

**St. Nicholas' Churchyard,  
Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4373 PRIVATE**

**E. W. BOLLUM**

**22ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**30TH OCTOBER, 1916 Age 23**

## Ernest William BOLLON

Ernest William Bollom was born at Williamstown, Melbourne, Victoria in 1893 to parents George William and Margaret Bollom (nee Davies).

Margaret Bollom, mother of Ernest William Bollom, died on 21st July, 1904 at Leongatha, Victoria.

Ernest William Bollom was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Buffalo, Victoria when he enlisted at Leongatha, Victoria on 5th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4373 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr George William Bollom, Tarwin, Victoria.

Private Ernest William Bollom was posted to “C” Company Depot Battalion on 5th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to “B” Company of 10th Battalion on 15th February, 1916 then transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 23rd March, 1916.

Private Ernest William Bollom embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Orontes* on 29th March, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 22nd Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship’s Hospital on 14th April, 1916 with influenza & discharged on 18th April, 1916. Private Bollom disembarked at Suez on 10th April, 1916.

Private Ernest William Bollom was admitted to No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital at Moascar on 28th April, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was discharged to duty on 2nd May, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Ernest William Bollom was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital at Lark Hill, Wiltshire, England on 17th June, 1916 with “Gastro Ent.” He was discharged on 14th August, 1916 after suffering Dysentery then transferred & admitted to Convalescent Dysentery Depot at Barton-on-Sea on 14th August, 1916.

*(Note: no details are listed in the Service Record file for Private Ernest William Bollom as to when he was transferred from Egypt to England).*

Private Ernest William Bollom was admitted to 1st New Zealand General Hospital, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England on 28th August, 1916. He was recorded as developing measles on 29th August, 1916 with some Bronchitis & was isolated in “O” Isolation Hut. He was then admitted to Lady Hardings Hospital, Brockenhurst in the afternoon of 29th August, 1916. Private Bollom was reported to have pleuro-pneumonia on 12th September, 1916 & his condition was listed as serious.

A progress report recorded Private Ernest William Bollom’s condition was stationary (undated).

Private Ernest William Bollom died at 4 pm on 30th October, 1916 at No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England. A Post Mortem was held & the cause of death was listed as Measles followed by Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Ernest W. Bollom, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Lymington, Hampshire, England.

Private Ernest William Bollom was buried on 1st November, 1916 in St. Nicholas’ Churchyard, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England – Plot number A.1.8 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Ernest William Bollom contains a letter from Captain R. H. Hogg, 1st New Zealand General Hospital, Brockenhurst which reads: *“Ill. He was admitted to No. 1 Ward, No. 2 General Hospital, Central Section, from Barton Dysentery Depot, suffering from measles. He went on well at first but later developed pleuro-pneumonia from which he was slowly recovering but not satisfactorily for about 3 weeks, when he became unconscious and died, after being so for about two days. The cause of his death was acute millary tuberculosis which is a rapid general form of consumption. No doubt that consumption setting in, in a constitution*

*already weakened by dysentery, measles and pneumonia would take up easily such a rapid form. I have seen both the Sister and M.O. in charge of the case and I feel sure from what I know of them he would have received every care and from what I can ascertain he was happy and contented while in here, and he did not suffer much."*

Private Ernest William Bollom was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bollom's father – Mr G. W. Bollom, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ernest William Bollom – service number 4373, aged 23, of 22nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George William and Margaret Bollom.

Private E. W. Bollom is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 95.



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

E. W. Bollom is remembered on the Tarwin Lower War Memorial, located at River Reserve, River Drive, Tarwin Lower, Victoria.



**Tarwin Lower War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)

E. W. Bollom is remembered on the Lower Tarwin State School Roll of Honor, located in Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Memorial Hall, River Drive, Tarwin Lower, Victoria.



**Lower Tarwin State School Roll of Honor & below Tarwin Lower Memorial Hall Mechanics Institute**

*(Photos from Monument Australia)*



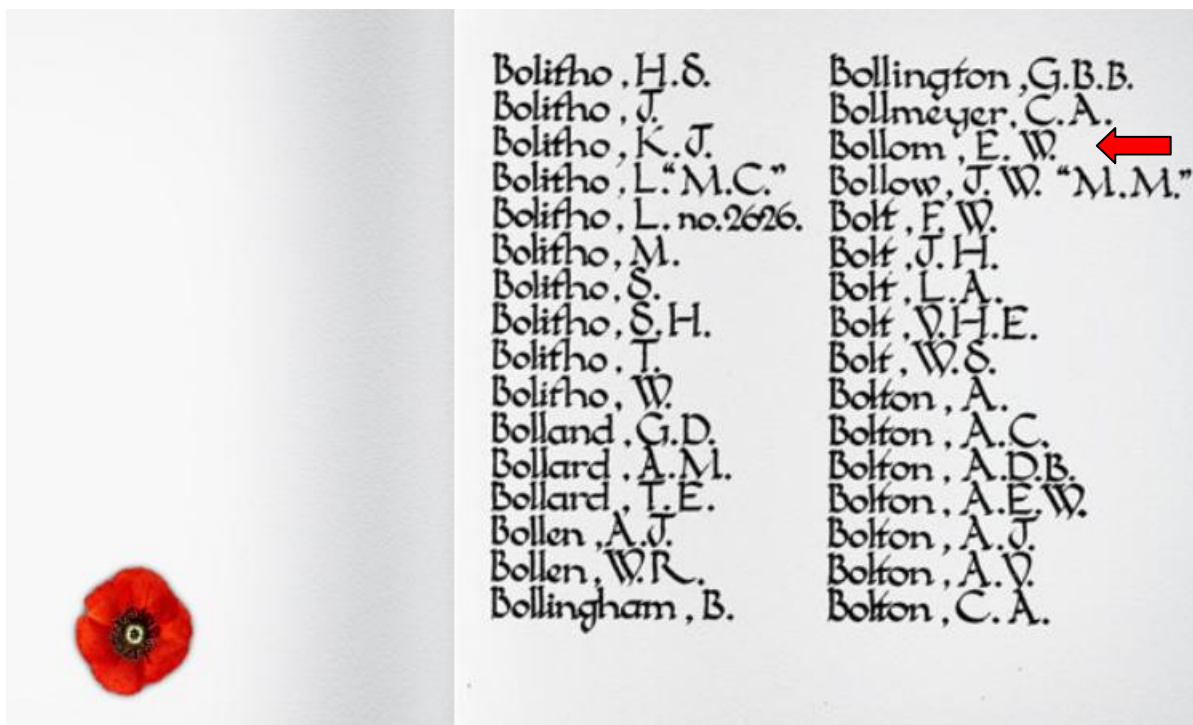
E. W. Bollom is remembered on the Leongatha and District Fallen Soldiers Honour Roll, located in Leongatha Memorial Hall, 6-8 McCartin Street, Leongatha, Victoria.



Leongatha and District Fallen Soldiers Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



E. W. Bollom is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(41 pages of Private Ernest William Bollom'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**

### **THE NEW BATTALION**

Included in the number who have been accepted as "fit" by Dr Leon at the Leongatha recruiting office, the following have gone into camp.

Bollom, E. W., Buffalo

*(Great Southern Star, Leongatha, Victoria – 18 February, 1916)*

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### **THE CALL TO ARMS LIBERAL RESPONSE FROM THE WOORAYL SHIRE**

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Bollom, E. W., Buffalo

*(Great Southern Star, Leongatha, Victoria – 24 March, 1916)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **VICTORIAN LIST**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte BOLLUM, E. W., Tarwin, 30/10/16

*(Weekly Times, Victoria – 25 November, 1916)*

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### **Anzac Day Appeal**

#### **ADDRESSES OF SOLDIERS REQUIRED**

No addresses have been sent for the undermentioned lads. Anyone knowing the address, or what has happened to any of them, would oblige by sending in at once to the hon. Secretaries.....

Buffalo – W. E, Barton, E. W. Bollom.....

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*(Great Southern Star, Leongatha, Victoria – 29 May, 1917)*

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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)*

Private E. W. Bollom does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## **St. Nicholas' Churchyard, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England**

Due to its proximity to the port of Southampton, its railway connections and an abundance of large houses in the area, Brockenhurst was chosen in 1915 by the War Office to become a hospital centre. Initially, Lady Hardinge's Hospital (named after the wife of the Viceroy of India) for the Indian troops of the Lahore and Meerut Divisions was established south of the village. This was then replaced by No.1 New Zealand General Hospital in June 1916, after the Indian Divisions were replaced by ANZAC troops. The New Zealand Hospital remained at Brockenhurst until closed early in 1919. The churchyard contains 106 graves of the First War, of which one hundred are in the New Zealand plot. In addition to the 93 New Zealand graves, there are also three Indian and three unidentified Belgian civilians (employed at the Sopley Forestry camp). On the East side of the New Zealand plot is memorial incorporating a Cross.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**St. Nicholas' Church, Brockenhurst** (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





**St. Nicholas' Church, Brockenhurst** (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



**New Zealand War Graves in St. Nicholas' Church, Brockenhurst** (Photo by *CWGC*)



The Cenotaph with New Zealand War Graves & 1 Australian War Grave (Photo by A. Dorrell – Find a Grave)



Private E. W. Bollom's grave marked with red arrow

Photo of Private E. W. Bollom's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Nicholas' Churchyard, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright - 2020)*