

**Abbey Lane Cemetery,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6039 PRIVATE

T. E. CHOLERTON

21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH MAY, 1917

Thomas Edward CHOLERTON

Thomas Edward Cholerton was born at Sheffield, Yorkshire, England on 3rd July, 1880 to parents Thomas Edward & Emily Cholerton (nee Drake).

The 1881 England Census recorded Thomas E. Cholerton as a 9 month old living with his parents at 2 in Court 8, Lansdowne Road, Ecclesall Bierlow, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Thomas E. Cholerton (Steel worker – Rolling Mill, aged 24, born Sheffield, Yorkshire) & Emily Cholerton (aged 22, born Sheffield, Yorkshire).

The 1891 England Census recorded Thomas E. Cholerton as a 10 year old, Scholar, living with his family at 4 Ct 19 Sorby Street, Brightside Bierlow, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Thomas E. Cholerton (Iron worker, aged 34) & Emily Cholerton (aged 32). Thomas was the eldest of three children listed on this Census (all born Sheffield, Yorkshire) – Thomas then Edith H. Cholerton (Scholar, aged 6) & Francis Cholerton (aged 1). Also listed was a 69 year old Lodger – William Drake (Joiner, aged 69).

Thomas Edward Cholerton joined Royal Navy. He was an Errand Boy & was given a Service number of 187853 (Chatham).

Boy 2nd Class Thomas Edward Cholerton was posted to HMS *Impregnable* on 29th February, 1896 & transferred to HMS *Lion* on 10th March, 1896. He was promoted to Boy 1st Class on 12th November, 1896. Boy 1st Class was posted to HMS *Pembroke I* on 10th August, 1897 then transferred to HMS *Sans Pareil* on 20th October, 1897.

Boy 1st Class Thomas Edward Cholerton was promoted to Signaller on 5th July, 1898 on HMS *Sans Pareil*. He was transferred back to HMS *Pembroke I* on 1st November, 1898 then transferred to HMS *Diadem* on 20th January, 1899. Signaller Cholerton was promoted to 2nd Signaller on 2nd June, 1899. He was transferred back to HMS *Pembroke I* on 26th January, 1900. 2nd Signaller Cholerton was transferred to HMS *Wildfire* on 31st January, 1900 then back to HMS *Pembroke I* on 10th March, 1900. From there he was posted to HMS *Goliath* on 27th March, 1900 then to HMS *Snipe* on 12th September, 1900 & then back to HMS *Goliath* on 16th October, 1900.

Thomas Edward Cholerton was listed as a passenger on S.S. Teutonic which sailed from Southampton, England on 15th December, 1909 & arrived at the port of New York, USA on 23rd December, 1909. He was listed as a 31 ½ year old Sanitary Inspector.

A "T. E. Cholerton" was listed as a passenger on St. Albans which had departed from Kobe via Poland & arrived at the port of Sydney, NSW, Australia on 1st December, 1911.

From Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales – 27 March, 1912:

Department of Public Health, New South Wales, Sydney, 27th March, 1912,

It is hereby notified for public information, that the undermentioned appointments have been made, viz:-

"CATTLE SLAUGHTERING AND DISEASED ANIMALS AND MEAT ACT, 1902"

Inspectors Under Section 50.

From the 19th March, 1912.

Constable Walter Clarence Wrightson, Coolabah; Thomas Edward Cholerton, Sanitary Inspector, Coolamon Shire;.....

From Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales – 22 April, 1914:

SHIRE OF COOLAMON

NOTICE is hereby given that Thomas Edward Cholerton, Sanitary Inspector to the above Shire, is authorised to prosecute under Ordinances Nos. 30, 34, 37, 39, 45, 47, 52, 55, 56, 57, and 59, such authority to date from the 1st day of March, 1914.

By order of the Council,

S.C. DALEY, Shire Clerk

Shire Office Coolamon, 20th April, 1914.

Thomas Edward Cholerton married Ella Carlotta Lehmann on 16th November, 1914 at St. Thomas' Church Rozelle (also known as Balmain West), Sydney, NSW. Thomas Cholerton was listed as a 34 year old Sanitary Inspector from Manly (born Sheffield) & Ella Lehman was listed as a 27 year old Milliner from Coolamon, NSW (born Maitland, South Australia). Their marriage was registered in the district of Balmain South, Sydney, New South Wales.

From Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales – 23 December, 1914:

Office of the Director-General of Public Health, Sydney, 23rd December, 1914.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that the undermentioned persons have been duly authorised by the Board of Health as Inspectors under section 50 of the "Cattle Slaughtering and Diseased Animals and Meat Act, 1902" :-

As from 15th December, 1914 –

Constable John Scarff, Balldale.

John Collins, Sanitary Inspector, Wellington.

Thomas Edward Cholerton, Sanitary Inspector, Manly.

T. H. NEELY. Secretary

Thomas Edward Cholerton was a 36 year old, married, Sanitary Inspector from 10 Pacific Parade, Manly, NSW when he enlisted at Royal Agricultural Show Grounds, Moore Park, Sydney, NSW on 17th July, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6039 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Ella Carlotta Cholerton, 30 Henry Street, Ashfield, W.A. Thomas Cholerton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 7 years with Royal Navy Signallers. He also stated he had been rejected 3 months earlier as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to Haemorrhoids.

Private Thomas Edward Cholerton was posted to "C" Company, 1st Depot Battalion at Cootamundra, NSW on 17th July, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company of 1st Depot Battalion at Cootamundra, NSW on 4th August, 1916. Private Cholerton was transferred to Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 21st August, 1916 & posted to "C" Company, 4th Battalion. He was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 4th Battalion on 18th October, 1916 then transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 21st Battalion on 3rd November, 1916.

Private Thomas Edward Cholerton embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 3rd November, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements. Private Cholerton was promoted to Voyage Only Corporal on 22nd December, 1916 while at Sea. Voyage Only Corporal Cholerton disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th 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.

Voyage Only Corporal Thomas Edward Cholerton was to be Corporal E.D.P. (extra duty Pay) from 10th January, 1917.

E.D.P. Corporal Thomas Edward Cholerton proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 10th April, 1917 from 6th Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire.

Acting Corporal Thomas Edward Cholerton was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France from England on 11th April, 1917. He reverted to the rank of Private on marching in to 2nd A.D.B.D. on 11th April, 1917.

Private Thomas Edward Cholerton joined 21st Battalion in France on 16th April, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private Thomas Edward Cholerton was wounded in action on 3rd May, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right Leg then transferred & admitted to 8th Stationary Hospital at Wimereux, France on 4th May, 1917 with G.S.W to leg & right arm. Private Cholerton was marked for

transfer to England on 8th May, 1917 & embarked from Boulogne on Hospital Ship *Peter de Conick* on 5th May, 1917 (date as per Casualty Form – Active Service).

21st Battalion

The 21st Battalion was raised, as part of the 6th Brigade, at Broadmeadows in Victoria in February 1915. Its recruits hailed from all over the state. The later enlistment of these men, and their average age of 29, would seem to indicate a more considered decision to enlist that set them apart from those who did so amidst the heady enthusiasm of late 1914.

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After evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, the 21st Battalion arrived in France in March 1916. In April, it was the first Australian battalion to commence active operations on the Western Front. During the battle of Pozieres it was engaged mainly on carrying duties, but suffered its heaviest casualties of the war during the fighting around Mouquet Farm.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 21st Battalion

3rd May, 1917

2.30 am – 16 Markers placed in NO MANS LAND to enable waves to form up.

3.15 am – Battalion moved from front line on to markers In 4 waves numbered 5 to 8 as part of the 6th Bde operation the 22nd Battn supplying waves 1 to 4.

FRONT LINE

3.30 am – Enemy placed artillery .77 & 42 & minnewerfer barrage on NO MANS LAND & front line.

3.45 am - Our artillery barrage opened & attack in HINDENBERG LINE launches. Heavy Shelling by enemy & numerous various colored flares fired by him.

4.25 am – OG 1 trench taken with little operation other than shelling

4.45 am - 25th Battn garrison on our original front line.

5.05 am – English attack on BULLECOURT (on immediate left) appears to have failed, Left flank of original front line protected by 3 Vickers guns.

5.30 am – Report received that 6th wave is in OG 2 trench. Many officers casualties. Successfully bombed enemy down trenches in spite of fierce opposition.

5.35 am – Enemy machine guns still active from Bullecourt playing on original front line.

5.36 am – Orders issued to reorganize & push on to 2nd objective.

5.47 am – Battalions of 185th Bde seen withdrawing from Bullecourt and enquires show that their attack had failed.

7.30 am – A wounded Signaller NCO reported that Brigade attack on right of 6th Brigade appeared to have failed owing to heavy casualties amongst Officers NCO's & men. Shelling by enemy at this stage very light but many casualties caused by snipers & machine gun fire from direction of Bullecourt & REINCOURT.

7.28 am – Lt Hunt reported that he had reached 2nd objective & was pushing on. sever fighting in progress against enemy machine guns in strong parts at 22B 95.00. Casualties very severe on both sides.

7.35 am – English troops on left still withdrawing & 3 tanks in distance are returning. 26th Battn attack Bullecourt from 28C 7.3 but forced to withdraw after losing a platoon from machine gun fire.

8.45 am – Severe barrage by enemy artillery along original front line.

the ratepayers. He was a member of a number of institutions in the town and at public entertainments his services as an entertainer were very much in demand. He was a fine type of athletic manhood, kindly and considerate, upright and honourable, and the news of his death was received with great regret. Over two years ago he married Miss Lohman of Melbourne.

A widow and infant daughter are left to mourn another Empire's loss and our deepest sympathy is hereby extended to them.

Speaking of the late Private Cholerton the Manly Daily says: "Mr Thos Cholerton made his name in Manly when he succeeded Mr L S Crachenthorp as the Inspector of Nuisances. Coming to Manly from Coolamon Shire he soon proved himself an efficient and enthusiastic officer. Before arriving in Australia he had spent many years in China and numerous reminiscent stories of his sojourn in the east were well worth listening to. During his two years occupancy of the Inspector of Nuisances chair he did splendid service to the ratepayers of Manly and to his credit it must be said that the Chinese dynasty would also be in debt to the deceased soldier for service rendered. Private Cholerton left Sydney about November, 1916 and the only news received of him at the front was that he had been killed.

Mr R G Jamison, Shire Clerk at Warringah and formerly of Coolamon and a personal friend of the deceased soldier, writes us: "Poor Cholly has gone the way of a man. I received a couple of letters from him but did not know that he had reached the front. Cholly's straight dealing; plain speaking and manliness had won him much regard in Manly both from the Council and from residents. I understand that Mrs Cholerton is living with her mother in Melbourne."

Private Thomas Edward Cholerton requested in his Will, dated 16th April, 1917, that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects to be given to his wife – Ella Carlotta Cholerton, 60 Richardson Street, Albert Park, Melbourne, Australia.

A War Pension was granted to Ella Carlotta Cholerton, of Nhill, widow of the late Private Thomas Edward Cholerton, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 24th July, 1917. A Pension was also granted to Thomas Edward Cholerton, son of Ella & the late Private Thomas Edward Cholerton, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 24th July, 1917.

A package of the personal effects of the late Private Thomas Edward Cholerton were sent to Mrs E. C. Cholerton, 19 Nimmo St, Middle Park, Victoria, on 11th October, 1917.

The Records of the address of the next-of-kin for the late Private Thomas Edward Cholerton were changed on 30th November, 1917 from P.O. Nhill to "Semambu", Nyora Street, East Malvern.

The Commonwealth Bank, Savings Bank Department, Sydney, NSW wrote to The Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne, Victoria on 3rd December, 1917 stating that they had been advised that No. 6039 T. E. Cholerton, 21st Battalion was deceased & requested the Certificate of Death & also requested the name of next-of-kin. Base Records replied on 10th December, 1917 & forwarded the Death Certificate. They also advised the next-of-kin as Ella Carlotta Cholerton (wife), "Semambu", Nyora Street, East Malvern, Victoria.

Ella C. Cholerton, widow of the late Private Thomas Edward Cholerton, wrote to Base Records in January, 1922 "having noticed my name amongst the "next of kin wanted" list in the Melbourne Argus, I am forwarding my present address. 15 The Corso Manly, New South Wales."

Private Thomas Edward Cholerton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Cholerton's widow – Mrs E. C. Cholerton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & redespached February, 1922 & Plaque sent February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private T. E. Cholerton – service number 6039, of 21st Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

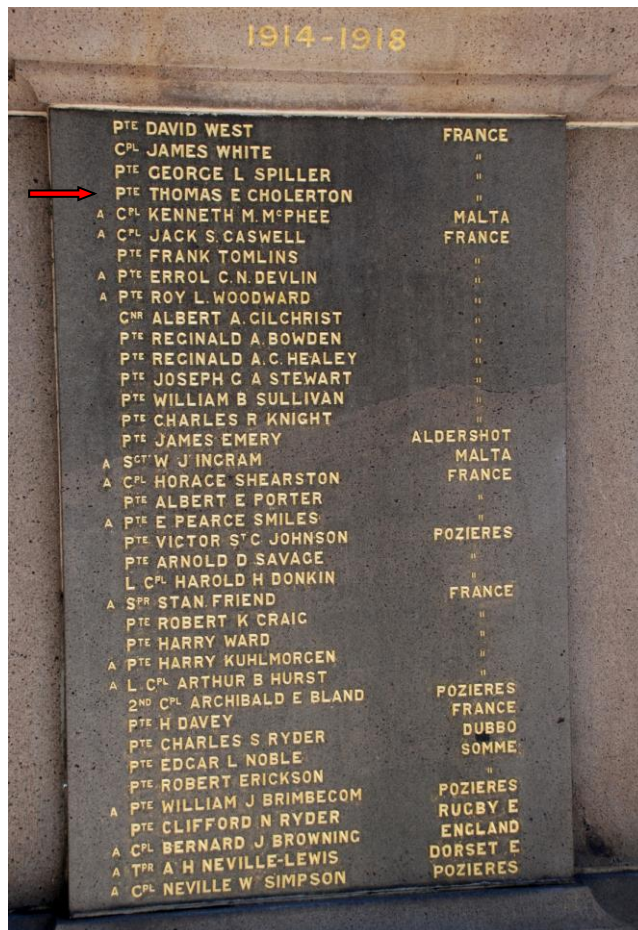
T. Cholerton is remembered on the Coolamon District Honour Roll, located in Coolamon RSL Hall, Loughnan Street, Coolamon, NSW.



Coolamon District Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

Private Thomas E. Cholerton is remembered on the Manly War Memorial, located at corner The Corso and Belgrave Street, Manly, NSW.





Manly War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW)

Private T. E. Cholerton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 93.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(61 pages of Private Thomas Edward Cholerton'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



LAST POST CEREMONY

Private Thomas Edward Cholerton was remembered in the Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on 24th January, 2015.

Commencing at approximately 4.55 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the [Roll of Honour](#).

The ceremony begins with the Australian national anthem followed by the piper's lament. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. An individual's story is told, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Today we remember and pay tribute to Private Thomas Edward Cholerton, who died during the First World War.

Thomas Cholerton was born in Sheffield, in Yorkshire, England, in 1880. He had served in the British Royal Navy signallers, but later moved to Australia. When war was declared Thomas was living with his wife, Ella, in Manly, New South Wales. He was working as a sanitary inspector when he enlisted in the AIF in July 1916.

Thomas was assigned to the 7th reinforcements to the 21st Battalion, and left Sydney on HMAT Afric in early November 1916. He arrived in England in January 1917, and after a period of training was sent to France, where he joined his battalion on the Western Front in early April.

Thomas's first action in France was to be his last. In early May the 21st Battalion, as part of the 2nd Infantry Division, was heavily involved in the fighting at Bullecourt. The battalion had already moved up into the front lines, and in the early hours of the morning of 3 May it launched its attack. The troops pushed forward into no man's land under heavy artillery fire and reached their first objective, but the Germans launched strong counter-attacks and enemy machine-guns remained active. The men of the 2nd Division held on until they were relieved, but at great cost. The 21st Battalion alone suffered some 330 casualties during the attack.

Thomas was one of these casualties. He suffered a gunshot wound to his right leg during the fighting, and was sent to England for treatment. He was admitted to hospital at Stratford-upon-Avon, but succumbed to his wounds on 9 May 1917.

Thomas was buried a few days later with military honours in a cemetery at Abbey Lane in Sheffield, England. His coffin was draped in the Union Jack flag and was conveyed to the cemetery on a gun carriage. The Last Post was sounded and, because of his family connection to Sheffield, Thomas's mother, brother, sister, and aunt, and uncle were present at the funeral. A memorial was erected at his gravesite by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.

Thomas Cholerton's name is listed on the Roll of Honour to my right, along with the names of more than 60,000 other Australians who died fighting in the First World War.

This is but one of the many stories of service and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Private Thomas Edward Cholerton, and all those Australians who have given their lives in the service of our nation.

*Dr Kate Ariotti
Historian, Military History Section*





(Photo from Discovering Anzacs – John MacRitchie)



Newspaper Notices

COOLAMON

Mr T. E. Cholerton, who has held the position of sanitary inspector to the Coolamon shire for nearly three years, has obtained the position of sanitary inspector to the Manly Municipal Council.

(The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW – 30 October, 1914)

COOLAMON

Mr T. E. Cholerton, ex sanitary and building inspector to the Coolamon shire, has enlisted. Since relinquishing his position here, Mr Cholerton has acted as sanitary inspector to the Manly Municipal Council.

(The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW – 19 May, 1916)

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

The 303rd list of Australian war casualties was issued on Saturday. Details are:-

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte T. E. CHOLERTON, Ashfield, 9/3/17

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 May, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CHOLERTON – Died of wounds on May 9, at War Hospital, Stratford-on-Avon, England, Thomas Edward, loved husband of Ella C. Cholerton, late of Manly.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 13 June, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

LEHMANN – Killed in action, France, Lieutenant R. C. Lehmann, M.C., beloved brother of Helene (Mrs Landmann), Nhill, Selma (Mrs Arthur Smith), Warrnambool; Ella (Mrs Cholerton), Manly, NSW; late chief engineer Harbour Trust, W.A.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 October, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

CHOLERTON – In loving memory of Thomas Edward Cholerton, who died at War Hospital, Stratford-on-Avon, England, May 9, 1917, of wounds received in action at Bullecourt. Inserted by his wife and little son (Teddy), Semambu, Nyora-street, E. Malvern, Victoria.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 9 May, 1918)

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)

Private T. E. Cholerton does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Abbey Lane Cemetery, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England

Abbey Lane Cemetery, Sheffield has 76 Commonwealth War Graves – 21 from World War 1 & 55 from World War 2.



(Photo by Stephen Farnell – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private T. E. Cholerton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Abbey Lane Cemetery, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England.



(Photo by Meersbrook – Find a Grave)

Abbey



(Photo by Meersbrook – Find a Grave)