

**St. Michael's Churchyard, Flixton,  
Greater Manchester, Lancashire**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6960 PRIVATE**

**L. J. BOOTH**

**3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**2ND NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 24**

*Who Was Wounded In France & Died*

*In Middlesex Hospital Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917.*

*"Called to Higher Service"*

## Lionel John BOOTH

Lionel John Booth was born at Flixton, Manchester, Lancashire, England to parents Henry & Nancy Booth (nee Swift). He was baptised at St. Michael's Church, Flixton, Lancashire on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 1891. Henry Booth was listed as a Carrier & the family lived at Mersey View.

The 1891 England Census recorded Lionel J. Booth as a 2 month old living along with his mother – Nancy Booth (Butcher's Assistant, aged 28, married, born Urmston, Lancashire) living at Lionel's grandparents' house – Butcher's Shop, 1 Mersey View, Flixton, Lancashire. Lionel's grandparents were listed as John Swift (Butcher, aged 63, born Urmston, Lancashire) & Ellen Swift (aged 64, born Flixton). Also listed was Henry Swift – son of John Swift (Butcher's Assistant, aged 30 born Urmston, Lancashire).

The 1901 England Census recorded John Booth as a 10 year old living with his family at The Village (Butcher's Shop), Flixton, Lancashire. His parents were listed as Henry Booth (Butcher & Shopkeeper, aged 39, born Flixton, Lancashire) & Nancy Booth (aged 38). John was the eldest of 3 children listed on this Census – John then Percy Booth (aged 7, born Flixton, Lancashire) & Ellen Booth (aged 4 months, born Flixton, Lancashire).

The 1911 England Census recorded John Booth as a 20 year old, assisting in business (Butcher), living with his family at 5 Stocks Terrace, Flixton Village, Lancashire, which was a six roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Henry Booth (Butcher, aged 51) & Nancy Booth (aged 50). Henry & Nancy Booth had been married for 21 years & had 3 children. John's siblings were listed as Percy Booth (Rate Clerk, aged 17) & Helen Booth (At school, aged 9).

According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by Nancy Booth (mother) – Lionel John Booth came to Australia when he was 20 years old.

Lionel John Booth was aged 24 years & 10 months, single and a Labourer when he enlisted at Albury, NSW on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6960 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs N. Booth of 2 Victoria Avenue, Flixton, England. Lionel Booth stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 4 years with Imperial Yeomanry.

Private Lionel John Booth was in Camp with Albury Depot Battalion from 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. He was transferred to Liverpool Military Camp, NSW on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Private Lionel John Booth embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1916. He was appointed Acting Lance Corporal while at sea on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

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 Lionel John Booth proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Private Lionel John Booth was marched in to 1<sup>st</sup> A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1917. He was marched out to join his Unit on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 & was taken on strength with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion in France on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1917.

Private Lionel John Booth was wounded in action on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He was taken to 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Ambulance & then transferred to 17<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. Pte Booth was admitted to 26<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Etaples on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to his back. He embarked for England on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen*.

Private Lionel John Booth was admitted to Middlesex War Hospital, Clacton-on-Sea, England on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to back.

Private Lionel John Booth died at 1.30 pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1917 at Middlesex Hospital, Clacton-on-Sea, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to back & Tetanus. According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour Nancy Booth, mother of Lionel John Booth, - she stated her son was “mortally wounded at Broodseinde.”

A death for Lionel J. Booth, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Tendring, Essex, England.

Private Lionel John Booth was buried at 2.30 pm on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 in St. Michael's Churchyard, Flixton, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number L. 102. He shares a private family headstone. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Pte Booth - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was interred privately. The funeral left the residence of his Mother at 2.30 pm. The coffin containing the remains was carried by 6 volunteers of the Western Command Depot. A service was conducted in the Church and at the graveside by Rev. J. J. Jolly, C. of E. of Flixton. A large number of people followed the remains to the Cemetery included amongst them were many relatives and patients of the Red Cross Hospital at Flixton. The “Last Post” was sounded by a bugler of Western Command Depot. Numerous floral tributes were sent from relatives and friends of the deceased soldier.*

Pte Lionel John Booth requested in his Will dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Nancy Booth. Nancy Booth was also appointed sole executrix of the Will.

A War Pension was granted to Nancy Booth, mother of the late Pte Lionel John Booth for the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

Pte Lionel John Booth was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Booth's mother – Mrs N. Booth, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Lionel John Booth – service number 6960, aged 24, of 3rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Nancy Booth, of 2 Victoria Avenue, Flixton. Born at Flixton.

Private L. J. Booth is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 35.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Lionel John Booth is remembered at the Albury and District War Memorial, located at Memorial Hill, Dean St, Albury, New South Wales. The monument is a white ferro concrete tower, in the form of a tapered lighthouse painted stark white and surmounted by a 'torch of liberty' & was opened on Anzac Day 1925. In 1995 a number of individual plaques were set in the gardens around the monument to recall those who had died in both World Wars, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.



### Albury and District War Memorial

*(Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Peter Levarre Waters)*

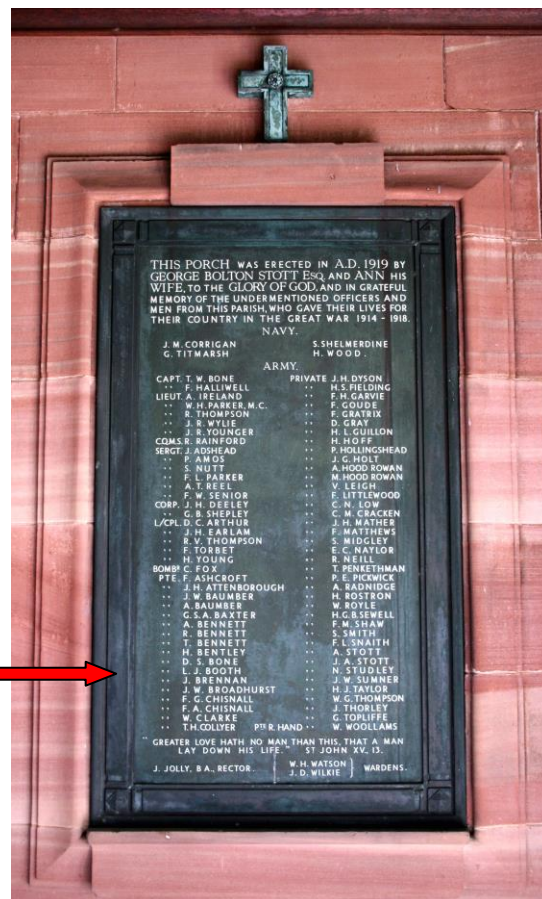


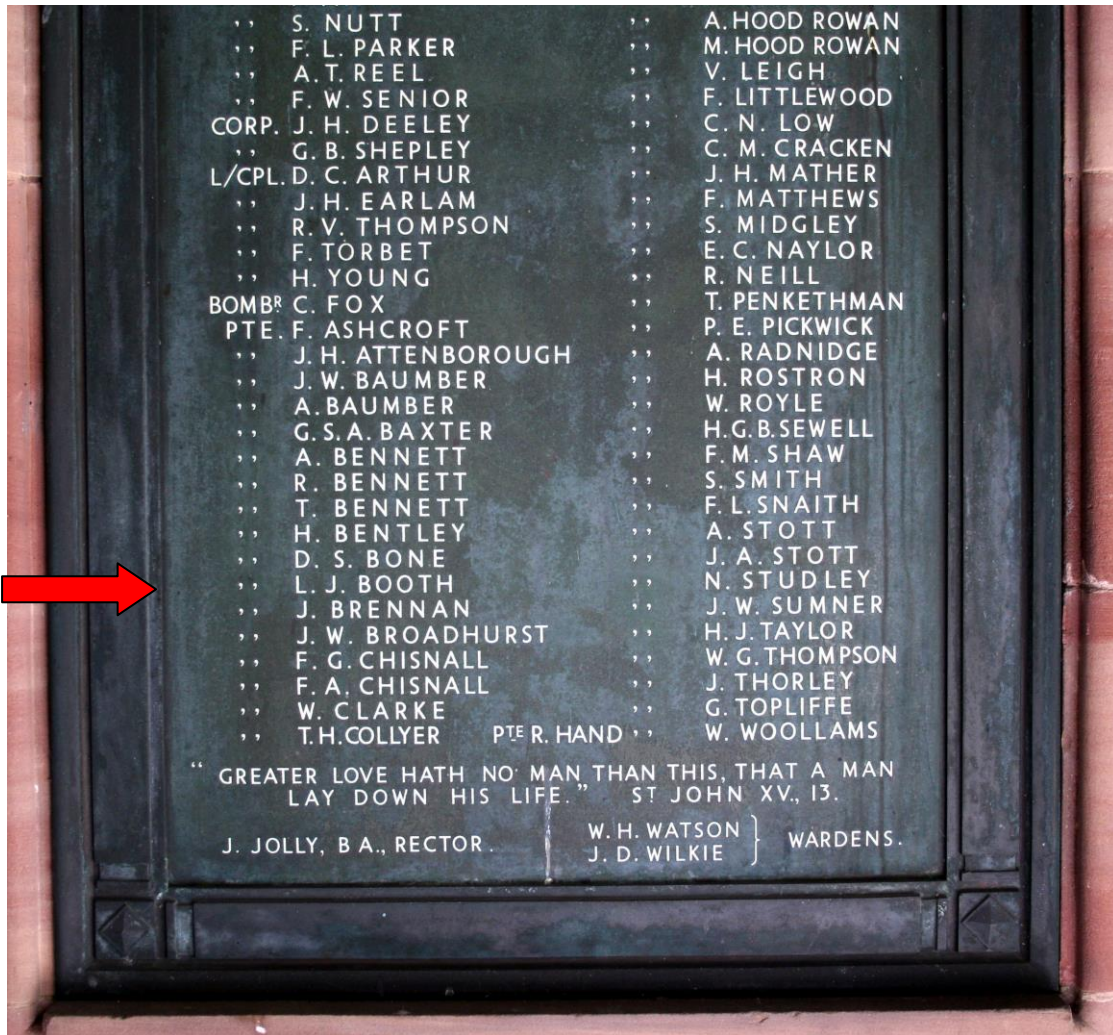
Pte L. J. Booth is also remembered on the War Memorial at St. Michael's Church, Flixton, Lancashire. The War Memorial is a sandstone Porch that includes two plaques – WW1 & WW2 and a stained glass window.



**War Memorial at St. Michael's Church, Flixton, Lancashire**

*(Photos courtesy of George Cogswell – [Trafford War Dead](#))*





(44 pages of Pte Lionel John Booth'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

### NSW CASUALTIES

#### The 351st LIST

#### WOUNDED

L. J. Booth, England

(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Qld) – 9 November, 1917)

## Latest Casualties

### 360th and 361st Lists

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Wounds

Pte L. J. Booth, England (previously reported wounded).

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 7 December, 1917)

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### St. Michael's Churchyard, Flixton, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England

St. Michael's Churchyard, Flixton, Greater Manchester contains 24 Commonwealth War Grave burials. 14 are connected to World War 1 & 10 are from World War 2. There is only 1 Australian Forces burial.



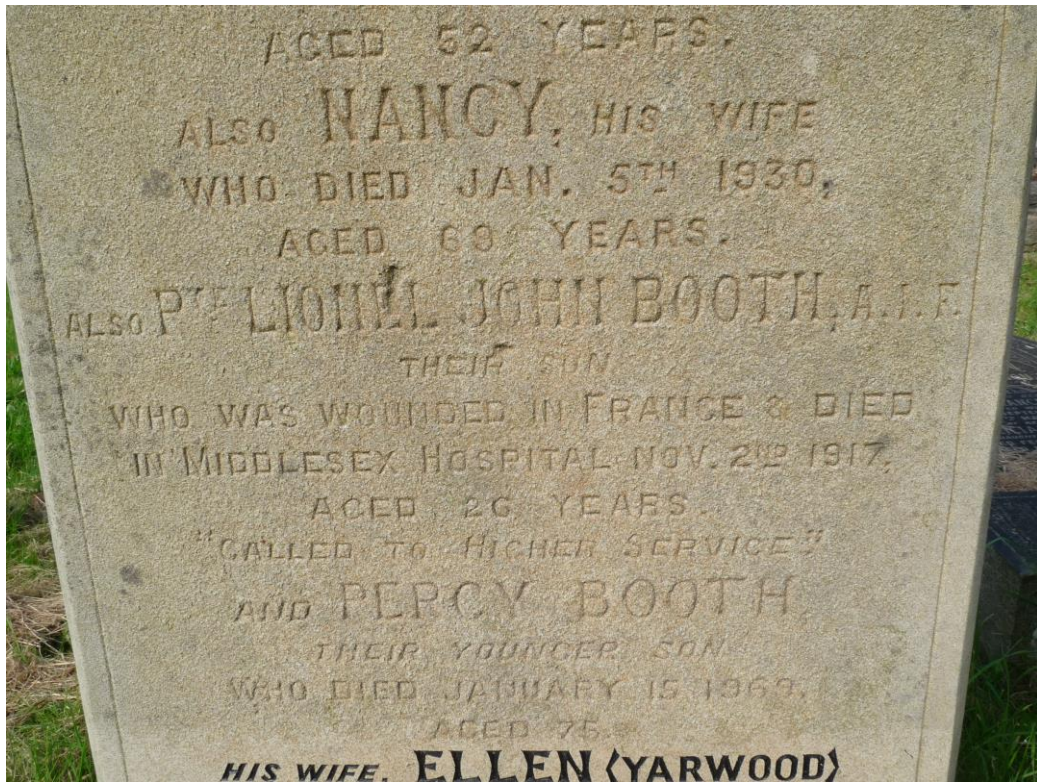
**St. Michael's Churchyard, Flixton, Greater Manchester, Lancashire** (Photo by Mike Berrell)

Photo of Pte Lionel John Booth's Private Family Headstone in St. Michael's Churchyard, Flixton, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)





*Also Pte **LIONEL JOHN BOOTH, A.I.F.***

*Their Son*

*Who Was Wounded in France & Died*

*In Middlesex Hospital Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917.*

*Aged 26 Years*

*"Called To Higher Service"*