



Herbert Gordon AKHURST

Regimental number	5293
Date of birth	1893
Place of birth	Balmain, Sydney, New South Wales
School	Annandale Superior Public School, New South Wales
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Accountant
Address	51 Annandale Street, Annandale, New South Wales
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	22
Next of kin	Father, Thomas Carlyle Akhurst, 51 Annandale Street, Annandale, New South Wales
Previous military service	Served in the Irish Rifles, Sydney.
Enlistment date	18 August 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	20th Battalion, 14th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/37/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A18 <i>Wiltshire</i> on 22 August 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lance Corporal
Unit from Nominal Roll	20th Battalion
Other details from Roll of Honour Circular	Studied in Officers School, Duntroon.
Fate	Killed in Action 25 March 1917
Place of death or wounding	Bapaume, Somme Sector, France
Age at death	24
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground

('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.

The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.

After the war an appeal in Australia raised £22,700, of which £12,500 came from Victorian school children, with the request that the majority of the funds be used to build a new school in Villers-Bretonneux. The boys' school opened in May 1927, and contains an inscription stating that the school was the gift of Victorian schoolchildren, twelve hundred of whose fathers are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery, with the names of many more recorded on the Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is now twinned with Robinvale, Victoria, which has in its main square a memorial to the links between the two towns.

Panel number, Roll of Honour,
Australian War Memorial

Miscellaneous information from
cemetery records

Other details

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Parents: Thomas Carlyle and Emelie Katie
AKHURST, 51 Annandale Street, Annandale, New
South Wales. Native of Balmain, New South Wales

War service: Western Front

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal