

Nottingham General Cemetery, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4429 PRIVATE

R. E. ARBON

57TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH JULY, 1916 Age 22

"R.I.P."

Roy Edward ARBON

Edward Royce Arbon was born at Bendigo, Victoria in 1892 to parents Edward Harden Arbon and Mary Ann Arbon (nee O'Toole).

Roy Edward Arbon attended Marist Brothers College, Bendigo, Victoria.

The 1914 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Bendigo, subdivision of Sandhurst East, Victoria listed Roy Edward Arbon, Bootmaker, of 111 Bridge Street.

Roy Edward Arbon was a 22 year old, single, Bootmaker (Boot repairer & salesman) from 111 Bridge Street, Bendigo, Victoria when he enlisted on 24th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4429 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr E. Arbon, of 111 Bridge Street, Bendigo, Victoria.

Private Roy Edward Arbon was posted to 16th Depot Battalion at Bendigo on 24th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 9th December, 1915.

Private Roy Edward Arbon embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 28th January, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 28th February, 1916.

Private Roy Edward Arbon was transferred to 57th Battalion on 29th March, 1916 at Zeitoun. He was taken on strength of 57th Battalion on 1st April, 1916 at Ferry Post.

Private Roy Edward Arbon embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 on *Transylvania* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Roy Edward Arbon was wounded in action in France on 15th July, 1916. He was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to back then transferred to 1st Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Arbon was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 15th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to face & leg. He was transferred to 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Outreau on 16th July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to back & left arm. Pte Arbon was invalided to England from Boulogne, France on 18th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel*.

57th Battalion

The 57th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 18 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the A.I.F. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 5th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 5th, the 57th was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Melbourne. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France in late June, the 57th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 57th Battalion

Estaires – 15th July, 1916:

0630 – Enemy commences shelling our position. This was continued until 1230. The shelling was mostly high explosive and did considerable damage to our parapets.

2030 – The Battalion on our right made a gas attack which shanked the enemy shelling. About 2115 the fire shifted on to our "B" & "C" Coys and we suffered severe shelling till about 2330. Our communication trenches and firing line were damaged.

Casualties for day were 1 Officer (2Lt A. E. Keys) wounded 9 other ranks killed, 1 died of wounds 18 other ranks wounded.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Roy Edward Arbon was admitted to Bagthorpe Military Hospital, Nottingham on 19th July, 1916 with bullet wounds to left arm & back - severe.



Bagthorpe Military Hospital, Nottingham

Private Roy Edward Arbon died at 11.30 pm on 19th July, 1916 at Bagthorpe Military Hospital, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England from wounds received in action in France - gunshot wounds to spine & internal haemorrhage.

A death for Roy E. Arbon, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England.

Newspaper item – Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 16 September, 1916:

DIED FROM WOUNDS

PRIVATE R. ARBON

Mrs Arbon, of 11 Bridge-street, Bendigo, has received the following letter from Lieut. Colonel H. G. Ashwell, R.A.M.C.- "It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of your son, Private R. Arbon. He was admitted to this hospital from the Expeditionary Force, France, on the 19th July, 1916, at 4 a.m., suffering from a gunshot wound in the spine. Internal hemorrhage set in, and he died at 11.30 p.m. on the same day, He will be interred at the General Cemetery, Nottingham at 1 p.m. on Monday next, 24th. The Very Rev. Canon McIlroy, of Bolton-street, Hyson Green, Nottingham, the Roman Catholic priest, will conduct the ceremony. There are 33 Australians in the hospital and a number of Australian sisters, who will attend the funeral. There will be a military band and a firing party, and the coffin will be conveyed from the hospital to the cemetery on a gun carriage covered with a Union Jack."

(This item also appeared in the Bendigonian, Victoria on 21 September, 1916)

Private Roy Edward Arbon was buried on 24th July, 1916 in Nottingham General Cemetery, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England in "D" Allotment.

A letter was sent from Base Records to Mr E. Arbon on 7th August, 1918 which reads: "*With reference to your son, the late No. 4429 Pte R. E. Arbon, 57th Battalion, who was buried on 24-7-16 at the General Cemetery, Nottingham, advice is now to hand from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, to the effect that his remains were exhumed and re-interred in grave No. 01555, Section B, on 22-1-17. The exhumation and re-interment of the body was carried out by his relatives under licence obtained from the Home Secretary with the consent of A.I.F. Headquarters.*"

Newspaper item – *Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 14 November, 1916:

HEROIC STRETCHER-BEARERS

COMRADES' TESTIMONY

HOW PRIVATE ARBON DIED

In a letter to "The Bendigonian" dated France, 22nd September, 1916, Corporal J. Rodgers and Private W. Williams, of the, 57th Battalion, wrote:--"Seeing by "The Bendigonian" dated 3rd August the account of the death of our mate, Private Roy E. Arbon whilst in action, in France, the cause of death being unknown, we should like you and all our friends over there to know that it was while taking a wounded comrade to the dressing station that he sustained his injuries. His mate was killed outright, and he himself was wounded in eight different places. This happened during one of the severest bombardments that we have yet had. Stretcher bearing is one of the toughest jobs in the line, but whenever wanted Private Arbon was always ready and waiting to do his best. We (his mates) and all the boys in the trenches, wait anxiously for "The Bendigonian" with news from home, and I can assure you that they are rushed every mail. Trusting that dear old Bendigo is still the same as when we left."

(This item also appeared in the Bendigonian, Victoria on 16 November, 1916)

A War Pension was granted to Mary Ann Arbon, mother of the late Royce Edward Arbon, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 25th September, 1916.

Private Roy Edward Arbon was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Arbon's father - Mr E. Arbon, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Roy Edward Arbon - service number 4429, aged 22, of 57th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward and Mary Arbon, of 113 Bridge Street, Bendigo, Victoria Australia.

Private R. E. Arbon is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 163.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. Arbon is remembered on the Marist Brothers College Honour Roll, located at Soldiers Memorial Institute, Pall Mall, Bendigo, Victoria.



Marist Brothers College Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



R. E. Arbon is remembered on the Soldiers Memorial Institute, Pall Mall, Bendigo, Victoria.



Soldiers Memorial Institute, Bendigo (Photos from Monument Australia)



Soldiers Memorial Institute, Bendigo

(57 pages of Private Roy Edward Arbon's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

BENDIGO RECRUITING OFFICE

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THE NEW SOLDIERS

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The men who were accepted on Saturday were:- Roy Edward Arbon, Bridge-street, Bendigo, boot repairer;

(*Bendigonian*, Bendigo, Victoria – 29 July, 1915)

MOTOR-CAR OVERTURNS.

SENSATION AT BENDIGO.

NINE PEOPLE INJURED.

BENDIGO, Thursday. - As the result of a motor-car crashing into a culvert near Lake Weeroona shortly before midnight yesterday, seven soldiers from the Epsom camp and two civilians, the latter seriously injured, are now inmates of the Bendigo Hospital. The injured men were: -

BAXTER, CHARLES (civilian), Hargreaves street, Bendigo, severe fracture of pelvis; condition serious.

DONALDSON, GEORGE (civilian), McCrae street, Bendigo, severe fracture of pelvis; condition serious.

BOYLE, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, 20 Hawksburn road, Hawthorn, fracture pelvis; not serious.

BRAMLEY, Private KELSALL JAMES, Derby Spring, sprained knee and abrasions.

PHAIR, Private WILLIAM IRWIN, Ironbark, fractured shin bone.

WILLIAMS, Lance-Corporal JOHN ARNOLD, North Bendigo, concussion of the brain and abrasions.

WHEELER, Corporal REUBEN HERBERT, Wallacedale, near Condah, concussion of the brain and fractured cheek bone.

ARBON, Private ROY EDWARD Budge street, Bendigo, general abrasions.

RICH, Private CHARLES, 103 Stafford street, Abbotsford, concussion of the brain and general abrasions.

The car was conveying the soldiers from Bendigo to the camp, and an inspection of the scene of the accident to-day showed that for 40 or 50 yards before reaching the McCrae street Bridge the left wheels had been travelling in the street channel which becomes deeper as the bridge is approached. When the chauffeur discovered his position he endeavoured to regain the roadway, instead of stopping the car. It is stated that the car was travelling at the rate of 15 or 20 miles an hour, and that it refused to answer the steering wheel. When the culvert was struck the occupants were hurled on to the footpath, and the car overturned. The injured men were quickly taken to the hospital. Damage to the extent of about £30 was caused to the car.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 November, 1915)

DIED ON DUTY



Stretcher-Bearer Arbon

Mrs Arbon, of 111 Bridge Street, received a cable message through the Defence Department from Father McReavey, stating that her son, Stretcher-bearer R. E. Arbon, of the 57th Battalion, has died in France. The cause is not yet reported — but most probably he was killed in action.

Pte. Arbon was well known in Bendigo particularly in sporting circles. He was a member of the Albion Imps, and an employee of Mr. J. Collier, boot dealer.

(The Bendigo Independent, Bendigo, Victoria – 27 July, 1916)

BENDIGO SOLDIER'S DEATH

PRIVATE ROY ARBON

Mrs Arbon, of 111 Bridge-street, has been notified by the Defence department that her son, Private Roy E. Arbon, Stretcher bearer, died in the Bagthorpe Military Hospital on 19th July from an unknown cause. Prior to enlisting Private Arbon was employed by Mr Colliers, boot merchant, of Mitchell-street. He was well known locally as a footballer, and was a member of the Albion Imperial Football Club. He was an ex-pupil of the Maris Bros School. Private Arbon was 24 years of age.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo, Victoria – 27 July, 1916)

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FOR FREEDOM'S CAUSE



PRIVATE ROY ARBON

Son of Mrs E. Arbon, of Bridge-street, Bendigo, who died in Bagthorpe Military Hospital, England on the 19th July.

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 3 August, 1916)

DIED, CAUSE UNKNOWN

PRIVATE ROY ARBON

Mrs Arbon, of 111 Bridge-street, has been notified by the Defence department that her son, Private Roy E. Arbon, Stretcher bearer, died in the Bagthorpe Military Hospital on 19th July from an unknown cause. Prior to enlisting Private Arbon was employed by Mr Colliers, boot merchant, of Mitchell-street. He was well known locally as a footballer, and was a member of the Albion Imperial Football Club. He was an ex-pupil of the Maris Bros School. Private Arbon was 24 years of age.

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 3 August, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

190TH LIST OF AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

VICTORIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte R. E. Arbon, Bendigo, 19/7/16

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 5 August, 1916)

Bereavement Cards

Mr and Mrs ARBON and FAMILY desire to express sincere THANKS for visits, cards and letters, also Albion Football Club for their sympathy in their recent sad bereavement.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo, Victoria – 22 August, 1916) & (Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 24 August, 1916)

BENDIGO DISTRICT SOLDIERS

DIED ON SERVICE

PRIVATE R. ARBON

Mrs Arbon, of 11 Bridge street, Bendigo, has received a letter from Lieut.-Col. Ashwell, R.A.M.C., officer in charge of the Military Hospital at Bagthorpe, in Nottingham, England, stating that her son, Private R. Arbon, who was suffering from a gunshot wound in the spine, had died from internal haemorrhage. He was attended by the Very Rev. Canon McIlroy, of Hyson Green, Nottingham, who solemnised the last rites during a full military burial service. Australian soldiers and nurses were present.

(The Bendigo Independent, Bendigo, Victoria – 16 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

ARBON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother (Roy) who died of wounds at Bagthorne Hospital (England) on the 19th of July, 1916.

In a soldier's grave he is sleeping,

One of earth's dearest and best.

Our Hero.

-Inserted by his loving parents and brothers, Henry and Leo. R.I.P.

ARBON – In fond memory of our dearly beloved nephew and cousin (Roy) who died of wounds at Bagthorpe Hospital (England) on the 19th of July, 1916.

In our hearts we miss you, dear Roy,

Though we know you are only at rest.

-Inserted by his Aunt (L.P., Uncle A. O'T) and Cousins, Dorrie and Alf.

R.I.P.

(The Bendigo Independent, Bendigo, Victoria – 19 July, 1917)

FOR FREEDOM'S CAUSE

ARBON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother (Roy) who died of wounds at Bagthorpe Hospital (England) on the 19th of July, 1916.

In a soldier's grave he is sleeping,

One of earth's dearest and best.

Our Hero.

-Inserted by his loving parents and brothers, Henry and Leo. R.I.P.

ARBON – In fond memory of our dearly beloved nephew and cousin (Roy) who died of wounds at Bagthorpe Hospital (England) on the 19th of July, 1916.

In our hearts we miss you, dear Roy,

Though we know you are only at rest.

-Inserted by his Aunt L.P., Uncle A. O'T and cousins, Dorrie and Alf. R.I.P.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo, Victoria – 19 July, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ARBON – Sacred to the memory of our dear Roy, who died of wounds in France 19th July, 1916, nephew of Mr and Mrs H. Arbon, Maryborough, and cousin of Mrs A. Harrison, Daylesford.

Cold lies the clay on his mouldering head,

Sweet is the rest of the innocent dead;

But the love that we bore him shall dwell in our breasts

Until we meet him again in realms of the blessed.

-Inserted by his Maryborough relatives.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 July, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

ARBON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother (Roy) who died of wounds at Bagthorpe Hospital, England, on the 19th of July, 1916.

In a soldier's grave he is sleeping,

One of earth's dearest and best.

Our Hero.

-Inserted by his loving parents and brothers, Henry and Leo. R.I.P.

ARBON – In fond memory of our dearly beloved nephew and cousin (Roy) who died of wounds at Bagthorpe Hospital, England, on the 19th of July, 1916.

In our hearts we miss you, dear Roy,

Though we know you are only at rest.

-Inserted by his Aunt L.P., Uncle A. O. T and cousins, Dorrie and Alf. R.I.P.

ARBON – In memory of my dear pal (Roy), died of wounds at Bagthorpe Hospital, England, on the 19th of July, 1916.

A hero who will ever be
His country's boast and pride –
To give his life at duty's call,
Beloved by comrades one and all.
One of Australia's best.

-Inserted by his mate in France, W. Williams.

(*Bendigonian*, Bendigo, Victoria – 26 July, 1917)

LAST POST CEREMONY

Private Roy Edward Arbon was remembered in the Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on 23rd September, 2016.

Commencing at approximately 4.55 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the [Roll of Honour](#).

The ceremony begins with the Australian national anthem followed by the piper's lament. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. An individual's story is told, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

(*Information from The Australian War Memorial*)



Speech transcript

4429 Private Roy Edward Arbon, 57th Battalion, AIF
DOW 19 July 1916

Story delivered 23 September 2016

Today we remember and pay tribute to Private Roy Edward Arbon.

Roy Arbon was born in 1894 to Edward and Mary Arbon of Bendigo, Victoria. He grew up in the district, attending Marist Brothers College in Bendigo, and went on to become a bootmaker and salesman. He was well known in Bendigo sporting circles and played Australian Rules Football for the Albion Imps.

Arbon left his position working for Mr Collier, the Bendigo boot merchant, in July 1915 to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force. He went into Epsom Camp to undertake his preliminary military training. In November 1915, as his training was drawing to a close, Arbon was one of nine passengers in a motor car coming back to camp from a trip into Bendigo. The driver of the car got a wheel stuck in a culvert at the side of the road, and attempted to turn right and pull the car out. Instead, the car overturned, throwing all of the occupants out, seriously injuring two of them. Private Arbon was lucky to have suffered only cuts and abrasions in the accident, while others received fractures and spinal injuries.

Private Arbon left Australia for overseas service in January 1916 on board the troopship Themistocles. He left with a group of reinforcements to the 7th Battalion, but transferred to the 57th Battalion after arriving in Egypt in March. He continued training in Egypt with the rest of the AIF until the middle of the year, arriving in France to fight on the Western Front in late June 1916.

Within days of arriving in France the 57th Battalion took over a quiet sector of the front line near Estaires. Private Arbon at this time was serving as a stretcher-bearer to the battalion. In late July, no more than six weeks after Private Arbon arrived in France, his family received a cable to say that he was dead. His death was reported in the local newspapers with a note to say that no particulars of the manner of his death were known.

The clipping was sent to some soldiers from Bendigo serving in France. Corporal Rodgers and Private Williams of the 57th Battalion saw the notice and wrote to the newspaper:

it was while taking a wounded comrade to the dressing station that [Arbon] sustained his injuries. His mate was killed outright, and he himself was wounded in eight different places. This happened during one of the severest bombardments that we have yet had. Stretcher-bearing is one of the toughest jobs in the line, but whenever wanted, Private Arbon was always ready and waiting to do his best.

Arbon had in fact been wounded in the spine, and was evacuated from the battlefield to Bagthorpe Military Hospital in England. He died at 11.30 pm on 19 July 1916. There were 38 Australian patients in the hospital able to attend Private Arbon's funeral, along with a number of Australian nurses.

In Australia Roy's parents and two brothers, Henry and Leo, put a memorial notice in the paper. It read:

In a soldier's grave he is sleeping
One of earth's dearest and best.
Our Hero.

Today Private Roy Arbon lies in the Nottingham General Cemetery under the simple epitaph, "R.I.P." He was 24 years old.

His name is listed on the Roll of Honour on my right, among more than 60,000 Australians who died while serving in the First World War.

This is but one of the many stories of service and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Private Roy Edward Arbon, who gave his life for us, for our freedoms, and in the hope of a better world.

Dr Meleah Hampton
Historian, Military History Section

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private R. E. Arbon does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

“R.I.P.”

Nottingham General Cemetery, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England

Nottingham General Cemetery contains 349 Commonwealth War Graves – 339 from World War 1 & 10 from World War 2. Many of the World War 1 burials were made from the Bagthorpe War Hospital and other war hospitals in the city. More than 100 of these graves form a war plot, with the names of the dead inscribed on an adjoining Screen Wall.



Nottingham General Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Nottingham General Cemetery (Photo by Roy Hughes)



Nottingham General Cemetery – above showing Cross of Sacrifice & Screen Wall (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private R. E. Arbon's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Nottingham General Cemetery, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England.





Nottingham General Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*