

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



736 LANCE CPL.

E. M. FITZGERALD

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST MAY, 1917 Age 26

Sweet Jesus

Have Mercy On His Soul

Edward Michael FITZGERALD

Edward Michael Fitzgerald was born at Burwood, Sydney, NSW in 1891 to parents Edward Michael and Susan Spencer Fitzgerald (nee Margarson).

Edward Michael Fitzgerald attended Burwood Superior Public School, NSW.

Edward Michael Fitzgerald was a 23 year old, single, Clerk from The Boulevard, Strathfield, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 22nd August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 736 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr E. M. Fitzgerald, Boulevard, Strathfield, Sydney, NSW. Edward Fitzgerald stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with 1st A.I.R. from 1910 to 1913 & with 39th Infantry in 1913.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald was posted to 2nd Infantry Battalion on 20th August, 1914 for recruit training.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00056.001

Group Portrait of C Company, 2nd Battalion.

No. 736 Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald is shown eleventh from right, 2nd back row.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald was given 8 hours detention & forfeited 2 days' pay on 6th October, 1914 for Breaking Camp.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) on 18th October, 1914 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion "G" Company & disembarked at Egypt on 8th December, 1914.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald was admitted to Forrest Military Hospital, Malta on 31st March, 1915 with Gonorrhoea. He was transferred to Mttarfa, Malta on 19th April, 1915 then transferred to Forrest Malta on 10th May, 1915. Private Fitzgerald was discharged to duty on 27th July, 1915. Total 119 days.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald disembarked at Alexandria from Malta on 1st August, 1915 from *Karoa*. He embarked from Alexandria on 2nd August, 1915 on *Ionian*.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald was sent sick to Hospital at Lemnos on 13th September, 1915. He was admitted to No.2 Australian Stationary Hospital on 13th September, 1915 with Haemorrhoids & was discharged to duty on 23rd September, 1915. Private Fitzgerald rejoined his Unit on 24th September, 1915.

An unofficial memo was sent to Red Cross, Cairo on 19th November, 1915 certifying that Private E. A. Fitzgerald, 736 2 A.I.F. G. Coy, was "*with his battalion at the front 15.10.15.*" This was in response to a request from Mrs Fitzgerald, 45 Cheltenham, Redmyre Rd, Strathfield, Australia, mother of Private E. M. Fitzgerald – "*No news for five months. No trace...*"

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald disembarked from *Huntsgreen* at Alexandria on 28th December, 1915 (after evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald was written up for a Crime on 31st January, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir – Breaking Camp – absent from Camp from 8.15 am on 24th January, 1916 till 8.30 am on 26th January, 1916. He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 3 days' pay.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald embarked from Alexandria on *Invernia* on 22nd March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald was written up for a Crime on 10th May, 1916 at Steurbaix – Disobedience of Orders on 8th May, 1916. He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald was written up for a Crime on 12th July, 1916 at Fleurbaix – Obscene Language. He was awarded 7 days confined to Barracks.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald was written up for a Crime on 14th July, 1916 at Vignacourt – "*being in an estaminet during prohibited hours on 12th July, 1916.*" He was awarded 3 day's Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Edward Michael Fitzgerald was appointed to Lance Corporal on 8th August, 1916.

Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald was on leave to United Kingdom from 26th November, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion on 12th December, 1916.

Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald reported sick on 14th December, 1916. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance then transferred to 38th Casualty Clearing Station on 14th December, 1916 with Gonorrhoea. He was transferred to 14th Ambulance Train on 15th December, 1916 & admitted the same day to No. 1 Stationary Hospital at Rouen with N.Y.D. (not yet determined) slight. Lance Corporal Fitzgerald was transferred to No. 51 General Hospital at Rouen on 17th December, 1916 & transferred to Etaples on 18th December, 1916. He was discharged to duty on 11th February, 1917. Lance Corporal Fitzgerald rejoined his Battalion from Hospital on 20th February, 1917.

Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald was wounded in action in France on 15th April, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 15th April, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left leg. He was transferred to 9th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to 11th Ambulance Train on 16th April, 1917. Lance Corporal Fitzgerald was admitted to No. 11 Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 17th April, 1917. He was transferred to Base Depot on 20th April, 1917.

War Diary – 2nd Battalion

BEAUMETZ – 15th April, 1917: Dull showery Visibility low.

Beaumetz and vicinity heavily shelled by enemy, preparatory to an attack in force along the whole Corps front.

0645 - At 0645 Bn was ordered to be ready to move at short notice.

0730 – At 0730 A & B cos moved into J.21A and J15 to support 4th AUST BN in the left sector of 1st Brigade front line.

0830- At 8.30 C & D Cos under the Senior Major moved to LOUVERAL WOOD and were placed under the command of C.O. of BN holding Right sector of left Bde front.

1033 – At 1033 B. Co was moved forward to J.11.D under command of C.O. 4th BN.

1220 – At 1220 word was received from D. Co that the situation seemed O.K. They were being used as carrying parties.

1730 – At 1730 word was received from Senior Major that three platoons of C. Co. were going forward to fill gap in 3rd Bde line from D 28 A 5 9 to D 28 B 6 2. Remaining platoon & Co Hqrs at D. 28.C.4.4.

2110 – At 2110 D. CO. returned to BEAUMETZ having suffered 6 Casualties. Total casualties during the day were ORanks 1 Killed 6 wounded. Effective strength – Officers 21 ORanks 757.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald was marched in to 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France from Hospital on 22nd April, 1917. He rejoined 2nd Battalion from wounded on 2nd May, 1917.

Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald was wounded in action (2nd occasion) in France on 4th May, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 5th May, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train 16 on 6th May, 1917. Lance Corporal Fitzgerald was admitted to No. 26 General Hospital at Etaples on 7th May, 1917 with G.S.W. Leg & Testicles. He embarked for England from Calais on 13th May, 1917 with G.S.W. to right hand & left thigh.

War Diary – 2nd Battalion

Front Line 4th May, 1917:

0610 – Relief of 18th Bn completed. Occupied defensive flank along road U 29 A I C

1400 – Attack Eastward along OG1 and OG2 commenced by B & D Cos. See Appendix A

Relief by 12th Bn commenced.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and was led by Lieutenant Colonel G. F. Braund, who was killed in action nine days later. On 6 August, the 1st Brigade led the charge at Lone Pine. Among the dead was the commander of the 2nd Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel R. Scobie, killed during a Turkish counter-attack. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December 1915.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.

In early 1917 the German Army withdrew to the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line. As the 2nd Battalion advanced towards these defences in April 1917, Private T. J. Kenny attacked several enemy machine gun positions with grenades, earning the 2nd Battalion's only Victoria Cross. The battalion spent much of the rest of 1917 fighting in increasingly horrendous conditions around Ypres.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald was admitted to Military Hospital Boscombe, England on 14th May, 1917 with G.S.W. to hand & thigh (slight).

Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald died at 9.40 pm on 21st May, 1917 at Military Hospital, Boscombe, England from wounds received in action in France – GSW to left leg & right arm (left leg amputated) & Haemorrhage.

A death for Edward Fitzgerald, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Christchurch, Hampshire, England.

Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald was buried on 24th May, 1917 in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Hampshire (now part of Dorset), England – Plot number X.3.184 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald - *Coffin was good, Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Gun Carriage, Firing Party and buglers (provided by the Wessex Royal Engineers stationed at Christchurch) were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and covered by several lovely floral tributes. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Revd. Father Chas. Widdowson, S. J. of Boscombe. No relatives were present at the funeral. Surgeon General F. Stevenson, C.B. K.H.S. C. O. of the Military Hpl. Boscombe, Dr Saunders and Mr A. Kettle were present at the funeral. Temporary oak memorial to be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

Susan Spencer Fitzgerald, mother of late Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald, answered the following question for the Roll of Honour "*was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F.*" – "*Father and Brother invalided home.*"

A War Pension was granted to Susan Spencer Fitzgerald, mother of late Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 25th July, 1917.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his wounds, death and burial. Several informants' statements were received:

- From G. Blacklock, 716 C. Coy, 2nd Battalion – "*Fitzgerald was wounded at Bullecourt and taken back. I believe he died at Velu, near Beaumetz, and is buried there. I am in the same Coy., and it was generally spoken of in the Coy.*"
- From R. A. Miller, 5806 – "*At Bullecourt on May 21st while advancing, I saw him, get it by a shell fragment in the upper part of the chest. I was 10 yards away. I could not stop but I could see it was a bad wound and I did not expect he would recover. He is an original, aged about 27, fairly tall and well-built. I think he was a bush worker. We had been 2 months together in C. Coy.*"
- From Private L. J. Sheely, No. 6584, B. Coy, 2nd Battalion – "*This man died in the Hospital at Boscombe. I attended his funeral. He was buried in the R.C. portion of the cemetery in the town. The parish Priest officiated at the grave. His brother J. J. Fitzgerald, No. 2662 was present when this statement was given and said this is true in all its particulars. Both brothers were in the same coy.*"
- From H. Martin, 5726 – "*Wounded at Bullecourt by a shell in the legs and lower part of body. I saw him hit was taken to dressing station. This was in the front line he was wounded. Was in my section and knew him well.*"
- From C.S.M. H. R. Gall, 1352 – "*Fitzgerald was in the attack at Bullecourt and was wounded during the advance. After passing through the usual stations he was sent to Blighty and died there and was buried in a Cemetery near Bournemouth. I saw his grave when paying a visit to that town while I was in Kent at Wareham.*"

- From Private McMullen, 3261, No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick – *“Fitzgerald was my best mate. I was not there when he was killed. His brother told me it was at Bullecourt. He was wounded and died soon afterwards. He is buried near there. I am going to see his people. His father is still there.”*
- From W. T. Fox, 2nd Battalion, C. Coy, IX Platoon – *“He was wounded in several places by a shell while n a trench with me at Bullecourt at about 3 pm during our bombing attack there (?about May 21st) and died in hospital in Rouen. His name was Edward, was L/Cpl. in C. Coy and came from Burwood. His brother Jack was in the same Coy but has gone home (with defective eyesight) and his father was also in the A.I.F. His number was 736.”*

A reply was also received from The O.C. Boscombe Military Hospital, Hants which reads: *“L/Cpl/ Fitzgerald was admitted into Boscombe Military Hospital on the 14th May, 1917 suffering from Gunshot Wound of the thigh (with a compound fracture of the Femur). His condition upon admission as very grave and despite the best surgical and nursing skill given to him he died on the 21st May 1917. He was afforded a full military funeral, and a representative attended from the Aust Headquarters, London and his comrades of the A.I.F. (who were able) who were patients attended the funeral together with a large number of British Troops. He was buried in the Military Portion of the Boscombe Cemetery and a cross has been erected over his grave. When that portion of the cemetery is closed it is proposed by the Bournemouth Corporation to erect a Memorial with all names and regiments inscribed thereon. Any further information will be willingly given.”*

Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Fitzgerald’s father – Mr E. Fitzgerald, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald – service number 736, aged 26, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward Michael and Susan Spencer Fitzgerald, of “Waltham”, Stanley St., Burwood, Sydney, New South Wales.

Lance Corporal E. M. Fitzgerald is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 32.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. M. Fitzgerald is remembered on the Burwood War Memorial Arch, located in Burwood Park, Burwood Road, Burwood, NSW.



Burwood War Memorial Arch (Photos courtesy of Peter Miller)





Mrs Helene Annie Weeden (nee Fitzgerald), of 38 Newton Rd, Strathfield, Sydney, NSW, sister of the late Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald, applied for the Gallipoli Medal, as the next-of-kin, on 23rd May, 1969.

(51 pages of Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald'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





Edward Michael Fitzgerald



Newspaper Notices

FALLEN HEROES

312TH LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

L.Cpl EDWARD MICHAEL FITZGERALD, Strathfield (previously reported wounded)

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 19 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FITZGERALD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother Lance-corporal Edward Fitzgerald, who died of wounds, in Boscombe Hospital, England, May 21, 1917. Eldest son of Edward and Susan Fitzgerald, and brother of Dorothy, James, Ella and Dan, and Jack (on active service).

Though death divides, fond memory clings.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 May, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FITZGERALD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother Lance-corporal Edward M. (Ned) Fitzgerald, who died of wounds received at Bullecourt, May 21, 1917, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Edward Fitzgerald, of Burwood. Inserted by his loving mother and father, sisters and brothers, Jack (late A.I.F.), Dorothy, Jim, Ella and Dan.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 May, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FITZGERALD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother Lance-corporal Edward (Ned) Fitzgerald, aged 26 years, eldest son of Edward and Susan Fitzgerald, who died of wounds received at Bullecourt, May 21, 1917; brother of Jack, Dorothy, James, Ella and Dan.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 May, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FITZGERALD – In loving memory of Lance-corporal Edward M. Fitzgerald, 2nd Battalion, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Edward Fitzgerald, Stanley-street, Burwood, who died of wounds received at Bullecourt, May 21, 1917. Inserted by his loving mother and father, sisters and brother, Jack, Dorothy, Jim, Helene, and Dan.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 May, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FITZGERALD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother Lance corpl. Edward Michael Fitzgerald, 2nd Battalion, A.I.F., who died of wounds received at Bullecourt, France, May 21, 1917.

An Anzac.

Inserted by his loving parents, Mr and Mrs E. M. Fitzgerald and brothers and sisters, Winifred, Jack, Dorothy, James, Helene and Dan.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 20 May, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FITZGERALD – In loving memory of Lance-corpl. Edward M. Fitzgerald, who died of wounds received at Bullecourt, France, May 21, 1917, eldest son of Mr and Mrs E. Fitzgerald, of Burwood, and brother of Winifred, Jack, Dorothy, James, Ella and Dan.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 21 May, 1923)



Original Cross Marker for Lance Corporal Edward Michael Fitzgerald

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)

Lance Corporal E. M. Fitzgerald does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

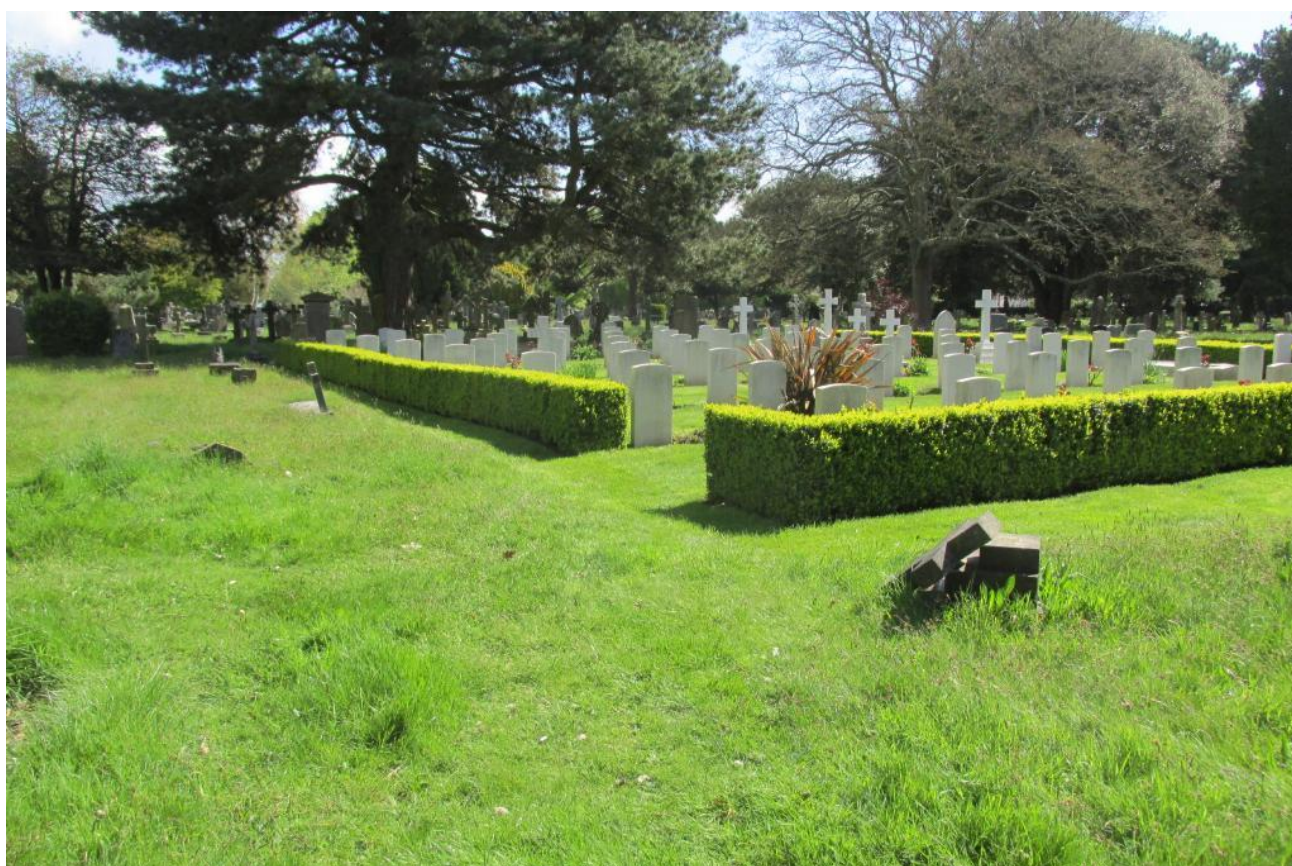
Sweet Jesus Have Mercy On His Soul

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. It was at one time called Boscombe Cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Bournemouth East Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



Bournemouth East Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)

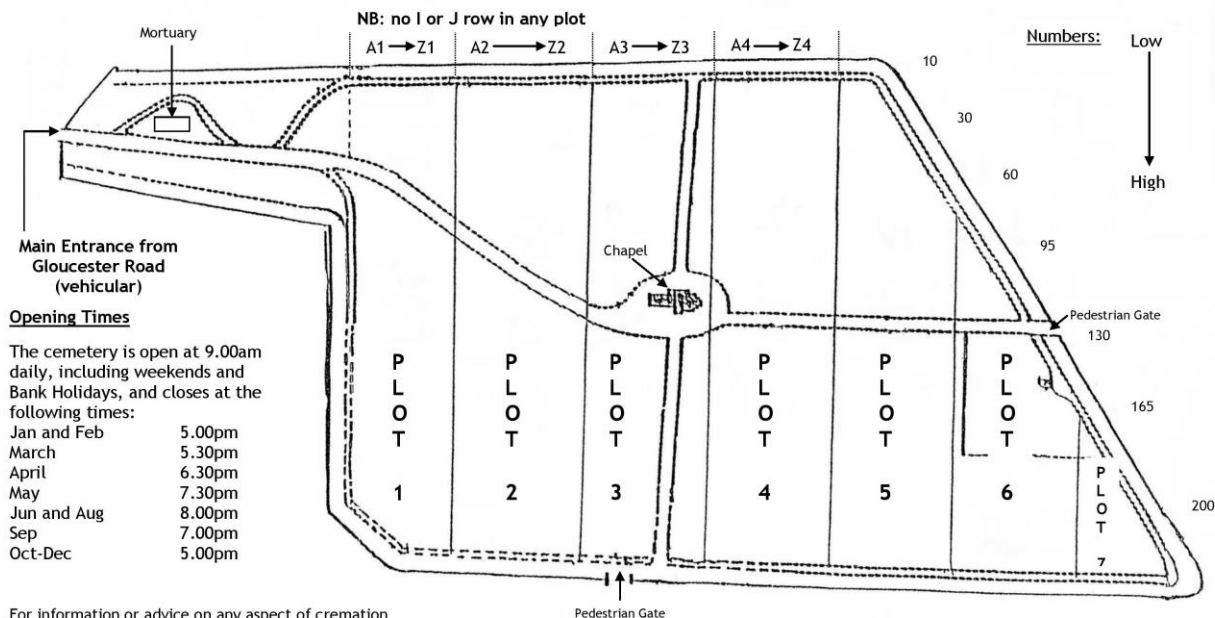


Photo of Lance Corporal E. M. Fitzgerald's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England.



(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

