



## John William BREWITT

Regimental No.	3081
Place of birth	Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, England
School	Church School, England
Age on arrival in Australia	17
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Labourer
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	21
Next of kin	Father, J W Brewitt, Home Lane, near Radcliff on Trent, Nottinghamshire, England
Previous military service	Served in the 8th Sherwood Foresters, Nottinghamshire Regiment, Territorial Force, England.
Enlistment date	8th July 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	6th Battalion, 10th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll No.	23/23/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT RMS <i>Osterley</i> on 29 September 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	6th Battalion
1915 November	Disembarked Suez, train to Heliopolis for training with Battalion in Egypt.
1916 7th January	War service: taken on strength, 6th Battalion, Tel el Kebir,
1916 26th March	Proceeded from Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force. Embarked with Battalion for France per SS <i>Ballarat</i> .
1916 2nd April	Disembarked Marseilles to Bailleul.
1916 25th July	Transferred in France to 6th Battalion Machine Gun Company. Wounded in action (gun shot wound, left shoulder).
1916 26th July	Admitted to No. 1 Canadian General Hospital, Etaples.
1916 7th August	Discharged to Base Depot.
1916 - 1917	In France with Unit Fleurbaix, Ploegsteert, Pozieres, Somme, Ypres, onwards to Menin Road (September 1917).
1917 20th September	Posted Missing: Menin Road - After Polygon Wood. - No further word -
Fate	Killed in Action 20th September 1917 in France aged 22
Other details	Imperial War Graves Commission: No.3081 Private John William Brewitt, 6th Battalion. Posted Missing after Polygon Wood. 20th September 1917. Name inscribed on memorial to missing at Menin Gate, Ypres. Place of burial - No known grave Panel No., Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial 46 Parents: James and Elizabeth Brewitt, Saxondale, Bingham, Notts, England. Native of Holme Lane, Radcliffe, Manchester, England English born. Arrived Australia to South Sassafras with William Coleman (1913). Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Commemoration details	

### The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 23), Belgium

The Menin Gate Memorial (so named because the road led to the town of Menin) was constructed on the site of a gateway in the eastern walls of the old Flemish town of Ypres, Belgium, where hundreds of thousands of allied troops passed on their way to the front, the Ypres salient, the site from April 1915 to the end of the war of some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

The Memorial was conceived as a monument to the 350,000 men of the British Empire who fought in the campaign. Inside the arch, on tablets of Portland stone, are inscribed the names of 56,000 men, including 6,178 Australians, who served in the Ypres campaign and who have no known grave.

The opening of the Menin Gate Memorial on 24 July 1927 so moved the Australian artist Will Longstaff that he painted 'The Menin Gate at Midnight', which portrays a ghostly army of the dead marching past the Menin Gate. The painting now hangs in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, at the entrance of which are two medieval stone lions presented to the Memorial by the City of Ypres in 1936.

Since the 1930s, with the brief interval of the German occupation in the Second World War, the City of Ypres has conducted a ceremony at the Memorial at dusk each evening to commemorate those who died in the Ypres campaign.