

**Hollybrook Memorial,
Southampton, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1804 PRIVATE

J. BOULTON

24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH AUGUST, 1915

John BOULTON

John Boulton was born at Warwick, England.

[There is insufficient information to positively identify this man's parents, birth & details in the English Censuses]

John Boulton stated he was a 38 year old, single, Gardener from 16 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 10th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1804 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr W. Boulton, of 16 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria. John Boulton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with the English Territorials for 4 years – 14 years ago.

Private John Boulton was posted to 25th Company Depot on 12th June, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 18th June, 1915 then transferred again on 13th July, 1915 to 2nd Reinforcements of 24th Battalion.

Private John Boulton embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) on 16th July, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0337

HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) (Photo taken 16 July, 1915 at Port Melbourne, Victoria)

24th Battalion

The 24th Battalion was raised in a hurry. The original intent was to raise the fourth battalion of the 6th Brigade from the "outer states", but a surplus of recruits at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria lead to a decision being made to raise it there. The battalion was formed during the first week of May 1915, and sailed from Melbourne at the end of that week....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Boulton died at 4.40 am on 8th August, 1915 while at Sea on board HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) from Pneumonia & Pleurisy.

Private John Boulton was buried at Sea at 9 am on 8th August, 1915 from HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) with full Military Honors. He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Transport Medical Officer wrote the following Report:

"I beg to report that Private John Boulton of the 2/24th died on the Ship's Hospital at 4.40 am on the 8th of August 1915.

The cause of his death was lobar pneumonia with pleuritic effusion on both lungs.

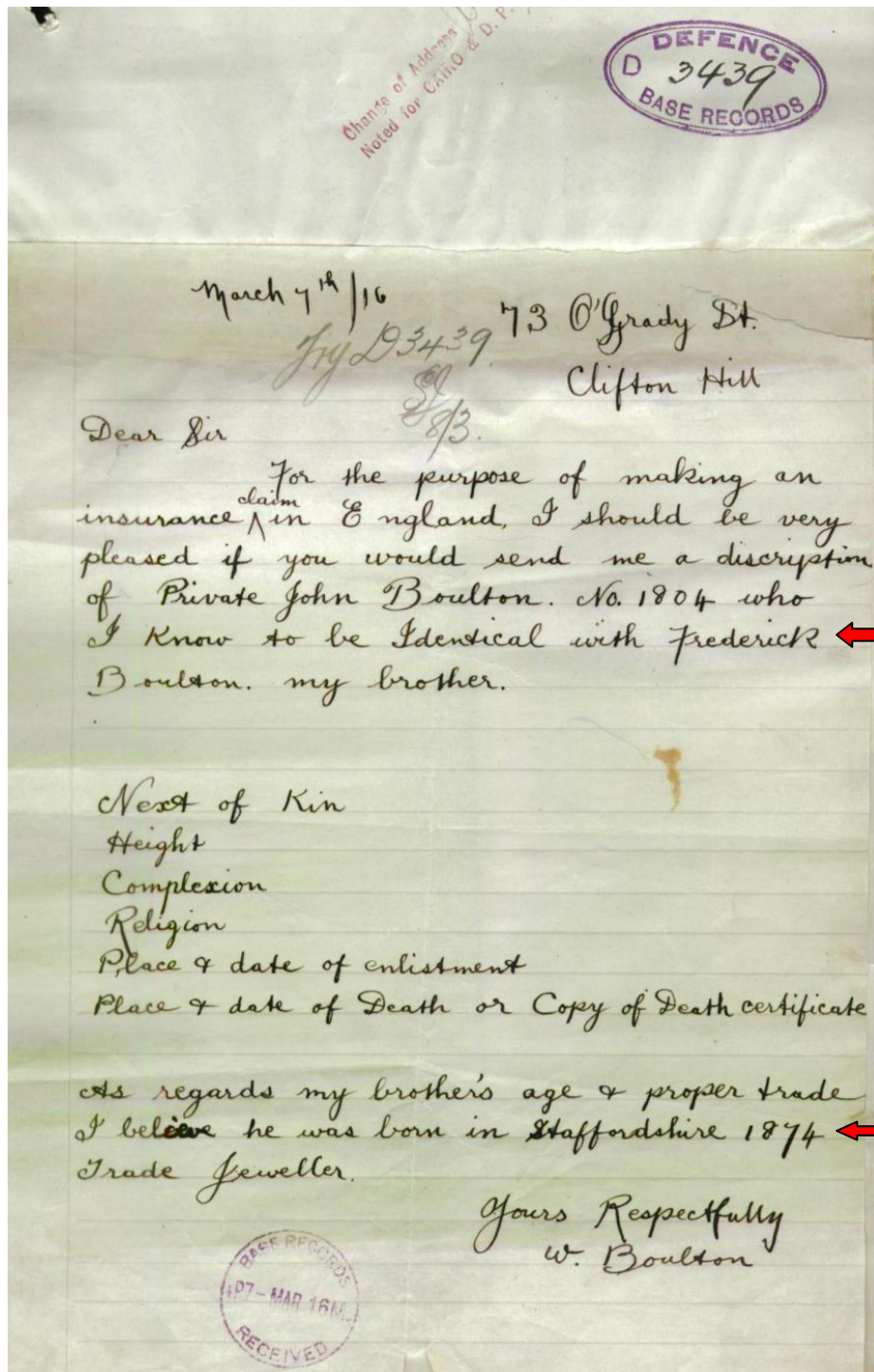
Everything possible was done for the patient. He was buried at sea on Sunday August 8th at 9 am."

According to Registers for Deaths at Sea 1891 - 1972 Private John Boulton died at Lat. 13.4 N Long. 50.51E which was north west of Socotra Island, Gulf of Aden.



Mr W. Boulton of 73 O'Grady St, Clifton Hill, contacted Base Records on 7th March, 1916 *"For the purpose of making an insurance claim in England, I should be very pleased if you would send me a description of Private John Boulton. No. 1804 who I know to be Identical with Frederick Boulton, my brother..... As regards to my brother's age & proper trade I believe he was born in Staffordshire 1874 Trade Jeweller."*

*[Based on the information provided in the letter below – being that **Private John Boulton's real name was Frederick Boulton** & he was born in Staffordshire in 1874 (not Warwick around 1877). There is still insufficient information to positively identify this man's parents, birth & details in the English Censuses]*



Base Records contacted Mr W. Boulton, 73 O'Grady St, Clifton Hill, Victoria on 11th August, 1921 stating that he was registered on the records as the next of kin of the late Private No. 1804 Private J. Boulton but would be glad to learn if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself & was specifically asked if his father and mother were living & if there were any older brothers due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

William Boulton replied to Base Records on 16th August, 1921 stating that he was the nearest next of kin as he was the only brother & both father & mother were dead. Mr William Boulton also advised his change of address to 55 O'Grady St, Clifton Hill.

Private John Boulton was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. The War Medal was issued to Mr W. Boulton, brother of the late Private Boulton, as the parents were deceased. He signed receipt for the British War Medal on 10th January, 1922.

A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were usually sent to the late Soldier's next of kin, however in this instance the stamp recording the details for when the Memorial Scroll was sent has been marked "No Scroll".

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Boulton – service number 1804, aged 37, of 24th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

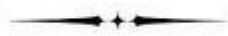
Private J. Boulton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 101.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(28 pages of Private John Boulton'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

ON THE FIELD OF HONOR

SIXTY-EIGHTH OFFICIAL LIST

DIED, CAUSE NOT KNOWN

Pte Boulton, J., 24th, Melbourne. Died at sea

(*The Ballarat Courier*, Victoria – 24 August, 1915)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

NOTE: At The time of researching (November, 2020) the Australian War Memorial had recorded that Private John Boulton was remembered on the [Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, England](#) however the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had recorded that he was remembered on the [Chatby Memorial, Egypt \(Addenda Panel\)](#).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission were contacted in November, 2020 to verify the exact location of where Private John Boulton is commemorated.

Here is their second answer:

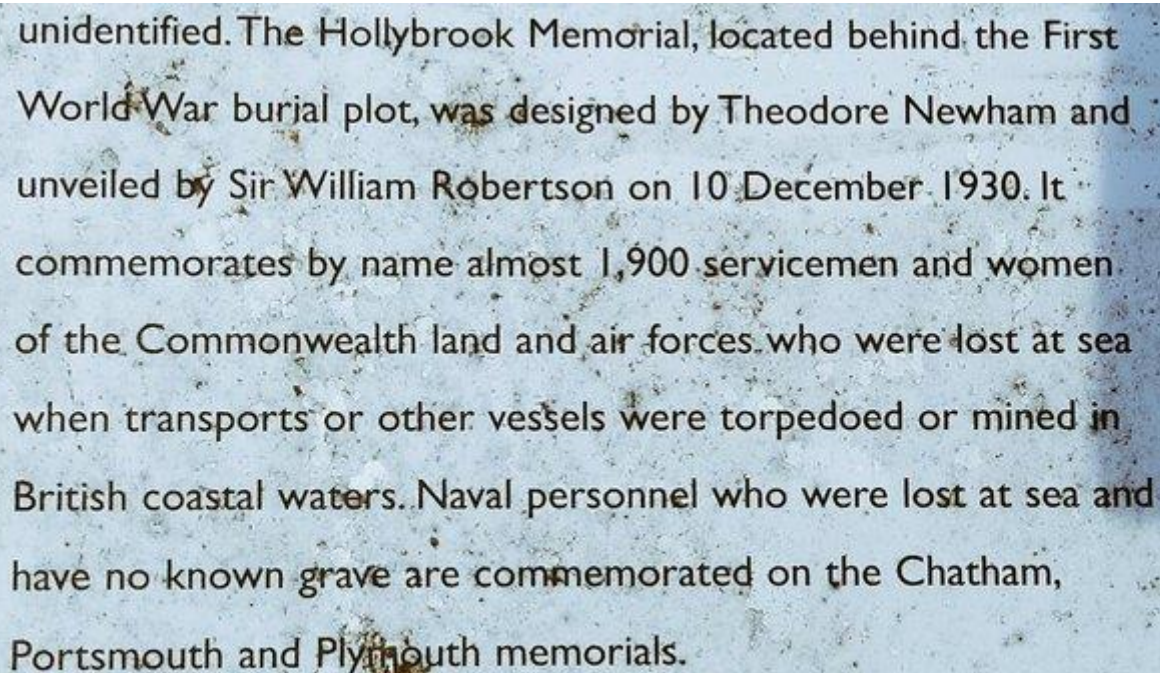
Having gone through the case file again and it would appear that J Boulton's name was as you say engraved on the Hollybrook Memorial originally but then further research proved that the correct place of commemoration should be the Chatby Memorial. By the time the decision was made to add his name to the Chatby Memorial, his name had been added to the Hollybrook Memorial Addenda Panel. Hopefully, when the panels are replaced at Hollybrook his name will be removed.

I have attached a photo of the Chatby Memorial for your information. I have made a note on our internal database in the event of any further queries about this gentleman.

At the time of researching (November, 2020) Private John Boulton was named on 2 Memorials – Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, England & Chatby Memorial Addenda Panel, Egypt.

Private John Boulton's name will be removed from the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton in due course.

Requisite for names on Holbrook Memorial :



unidentified. The Hollybrook Memorial, located behind the First World War burial plot, was designed by Theodore Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930. It commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces who were lost at sea when transports or other vessels were torpedoed or mined in British coastal waters. Naval personnel who were lost at sea and have no known grave are commemorated on the Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth memorials.

Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice



Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice

Photo of Private J. Boulton's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England. To be removed in due course.



(Photo by Charlie – Find a Grave)



Chatby Memorial, Egypt

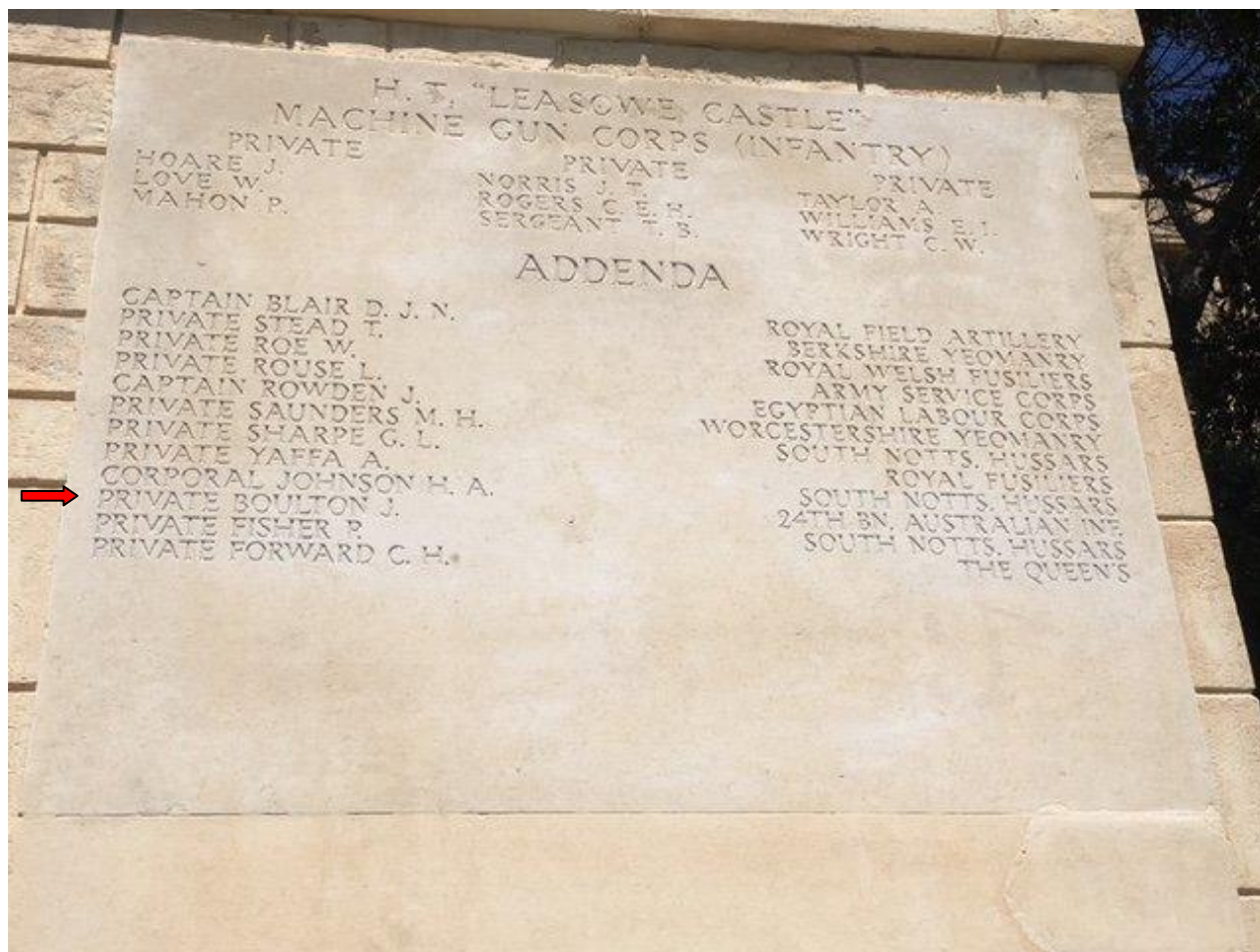
Chatby is a district on the eastern side of the city of Alexandria, between the main dual carriageway to Aboukir, known as Al Horaya, and the sea. The Chatby Memorial is situated within Chatby War Memorial Cemetery which is located centrally within the main Alexandria cemetery complex. It is bordered by Al Horaya on the south and the electric tramway, which is parallel with Sharia Champollion, on the north. Visitors can reach the entrance to the cemetery along the road Sharia Anubis, which lies centrally north/south through the cemetery area.

In March 1915, the base of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was transferred to Alexandria from Mudros and the city became a camp and hospital centre for Commonwealth and French troops. Among the medical units established there were the 17th, 19th, 21st, 78th and 87th General Hospitals and No 5 Indian Hospital. After the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, Alexandria remained an important hospital centre during later operations in Egypt and Palestine and the port was much used by hospital ships and troop transports bringing reinforcements and carrying the sick and wounded out of the theatres of war. The Chatby Memorial stands at the eastern end of the Alexandria (Chatby) War Memorial Cemetery and commemorates almost 1,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died during the First World War and have no other grave but the sea. Many of them were lost when hospital ships or transports were sunk in the Mediterranean, sailing to or from Alexandria. Others died of wounds or sickness while aboard such vessels and were buried at sea. More than 700 of those commemorated on the memorial died when the following vessels were torpedoed or mined. Officers and men of the merchant services lost in these incidents are commemorated on appropriate memorials elsewhere.....The cemetery in which the memorial stands contains burials of both wars, war graves of other nationalities, and a large number of non war and military graves, some of which date from 1882.

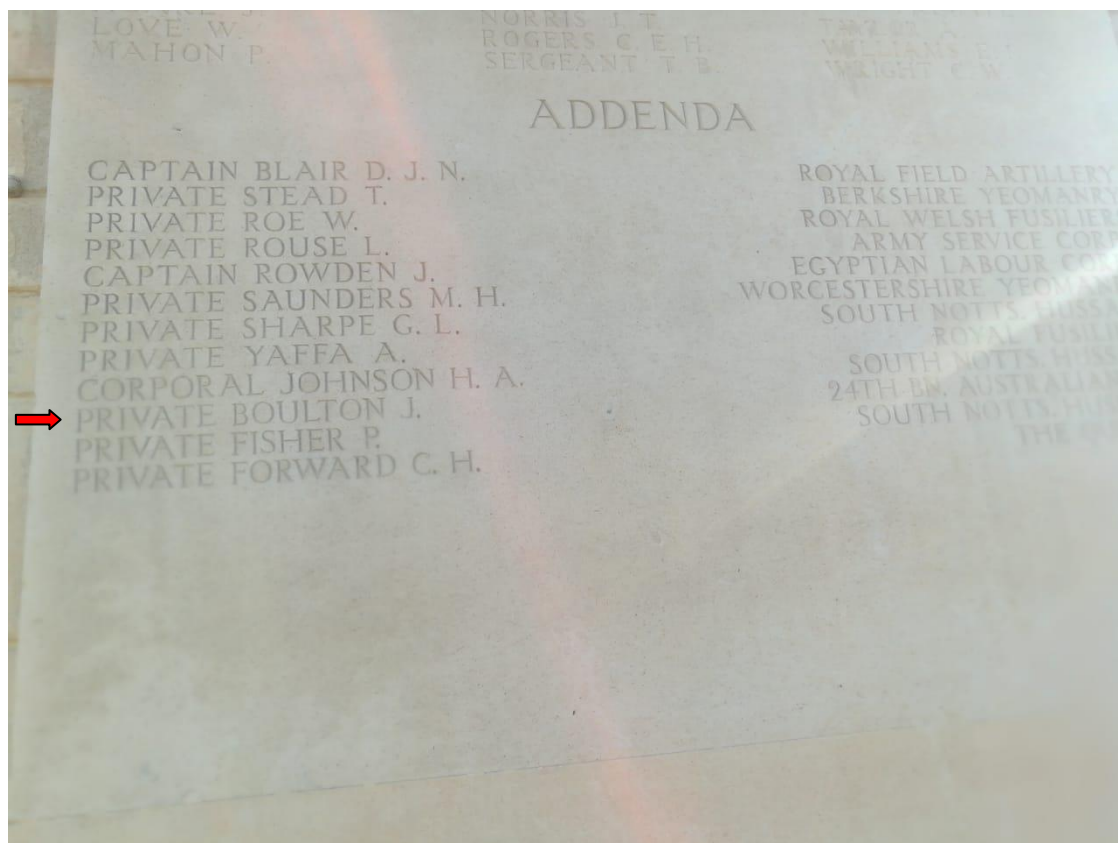
(Information & photos from CWGC)



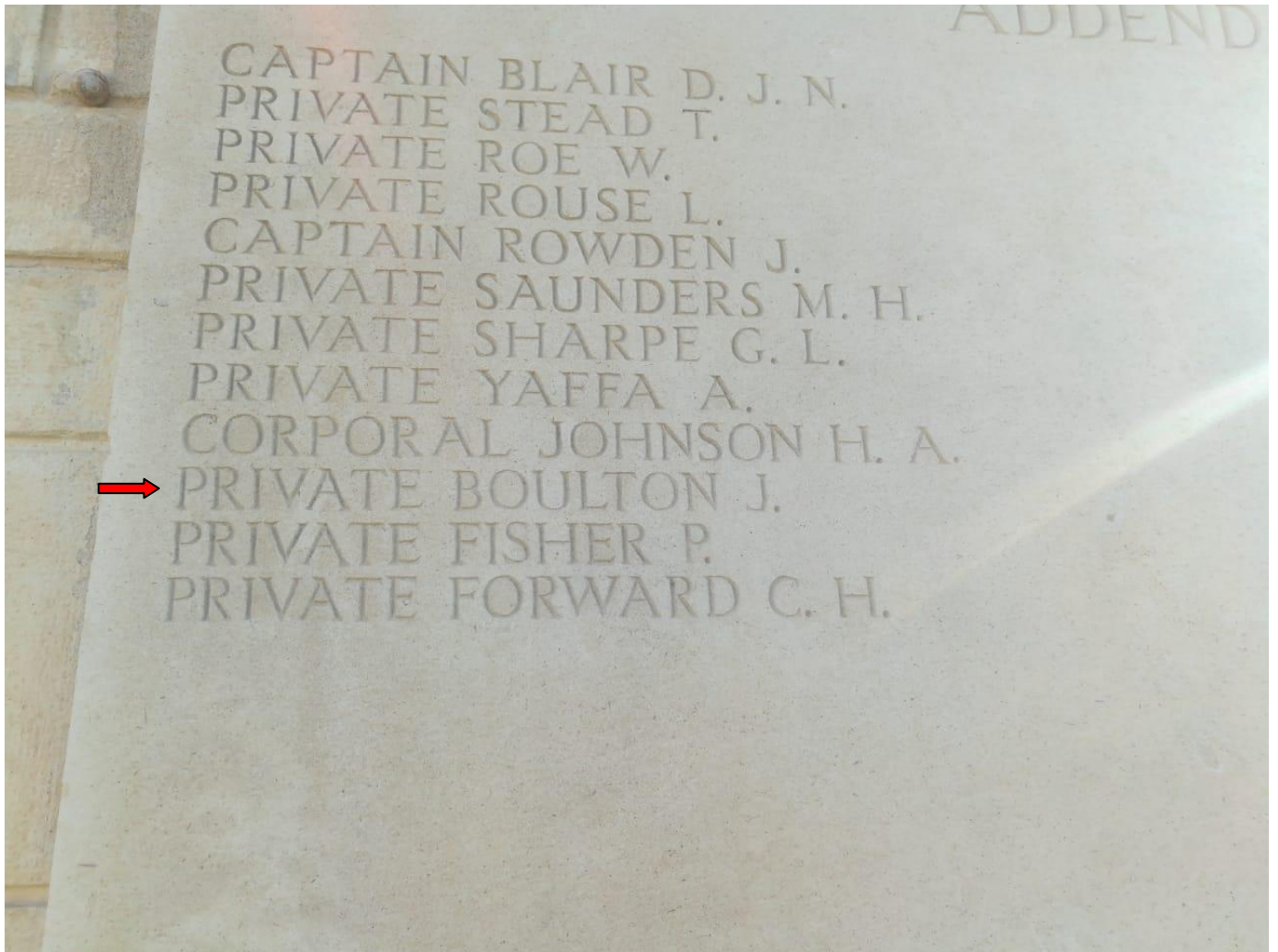
Photo of Private J. Boulton's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Chatby Memorial, Egypt.



Addenda Panel at Chatby Memorial (Photo courtesy of CWGC)



(Photo courtesy of Baghdady - Twitter)



(Photo courtesy of Baghdady - Twitter)



Chatby Memorial *(Photo from VWMA)*