

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**333 LANCE CPL**

**F. BELTON**

**21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**31ST AUGUST, 1917**

## Frank BELTON

John Francis Belton was born at Prahran, Victoria on 5th February, 1888 to parents John & Mary Elizabeth Belton (nee Tanner).

Frank Belton was aged 26 years & 11 months, single & a Labourer from Heywood Street, Caulfield, Victoria when he enlisted on 21st January, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 333 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Belton, Heywood Street, Caulfield, Victoria.

Private Frank Belton was posted to 21st Battalion on 21st May, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Frank Belton embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 10th May, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion "B" Company.

Private Frank Belton was appointed Provisional Corporal from 28th August, 1915.

Provisional Corporal Frank Belton was sent sick to Hospital at Anzac on 23rd October, 1915. He was admitted to 13th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Mudros on 23rd October, 1915 with Gastro-Enteritis. He was transferred to Malta on 28th October, 1915 on *Formosa*.

Provisional Corporal Frank Belton was admitted to Brook War Hospital, Woolwich, England on 9th November, 1915.

Mrs M. Belton, Heywood Street, Caulfield, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 17th November, 1915 that her son, Corporal F. Belton, had been admitted sick to Hospital at Woolwich, England.

#Provisional Corporal Frank Belton proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 19th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 26th March, 1916 (as per Casualty Form – Active Service).

#[Note – an entry on Statement of Service form recorded the following "*Proceeded from England to join B.E.F in France*" on 25th March, 1916. Also the entry below on the Casualty Form – Active Service appear to be conflicting with other entries in his Service Record file & marked #].

#Provisional Corporal Frank Belton was transferred from England on 4th April, 1916 with 25th Draft to rejoin his Unit in France.

Mrs M. Belton, Heywood Street, Caulfield, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 5th April, 1916 that Corporal F. Belton had rejoined his Unit with 21st Battalion on 24th March, 1916.

Provisional Corporal Frank Belton was taken in strength of 21st Battalion in France on 12th May, 1916. He reverted to rank of Private on 12th May, 1916 from his Provisional Appointment.

Private Frank Belton was written up for a Crime in France – Absenting himself from his billet from 2 pm to 8.30 pm on 18th May, 1916. He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 2 from 20th May, 1916 & forfeited 15 days' pay.

Private Frank Belton proceeded to England from France on furlough from 19th August, 1917.

### 21st Battalion

The 21st Battalion was raised, as part of the 6th Brigade, at Broadmeadows in Victoria in February 1915. Its recruits hailed from all over the state. The later enlistment of these men, and their average age of 29, would seem to indicate a more considered decision to enlist that set them apart from those who did so amidst the heady enthusiasm of late 1914.

The 21st Battalion arrived in Egypt in June 1915. As part of the newly raised 2nd Australian Division, it proceeded to Gallipoli in late August. It was an eventful trip, the battalion's transport was torpedoed near the island of Lemnos and had to be abandoned. The battalion finally landed at ANZAC Cove on 7 September. It had a relatively quiet time at Gallipoli, as the last major Allied offensives had been defeated in August.

After evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, the 21st Battalion arrived in France in March 1916. In April, it was the first Australian battalion to commence active operations on the Western Front. During the battle of Pozieres it was engaged mainly on carrying duties, but suffered its heaviest casualties of the war during the fighting around Mouquet Farm.

In early May 1917, the battalion fought at Bullecourt, and then in October participated in the 3-kilometre advance that captured Broodseinde Ridge, east of Ypres. Like the rest of the AIF the battalion saw out the year recuperating from the trials of the Ypres sector.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Frank Belton was admitted to King George Military Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England on 22nd August, 1917 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) whilst on Leave from France.

*[Note: Even though Frank Belton was reduced to the rank of Private – some forms still recorded his rank as Lance Corporal & as such he was buried as a Lance Corporal]*

Lance Corporal Frank Belton died at 12 midday on 31st August, 1917 at King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England from Pneumonia. (Note: Field Service form – “Report of Death of a Soldier” recorded the rank as Private.)

A death for Frank Belton, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Lance Corporal Frank Belton was buried at 1.30 pm on 4th September, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground – Grave No. 179726

*From the burial report of Lance Corporal Frank Belton - Coffin was very good. Brass plate. 2 brass stars 8 brass handles. L/Cpl F. Belton was accorded a full Military Funeral. The Administrative Headquarters Guard provided the Firing Party, and at the conclusion of the Burial Service three Volleys were fired, and the “Last Post” was sounded by an Australian Bugler. The coffin was borne to the grave draped with the Australian Flag. No relatives of deceased were present, but Mr and Miss Hall were present, there being on one floral tribute which was from them.*

*Names and Address of relatives or friends present at the Funeral – Friends – Mr T. Hall & Miss Hall, 1 Sneyd Lodge, Sneyd Road, Cricklewood, N.W.2*

Base Records wrote to Mrs R. Hayes, 44 Pigdon St., Nth Carlton, Victoria on 22nd March, 1923, stating that the site of her brother's grave, the late No. 333 Private F. Belton, in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row C Grave 4. This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. C. 4. Lance Corporal Frank Belton has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Frank Belton had made the following statement: *“I desire to make no will at all F. Belton, No. 333 21 Battalion, A.I.F.”* (no date recorded).

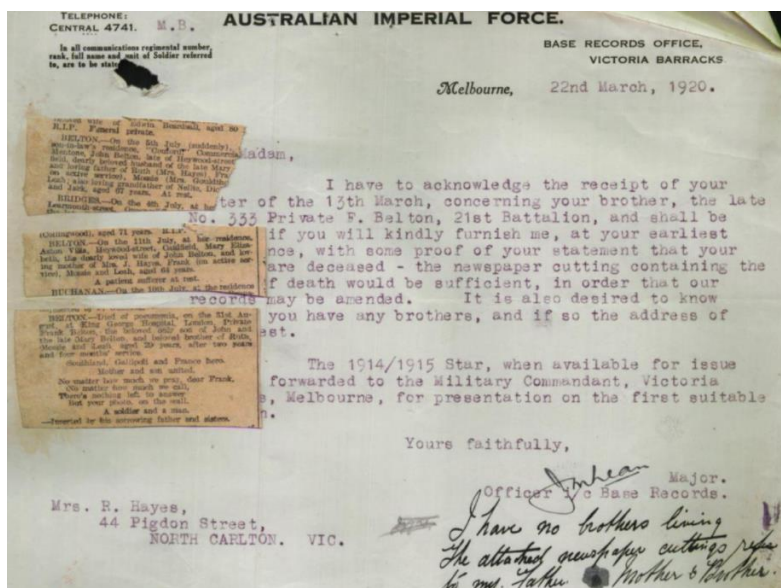
A War Pension was granted to Leah Bolton, 44 Pigdon St., Nth Carlton, sister of the late Private John Francis Belton, 333, 21st Battalion, in the sum of 10/- per fortnight from 8th November, 1917.

Ruth Hayes, 44 Pigdon St., Carlton North, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 13th March, 1920: *“I beg to make application for 1914-15 Star for my deceased Brother Private F. Belton, No. 333, 21st Batt. 6th Inf. Brig. I am the eldest sister. Mother & father being lately deceased also to notify you of change of address from “Aston Villa” Heywood St. Caulfield to above address.”*

Base Records replied to Mrs Hayes on 22nd March, 1920 stating *“...and shall be obliged if you will kindly furnish me, at your earliest convenience, with some proof of your statement that your parents are deceased – the*

newspaper cutting containing the notice of death would be sufficient, in order that our records may be amended. It is also desired to know whether you have any brothers, and if so the address of the eldest.....”

Ruth Hayes replied to Base Records on the bottom of their previously typed letter dated 22nd March, 1920 & replied with the following handwritten statement “I have no brothers living. The attached newspaper cuttings refer to my Father, Mother & Brother. 26.3.20.”



Lance Corporal Frank Belton was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Belton’s sister – Mrs R. Hayes, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

Communications sent to Mrs Ruth Hayes, 44 Pigdon St., North Carlton, Victoria, from Base Records in 1930 were returned to Base Records marked “unclaimed” & “not known by postman Carlton”.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal F. Belton – service number 333, of 21st Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

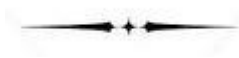
Lance Corporal F. Belton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 93.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(57 pages of Lance Corporal Frank Belton'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) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **THE 117th CASUALTY LIST**

ILL

Corporal F. Belton, Caulfield

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 1 December, 1915)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

The 163rd list of Australian casualties was issued by the Defence Department last night.....

RETURNED TO DUTY

Cpl F. Belton

*(The Evening Echo, Ballarat, Victoria – 15 April, 1916)*

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### **THE 339th CASUALTY LIST**

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private F. Belton, Caulfield

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 26 September, 1917)*

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### **CAULFIELD**

Private F. Belton died of illness at the front on August 31.

*(The Prahran Telegraph, Victoria – 29 September, 1917)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

BELTON – In loving memory of Private Frank Belton, beloved only son of John and the late Mary Belton, beloved brother of Ruth, Mossie and Leah, who died 31st August, 1917, at King George Hospital, London. Mother and son united.

His battle o'er, his duty done;

His crown of glory nobly won.

-Inserted by his sorrowing father and sister, Mossie.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 August, 1918)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

BELTON – In loving memory of my dearly loved brother, Frank, who died at King George Hospital, London, on the 31st August, 1917.

Time cannot heal my aching heart,

Nor from my memory tear

Thy face and the form of my brother Frank,

'Twill dwell for ever there.

-Inserted by his loving sister Leah, and nephew, Dickie.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 August, 1919)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

BELTON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Frank, who died on active service 31st August, 1917; also our dear mother, died 11th July, 1917; our dear father, died 5th July, 1919.

Fondly remembered.

-Inserted by their daughters and sisters, R. Hayes and L. Rogers.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 August, 1926)*

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### 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 R. Hayes, 44 Pigdon St., Nth Carlton, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her brother, the late No. 333 Private F. Belton, 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.

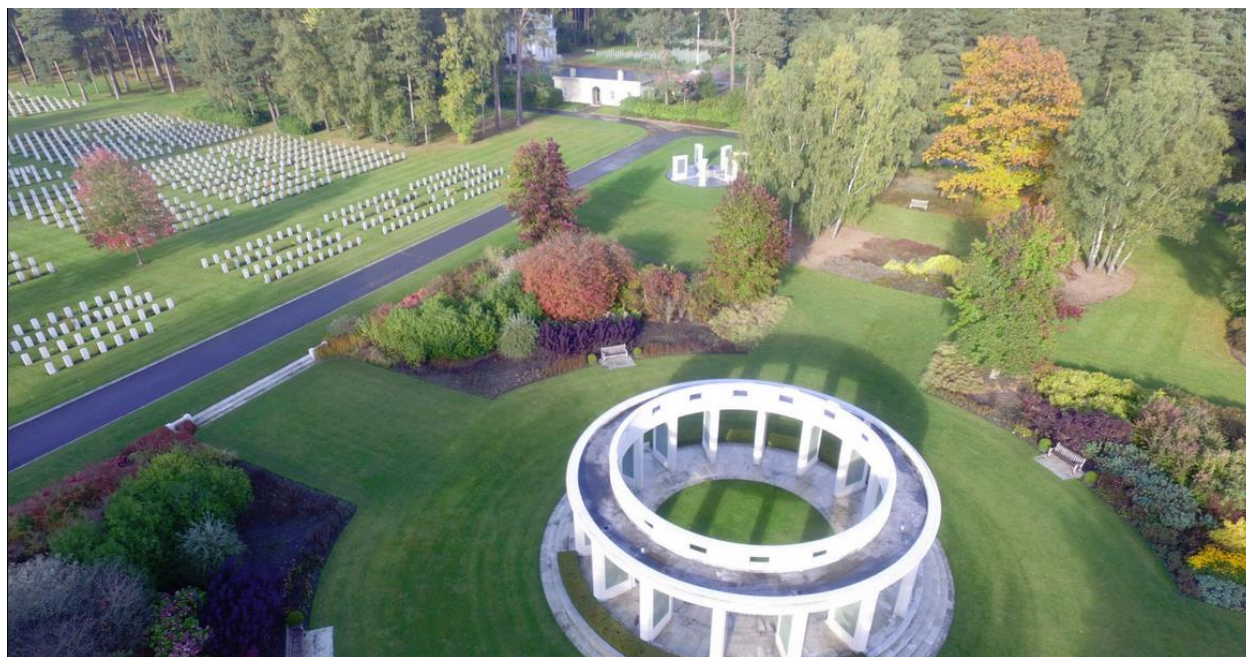
Lance Corporal F. Belton does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England**

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** *(Photo from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

*A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)*

*Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.*

*Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.*



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)





**Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)





*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



**Australian War Graves** *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Lance Corporal F. Belton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

