

**Ann's Hill Cemetery,
Gosport, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

R. V. BARTLEY

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

3RD JULY, 1918

Robert Victor BARTLEY

Robert Victor Bartley was born at Stawell, Victoria on 30th August, 1887 to parents Andrew (Audrio) & Matilda Frances Ellen (Tilly) Bartley (nee Williams).

The 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Maribyrnong, subdivision of Ascot Vale, Victoria, recorded Robert Victor Bartley, Metal Polisher of 7 Roxburgh Street, Ascot Vale, Victoria.

The Victoria Petty Sessions Registers for 2nd May, 1916 recorded Annie Murphy as Complainant & Robert Victor Bartley as defendant before the Court with a Summons for Board & Lodging of £8 & a fee of 5 shillings. The case was adjourned to 16th May. According to the 1912 to 1927 Australian Electoral Rolls, Annie Murphy, Home Duties, lived at 7A Roxburgh St, Ascot Vale, Victoria.

The Victoria Petty Sessions Registers for 16th May, 1916 recorded Henry Charles Murphy as Complainant & Robert Victor Bartley as defendant before the Court with a Summons for Money Lent- £11-5-0. An order was made for £11-5-0 with 26/- costs.

Robert Victor Bartley was a 28 year old, single, Metal Finisher from Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 5th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7565 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. Bartley, 7th Avenue, Maylands, Western Australia.

Recruit Robert Victor Bartley was posted to "B" Company, 10th Battalion on 1st February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion on 23rd March, 1916 as Private. Pte Bartley was transferred to Broadmeadows with 11th Reinforcements of 20th Battalion on 22nd May, 1916.

Private Robert Victor Bartley was posted to No. 4 N.C.O. School (no commencement date recorded) until 7th July, 1916.

Corporal Robert Victor Bartley was posted to No. 75 Depot from 8th July, 1916 then transferred to 23rd Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 1st August, 1916. Corporal Bartley was promoted to Sergeant while posted with 23rd Reinforcements of 11th Battalion.

Sergeant Robert Victor Bartley was posted to No. 22 Depot on 4th January, 1917 then transferred to No. 98 Depot on 24th January, 1917. He was posted to 25th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 30th January, 1917 then transferred to 20th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 1st March, 1917. Sergeant Bartley was transferred to 25th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 16th March, 1917.

Sergeant (Voyage only) Robert Victor Bartley embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 29th June, 1917 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 25th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th August, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Sergeant (Voyage only) Robert Victor Bartley was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 25th August, 1917 & reverted to the rank of Private.

Private Robert Victor Bartley joined No. 1 Royal Flying Corps School of Military Aeronautics at Reading on 2nd November, 1917 & was appointed Cadet. He was taken on strength of A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) as 2/A.M. (2nd Air Mechanic) from 11th Battalion.

Cadet Robert Victor Bartley was transferred to A.F.C. Details at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 6th November, 1917.

2nd Air Mechanic Robert Victor Bartley was marched out from Reading to 5th Training Squadron on 15th January, 1918.

2nd Air Mechanic Robert Victor Bartley was attached for Elementary Instruction in Aviation from A.F.C. Depot at Wendover on 18th January, 1918.

2nd Air Mechanic Robert Victor Bartley was detached from attached duty with No. 5 Training Squadron at Shawbury to 10th Training Squadron, R.F.C. for Higher Instruction in Aviation on 24th February, 1918. Second Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley was attached to No. 10 Training Squadron on 25th February, 1918.

2nd Air Mechanic Robert Victor Bartley was appointed Flying Officer (Pilot) on 12th May, 1918 with Australian Flying Corps & was to be 2nd Lieutenant. His Royal Air Force Officers Service Card records his permanent Home address as Merolia, 7th Avenue, Maylands, Perth, Western Australia & his occupation in Civilian life was a Jeweller's mechanic. The name of the person to be informed of in case of Casualty was Mr H. Boyce, 95 Rannock Rd. Hammersmith, London.

Second Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley took off from Fort Grange, Gosport, Hampshire at 2.30 pm on 3rd July, 1918 flying a Sopwith Camel No. C 9 solo. The purpose of the flight was for practice & the weather conditions were fine.



Sopwith Camel

Second Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley died at 3.15 pm on 3rd July, 1918 at Fort Grange (No. 1 School of Special Flying, R.A.F.), Gosport, Hampshire, England as a result of an aeroplane accident.

A death for Robert V. Bartley, aged 30, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Fareham, Hampshire, England.

A Court of Enquiry was held at Fort Grange, Gosport, on 4th July, 1918 for the purpose of enquiring into circumstances connected with the accident on 3rd July, 1918, involving the death of 2/Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley, Australian Flying Corps.

EVIDENCE.

1st. Witness. Lieut. A.G.A. Spence R.A.F. states:-

I am Flight Commander of "F" Flight, Fort Grange Gosport, Camel C.9. and 2/Lieut. Bartley was in my flight. At about 2 p.m. on 3rd. July 1918 I instructed 2/Lt. Bartley to take up Camel C.9. for a practice flight. He had flown this machine previously that day, in the morning. He was a flying Officer under instruction and had flown about 47 hrs. solo, including about 5 hours on a camel.

(Sgd) A.G.A. Spence. Lieut.

2nd. Witness. Lieut. J.E. Wood R.A.F. states:-

I am Flight Commander of "E" Flight, Fort Grange Gosport. At 2.40 p.m. on the 3rd. July 1918. I saw 2/Lieut. Bartley go up in Camel C.9. When he was in the air, I saw him manoeuvring his machine against a machine piloted by Lieut. P.O. Boyle. The machine appeared to be flying quite well, and was handled with ability. I did not see the machine crash, but I examined the wreckage afterwards and the controls seemed intact.

(Sgd) J.E. Wood. Lieut.

3rd. Witness. Capt. P.H. Hadfield. R.A.M.C. states:-

I am in Medical Charge of Fort Grange Aerodrome. I was called to a crash just outside the Aerodrome at 3.15 p.m. on 3rd. July 1918. I found 2/Lieut. Bartley wrapped up in the wreckage of a machine. He was dead, and had been severely smashed up. Death must have been instantaneous. The skull and spinal column were fractured, as were most of the bones of the body. There were also other injuries. The body was removed to Gosport Military Hospital Mortuary, and the Coroner informed.

(Sgd) P.H. Hadfield.

4th. Witness. Cpl. Beer W. states:-

I am a Rigger in "F" Flight, and I was in charge of Camel C9. As I had been freshly put on the machine on the morning of the 3rd, July 1918 I thoroughly inspected and overhauled it between the hours of 1.45 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. and found everything correct. I swung the propellor of the machine before 2/Lt. Bartley took off. He ran the engine up, tested his controls and signalled all clear. He took off the ground quite alright.

(Sgd) W. Beer. Cpl.

5th. Witness. No. 2601. 1st. A.M.Hill H.B. states:-

I am a Fitter in "P" Flight, Fort Grange, Gosport, and was in charge of the engine of Camel C.9. on the 3rd. July 1918. I looked over the engine in the morning, ran it up, and found everything correct. I saw 2/Lieut. Bartley run the engine up prior to his last flight. The engine was running satisfactorily. I saw the machine at about 3.15 p.m. diving very steeply near the ground. I could see smoke issuing from the exhaust of the engine and assumed that the engine was on. The machine then disappeared behind some trees.

(Sgd) 1st. A.M.Hill.

6th. Witness. No. 37314. 1st. A.M. Allen H.S. states:-

I am a Fitter in "E" Flight, Fort Grange, Gosport and at about 3.15 p.m. on the 3rd. July 1918, my attention was drawn to a Camel which was flying. By the sound of the wires. I saw this machine come out of a manoeuvre which I thought to be a half roll, partly flatten out, then go into a steep dive at about 1,000 feet. The machine continued in this dive straight to earth. I could hear the engine running.

(Sgd) H.S.Allen.

7th. Witness. No. 2196. Sgt. Jones D.T.A. states:-

I am a Sergeant Pilot in "E" Flight, Fort Grange, Gosport. On the 3rd. July 1918, at about 3.15 p.m. I saw a Camel coming out of a half roll, or what appeared to me to be a half roll, temporarily flatten out, and then nose dive, slightly side slipping. I was behind Headquarter Flight shed and lost sight of the machine. I then went round the corner of the shed and saw the machine in the last 25 feet of its dive. While the machine was out of my sight it apparently did a half turn to the left, judging from the position in which it was when I had last seen it.

(Sgd) D.T.A Jones. Sergt.

8th. Witness. 2/Lieut. F.T.Ross, A.F.C. states:-

I am a Flying Officer under instruction in "A" Flight, Fort Grange, Gosport. At about 2.45 p.m. on the 3rd. July 1918. I saw 2/Lieut. Bartley take up Camel C9, and I watched him stunting the machine for about half an hour. At about 3.15 p.m. I saw him fly out of the sun and do what appeared to be a half roll, then dive 500 or 600 feet, flattening out slight, then his nose suddenly dropped, and he nose dived steeply to earth, doing a half spin to the right. I knew 2/Lieut. Bartley for the past 6 months. He did not drink, was invariably in good health and good spirits.

(Sgd) F.T.Ross. 2/Lieut.

The Court wishes to make the following recommendations:-

- I. That a more suitable type of bolt be fitted in Camels. i.e. fitting around the chest instead of over the pilots cap.
- II. That the position of guns on Camels be altered or adequate protection be made to protect the pilot's head.

(7) The Flying Experience of the Occupants prior to this flight was:-

Name of Occupant.	Types of Aeroplanes.	Time Flown on each type.			
		Dual.		Solo.	
		Hours.	Mins.	Hours.	Mins.
2/Lieut. BARTLEY. R.V.	M.F.S.H.	8	14.	4	35.
	Avro.	18.	15.	16.	30.
	Sop. Set. (Pup)	-	-	21.	15.
	Sop. Cam.	-	-	5.	-

(8) We have examined the following Aeroplane Engine and Pilot's Flying Log Books and have ascertained:-

Description of book.	Remarks, including material facts supplementing or confirming evidence of witnesses.
Engine Log Book. Aero. Log Book. Pilots Flying Log Book.	Engine had run 139 hrs. 10 mins since purchase. 5 hours 20 mins since last overhaul. Aeroplane had done 62 hrs. 20 mins since purchase. Pilot had flown 71 hrs. in the air, had flown this particular machine on previous occasions.

(9) We have visited the scene of the accident before aeroplane was removed and have found the following material facts:-

"Elevators, rudder were undamaged. Control wires were intact.

"B". We have been unable to obtain the evidence of the following material witnesses:-

Name.	Rank.	Unit.	Reason prevluding obtaining of evidence.	How. conn., with accident.
R.V.Bartley.	2/Lieut.	A.F.C.	Deceased.	Pilot.

The Court found that the cause of the accident was in their opinion "The Pilot whilst flying on duty, some part of the last manoeuvre must have pulled the stick back so quickly as to cause his head to be thrown forward on to the guns. The impact being sufficient to render him insensible, after which the Pilot fell forward on the stick."

Second Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley was buried at 2 pm on 6th July, 1918 in Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England – Plot number 50. 23678 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of 2/Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley - Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased officer was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by two beautiful wreaths, which were sent by Officers, N.C.O.'s, and men of the R.A.F. Station, Gosport. R.A.F. Tender and Trailer, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were in attendance. About 12 Officers and 50 men from the R.A.F. followed the remains of the deceased office to the Cemetery. The grave will be turfed and a oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the Funeral.

Names of Relatives or friends present at the Funeral – Friends – 2/Lt. Ross, A.F.C., R.A.F. Station, Gosport & Mr & Mrs H. Boyce, 95 Rannock Rd., Fulham Rd, London 6.

Robert Victor Bartley requested in his Will, dated 27th June, 1917 that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his father – Andre Bartley of “Merolia”, 7th Avenue, Maylands, Western Australia & Ethel Maude Bartley to be appointed Executrix.

Andrew Bartley, father of the late Second Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley died on 7th November, 1918. A death was registered for Andrew Bartley in Perth, Western Australia in 1918.

Second Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley 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 Second Lieutenant Bartley’s mother – Mrs M. F. Bartley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant R. V. Bartley, of Australian Flying Corps. No family details are listed.

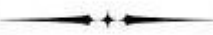
Second Lieutenant R. V. Bartley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(98 pages of Second Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley’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





Robert Victor Bartley



Newspaper Notices

Air Ministry Daily List of July 16th

OFFICERS

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

DIED

Bartley, Sec. Lt. R. V., Aust. Fl. Corps

(Weekly Casualty List, War Office & Air Ministry – 23 July, 1918)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

WEST AUSTRALIA

Died, Other Causes

2nd Lieut. Robert Victor Bartley, Maylands, the result of accident.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 23 July, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

BARTLEY – On the 3rd July, 2nd Lieut. Robert Victor Bartley, Australian Flying Company.

Per ardua ad astra.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 July, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

BARTLEY – On the 3rd July, 2nd Lieut. Robert Victor Bartley, Australian Flying Corps. Per ardua ad astra. (Inserted by A. Hale, Elsternwick)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 July, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BARTLEY – In sad and loving remembrance of my loved son and our dear brother, Second Lieutenant R. Victor Bartley, who was killed at Gosport, Hants, England, the result of an aeroplane accident on July 3, 1918.

To have, to hold, and then to part,
Is the saddest story of the human heart.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother and sisters, Darwin, N.T.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 3 July, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BARTLEY – In memory of dear Victor, Second Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley, Australian Flying Corps, killed at Gosport, England (result of aeroplane accident), on 3rd July, 1918. (Inserted by Mrs Hale and family, Elsternwick).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 3 July, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BARTLEY – In loving memory of my dear son, Second-Lieutenant R. V. Bartley (Vic), who was killed at Gosport, England, July 3, 1918.

Deeply mourned

Inserted by his loving mother.

BARTLEY – In sad and loving remembrance of our dear brother, Second-Lieutenant R. V. Bartley, who was killed at Gosport, July 3, 1918.

Remembered Always

Inserted by Annie and Fred Read, The Residency, Collie.

BARTLEY – Sincere tribute to me dear friend, Lieutenant Victor Bartley, killed July 3, 1918, the result of aeroplane accident. Sadly missed.

Inserted by his dear friend, Ethel Guthrie, ____, West Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 3 July, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BARTLEY – In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, 2nd Lieutenant R. Victor Bartley, A.F.C., who was killed at Gosport, England, July 3, 1918.

Ever dear to our memory.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers.

BARTLEY – A sincere tribute to my dear friend, Lieutenant Vic. Bartley, killed July 3, 1918, result of aeroplane accident. Remembered always.

Inserted by his friend Ethel Guthrie.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 2 July, 1921)

***Note – Matilda F. Bartley, mother of the late Second Lieutenant Robert Victor Bartley, died on 1922 in Perth, Western Australia.*

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BARTLEY – In remembrance of our dearly loved brother, Second-Lieutenant R. Victor Bartley, who was killed at Gosport, Hants, England, the result of an aeroplane accident, on July 3, 1918.

Always remembered.

Inserted by his loving brothers and sisters.

BARTLEY – Sincere tribute to my dear friend, Second-Lieutenant Vic Batley, killed July 3, 1918, result of aeroplane accident.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by his friend, Ethel Guthrie, Hay-street West.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 3 July, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BARTLEY – In loving remembrance of our dearly loved brother, Second Lieutenant R. Victor Bartley, A.F.C., who was killed at Gosprt, England, the result of an aeroplane accident on July 3, 1918.

Always dear to our memory.

Inserted by his sisters and brothers.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 3 July, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BARTLEY – In memory of our loved brother, Second Lieutenant R. Victor Bartley, A.F.C., killed at Gosport, England, July 3, 1918.

Loved and remembered.

Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers.

BARTLEY – In remembrance of my dear friend, Second-Lieutenant Victor Bartley, killed July 3, 1918, result of aeroplane accident.

Ever remembered by his friend, Ethel Guthrie, 1305 Hay-street.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 3 July, 1925)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BARTLEY – In memory of our loved brother Victor, Second Lieut., A.F.C., killed at Gosport, England, July 3, 1918.

Always remembered.

Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 3 July, 1926)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BARTLEY – In memory of our loved brother, Robert Victor Bartley, 2nd Lieut. A.F.C., who was killed in England July 3, 1918.

Treasured memories

Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 3 July, 1928)

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)

Second Lieutenant R. V. Bartley does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England

During both wars, Gosport was a significant sea port and Naval depot, with many government factories and installations based there, as well as the Haslar Naval Hospital. No 5 Squadron Royal Flying Corps were based at Gosport just before the outbreak of the First World War and during the Second World War the town acted as base to No 17 Group Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy Light Coastal Forces.

Gosport (Ann's Hill) Cemetery contains 104 scattered graves from the First World War. A number of the 144 Second World War burials form a plot at the western end of the cemetery. 1 of these is an unidentified Merchant seaman. There are also 31 German burials, including 2 unidentified, and 1 Belgian burial in the cemetery.

There are 3 Australians buried in this cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire (Photo above by soilsister; below from CWGC)



Photo of Second Lieutenant R. V. Bartley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by Steve Ellis 2018 – Find a Grave)