Hammersmith Old Cemetery,

London, England

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2772 PRIVATE

W. TOWER

29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH MARCH, 1919

William TOWER

Frederick William Garbaud Tower (name as per Victoria BD& M's website) was born at Beechworth, Victoria on 29th October, 1886 to parents Joseph Vincent & Elizabeth Sentry Tower (nee Fulham). (Note: There are several Family Trees on Ancestry -some list his name as Frederick William Garland Tower; others have him listed as Frederick William Fulham Tower & others have the surname as Towers.)

The 1913, 1914, 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Indi, subdivision of Beechworth, Victoria recorded Frederick William Fulham Tower, Miner, from Newtown, Beechworth.

Joseph Vincent Tower, father of William Tower, died on 30th July, 1915 at Beechworth, Victoria.

Frederick William Fulham Towers (name as per Victoria BD& M's website) married Florentina Main in Victoria in 1916. [Note: Several Family Trees on Ancestry have Leslie William Towers, son of Frederick William Fulham Tower & Florentina Tower, who was born on 22nd July, 1917 (16 months after his father embarked). Victorian Births, Deaths & Marriages has a birth recorded in 1917 for Leslie William Towers – mother - Florrie Main & father Leslie William Towers]

Newspaper item - Ovens and Murray Advertiser, Beechworth, Victoria - 5 January, 1916:

CHARGE OF VAGRANCY

William Towers was before the Beechworth Police Court yesterday on a charge of vagrancy preferred against him by Constable Bartholomew. Towers was arrested on the previous day by Constables Trevithick and Bartholomew, and Senior-Constable Cameron stated that the police were not quite prepared to go on with the case, and asked for a remand till to-day (Wednesday). Accused and his solicitor (Mr. M. P. Ryan) offered no objection to this, and the remand was granted, bail having allowed in a personal surety of £25 _____ one other of a like amount. Messrs. W. J. Bowen and W. H. Phillips, J's.P., constituted the Bench.

Newspaper item - Ovens and Murray Advertiser, Beechworth, Victoria - 8 January, 1916:

Beechworth Police Court

Vagrancy

William Tower was charged by Constable Bartholomew with that at Yellow Creek, Beechworth, he was a person without lawful visible means of support. Mr M. P. Ryan appeared for defendant.

At the outset Mr Ryan said he was instructed by his client to object to Dr Skinner's presence on the Bench. This was not his (Mr Ryan's) personal wish, but he had to carry out his client's instructions.

Dr Skinner immediately retired, although advised by his colleagues to remain. Mr Ingram remarked that it was not the wish of the other justices that Dr Skinner should retire.

Sub-inspector Harris conducted the prosecution, and in detailing the facts said proceedings were taken under section 70 of the Police Offences Act 1915.

Constable Bartholomew deposed to arresting accused at his mother's house at the Two Mile on 3rd January. Believed Tower has a piece of ground at Yellow Creek. Had known him for twelve months, and had never known him to do any work. Had seen him frequently at the Star Hotel, Beechworth, and at Yellow Creek. From something he had been told he went to Yellow Creek last Thursday, and saw accused in company with a man named Short. They had Indian clubs with them, and were basking in the sun. From the appearance of their skin they had been doing this for several days. Had had accused under observation for 12 months, and had never know him to do any work, nor had he heard of him being employed by anyone. Inspected accused's land at Yellow Creek, but could see no improvements effected. When Tower was arrested he said he had money on him. Asked him whom he worked for last, and accused said he did not know. He said he had done a bit of mining and sold the gold at Shaw's. He also said that he had a crop of tomatoes last year, which he sold in the town, and had also sold poultry. Witness saw no tomatoes at accused's place. Accused said he had done a bit of grubbing for his mother, but she gave him no money for it. Questioned his mother, and she said her son stopped at her place sometimes three or four nights and sometimes as many weeks. His mother was in receipt of the old-age pension. Examined accused's ground and found a number of trees felled on about a quarter of an acre, and about the same space burnt off. About half an acre would be the largest area so treated. On the way to the lock-up Tower said witness should withdraw the charge, as

he had enlisted. Was in court on the 1st June last, and heard Mr Ryan say that Tower would enlist, but he had not done so. When arrested accused had £2 on him.

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William Tower, the accused, deposed that he was a miner residing at Yellow Creek. He had got his mother to sell several parcels of gold for him, amounting in all to £16 9s. 8d (The list was read out by Mr Ryan). Got this gold in Yellow Creek and Two Mile Creek as a result of his own labor. Had £2 in his possession when arrested. Had other cash at home, which at Mr Ryan's request he produced in court that day. This amounted in all to £8 - gold, silver and notes. This was in his room at his mother's house when he was arrested, and was his own money. He also had gold in the house to the value of £5, which he produced. Some of the gold was cleaned and ready for selling, and was earned by him in Two Mile Creek and Yellow Creek. During the past year he had done a fair amount of dealing. He sold a horse to Thomas Last for £6 10s, also a draught horse to William Short for £8 cash, and a black horse. Sold a pony through Flanagan, Newman & Co., Wangaratta for £2 15s., and sold a bicycle to a man named Anderson for £4 10s. He had also sold pigs and poultry through Mr Grisdale, Beechworth, and had bought several articles of furniture etc. Also sold tomatoes and other vegetables during the year at several places in the town. Had plenty of money to keep him going comfortably, and he had not loafed on his mother. His mother had never given him any money since he was a child, but he had often given his mother money to purchase food etc., for him. For the last six months he had lived with his mother and kept the house. He had intended to enlist in June last, but his father was very ill at that time and died shortly after. Before being arrested he had filled in a recruiting card and expressed his willingness to enlist.....

The Bench decided to hear further evidence.

Elizabeth Tower, mother of accused, deposed that she resided on the Two Mile-road, Beechworth. In June last her husband was in failing health, and they begged their son not the enlist but to stop with them. Her husband died in July last. Her son had given her money frequently the last occasion being on Christmas Eve, when he gave her £. Had never given her son any money since he was a child. Sold gold for her son, and had seen him working on his claim. Took her son's miner's right with her when she sold the gold. To her knowledge it was only on Saturdays her son came into Beechworth. Her son had never loafed on her.

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James B. Hooley, licensee of the Star Hotel, Beechworth, deposed that Tower came into Beechworth about once a week, and probably not for a month again. It was generally on a Saturday night he came in. Tower was temperate in his drinking, and very well behaved.

. . .

The Bench retired for five minutes, when Mr Ingram, J.P. announced that Tower would be convicted and sentenced to six month's imprisonment.

Mr Ryan gave notice of appeal and bail was fixed in self £25 and approved surety of £25.

Mr Ingram, J.P. declined Mr Ryan's request for the reasons for convicting accused.

Newspaper item - Ovens and Murray Advertiser, Beechworth, Victoria - 9 February, 1916:

BEECHWORTH GENERAL SESSIONS

His Honor Judge Moule will preside at the Court of General Sessions to be held at Beechworth to-day (Wednesday)._The appeal of William Tower against the sentence of six months' imprisonment imposed on him by the court of petty sessions at Beechworth for vagrancy will be heard.

Newspaper item - The Yackandandah Times, Victoria - 6 April, 1916:

At the Beechworth Police Court on 5th of January last William Tower was presented on a charge of having no visible means of support, and the justices imposed - a sentence of six months imprisonment. Tower appealed against this conviction, and the case was reheard before His Honor Judge Moule at the Beechworth General Sessions on the 9th February last. Lengthy evidence was given on behalf of the police, and appellant called several witnesses who swore

that they had seen him working. Appellent in the course of his evidence stated that he had enlisted and had been accepted by the military authorities for service abroad, and had been provided with a pass to return to Melbourne on the following day. His Honor Judge Moule in summing up said he felt in this matter he would like to withhold giving judgment. He would adjourn the hearing and give judgment in Melbourne or suspend giving judgment until such time as he otherwise announced or until defendant had left. He thought there was a great deal of evidence given by the police which had not been rebutted. Tower looked like the cut of a soldier, and they wanted men to go. He had also called a good bit of evidence showing to some extent in his favor, but he would not say how far it made a good impression on him. He thought he would let the matter stand over. Tower would have to undertake to communicate with the clerk of the peace in Melbourne if he was sailing. He (His Honor) would also, make enquiries, and if he found they were not satisfactory he would fix a day to give judgment. He wanted to make certain Tower went. His Honor gave judgment this week. As Tower had enlisted and gone away on a troopship to the front he (His Honor) allowed the appeal without costs. Mr M. P. Ryan appeared for Tower both at the Police Court and at the General sessions.

William Tower was a 29 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted on 18th January, 1916 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2772 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Tower, Newtown, Beechworth, Victoria.

Private William Tower was posted to 19th Depot Battalion at Geelong, Victoria on 11th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 5th March, 1916.

Private William Tower embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 14th March, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 15th April, 1916.

29th Battalion

The 29th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria on 10 August 1915. Having enlisted as part of the recruitment drive that followed the landing at Gallipoli, and having seen the casualty lists, these were men who had offered themselves in full knowledge of their potential fate.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Tower was admitted to Government Hospital at Suez on 15th April, 1916 with Measles (no date recorded for his discharge)

Private William Tower proceeded overseas from Alexandria on 6th June, 1916 per *Franconia* with 8th Training Battalion.

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 William Tower was taken on strength of Headquarters Training Depot at Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 25th July, 1916. He was taken on strength of A.P.M. (Assistant Provost Marshal) Staff at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 25th July, 1916. Private Tower was marched out to A.P.M. from Bhurtpore Barracks, Wiltshire on 19th August, 1916. He was taken on strength of Anzac Provost Corps at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 1st January, 1917.

Anzac Provost Corps

The Anzac Provost Corps was formed in Egypt in June 1916. The corps was made up of men who had served in fighting units in operations against the enemy. In camps and rear areas, the military police conducted patrols, escorted prisoners of war and visiting dignitaries, maintained discipline and ran the military detention centres. In the field their duties included route reconnaissance, water discipline, guarding stores and investigating spies and saboteurs. The name of the Corps was changed to the Australian Provost Corps in February, 1918. (Information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Tower was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, England on 17th February, 1917 with Measles. He was discharged to duty on 5th March, 1917.

Private William Tower was admitted to Parkhouse Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 18th April, 1917 with Mumps. He was discharged on 5th May, 1917.

Private William Tower proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 13th July, 1917 from Anzac Provost Corps at Tidworth. He was marched in the A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 14th July, 1917. Private Tower was marched out to his Unit on 28th July, 1917 from A.G.B.D. & was taken on strength of Anzac Provost Corps with B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 31st July, 1917 from Anzac Provost Corps in England.

Private William Tower was detached for duty to 2nd Australian Division on 2nd August, 1917. He was transferred to 29th Battalion on 11th August, 1917 & was taken on strength of 29th Battalion the same day.

Private William Tower reported sick on 7th November, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Field Ambulance on 7th November, 1917 with ulcers on left leg. Private Tower was transferred & admitted to 5th D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 7th November, 1917 then transferred on 8th November, 1917 to 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. He was transferred to Ambulance Train 16 on 10th November, 1917 & admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 11th November, 1917. Private Tower was transferred & admitted to 2nd Convalescent Depot on 14th November, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen on 24th November, 1917 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Private Tower was transferred to England on 28th November, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick*.

Private William Tower was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England on 29th November, 1917 – P.U.O. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 17th December, 1917 with Trench Fever. Private Tower was discharged from 3rd Auxiliary Hospital on 14th January, 1918 to No. 4 Command Depot.

Private William Tower was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 18th April, 1918 from No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England.

Private William Tower was sent sick to Brigade Hospital, Hurdcott on 20th April, 1918 with an Abscess on Foot. He was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott from Brigade Hospital on 6th May, 1918.

Private William Tower was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 14th May, 1918 from No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Private William Tower was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott from 15th May, 1918.

Private William Tower was declared an illegal absentee by a Court of Inquiry held at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 27th June, 1918.

Private William Tower died on 7th March, 1919 at 18 Wilson's Road, South Hammersmith, London, England from Pneumonia & Syncope whilst an illegal absentee from A.I.F.

A death for William Tower, aged <u>4</u>3, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Hammersmith, London, England.

Private William Tower was buried in Hammersmith Old Cemetery, London, England.

Australian Graves Services, London, England, wrote to O.C. Records, A.I.F. Headquarters, Australia House on 17th November, 1920 with the following: "I have to inform you that the late No. 2772 Pte W. Tower, 29th Battalion, and No. 2642 Pte C. Lawrence, 9th Battalion, were declared illegal absentees and particulars were received at this Office that these two soldiers were buried in Hammersmith and Camberwell Borough Cemeteries respectively in common graves. These remains have now been exhumed and particulars are given herewith.

No. 2772. Pte W. Tower. 29th Bn. Hammersmith Cemetery Grave No. 30 Section N.58"

Private William Tower's burial is now recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Screen Wall 30. N. 58. He has no headstone but his name is recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Hammersmith Old Cemetery, London, England. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

[A notation on Private William Tower's Casualty Form – Active Service in his Service Record file recorded for 1st April, 1920 "*Discharged from the A.I.F.*" underneath shows the following statement: "*Showing discharged in UK*? *pm* 1-4-20 *in consequence of Desertion since* 15-5-18. *Delete complete entry, later report (Graves Registration) shows died of disease* 7-3-19."]

Mr W. L. Mann, Mount View, One Mile, Beechworth, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 25th September, 1918 regarding "Acting Sergeant W. Tower, 2772 – 27th Battalion": "The above member of the A.I.F. being married to a daughter of mine and having been informed that he has disgraced himself & is undergoing imprisonment, I appeal to you (as being naturally interested in the case) to verify this if correct or refute the same, as it leaves my daughter in a very precarious condition, & it is my duty to see into the matter.."

Base Records replied to Mr W. L. Mann on 7th October, 1918: "....to inform you it is reported that he was absent without leave 15/5/18 and on 27/6/18 was declared an Illegal Absentee, since when no information has been received regarding him. If he has been apprehended particulars will be communicated to this office in due course by mail. It is noted you state your daughter is the wife of the abovenamed soldier, but according to the records he enlisted as a single man. If she wishes her name be recorded as next-of-kin and will forward to this office her marriage certificate, or certified copy of same, together with a Statutory Declaration to the effect that she has not been divorced or legally separated from her husband, the matter will receive attention."

Mr W. L. Mann, Mount View, One Mile, Beechworth, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 8th May, 1919 with the following: "It is reported here locally that Private William Tower 2772 29th Btn is dead & he being my son in law, I am anxious to know if same is correct & shall be much obliged if you will let me know if it is officially correct, as owing to the confidential information you communicated to me under date 7 Oct 18 – I have some doubt as to truth of same. My daughter his wife is in Melbourne down with influenza so I can't say if she has been notified."

Base Records replied to Mr W. L. Mann on 14th May, 1919 advising "...and to inform you that since the advice of his being illegally absent as from 15/5/18, no report of any description has been received in respect of your son-in-law, No. 2772 Private W. Tower, 29th Battalion. In the event of any cabled reports coming to hand, your wife will be promptly notified."

Base Records wrote to Officer i/c Records, A.I.F. Headquarters, Westminster, London, England on 29th May, 1919: "Part II order No. 55 29th Battn., dated London 15/7/18 declares No. 2772 Private W. Tower, to be an illegal absentee from 15/5/1918. His relatives in Australia have produced a death certificate, as per certified copy attached hereto, which shows that he died of pneumonia on 7/3/1919 at Wilsons Rd, Hammersmith.

The matter is referred for any action you may deem necessary and at the same time I shall be glad of advice as to whether this man can be accepted and recorded as having died whilst a member of the A.I.F. if so presumably his death will be included in the total casualties to the Force.

I have been unable to ascertain anything of the soldier's movements between 15/5/18 and date of death beyond that he went to Ireland during that period; possibly the Mr J. H. Hill mentioned in the certificate may be able to throw some light upon the matter. It will be noted the certificate shows his occupation as "farmer ex Private AIF". A note has been made on his records here to the effect that he died whilst an illegal absentee from the A.I.F."

Copy of Death Certificate:

		REGISTRATION	DISTR	ICT .	HAMMERSMITH	[
19	19 Death in	the Sub-district of	of SOUT	H HAMO	RSMITH, in the	e County of LOI	IDO N		
No •	When and where died	Name and Surname	Sex	Age	Rank or profession	Cause of death	Signature, deserip- tion & residence of Informant	When re- gistered	Signature o Registrar
90	Seventh March, 1919.	WILLIAM TOWER	male	43 yrs -	Farmer ex-Private A.I.F.	1 •Acute Lobar pneumonia 5 days	J.H.Hill present at the death	8/3/19	F.R.LIMK
	18 Wil- son's Rd.					2.Syncope No. P. M.	18 Wilson's Rd.		
		1999			-5	Certified by S.M.Hodi Walla, L.R.C.P.			
	of London do 1 Sub-district,		this i ster Bo	s a tru ok is :	ne copy of the now legally in 1919	Entry No. 90 in	rist of South Hammer the Register Book of		
						Registra	r of Births and Deat	hs•	

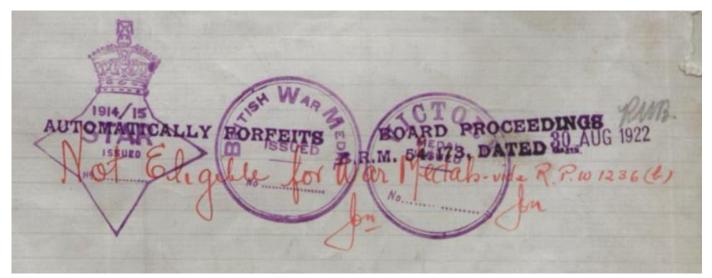
Lieut. Colonel Cyril S. Griffiths, Officer i/c Records, A.I.F. Headquarters, Westminster, London, England, replied to Base Records on 14th August, 1919 with the following: "*With reference to your memo. 105101 dated 29th May regarding the above named soldier, Death Certificate has been noted. As this soldier died whilst an Illegal Absentee, he has not been accepted as having died whilst a member of the A.I.F., but was, in fact, a Deserter therefrom and it has been ruled that his service in the A.I.F. is considered as terminated as from the date on which he deserted. His death will, therefore, not be included in the total casualties to the A.I.F.*"

The following movements of Private William Tower was compiled for the purpose of informing the Medal Board.

and has	ormation of the Medal Board.
14. 3.16	Embarked for active service.
15 . 4.16	Dis-embarked Suez.
15.4.16	Admitted hospital - measles.
25. 7.16	T. O. S. of A. P. M. Staff, Rollestone.
17. 2.17 5. 3.17	Admitted hospital with measles. Discharged to duty.
18. 4.17	Admitted hospital Parkhouse.
5.5.17 13.7.17 -	Discharged from hospital to Depot. Proceeded o/seas to France.
31. 7.17	T. O. S. of A. Prov. Cps. B. E. F. ex A. Prov. Cp
11. 8.17	England.
7.11.17	T. O. S. 29/Battalion. To hospital sick.
28.11.17	To England.
15. 4.18	Discharged from hospital to No. 4 Commani Depot A. W. L.
an an fair an fair the	This soldier died on $17.5.19$ and as at the time he was an illegal absence, he has not been ac- cepted as having died whist a member, of the A. I. F., it having been ruled that his service is considered as terminated as from the date on which he deserted.
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"This soldier died on 17.3.19 and as at the time he was an illegal absentee, he has not been accepted as having died whilst a member of the A.I.F. it having ruled that his service is considered as terminated as from the date on which he deserted."

Private William Tower was <u>NOT</u> entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. His file was marked *"Automatically Forfeits Board Proceedings date 30 August, 1922."* Normally a Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to late Soldier's next-of-kin but in Private Tower's case if was not entitled to these also.



Private William Tower's widow's details were recorded in December, 1923 as "remarried widow – Mrs T. Brewer, 156 Bank Street, Sth Melbourne, Victoria."

(Florentina Tower married Thomas Green Brewer in Victoria in 1920)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Tower – service number 2772, of 29th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private W. Tower is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 116.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. Tower is remembered on the Christ Church Honour Roll, located in Christ Church, Church & Ford Streets, Beechworth, Victoria.



Christ Church Honour Roll, Beechworth (Photos from Monument Australia)



William Tower is not remembered on the Beechworth War Memorial, located in Town Hall Gardens, corner William & Ford Streets, Beechworth, Victoria.



Beechworth War Memorial (Photo from VWMA)

(60 pages of Private William Tower'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) & National Archives

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 Tower is named on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Hammersmith Old Cemetery, London, England.

Hammersmith Old Cemetery, London, England – also known as Margravine Cemetery, Hammersmith, Greater London, England

Hammersmith Old Cemetery contains 193 Commonwealth War Graves – 188 relating to World War 1 & 5 relating to World War 2.



Hammersmith Old Cemetery & Chapel (below) (Photos from Friends of Margravine Cemetery)

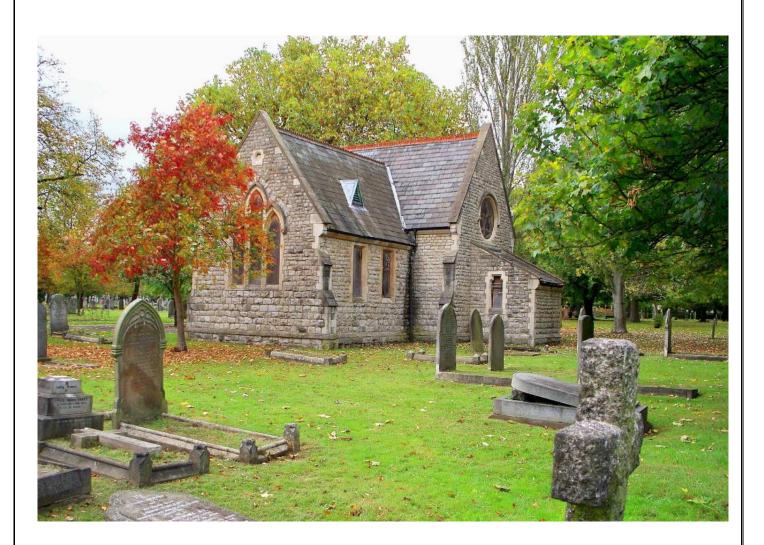
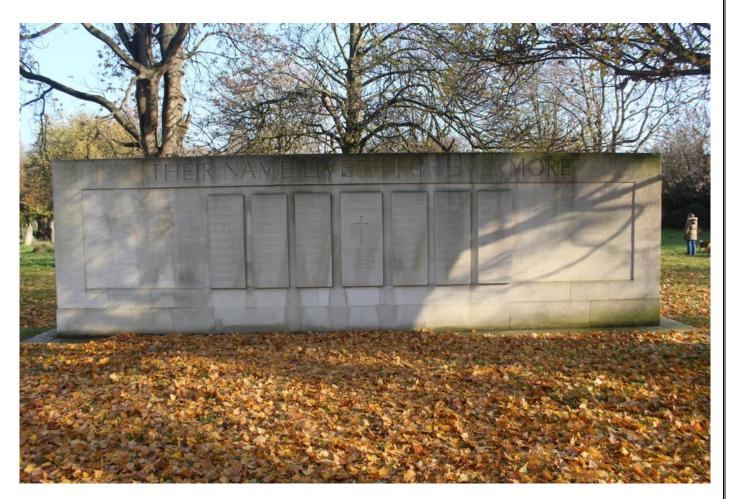


Photo of Private W. Tower's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Hammersmith Old Cemetery, London, England.

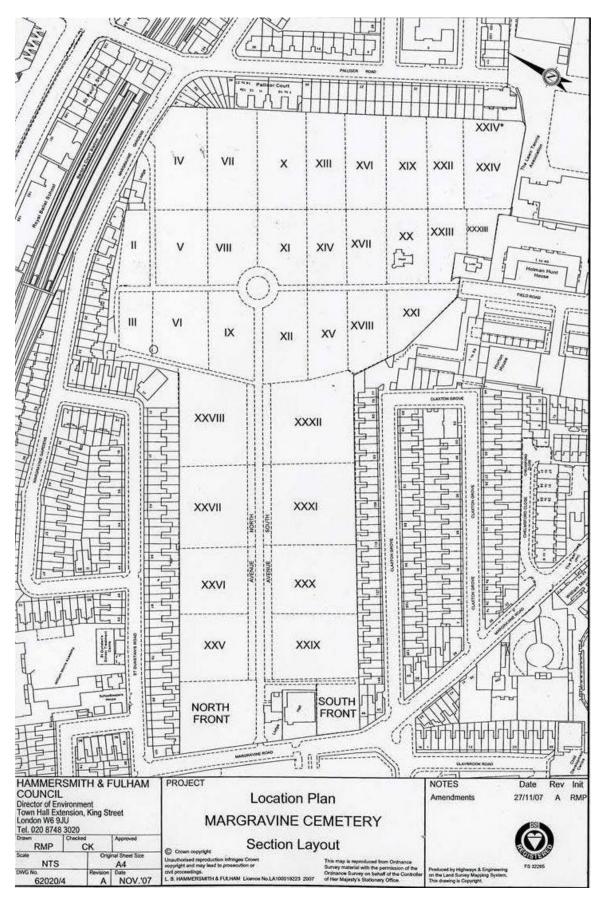


(Photo from Find a Grave - Ff)



CWGC Screen Wall (Photo above by Geoffrey Gillon; below from CWGC)





(Find a Grave)