

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



14491 GUNNER

T. H. BROWN

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

10TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 20

*Dearly Loved Son Of Margaret
& The Late Hugh Ronald Brown
At Rest*

Thomas Hugh BROWN

Thomas Hugh Brown was born at Hillgrove, New South Wales on 2nd October, 1898. A birth was registered at Hillgrove for Hugh T. Brown and parents Hugh R. & Sarah Brown. (A marriage was registered at Hillgrove in 1894 between Hugh R. Brown & Sarah Wilson. A marriage was registered in Hillgrove in 1899 between Hugh R. Brown & Margaret Wilson). (A death for a Sarah Brown was registered in Hillgrove in 1899.)

Hugh Ronald Redway Brown, father of Thomas Hugh Brown, died in 1906 at East Coolgardie, Western Australia.

Thomas Hugh Brown was an 18 year old, single, Storeman when he enlisted at Perth, Western Australia on 16th April, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 14491 & his religion was Wesleyan. His next of kin was listed as his mother (father deceased) – Mrs Margaret Brown, of 38 Ruislip St., West Leederville, Western Australia. As Thomas Hugh Brown was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Mrs M. Brown signed her consent on 10th April, 1917 (her husband was deceased).

Private Thomas Hugh Brown was posted to A.A.S.C. (Australian Army Service Corps) April Reinforcements on 16th April, 1917.

Private Thomas Hugh Brown embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 1st August, 1917 & was transferred to S.S. *Orita* at Halifax, Nova Scotia on 21st September, 1917. He disembarked at Liverpool, England on 3rd October, 1917. (Private Thomas Hugh Brown is not listed on the Nominal Roll/ Embarkation Roll at the Australian War Memorial).

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 Thomas Hugh Brown was marched in from Australia on 4th October, 1917 & posted to A.S.C. Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England on 6th October, 1917.

Private Thomas Hugh Brown was transferred to Artillery Details at Heytesbury, Wiltshire from A.A.S.C. Training Depot on 12th November, 1917 & mustered as Gunner.

Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown proceeded overseas to France from Heytesbury via Southampton on 18th December, 1917. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 19th December, 1917 & marched out to 2nd Div. Artillery on 21st December, 1917. Gunner Brown was taken on strength of 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) from A.G.B.D (Australian General Base Depot) on 24th December, 1917.

Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown was detached for Instruction at 2nd Army Trench Mortar School in France on 6th January, 1918. He rejoined 2nd D.A.C. from detachment on 20th January, 1918.

Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown proceeded on leave from 27th February, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 13th March, 1918.

Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown was wounded in action in France on 18th August, 1918. He was admitted to 61st Casualty Clearing Station on 18th August, 1918 then transferred to No. 1 Ambulance Train. He was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th August, 1918 and invalided to England on 23rd August, 1918.

Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown was admitted to 1st Birmingham War Hospital, England on 24th August, 1918 due to being gassed. Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital on 4th September, 1918. He was discharged from Hospital for furlough from 1st to 16th October, 1918 & was then to report to Littlemoor Camp, Weymouth, Dorset.

Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown was marched out from Australian Headquarters from furlough to Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 16th October, 1918.

Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown was admitted to No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 29th October, 1918. He was transferred to No. 2 Group Hospital at Hurdcott on 29th October, 1918 with Bronchial Pneumonia. Gunner Brown was transferred on 31st October, 1918 to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire with Influenza.

Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown died at 04.50 hrs on 10th November, 1918 (on the eve of the Armistice) at Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Brown, aged 20, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown was buried at 11 am on 15th November, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England – Plot number I. F. 2. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Brown - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass furnishings. Deceased was buried with full Military Honors. The coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from 9th Australian Training Battalion. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. 4 Officers and about 70 N.C.O.'s and Men attended the funeral as mourners. A large floral wreath from Miss D. Webb, 1st War Hospital Birmingham was placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Mr S. Hume (Uncle) of 25 Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, London & Miss D. Webb (Friend) of 1st War Hospital, Birmingham were named as contacts in the UK.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into the wounds, death and burial of Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown. The O.C. Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire wrote the following details:

"Re 14491 Gunner T. Brown 2nd D.A.C. – The above named man was admitted to Hospital on the 31st October, 1918, suffering from Influenza, which developed later into broncho-pneumonia and patient died on the 10th November, 1918 at 4.50 a.m. A Military funeral was carried out from Hospital on the 15th November, 1918 and interment took place at St. George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wilts."

Private Thomas Hugh Brown requested in his Will that Mr J. Wilson, of 40 Rinslip Street, West Leederville, Western Australia be appointed as Executor and all his real and personal estate he bequeathed to his mother – Margaret Brown.

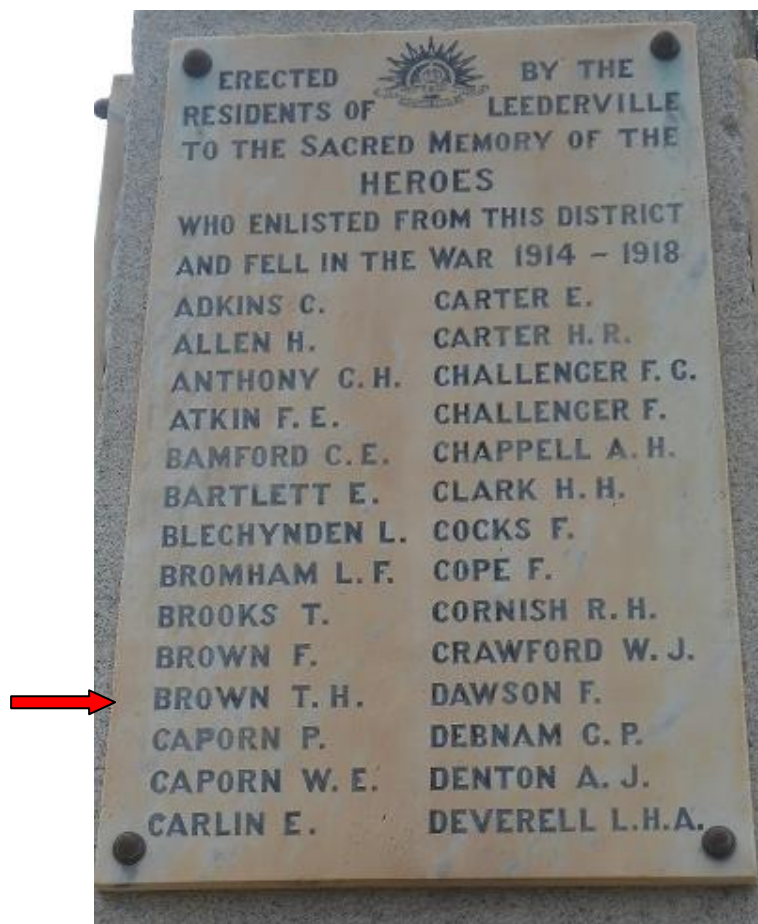
Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Brown's mother – Mrs M. Brown, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1923). According to a handwritten note in the Service Record file for Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown – the Plaque (and Roll) was incorrectly embossed as "Thomas Hugh" instead of "Thomas Hugh Brown". The Plaque would have been returned for correction.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown – service number 14491, aged 20, of 2nd Div. Ammunition Col., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Hugh Ronald and Margaret Brown, of 38 Ruislip St., West Leederville, Western Australia. Born at Hillgrove, New South Wales.

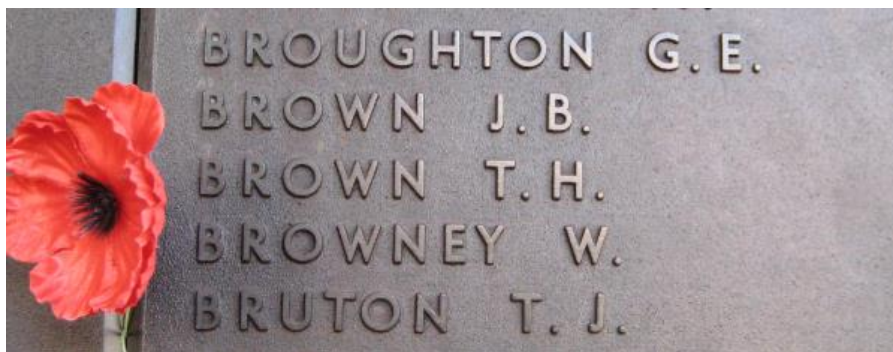
T. H. Brown is remembered on the West Leederville War Memorial, located in the Rose Garden next to the Town Hall, Cambridge Street, West Leederville, Western Australia.



West Leederville War Memorial (Photos by Gordon Stuart)



Gunner T. H. Brown is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.



(Photos Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(69 pages of Gunner Thomas Hugh Brown'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



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

Died, Other Causes

Gnr. T. H. Brown, W. Leederville.

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 8 December, 1918)

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)

Gunner T. H. Brown does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dearly Loved Son Of Margaret & The Late Hugh Ronald Brown At Rest

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

(Photo c 1919)



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front *(Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*

Photo of Gunner T. H. Brown's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at rear & Cross of Sacrifice (below)
(Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

