H. L. SWINBURNE, 2/Lieut J. C. RICHARD, 2/Lieut E. ADAMS and 5 O.R. reported from reinforcements and attached to B ²
July 21 st		Reorganising B ² 1 platoon per Coy formed

D. 388/9.14.—C. 11096.

209

Appendix "A"



32nd Bⁿ A.I.F.

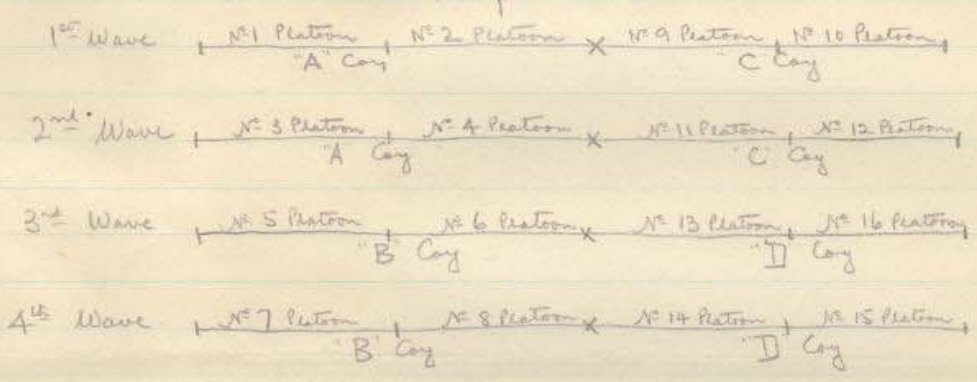
Report on operations 19/20 July 1916

In accordance with orders received the 32nd Bⁿ took up position preparatory to attack as follows.

A+C Coys in front line - to form 1st + 2nd waves.

B+D Coys in 300^{ft} trench to form 3rd + 4th waves.

Waves were constituted as per sketch below.



A+C Coys closed to the right to position for launching attack at 5.30 p.m. B+D Coys moved up from 300^{ft} trench and were in position at 5.45 p.m.

At 5.53 p.m. the 1st wave, closely followed by the 2nd wave, moved over the parapet into NO MAN'S LAND. The 1st wave moved forward to the enemy's wire - the 2nd wave remaining just on the enemy's side of our wire.

At 6 p.m. the 1st + 2nd waves attacked + the 3rd wave moved into NO MAN'S LAND. At 6.3 p.m. the 4th wave "went over".

The attack pushed through to the rearmost trench (marked B on sketch attached) of the enemy's 1st line system + were in position there by 6.30 p.m. The work of consolidating the position was commenced but little progress could be made owing to lack of sandbags + the nature of the trench. It was practically a ditch with from 1 to 2 feet of mud + slush in the bottom. The soil was very "gluey" + was most difficult to work.

At 6 p.m. Bⁿ H.Q. attempted to move forward by CELLAR.

FARM AVENUE This route was blocked having been smashed by enemy shell fire. B.F. H.Q. then pushed down the Engineers "duck board" track by ruses and established themselves in Trench 10.3. Telephonic communication was obtained with the signaller's cabin in old H.Q.

At 8.25 pm a message was received from Major Hughes (from Trench B on sketch) that our left flank near DELANGRE FARM was being subjected to heavy bombardment with H.E. + shrapnel. Artillery assistance was 'phoned for + received. Urgent requests for reinforcements were passed to Brigade H.Q. the reply being that the trenches were to be held at all costs. Large stores of sandbags, grenades etc were pushed forward into the sap connecting our lines with the enemy's but owing to the enemy having smashed in this sap they could not be got forward to our troops in the front.

At 4 am the enemy, having been reinforced, attacked our left flank and bombed our men out of the communication trench (marked "A" on sketch attached) and also forced their way through into their own firing line (marked E on sketch attached). Our troops in trench "B" on sketch were then taken in front, flank + rear + it became necessary to withdraw. The machine guns were collected + sent back to our own lines. They were ordered to keep well over to our right flank.

Our men were then formed up + we changed the enemy's firing line. Owing to lack of grenades we were unable to push him out so the line was withdrawn to our own trenches.

The parapet in the enemy's 1st line (marked E on sketch) was badly damaged by our artillery but the dugouts were in very good condition.

Trench D on sketch was revetted with wire netting + hurdles and contained about 2 to 3 feet of water.

Trench "C" was merely a ditch.

Communication trench marked "A" was well constructed and in



good condition.

The other communication trenches were only revitted in parts & were mostly very shallow.

DELANGRE FARM was evidently a Machine Gun emplacement and Bomb store. Men were seen to leave this place carrying bombs & machine guns. There are numerous steel loopholes in position round the farm.

The enemy started his "banage" on our front trenches immediately the 1st wave appeared. A heavy bombardment and M.G. fire was kept up by the enemy over NO MANS LAND all night. This made our communication very difficult as many of the runners were killed or wounded whilst carrying messages.

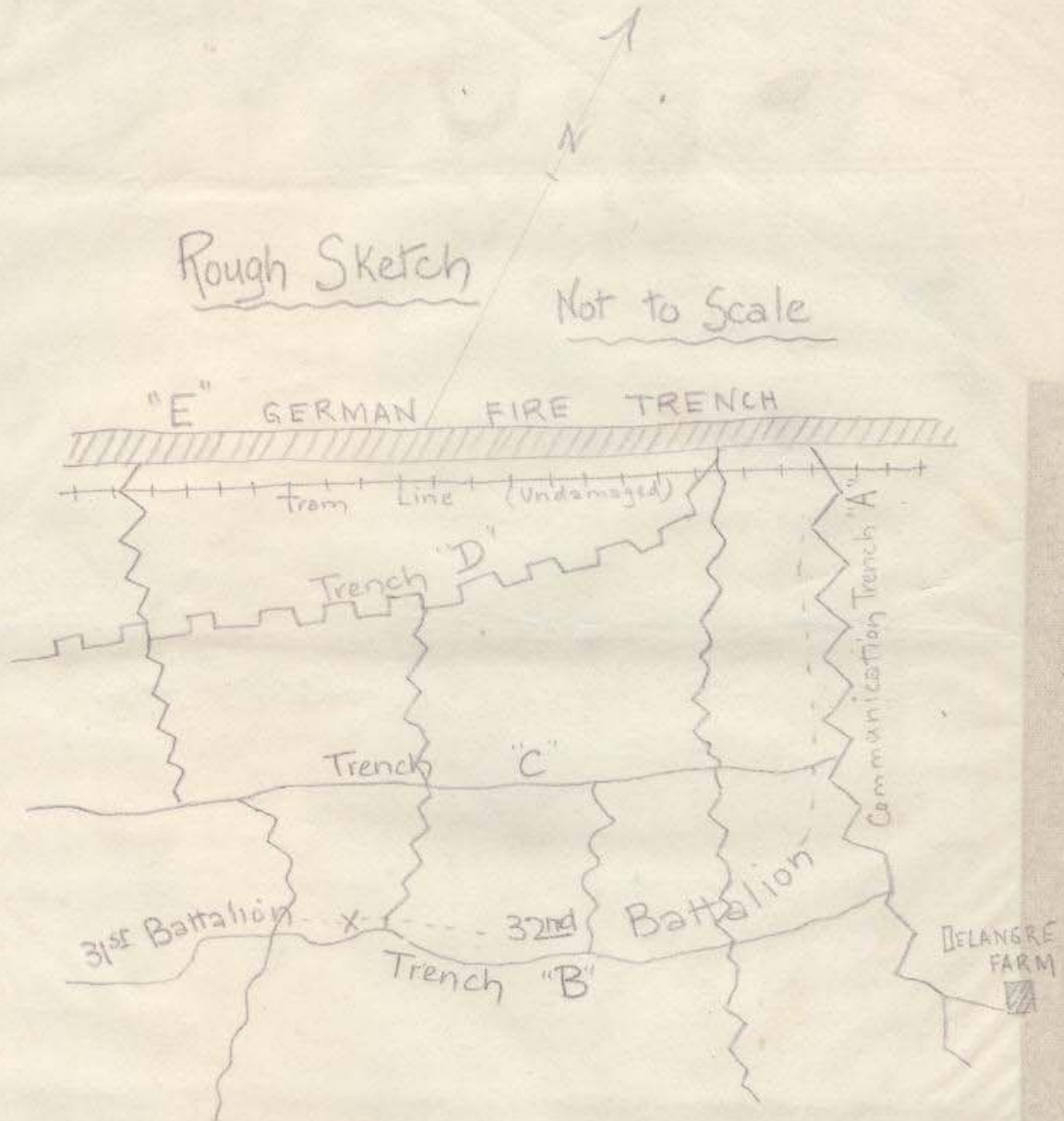
The men carrying flares, Very pistols etc were mostly put out of action in the attack - only 3 flares arrived at the front trench.

AR Whitebapt
for C.O. 32nd Bⁿ

APPENDIX A

Rough Sketch

Not to Scale





This is a photo of Wesley Choat taken when he enlisted.

Wesley is the brother of Archie and Raymond Choat and was taken prisoner of war by the Germans during the battle where both his brothers were killed. He finally managed to escape to England after walking to the coast and he kept a diary of sorts that we have published in the local newsletter.

Cobbers Memorial, Fromelles

A short walk from the V.C. Corner Cemetery is the Cobbers Memorial that was erected in memory of the Battle of Fromelles



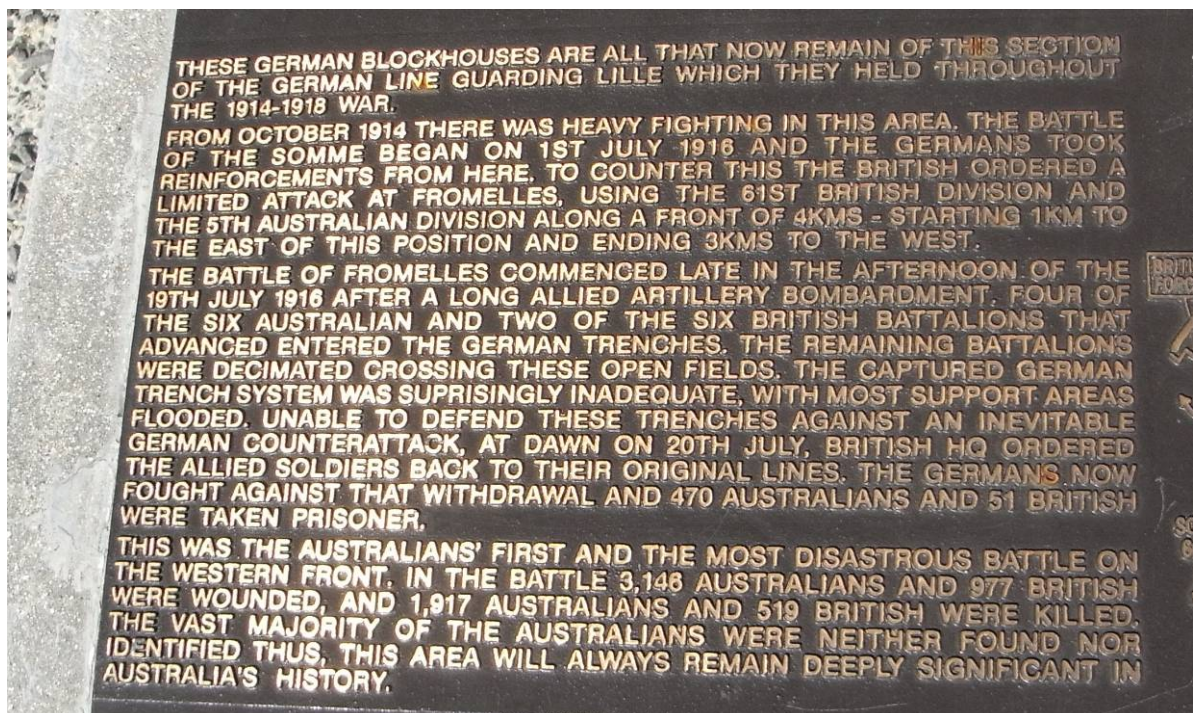
The Cobbers Memorial



The plaque on the Cobbers Memorial



One of the German blockhouses at the memorial site



Inscription with information on the Battle of Fromelles



Looking across the flat clay fields of the Somme towards the V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery and memorial



Remnants of a German Blockhouse fortifications at Cobbers Memorial

[Dochy Farm New British Cemetery, Mark Betts](#)

Dochy Farm New British Cemetery is located 7 kilometres north-east of Ieper town centre. Dochy Farm, which had become a German strong point, was taken by the 4th New Zealand Brigade on 4 October 1917, in the Battle of Broodseinde. The cemetery was made after the Armistice when isolated graves were brought in from the battlefields of Boesinghe, St. Julien, Frezenberg and Passchendaele. The cemetery now contains 1,439 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 958 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate two casualties believed to be buried among them. There are 306 Australians buried here. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.



Mark Betts



The Dochy Farm Cemetery front wall



The Dochy Farm Cemetery

Mark Betts enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 7th July 1916 in Adelaide. His Regimental number was 2170 and he joined the 37th Battalion.

His mum was Margaret Isobel Betts who was a widow and his father was Thomas Betts and when Mark enlisted his mother was living at Wallaroo Mines. Mark was 21 years old and was a brown-haired, blue-eyed young man with a "medium" complexion whose occupation was a miner. He was nearly 5ft 9ins tall and weighed 135lbs.

On his medical history it was noted that Mark had good eyesight and two vaccination scars on his left arm. He had a couple of dental defects but they were not bad enough to require treatment. It was also noted that he had deep-set jaundiced eyes and he was missing his left hand pointer finger. Marks religious denomination was Methodist.

Mark embarked 28th August 1916 for England on the "Anchises" and arrived in Plymouth on the 11th of October 1916. He was taken on strength in the 37th Battalion on 11th November and embarked for France from Southampton on the 22nd of November.

On Christmas day 1916 Mark was admitted to hospital with "trench feet" and was unable to return to his Battalion until the 13th of March 1917. Mark remained with the 37th Battalion in France and Belgium for the next few months.

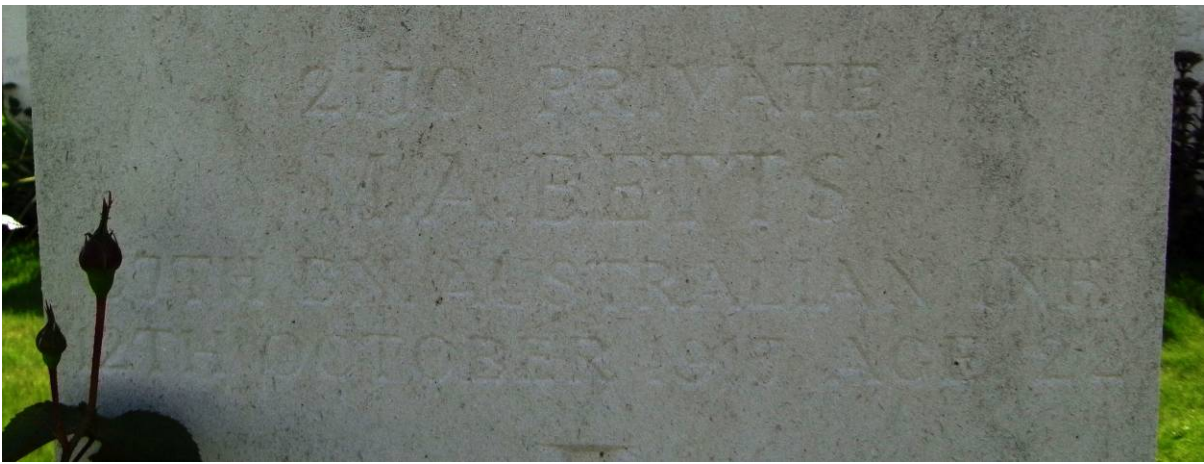
He was reported as missing in action in Belgium on the 12th of October 1917 and formally reported as killed in action in February 1918. He had served in France and Belgium for just over one year.

On the 1st May it was reported to his mum that the AIF had received new advice that Mark had been buried 300 yards south of a site known as Waterfields in Belgium. Another letter dated 12th September 1919 provides a further update giving his grave site as being an isolated grave by "Pill Box" 18, one mile southwest of Passchendaele and 5 miles east north east of the town of Ypres. In 1920 Mark's body was exhumed and reinterred in the Dochy Farm Cemetery which is 4 miles East North East of Ypres.

Mark prepared his first Will on the 22nd of August 1916 leaving everything to his mum and prepared another Will on the 9th of August 1917 and again left all his estate to his mother. Mark's only personal effects included 2 safety razors, an auto stropper, razor strop, metal wrist watch (damaged), a card, and these were being returned to his mother back in Australia but were lost at sea when the "Barunga" was sunk.



The Grave site of Mark Betts



The Inscription on Mark Betts Headstone



The inscription from Mark's Mother



Me at the Mark Betts Grave site

Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres Belgium, Ralph Broadbent



The Menin Gate Memorial is in the town of Ieper (originally known as Ypres) and Ralph Broadbent is remembered here as his final resting place is not known.

The old gothic city of Ieper or Ypres as it was better known was a symbol of Allied resistance throughout the war except for a brief period of occupation by the Germans in 1914.

It stood defiant but by the end of the war it had been completely destroyed by the many years of bombing. All around this area the flat agricultural fields were constantly engaged in major battles from 1914 to 1918 and all these areas became the final resting place for hundreds of thousands of young men from all over the world including Australia. Australian troops from all five divisions that fought in Europe were all around this area from late in 1916 until 1917 and their main involvement took place during the 1917 allied offensive, including the battles of Messines, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde and Passchendaele where there were more than 43,000 Australian casualties.

Ieper (Ypres) was rebuilt after the war and the Menin Gate was built in memory of all those that gave their lives but whose final resting place was never established.

Now this memorial is visited by more and more people who come to reflect on the tragic loss of life from the war and to find the names of those whose graves were never found.

The buglers of the Last Post Association, local men with different professions connected with the Ypres volunteer fire brigade, have been honouring the dead of the Menin Gate in this nightly ceremony since July 1928. The idea came from Ypres Chief of Police Pierre Vandebraambussche who had been in Ypres during those early months of the war when many of the inhabitants of Ypres remained in the town despite the German shelling. After witnessing the unveiling of the Gate in 1927 he brought together a group of like-minded friends, eminent citizens

of the town, to consider ways in which the British Empire sacrifice at Ypres could be more formally marked by those homes the British soldiers had fought to protect. So was born the nightly ceremony of sounding the Last Post under the Menin Gate.

Only once did the bugles fall silent and that was during the years of German occupation in World War II. The call rang out again on 6 September 1944, the day the Germans left the town.



Buglers of the Last Post Association, Ypres

Today the Last Post ceremony draws thousands to Ypres. While for decades on cold winter nights there might have been only the buglers and a representative of the Last Post committee under the Gate, now there are nearly always visitors, from small groups in winter to large crowds during the spring and summer. The Last Post has become Ypres' main tourist attraction and more visitors are drawn here than to any other memorial or cemetery in the care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



Last Post Ceremony I attended in my stopover in Ieper (Ypres)

Ralph Leslie Broadbent enlisted in Adelaide on the 16th of June 1916 when he was 20 years and 10 months old. He was a Private in the 43rd Battalion and served in France for 6 months before being killed in action on the 31st July 1917. Ralph is remembered in the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium.

Ralph Broadbent enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the June 16th, 1916, in Adelaide. His Regimental number was R2037 and he joined the 43rd Battalion.

His parents were Mary Hill and Henry Field Broadbent and they were living at Hummocks Hill when Ralph enlisted. Ralph was 20 years and 10 months old and was a brown-haired, hazel-eyed young man with a "fresh" complexion whose occupation was a farmer. He was just over 5ft 9ins tall and weighed 160lbs.

On his medical history it was noted that Ralph had good eyesight and five vaccination scars on his left arm. His teeth were in good condition. It was noted that he had injured his right foot in 1905 however it was not considered a disability when he enlisted. Ralph's religious denomination was Methodist.

Ralph embarked for the war on 28th August, 1916, on the "Anchises" out of Port Adelaide arriving in Plymouth, England on 11th October 1916. He remained in England until the 19th December 1916 when he proceeded overseas to France on the S.S. Princess Victoria disembarking at Estaples. He was taken on strength on the 18th January 1917 and spent just over 6 months on the front line until the 31st July 1917 when he was killed in action in Belgium.

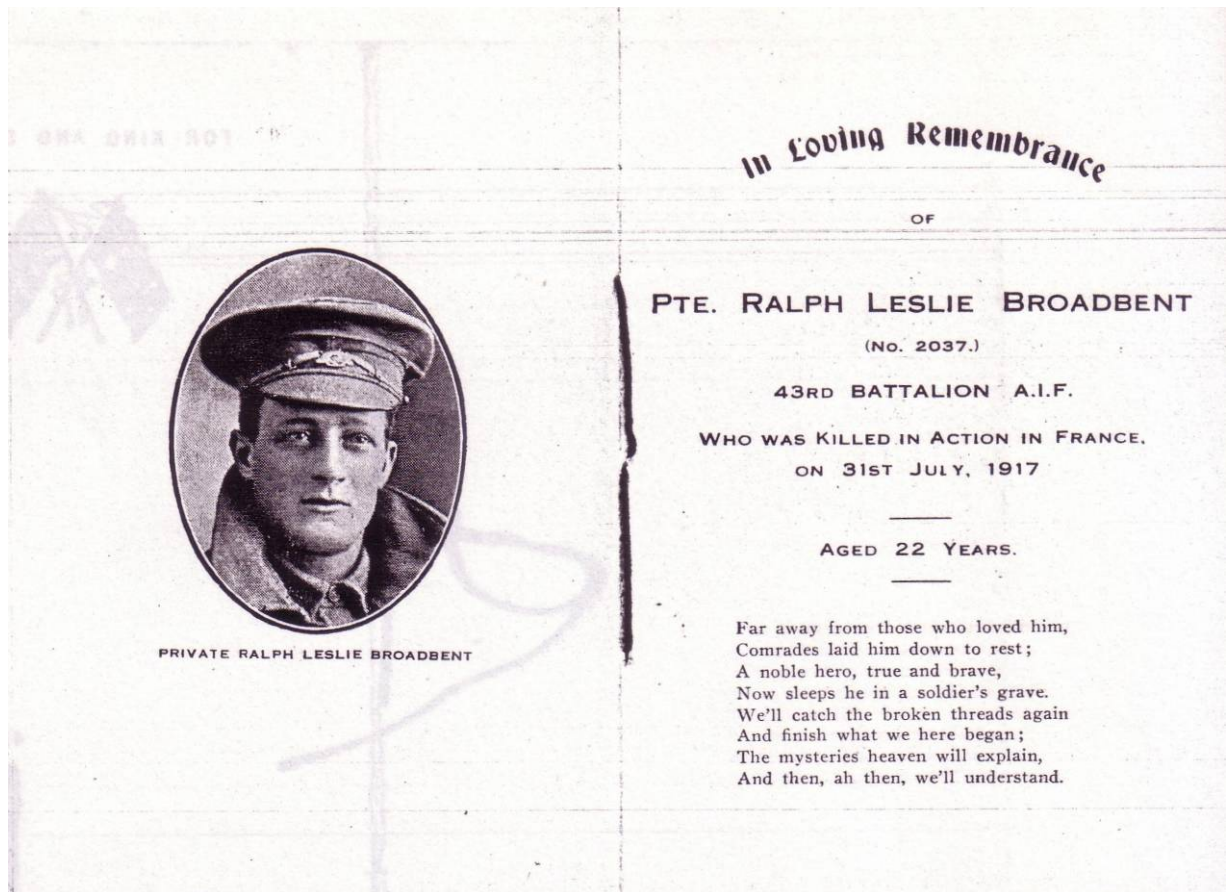
Ralph had prepared his last will and testament on 27th August 1916 and leaving all his worldly possessions to his father, Henry Field Broadbent. The will was proved in the Supreme Court of SA on the 21st January 1918.

Ralph's only personal effects were 2 identity disks, 2 wallets, note book, writing pad, mittens, cap comforter, metal rings (3), German coat lapel, photos, letters and cards and these were returned to his parents back in Australia.

Ralph's body was not recovered following his death and as result his name is now recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres Belgium.



Ralph Broadbent's enlistment photo



Memorial Card for Ralph Broadbent



Ralph Broadbent remembered at the Menin Gate Memorial



Location of Ralph Broadbent Memorial under the 27th Infantry Battalion



Me at the memorial to Ralph Broadbent under the 43rd Battalion



The front of the Menin Gate Memorial looking through to the castle



Inside the Menin Gate Memorial



The Menin Gate with its stone lions, date unknown but before World War I.



The original Menin Gate lions were removed at some time after the war and transported to Australia where they were restored and feature at the entry to the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



Australian soldiers passing through the Menin Gate, Ypres, Sept 1917.

[Dive Copse British Cemetery, Sailly-le-Sec, Charles \(Gladstone\) Ricks](#)



It is now Sunday morning and after a good night's sleep in Peronne I head off nice and early, west towards Amiens. I am on the way to the Dive Copse British Cemetery where Charles Bright Gladstone Ricks is buried. In June 1916, before the Somme offensive, the ground north of this cemetery was chosen for a concentration of field ambulances. Dive Copse was a small wood close by, under the Bray-Corbie road, named after the officer commanding this station. In the spring of 1918, the cemetery was lost during the German advance and retaken in August 1918 and graves were brought in from scattered sites and small cemeteries in the neighborhood.

Dive Copse Cemetery now contains 589 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 30 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 10 casualties known to be buried among them. The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.



Charles Bright Gladstone Ricks favoured Gladstone as his Christian name rather than Charles. He enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 2nd October, 1916 in Cherry Gardens, South Australia. His Regimental number was 6151 and he joined the 27th Battalion.

His parents were Charles and Mary Ricks from Cherry Gardens. Gladstone was 29 years and 6 months old when he enlisted and was a fair-haired, grey-eyed young man with a "medium" complexion whose occupation was a market gardener. He was 5ft 7ins tall and weighed 147lbs.

On his medical history it was noted that Gladstone had good eyesight and a vaccination scar on his left arm. He had a scar above his left eyebrow and his teeth were in good condition. Gladstone's religious denomination was Methodist.

Gladstone embarked on the 7th November 1916 on the "Afric" disembarking at Plymouth, England on the 9th January 1917. He remained in England until heading overseas to the front line in France on 5th April 1917. Gladstone continued to serve with the 27th Battalion for the next couple of months but came down with Trench Fever and was taken by the 5th Field Ambulance for treatment but then transferred first to the 10th General Hospital at Rouen in France and then back to England on the "Warilda" to the 1st Southern General Hospital in Edgbaston.

He recovered from the Trench Fever by the end of July but then had a couple of Scabies outbreaks which resulted in him not fully recovering until early November. On the 10th November he headed back to France disembarking at Havre and then proceeding to Belgium to rejoin his Battalion.

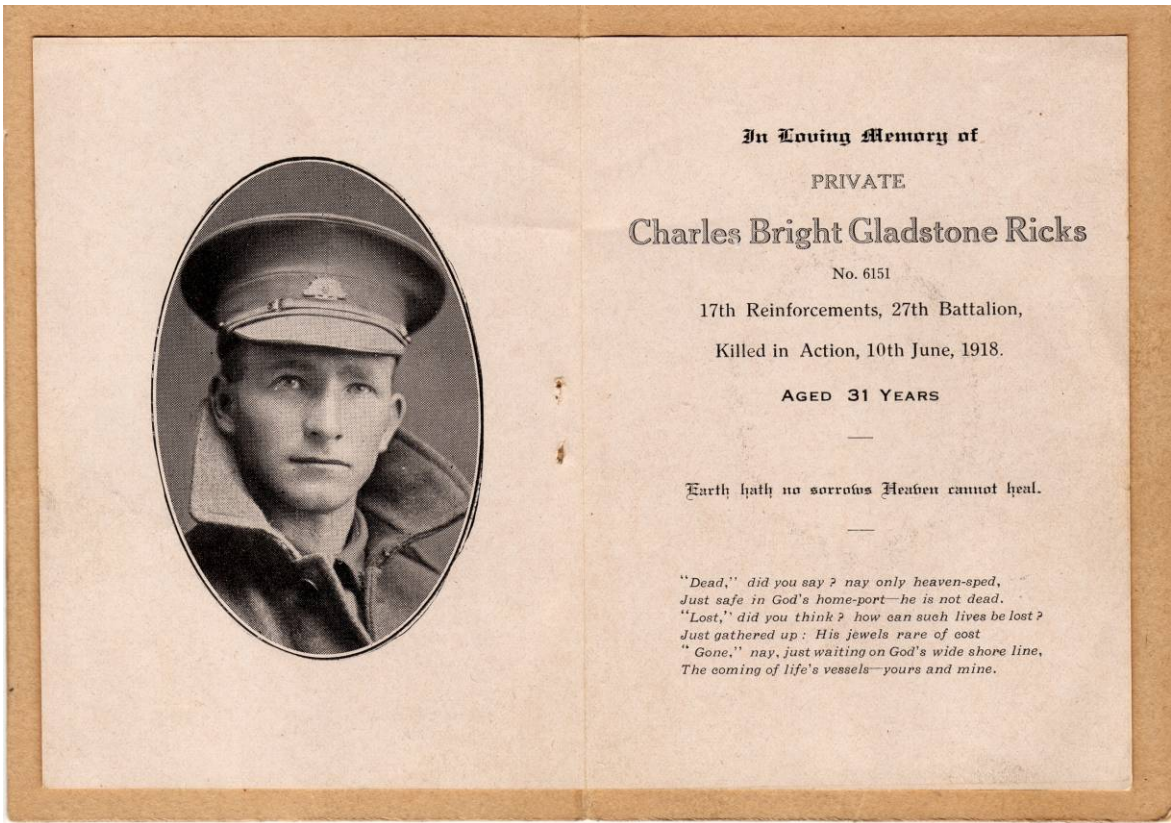
Unfortunately just over 1 month later he had scabies again and was in hospital again for a couple of weeks and this happened again during February 1918. He rejoined his Battalion again on 19th February and on 14th March was given 1 week's leave in Paris. By the end of April he was back in hospital with a bad case of dermatitis and for the next few weeks he was transferred to various hospitals for treatment until finally rejoining his Battalion on 4th June 1918.

Gladstone was killed in action on 10th June 1918 in a region a few miles north east of Villiers Bretonneau. Gladstone was in the same Battalion as another Cherry Gardens soldier, Jesse Strange, and it would appear they were both killed in the same battle although Gladstone's family recite a story that Gladstone was wounded during the battle and was calling for the medics to "get me out of here" and must have died from his injuries before getting to the hospital whereas Jesse's body was never found.

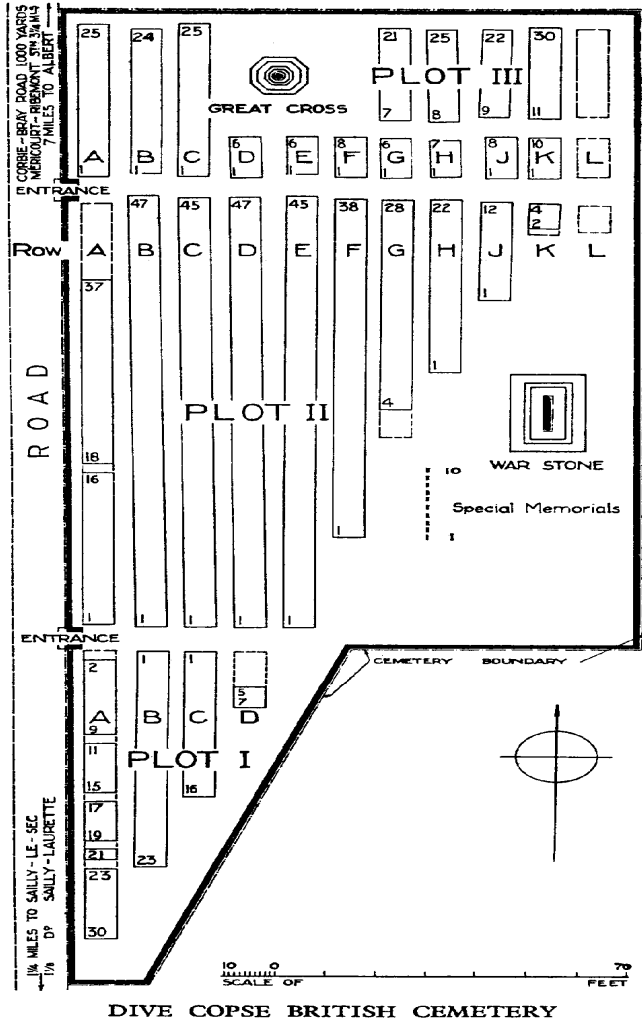
Gladstone had prepared his will long before the war on 26th November 1913 bequeathing his estate in full to his mother. Among his personal effects to be returned to his parents were 2 identity disks, 1 wallet, photo, letter, testament, notecase, metal wrist watch (damaged) and 9 coins.



Charles (Gladstone) Ricks when he enlisted



Memorial Card for Charles (Gladstone) Ricks





Entrance to the Dive Copse British Cemetery



Cross of Remembrance at Dive Copse British Cemetery



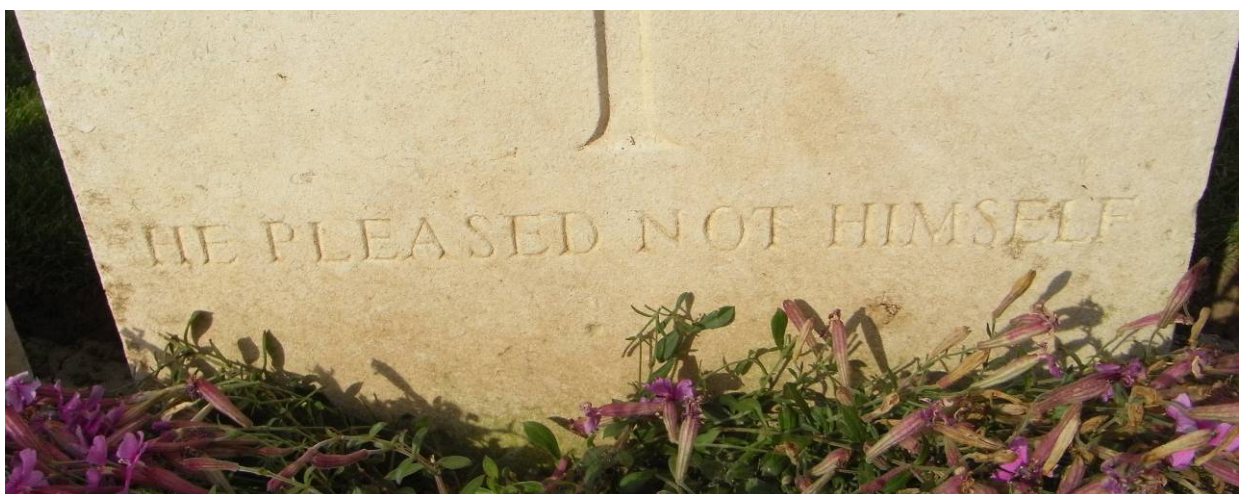
The Grave site of Charles Ricks



Me at Charles (Gladstone) Ricks Grave site



Charles (Gladstone) Ricks Headstone inscription



Charles (Gladstone) Ricks Headstone inscription

AIF 3rd Division Memorial - Sailly-le-Sec



This memorial is located a couple of km north of the township of Sailly-le-sec on the main road and surrounded by farmland and open paddocks. There is no cemetery, it just remembers all those that served as part of the 3rd Division.

The memorial in the shape of obelisk stands prominently on the ridge north of the Somme River. It was here, on 27 March 1918, that 3rd Division faced the final German push towards Amiens in their Operation Michael offensive.



Aerial View of Memorial

After the war the Third Division could have chosen a number of spots at which to place the divisional memorial. Mesen (Messines) in Belgium would have been one obvious place for there on 7 June 1917 the division had fought its first large successful battle of the war. And there were later triumphs in 1918 as, between 8 August and 4 October, the Allied armies swept to victory across the Somme and east of Péronne. But they selected this magnificent site north of Sailly-le-Sec with its commanding views, a place largely devoid of shell holes, deep trenches and battlefield stench – ‘The country was really beautiful. Green fields and crops; and flocks of sheep and cattle browsed on the hills just in front of our trenches’. Behind them lay the little villages through which they had marched to take up their position and where the local people had greeted them with great faith that they would hold the Germans. In this place, perhaps, they had a very clear sense of what and who they were fighting for.



3rd Division Memorial



3rd Division Memorial



The Memorial Plaque

[Australian War Memorial and Cemetery, Villiers Bretonneux, Jesse Strange and James Brealey](#)



Villiers Bretonneux was captured by the Germans on 24th of April 1918 and re-taken by the Australians in a counter-attack. There were several months of trench warfare before the Australians, flanked by the Canadian Corps, attacked from the village on August 8th in the first and very successful stage of the Allies advance to final victory.

The cemetery contains the graves of 1089 British, 779 Australian, 267 Canadian, 2 New Zealand and 4 South African soldiers, sailors and airmen and is located a couple of kilometres north of the town.

In the town are a number of places that remember the efforts of the Australians and the school was a gift from Victorian school children. There is a plaque on the outside wall of the school that commemorates this gift

and on one of the walls inside the school grounds is a large sign saying "DO NOT FORGET AUSTRALIA". Looking through the school windows you can see that the school makes a big effort to include many aspects about Australia into the curriculum as can be seen by many posters and projects up on walls.

Unfortunately as it is Sunday I am unable to visit the inside of the school and the small museum attached to it.



Plaque outside the School

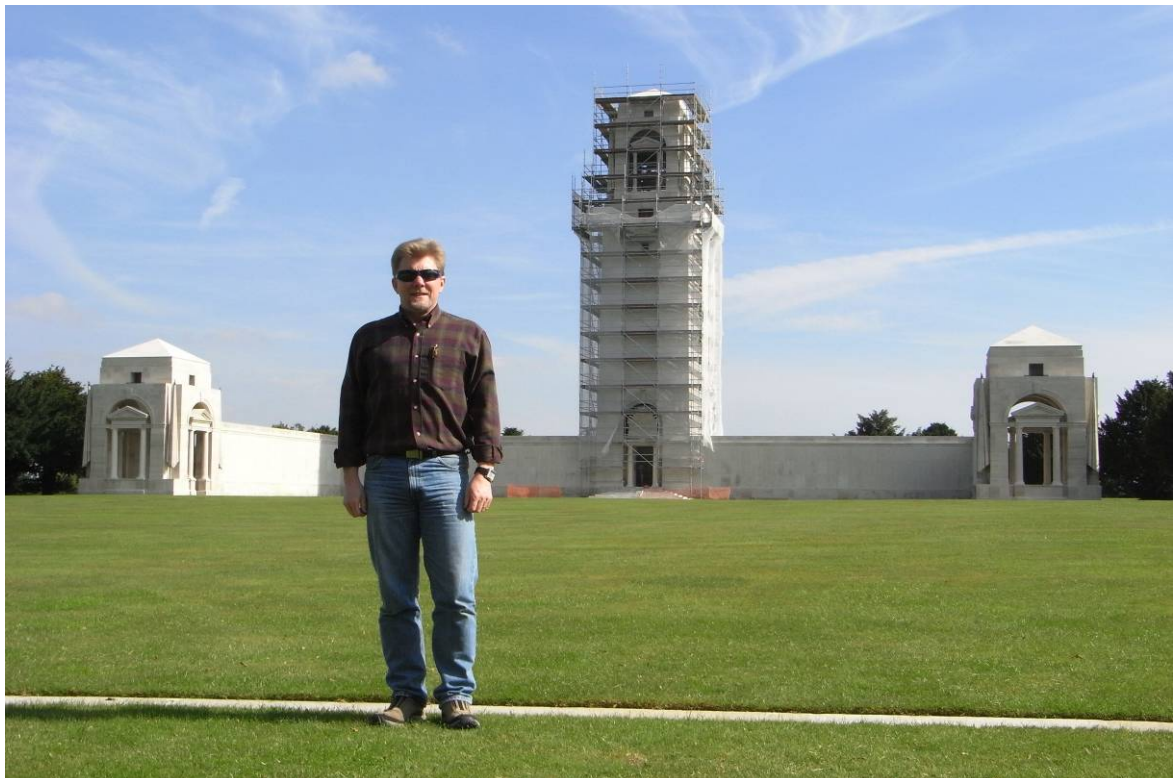


The sign inside the school stating "DO NOT FORGET AUSTRALIA"

The Australian National War Memorial stands to the rear of the cemetery. It commemorates both the feats of arms of the Australian Imperial Force on the Western Front and records by name, 10,797 Australian soldiers who fell on the battlefields of the Somme and Arras and in the advance to victory and whose graves are unknown.



Entrance to Australian Memorial just outside Villiers Bretonneux

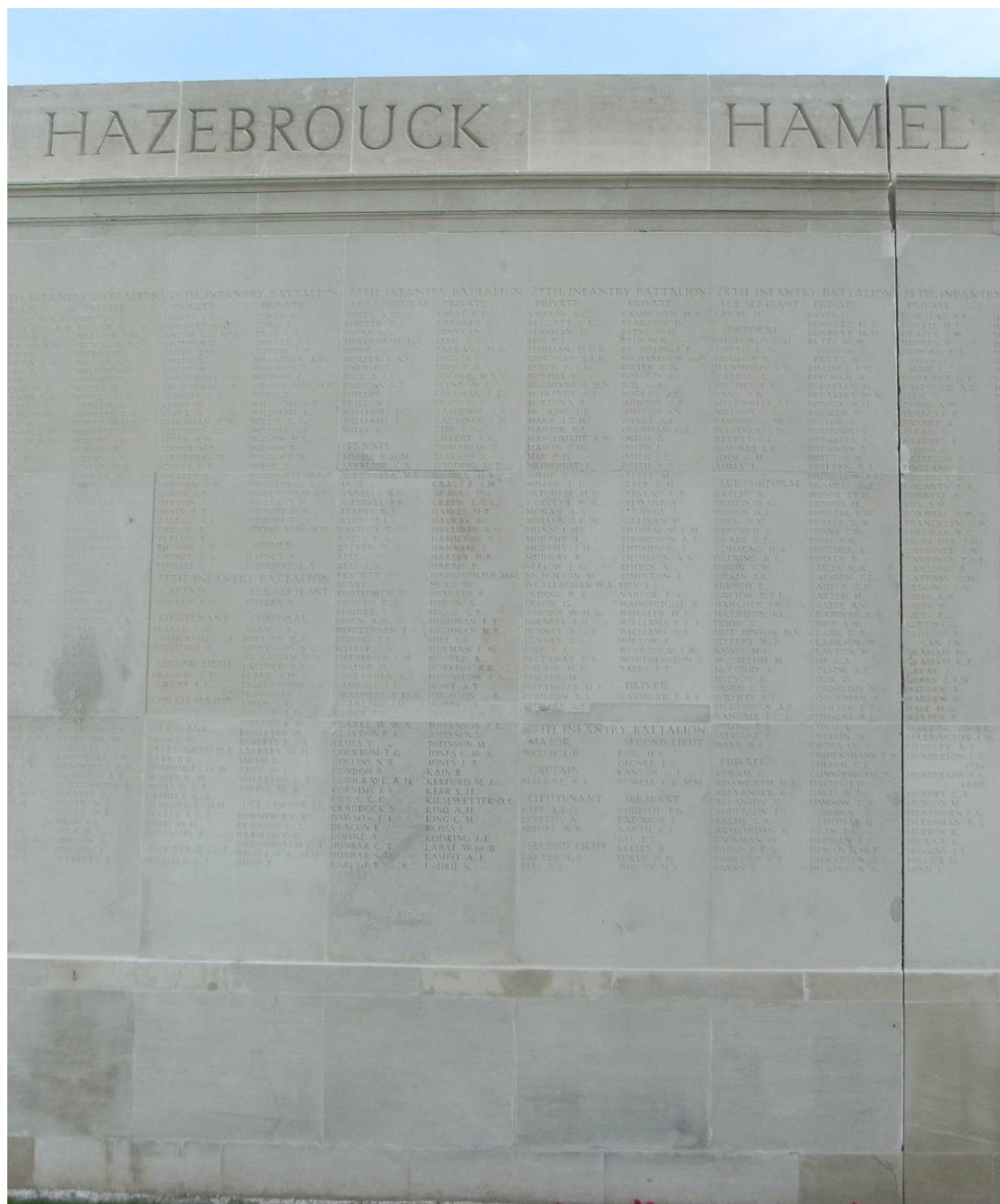


In front of the Memorial (that is undergoing maintenance ready for Remembrance Day in November 2008)

There are 2 soldiers from Cherry Gardens that are remembered here at the Australian War Memorial, Jesse Strange and James Brealey.

Jesse Strange

Jesse Strange can be found under the 27th Infantry Battalion and this is located on the wall directly below the Hazebrouck and Hamel inscriptions.



Location of Jesse Strange Memorial under the 27th Infantry Battalion

Jesse Strange enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 2nd June 1915 at the Keswick barracks. His Regimental number was 2225 and he joined the 27th Battalion for the term of the war.

His parents were Henry and Charlotte Strange from Cherry Gardens. Jesse was nearly 28 years old when he enlisted and was a fair-haired, blue-eyed young man whose occupation was a gardener. He was just under 5ft 8ins tall and weighed 165lbs.

On his medical history it was noted that Jesse "had the minimum number of teeth for proper mastication" so evidently he must have lost a few teeth along the way.

Jesse embarked for the war on 21st September 1915 and was taken on strength on 12th January 1916 at Tel El Kabir. He remained in North Africa until March 1916 when he was sent to France, to Marseilles and spent the rest of his time on the front line. His battalion fought throughout France and Belgium around cities such as Calais, Boulogne, Tronville and Havre. Jesse was wounded in the arm in August 1916 and spent some time in England recuperating before returning to his battalion and the front line. Jesse also succumbed to several serious bouts of illness including the mumps and influenza requiring hospitalization.

Jesse prepared his last will and testament on May 31st 1917 naming his mother as sole benefactor.

In early June 1918 the weather in France was fine every day and Jesse's Battalion was located in a sector of the front line between Morlancourt and Sailly-Le-Sec. On June 3rd they were able to bath in the River Ancre prior to being sent to a new sector of the front line to relieve the 20th Battalion. They left the Franvilliers area in early evening and were established in the new trenches by 1.30am on June 6th.

Over the next few days and nights the 27th Battalion remained at the front line reconnoitering in no-man's-land and putting up with the shelling from the enemy.

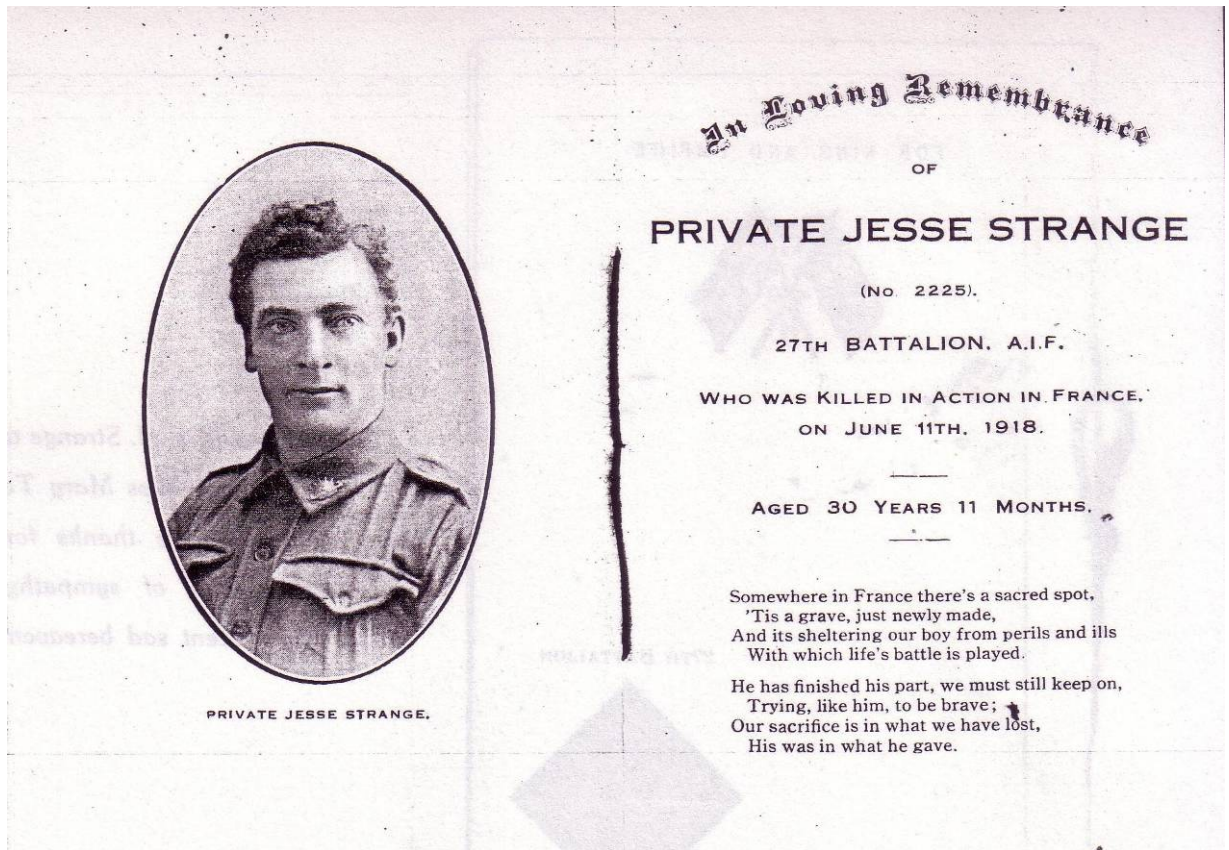
On the 8th there were some gas shells sent by the enemy and gas masks had to be worn. On June 10th the Battalion received secret orders regarding an imminent attack on the German lines. All along the line in this sector they were to push forward and improve on their positions along the front line.

At 8.35pm on the 10th the enemy launched a very intense shelling at the rear of the front line but there were no serious casualties. The 27th then attacked the enemy line and by 10.44pm the new lines were marked with red flares signifying consolidation of the new positions. The enemy were however very hostile according to the Battalion diary with sniping, artillery fire and Minenwerfer fire. During this battle there were 5 men killed and 13 wounded.

Jesse was one of those killed in action in this battle on 11th June 1918 just over 3 years after enlisting. His only personal effects were a "Sheppo" watch and strap, 2 handkerchiefs, 2 collars, 1 tie, a pocket knife and "damaged" torch and these were returned to his parents. These personal effects must have been left in the trench prior to the battle as following the battle that Jesse was killed in, his body was never recovered, or he was buried where he fell and no grave marker was found later. His Battalion remained in this sector until June 15th when they were relieved and rested in the Bois-De-Mai Wood before their next deployment.



Jesse Strange enlistment photo



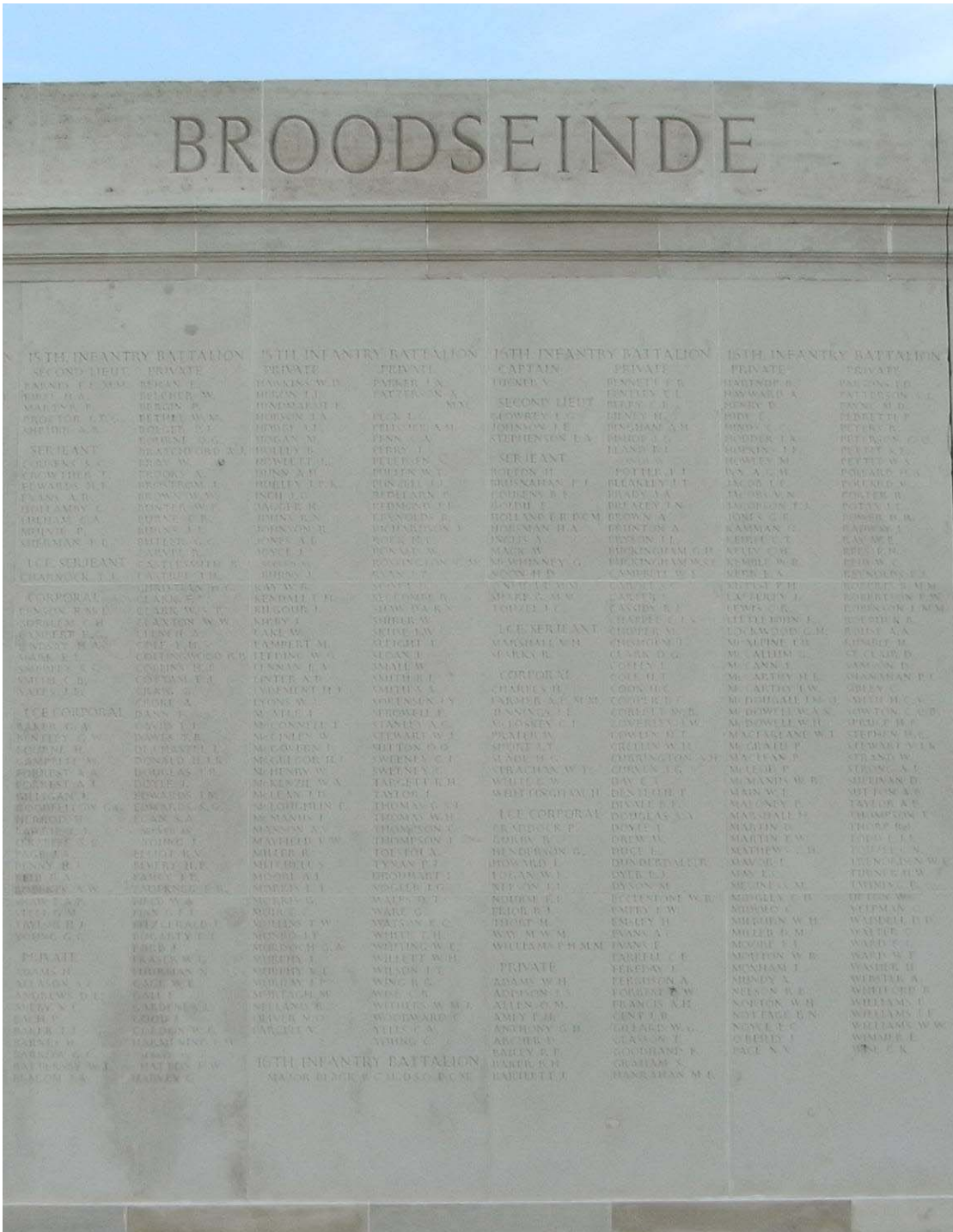
Memorial Card for Jesse Strange



Jesse Strange remembered at the Australian Memorial

James Newman Brealey

James Brealey can be found under the 16th Infantry Battalion that is located under the Broodseinde inscription.



Location of James Brealey memorial under the 16th Infantry Battalion

James Brealey enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 13th March, 1916 in Nannine, Western Australia. His Regimental number was 5998 and he joined the 16th Battalion A.I.F.

His parents were John William & Elizabeth Lillian Brealey and they were living at East Northam in Western Australia when James enlisted. James was 18 years and 11 months old when he enlisted and was a light brown-

haired, blue-eyed young man with a "fair" complexion whose occupation was a labourer. He was just under 5ft 8ins tall and weighed 134lbs. Because of his age James's parents had to write and give permission for James to enlist.

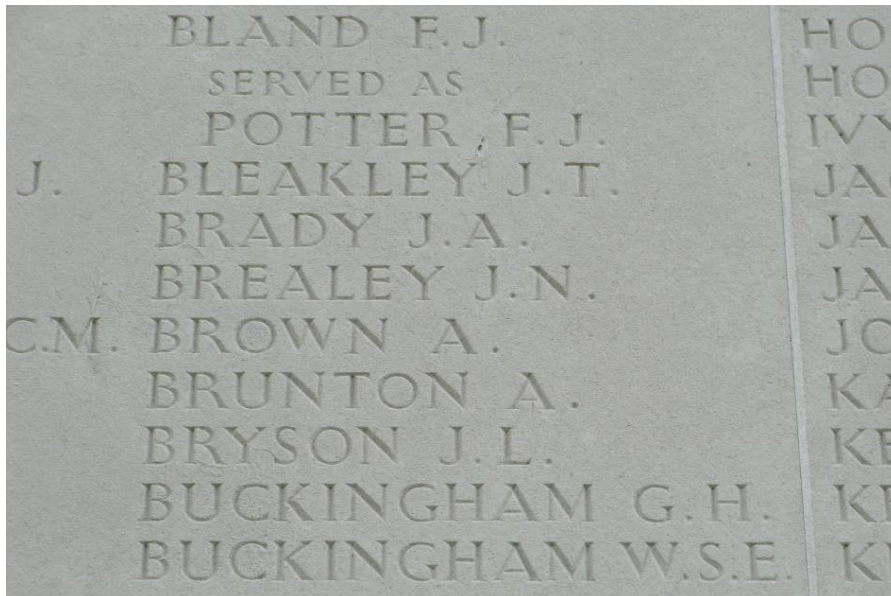


James Newman Brealey enlistment photo

On his medical history it was noted that James had reasonable eyesight and no vaccination scars. His teeth had some defects but they were not bad enough to prevent him being accepted. James religious denomination was Anglican.

James embarked for the war on 9th August 1916, on the Fremantle arriving in Plymouth, England on 26th September 1916. He remained in England until the 12th December when he proceeded overseas to France from Folkstone on the Arundel disembarking at Estaples. He was taken on strength on the 23rd December 1916 and was sent to the front line where he spent the rest of his time in France.

On the 11th April 1917 James was killed in action. The battle he died in was an attack on the Hindenberg line near Bullecourt and Queant. This was a poorly organized attack where they tried to use tanks which were a dismal failure and the soldiers while achieving their first 2 objectives were then unable to get reinforcements or additional ammunition and eventually had to retreat back to the initial jumping off place.



James Brealey remembered at the Australian Memorial

In this battle that took around 7 hours from 4.30am to 11.30am nearly 80% of the soldiers were killed. 17 Officers and 700 soldiers started the attack and only 3 officers and 87 soldiers got back alive. James was one of those killed and his body was never found. James had been in France for less than 4 months.

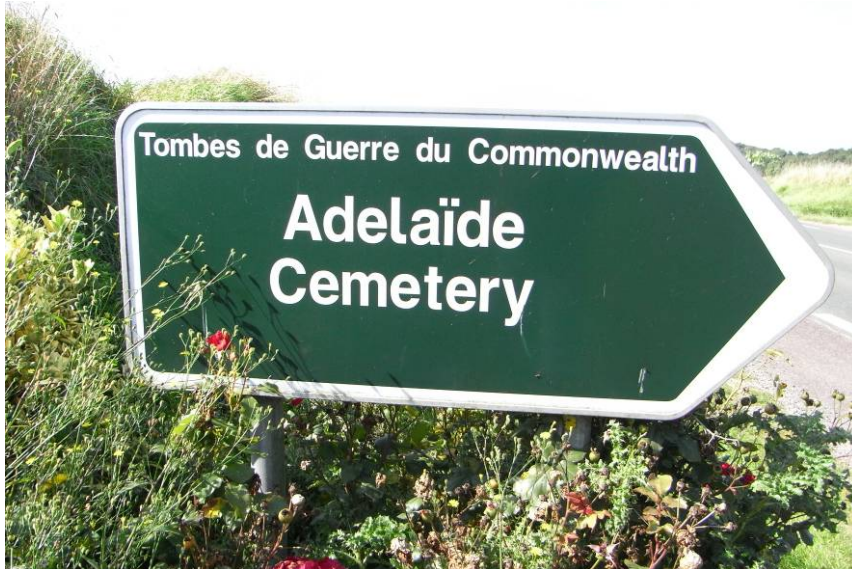
James had prepared his last will and testament on 10th April 1917 naming his mother as sole benefactor. His will was recorded in his pay book and he must have wrote this just prior to the battle where he was to lose his life.

Because James body was never found there is no burial site for him and he is remembered on the wall of the Australian War Memorial in Villiers Bretonneau.

[Adelaide Cemetery, Villiers Bretonneux](#)

The Adelaide Cemetery is located on the eastern side of the township. There are no Cherry Gardens soldiers buried here but as the cemetery bears the name of our city I really wanted to visit here.

It is typical of the other Commonwealth Graves Commission cemeteries and all around it are the open fields of northern France with some copses of trees in the distance.



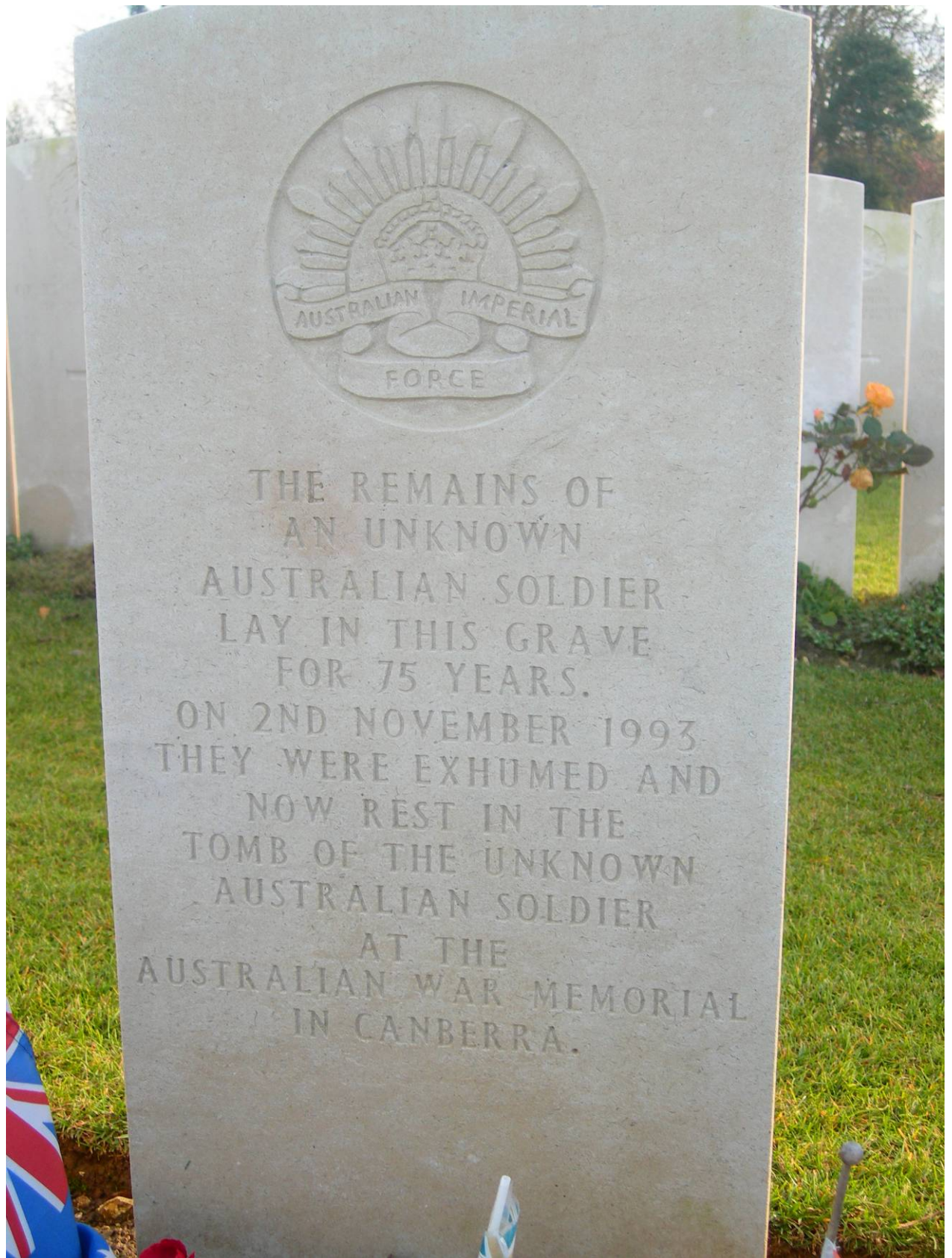
The Adelaide Cemetery



Cross of Remembrance at Adelaide Cemetery

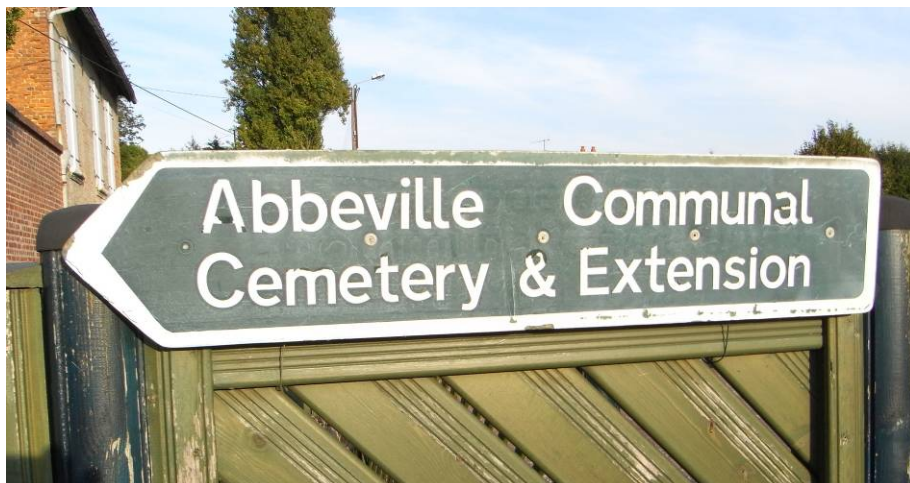


View from the Adelaide Cemetery of Fields



Gravestone of the Unknown Australian Soldier now interred at Australian War Memorial in Canberra

Abbeyville Communal Cemetery and Extension, Eric Terrell



This is the last cemetery that I will be visiting on this trip and Abbeyville is around a one hour drive from Villiers Bretonneux passing by the town of Amiens on the way. Eric Terrell is buried here.

For much of the First World War, Abbeyville was headquarters of the Commonwealth lines of communication and No 3 BRCS, No 5 and No 2 Stationary Hospitals were stationed there variously from October 1914 to January 1920.

The communal cemetery was used for burials from November 1914 to September 1916, the earliest being made among the French military graves. The Communal Cemetery contains 774 Commonwealth burials of First World War and 30 from the Second.

The extension was begun in September 1916 and contains 1,754 First World War burials and 348 from the Second.

I arrived at Abbeyville at dusk after the long detour back to northern France to visit Fromelles and the V.C. Corner Cemetery. I was many hours behind my planned schedule and after here it was a very long 600km drive to Clermont Ferrand in southern France via Paris.

Eric Terrell enlisted for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) on the 11th February 1916 in Adelaide. His Regimental number was 14522 and he joined the 14th Company of Field Engineers, for the term of the war. His parents were Frederick and Elizabeth Terrell and they were living at Largs Bay when Eric enlisted but moved to Cherry Gardens in 1916. Eric had just turned 20 years of age when he enlisted and was a brown-haired, blue-eyed young man with a "fresh" complexion whose occupation was a carpenter. He was just under 5ft 4ins tall and weighed 120lbs. Because of his age Eric's Father had to write and give permission for Eric to enlist. On his medical history it was noted that Eric had good eyesight and just the one vaccination scar on his left arm. His teeth were in good condition with just one cavity that needed filling. Eric's religious denomination was Wesleyan.



Eric Terrell's enlistment photo

Eric embarked for the war on 11th July 1916 on the Vestalia out of Sydney arriving in Plymouth, England, on 9th September 1916. He remained in England until the 27th January 1917 when he proceeded overseas to France on the S.S. Princess Victoria disembarking at Estaples. He was taken on strength on the 11th February 1917 and was sent to the front and spent the rest of his time in France. He was promoted to Lieutenant Corporal on the 6th October 1917 while in the field. He had some leave in England during February 1918 and then returned to France a couple of weeks later.

Eric had prepared his last will and testament on 4th June 1917 naming his mother as sole benefactor.

He was admitted to the 5th General Hospital on 25th September 1918 with Myalgia, being muscle pain that can be a result of over use of muscles or the result of a viral infection. He was discharged a week later and went back to his unit but on the 17th October 1918 he was readmitted to the 3rd Army General Hospital in Abbeyville, France, with Bronchial Pneumonia. He died from this illness (or from Spanish Flu as his family was told) on 29th October 1918 just 12 days before the armistice was declared and peace came to France. Eric had been in serving in France for just over two and half years.

Eric's only personal effects were a leather wallet, post cards, some photos, a YMCA wallet, Xmas cards, a note book, a badge, a pair of scissors, 2 devotional books and 75 cents and these were returned to his parents back in Australia.

Eric is buried in France at the Abbeyville Communal Cemetery Extension Plot 4, Row K, Grave 23. On the headstone is the inscription "The Lord Gave and The Lord Hath Taken Away.

Eric's older brother, Frederick Leopold Terrell, also fought during WW1. He was already in the navy when war was declared and he was sent to Gallipoli. Frederick kept diaries during the war and wrote a number of letters and notes that are now kept at the Mortlock Library in Adelaide.



Eric Terrell while on service in France



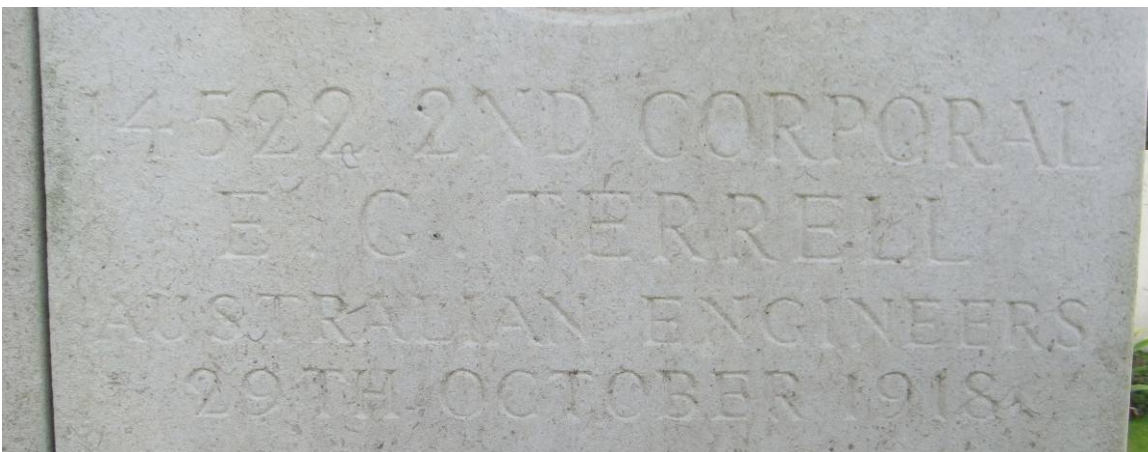
Frederick Leopold Terrell



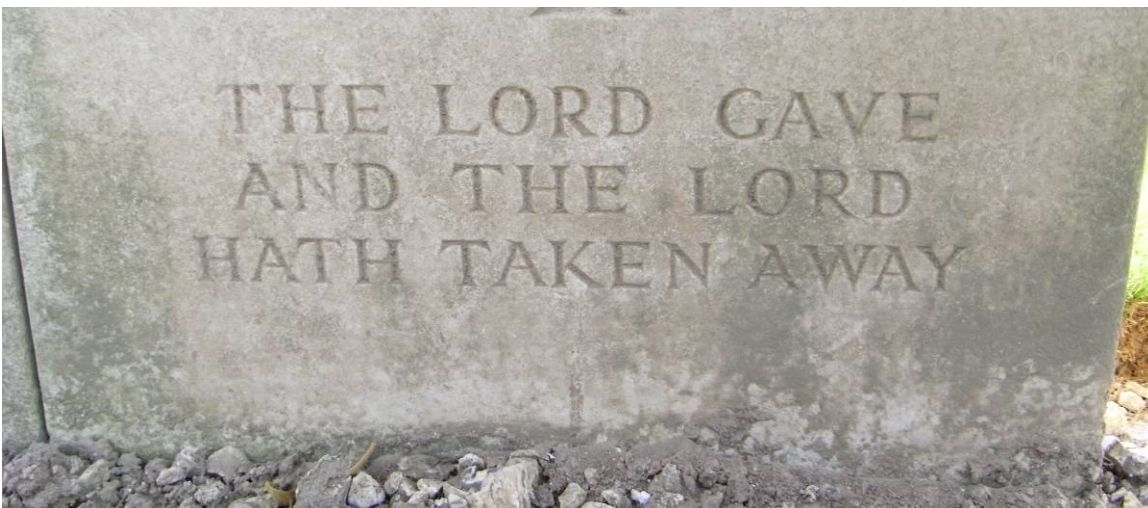
Aerial view of the Abbeyville Cemetery



The Abbeyville Communal Extension Cemetery



Eric Terrell Headstone



Eric Terrell Headstone Inscription



Eric Terrell Headstone

Personal Reflections

It is a fine day with clear blue skies and I am on the French coast at a small seaside village called Etretat. From where I am standing I can hear the ocean pounding on the coast and the birds chirping but I am lost in thoughts of nearly a hundred years ago.

I am standing in a cemetery surrounded by hundreds of granite headstones erected by the Commonwealth Graves Commission many years after the end of World War 1. In front of me is the grave site of Clifford Jacobs a Cherry Gardens man who travelled to the other side of the world, served in the trenches of the Western Front for just over 2 years, got wounded 4 times and eventually succumbed to a gun shot wound to his abdomen. He was buried here in September 1918.

Clifford is one of the 13 men from Cherry Gardens that answered the call to duty during WW1 and paid the ultimate sacrifice, never to return to their homes and family. A total of 48 men enlisted from the Cherry Gardens district and in all there were 11 families where more than one of their men joined up and although not all the men were still living in Cherry Gardens when they enlisted the effect on the community must have been devastating.

I am here in France on somewhat of a personal pilgrimage to visit the graves of all the Cherry Gardens men. I cannot fully explain why this is important to me but I feel very much drawn to see for myself where these men fought and died and were eventually buried. My Grandfather fought here in one of the battalions that also had men from Cherry Gardens but I did not know about this until many years after he died and even now I can hardly visualize the quiet and unassuming elderly man who spent most of his spare time reading books, as a young man in the trenches of the Western Front.

Over the next few days I find myself in 11 different cemeteries. In outward appearance they are all very similar. Hundreds of white granite headstones all in orderly lines, immaculately manicured gardens, a cross of remembrance and nearly always in the middle of nowhere, in freshly ploughed fields and totally flat ground. In preparing for this trip I had researched each man, identified where they were buried and now I am here!

Each man and each grave had a story to tell. There were men of all ages and they came from all corners of the Commonwealth. They fought together, side by side in their platoons and battalions and many, many divisions on seemingly impossible battles that went for years and appeared to make no progress. It must have been an impossibly long and testing time. During the long cold winter and wet months the whole place was just mud everywhere. They walked, fought, slept and died in the mud and I can see even now how miserable this must have been. With the coming of spring there was always an offensive they had to endure.

So many men died in their first battle on the front line and this is how it was for some of the Cherry Gardens men. Others managed to survive for

years but then with only days remaining until the armistice their time was up. The day to day uncertainty must have had a profound effect on all these men. They were away from the families and loved ones for years and no chance of a phone call, only a letter or small gift that had taken months to arrive to remind them of those back home.

I felt for the families of these men, the waiting and longing they had to endure. In some cases it took many months before loved ones could even get confirmation that their sons and brothers had died. For thousands of men their body was never found or identified so it took a number of months of missing in action before they could be reported as killed in action. Communication was woeful back then and for us now where we can share photos and emails almost instantly all round the world it is hard to envisage what it must have been like for the men at the front line and those back in Australia.

The men of Cherry Gardens fought and died along the full length of the Western Front, from Belgium to Amiens near Paris and were a part of so many of the battles that we now recognize such as Fromelles, Messines, Polygon Wood and of course Villiers Bretonneau.

In this part of France you cannot drive more than a few miles without coming across another war time cemetery and this just reinforces the feelings of despair at the waste of so many lives as a result of this war.

For me the most emotional part of the journey came when I visited the V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery at Fromelles. At this cemetery there are no gravestones. On the ground there are 2 large crosses and beneath these crosses are buried 410 unknown Australian men who died in the massacre of the Battle of Fromelles on July 19/20th 1916. In this battle two Cherry Gardens men, brothers Archie and Raymond Choat were killed. Raymond's body was never found and Archie is buried at the nearby Rue-Petillion cemetery. Their brother Wesley got cut off behind the front line and was taken prisoner of war. He eventually escaped through Holland back to England and following a lot of canvassing from family back in Australia was returned to Australia rather than going back to the front line. For these 3 men this battle was their baptism of fire on the front line and they had been in France for less than 1 month.

The V.C. Corner Cemetery has a wall that lists the names of 1,294 Australian soldiers that died in this battle and have no known grave. Raymond Choat is remembered on this wall. A stones throw away is the "Cobber" memorial that commemorates the courage of the survivors of the battle that then spent the next 3 days rescuing around 240 wounded soldiers trapped in no-man's-land between the Australian and German lines.

The most impressive cemetery and memorial I visited was the Australian War Memorial at Villiers Bretonneau. In addition to there being graves for 887 Australians here, on the walls of the memorial are listed the names of 10,797 Australian soldiers who died in action but have no known grave and it is on these walls that two more Cherry Gardens men are remembered, Jesse Strange and James Brealey.

Even now I am unsure of how best to describe my feelings of this visit to the fields of France and Belgium. While I achieved my goal of visiting each of the Cherry Gardens soldier's graves it just does not feel like that is enough. I want to know more, I want to explore more and get a better feeling for what these men and all the other Australian soldiers experienced.

Maybe only the locals can really understand and feel the admiration and thankfulness for what our men did all those years ago. How different the world might be if all these men did not give so much of themselves and travel across the seas to a foreign land to fight for "king and country". The French locals know all about the "Australie" men and welcome us as visitors now. They seem to understand why more and more of us come to visit and give thanks and I think for me I am drawn to go back again one day and spend more time there.

Maybe you too can give thanks for what these men gave so that we can still be free and have such a great life here in Cherry Gardens and always remember them on ANZAC day!

[Cherry Gardens Soldiers: Those that served and returned.](#)

A total of 48 Cherry Garden's residents (or those that were born in Cherry Gardens) enlisted to serve for WWI. 13 men paid the ultimate sacrifice during their service to our country and I have just reflected on them in this book. 3 Cherry Gardens men served at Gallipoli. There was one woman that enlisted as a nurse and cared for injured soldiers from Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

There were many men from the same families whether they were brothers, cousins or uncles. The impact on this farming district of so many young men leaving for what in many cases was years of service must have been immense.

Here I reflect on each of these peoples service to Australia.

Darcy James Cox was a 24 year old Farmer when he enlisted in August 1914. He served with the 3rd Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli for 7 months from May 1915. The 3rd Light Horse then fought in Egypt, Sinai, Palestine and Jordan in the battles of Romani, Gaza, and the fall of Jerusalem and Jerico. The 3rd Light Horse took part in the famous Charge of the Light Horse at Beersheba. Darcy served for 4 ½ years and arrived back in Australia in February 1919.

Eric Robertson Cox was a 22 year old Labourer when he enlisted in July 1915. He also served with the 3rd Light Horse Regiment from December 1915 until the end of the war. He would have served alongside Darcy.

Sidney Brealey was a 31 year old Labourer when he enlisted in August 1915. He served in France with the 28th Battalion from March 1916 until 1918 when he suffered heart problems and returned to Australia shortly after the end of the war.

Frederick George Matthews was 34 years old when he enlisted. No other details have been found regarding his service.

Leyland Keith Broadbent was an 18 year old Labourer when he enlisted in July 1916. He served in France with the 48th Battalion from February 1917 and was wounded twice but recovered both times and served in France until the end of the war.



Lindsay Reginald Broadbent was a 24 year old Farmer when he enlisted in August 1915. He arrived on the Western front in April 1916 with the 27th Battalion and was injured twice during his service. The second time he suffered serious and permanent leg injuries and was discharged in November 1917 back to Australia.



Marshal Broadbent was a Miner and 27 when he enlisted in February 1916. He arrived in France in September 1916 and served with the 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company until April 1918 when he was gassed and hospitalised. He returned to his unit in early May and served in France until the end of the war.

Rowland Broadbent was 35 and a Clergyman when he enlisted in February 1916. His unit was the 11th Field Ambulance and they arrived in France in August 1916 and he served there until being wounded in May 1918. He suffered burns and was gassed and as a result of this he was unable to return to his unit. He returned to Australia after the end of the war with general disabilities.



Bertie Brumby was 23 and a Stone Mason when he enlisted in July 1915. He embarked with the 10th Battalion however transferred to the 27th Battalion and was held in reserve in Egypt until March 1916 when they were sent to France. In June 1916 Bertie was shot and severely wounded. Following many months in hospital in England he was discharged back to Australia in early 1917.

Ernest William Burpee was 24 years old and a Farmer when he enlisted in August 1915. He was in the 53rd Battalion and they were held in reserve in Egypt until June 1916 and then sent to France. He served in France until July 1917 when he suffered Shell Shock which resulted in Bertie being repatriated to Australia in September 1917.

Percie Gent was a 24 year old School Teacher when he enlisted in January 1916. His Battalion was the 5th Pioneer's and they were held in England until November 1916 when they transferred to France. He remained in France until September 1918 when he was shot in the knee. He was still in hospital when the war ended and he returned to Australia in early 1919.

Monomy Clem Hill was a 20 year old Labourer when he enlisted in August 1915. He was in the 10th Infantry Battalion and served in France from April 1916. He was wounded twice in action and was discharged as a result of his injuries in February 1918 to return to Australia.

Ernest George Hobbs was a 23 year old Labourer when he enlisted in June 1915. He served in the 16th Infantry Battalion and spent around one month at Gallipoli prior to the withdrawal. The Battalion then proceeded to France where Ernest was severely wounded by a gunshot to his face. He spent time in England recuperating and returned to his unit in December where he spent the rest of the war training other soldiers.

Flinders Hobbs was a 26 year old Gardener when he enlisted in September 1916. His unit was the 10th Infantry Battalion however he suffered severe Rheumatism while preparing to embark to France and was unable to join his unit. He remained in England until returning to Australia in 1919.

Aubrey Robert Hughes was a 23 year old Farmer when he enlisted in March 1917. He joined the 11th Battalion and embarked for England in August then on to France in January 1918. He was wounded twice by gunfire, the first time in May and then again in September. He recovered both times and returned to Australia early in 1919.

Hal Jacobs was a 21 year old Labourer when he enlisted in March 1916. He joined the 43rd Battalion and arrived in France in November. He had served in France for around 7 months when he sustained a serious gunshot wound to his right leg. As a result of this injury he was unable to continue his service and returned to Australia in August 1917.

Lawrence Stephen Joyce was a 19 year old Farm Labourer when he enlisted in September 1915. He joined the 48th Battalion and arrived in France in March 1916. He was wounded in the chest in July 1916 and returned to England to recuperate until December when he returned to his Battalion in France. He was readmitted to a hospital in France and in May he returned to England until November 1917 when he returned to Australia.

Harold Roy Ledgard was an 18 year old Gardener when he enlisted in February 1916. He embarked to England with the 43rd Battalion in June and then arrived in France in November 1916. He was wounded with gunshots to his thigh and arm in July 1917 and returned to England to recuperate. In February 1918 he re-joined his unit however he was wounded again in April and did not return to the front line. He arrived back in Australia in June 1919.

Lawrence Robert Lewis was a 27 year old Clerk when he enlisted in September 1916. He joined the 28th Battalion and arrived in France in November 1917. He served in France until the end of the war and returned to Australia in late 1919.



George Calloway Mildwaters was a 37 year old Farmer when he enlisted in August 1917. He joined the 10th Battalion and arrived in France at the beginning of April 1918. He was at the front for less than 1 month when he was shot in the left leg and broke his femur. He was unable to return to his Battalion before the end of the war and arrived back in Australia in May 1919.

Harold Ivy Nicolle was a 24 year old Farmer when he enlisted in September 1915. He proceeded to Egypt where he joined the 104th Battalion that embarked to France in March 1916. He suffered a chest wound in September 1916 and then a gunshot wound to his left leg in October 1917. While he recovered from his wounds he caught pneumonia and ended up with chronic bronchitis and was sent back to Australia in August 1918.



Harris Mortimer Nicolle was a 23 year old Driver when he enlisted in November 1915. He was sent to Egypt and remained there for the term of the war in the 1st Remount Unit. He was injured in early 1919 while playing football with some mates and suffered a serious concussion. He arrived back in Australia in April 1919.



Alexander Fife was a 26 year old Porter with the SA Railways when he enlisted in August 1915. He served in the 11th Field Ambulance in Egypt and France for just over 3 years returning to Australia in May 1919.

Melville Henry Paddick was a 19 year old Labourer when he enlisted in September 1914. He joined the 3rd Light Horse and embarked in December. He served at Gallipoli from May 9th until being seriously wounded in July 1915. After recuperating he rejoined his unit in Egypt later in the year and then fought in Egypt, Sinai, Palestine and Jordan in the battles of Romani, Gaza, Beersheba and the fall of Jerusalem and Jerico. He arrived back in Australia in January 1919.

Clifton George Paddick was a 22 year old Gardener when he enlisted in August 1915. He embarked in December with the ANZAC Police which was part of the 10th Battalion however was transferred to the 32nd Battalion and served in France from October 1916 until August 1918 when he was shot in the arm. He returned to Australia in May 1919.

Percy James Scroop was a 19 year old farmer when he enlisted in January 1915. He joined the 4th Light Horse and served in Egypt and France until the end of the war returning to Australia in March 1919.

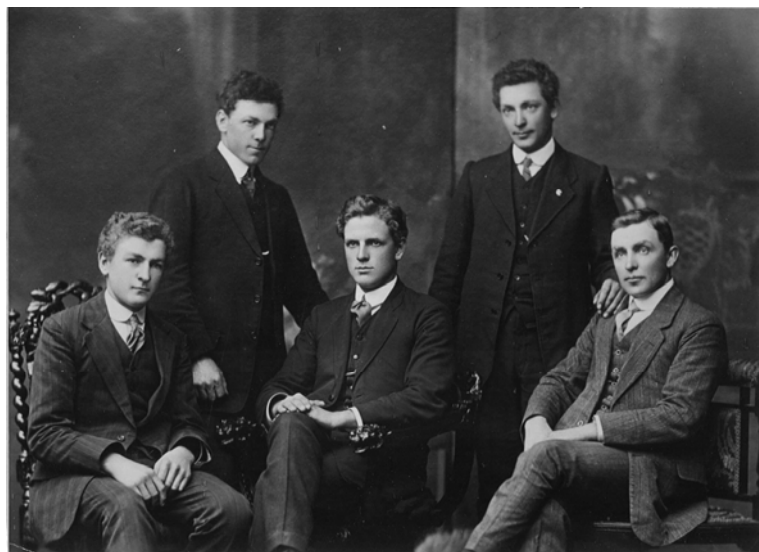
Edwin Stanway was a 24 year old farmer when he enlisted in October 1916. He joined the 9th Light Horse and served in Egypt until the end of the war. He returned to Australia in August 1919.

Walter James Scroop was a 32 year old farmer when he enlisted in April 1917. He joined the 9th Light Horse and although he had a recurring knee injury he was able to serve in France until the end of the war and returned to Australia in April 1919.

Albert Henry Scroop was a 31 year old farmer when he enlisted in August 1915. He joined the 21st Battalion and arrived in Egypt in December however he contracted influenza and ended up returning to Australia to recuperate. In September 1916 he returned to England and joined the 8th Battalion in early 1917 in France. He suffered Trench Fever late in 1917 however he served the remainder of the war in France returning to Australia in May 1919.

Arthur Thomas Strange was a 21 year old student when he enlisted in May 1915. He served for just over 4 years by supporting injured soldiers being transported by hospital ships between Egypt, France and Australia.

George John Strange was a 20 year old Theology student when he enlisted in March 1916. He joined the 3rd Field Ambulance in England. He embarked for France and was wounded in October 1917 only 4 days after arriving at the front, recovered and continued to serve until the end of the war. He returned to Australia in June 1919.



The 5 Strange Brothers from Cherry Gardens

Raymond Lewis Thorpe was a 19 year old farmer when he enlisted in August 1917. He joined the 10th Battalion and arrived in England in late December. He served in France until the end of the war and returned to Australia in September 1919.

William Stewart Donnell was a 23 year old Bank Clerk when he enlisted in September 1918. He arrived in England 6 days after the end of the war.

Anne Donnell was a 39 year old nurse when she enlisted in May 1915. She was one of the first nurses from South Australia to offer to work as a nursing sister for the Australian Army Nursing Services and was accepted into the new unit No. 3 Australian General Hospital. She embarked almost immediately and arrived in Egypt and then Lemnos where she cared for the soldiers wounded at Gallipoli. Following the evacuation of Gallipoli she went to Abbassia in Egypt then for the remainder of the war she served in France. She was discharged in May 1919.



Anne Donnell kept detailed diaries of her time during the war and took a lot of photos. One of her diary entries reflects on the first ANZAC Day service in Cairo, Egypt on 25th April 1916:

The First Anzac Day

I went with several others to a Memorial Service that was held in the Anzac Hostel in Cairo, conducted by the Bishop of Jerusalem. The large auditorium was packed. The walls were a mass of flowers grouped in wreaths and crosses, and the Allies' flags hung around. The sacred music was beautifully rendered by the orchestra - the Dead March in Saul, the Last Post, and Hymns. The Bishop gave a short address and other Chaplains spoke a few words. Then cables were read from Australia and elsewhere, and we knew your thoughts would be over this way. One of the replies concluded with this verse from the Recessional Hymn: -

*God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine –
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget – lest we forget!*

*I glanced up at the gallery and saw one young laddie in khaki quite overcome - yet, sad as it all was, one came away with the feeling of being drawn much nearer to those who had given their lives twelve months ago, and that they were the richer by far, and that **their deeds will live and be a lesson for all time.***

A procession to the Cairo Cemetery followed, when the flowers were taken and placed on the graves of our heroes.

THE LATE CAPTAIN J. A. W. KAYSER.

Julius Augustus Wilhelm Kayser was the School Master at Cherry Gardens School prior to the War and enlisted on the 28th August 1914.

Captain 'J. A. W. Kayser was killed in action in France on 16th February 1917. He was 37 years of age and was one of the first men in South Australia to offer his services.

He was one of the famous 10th but just prior to leaving was sent as an officer with the Tasmanian (12th) Battalion, which also took part in the landing at Gallipoli. He was wounded, but returned to duty and later went with the Australians to France. There he was again wounded and had a nervous breakdown.

He returned on furlough to his home, but went back in March and once more entered the trenches in France. In the tight at Pozieres he was wounded and was sent to hospital in England to recover. When convalescent he again returned to duty and had been in the fighting line about a month when he was killed. He is buried at the Warlencourt British Cemetery, France.

He was a native of South Australia, took much interest in military affairs, and was a school teacher by profession. He left a widow and three children.



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