

**Highland Road Cemetery,
Portsmouth, Hampshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4134 PRIVATE

W. J. FRANKLIN

ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS (LONDON)

1ST MARCH, 1915

William James FRANKLIN

William James Franklin was born in 1888 at Hownslow, Middlesex, England to parents Charles Franklin & Elizabeth Jane Franklin (nee Harrison). He was baptised on 12th October, 1888 at St. Philip & St. James Church, Whitton, Richmond Upon Thames, England. His father – Charles Franklin was listed as a Serjeant in Royal Munster Fusiliers.

William James Franklin married Catherine Elizabeth Lidstone on 30th September, 1912 at Epsom Register Office, Surrey, England.

A son, William Charles Benjamin Ian Franklin was born to William James & Catherine Elizabeth Franklin on 26th December, 1913. He was baptised on 22nd February, 1914 at St. Philip Church, Cheam Common, Southwark, Surrey, England. The family lived at Hampton Rd, Woodlands & William James Franklin was recorded as a Tourist (?) Booking Clerk.

William James Franklin enlisted in the British Army in London, England & was posted to Royal Army Pay Corps with a regimental number of 4134.

Royal Army Pay Corps

The Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC) was the corps of the British Army responsible for administering all financial matters.

In 1893 an Army Pay Corps was formed, composed of other ranks, to support the work of the Department. In 1920 the Army Pay Department and the Army Pay Corps were amalgamated to form the Royal Army Pay Corps (the prefix 'Royal' having been conferred in recognition of valuable services provided during the First World War).

In 1919 the financial responsibilities were split between the RAPC, which handled salaries, and the Corps of Military Accountants (CMA), which handled the army's finances. The CMA was disbanded in 1925 and its functions and some personnel were transferred to the RAPC.

Before the Second World War, the RAPC did not accept recruits directly from civilian life, but only transfers from serving soldiers who had been in the Army for at least six months.

(extract of information from Wikipedia)

[In September, 1940, as a result of a fire by an incendiary bomb at the War Office Record Store, Arnside Street, London, England approximately two thirds of 6.5 million soldiers' documents for World War 1 UK Soldiers were destroyed. It appears that Private William James Franklin's records were destroyed.]

Private William James Franklin died on 1st March, 1915, on Home Service, at South Western Hospital, Stockwell, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for William J. Franklin, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1915 in the district of Lambeth, London, England.

Private William James Franklin was buried in Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England, Plot number – Horan Div. A. 6.3. and has a shared Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William James Franklin – service number 4134, of Army Pay Corps (London). He was the son of the late Major Charles Franklin, O.B.E. (R.M.L.I.) and of Mrs Franklin, of “Abdin” 66 Brighton Rd., North Cottesloe, Western Australia; husband of Catherine Elizabeth Franklin, of 39 Claremont Rd., Teddington, Middlesex.

Private William James Franklin, (London) Army Pay Corps, is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

(Note: It appears that Private William James Franklin & his father Major and Quartermaster Charles Franklin, of Royal Marine Light Infantry (died on 5th September, 1919) were listed on the Commemorative Roll in error as it was based on the information that the next-of-kin’s address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian.)

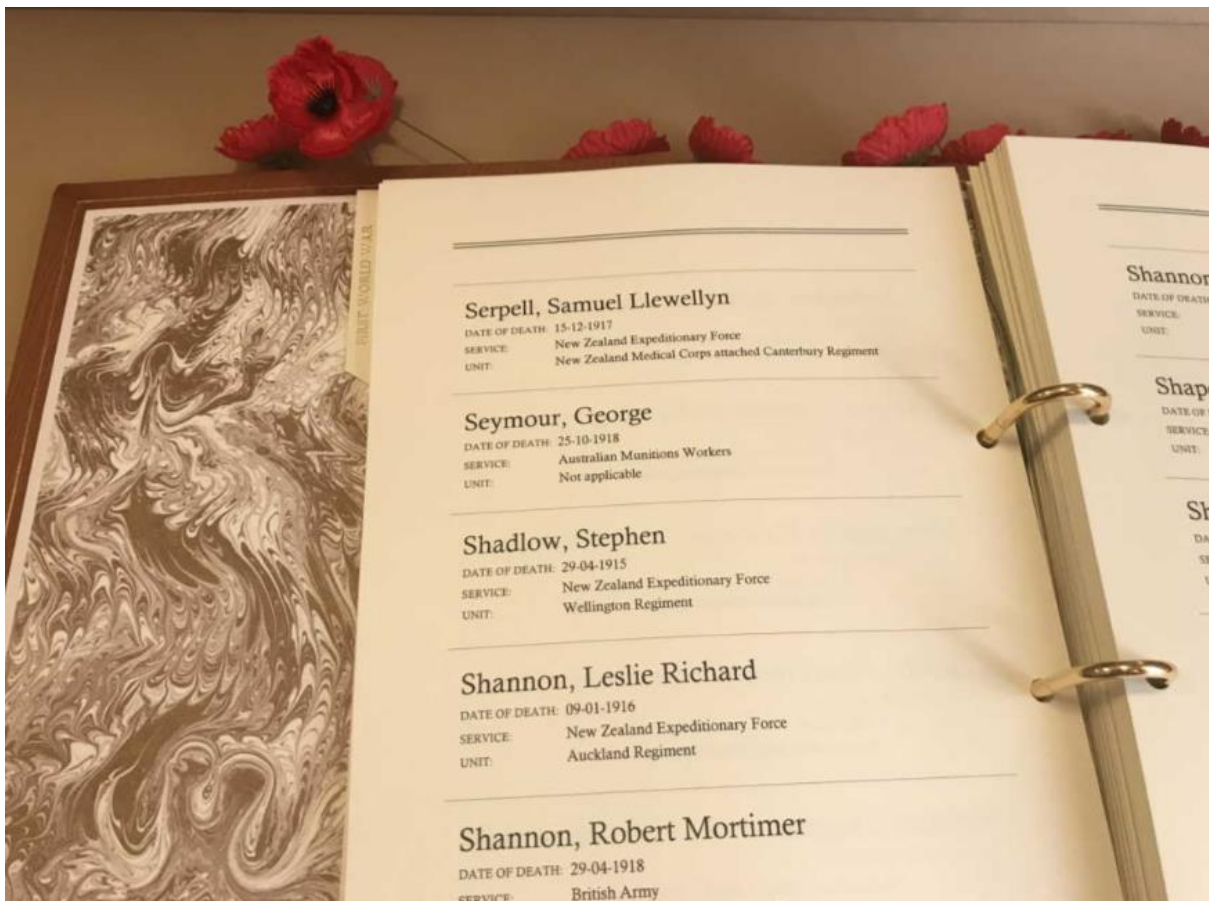
[Details of the late Private William James Franklin’s mother, after the death of his father in 1919: Mrs Elizabeth Franklin (Widow, aged 52) & her 3 children – Mabel Franklin (Companion, aged 25), Ena Franklin (aged 14) & John Franklin (Farming, aged 16) were passengers on *Naldera*, which had departed from London, England 10th April, 1920. The family of four stated that the country of intended future permanent residence was Australia.]



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)

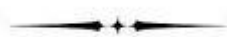


Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)



Example of names in Commemorative Roll Book

Information obtained from the CWGC & Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll)



Newspaper Items

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FRANKLIN – Mrs W. J, Franklin, junior, Captain and Mrs Franklin, wish to thank all kind friends for sympathy shown them in their sad bereavement, also for floral tributes.

(Portsmouth Evening News, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England - 5 March, 1915)

Late Mr W. J. Franklin

The funeral of Mr W. J. Franklin, second son of Captain Franklin, took place at Highland-road Cemetery, yesterday week. The deceased, who was attached to the Army Pay Department, died in London.

A large number, with the band from the R. N. School of Music attended the funeral, together with many personal friends, the last sad rites being very impressive. The floral tributes were numerous, and included many from London and from local friends.

(Hampshire Telegraph and Post, Hampshire, England – 12 March, 1915)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

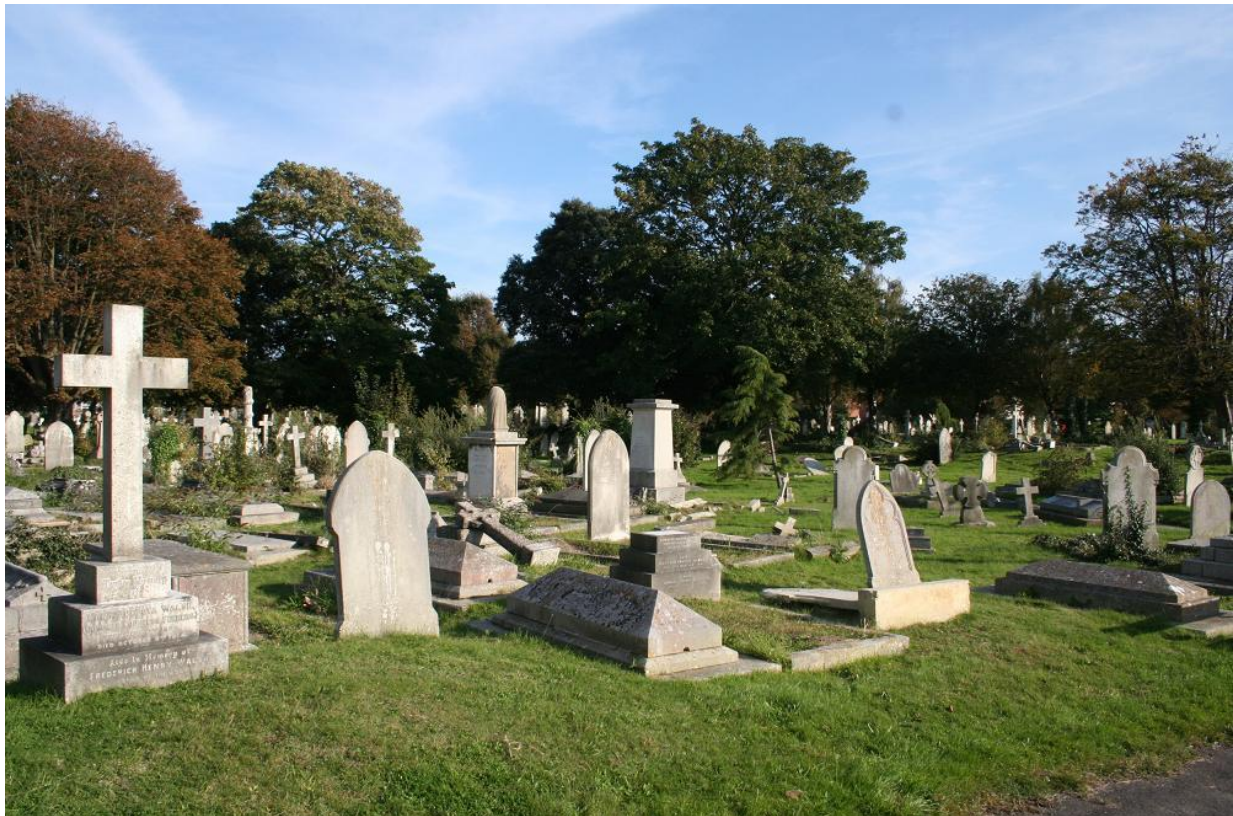
Private William James Franklin has a shared Private Headstone.

Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

Portsmouth, a parliamentary and county borough, is a city, a seaport and a Royal Naval station on Portsea Island, opposite the Isle of Wight. It is 44 kilometres south-east of Southampton and just over 120 kilometres by rail south-west of London. This cemetery, which belongs to the Corporation, is near the barracks. It was opened in 1854 and contains war graves of both world wars. The 1914-1918 burials are spread throughout the cemetery. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected near the entrance, in honour of all the service war dead who rest in the cemetery. The 1939-1945 War graves, too, are widely scattered. There are 226 war graves relating to World War 1 & 51 relating to World War 2. *(Information from CWGC).*



Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by julia&keld)*

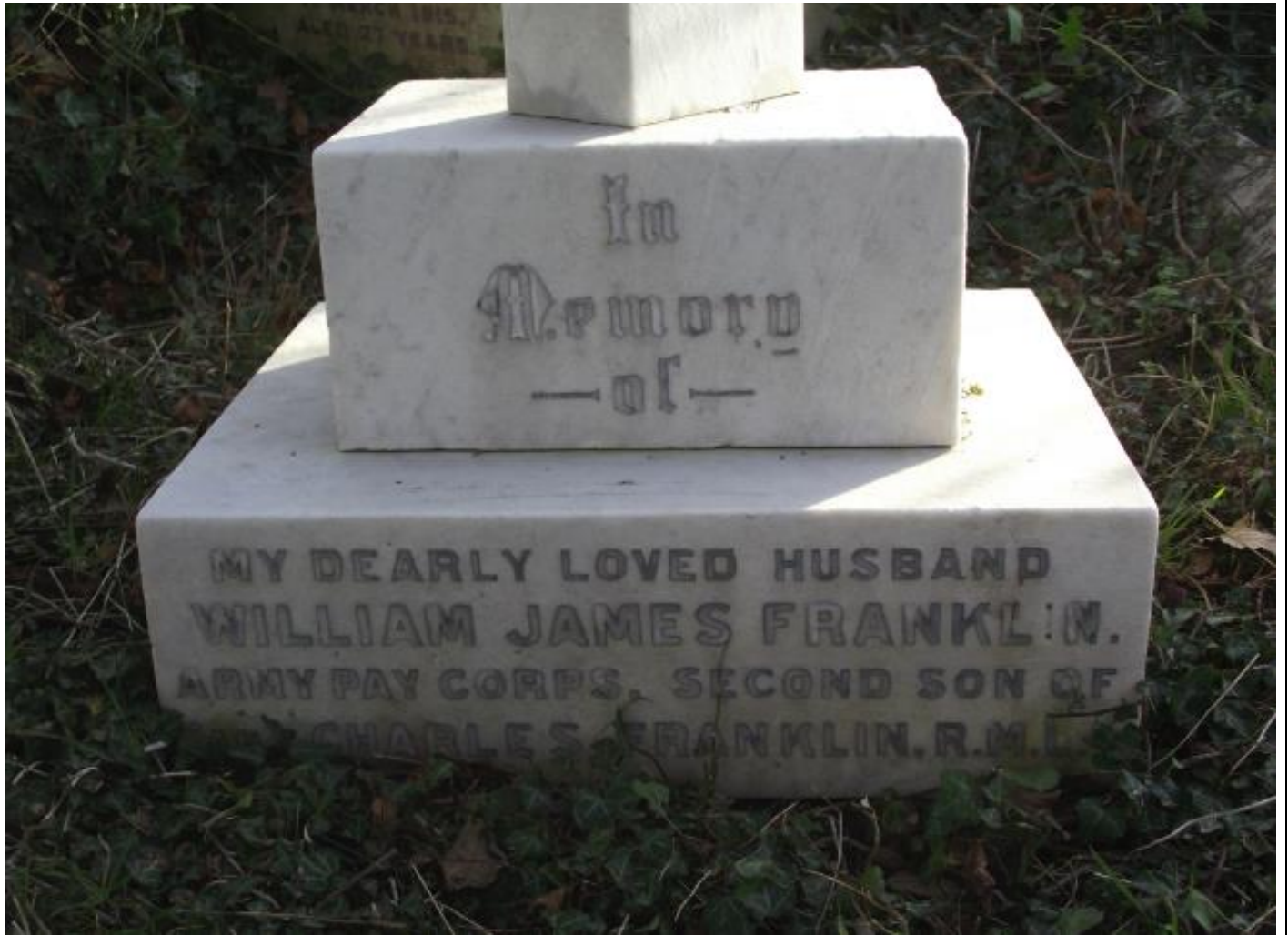


Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by julia&keld)*

Photo of William James Franklin's shared Private Headstone in Highland Road Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by FrankGrant – Find a Grave)



William James Franklin (Photo by FrankGrant – Find a Grave)

In

Memory of

My Dearly Loved Husband

WILLIAM JAMES FRANKLIN

Army Pay Corps. Second Son of

Capt. Charles Franklin, R.M.L.I.

The Grave also contains his father - Major Charles Franklin, O.B.E., who died on 5th September, 1919 & his brother - Alfred Edwin Franklin, who died on 27th May, 1926.



Major Charles Franklin O.B.E.



Alfred Edwin Franklin (Photos by FrankGrant – Find a Grave)