

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2699* PRIVATE

J. BELLESINI

7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH MARCH, 1917

**Service Number 2669 also used in different records*

Joseph BELLESINI

Joseph Bellesini was born in 1896 at Eaglehawk, Victoria to parents Andrew & Esther Bellesini (nee Parslow).

Andrew Bellesini, father of Joseph Bellesini, died on 21st April, 1897 in Victoria.

Joseph Bellesini attended Marist Brothers College, Bendigo, Victoria.

Joseph Bellesini was a 19 year old, single, Tailor from Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria when he enlisted at Bendigo, Victoria on 24th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2669 (as per Embarkation Roll) & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his widowed mother – Mrs E. Bellesini, Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria. Joseph Bellesini stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 years with Senior Cadets.

[Note: there are discrepancies with the Service Number for Private Joseph Bellesini – the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records his service number as 2699 & as a result that is the number engraved on his CWGC headstone. The Roll of Honour – Australian War Memorial has his service number listed as 2699, however the Embarkation Roll – Australian War Memorial has his service number as 2669 – which is the correct number. His Service Record file, amounting to 82 pages has forms included in it – some with the number 2669 & others with 2699]

Private Joseph Bellesini commenced recruit training on 24th July, 1915. He was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion (no date recorded) then transferred on 22nd August, 1915 to 8th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion.

Private Joseph Bellesini embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 26th August, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

Private Joseph Bellesini was admitted to Anzac Advance Base at Mudros from Alexandria on 18th November, 1915. He was taken on strength of 7th Battalion at Sarpi Camp, Lemnos on 20th November, 1915 & posted to "D" Company.

Private Joseph Bellesini disembarked from *Empress of Britain* at Alexandria on 7th January, 1916 (after the evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private Joseph Bellesini embarked from Alexandria on 26th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 31st March, 1916.

Private Joseph Bellesini was left at Anzac Kit Depot at Moussat Camp on 25th April, 1916 & was evacuated on 25th April, 1916 to join his Unit.

Private Joseph Bellesini was wounded in action in France between 22 – 25th July, 1916. He was taken to 1st Field Ambulance on 25th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left arm, head & leg then transferred & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 25th July, 1916 with G.S.W. Private Bellesini was admitted to 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 26th July, 1916 with G.S.W. to head & left arm. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. Dennis* from Boulogne, France on 20th August, 1916.

Mrs E. Bellesini, Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria, mother of Private Joseph Bellesini, was advised by Base Records on 4th August, 1916 that her son was seriously ill with gunshot wound to head, arm & leg. She was advised on 18th August, 1916 that Private Joseph Bellesini had been removed from the dangerously ill list. Mrs Bellesini was advised on 23rd August, 1916 that her son's condition was improving.

7th Battalion

The 7th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.....

The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. While holding positions captured by the 1st Brigade, four members of the 7th Battalion, Corporal A. S. Burton, Acting Corporal W. Dunstan, Lieutenant W. Symons and Captain F. H. Tubb, earned the Victoria Cross - Burton posthumously. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front and entered the front line trenches for the first time on 3 May. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley where it fought between 23-27 July and 15-21 August.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 7th Battalion

LA BOISELLES – 22nd July, 1916:

2400 – Assault on POZIERES by 1st and 3rd Infantry Brigades.

0345 – Officer from Berks reported POZIERES captured, required picks and shovels to dig in. Tools of C and D Coy sent forward, and replaced soon afterwards from GORDON DUMP.....

LA BOISELLES and CONTALMAISON - 23rd July, 1916:

.....

0600 – Dispositions as on previous night Casualties 2 Officers 45 O'Ranks

CONTALMASION and NORTH OF – 24th July, 1916:

0900 – From 0900 through the day enemy deluged Valley from CONTALMAISON Northwards from POZIERES with Lachrmatory and Gas Shells without serious result.

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(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Joseph Bellesini was admitted to Kitchener War Hospital (No. 3 Australian General Hospital), Brighton, Sussex, England on 21st August, 1916 with G.S.W. to left temple, left cheek & left leg. His condition was reported as severe. The next report in the Service Record file for Private Joseph Bellesini is for 19th October, 1916 - left leg amputated & his condition was dangerously ill.

Mrs E. Bellesini, Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria, mother of Private Joseph Bellesini, was advised by Base Records on 21st September, 1916 that her son had been admitted to Kitchener Hospital, Brighton on 21st August & he was progressing favourably. She was advised on 8th October, 1916 that her son's condition was improving.

Mrs E. Bellesini, Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria, mother of Private Joseph Bellesini, was advised by Base Records on 13th October, 1916 that her son was again seriously ill. She was advised again on 23rd October, 1916 that her son was dangerously ill & had an amputated leg.

Mrs E. Bellesini, Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria, mother of Private Joseph Bellesini, was advised by Base Records on 13th November, 1916 that Private J. Bellesini's condition was listed as stationary. She was advised again on 30th December, 1917 that her son's condition was improving.

Private Bellesini's condition was reported as dangerously ill on 3rd January, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on 3rd January, 1917 on Private Joseph Bellesinin while a patient at 3rd Australian General Hospital, Brighton, England. His disability was listed as Gunshot wounds – left temple – Cerebral hernia & left knee joint – amputation left thigh. The injuries had occurred on 25th July, 1916 at Pozieres, France. *“In France on 25th July, 1916 he received multiple shrapnel wounds –left knee joint, left temple, left side of face & body. Four days later leg amputated through middle third of thigh. On August 26th stump was trimmed under general*

anaesthetic. On 21st September F.B. was removed from left cheek where false aneurysm had formed. About this date had Jacksonian seizure, has averaged about 3 per week since. On 18/10/16 was prephined over sinus in left frontal region and F.B. _____ in Frontal lobe which had been detected by X-rays. This was not found. 3 fragments of bone removed. Again prephined on 3/11/16 – old prephine hole enlarged, puss & necrotic tissue evacuated.” (Note: “F.B.” = foreign body). His disability was due to Active Service. The Medical Officer in charge of the case recommended that Private Joseph Bellesini be discharged as permanently unfit for General Service & also Home Service with the Australian Imperial Force. This was upheld by the Medical Board.

A Memo from O.C., Kitchener Military Hospital (No. 3 A.G.H), Brighton, England, dated 5th January, 1917, to D.M.S., A.I.F. Headquarters reads *“No. 2699 Pte Bellesini J. 7th A.I.F. – forwarded herewith Medical Board Proceedings in duplicate on the above named man, please. He is in this Hospital waiting embarkation to Australia.”*

A reply was sent back to O.C., Kitchener Military Hospital (No. 3 A.G.H), Brighton on 13th January, 1917 from Surgeon-General, D.M.S., A.I.F., which reads *“With reference to your 3/3/1 of the 6th instant enclosing Board Proceedings in respect of the above named man it is noted he has had an amputation of the left thigh. Arrangements will be made for his artificial limb to be fitted in England, and when he is fit to travel as a sitting case, please arrange for his transfer to Southall....”*

A reply was sent to D.M.S. Headquarters from O.C., Kitchener Military Hospital (No. 3 A.G.H), Brighton on 17th January, 1917 stating *“... the above named patient is dangerously ill and owing to his head condition and his anxiety to return I would suggest that arrangements be made for his return to Australia at the earliest possible date.”*

A reply was sent to O.C., Kitchener Military Hospital (No. 3 A.G.H), Brighton on 29th January, 1917 from Surgeon General, D.M.S., A.I.F., which reads *“... I am directed to inform you that the D.M.S. approves of the return of this man to Australia without waiting for an artificial limb to be fitted in England. His name will be included on the Roll of the next Hospital Ship.”*

Mrs E. Bellesini, Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria, mother of Private Joseph Bellesini, was advised by Base Records on 9th January, 1917 that her son was again dangerously ill. She was advised on 17th January, 1917 that her son had been admitted to Kitchener's Hospital on 3rd January, 1917. Mrs Bellesini was advised by Base Records on 23rd January, 1917 that her son's condition was reported to be stationary.

Private Joseph Bellesini died at 4.45 pm on 13th March, 1917 at Kitchener Hospital (No. 3 Australian General Hospital), Brighton, Sussex, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. Temple, Left Cheek & Amputated Left Leg.

A death for Joseph Bellesini, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

Private Joseph Bellesini was buried on 16th March, 1917 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIX. 49 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Joseph Bellesini was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bellesini's widowed mother – Mrs E. Bellesini, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Memorial Plaque were issued with service number of 2669.

Andrew Bellesini, of 72 Blessington Street. St. Kilda, Victoria, brother of the late Private Joseph Bellesini, applied for the Gallipoli Medallion on 22nd May, 1967 in respect of his brother's service.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. Bellesini – service number 2699, of 7th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. Bellesini is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 49.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Bellesini & his brother H. Bellesini are remembered on the Marist Brothers College Honour Roll, located in Soldiers Memorial Institute, Bendigo, Victoria.



Marist Brothers College Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



Marist Brothers College Honour Roll

The Eaglehawk District Honour Roll, located in Eaglehawk Town Hall, Peg Leg & Sailors Gull Road, Eaglehawk, Victoria commemorates those from the district who served in World War 1.




Eaglehawk District Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia)

The Eaglehawk War Memorial, located outside the Town Hall, Peg Leg & Sailors Gull Road, Eaglehawk, Victoria does not list individual names.




Eaglehawk War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia)

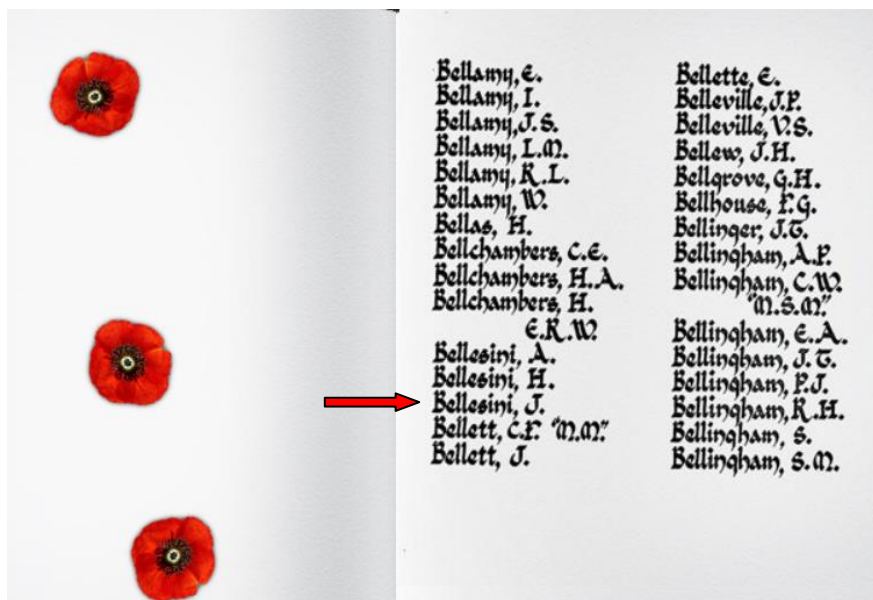
Joseph & his brother Harry Bellesini are both remembered on the Bendigo Roll of Honour website. Private Harry Bellesini, Service number 562, of 22nd Battalion died of wounds on 18th September, 1915. He died on board Hospital Ship & was buried at Sea. He his remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey.



The Bendigo Roll of Honour
Bendigo Remembers those who died in World War One



J. Bellesini is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(82 pages of Private Joseph Bellesini'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





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA10193

Private Joseph Bellesini



Newspaper Notices

WOUNDED SOLDIERS

Mrs Bellesini, of Victoria-street, Eaglehawk, has received a cable message from her son, Private Joe. Bellesini, stating that he has lost a leg. His brother, Andrew, who was wounded in the shoulder, appears to be with him in London, as the cable says "Both well." This is a message characteristic of our brave fellows who persist in keeping cheerful despite their sufferings. Private J. Bellesini was employed at Messrs Whitelock and Carter's before enlisting in July, 1915. He is just over 20 years of age.

(*Bendigonian*, Victoria – 14 September, 1916)

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FOR FREEDOM'S CAUSE



Private JOSEPH BELLESINI.

(Caption illegible)

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 24 March, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

BELLESINI – In memory of our late employee, Private Joe Bellesini, who died of wounds at Kitchen's Hospital, England, on 13th March, 1917.

-Inserted by his late employers, Whitelock and Carter.

BELLESINI – A tribute of love to the memory of our fellow worker, Pte Joe Bellesini, who died of wounds at Kitchen's Hospital, England, on March 13, 1917. His duty nobly done.

-Inserted by the employees of Messrs Whitelock and Carter.

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 24 March, 1917) & (*Bendigonian*, Victoria – 29 March, 1917)

H.A.C.B .S.

The fortnightly meeting of St. Kilian's Branch H.A.C.B.S. took place in St Kilian's Hall last night, the president (Bro. J. F. Gleeson) presiding. The quarterly balance sheet was presented, showing the affairs of the branch to be in a satisfactory position. The Eaglehawk Branch wrote inviting members to attend the Hibernian breakfast to be held next month. The officers and several members signified their intention of being present. The president, Bro. D. H. Horan (warden), Bros. R. J. Laird and J. Jeffrey were appointed to prepare an address of welcome to be presented to the Bishop of Sandhurst, whose consecration will take place on April 26. It was also arranged to form a guard of honor at the Bendigo railway station on the arrival of the bishop ; also at the procession at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on that date. **Regretful reference was made to the death on active service of Bro. Joseph Bellesini.** It was resolved to write to deceased member's relatives condoling with them in their sad loss. Three new members were elected. Reports were received from the members who represented the branch at the opening of the Pyramid Hill Branch, and it was resolved to write thanking Dr. Walsh for placing his car at the disposal of the delegates.

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 27 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

VICTORIAN LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte BELLESINI, J. Eaglehawk, 13/3/17

(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 March, 1917)

IN FREEDOM'S CAUSE

TWO SONS KILLED

A Third Son Wounded

Mrs. Bellesini, of Victoria-street, Eagle hawk, has suffered severely in the loss of her two sons at the front. Private Harry Bellesini, who enlisted very early in the war, saw much fighting at Gallipoli, and was killed on the Peninsula on the 18th September, 1915. Private Joseph Bellesini, whose death was notified only last week, was wounded severely some considerable time ago in France, and lingered on until the 13th March this year when he succumbed to his wounds. Private Andrew Bellesini, who was employed, on the Bendigo trams, and is also well known locally, has seen much fighting in France. He was wounded some months ago, and when last heard from the authorities had judged him unfit for further service at the front, and had assigned him to a post in England.



Private JOSEPH BELLESINI,
Died of wounds, 13/3/17.



Private **HARRY BELLESINI**,
Killed 18/9/15.



Private **ANDREW BELLESINI**,
Wounded in France.

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 31 March, 1917) & (*Bendigonian*, Victoria – 5 April, 1917)

MARIST BROS.' COLLEGE OLD BOYS

NAMES FOR HONOR ROLL

The following list comprises the names of old pupils of the Marist Brothers' College, Bendigo, who are known to the Brothers. It is intended to have an honor roll in the college, and as many names are probably omitted inadvertently from the appended list, the Brothers will be pleased if omissions and corrections will be notified to Mr D. H. Hogan, 44 Bull Street. The list is as follows:....Pte J. Bellesini. Pte H. Bellesini.....

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 15 December, 1917)

Joseph and his brother Harry are remembered with a plaque on the Bellesini family grave at Eaglehawk Cemetery, Victoria.



Bellesini Family Grave in Eaglehawk Cemetery (Photo from Find a Grave – Rose)



ANZACS

HARRY

Died of wounds

19th Sept 1915

Aged 22.

JOSEPH

Died of wounds

19th March, 1917

Aged 21

R. I. P.



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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 2nd July, 1921, to Mrs E. Bellesini, Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late Pte J. Bellesini, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private J. Bellesini does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private J. Bellesini's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of CWGC)



(Photo from CWGC)