

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



In Loving Memory of

MY COMRADE

No 1870 CPL A. E. BUTTON

51st BATTN. A. I. F.

KILLED NOV. 23 RD. 1916

'THY WILL BE DONE'

(* The initials on the headstone are incorrect – should be A.J. Button)

Albert James BUTTON

Albert James Cecil Button was born at Hotel Admiral, Melbourne, Victoria on 21st November 1884 (according to many family trees on Ancestry, however his birth was registered in West Melbourne, Victoria in 1890) to parents Albert & Margaret Button (nee Ross).

Margaret Elizabeth Button, mother of Albert James Button, died on 3rd October, 1895, aged 36.

The 1910 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Fremantle, Western Australia recorded Albert James Button, Barman, Cleopatra Hotel. His father Albert Button was listed as the Publican, Cleopatra Hotel.

Albert James Button married Gladys May Crowle in Fremantle, Western Australia in 1913. They had a daughter - Inez, born 1913.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Fremantle, Western Australia recorded Albert James Button, Barman, Cleopatra Hotel.

The 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Fremantle, Western Australia recorded Albert James Button, Barman & his wife Gladys Mary Button, from 58 Stirling Street.

Albert Button stated he was a 23 year old, married, Hotel Clerk from Fremantle, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 3rd January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Gladys Button, 58 Stirling Street, Fremantle, Western Australia. From his attestation papers, Albert Button had previously served for a total of 4 years with the Army in Victoria.

Private Albert James Button was posted to 40th Depot on 3rd January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion from 1st February, 1916. Private Button was promoted to Sergeant with 44th Battalion on 28th March, 1916 then Acting Sergeant of 3/51st Battalion on 16th April, 1916.

Private (rank as per Embarkation Roll) Albert James Button, Service number 1870, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Seang Bee (A48)* on 18th July, 1916 with the 51st Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th September, 1916. His rank reverted back to Private on 9th September, 1916.

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

Private Albert Button was promoted to Acting Corporal of 51st Battalion on 11th September, 1916.

Acting Corporal Albert James Button was injured in a bombing accident at No. 4 Camp Codford on 23rd November, 1916 & was admitted dead to No. 3 New Zealand Hospital.

From the Medical Case Sheet for A/Cpl Button: *This man was brought to NZ Hospital No 3 Codford DEAD at 6 p m tonight. He had been wounded by an accidental Bomb explosion about an hour previously. On Examination- The bullet has entered in front of the right ear and passing through the brain emerged two inches behind the left ear. The entrance wound was small, the Exit wound had torn away a portion of the skull. Some small superficial wounds appeared on both legs. Death must have ensued rapidly after the injury was received.*

(P Clennell Fenwick O C N Z Hospital No 3).

An Inquiry into the death of Corporal Albert James Button 1870 was held on 24th November, 1916 by order of Lieut. Colonel W. E. Cass, Commandant "D" Group.

1st Witness Lieut. E.D. McBURNIE, 51st Battalion, now attached to 13th Training Battalion, being duly sworn states:-

At 4.15 p.m. on the 23rd Inst., I was acting as Instructor in a bat at the Group Bombing pitch. The man I was instructing had thrown his grenade. 2/Lieut. Swann then ordered the second detail to throw. Immediately afterwards I heard 2/Lieut. Swann call out "For God's sake get out of the bay." The Sergeant (Sgt Brown) at the same time called out "Get out of the bay". I then looked towards the bay where the throwing was taking place, and noticed a live grenade on the parapet. The grenade rolled into the bay and exploded. I then went out from my bay and attended to the wounded. 2/Lieut. Swann meanwhile had sent messengers to Group Headquarters and A.M.C. H'Quarters. In my opinion the grenade had a short fuse, about 3 seconds which did not allow the men sufficient time to leave the bay.

(Sgd) E. D. McBurnie. Lieut.

2nd Witness 2/Lieut. J. W. SWANN, 45th Battalion, AIF now attached to "D" Group Headquarters, Codford, being duly sworn states:-

A serious accident occurred at the live bomb-throwing pitch "D" Group, at 1620 on 23rd inst. A bomb was thrown by 2264 Pte Taylor T., 4/50th Battn, attached to 13th Training Battn. It was thrown against the top of the parapet to the rear of the thrower. It passed in front of the wire-netting, and owing, probably, to the spin of the bomb, came back and dropped at the adjoining bay about 2 feet from the inside edge of that adjoining bay. 4543 L/Sgt. Brown R.P. 4th Training Battn. was acting as Instructor. The N.C.O. has a Lyndhurst certificate. The men in the adjoining bay and 2/Lieut. Maunder D.S. were immediately warned by me, and endeavoured to reach cover with the exception of 1870 Cpl. Button A.J. 3/51st Battn. who seemed paralysed with fear. Corpl Button remained in the bay, and was discovered after the bomb had exploded lying across the sandbags at the entrance, which are placed there to prevent bombs which are thrown against the parapet from rolling into the open. The other men were wounded by the shrapnel effect of the Mills Grenade, No. 8, as they did not fall down flat, when at some distance from the grenade, but continued to run. The bomb in my opinion was not a 5 second bomb, but exploded in about 3 seconds. My position was at the observation bay, about 10 yards in rear of the throwing bay. Orders to throw and general discipline were given by me.

To the Court. *In my opinion the accident was due to nervousness on the part of the thrower who held on to the bomb too long.*

(Sgd)- John Swann 2/Lieut.

3rd Witness 2/Lieut. Maunder D.S. 49th Battalion, now attached to 13th Training Battalion, being duly sworn states:-

About 4.30 p.m. on the 23rd inst. I was on duty at "D" Group live bomb pitch, when I heard somebody call out "For God's sake get out of the bay." Thinking that something had gone wrong with one of the bombs I immediately rushed out of the bay. I had gone about 10 or 15 yards when I heard an explosion, and felt myself hit on the back of the head and the arm. I looked round and saw several men lying on the ground. I noticed Lieut. McBurnie attend to the wounds of Cpl. Button who appeared to be badly wounded. 2/Lieut. Swann immediately after the explosion sent a man for the ambulance and a written report to "D" Group Headquarters.

(Sgd) D. Maunder 2/Lieut.

4th Witness Capt. Kenihan R.L., A.M.C. attached to the 13th Training battalion, being duly sworn states:-

At about 5 p.m. on the 23rd inst., I heard that an accident had occurred on the bombing pitch. I immediately proceeded to the scene of the accident accompanied by three A.M.C. men and met our patient being taken from the scene of the accident whom I afterwards found to be Cpl. Button. Cpl. Button appeared to be badly wounded about the head. He had already received first aid treatment, his head being bandaged, and I sent him to the Ambulance car, to the New Zealand General (3rd) Hospital. After seeing him off I proceeded to the bombing pitch and attended to the men who were also wounded.

(Sgd) R. L. Kenihan Capt. A.M.C.

5th Witness Capt. Goode A., A.A.M.C. attached to "D" Group Headquarters Staff, being duly sworn states:-

At about 6 p.m. 23rd Inst., I first heard of the bombing accident and immediately proceeded to the scene of the accident where I found five men who had been injured, in good condition, and I did not interfere as the 13th Training Btn. A.M.C. had already dressed them. I accompanied the men into Codford N.Z. Hospital and saw them dressed.

(Sgd) A. Goode Capt. S.M.O.

6th Witness 4543 L/Sergt. Brown R.P. , 14/16th Battn. now attached to 4th Training Battn. being duly sworn states:-

I was Instructor in the bay from which the bomb was thrown. At about 4.20 p.m. on the 23rd inst., Pte Taylor threw a bomb. He threw with a round arm motion instead of over-arm as he had been instructed, and did not release it until his arm had completed practically a half circle. The bomb hit the top of the parapet and rolled to the left, twisting into the next bay. Mr Swann called for everyone to get out of the bay. I also called out at the same time. The men continued to rush out of the bay on my left until the bomb exploded. I then noticed several men had been wounded. In my opinion the bomb exploded prematurely, otherwise all the men would have had time to get out of the bay.

(Sgd) R.P. Brown L/Sgt. 4543

7th Witness 2264 Pte Taylor. T. 4/51st Battalion, now attached to 13th Training Battalion, duly sworn states:-

At about 4.30 p.m. on the 23rd inst., I was at bombing practice at "D" Group live bombing pitch. I threw a live bomb. As I threw the handle of the bomb appeared to catch on my thumb. As soon as I threw I ducked down as instructed thinking the bomb had gone over the parapet. I then heard the Officer in charge calling out to the people in the next bay to get out as quickly as possible, and heard the explosion in the next bay. I then came out of my bay and saw several men wounded.

(Sgd) – T. Taylor

The finding of the COURT.

The Court is of the opinion that the occurrence was purely accidental partly owing to the inexperience in live bomb throwing, and consequent slight nervousness of the thrower, and partly that the lever of the bomb may have caught in his thumb, and so causes it to twist to the left and fall into the next bay instead of going forward over the parapet. Also that no blame is attachable to any of the persons concerned in the practice.

(Sgd) J.C. Brown Capt. PRESIDENT.

(Sgd) Stanley Vanstan Lt)

) MEMBERS

“ F. Albrecht. “)

The following details were located within Corporal Button's Service record papers:

Inquiring into the death of a soldier in that he on 23.11.16 at Codford whilst in the Bay of a live Bomb throwing pitch was killed. The Bomb was thrown by 2264 Pte Taylor of 50th Btn now attached to the 13th Trg Btn, which struck against the top of the parapet to the head of the thrower. Owing probably to the spin of the bomb it came back & dropped on the inside edge of the next bay. All men were warned & endeavoured to reach cover, with the exception of 1870 Cpl Button A.J. 51st Battn. who seemed paralysed with fear. He remained in the bay & was found after the explosion lying across the sandbags which were placed at the entrance to prevent the Bombs which were thrown against the parapet from rolling into the open. Other soldiers were wounded by shrapnel affect, because instead of falling sown flat when a short distance from the bay continued to run. The bomb not being as was thought a five second bomb, exploded in three seconds (witness 2nd Lieut J. W. Swann 45th Bn.) attached C D Group H Qrs. Codford). The Court declared that the occurrence was purely accidental owing to the inexperience of live bomb throwing & nervousness on the part of the thrower, also that no blame is attached to any persons concerned in the practice.

President Capt. C. Browne 15th Btn L.R. 5025

Details in a letter sent from the Coroner's Office, Trowbridge dated 25th November, 1916 to Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom, Tidworth:

I hereby certify that at an inquest held by me at the Military Hospital, Codford- St. Mary, on the body of Cpl. A.J. Button, 51st Australian Imperial Forces, the following verdict was returned:-

"Death from fracture of the skull caused by explosion of a bomb throwing practice at Codford, Wilts on 23rd November, 1916."

(Sgd) F.A.P. Sylvester

Acting Corporal Albert James Button died on 23rd November, 1916 at No. 3 New Zealand Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire, England from injuries received in a Bombing accident at No. 4 Camp Codford, Wiltshire, England.

A death for Albert J. Button, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire. From information filled out by Albert's wife, for the Roll of Honour, she listed his age as 24 years. *(Newspaper notices inserted by his wife & his parents, list Albert Button as 32 years)*

Corporal Albert James Button was buried in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 47 on 27th November, 1916.

From the Red Cross Society's Wounded and Missing File on Corporal Albert James Button, in reply to a request for further information into his death, the following letters were found:

Died of Wounds 23.11.16

I have been told he was killed by a bomb while at practice at Salisbury. Almost anyone in the 3rd Reinforcements could give information of the truth of this report.

(E. E. Miller 3427 51st Batt AIF.)

D/W November 23rd. 1916

He was killed accidentally in No. 4 Camp, Codford, England, through an explosion of a bomb, at the bombing school. I was talking to him a couple of hours before the accident happened. He is buried in the Military Cemetery at Codford. I saw the funeral. He comes from Fremantle. His people live at Midland Junction, W. Australia. He used to belong to C. Coy.

(Pte F. W. Treby 2017 C. Coy)

Died of Wounds 23/11/16

He was killed by accident at Codford Camp Salisbury on 23rd Nov. during bombing instruction. Died in the N.Z. Hospital there three hours after the explosion. Eight others were wounded at the same time. Button came from W.A. with me. His people are advised.

(1920 F.G. Hawkins 51st Batt. AIF)

Died of Wounds (Accident) 23.11.16

Cert by AIF Headquarters 12.12.16

Died of wounds received in a bombing accident. Already dead when admitted to New Zealand Hospital, buried St. Mary's Cemetery Codford, on 27.11.1916 and had a Military funeral.

Cert: by Letter from Captain Harrington 12th Train. Battn. Codford 19.2.17

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Albert James Button – service number 1870, of 51st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the husband of Gladys May Button.

Corporal A. J. Button was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Plaque Scroll & King's letter were also sent to Corporal Button's wife – Mrs G. M. Button at Summer Hill, NSW but were returned unclaimed "Not at Address" in July, 1922.

A letter was sent, in 1923, to the Post Office where Corporal Button's widow was collecting her pension & they advised the Base Records Office that the widow of Corporal Button had remarried & her details were now Mrs Bell of 6 Canza Flats, East Crescent St, McMahon's Point, NSW. Corporal Button's medal & Memorial Scroll & Plaque were received by his widow, now remarried – Mrs G Bell, in 1923.

Corporal A. J. Button is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 152.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

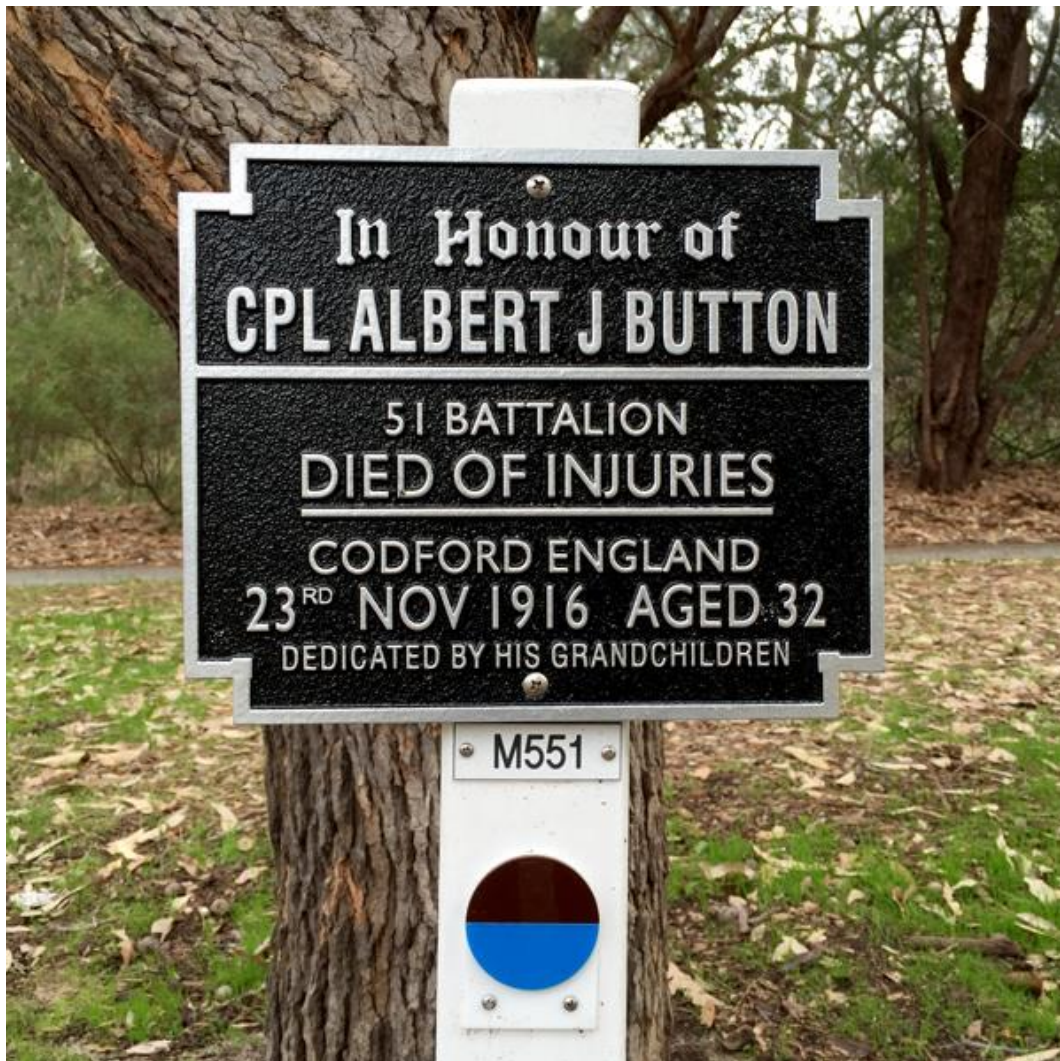
A. J. Button is remembered on the City of Cockburn War Memorial, located at Rockingham Road & Carrington Street, Hamilton, Hill, Western Australia.



City of Cockburn War Memorial (Photos by Calistemon)



Albert J. Button is remembered with a Memorial Plaque (M551) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.



(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)

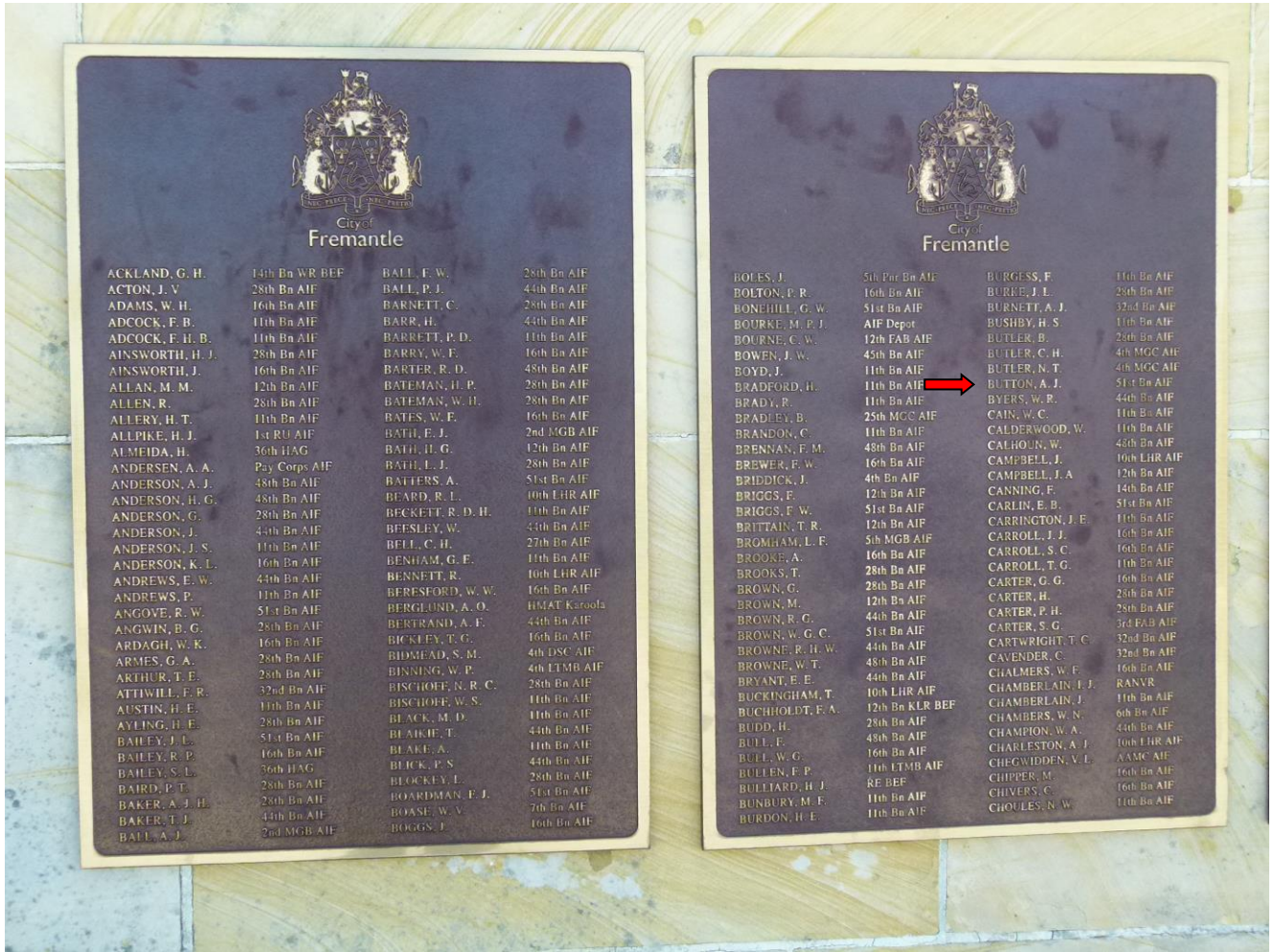


A. J. Button is remembered on Fremantle's 849, located at War Memorial, Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, High & Swanbourne Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia. Twelve plaques contain all 849 names of the Fremantle servicemen who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The plaques were created as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations.




Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial (*Photos from Monument Australia*)





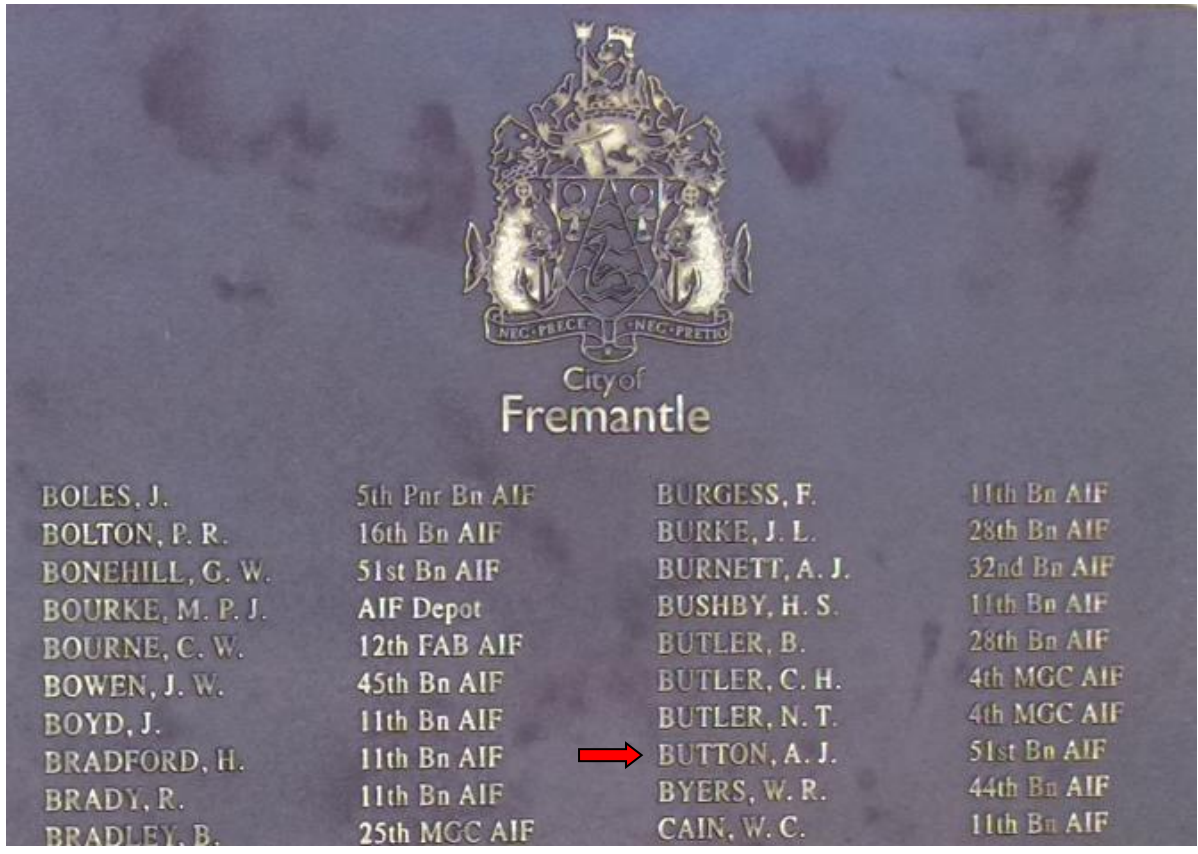

 City of
Fremantle

ACKLAND, G. H.	14th Bn WR BEF	BALL, F. W.	28th Bn AIF
ACTON, J. V.	28th Bn AIF	BALL, P. J.	44th Bn AIF
ADAMS, W. H.	16th Bn AIF	BARNETT, C.	28th Bn AIF
ADCOCK, F. B.	11th Bn AIF	BARR, H.	44th Bn AIF
ADCOCK, F. H. B.	11th Bn AIF	BARRETT, P. D.	11th Bn AIF
AINSWORTH, H. J.	28th Bn AIF	BARRY, W. F.	16th Bn AIF
AINSWORTH, J.	16th Bn AIF	BARTER, R. D.	48th Bn AIF
ALLAN, M. M.	12th Bn AIF	BATEMAN, H. P.	28th Bn AIF
ALLEN, R.	28th Bn AIF	BATEMAN, W. H.	28th Bn AIF
ALLERY, H. T.	11th Bn AIF	BATES, W. F.	16th Bn AIF
ALLPKKE, H. J.	1st RU AIF	BATH, E. J.	2nd MGB AIF
ALMEIDA, H.	36th HAG	BATH, H. G.	12th Bn AIF
ANDERSEN, A. A.	48th Bn AIF	BATH, L. J.	28th Bn AIF
ANDERSON, A. J.	48th Bn AIF	BATTERS, A.	51st Bn AIF
ANDERSON, H. G.	48th Bn AIF	BEARD, R. L.	10th LHR AIF
ANDERSON, G.	28th Bn AIF	BECKETT, R. D. H.	11th Bn AIF
ANDERSON, J.	44th Bn AIF	BEESLEY, W.	43th Bn AIF
ANDERSON, J. S.	16th Bn AIF	BELL, C. H.	27th Bn AIF
ANDERSON, K. L.	16th Bn AIF	BENHAM, G. F.	11th Bn AIF
ANDREWS, E. W.	44th Bn AIF	BENNETT, R.	16th LHR AIF
ANDREWS, P.	11th Bn AIF	BERESFORD, W. W.	16th Bn AIF
ANGOVE, R. W.	51st Bn AIF	BERGLUND, A. O.	HMAT Karoola
ANGWIN, B. G.	28th Bn AIF	BERTRAND, A. F.	44th Bn AIF
ARDAGH, W. K.	16th Bn AIF	BICKLEY, T. G.	16th Bn AIF
ARMES, G. A.	28th Bn AIF	BIDMEAD, S. M.	4th DSC AIF
ARTHUR, T. E.	28th Bn AIF	BINNING, W. P.	4th LTMB AIF
ATTWILL, F. R.	32nd Bn AIF	BISCHOFF, N. R. C.	28th Bn AIF
AUSTIN, H. E.	11th Bn AIF	BISCHOFF, W. S.	11th Bn AIF
AYLING, H. E.	28th Bn AIF	BLACK, M. D.	44th Bn AIF
BAILEY, J. L.	51st Bn AIF	BLAKIE, T.	44th Bn AIF
BAILEY, R. P.	16th Bn AIF	BLAKE, A.	11th Bn AIF
BAILEY, S. L.	36th HAG	BLICK, P. S.	44th Bn AIF
BAIRD, P. T.	28th Bn AIF	BLOCKEY, L.	28th Bn AIF
BAKER, A. J. H.	28th Bn AIF	BOARDMAN, F. J.	51st Bn AIF
BAKER, T. J.	44th Bn AIF	BOASE, W. V.	7th Bn AIF
BALL, A. J.	2nd MGB AIF	BOGGS, J.	16th Bn AIF


 City of
Fremantle

BOLES, J.	5th Pnr Bn AIF	BURGESS, F.	11th Bn AIF
BOLTON, P. R.	16th Bn AIF	BURKE, J. L.	28th Bn AIF
BONEHILL, G. W.	51st Bn AIF	BURNETT, A. J.	32nd Bn AIF
BOURKE, M. P. J.	AIF Depot	BUSHBY, H. S.	11th Bn AIF
BOURNE, C. W.	12th FAB AIF	BUTLER, B.	28th Bn AIF
BOWEN, J. W.	45th Bn AIF	BUTLER, C. H.	4th MGC AIF
BOYD, J.	11th Bn AIF	BUTLER, N. T.	4th MGC AIF
BRADFORD, H.	11th Bn AIF	BUTTON, A. J.	51st Bn AIF
BRADY, R.	11th Bn AIF	BYERS, W. R.	44th Bn AIF
BRADLEY, B.	25th MGC AIF	CAIN, W. C.	11th Bn AIF
BRANDON, C.	11th Bn AIF	CALDERWOOD, W.	11th Bn AIF
BRENNAN, F. M.	48th Bn AIF	CALHOUN, W.	48th Bn AIF
BREWER, F. W.	16th Bn AIF	CAMPBELL, J.	19th LHR AIF
BRIDDICK, J.	4th Bn AIF	CAMPBELL, J. A.	12th Bn AIF
BRIGGS, F.	12th Bn AIF	CANNING, E.	14th Bn AIF
BRIGGS, F. W.	51st Bn AIF	CARLIN, E. B.	51st Bn AIF
BRITTAIN, T. R.	12th Bn AIF	CARRINGTON, J. E.	11th Bn AIF
BROMHAM, L. F.	5th MGB AIF	CARROLL, J. J.	16th Bn AIF
BROOKS, A.	16th Bn AIF	CARROLL, S. C.	16th Bn AIF
BROOKS, T.	28th Bn AIF	CARROLL, T. G.	11th Bn AIF
BROWN, G.	28th Bn AIF	CARTER, G. G.	16th Bn AIF
BROWN, M.	12th Bn AIF	CARTER, H.	28th Bn AIF
BROWN, R. G.	44th Bn AIF	CARTER, P. H.	28th Bn AIF
BROWN, W. G. C.	51st Bn AIF	CARTER, S. G.	3rd FAB AIF
BROWNE, R. H. W.	44th Bn AIF	CARTWRIGHT, T. C.	32nd Bn AIF
BROWNE, W. T.	48th Bn AIF	CAVENDER, C.	16th Bn AIF
BRYANT, E. E.	44th Bn AIF	CHALMERS, W. F.	16th Bn AIF
BUCKINGHAM, T.	10th LHR AIF	CHAMBERLAIN, J.	RANVR
BUCHHOLDT, E. A.	12th Bn KLR BEF	CHAMBERLAIN, J.	11th Bn AIF
BUDD, H.	28th Bn AIF	CHAMBERS, W. N.	6th Bn AIF
BULL, E.	48th Bn AIF	CHAMPION, W. A.	44th Bn AIF
BULL, W. G.	16th Bn AIF	CHARLESTON, A. J.	10th LHR AIF
BULLEN, F. P.	11th LTMB AIF	CHEGWIDDEN, V. L.	AAMC AIF
BULLIARD, H. J.	RE BEF	CHIPPER, M.	16th Bn AIF
BUNBURY, M. F.	11th Bn AIF	CHIVERS, C.	16th Bn AIF
BURDON, H. E.	11th Bn AIF	CHOULES, N. W.	11th Bn AIF

Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart




 City of
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BRADLEY, B.	25th MGC AIF	CAIN, W. C.	11th Bn AIF

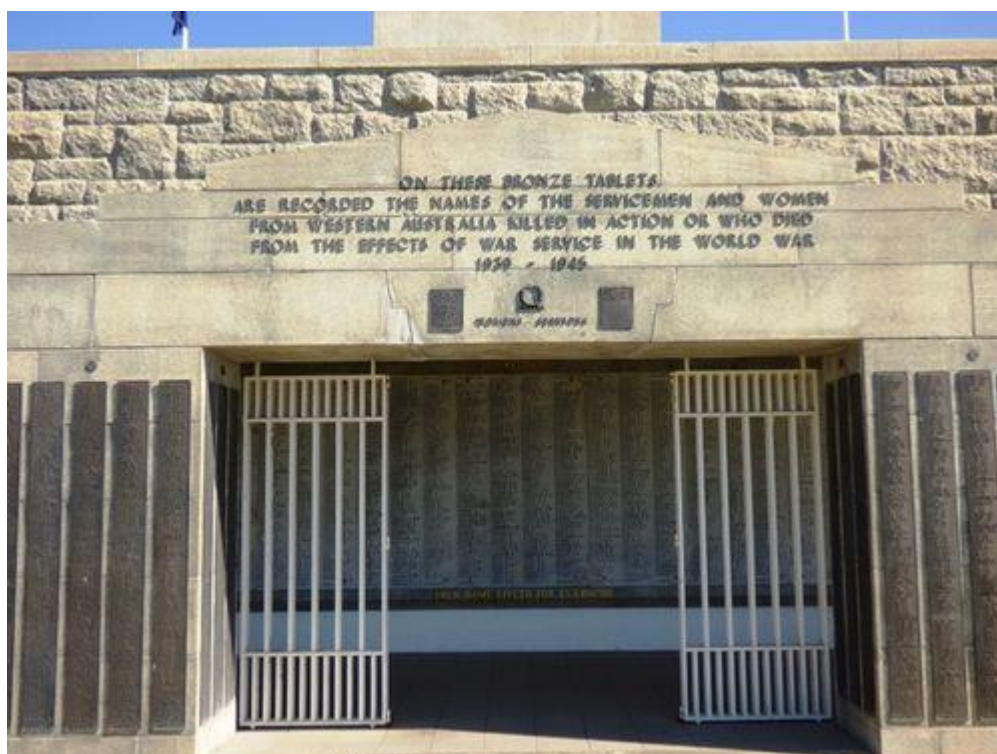
A. J. Button is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





51st Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(97 pages of Corporal Albert James Button's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Corporal Albert James Button *(Photo from Ancestry)*



Newspaper Reports

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

A.-Cpl. A.J. BUTTON, Fremantle

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia, Saturday 9th December, 1916)

DEATHS

BUTTON - Sergeant A. J. Button, dearly beloved husband of Gladys, and father of Inez, met his death, by a bomb accident in England, on November 23, aged 32 years.

Though death divides two loving hearts,
'Tis only till the breaking of the day;
Then I shall see my loved one's dear face, never to part again.

- Inserted by his loving wife. Melbourne papers please copy.

BUTTON – In loving memory of our dearly beloved eldest son, Sergeant A. J. (Bert) Button, who was killed in England, on November 23, brother to Ben, Violet, Lily, Edith, Ella, Ernest and Charlie, aged 32 years.

So dearly loved and deeply mourned.

- Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brothers.

BUTTON – Sergeant A. J. Button, died the result of a bombing accident, dearly beloved son-in-law of Mr and Mrs N. Cowle, and loved brother-in-law of Ida, Irene, Amy, Ethel, Edward and Gordon.

We little thought his end so near,
God called him home,
It was His will,
But in our hearts he liveth still.

- Inserted by his father-in-law and mother-in-law and family.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Saturday 16th December, 1916)

MISCELLANEOUS

Following is a copy of a letter which has been received from Major Herbert by Mrs A. J. Button, of Fremantle, widow of the late Sergeant A. J. Button, who was killed at a training camp in England on November 23, as a result of a bombing accident –

“Dear Mrs Button, - I regret to have to write and sympathise with you in your recent sad loss. Your husband's demise came as a shock to one and all in this training battalion. His company officers report to me that he was a soldier and a man. He was popular with all ranks, and he was a first-class non-commissioned officer – a lad who would have done well at the front. You have, one consolation, my dear Mrs Button, and that is, that he died in harness and although not at the front, he died for his country. I hope you look at his death in this light.- Yours sincerely, (signed) M. J. Herbert, major, commanding 13th Training Battalion.”

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Thursday 1st February, 1917)

Probates and Administrations :- The following list was issued by the Supreme Court yesterday :-

Probates : Albert James Button, late of Fremantle, to Gladys May Button, £285 10s. 8d. ;

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Saturday 23rd March, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

BUTTON – In loving memory of my dearly beloved husband, Albert James (Bert), late of the 3rd/51st Battalion who was killed through a bombing accident in England.

Three years ago, so sad to recall,
'Tis a day of remembrance to all.
Sudden on us or sorrow fell,
To part with one we loved so well.
Inserted by his sorrowing wife and little daughter Inez.

BUTTON – In loving memory of Sergeant A. J. (Bert), late of the 3rd/51st Battalion, A.I.F., who was accidentally killed at Codford, England, on November 23, 1916; dearly beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. Button, and brother of Ben, Violet, Lily, Edith, Ella, Ernest and Charlie, Spring Park Hotel, Midland Junction.

His cheerful face, his loving smile,
Are pleasant to recall.
He had a kindly word for each
And died beloved by all.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Saturday 22nd November, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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.

Corporal A. J. Button does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone.

St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

(Information from CWGC)

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.



(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00275

The Australian cemetery at Codford St Mary.

AIF graves in the new churchyard identified with a wooden cross are, left to right:

6607 Private (Pte) Gabriel McLroy, 15th Battalion (Bn), died 19 February 1917, Plot 86; 6762 Pte John Richard Flanagan, 16th Bn, died 19 February 1917, Plot 87; 1588 Pte Thomas William Chilton, 53rd Battalion, died of sickness 30 March 1918; 2696 Pte Thomas Ernest Osborne, 45th Battalion, 10 December 1916, aged 33 years; 3762 Pte Sydney James Clarke, 49th Battalion, died of sickness 21 June 1918; 6859 Pte James Thomas Williams, 16th Bn, died 18 February 1917; 2996 (Roll of Honour shows 2782) Pte Michael Smith, 45th Bn, died 5 December 1916, aged 38 years; 3961 Sergeant Charles Ziesler, 51st Bn, died of sickness 26 June 1918; 7795 Pte Frank Nicholas Patience, 16th Bn, died 27 October 1917; **1870 Corporal Albert E (James) Button, 51st Bn, accidentally killed 23 November 1916**; 2881 Pte Arthur John Couchman, 51st Bn, died 15 February 1917, Plot 48; 640 Pte Albert Arthur Harris, 4th Machine Gun Company, died 28 July 1917; 7455 Pte Harry David Fletcher, 13th Bn, 29 July 1917.



(Photos by Romy Wyeth)



Photo of Corporal A. J. Button's Private Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.

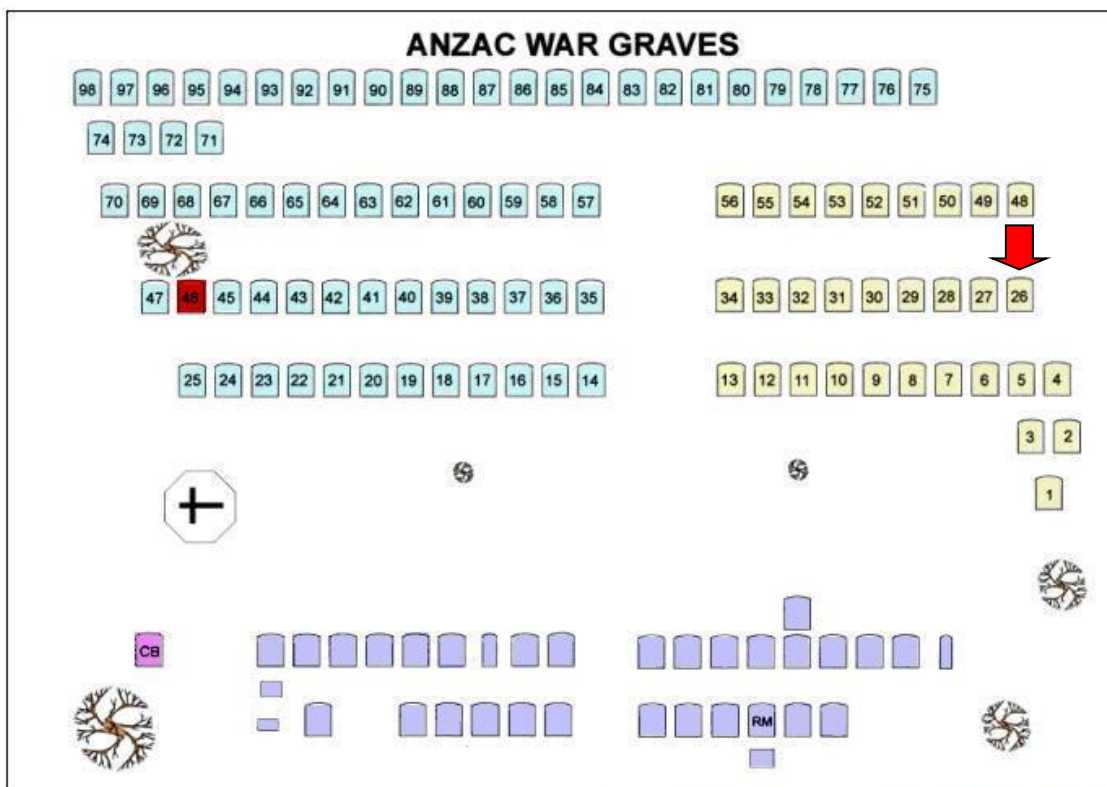


(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



New Zealand Section of Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery (Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)

A Headstone for Cpl A. E. Button is located in Main Second Row (Right hand side)
Grave Plot #26 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave #47)



- Australian Soldiers
- Welsh Soldier
- New Zealand Soldiers
- Local Burials
- UK Soldier

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall
courtesy of Romy Wyeth