

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

C. H. MORLEY

AUST. ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

13TH APRIL, 1919 Age 36

He Followed The Path Of Duty

And Gave His Life For All

Charles Henry MORLEY

Charles Henry Morley was born at Strathbogie, Victoria on 1st March, 1883 to parents James & Mary Ann Morley (nee Johnston). (Note: His date of birth was listed on his Attestation papers as 1st March, 1883, while some other sources have his date of birth as 2nd March, 1883)

Mary Ann Morley, mother of Charles Henry Morley, died on 19th September, 1897 at Euroa, Victoria.

"Charlie" Morley was an Australian Rules footballer who played with Essendon in the Victorian Football League (VFL).

Football

Born and educated in Strathbogie, Victoria, Morley later made his way to Sydney, where he played for the Paddington Football Club. While at Paddington he was held in high regard, described along with a teammate as "one of the two finest ruck-players in NSW".

Morley, a half-back flanker with Essendon, played three VFL games, all in the 1906 VFL season. Each of his appearance were in East Melbourne, the first a seven-point loss to South Melbourne in the opening round. He next played in round three, when Essendon defeated Melbourne by 34 points and his final appearance, in round 11, was also in a win, over St Kilda.

(Information from Wikipedia)

Charles Henry Morley was a 32 year old, single, Salesman from Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 7th June, 1915 in Brisbane, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Morley, of Strathbogie, Victoria. Charles Morley stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served in his Majesty's Army & was still serving in R.A.G.A. for 13 10/12 years.

Gunner Charles Henry Morley joined Siege Brigade, A.I.F. on 7th June, 1915. He was promoted to B.S.M. (Battery Sergeant Major) on 7th June, 1915.

Battery Sergeant Major Charles Henry Morley, Service number 28, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orsova (A67)* on 17th July, 1915 with the Siege Artillery Brigade.

Battery Sergeant Major Charles Henry Morley was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 1st October, 1915 & was posted to 55th Battery at Lydd.

2nd Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was promoted to Lieutenant on 1st January, 1916 while posted in France. (date as per Casualty Form – Active Service, however the Record of Officers' Services form recorded he was promoted to Lieutenant on 1st July, 1916).

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley disembarked at Boulogne, France on 27th February, 1916 (as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service)

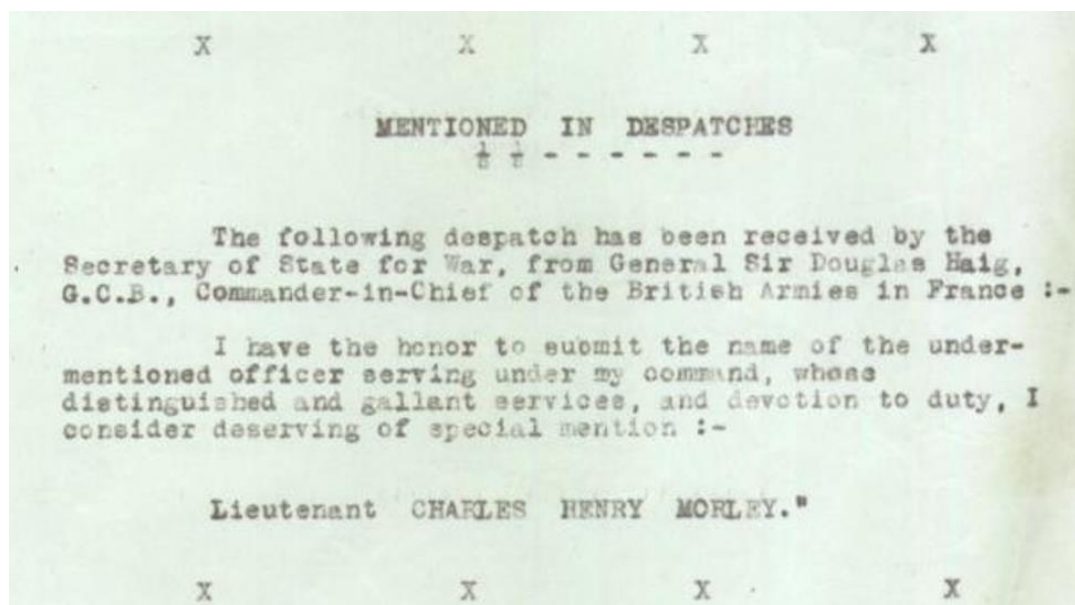
Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was granted short Leave to England on 26th November, 1916 & rejoined 55th Battery in the Field from Leave on 10th December, 1916.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was "*transferred to the new Battery to be formed*" on 13th December, 1916 (Vide A.I.F. Orders List No. 126). He was transferred to England on 13th December, 1916 to join 3rd Australian Siege Brigade. Lieutenant Morley was taken on strength on 14th December, 1916 with 338 Australian Siege Battery at Stowlangtoft, Suffolk, England.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was marched in to R.A.A.- 36th Heavy Artillery Group in England from overseas on 23rd December, 1916.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was mentioned in Despatches by General Sir Douglas Haig for "*Gallant and distinguished services in the field.*" (*London Gazette* – 4 January, 1917 page 254 & *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 29 June, 1917 page 1391)

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Morley, Snr, Strathbogrie, Victoria on 6th July, 1917, enclosing a copy of extract from "the London Gazette date 2nd January, 1917 relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, Lieutenant C. H. Morley, 36th (Australian) Heavy Artillery Brigade....."



Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 12th July, 1917. He was absorbed on strength of 55th Siege Battery, RGA on 21st July, 1917 from 338 Battery. (the Record of Officers' Services form recorded he was transferred from 338 Siege Battery on 21st July, 1917 to 36th H.A. Group).

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was seconded to Command of 36 H.A.G. (Heavy Artillery Group) Signal sub section on 1st October, 1917 & posted to command 36 H.A.G. Signal sub Section (A.I.F. List No. 246). Lieutenant Morley was posted to 36 H.A.G. & to be O.C. 36 H.A.G. Signal sub section. He was on Command at Senior course at Staff School, Cambridge (A.I.F. List 244).

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was on Command I. O. O. Course in England from 9th December, 1917. He reported on 11th December, 1917 to Ordnance College, Woolwich, England for a course.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was admitted to Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, London, England on 4th January, 1918 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was discharged & rejoined his Unit on 10th January, 1918.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley proceeded to A.D.O.S. Northern Command on 2nd May, 1918 for practical instruction in duties of Australian Inspecting Ordnance Officer.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was on Leave from 18th June, 1918 until 26th June, 1918 & was then to report to A.D.O.S. Australian Corps.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 27th June, 1918 & was taken on strength of A.D.O.S. Headquarters Australian Corps for duty. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France on 28th June, 1918.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was admitted to 2nd General Hospital at Havre, France on 29th June, 1918 – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was discharged to A.G.B.D. on 6th July, 1918 & was marched in to A.G.B.D. on the same day. Lieutenant Morley was marched out from A.G. B.D. on 9th July, 1918 & was attached for duty with A.D.O.S. Australian Corps on 11th July, 1918. He reported to 2nd Australian Ammunition Unit for duty on 19th July, 1918.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley proceeded to No. 15 Ord. Depot for Temporary Duty on 30th October, 1918. He was marched out from 4 O.R.P. on 13th November, 1918 for duty at 4th Ord. Repair Factory.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley proceeded on Leave to UK from 27th December, 1918 until 11th January, 1919.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley commenced attachment to High Commissioner, Australia House on 11th January, 1919.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was selected for training in Australian Inspection & proof work in England & his services were placed at disposal of Lieutenant Colonel H. B. L. Gibbs, R.A.G.A. from 27th January, 1919.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley died on 13th April, 1919 whilst being conveyed from his residence at 86 Little Heath, Old Charlton by Ambulance to Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, England (Cause not stated). Initially the cause of death was listed as Broncho Pneumonia then the following causes were listed:

- “13.4.19 Died of illness so Struck off Strength.
- Now reported Died of Syncope, due to Broncho Pneumonia consequent on Influenza C of E, 25450.
- C of E. 25450 (Classification. Died Natural Causes)”

Advice was sent to J. Morley. Esq., (Snr), Strathbogie, via Euroa, Victoria on 10th October, 1919 from Base Records advising that the late Lieutenant C. H. Morley, Army Ordnance Corps “...died from syncope, due to broncho pneumonia following influenza, on 13.4.19 whilst being conveyed by ambulance to Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, England, from residence, 86 Little Heath, Old Charlton.....” The letter continues with details regarding the burial of Lieutenant Morley.

A death for Charles H. Morley, aged 35, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Woolwich, London, England.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was buried on 19th April, 1919 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground – Grave No. 183 436 Section C.

From the burial report of Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley - *Coffin was good, Polished Elm, Brass fittings. The deceased officer was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and conveyed to the graveside surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- Miss Elliss, Jenks & Grace; Lieut Jones, W.O. & N.C.O.'s of No. 17 & 2 Australian Munitions, and "Evalyn." The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by Chap. L. G. H. Hall, of the A.I.F Headquarters, London. The grave will be turfed, and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives or Friend present at the Funeral: Capt Gipps, Capt Whittle, Lieut J. D. Jones, Major Lenick, Miss Broom, Mrs Flintock, Miss Donahue.

Base Records wrote to J. Morley, Esq., Strathbogie, via Euroa, Victoria on 4th April, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row E Grave 1.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. E. 1. Lieutenant C. H. Morley now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley contains a request from the Red Cross to Lieutenant Jones, 86 Little Heath, Old Charlton, on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain details of the illness, death & burial of Pte Charles Henry Morley, Australian Army Ordnance Corps.

- A reply was received from S. Donaghue, 86 Little Heath, Charlton which reads: “Lt. Morley and Lt. Jones boarded with us, the latter sailed for Australia about 2 months ago. Re Lt. Morley's death. Mr Morley complained of his head for about a week, had a cold or Flu but would not see a doctor. He was eating well, and on the 13th he had a good hearty meal also tea which he had served with a lady friend of his. At about 5.45 pm he suddenly fell off the chair in a fit. Medical Aid and Military Ambulance was sent for, he had six fits one after the other, he never regained conscience, he was breathing his last as they were removing him. I wrote to his Father and gave him full details of the case also forwarding cutting of paper with Inquest report. He was buried by the Aust. Head Qrs. London in the Aust. Burial ground.”

Mrs W. J. Morley, Boisdale, wrote to Base Records on 15th June, 1916 with the following: "Two months ago we received a cable from England saying my brother in law Lieutenant C. H. Morley No 338 Siege Army Brigade had died while being conveyed by ambulance to the Hospital Woolwich 13th April. Can you tell us any particulars – cause of death etc. I would be so glad if you could."

Base Records replied to Mrs W. J. Morley, Boisdale, Victoria on 18th June, 1919 advising: "...the only information yet available is the brief advice – died of broncho pneumonia on 13/4/19, whilst being conveyed by ambulance to Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. It is anticipated however, that official documents coming to hand by mail will contain fuller details which will be promptly transmitted to next-of-kin, and available to any enquirer."

Miss M. Warren, 225 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 14th October, 1919 asking for any information regarding the Will of the late Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley & "... died in England (of pneumonia) on 13th April, 1919."

Base Records replied to Miss M. Warren on 20th October, 1919, advising her to "...communicate with Mr E. C. March, State School, Horsham, Victoria, who is Executor named in the Will."

Charles Henry Morley requested in his Will dated 13th July, 1915:

*Non-State School
Horsham*

*RUB.
23/9/19.*

THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ME CHARLES HENRY MORLEY
of Domain Camp Saint Kilda Road Melbourne Siege Artillery - -
Brigade I APPOINT EDWIN CHARLES MARSH of Bellairs Avenue - -
Seddon near Melbourne State School Teacher the sole executor
of this my Will I GIVE to Miss ELLA TATE of 112 Inglis Street
Port Melbourne my Life Policy Mutual Citizens Life Company and
to my brother JAMES the sum of Twenty five pounds ALL THE REST
AND REMAINDER of my estate I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH the - -
same to my sister MARY ANN AVERY of Euroa for her own use and
benefit absolutely LASTLY REVOKING all other Wills I declare
this to be my last Will and Testament. IN WITNESS whereof I -
have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand this - -
thirteenth day of July One thousand nine hundred and fifteen.

C. H. MORLEY.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley, 55 Siege Battery advised that his Will was in the custody of Miss Ella Tate, 112 Inglis St, Port Melbourne.

The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd., Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 29th July, 1919 requesting the certificate of death & identification particulars for Lieutenant C. H. Morley, Siege Brigade.

Base Records replied to The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd., Sydney, NSW on 5th August, 1919 enclosing as requested a certificate of report of death of the late Lieutenant C. H. Morley, Army Ordnance Corps together with identification particulars.

The Australian Mutual Provident Society, Melbourne, Victoria wrote to Base Records on 24th December, 1919 requesting "...the Defence Department's Official Certificate of Death" for Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley (deceased).

Base Records replied to The Manager, Australian Mutual Provident Society on 2nd January, 1920 enclosing as requested a Certificate of report of death of the late Lieutenant C. H. Morley. Army Ordnance Corps.

An Inquiry was made to Base Records on 24th December, 1919 for a Death Certificate for Lieutenant C. H. Morley to be posted to Mr Marsh, 102 Normandy Road, South Melbourne.

Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lieutenant Morley's father – Mr J. Morley, Esq., as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley, aged 36, of Australian Army Ordnance Corps. He was the son of James & the late Mary Ann Morley, of Strathbogie, Victoria, Australia.

Lieutenant C. H. Morley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 184.

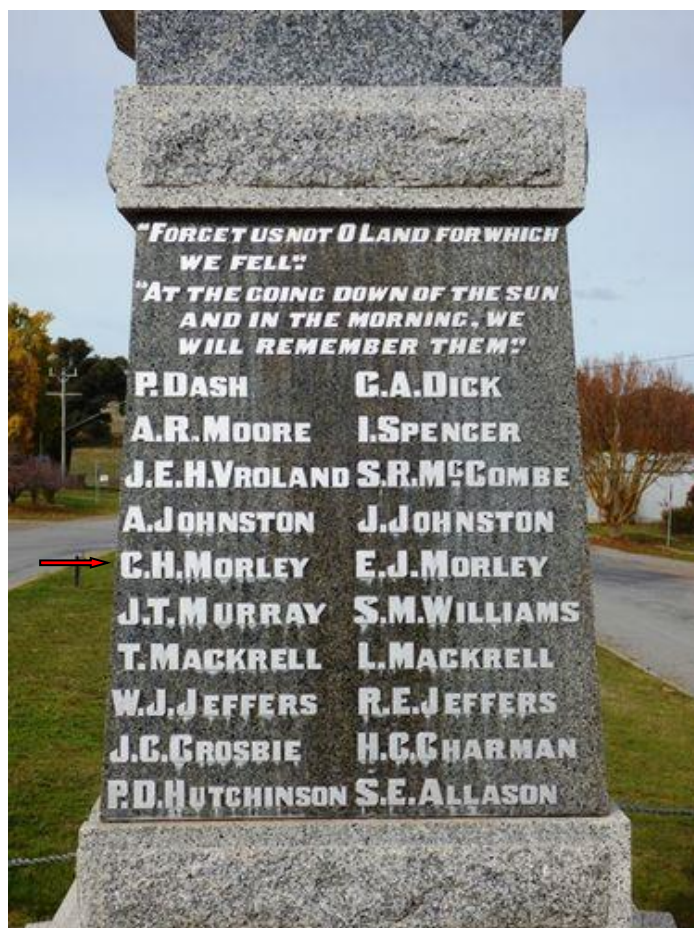


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. H. Morley is remembered on the Strathbogie War Memorial, located on median strip on Main Street, Strathbogie, Victoria.

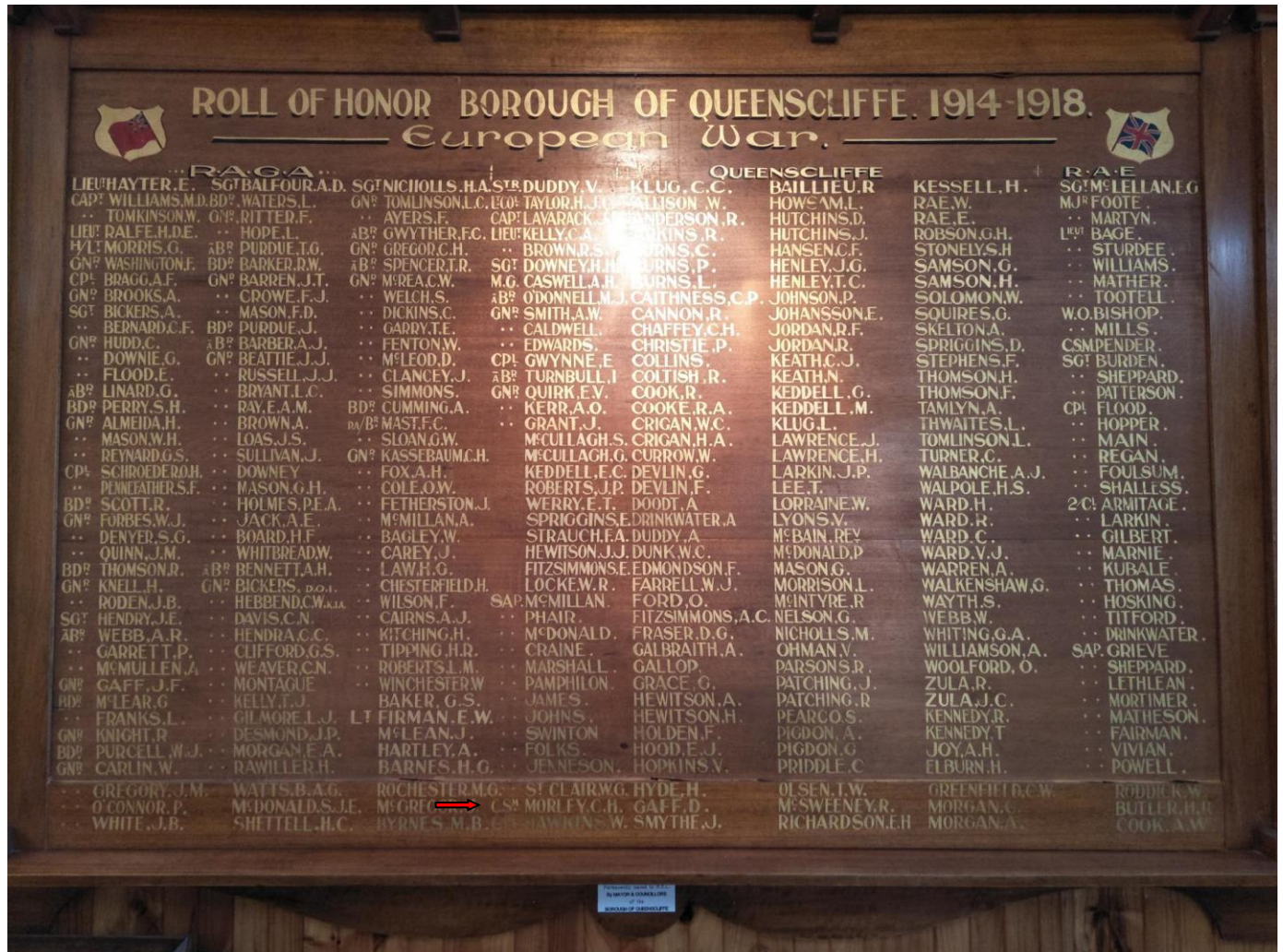


Strathbogie War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)



C. H. Morley is remembered on the Strathbogrie Honor Roll for First World War. (Location believed to be in Strathbogrie area – Victorian Heritage Database)

C. H. Morley is remembered on the Queenscliff Borough Honour Roll for First World War, located in Point Lonsdale RSL. 9 King Street, Queenscliff, Victoria.



Queenscliff Borough Honour Roll for First World War

(Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Graham J. Christie, J.P.)



Charlie Morley is remembered by Australian Football, having played 3 games in 1906 with Essendon V/AFL Club.



CHARLIE MORLEY

Advanced stats ▾

Club	League	Career span	Games	Goals	Avg	Win %	AKI	AHB	AMK	BV
Essendon	V/AFL	1906	3	0	0.00	67%	—	—	—	0
<i>Total</i>		<i>1906</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>67%</i>	—	—	—	<i>0</i>

(78 pages of Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



[Connected to Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley:](#)

Younger brother – Edwin Joseph Morley: Enlisted on 26th July, 1915 as a 30 year old, married Police Constable. He embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 18th November, 1915 on HMAT *Wiltshire* (A18) as Acting Corporal, 3190, 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

Sergeant Edwin Joseph Morley was killed in action in France on 19th July, 1916. Buried VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles, France.





Lieutenant Charles Henry Morley

(Photo from Find a Grave – Cobber)



Newspaper Notices

HONORS FOR STRATHBOGIE BOY

Mentioned in Despatches

“Gallant Service and Devotion to Duty”

Lieut. C. H. Morley, of the Australian artillery (brother of Messrs Alex. and Geo. Morley, Euroa) has been mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch for distinguished and gallant service and devotion to duty. The above gratifying intelligence was contained in a cable message to metropolitan papers on Tuesday. The members of this well known Strathbogie family have given Empire service both in the South African and European wars.

(Euroa Advertiser, Victoria – 23 March, 1917)

CHARLTON AND BLACKHEATH

AUSTRALIA OFFICER'S SUDDEN DEATH

Lieut. Charles Henry Morley, aged 36, Australian Army Ordnance Corps, who lived at 86, Little Health, Charlton, died suddenly on the 13th inst.; and at the inquest at Deptford on Thursday, the medical evidence showed that death was due to bronchial pneumonia, and a verdict of “Natural causes” was returned.

(The Kentish Independent and Kentish Mail, London, England – 25 April, 1919)

CHARLTON OFFICER'S DEATH

An inquest was held at Deptford on Thursday, on Lieut. Charles Hy, Morley, 36, Australian A.O.D., of 86, Little Health, Charlton.

Lieut Jones, of the same address, said deceased complained of cough and pains in the head. He returned from the front unwounded, in December last. On Sunday deceased was taken ill and died on the way to the Royal Herbert Hospital.

Miss Evelyn Broome, who was visiting deceased, said he seemed all right, but suddenly he turned right round on his chair and fell off.

Capt. Walker, R.A.M.C., said death was due to bronchial pneumonia, and a verdict accordingly was returned.

(West Kent Argus and Borough of Lewisham News, London, England – 25 April, 1919)

HONOR ROLL

On Thursday last Mr. C. H. Morley, of Strathbogie, received news of the death of his son as follows:— " Lieut. C. H. Morley died on the 13th inst. whilst being conveyed in an ambulance to the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. Investigation is to be made as to the cause". Deceased, who enlisted in Queensland, left with the famous siege brigade train. Lieut. Morley was recommended for his captaincy, and was awarded the D.C.M.

(Benalla Standard, Victoria – 2 May, 1919)

DEATHS

On Active Service

MORLEY – On the 13th April, at Woolwich, England, Lieutenant C. H. Morley, beloved son of James Morley, Strathbogie, and brother of Jim (Strathbogie), Alick (Euroa), Will (Boisdale), Bob (Alberton), the late Sergt. E. J. Morley (killed in action), George (Melbourne), the late Mrs Marsh, Mrs Avery (Kardella), Mrs Gould (Shepparton), aged 36 years.

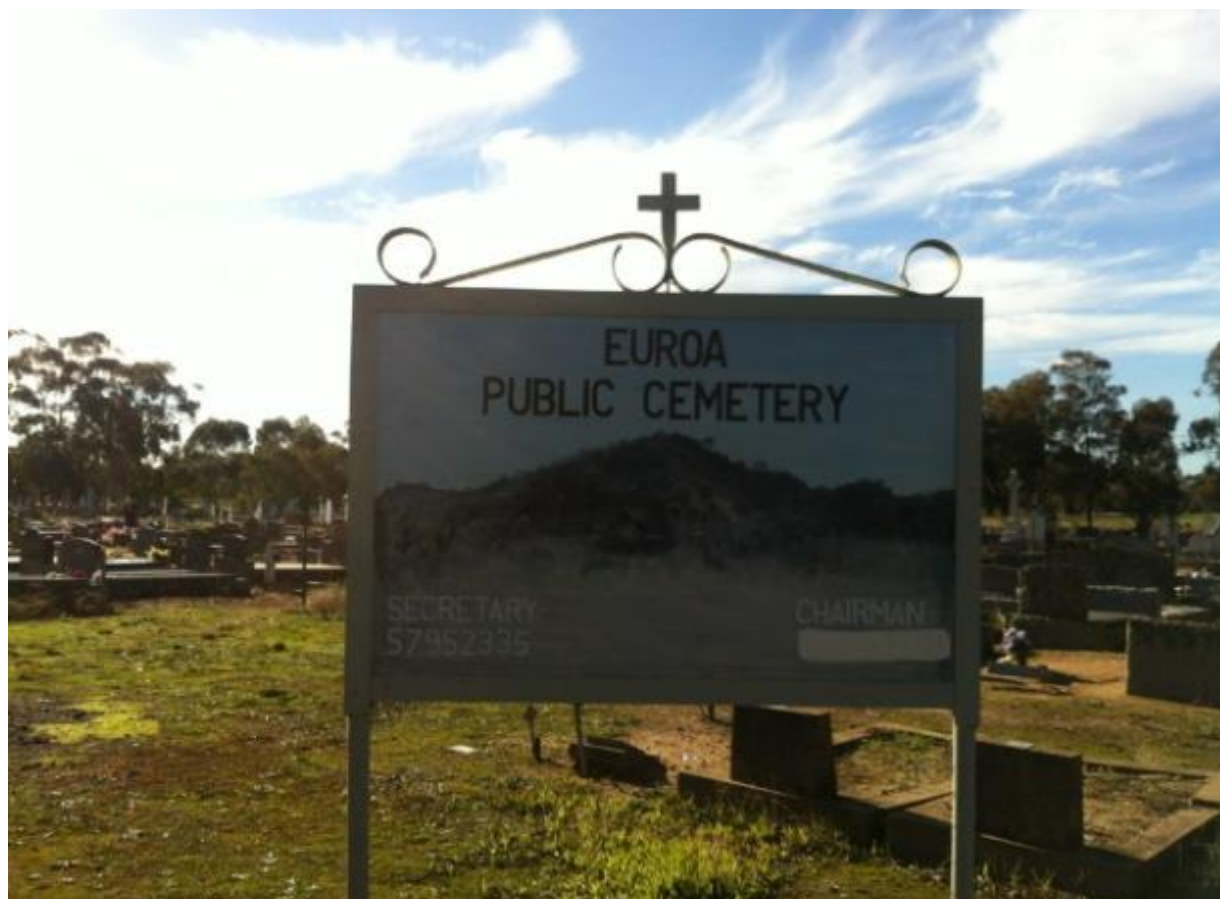
(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 May, 1919)

DIED ON SERVICE

MORLEY – On the 13th April, at Woolwich, England, Lieutenant C. H. Morley, beloved son of James Morley, Strathbogie, and brother of Jim (Strathbogie), Alick (Euroa), Will (Boisdale), Bob (Alberton), the late Sergt. E. J. Morley (killed in action), George (Melbourne), the late Mrs Marsh, Mrs Avery (Kardella), Mrs Gould (Shepparton), aged 36 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 May, 1919)

Charles H. Morley & his brother Edwin J. Morley are both remembered on their parents' headstone in Euroa Public Cemetery, Hume Freeway, Euroa, Victoria.





(Photos from BillionGraves)



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Base Records wrote to J. Morley Esq., (Senr), Strathbogie, via Euroa, Victoria on 22nd July, 1921, to advise that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Lieutenant C. H. Morley, Australian Army Ordnance Corps, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

A letter from Base Records, dated 9th August, 1921, to James Morley, Esq., Strathbogie, Victoria, advised “...*that the inscription furnished exceeds the limit imposed by the War Graves Commission, namely – 66 letters – each space between words to count an additional letter. I shall be obliged, therefore, if you will abbreviate same, or choose a shorter inscription.*”

Mr James Morley, Senior, Strathbogie, replied to Base Records on 16th August, 1921, advising another inscription “*He followed the path of duty and have his life for all.*” “*P.S. if this is more than the limit I will leave it in your hands to find a suitable inscription.*”

Lieutenant C. H. Morley does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Followed The Path Of Duty

And Gave His Life For All

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.

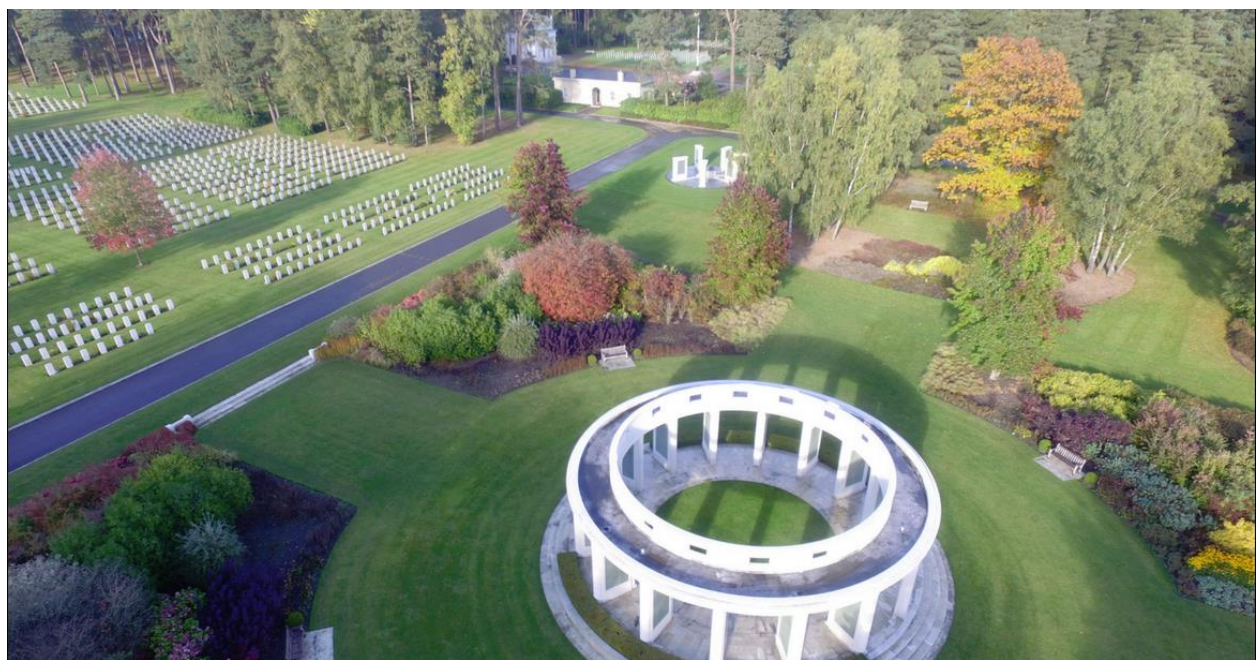


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918. Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)

Photo of Lieutenant C. H. Morley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

