



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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NEWCASTLE SOLDIER COMMEMORATED AFTER 90 YEARS

A Newcastle World War 1 soldier who fell in battle on the Western Front has finally had his grave properly commemorated, 90 years after his death.

Private William Phillips, an Adamstown man who fought with the 33rd Battalion AIF, was killed near Bray-sur-Somme in France on 22nd August 1918.

Private Phillips was originally commemorated at the Villers Bretonneux Memorial to the Missing, but ten years of research by his great-nephew, Scott Arthur of Kotara, has now shown that Private Phillips has lain in the Bray Vale British Cemetery at Bray-sur-Somme for the past 90 years.

Thanks to Mr Arthur's research, the Office of Australian War Graves has now marked Private Phillips' grave with the correct headstone, 90 years after he fell in battle.

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson said Mr Arthur had shown great dedication to his ancestor's memory by researching the battle and ensuring authorities were made aware of the situation.

"Anzac Day will be particularly special for Scott and all of Private Phillips' relatives, knowing that his final resting place is now properly commemorated," Ms Grierson said.

Mr Arthur said he was also hoping to be able to travel to France later this year to pay his respects to his great-uncle.

"August 22nd is the 90th anniversary of his death, so I would like to pay my respects at his grave at that time," Mr Arthur said.

Ms Grierson said she was helping Mr Arthur and his wife with assistance in getting to France.

"I have contacted the Minister's office, and am also helping Scott to seek assistance from the public and private companies to help get him to France," she said.

Sharon Grierson and Scott Arthur will today lay a commemorative wreath and tribute during the Adamstown RSL Sub-Branch Anzac Service, from 9.00am at the RSL Memorial, Bruncker Road, Adamstown.

Canberra
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 02 6277 4221
Fax: 02 6277 8461



Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Ph: 02 4926 1555
Fax: 02 4926 1895
www.sharongrierson.com