

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3473 LANCE CPL.

W. H. BISHOP

54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH JULY, 1916 Age 24

William Harold BISHOP

William Harold Bishop was born at Leichhardt, Sydney NSW in mid-1892 to parents Edwin & Constance Maud Bishop (nee Elliott). He was the eldest of seven sons born to Edwin & Constance Bishop.

William Harold Bishop attended Leichhardt Superior Public School.

**(Note – The Commonwealth War Graves Commission & the Australian War Memorial – Roll of Honour & Embarkation Rolls have William Bishop's middle name as "Harold", however his Attestation Papers have been completed with the spelling of "Harrold".*

William Harrold Bishop was a 23 year old, single Railway Porter from Casino, NSW when he enlisted at Cootamundra, NSW on 13th August, 1915 with the 20th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3473 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr E. Bishop, of "Stathurst", Fairy Hill, Casino, NSW.

Private William Bishop embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 20th December, 1915.

Acting Sergeant William Bishop was transferred from 8th Reinforcements of 20th Battalion on 16th February, 1916. His rank & pay reverted to Private.

Private William Bishop was allotted & proceeded to join the 54th Battalion from 5th Training Battalion at Zeitoun on 14th February, 1916. He joined 54th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 16th February, 1916. Private William Bishop embarked from Alexandria on H.T. *Caledonian* on 19th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private William Bishop was promoted to Lance Corporal – undated.

Lance Corporal William Bishop was wounded in action in France on 19th/20th July, 1916. He was admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 21st July, 1916 with a gunshot wound to right knee.

54th Battalion

The 54th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 2nd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 2nd, the 54th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Moving to France in June 1916, the 54th fought its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles, on 19 July. It was a disaster. The 54th was part of the initial assault and suffered casualties equivalent to 65 per cent of its fighting strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

(Information on 54th Battalion from Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal William Bishop embarked for England on Hospital Ship "*St Denis*" from Boulogne on 22nd July, 1916 with a gunshot wound to knee.

Lance Corporal William Bishop was admitted to the County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England on 23rd July, 1916 suffering from severe gunshot wound to right knee & gas infection. He was operated on in the evening of 23rd July, 1916.

Lance Corporal William Bishop was reported as dangerously ill on 25th July, 1916.

A telegram was sent on 28th July, 1916 to E. Bishop, father of Lance Corporal William Bishop, advising that his son was dangerously ill with a gunshot wound to the knee.

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Lance Corporal William Bishop died at 8.45 am on 28th July, 1916 at County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England. The cause of death was determined later to be from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wound to right thigh & Malignant Oedema.

A death for William H. Bishop, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Epsom, Surrey, England.

Lance Corporal William Bishop was buried in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey – Screen Wall. K. 83. There are no headstones for this section of the Cemetery, however those buried have their names on a bronze plaque located on the Screen Wall which is directly in front of the lawned area of burials. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The late Lance Corporal Bishop requested that his prayer book be sent to his parents. Edwin Bishop signed for a package – containing a Testament on 23rd January, 1917 (he had incorrectly written the year as 1916).

Lance Corporal William Bishop was entitled to British War Medal & the Victor Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Bishop's father - Mr E. Bishop, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1923).

Mr E. Bishop, of O'Neill St. Guildford, NSW, received a letter from Base Records, dated 6th May, 1925, advising him that the Chairman of the Epsom Urban District Council had advised that on the 17th May "*there will be unveiled and dedicated the Great War Cross erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission to the soldiers, sailors and airmen, who died in the service of their King and Country and who are buried in the Epsom Cemetery..... A similar notification is being forwarded to next-of-kin of all members of the Australian Imperial Force whose remains are interred in the abovenamed cemetery, as it is felt that the proposed ceremony will be of special interest to the relatives concerned, and an assurance that the work of perpetuating the memory of our fallen is being carried out with the reverent care and attention.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal William Harold Bishop – service number 3473, aged 24, of 54th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edwin and Maud Bishop, of Strathurst, Fairy Hill, Casino, New South Wales. Born at Sydney, New South Wales.

Private W. H. Bishop is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 158.

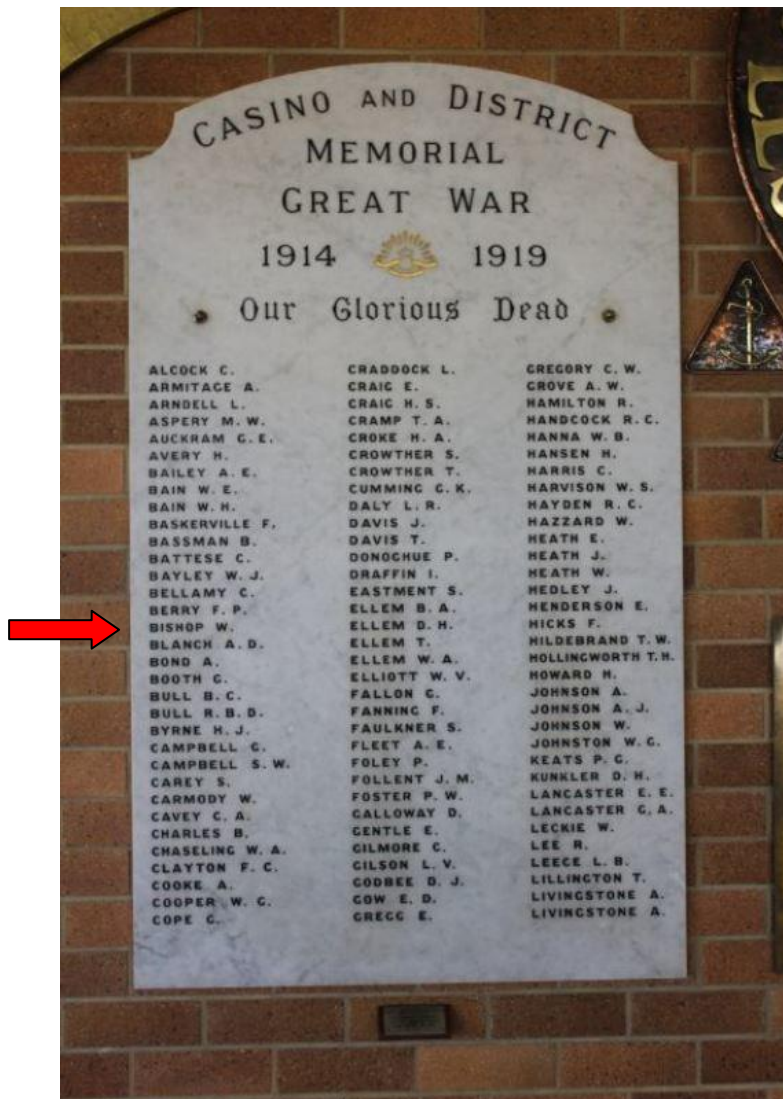


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. Bishop is remembered on the Casino & District Memorial for the Great War 1914 – 1919 which is located at the Casino & District War memorial Hospital, Hotham & Canterbury Streets, Casino, NSW.



Casino & District Memorial for the Great War 1914 – 1919
(Photos from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson)



(53 pages of Lance Corporal William H. Bishop'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

PERSONAL

Corporal W. H. Bishop, son of Mr and Mrs E. Bishop, of Stratheden, arrived at Casino from Casula (Liverpool) camp on Saturday on final leave, and will return to Sydney this Tuesday morning to join a transport for the front.

(The Richmond River Express and Casino Kyogle Advertiser, NSW – 14 December, 1915)

LATEST CASUALTIES

191st LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died – Cause Not Stated

W. H. Bishop, Casino

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 11 August, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

BISHOP – In loving memory of our dear brother and uncle, William Harold Bishop, who died of wounds received in action at Armentieres, July 28, 1916, aged 24.

A brave young life that promised well

At the will of God a hero fell.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, E. B. (Barney) and Lil Bishop and family, Roy, Gilbert and Ena of Guildford.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 July, 1917)

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey, England

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey contains 231 War Burials. There are 182 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 49 of the 1939-1945 war here. 149 of the 1914-18 war burials are located in Plot K. These are commemorated at the North end of the plot on a Screen Wall, upon which are bronze panels bearing the names of those buried in the plot. The bronze panels were provided from a fund held by the Horton (County of London) War Hospital, the Horton Hospital, the Manor (County of London) War Hospital and the Woodcote Park Military Convalescent Hospital.

(Information from CWGC)

There are six soldiers buried in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1. These six soldiers are named on bronze panels on the Screen Wall, within Plot K of the Cemetery. The bronze panels on the Screen Wall have the name, service number, rank, date of death, age & plot number. The plot numbers on the bronze plaques correspond to plaques located in the lawn immediately in front of the Screen Wall. There are 110 plaques on the lawn which do not have individual headstones, unlike most other Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries.



Screen Wall with named bronze panels within Plot K of Epsom Cemetery, Surrey

(Photos courtesy of Kevin Loughnane - Great War Forum)

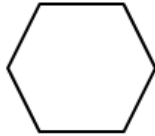


Example showing Pte Cummings in Plot 239 & the Numbered Lawn Plaques in front of Screen Wall

Arrow showing Lance Cpl. W. H. Bishop's plot No. 83



Screen Wall



Cross of Sacrifice

665	690	737	225	90	91	236	746	701	654
664	691	736	226	89	92	237	745	702	653
663	692	735	227	88	93	238	744	703	652
662	693	734	228	87	94	239	743	704	651
661	694	733	229	86	95	240	742	705	690
660	695	732	230	85	96	241	741	706	649
659	696	731	231	84	97	242	740	707	648
658	697	730	232	83	98	243	739	708	647
657	698	729	233	82 *	99	244	738	709	646
656	699	728	234	82 *	100	245	737	710	645
655	700	727	235	82 *	101	246	736	711	644

Lawned plots

Not to scale



Aerial view of the Screen Wall burials

Photo of Lance Cpl. W. H. Bishop's name on the bronze panels on the Screen Wall in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey, England.

3473 LANCE CPL. W.H.BISHOP
54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF
28.7.1916 AGE 24 83

143 PRIVATE S. BEATTIE
P'CESS PATRICIA'S C. L. I
5.2.1919 AGE 42 225
5986 PRIVATE H. BEBBINGTON
14TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF
16.2.1917 AGE 33 736
3473 LANCE CPL. W.H.BISHOP
54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF
28.7.1916 AGE 24 83
3589 LANCE CPL. W.H. BLEW
QUEEN VICTORIA'S RIFLES
12.9.1916 AGE 35 646
15231 PTE. J.MC W. BLYTHE
LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE
27.9.1917 AGE 22 741
202682 PRIVATE W. BODEN
LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS
13.8.1917 AGE 36 647
660433 PRIVATE E. BOLDUC
CAN. FORESTRY CORPS
25.4.1918 703
110044 PRIVATE L. BONNELL
5TH CAN. MOUNTED RIFLES
11.5.1916 AGE 19 232
1057426 PRIVATE A. BOURGET
22ND BN. CANADIAN INF
5.11.1918 AGE 21 95
229519 PRIVATE A.T. BOWELS
1ST BN. LONDON RECT. R. FUS.
14.7.1918 650
2125 PRIVATE L. BRITTEN
28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF
13.6.1916 AGE 22 82

