

**Cambridge City Cemetery,  
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2317 SAPPER**

**F. BIDULPH**

**AUST. MINING & BORING COY.**

**17TH JULY, 1916**

## Frank BIDULPH

Frank Bidulph was born at East Bay Neck, near Hobart, Tasmania on 1st September, 1871 to parents Thomas & Jane Biddolph (nee Monk).

Frank Bidulph married Lyle Elizabeth Williams on 16th December, 1903 at Queenstown, Tasmania, Australia.

Thomas Biddolph, father of Frank Bidulph, died in 1905.

Jane Biddolph, mother of Frank Bidulph, died in 1906.

Frank Bidulph was a 43 year old, single, Miner from Stowport, Burnie, Tasmania when he enlisted on 18th November, 1915 at Ross, Tasmania with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2317 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Annie Harris, care of F. Astell, Stowport, Burnie, Tasmania.

Sapper Frank Bidulph was posted to Mining Corps, No. 3 Company for recruit training. He was transferred to 2nd Reinforcements on 16th December, 1915.

Sapper Frank Bidulph embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 31st March, 1916 with the No. 1 Mining Corps, 2nd Reinforcements.

Sapper Frank Bidulph disembarked from *City of Edinburgh* in Marseilles, France on 17th May, 1916. He was marched in to Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 1st June, 1916.

Sapper Frank Bidulph was sent sick to Hospital on 22nd June, 1916 from 1st Australian Divisional Base. He was admitted to No. 26 General Hospital at Etaples on 22nd June, 1916 with Pleurisy. Sapper Bidulph was reported as seriously ill on 7th July, 1916. He embarked for England from Calais on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* on 7th July, 1916.

Sapper Frank Bidulph was reported as dangerously ill with Pleurisy on 15th July, 1916.

Sapper Frank Bidulph died on 17th July, 1916 at War Hospital, Cambridge, England from Acute Pneumonia & Superative Meningitis. The "Report of a Soldier" – Army form B. 2090 records the place of death as 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge.

A death for Frank Bidulph, aged 43, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Sapper Frank Bidulph was buried in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England – Plot number D. 2486.

In April, 1920 Mrs A. Harris c/o F. Astell, Stowport, Tasmania, sister of the late Sapper F. Bidulph, was advised by Base Records that the remains of her late brother had been exhumed from former site & re-interred in Grave No. 3397, Section "C", Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, England. *"This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Sapper Frank Biddulph has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Harris c/o F. Astell, Stowport, Tasmania, sister of the late Sapper F. Bidulph, in November, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. The communication was also sent to Headquarters, 6th District Base in November, 1922 as no reply had been received from Mrs Harris. Headquarters, 6th District Base advised Base Records that both parents of the late Sapper F. Bidulph were deceased & there were no brothers. They advised that address of the only sister was Mrs Annie Harris of Mount Eden, 13 Belle Vue Road, Auckland, New Zealand.

Sapper Frank Bidulph was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Bidulph's sister – Mrs A. Harris, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent December, 1922).

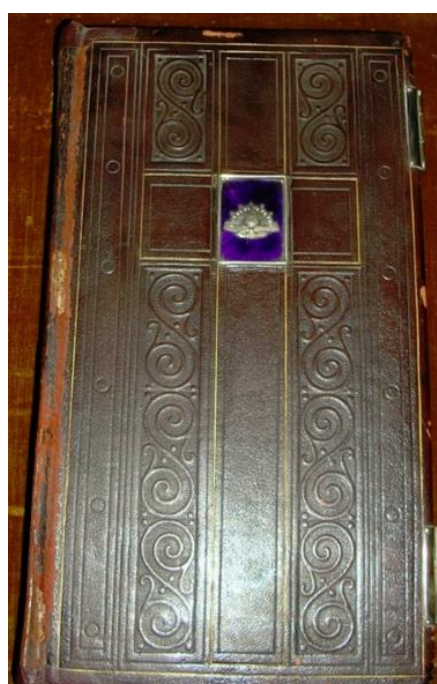
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper F. Bidulph – service number 2317, of Australian Mining and Boring Company. No family details are listed.

Sapper F. Bidulph is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 27.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Sapper Frank Bidulph is remembered in the Roll of Honour Book of Tunnellers who fell in the Great War, held at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England.





**Roll of Honour Book of Tunnellers, St. Paul's Cathedral, London**

*(Photos courtesy of Robin Sanderson, Paris)*

(59 pages of Sapper Frank Bidulph'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 CALL TO ARMS**

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On November 27, 208 men, belonging partly to the Mining Corps and partly to Infantry reinforcements, were transferred from Ross to Claremont. The following are the names of the men:-

Mining Corps- ....F. Bidulph, .....

*(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 9 December, 1915)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **186TH CASUALTY LIST**

#### **TASMANIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **SERIOUSLY ILL**

Sapper F. Bidulph., Stowport

*(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 21 July, 1916)*

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### **PERSONAL**

Mr. F. K. Astell, of Stowport, has received news from Cambridge (Eng.) of the death of Mr Frank Bidulph, from pleurisy. Mr. Bidulph who was a native of the Sorell district, and a single man, about 42 years of age, was well-known on the West Coast. He enlisted at Tullah for active service with the Miners' Corps.

*(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 27 July, 1916)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **188TH CASUALTY LIST**

#### **TASMANIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **DANGEROUSLY ILL**

Spr. F. Bidulph., Stowport

*(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 31 July, 1916)*

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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 A. Harris c/o F. Astell, Stowport, Tasmania, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her brother, the late Sapper F. Bidulph 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.

Sapper F. Bidulph does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## **Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England**

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge (known locally as Newmarket Road Cemetery) contains 1,019 Commonwealth War Graves – 186 from World War 1 & 833 from World War 2.

The 1st Eastern General Hospital, with 1,173 beds, was posted to Cambridge during the First World War, initially at the Leys School and Trinity College, later in huts. The First World War burials in Cambridge City Cemetery are mostly in two plots, one in the southern part of the burial ground, known as the Dominion Plot, and the other on the northern boundary. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western border of the Dominion Plot, while in the centre of the other is a memorial cross of Portland stone which was erected by private subscription. The Second World War graves are also mainly in two War Graves Plots with a few others scattered throughout the cemetery. The general Service plot was established in 1940, and the Air Force plot in 1942 for the burial of casualties from the Air Force stations set up in the eastern counties during the war. These included Bomber Command bases in Lincolnshire and fighter stations in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Stone of Remembrance, which was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder in July 1951, stands near the centre of the Air Force plot. Cambridge City Cemetery contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 829, (inclusive 3 unidentified), from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains four non-war service burials and ten war graves of other nationalities.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*





Photo of Sapper F. Bidulph's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.



*(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)*





**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo from CWGC)



**Entrance to Cambridge City Cemetery & Map (below)** (Photos by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

# Cambridge City CEMETERY

