

**Stoke Old Cemetery,
Guildford, Surrey
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4676 PRIVATE

FRANCIS ARTHUR BOYLE

17TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31ST DECEMBER, 1916 Age 38

"And They Shall Be Mine, Saith The Lord Of Hosts

In That Day When I Make Up My Jewels."

Erected By His Relatives In Australia

Francis Arthur BOYLE

Francis Arthur Boyle was born at Warwick, Queensland on 2nd September, 1878 to parents Henry and Ellen Louisa Boyle (nee Stevens).

Francis Arthur Boyle attended State Schools at Warwick & Brisbane, Queensland.

Henry Boyle, father of Francis Arthur Boyle, died on 7th April, 1894 in Queensland.

The 1903, 1905, 1906, 1908, 1912 & 1913 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Oxley, subdivision of Brisbane South, Queensland recorded Francis Arthur Boyle, Clerk, of Tribune Street. His mother was listed as Ellen Louisa Boyle, Domestic Duties, Tribune Street.

Francis Arthur Boyle was a 37 year old, single, Commercial Traveller from (care of) L. W. Burt, Box 1934, G.P.O. Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Royal Agricultural Show Grounds, Sydney, NSW on 18th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4676 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Boyle, of Arrah, Tribune Street, South Brisbane, Queensland.

Private Francis Arthur Boyle was posted to 12th Reinforcements of 17th Battalion on 18th January, 1916 for recruit training.

Private Francis Arthur Boyle embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 13th April, 1916 with the 17th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements. He embarked pm 28th May, 1916 from H.M.T. *Megantic* from Alexandria & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 7th June, 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 Francis Arthur Boyle proceeded overseas to France from 5th Training Battalion in England on 10th September, 1916.

Private Francis Arthur Boyle was taken on strength with his Battalion in Belgium on 24th September, 1916 from 2nd Australian Divisional Base Depot.

Private Francis Arthur Boyle was sent sick to Hospital on 6th October, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd A. D.R.S. with Bronchitis & returned to duty on 9th October, 1916.

Private Francis Arthur Boyle was admitted to New Zealand Casualty Clearing Station on 17th October, 1916 with Scabies. He rejoined his Battalion on 20th October, 1916.

Private Francis Arthur Boyle was wounded in action in France on 10th November, 1916. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to head. He was then transferred to 36th Casualty Clearing Station then admitted to 2nd General Hospital at Havre, France on 30th November, 1916. Pte Boyle was transferred to Hospital Ship *Formosa* for England on 3rd December, 1916.

War Diary – 17th Battalion

9th November, 1916 – Relieved by 19th Battalion & arrived at CARLTON TRENCH CAMP at 3.30 am 10.11.16

12th November, 1916 – Left CARLTON TRENCH at 4 pm & marched to MARMETZ CAMP arriving here at 6 pm.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – *“but while my son was in hospital in England, he informed a friend that he was wounded in the head by a sniper’s bullet, while making observations under orders from his Corporal.”*

17th Battalion

The Battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time, although in a reserve role, between 18 and 28 August. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 17th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the quagmire the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.

(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Francis Arthur Boyle was admitted to Guildford War Hospital, Surrey, England on 4th December, 1916 with gunshot wounds to head.

Private Francis Arthur Boyle died at 4.30 pm on 31st December, 1916 at War Hospital, Guildford, Surrey, England from wounds received in action - Cerebral Hernia (gunshot wounds to forehead).

A death for Francis A. Boyle, aged 38, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Guildford, Surrey, England.

Private Francis Arthur Boyle was buried on 2nd January, 1917, according to the Burial records for Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, in Stoughton Cemetery, (now referred to as Stoke Old Cemetery), Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey, England – Plot number G. 356 and has a Private Headstone. His Casualty Form – Active Service records that he was buried on 4th January, 1917. Private Francis Arthur Boyle's death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Francis Arthur Boyle contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his wounds, death and burial. A letter from Linda Bell, War Hospital, Guildford reads: *"The matron passed on your letter to me as I am in charge of the ward where Pte Boyle was. He was unconscious two days before his death and died quite peacefully, his sister-in-law present. He was buried with full military honours in the Stoughton Cemetery, his sister-in-law attended. As I hope to leave shortly for Australia and come from the same town as the late Pte Boyle, I intend to call and see his people, if you would kindly give me their address I should be very glad."*

A previous request into Pte Boyle's condition was replied to by O.C. War Hospital, Guildford on 22nd December, 1916 which reads: *"Admitted to Guildford War Hospital on 4-12-16 suffering from cerebral hernia. This man was wounded in head in France, on Novr. 9th; the bullet struck him on the left side of the forehead. He was trephined on the 10th Novr. at a Casualty Clearing Station in France. He was admitted here on Decr. 4th, when he was found to have a cerebral Hernia in left frontal region which was "Septic" and was pulsating freely; there was no sign of compression. He did well until 15th Decr. when his temperature rose slightly, it has continued to be somewhat raised since, and is this day 102'. His name was places on the Dangerously Ill list this afternoon. A lumbar puncture was done to-day to relieve symptoms."*

Mrs Ellen Boyle, mother of the late Private Francis Arthur Boyle, advised Base Records in 1919 that her new address was "Ecam", Wharf St., Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Queensland, after reading a notice in the "Evening News" of Soldiers' unclaimed communications.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. L. Boyle, mother of the late Private Francis Arthur Boyle in December, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself 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. Mrs Ellen Boyle replied that there were no nearer blood relatives than herself, his father having died many years ago.

Private Francis Arthur Boyle was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Boyle's mother - Mrs E. L. Boyle, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Francis Arthur Boyle – service number 4676, aged 38, of 17th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Ellen Louisa Boyle, of "Ecam", Wharf St., Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Queensland.

F. A. Boyle is remembered on the St. Andrew's Anglican Church Honour Roll, located at 160 Vulture Street, South Brisbane, Queensland.



St. Andrew's Anglican Church Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

Private F. A. Boyle is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 82.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(49 pages of Pte Francis Arthur Boyle'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

ROLL OF HONOUR

The 263rd Australian casualty list....

QUEENSLANDERS IN OTHER STATES

New South Wales

Pte F. A. Boyle, S. Brisbane, ser. ill, p.r.w.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 13 January, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

The 265th Australian casualty list....

QUEENSLANDERS IN OTHER STATES

New South Wales

Pte F. A. Boyle, S. Brisbane, died of wounds, 31/12/16, p.r. ser. ill

(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 26 January, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BOYLE – In loving memory of Private Francis Arthur Boyle, fourth son of Mrs H. Boyle, South Brisbane, who died of wounds at Guildford War Hospital, Surrey, England, on 31st September, 1916.

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 5 January, 1918)

Stoke Old Cemetery, Guildford, Surrey, England

Stoke Old Cemetery, Guildford, Surrey contains 84 Commonwealth War Graves – 76 from World War 1 & 8 from World War 2. There are 4 Australians buried in this Cemetery.



Cross of Sacrifice in Stoke Old Cemetery, Guildford (Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)

Photo of Private Francis Arthur Boyle's Private Headstone in Stoke Old Cemetery, Guildford, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



FRANCIS ARTHUR BOYLE

PRIVATE 17TH BATTALION

A.I.F.

DIED OF WOUND, GUILDFORD WAR

HOSPITAL, 31ST DECEMBER 1916

AGED 38 YEARS.

*"AND THEY SHALL BE MINE, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS
IN THAT DAY WHEN I MAKE UP MY JEWELS."*

ERECTED BY HIS RELATIVES IN AUSTRALIA