

[The AIF Project](#)[Home](#) | [Search](#) | [About](#) | [Disclaimer](#)**Ralph William BROCKMAN**

Regimental number	2291
Place of birth	York, Western Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Farmer
Address	Newlands, Western Australia
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	33
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs Mary Brockman, Newlands, Western Australia
Previous military service	Nil
Enlistment date	1 June 1916
Place of enlistment	Belmont, Western Australia
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	<a href="#">43rd Battalion, 4th Reinforcement</a>
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/60/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia, on board HMAT A16 <i>Port Melbourne</i> on 30 October 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private

Unit from Nominal Roll	43rd Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 4 October 1917
Place of death or wounding	Belgium
Age at death	34
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, 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.

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	136
Family/military connections	Brothers: 143 Pte Frederick Locke BROCKMAN, 16th Bn, killed in action, 9 May 1915; 47951 2nd Corporal Norman Alton Giordon BROCKMAN MM, 16th Bn, effective abroad (still overseas).
Other details	War service: Egypt, Gallipoli
	Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

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