

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5042 PRIVATE

F. L. BOLITHO

7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH MAY, 1917 Age 24

*O For A Touch
Of A Vanished Hand
And A Sound Of A Voice
That Is Gone*

Frank Lucas BOLITHO

Frank Lucas Bolitho was born at Sandhurst, Bendigo, Victoria in 1893 to parents William & Ellen Bolitho (nee Shard).

The 1914, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Bendigo, subdivision of Quarry Hill, Victoria listed Frank Lucas Bolitho, Salesman of 167 Gladstone St, Quarry Hill.

Frank Lucas Bolitho was a 22 year old, single, Salesman from 167 Gladstone Street, Quarry Hill, Bendigo, Victoria when he enlisted on 8th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5042 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Bolitho, 167 Gladstone Street, Quarry Hill, Bendigo, Victoria. Frank Bolitho stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 2 years with Senior Cadets. He also answered to the question “*Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty’s Service?*” – “*was rejected 5 weeks ago for deficient expansion of chest.*”

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was posted to 16th Depot Battalion at Bendigo on 16th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 10th March, 1916.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) on 1st April, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 12th May, 1916.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho embarked from Alexandria on 28th May, 1916 on *Tunisian* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th June, 1916.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was marched in with Reinforcements to 1st Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 7th June, 1916.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was appointed Acting Corporal with extra duty pay while posted at 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot in France from 14th August, 1916.

Acting Corporal Frank Lucas Bolitho was appointed Acting Sergeant with extra duty pay from 18th September, 1916 while posted at Etaples Base Depot in France.

Acting Sergeant Frank Lucas Bolitho reverted to Acting Corporal from 13th October, 1916 while posted at 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples. He ceased to draw extra duty pay from 9th November, 1916.

Acting Corporal Frank Lucas Bolitho was appointed Corporal from 20th December 1916 till 20th February, 1917 while posted at 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples. He ceased to draw extra duty pay from 21st February, 1917.

Corporal Frank Lucas Bolitho was to be returned to England from 4th March, 1917 to be classed as “P.B.” - Permanent Base (duties). He reverted to the permanent rank of Private from 4th March, 1917.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was marched out from Australian Details at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 6th March, 1917 & marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England the same day.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was found to have defective vision while examined at No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 13th March, 1917.

A Medical Board at No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth found on 20th March, 1917 that Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was permanently unfit for general service and fit for Home Service.

Mrs Ellen Bolitho, mother of Frank Lucas Bolitho, advised Base Records in May, 1917 that her address had changed from 167 Gladstone St., Quarry Hill, Bendigo to 101 Richardson St., Albert Park, Melbourne.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot (Verne Citadel) at Weymouth on 21st April, 1917 & marched in to No. 3 Camp, Parkhouse, Wiltshire the same day.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was marched out from No. 3 Camp at Parkhouse on 4th May, 1917 & marched in to A.I.F. Headquarters at Tidworth, Wiltshire the same day.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 10th May, 1917 with ___mid-ear (mastoid disease). He was reported as dangerously ill. The Hospital Admissions form recorded *“developed Meningitis through extrusion from middle ear.”*

Mrs E. Bolitho, 101 Richardson St., Albert Park, Melbourne, mother of Private Frank Lucas Bolitho, was advised by Base Records on 1st June, 1917 that he had been admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, England suffering from mastoid & his condition was dangerous.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho died at 1.30 pm on 26th May, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Mastoiditis.

A death for Frank L. Bolitho, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was buried on 29th May, 1917 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 193 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Frank Lucas Bolitho - *Plain wooden coffin with brass fittings – condition - new. No. 411 Pte S. H. Bolitho, No. 4 Machine Gun Company, A.I.F. B.E.F. has been informed as follows:- “Your letter of the 5th July, has come to hand and I regret very much to have to inform you that your brother A/Sgt F. L. Bolitho, 7th Battalion, died in the Military Hospital here on the 26th May, 1917, at 1.30 pm. from mastoid disease and meningitis. He was buried with full Military Honours, in Tidworth Cemetery on the 29th May, 1917 in grave No. 193 Plot C. Several beautiful wreaths were sent, amongst which were included one from “his comrades attached to this Corps” and also one from the “Boys of his late platoon”. I have cards detached from these two wreaths and forward them to you herewith. The funeral cortege consisted of Headquarters Band, Firing Party, gun carriage and from 80 to 100 N.C.O.’s and men.” Pte Bolitho has also been furnished with three small photographs of the funeral and procession.*

(Note: the Burial Report recorded the date and place of death as Military Hospital, Bulford Camp on 26th May, 1917)

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Frank Lucas Bolitho contains a letter from The Matron, Military Hospital, Tidworth which reads: *“Sgt F. L. Bolitho was admitted to this Hospital suffering from Mastoid disease and underwent three operations for it, he finally developed meningitis. He was unconscious for three days before he died, previous to that I am sorry to say he suffered a good deal of pain. There were no messages left by him. He died on 26.5.17. Was buried in the Military Cemetery Tidworth 29.5.17. Plot C. Grave No. 193. The sister in charge of the ward has already written to his friends in Australia.”*

Private F. L. Bolitho 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

Mrs Ellen Bolitho, 101 Richmond St., Albert Park, Melbourne, mother of the late Private Frank Lucas Bolitho, was granted a War Pension in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 2nd August, 1917.

Private Frank Lucas Bolitho was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bolitho's mother – Mrs E. Bolitho, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent December, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Frank Lucas Bolitho – service number 5042, aged 24, of 7th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Ellen Bolitho, of 39 Merton St., Albert Park, Victoria, and the late William Bolitho.

F. Bolitho is remembered on the Quarry Hill Methodist Church Roll of Honor, which is now located in Bendigo Soldiers Memorial Institute, 37-39 Pall Mall, Bendigo, Victoria.



Quarry Hill Methodist Church Roll of Honor (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

F. L. Bolitho is remembered on the Bendigo Methodist Church Honour Roll (Quarry Hill) which is now located in Bendigo Soldiers Memorial Institute, 37-39 Pall Mall, Bendigo, Victoria.



Bendigo Methodist Church Honour Roll (Photo by Faithe)

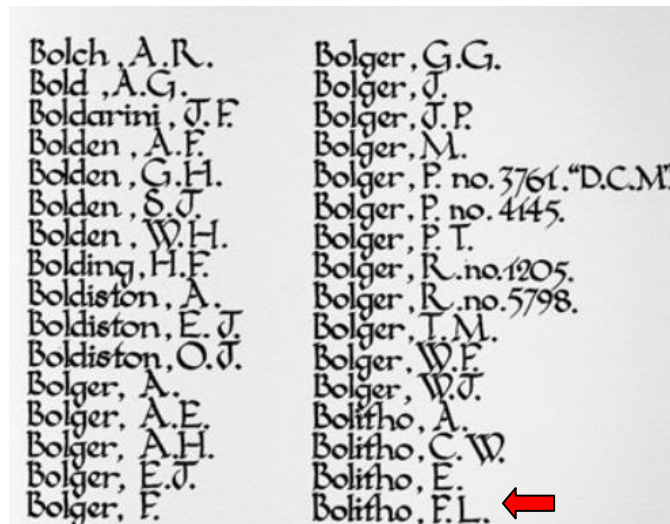
F. L. Bolitho is remembered on the Roll of Honour located at the Soldiers' Memorial Institute, Pall Mall, Bendigo, Victoria.



Soldiers' Memorial Institute, Bendigo (Photos from Bendigo Soldiers Memorial Institute Military Museum)



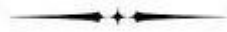
F. L. Bolitho is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(57 pages of Private Frank Lucas Bolitho'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



Newspaper Notices

SERGEANT F. L. BOLITHO

Mrs W. Bolitho, of 101 Richardson street, Albert Park (formerly of Quarry Hill, Bendigo), has received word to say that her son, Sergeant F. L. Bolitho, and also son of the late Mr William Bolitho, manager of the Great Southern mine for many years, has died in the Tidworth Military Hospital on May 26, 1917. Sergeant Bolitho was for a number of years employed at Suttons' music warehouse. He enlisted in 1915, and left with reinforcements for the 7th Battalion early in 1916, and after being in France nine months was sent to England a short time ago. One of his brothers, Private A. Bolitho, was in the landing at Gallipoli, where he was wounded and invalided to England, and then sent back to Australia and discharged. Two other brothers are serving in the A.I.F. in France, Private S. T. Bolitho being in the 6th Machine Gun Section and Corporal L. Bolitho with the 46th Battalion.

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 9 June, 1917)

DIED OF ILLNESS



(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 11 June, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 310

Victoria

III

F. L. Bolitho (dang.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

BOLITHO – A loving tribute to the memory of Sgt. F. L. Bolitho, died of illness, May 26, 1917. (Inserted by his friends, Olive and Connie Phillips)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 June, 1917)

THE 312th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private F. L. Bolitho, Albert Park

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 20 June, 1917)

BENDIGO SOLDIER'S DEATH



Mrs W. Bolitho, of 101 Richardson street, Albert Park (formerly of Quarry Hill, Bendigo), has received word to say that her son, Sergeant F. L. Bolitho, and also son of the late Mr William Bolitho, manager of the Great Southern mine for many years, has died in the Tidworth Military Hospital on May 26, 1917. Sergeant Bolitho was for a number of years employed at Suttons' music warehouse. He enlisted in 1915, and left with reinforcements for the 7th Battalion early in 1916, and after being in France nine months was sent to England a short time ago. One of his brothers, Private A. Bolitho, was in the landing at Gallipoli, where he was wounded and invalided to England, and then sent back to Australia and discharged. Two other brothers are serving in the A.I.F. in France, Private S. T. Bolitho being in the 6th Machine Gun Section and Corporal L. Bolitho with the 46th Battalion.

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 27 June, 1917)

BENDIGO SOLDIER'S DEATH

COMRADE'S SYMPATHY

Mrs E. Bolitho, who formerly resided in Bendigo, but is now residing in Richardson-street, Albert Park, Melbourne, has received a letter from Sergeant A. Griffin, giving particulars of the death of her son, Private F. L. Bolitho, who died in hospital in England on 26th May from illness. Private Bolitho was the sixth son of the late Mr W. Bolitho, who was for many years manager of the Great Southern mine. Private F. L. Bolitho embarked for England in July, 1915, and saw service in Egypt and France. Sergeant Griffin conveyed the sympathy of the Anzac Provost Corps at the death of their comrade. Mrs Bolitho has also received a letter of sympathy from the Mayor and councillors of South Melbourne. Four of Mrs Bolitho's sons have been on active service. Two are still in France. Private Arthur Bolitho, who was at the landing in Gallipoli, was wounded and invalided home.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 22 September, 1917) & (Bendigonian, Victoria – 27 September, 1917)

For Freedom's Cause

BOLITHO – In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Sgt. Frank L. Bolitho, who died at Tidworth Military Hospital on 26th May, 1917.

Our hero.

So dearly loved, so deeply mourned.

-Inserted by his loving mother, sisters, and brothers.

BOLITHO – In sad and loving memory of my beloved fiancé, Sergt. F. Bolitho, who died of illness in the Tidworth Military Hospital, England, 26th May, 1917.

A year has passed since that sad day,
When my dear Frank was called away;
He lives with me in memory still,
Forget him, no, I never will.
Gone is the face I loved so dear;
Silent the voice I loved to hear;
Too far away for sight or speech,
But not too far for my thoughts to reach.

My hero.

-Inserted by his sorrowing fiancé, Rene Phillipps, Hamlet-st., Bendigo.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 25 May, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BOLITHO – In sad and loving memory of my beloved fiancée, Sergt. F. L. Bolitho, 7th Battalion, who died of illness in the Tidworth Military Hospital, England, on the 26th May, 1917, aged 24 years 5 months.

Gone is the face I loved so dear,
Silent the voice I loved to hear;
Too far away for sight or speech,

But not too far for my thoughts to reach.

My hero.

Deeply mourned.

-Inserted by his sorrowing fiancé, Rene Phillipps, Hamlet-st., Bendigo.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 May, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

BOLITHO – In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Sgt. Frank L. Bolitho, who died at Tidworth Military Hospital on 26th May, 1917.

Our hero.

So dearly loved, so deeply mourned.

-Inserted by his loving mother, sisters, and brothers.

BOLITHO – In sad and loving memory of my beloved fiancé, Sergt. F. Bolitho, who died of illness in the Tidworth Military Hospital, England, 26th May, 1917.

A year has passed since that sad day,
When my dear Frank was called away;
He lives with me in memory still,
Forget him, no, I never will.
Gone is the face I loved so dear;
Silent the voice I loved to hear;
Too far away for sight or speech,
But not too far for my thoughts to reach.

My hero.

-Inserted by his sorrowing fiancé, Rene Phillipps, Hamlet-st., Bendigo.

(*Bendigonian*, Victoria – 30 May, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BOLITHO – In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Sergeant Frank Lucas, 7th Battalion, who died at Tidworth Military Hospital, England, on 26th May, 1917.

Dearly loved and sadly missed.

Some day we'll understand.

-Inserted by his sorrowing mother, sisters and brothers, Albert Park.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 May, 1919)

Quarry Hill State School honoured former students



The World War I Honour Roll at Quarry Hill State School.

Quarry Hill State School No. 1165.

The first WWI Honour Roll at Quarry Hill State School was unveiled in April 1916 listing fifty three names. It has not been found.

The 1914 – 1918 Honour Roll in the entrance foyer of the current school was unveiled in November 1920 and has one hundred and twenty eight names. The majority of these students attended Quarry Hill State School on the original site in Olinda Street. Some of them also attended the new school in Peel Street when it opened in 1911. Lieutenant-Colonel John Adams performed the unveiling at both ceremonies. He had been a teacher at the school from 1881 – 1886.

The Honour Roll was refurbished in 1993 and officially unveiled in November that year by Major John Balsillie.

Twenty three of Quarry Hill's ex-students died overseas during the war. Twenty were killed in action or died of wounds. Three died of illness, including one who died of influenza while waiting in England to return home at the end of the war. One who returned to Bendigo, died in 1920 and his death was attributed to his war service.

In total twenty five ex-students served during the Gallipoli campaign.

Nine Quarry Hill boys left Albany with the first contingent in 1914 and served at Gallipoli. Three were wounded in action during the landing on April 25th 1915. Arthur Bolitho received gunshot wounds to the shoulder and leg. Edward Butterworth sustained a shrapnel wound to the shoulder. Harry Hibbert received a gunshot wound to the foot.

Before the evacuation in December 1915 Noel Edwards and Roy Barclay had been killed in action, Russell Pearson had died of diphtheria, and six more been wounded in action – Percy Pinder, John Adams, Albert Burnett, Sid Hannan, Francis Smith and William Long.

The Head teacher during the war years was Mr John A Roach. The staff and students were actively involved in many fundraising activities supporting the war effort. A "Queen of Queens" competition in December 1916 raised £62/2/10 for the State Schools' Patriotic Fund. Their efforts resulted in the raising of £309/1/3 in 1916 which placed the Quarry Hill School ahead of all the schools in the Bendigo district in the matter of collections for the Patriotic Fund.

On Arbour Day in June 1917 memorial trees were planted in the school grounds. These included a fir tree for Lieutenant Benjamin Noel Edwards, KIA at Gallipoli on 8th August 1915, a red flowering gum for Private Roy Austin Barclay, KIA at Lone Pine on 8th August 1915, and a red flowering gum for Private Frank Lucas Bolitho who died of mastoid disease and meningitis on 26th May 1917 in hospital in England.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 18 April, 2015)

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 4th July, 1921, to Mrs E. Bolitho, 101 Richardson St., Albert Park, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late Private F. L. Bolitho, 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 F. L. Bolitho does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*O For a Touch Of A Vanished Hand
And A Sound Of A Voice That Is Gone*

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



Tidworth Military Cemetery *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo from CWGC)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)

Photo of Private F. L. Bolitho's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

