

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1806 LANCE CPL.

R. BOLTON

40TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH OCTOBER, 1916 Age 29

In Memory Of

The Dearly Loved Husband

Of Ada Bolton

Ralph BOLTON

Ralph Bolton was born at Acklington, Northumberland, England in 1887 to parents George William and Isabella Bolton (nee Gee). He was baptised on 16th November, 1887 at Chevington, Northumberland, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Ralph Bolton as a 3 year old, living with his family at Red Row, East Chevington, Northumberland, England. His parents were listed as George W. Bolton (Coal Miner, aged 34, born Northumberland) & Isabella Bolton (aged 36, born Warkworth, Northumberland). Ralph was the youngest of three children listed on this Census (all listed as being born at Chevington, Northumberland) – Thomas H. Bolton (Scholar, aged 6), Mary E. Bolton (Scholar, aged 5) then Ralph.

The 1901 England Census recorded Ralph Bolton as a 13 year old, living with his family at Red Row, East Chevington, Northumberland, England. His parents were listed as George Bolton (Coal Miner, aged 44) & Isabella Bolton (aged 46). Ralph was the youngest of three children listed on this Census (all listed as being born at Broomhill, Northumberland) – Thomas H. Bolton (Draftsman Apprentice, aged 16), Mary E. Bolton (Dressmaker, aged 15) & Ralph. Also listed with the family was Mary A. Bolton (mother of George Bolton, widow, aged 78).

George William Bolton, father of Ralph Bolton, died in 1904.

The 1911 England Census recorded Ralph Bolton as a 23 year old Joiner, living at Togston Terrace, Acklington, Togston and Morwick, Northumberland, England. Ralph was living with his widowed mother – Isabella Bolton (aged 56) & his older sister – Mary Elizabeth Bolton (aged 25).

According to information provided by his widow for the Roll of Honour – Ralph Bolton came to Australia when he was 23 years old. A “Ralph Bolton”, Carpenter, aged 23 was a passenger on *Themistocles* which arrived at the port of Brisbane, Australia on 14th August, 1911. Mrs Ada Bolton also stated her late husband had served with Northumberland Fusiliers (Territorial).

Ralph Bolton married Ada Lackenby at Ryde, NSW on 20th July, 1916.

Newspaper Notice – *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, Parramatta, NSW – 12 August, 1916:

EASTWOOD

A SOLDIER'S WEDDING

Whilst on final leave, Private Ralph Bolton, who is shortly to sail with a troop from Tasmania, was quietly married to Miss Ada Lackenby at the home of the bride's parents, Vimiera-road, Eastwood, by Rev. H. W. Mullens.

Ralph Bolton was a 28 year old, married, Carpenter from Launceston, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 12th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1806 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Ada Bolton, Stammerington Vale, Vimiers Road, Eastwood, NSW. Ralph Bolton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 2 years with Northumberland Fusiliers with 1 year as Corporal.

Private Ralph Bolton embarked from Hobart, Tasmania on HMAT *Ballarat* (A70) on 8th August, 1916 with the 40th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 30th September, 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 Ralph Bolton was taken on strength of 10th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire, England on 30th September, 1916.

Lance Corporal Ralph Bolton died on 18th October, 1916 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. (The Field Service – Army Form B 2090A & Casualty Form – Active Service recorded his rank as Private. There is no record in the Service File of Private Bolton being promoted to Lance Corporal).

A death for Ralph Bolton, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Lance Corporal Ralph Bolton was buried on 20th October, 1916 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 102 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Lance Corporal Ralph Bolton 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 Lance Corporal Bolton's widow - Mrs A. Bolton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Ralph Bolton – service number 1806, aged 29, of 40th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George William and Isabella Bolton; husband of Ada Bolton, of Vimiera Rd., Eastwood, Sydney.

Lance Corporal R. Bolton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 132.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. Bolton is remembered on the Launceston Roll of Honour, located in Queen Victoria Museum, 2 Invermay Road, Inveresk Precinct, Invermay, Tasmania. The framed paper honour roll commemorates 1, 089 people who served in World War 1.



Launceston Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Place of Pride – Arthur Garland)



AHEARN, W.
 *ATKINS, W. J.
 ANDREWS, H.
 ANDREWS, A. E. H.
 ANDREWS, V. B. T.
 *ANDREWS, J. C.
 ANDREWS, F. A.
 *AIREY, W. R. J.
 AIREY, R. J.
 AIREY, T.
 ADAMS, C. J.
 *ADAMS, B.
 *ADAMS, R. A.
 *ARNOT, J. A.
 *ARNOT, W. S.
 ALLIE, A. V.
 *ANDERSON, F.
 ANDERSON, M.
 ACRES, LINDA (Sister)
 ANDREWS, B. D.

→

BLAUBAUM, E.
 BALFE, B. O.
 BLACKETT, A. M.
 (Sister)
 BAILEY, H. J. (Sister)
 BURKE, E. (Sister)
 BROOKS, A.
 BRYANT, A. W.
 BRYANT, R. A.
 BRYANT, T. H. L.
 BUNTON, E. K.
 BUNTON, G. K.
 BARBER, R. W.
 BOWDEN, R. J.
 BROOKS, R.
 *BOLTON, R.
 BROWN, H.
 *BURROWS, W. J.
 BROOMBY, H.
 BUTTERS, D.

Lance Corporal Ralph Bolton is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

NUMBER	RANK	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	DOD	AGE	UNIT	TOWN	ANZAC
3270A	Pte	Blyth	Monty Charles T	20.04.1918	29	12th Inf Bn	Port Esperance	
948	Trpr	Blyth	Mervyn Stafford	23.12.1918	24	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Bruny Island	ANZAC
3313	Pte	Blyth	George John Ernest	04.03.1918	19	52nd Inf Bn	Nabowla	
2484	Pte	Boardman	Richard	31.07.1918	47	26th Inf Bn	Hobart	
5038	Pte	Bolton	William James	04.09.1918	27	52nd Inf Bn	Bradshaw Cr.	
1838	L/Cpl	Bolton	Ralph	18.10.1918	29	40th Inf Bn	Lairncroston	
2901	Pte	Bond	William	23.07.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Ranefigh	ANZAC
2453	Pte	Bonney	Raymond Percy	15.09.1918	21	NZEF Ptl B Co	Colerbrook	
1784	Pte	Bounds	John Cecil	05.08.1918	23	26th Inf Bn	Meander	ANZAC
118A	Pte	Bourke	Ernest Gordon	18.11.1918	19	51st Inf Bn	Meander	
1953	Cpl	Bowen	Percy James	14.11.1918	31	21st Inf Bn	Lairncroston	ANZAC
3283	Pte	Bowman	James Purcell	01.04.1918	29	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
2799	Pte	Boyd	Cyril Tasman	19.07.1918	23	60th Inf Bn	Gladelona	
1589	Pte	Brady	Walter	19.08.1918	34	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
1050A	Pte	Bratford	William Wood	20.07.1918	31	31st Inf Bn	Bridgenorth	ANZAC
3465	Sgt	Brath	Bert	18.03.1918	18	4th Pz Arty B Co	Unerstone	
2609	Pte	Branich	Arthur Walter	23.07.1918	23	12th Inf Bn	Wynyard	
2613	Pte	Breward	William	05.04.1918	21	26th Inf Bn	Westbury	ANZAC
4291	Pte	Briggs	Charles Joseph	19.08.1918	28	12th Inf Bn	Brighton	

(31 pages of Lance Corporal Ralph Bolton'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

ROLL OF HONOUR

BOLTON – Died of meningitis, October 18, Salisbury Plains, Lance-corp. Ralph Bolton, aged 29 (Tasmania, late of Broomhill, Northumberland, England). A noble life ended. Inserted by his sorrowing wife, Ada, and father-in-law, Thos. Lackenby and family, Eastwood.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 2 November, 1916)

Roll of Honour

Casualty List No. 240

Tasmanian Casualties

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Lance-Corp. R. BOLTON, England, 18/10/16

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 6 November, 1916)

DISTRICT CASUALTIES

DIED IN HOSPITAL

PRIVATE BOLTON – Mr Thomas Bolton, of West Wallsend, has received word that his nephew, Private Ralph Bolton, died in the hospital at Salisbury, England. Private Bolton enlisted in Tasmania.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 8 November, 1916)

COUNCIL MEETING

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Lance-corporal Ralph Bolton who recently married Miss Ada Lackenby, of Eastwood, just prior to leaving with the A.I.F., is reported to have died of meningitis in camp on Salisbury Plain, England. He was one time well known in Eastwood, but left there and engaged in orcharding in Tasmania, where he was doing well. He heard the call for men and went.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 11 November, 1916)

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)

Lance Corporal R. Bolton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Husband Of Ada Bolton



Original Grave Marker for Lance Corporal R. Bolton

St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. (*Information from CWGC*)



St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle



Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)

Photo of Lance Corporal R. Bolton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army			NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B			Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)