

Kempston Cemetery, Bedfordshire War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



20470 SAPPER

H. L. BARTLETT

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

4TH APRIL, 1918

The Lord Gave

And The Lord

Hath Taken Away

Harold Lyle BARTLETT

Harold Lyle Bartlett was born at Adelaide, South Australia on 8th October, 1898 to parents Herbert Edgar Bartlett & Emily Annie Bartlett (nee Lyle).

Harold Lyle Bartlett attended Mallala School, South Australia.

Harold Lyle Bartlett was aged 18 years & 9 months, single, and a Fitter & Turner from 2 Miller's Corner, Glenelg, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, Sth Australia on 7th July, 1917 with the 5th Divisional Signal Company (Engineers), 18th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 20470 & his religion was Church of Christ. His next of kin was listed as his father – Herbert Edgar Bartlett of 2 Miller's Corner, Glenelg, South Australia. Harold Bartlett has served as an apprentice for 4 years with A.W. Dobbie & Coy in Adelaide. Harold Bartlett stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 3 years in Senior Cadets & had transferred to Citizen Forces for 9 months & was still serving. Harold Lyle Bartlett was under the age of 21 years so both his parents signed their consent for their son to enlist in the A.I.F. for active service abroad. They both also signed that their son was not to leave Australian Shores until the age of 19 years.

Private Harold Bartlett was attached to "B" Company at Mitcham, South Australia from 10th July, 1917. He was transferred to "D" Company on 1st August, 1917 then transferred the same day to Signalling Reinforcements. Harold Bartlett was sent to Signal School as Sapper on 6th September, 1917.

Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 21st November, 1917 & disembarked at Suez on 15th December, 1917.

Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett embarked on H.M.T. *Abbasieh* on 8th January, 1918 & disembarked at Taranto, Italy on 13th January, 1918. He entrained from Italy to France.

Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett was left in Isolation at Cherbourg, France on 22nd January, 1918.

Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett was marched in to No. 3 Camp Details at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 14th February, 1918.

Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett was marched out from Parkhouse & marched in to Engineers Training Depot (Signalling Section) at Clifton on 16th March, 1918.

Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett was sent sick to Military Hospital, Bedford, England on 28th March, 1918.

Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett died at 2 pm on 4th April, 1918 at Military Hospital, Bedford, Bedfordshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Harold L. Bartlett, aged 19, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Bedford, Bedfordshire, England.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett contains a request for particulars of the death & burial of Sapper Harold Bartlett from Pte Jack W. Lang, No. 3335 of 50th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. stationed at Codford, Wiltshire, England on 27th June, 1918. A reply was written by Edith Stevens, Matron, The Military Hospital, Bedford which reads: "*With reference to your letter of June 29th asking for details of the death of 20470 Pte H. L. Bartlett, 5th Div. Sigs. Coy., he was brought to us suffering from a severe attack of pneumonia. Everything possible was done for him by doctors and nurses, but he collapsed in a few days from heart failure. He had a Military funeral, and was buried at Kempston Cemetery. Some beautiful flowers were sent. I sent his Mother a long account of his illness and death at the time it occurred, and I also sent her some excellent photographs of his funeral, which I hope have reached her. He was a very nice boy, and liked by all in his Ward.*"

Another letter was written by Mrs Ada Vines of 8 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford, who was an Official Red Cross Visitor who wrote the following letter: "*I have attended the funeral of Spr. H. L. Bartlett 20470. There was a big attendance of Australians from all round and a firing party – three volleys were fired and the last post was sounded. Several photos were taken to be sent to his parents. I find he has a mother. He was buried in Kempston Cemetery, a beautiful little cemetery about 2 ½ miles out of Bedford. I had a long talk with the Commandant afterwards. She tells me she wrote*

fully to his mother at once, giving particulars of the boy's last illness. His heart failed at the last. He was given oxygen and everything was done to save his life. He was delirious or unconscious most of the time he was at the Hospital, but did not seem to be in any special pain. A white cross similar to those used in France was brought to the cemetery to be put up at once, and there were several beautiful wreaths. If there is anything more you want to know please let me know. He was carried from the gun carriage by some of his special "pals".

Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett was buried at 2 pm on 8th April, 1918 in Kempston Cemetery, Bedfordshire, England – Plot number M. 70. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sapper Bartlett - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by the comrades of the deceased and Hospital Staff. Gun Carriage (6 horses) was supplied by the A.S.C. stationed at Bedford. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were supplied by the 5th Div. Sig. Coy., A.I.F. stationed at Bedford under the command of Lieut. Deam, M.C. A large party of British, Australian and New Zealand troops followed the remains to the Cemetery. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Parish Church, Kempston by the Rev. P. Greeves. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Harold L. Bartlett requested in his Will, dated 10th July, 1917 the whole of his personal property including his Military Estate be given to his mother Emily Annie Bartlett and his father Herbert Edgar Bartlett (to be divided equally).

A letter was sent to Mr H. E. Bartlett, father of the late Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett, dated 24th February, 1920 advising the a package with the personal effects of their son was included in a consignment forwarded by the ill-fated "Barunga" which was lost at sea with all cargo, as a result of enemy action.

Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Bartlett's father - Mr H. E. Bartlett, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922, despatched August, 1924).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett – service number 20470, of 5th Div. Signal, Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of Herbert Edgar and Emily Annie Bartlett, of 2 Partridge St., Glenelg, South Australia.

Sapper H. L. Bartlett is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 25.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Harold Lyle Bartlett is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

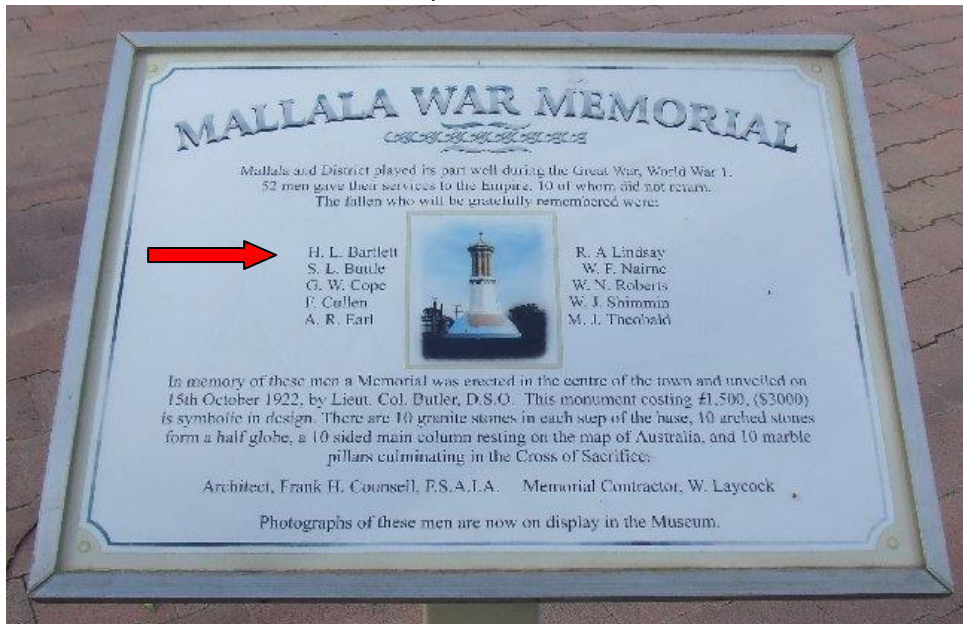
H. L. Bartlett is also remembered on the Mallala War Memorial located in the centre of Mallala at the junction of eight roads - Dublin Road, Wasleys Road, Aerodrome Road, Balaklava Road, Railway Avenue, Adelaide Road, Butler Street and Redbanks Road. It serves as a traffic island. The monument consists of a globe with the map of Australia as its base, and around the top has plaques listing the names of those who lost their lives.



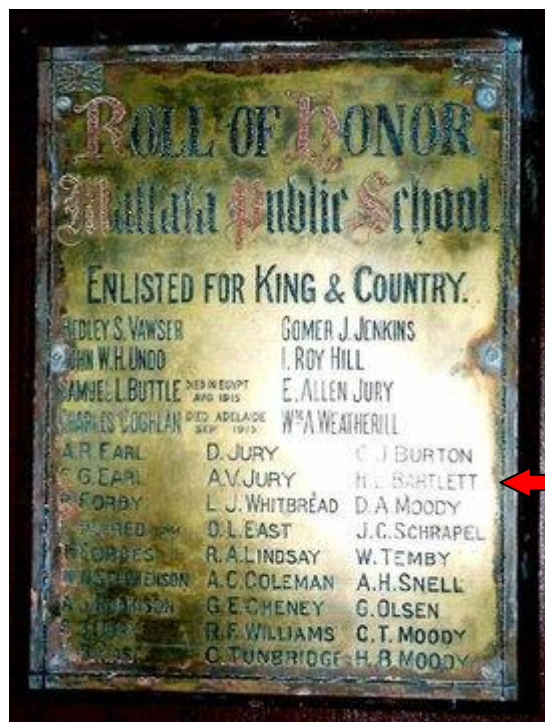
Mallala War Memorial (Photos from RSL Virtual War Memorial)



Example of the names



H. L. Bartlett is also remembered on the Mallala Honour Board, located in the Mallala Museum, Railway Avenue, Mallala, South Australia.



Mallala Honour Board (Photo from RSL Virtual War Memorial)

H. L. Bartlett is remembered on the Glenelg Honour Board, located in the foyer of the Town Hall on Jetty Road, Glenelg, South Australia.



Glenelg Honour Board (Photos from RSL Virtual War Memorial)



(54 pages of Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett'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



Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett

Newspaper Notices

LATE SAPPER H. L. BARTLETT

Mr. H. E. Bartlett, of No. 2 Partridge Street, Glenelg, received a cable message from England on Wednesday informing him that his eldest son, Sapper Harold Lyle Bartlett, of the 5th Divisional Signalling Company of Engineers, had died from pneumonia in the Bedford (England) Hospital. The late Sapper Bartlett, who was 19 ½ years of age, reached Egypt last December, and on March 25 his parents were advised by cable that he had just arrived in England. The news of his death consequently came as a great shock to them. The deceased was a native of Mallala, where he was educated, and was well known and highly respected. He left the employ of Messrs. A. W. Dobbie & Co., where he had served for two years as an electrical engineer, to join the expeditionary forces. He had resided with his parents at Glenelg for the past three years. He was a prominent member of the local Church of Christ, and was an estimable young man.

(Glenelg Guardian, Sth Australia – 18 April, 1918)

OUR HEROES WHO HAVE DIED FOR KING AND COUNTRY



Sap. H. L. Bartlett

(*Observer*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 20 April, 1918)

BEREAVEMENT CARDS

Mr and Mrs H. E. BARTLETT, 2 Partridge street, Glenelg, desire to THANK all kind Friends and Relatives for letters, cards and personal expressions of sympathy in the sad loss of their Son, Sapper H. L. Bartlett, who died in Bedford Military Hospital, England.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 11 May, 1918) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 18 May, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

BARTLETT – In loving memory of Sapper H. L. Bartlett, who died in England, April 4, 1918. Ever remembered. – Inserted by his loving friends, Mr, Mrs and Elsie Whitwell, Glenelg.

BARTLETT – In loving memory of dear Harold, Sapper H. L. Bartlett, who died at Bedford, England, April 4, 1918.

Great is our sorrow, but God knows best,

He has taken our loved one home to rest.

-Inserted by loving father, mother, sisters, and brothers

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 4 April, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

BARTLETT – In loving memory of Sapper H. L. Bartlett, who passed away at Bedford Military Hospital, England, on April 4th, 1918. Peacefully sleeping – Inserted by his loving parents, sisters, and brothers.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 10 April, 1920)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

BARTLETT – Sap. H. L. Bartlett, of 5th Signalling Company, who died on 4th April, 1918.

(The Register, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 4 April, 1927)

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)

Sapper H. L. Bartlett does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away

Kempston Cemetery, Bedfordshire

Kempston Cemetery, Bedfordshire contains 64 War Graves. 27 War Graves are from World War 1 & 37 are from World War 2.

There is only one Australian burial in Kempston Cemetery.



Kempston Cemetery, Bedfordshire (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Sapper H. L. Bartlett's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Kempston Cemetery, Bedfordshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Clive Hughes)