

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5791 PRIVATE

CHARLES ADKINS

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH JUNE, 1917 Age 24

Charles ADKINS

Charles Adkins was born at Perth, Western Australia in 1892 to parents Charles Richard & Margaret (Maggie) Adkins (nee McManus).

Charles Adkins attended Perth Boys' School, Western Australia.

Charles Adkins was a 23 year old, single, Locomotive Fireman from West Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 18th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother (father deceased as stated on Attestation Papers) – Mrs Margaret Adkins, 170 Carr Street, West Perth, Western Australia.

Private Charles Adkins was posted to Depot 63 on 18th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 4th May, 1916.

Private Charles Adkins, Service number 5791, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suffolk (A23)* on 13th October, 1916 (as per Embarkation Roll on The Australian War Memorial website, however the Statement of Service form recorded he embarked from Fremantle on 10th October, 1916) with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd December, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Charles Adkins proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 28th December, 1916 on H.T. *Princess Clementine* from 7th Training Battalion. He was posted to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th December, 1916. Private Adkins proceeded from 2nd A.D.B.D. on 30th December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 28th Battalion in France on 27th January, 1917 from 16th Reinforcements.

Private Charles Adkins reported sick on 22nd February, 1917 & was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance with Diarrhoea. He was transferred on 22nd February, 1917 to 2nd D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) then on 25th February, 1917 he was transferred to 7th Field Ambulance D.R.S. Private Adkins was discharged to duty on 10th March, 1917 & rejoined 28th Battalion on the same day.

Private Charles Adkins was wounded in action in France on 26th April, 1917*. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 25th April, 1917* (*dates as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service) with G.S.W. to Head & Elbow. Private Adkins was transferred to (Ambulance) Train on 4th May, 1917 & was admitted to No. 13 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on the same day. He was transferred to England on 18th May, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew*.

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria.

....

For many of the major battles of 1917 the 28th found itself in supporting roles. At the second battle of Bullecourt, the 28th provided reinforcements who were nonetheless involved in heavy fighting.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 28th Battalion:

19 – 22 April, 1917 - *In the line 2 Coys with 2 Coys in Support*

23/4/17 – *Relieved by 8th Batt. And relieved to Support in Sunken Roads NOREIL-LAGNICOURT*

23 – 30 – *In Support*

DEPARTURES

<i>Killed</i>		2
<i>Wounded</i>	2	13
<i>Transferred Out</i>	1	3
	<i>Officers 3</i>	<i>18 OR</i>

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mrs Adkins, 170 Carr Street, Perth, Western Australia, mother of Charles Adkins, was advised on 17th May, 1917 that Private Charles Adkins had been wounded.

Private Charles Adkins was admitted to Royal Herbert Hospital at Woolwich, England on 18th May, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to Head & left Arm. He was reported to be seriously ill. He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England on 22nd May, 1917.

Base Records advised Mrs Adkins on 21st May, 1917 that Private Charles Adkins had been admitted to Hospital on 7th May with a gunshot wound to Head & Elbow – severe. She was advised again on 23rd May, 1917 that Private Charles Adkins' condition was stationary.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Charles Adkins on 25th May, 1917 at No. 1 A.A.H. (Australian Auxiliary Hospital), Harefield, Middlesex. His disability was recorded as "G.S.W. Head Compound fracture occipital bone" which had occurred on 4th May, 1917 at Lagnicourt, France. "Wounded 4-5-17 in back & head. Operated upon at 3rd C.C.S. and foreign removed from occipital region of brain. Since admission 22-5-17 to No. 1 A.A.H. has shown signs and symptoms of increased intra-cranial pressure." The Officer in charge of the Medical case recommended that Private Adkins be discharged as permanently unfit. The Medical Board agreed on 29th May, 1917 & this was approved on 6th June, 1917 by Administrative Medical Officer, D.M.S. (Director Medical Services), A.I.F.

(**NOTE: The date of wounding in the Medical Report differs to that on the Casualty Form – Active Service)

Private Charles Adkins died at 2.30 pm on 5th June, 1917 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W Head & Cerebral Abscess.

The Registrar, Major, A.A.M.C. for No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Middlesex wrote the following memo on 5th June, 1917 regarding 5791 Private Charles Adkins, 28th Battalion, A.I.F. (Deceased): "With reference to attached Army Form B. 2090, the primary cause of this soldier's death was gun-shot wound of Occiput fracturing the skull. The wound was received in action at Lagnicourt, France, with the A.I.F. on 4th May 1917. Pte Adkins was also wounded in the left arm."

A death for Charles Adkins, aged 25, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private Charles Adkins was buried at 2.30 on 7th June, 1917 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number "~~No. 24~~ Grave No. 36".

From the burial report of Private Charles Adkins - Coffin was polished Elm. Brass mountings. Buried with Military Honours. It is proposed to erect a permanent memorial to each patient dying in this hospital, out of a fund raised for this purpose within the hospital.

Base Records advised Mrs M. Adkins, 170 Carr Street, Leederville, Western Australia on 19th April, 1920 regarding ".....the regrettable loss of your son the late No. 5791 Private C. Adkins, 28th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further

advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from grave No. 24, Parish Churchyard, Harefield, and reinterred in grave No. 36, in the Australian Section of the above Churchyard. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."

This is now recorded by CWGC as Plot number Aust. 36 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Charles Adkins contains a letter from Registrar, Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, which reads:

"With reference to your letter of 24th inst: I have to supply the following information – Pte Adkins died on 5.6.17, the primary cause being gunshot wound of head, and secondary – cerebral abscess. He was buried with full Military Honors at 2.30 pm on Thursday 7.6.17; Grave No. 24, Australian Section, Harefield Parish Churchyard; officiating clergyman Captain-Chaplain Gregg-MacGregor (Church of England), who is attached to this Unit.

The wound was received in action at Lagniecourt, France, with the A.I.F., on 4th May 1917. Pte Adkins was also wounded in the left arm. This soldier became very ill on 23.5.17, being semi-conscious and suffering great pain, for which he had to be given drugs from time to time. On 2nd June he was operated on, and remained unconscious until his death on the 5th.

Arrangements have been made whereby all the graves of Australian soldiers in the above church-yard will be turved and kept in order for many years to come, and Headstones are being erected to each grave – where such has not been done in other ways- out of funds subscribed to by the Staff and patients of this Hospital."

A Pension was granted to Margaret Adkins, 170 Carr Street, Leederville, mother of the late Private Charles Adkins, 5791, 28th Battalion in the sum of 40/- fortnightly granted from 10th August, 1917. A pension was also granted to Marjorie Olga Hulse, 170 Carr Street, Leederville, adopted child of the Private Charles Adkins, 5791, 28th Battalion in the sum of 20/- fortnightly granted from 28th July, 1917.

Margaret Adkins, 170 Carr Street, Leederville, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 5th September, 1917 *"....beg to make application for the official death certificate of my late son Private Charles Adkins, No. 5791, 16th Reinforcements 28th Battan, 7th Brigade, A.I.F....."*

Base Records replied to Mrs M. Adkins on 17th September, 1917 enclosing, as requested, a certificate of report of death of the late No. 5791, Private Charles Adkins, 28th Battalion.

Margaret Adkins, 170 Carr Street, Leederville, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 1st August, 1920 requesting a certified copy of the death certificate in respect of the death of Private Charles Adkins, 5791, 28th Battalion. *"Certificate is required in support of claim for balance to deceased's credit with the Commonwealth Savings Bank, Perth."*

Base Records replied to Mrs M. Adkins on 10th August, 1920 enclosing, as requested, a certificate of report of death of the late No. 5791 Private Charles Adkins, 28th Battalion.

Margaret Adkins, 170 Carr Street, Leederville, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 23rd September, 1920 requesting the *"certificate of report of death of my late son; Adkins, Charles. Pte No. 5791 28th Battn. This is required for support of claim on State Savings Bank."*

Base Records replied to Mrs M. Adkins on 2nd October, 1920 enclosing, as requested, a certificate of report of death of the late No. 5791 Private Charles Adkins, 28th Battalion.

Private Charles Adkins was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Adkins' mother – Mrs M. Adkins, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Adkins – service number 5791, aged 24, of 28th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles & Margaret Adkins, of 170 Carr St., Leederville, Western Australia.

Private C. Adkins is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 112.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



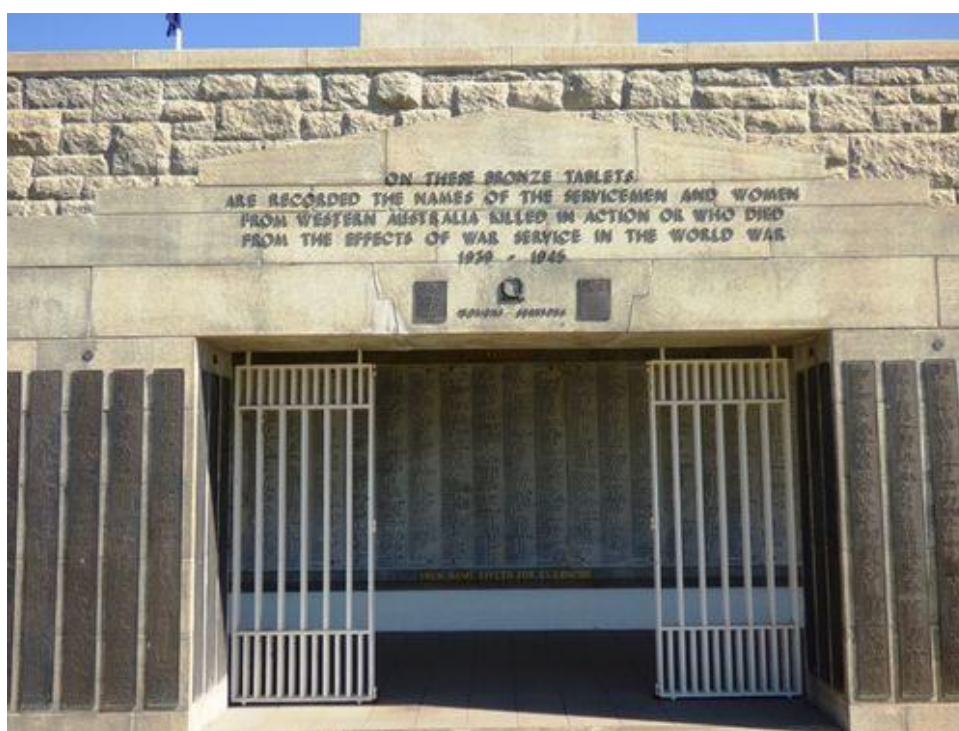
(Photo courtesy of Scott Thompson)

C. Adkins is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



28th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

C. Adkins is remembered on the Leederville War Memorial, located adjacent to West Leederville Town Hall, Cambridge Street, West Leederville, Western Australia.

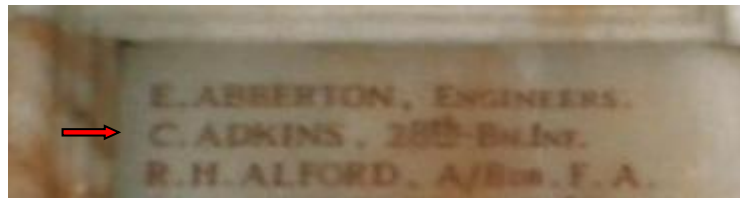


Leederville War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Bryan Hardy)

C. Adkins is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.

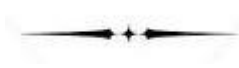


Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



(80 pages of Private Charles Adkins' 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





C. C. ADKINS,
Died of wounds. Relations reside at
Carr-street, Leederville.

(*Sunday Times*, Western Australia – 18 November, 1917)



Newspaper Notices

WAR CASUALTIES

Mrs M. Adkins, 170 Carr-street, Leederville, has been notified that her son, Private Charles Adkins, has been admitted to hospital suffering from severe gunshot wounds in the head and elbow.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 26 May, 1917)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

305th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Charles Adkins (Perth), severely, previously reported wounded

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 1 June, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

312th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Charles Adkins (Perth), previously reported wounded.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 22 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ATKINS – In loving memory of our dear cousin, Private Charles Atkins, 16/28th Battalion, who died of wounds on June 5, 1917.

He died as he lived, manly, true and brave.

At rest, a gallant hero.

-Inserted by his loving cousins, Clara and William Mansfield, Midland Junction.

ATKINS – In loving memory of Charles Atkins, 28th Battalion, killed in action, June 5, 1917.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his loving cousin, Mrs V. Haming.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 5 June, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ADKINS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Charles Adkins, 16/28th Battalion, who died of wounds in England on June 5, 1917.

-Inserted by his loving sisters, Mrs James Lynes (New Zealand), Mrs Percy Whitewood, Lake-street, Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 6 June, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ADKINS – In loving memory of our dear cousin Private Charles Adkins, late of 16th/21st Battalion, who died in England on June 5, 1917.

He bore his pain, he bore it well,
And what he suffered none can tell.

Inserted by his loving cousins William and Clara Mansfield, Picadilly-street, Kalgoorlie.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 5 June, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ADKINS – In loving memory of our dear brother, Charlie, 28th Battalion, who died of wounds in England on June 5, 1917.

-Inserted by his sisters, Mrs J. E. Lyney, N.Z., and Mrs P. Whitewood, Lake-st.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 6 June, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ADKINS – A tribute to the memory of my dear son, Charlie, late of 16th/28th Battalion, who died at Harefield Hospital, England, on June 5, 1917, of wounds received in France.

The midnight stars are gleaming,
On a grave far o'er the sea,
Where sleeping without dreaming
Lies the one so dear to me.

Inserted by his loving mother and brother.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 June, 1919)

*** Notices were also placed in newspapers in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926

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)

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information from CWGC)

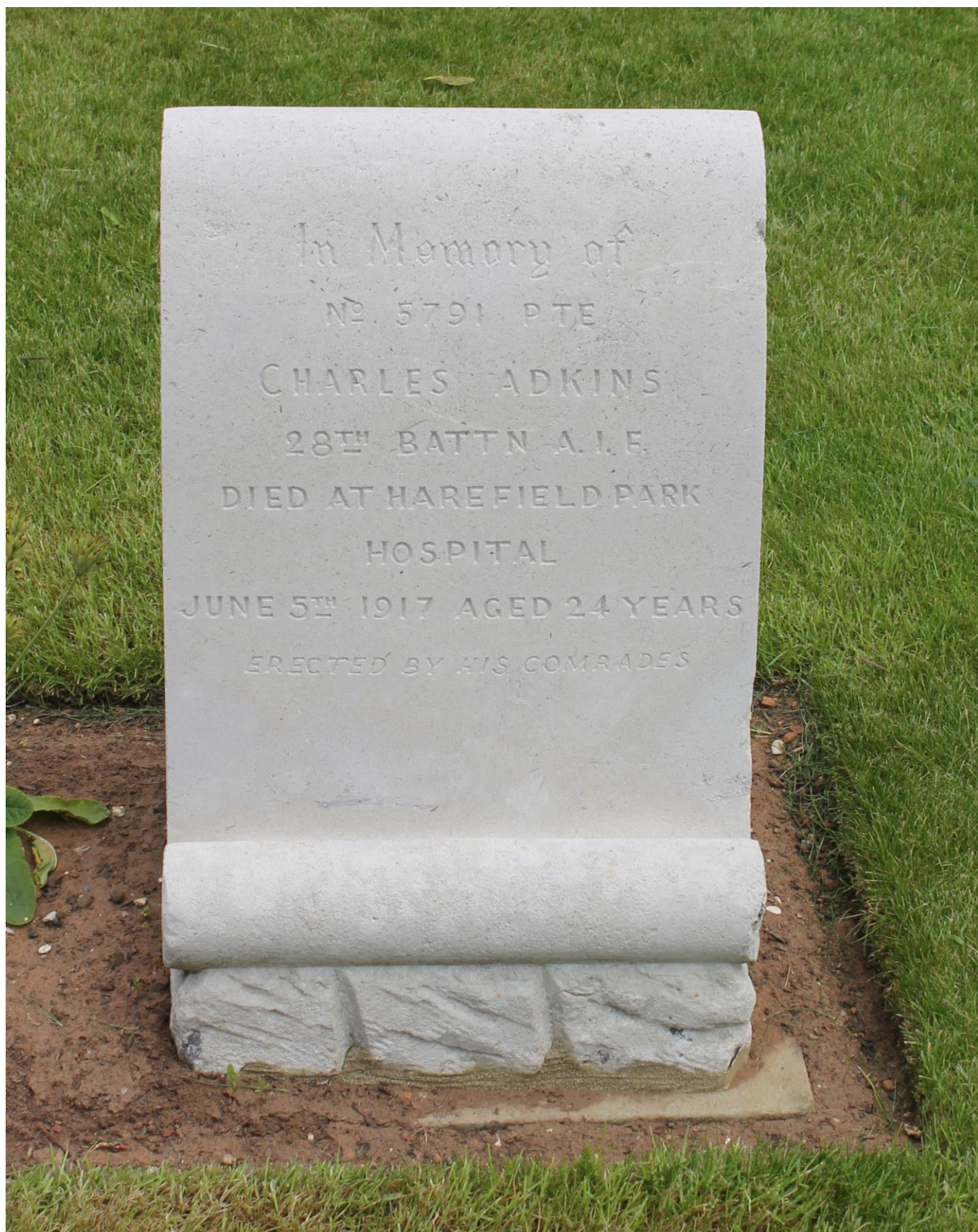




St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private Charles Adkins' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield *(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield *(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

