

**Bournemouth East Cemetery,
Bournemouth, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2616A PRIVATE

E. C. CRICHTON

7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH JUNE, 1917 Age 20

What Matters Time

If He Fulfilled God's Purpose

In The Day Of Need

Eric Charles CRICHTON

Charles Eric Crichton was born in 1898 at Foster, Victoria to parents David and Christina Elizabeth Crichton (nee Whittle). (Note: On Eric Crichton's Attestation Papers his age was listed as 18 years 4/12 with the date "20 March 1915" making his year of birth as 1897, however his birth was registered in 1898)

Eric Charles Crichton attended State School at Alexandra, Victoria.

Eric Charles Crichton was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from Coster Street, Alexandra, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 20th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2616 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr David Crichton, Coster Street, Alexandra, Victoria. As Eric Crichton was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. David & Christina E. Crichton signed their consent on 20th July, 1915.

Private Eric Charles Crichton was posted to 67th Camp at Seymour from 23rd July, 1915. He was transferred too "C" Company at Bendigo on 10th August, 1915 & then transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 21st Battalion at Broadmeadows on 17th September, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Eric Charles Crichton embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Moldavia* on 5th October, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private Eric Charles Crichton was written up for an Offence on 26th January, 1916 while at Zeitoun for "Irregular Conduct". He was awarded 3 days confined to Camp on 28th January, 1916.

Private Eric Charles Crichton was allotted & proceeded to join 7th Battalion at Zeitoun on 24th February, 1916 from 6th Training Battalion. He was taken on strength of 7th Battalion on 24th February, 1916 at Serapeum.

Private Eric Charles Crichton embarked from Alexandria on 23rd March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 31st March, 1916.

Private Eric Charles Crichton was wounded in action in France between 22nd – 25th July, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance on 25th July, 1916 with Neurosis then transferred to 44th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Crichton was admitted to 1st Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th July, 1916 with Shell Shock then transferred to Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 27th July, 1916.

Private Eric Charles Crichton was sent to 1 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 1st September, 1916. He rejoined 7th Battalion in Belgium on 3rd September, 1916.

Private Eric Charles Crichton was sent to Hospital on 17th March, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 6th April, 1917 with diarrhoea. Private Crichton was sent to England on 13th May, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. David* with Pleurisy.

7th Battalion

The 7th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

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After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front and entered the front line trenches for the first time on 3 May. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley where it fought between 23-27 July and 15-21 August.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 7th Battalion

22nd July, 1916 – Albert

Brigade Order issued. 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. to move up in close support of Division via West side of SAUSAGE VALLEY....7th Battalion moved from bivouac at 18.30... and occupied old German fourth line... and old German third line.

22nd July, 1916 – La Boiselles

20.00 On the Battalion arriving at trenches at 2000 it was discovered that the units that were supposed to move up to the line had not evacuated so the men occupied the shell craters in rear of the parados of the trenches until they moved out, The whole of the Battalion was in trenches by 2315.....

24.00 Assault on POZIERES by 1st and 3rd Infantry Brigades.

23rd July, 1916

La Boisselle - 0345 – Officer from Berks reported POZIERES captured, required picks and shovels to dig in. Tools of C and D Coy sent forward and replaced soon afterwards from GORDON DUMP.

Contalmaison – 0425 – Instructions received for remainder of Battalion to move to and along BLACK WATCH ALLEY and its junction with old German firing line which was reached at 0645.....Enemy shelled incessantly during the day and frequently searched the valley between BAILIFF WOOD and CONTALMAISON with H.E. of large calibre.

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2010 - Heavy and consistent shelling during the night A and B Coys carrying rations, ammunition and Bombs for 3rd Bde.

24th July, 1916 – Contalmaison and North of

0600 – Dispositions as on previous night Casualties 2 Officers 45 O'Ranks

0900 – From 0900 throughout the day enemy deluged Valley from CONTALMAISON Northwards from POZIERES with Lachrymatory and Gas Shells without serious result.

1510 – Message received from G.O.C. 2nd Bde that A and B Coys with 5th Battalion were to carry out an assault during the night

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25th July, 1916 – Trenches North of Contalmaison

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1420 ... Verbal instructions given to O/C COys to withdraw to BAILIFF WOOD in the following order B, A, C, D Coys,

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1800.....At 1st Inf. Bde. Hqrs instructions received for 7th Battalion to relieve 1st and 2nd Battns in Pozieres as soon as possible enemy's shelling intense.

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2300 – Report sent to 1st Infantry Brigade that 2nd Battalion had been relieved.

2359 – 1st Battalion relief completed. Enemy shelling continuously during the night. No operation to report in this position the Battalion was the support Battalion to the Brigade as the 6th and 8th Battalions were occupying the northern outskirts of the village linked up with 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the right and British troops on the left. No houses other than the smallest portions of same were left in POZIERES as whole area was a mass of broken clods trees and masonry. The making of trenches practically impossible as the earth would not stand, consequently men were occupying crater holes and were continually being buried by shells, having to be dug out. The enemy continuously deluged POZIERES during the period the Battalion was in occupation, with H. E. Shells of large calibre, sometime averaging 15 to 20 a minute during which the men maintained a cheerful and resolute spirit which was worthy of the highest admiration, as they had no enemy to retaliate on, could not hear or see the effect of our own guns but had simply to suffer.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Eric Charles Crichton was admitted to V.A.D. at Mere – Sherborne Group, Red Cross Hospitals on 14th May, 1917 with Tuberculosis. He was transferred to Mont Dore Military Hospital, Bournemouth on 30th May, 1917.

Private Eric Charles Crichton died at 11.30 am on 8th June, 1917 at Mont Dore Military Hospital, Bournemouth, England from Pleurisy.

A death for Eric C. Crichton, aged 19, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Christchurch, Hampshire, England.

Private Eric Charles Crichton was buried on 12th June, 1917 in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England – Plot number Q. I. 146 (listed on Report of Death of a Soldier form as Boscombe Cemetery, Bournemouth with the same grave number) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Eric Charles Crichton - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased was buried with Military honours. Firing Party of Australians were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and surmounted by several lovely floral tributes. No relatives were present. Mr W. H. Young, 229 London Road, Reading, a friend of deceased attended the funeral.*

Private Eric Charles Crichton requested in his Will that in the event of his death, the whole of his property and effects be given to his mother – Mrs Christina Crichton, Coster Street, Alexandra, Victoria, Australia.

Private Eric Charles Crichton was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Crichton's father - Mr D. Crichton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Eric Charles Crichton – service number 2616A, aged 20, of 7th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of David and Christina Elizabeth Crichton, of Alexandra, Victoria, Australia.

Private E. C. Crichton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 49.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. Crichton is remembered on the Alexandra Soldiers Memorial, located in Leckie Park, Paynes Avenue, Alexandra, Victoria.



Alexandra Soldiers Memorial (Photos by raaen99 – Flickr & VHD Heritage Victoria)

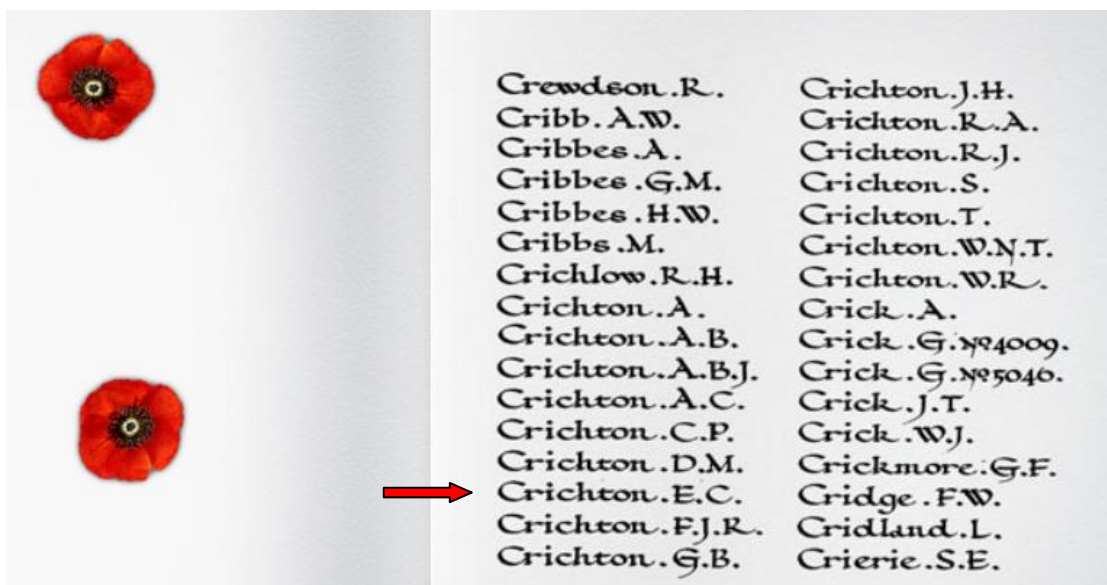


E. Crichton is remembered on the Shire of Alexandra Roll of Honour, located in Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street, Alexandra, Victoria.



Shire of Alexandra Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

E. C. Crichton is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(33 pages of Private Eric Charles Crichton'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

THE 197th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Private E. C. Crichton, Alexandria

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 23 August, 1916)

THE 315th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private E. C. Crichton, Alexandria

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 30 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

CRICHTON – In loving memory of Private E. C. Crichton, of Alexandra, Victoria, who died June 8, 1917, at Mont Dore Military Hospital, Bournemouth, England.

Not for the love of battle
Left he his native land;
He heard the call of duty,
And responded like a man.
His heart was good, his spirit brave,
His resting place a soldier's grave.

-(Inserted by his loving mother and father and family.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 June, 1918)



Private Eric Charles Crichton – taken in Egypt



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 E. C. Crichton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

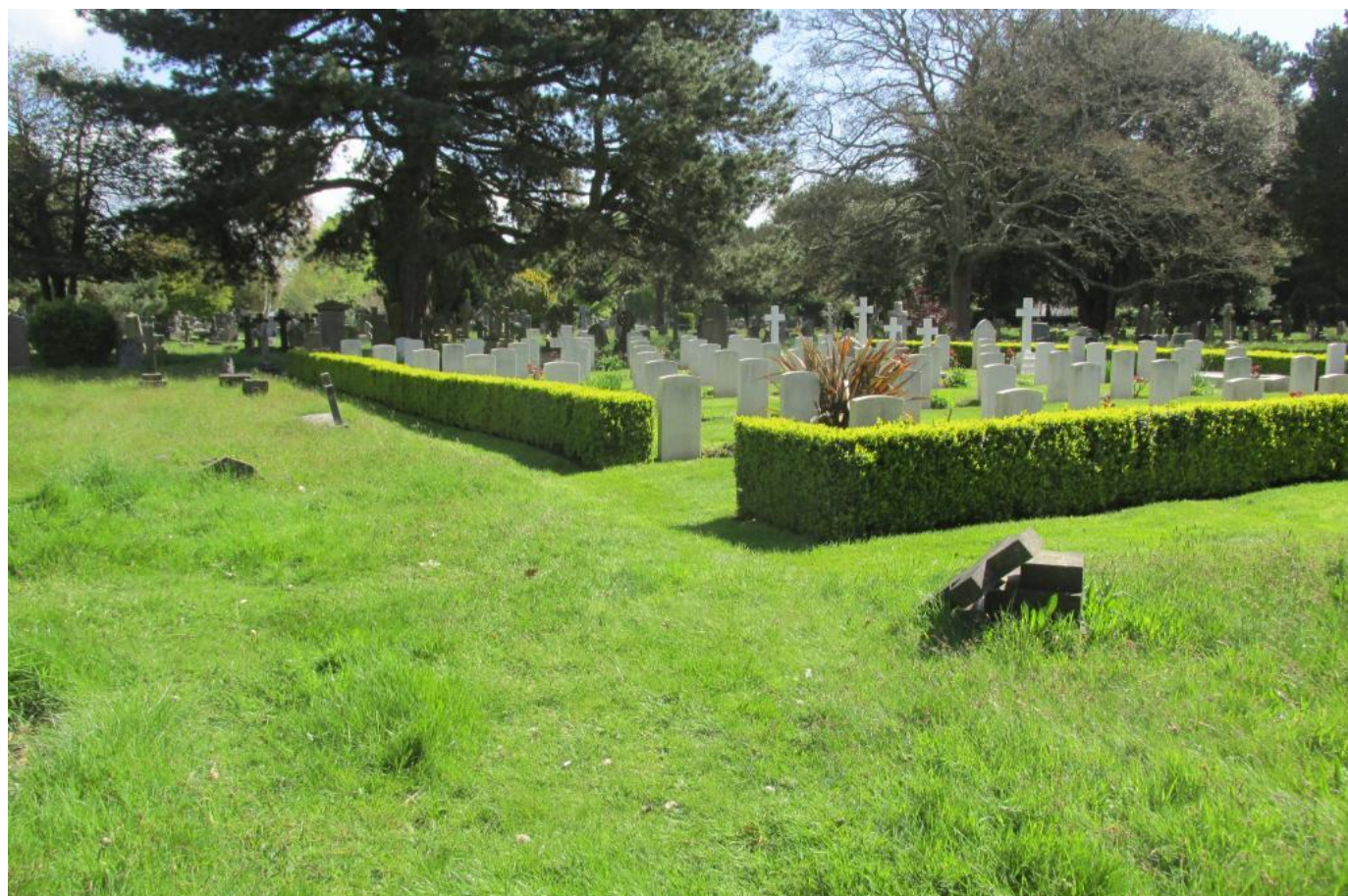
What Matters Time If He Fulfilled God's Purpose In The Day Of Need

Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England

Some of the 120 First World War burials in this cemetery are those of soldiers who died in Bournemouth's auxiliary and private hospitals. 75 of these graves are in a special plot on the main path and include a Special Memorial to 2 soldiers drowned off Bournemouth in January 1915, whose bodies were not recovered. The plot also contains 7 of the 68 Second World War burials, the rest being scattered throughout the cemetery. One of the First World War burials is unidentified. There are 4 Foreign National war burials here.

The war plot is enclosed by a hedge, and the War Cross is on the West side of it.

(Information from CWGC)



Bournemouth East Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



Bournemouth East Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)

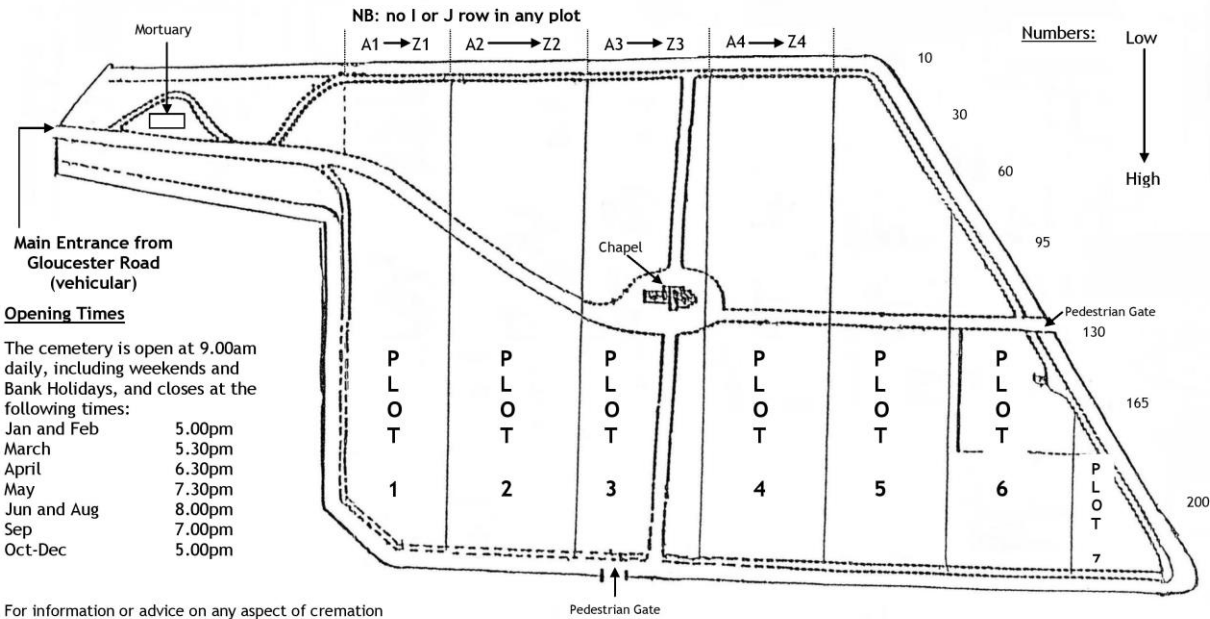


Photo of Private E. C. Crichton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England



(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

East Cemetery, Gloucester Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6JB



Opening Times

The cemetery is open at 9.00am daily, including weekends and Bank Holidays, and closes at the following times:

Jan and Feb	5.00pm
March	5.30pm
April	6.30pm
May	7.30pm
Jun and Aug	8.00pm
Sep	7.00pm
Oct-Dec	5.00pm

For information or advice on any aspect of cremation or burial please contact:

Bournemouth Bereavement Services
 Bournemouth Crematorium
 Strouden Avenue
 Bournemouth
 BH8 9HX

Tel: 01202 526238
 Email: crematorium@bournemouth.gov.uk

