



Tidworth
In The News
-from Australia

AUSTRALIAN GRAVES IN BRITAIN

The "British Australian" gives this account of the Australian graves in Britain.

Upwards of 1220 members of the A.I.F. have died in the United Kingdom, and are buried in no fewer than 291 different places. The principal being Durrington, 141; Brookwood, 128; Tidworth, 84; Harefield, 45; Birmingham, 36; Netley, 31; Brighton, 22; and Cambridge, 18. The A.I.F. authorities see that a temporary memorial cross is erected over each grave, and then photographed, so that copies may be sent to the next of kin or other near relatives. Later on, permanent memorials will be erected, and designs are already being considered by the Imperial War Graves Commission.

At one time the arrangements for the burial of Australian soldiers who died in the London area could hardly be regarded as satisfactory, but 12 months ago a site was procured by the A.I.F. in the Brookwood Cemetery, and adjoining it are plots acquired by the Imperial, Canadian, New Zealand and South African military authorities. Already 128 burials have taken place and it shows how real was the need for the action taken.

The cemeteries at Durrington, Tidworth, and Netley are purely military but that at Harefield, which was given by Sir Francis Newdigate prior to his appointment as Governor of Tasmania, is now merged in the grounds of the parish church. At other centres, such as Birmingham, Brighton and Cambridge, the cemeteries are owned by the local City Corporations who have generously undertaken the care of the graves of our soldiers free of cost.

Much has been done to honor the brave representatives of the Commonwealth who have died in our midst, but it is felt by members of the London Branch of the A.A.A. that it would be very fitting if a pilgrimage were undertaken on Anzac Day (April 25), and floral tributes placed on the various graves, and, if possible arrangements made whereby such tokens of remembrance will be renewed from time to time. Seeing that the burials have taken place in so many localities, it may perhaps be difficult to carry out the scheme absolutely, but much may be done. Mrs Montague Robinson and Miss Tess Naylor have, for instance, undertaken to visit Brookwood and Nunhead respectively, on the 25th, and it is hoped that other friends of the A.I.F. will act similarly elsewhere. One of the vice-presidents of the A.N.A. – Mr A. T. Sharp, of Melbourne-place, Strand, W.C.2 - has been asked by the committee of the association to organize the movement. Mr Sharp will, therefore, be pleased to hear from any of our readers who are willing to co-operate in this very laudable object. Australians and others interested in Australia, who happen to be located in provincial centres, are particularly asked to give assistance, which will undoubtedly bring much comfort to bereaved ones overseas, and incidentally, be an excellent way of honouring the memory of all who took part in the famous landing at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915.

(The Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld), Saturday 22nd June, 1918)