

**All Souls Cemetery,
Kensal Green, London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4811 SERJEANT

F. G. HOUSTON

57TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 20

*The Dear Son Of
J. & S. L. Houston
Of Bendigo, Victoria*

Francis Gerald HOUSTON

Francis Gerald Houston was born at Goroke, Victoria on 25th August, 1896 to parents James and Sarah Louise Houston (nee Lackmann). (Information proved for the Roll of Honour by his father states Francis was born at Horsham, Victoria).

Francis Gerald Houston attended Melbourne High School. The School started in 1905 as the Melbourne Continuation School, the first State Secondary School in Victoria & was renamed as Melbourne High School in 1912. He also attended School at Bendigo, Victoria.

Francis Gerald Houston was an 18 year old, single, Bank Clerk (Bank of N.S.W.) from 58 Barkly Place, Bendigo, Victoria when he enlisted at Bendigo on 12th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4811 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father- Mr J. Houston, of Barkly Place, Bendigo, Victoria. As Francis Houston was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to join the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. James & Sarah Houston both signed their consent. Francis Houston was in High School Cadets & also served with Citizen Forces – 67th Infantry as Sergeant (1 year).

Private Francis Gerald Houston was posted to Depot Battalion at Ascot Vale from 28th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Depot Battalion at Bendigo on 9th December, 1915. Pte Houston was promoted to Acting Sergeant & transferred to 15th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 6th January, 1916.

Private Francis Gerald Houston embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th March, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements.

Private Francis Gerald Houston was transferred to 57th Battalion on 20th April, 1916 & taken on strength with 57th Battalion at Hogs Back the same day.

Private Francis Gerald Houston proceeded from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 on HT *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Francis Gerald Houston was promoted to Corporal on 12th July, 1916, while in France.

Corporal Francis Gerald Houston was wounded in action on 7th October, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to gluteal region then transferred on 9th October, 1916 to Ambulance Train. Corporal Houston was admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux on 9th October, 1916. He embarked on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* from Boulogne on 12th October, 1916 for England with shrapnel wounds to right gluteal region.

57th Battalion

The 57th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 18 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the A.I.F. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 5th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 5th, the 57th was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Melbourne. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France in late June, the 57th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster. Fortunately for the 57th it was allocated a supporting role and suffered relatively light casualties compared to its sister battalions. This, however, meant that 57th carried the burden of holding the line in ensuing days for the battalion. Despite its grievous losses, the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Corporal Francis Gerald Houston was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 12th October, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right hip. Corporal Houston was transferred to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital,

Southall, Middlesex, England on 6th November, 1916. He was discharged to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 11th November, 1916.

Corporal Francis Gerald Houston was found dead in bed at Opera Hotel, Bow Street, London on 8th December, 1916. His body was transferred to Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, Grosvenor Road, London, England. A Post Mortem was carried out on Saturday 9th December at 4 pm & the Inquest was held at 2.30 pm on Monday 11th December, 1916. The Coroner's Inquest found that the death was accidental & accelerated by illness of congestion of the lungs.

A death for Francis G. Houston, aged 20, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of St. Martin, London, England.

Corporal Francis Gerald Houston was buried on 14th December, 1916 in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England – Plot number 22, Square 213, Row 8 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter was written from Base Records on 19th April, 1920 to Mr J. Houston, father of the late Corporal F. G. Houston, advising that the remains of his son had been exhumed from the former site & re-interred in Grave No. 12 Section 173, Kensal Green Cemetery, London. The letter stated that *"This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Mr James Houston, father of the late Francis Gerald Houston, wrote to Base Records on 16th December, 1916 querying the wording of the death of his son that he had received by telegram. He also stated that the rank was given as Corporal *"but he was, according to advice received from him in July last, gazetted as Sergeant somewhere about that time and your notification of his being wounded gave his rank as Sergeant."*

Francis Gerald Houston requested in his Will that in the event of his death, the whole of his property be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Sara L. Houston, of 58 Barkly Place, Bendigo, Victoria.

Corporal Francis Gerald Houston was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Houston's father – Mr J. Houston, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Francis Gerald Houston – service number 4811, aged 20, of 57th Battalion, Australian Infantry & as such has the rank of Sergeant engraved on his CWGC headstone. He was the son of James and Sarah Louise Houston, of Waterloo St., Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.

(Note: The Australian War Memorial records Francis Gerald Houston as the rank of Corporal. Several forms in the Service Record file record Francis Gerald Houston as having the rank of Corporal while other forms record the rank of Sergeant. There is no record of Corporal Houston being promoted to the rank of Sergeant or a date.)

Corporal F. G. Houston is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 164.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. G. Houston is remembered on the Bendigo High School Roll of Honour, located in Bendigo Senior Secondary College, 40 Gaol Road, Bendigo, Victoria.



Bendigo High School Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

Francis Gerald Houston is remembered in the Melbourne High School Honour Roll book which is on display in the foyer of the school. The Memorial Hall is behind & is a Memorial to the Old Boys and Staff who served in WWI (the school moved in 1927 to a new site).

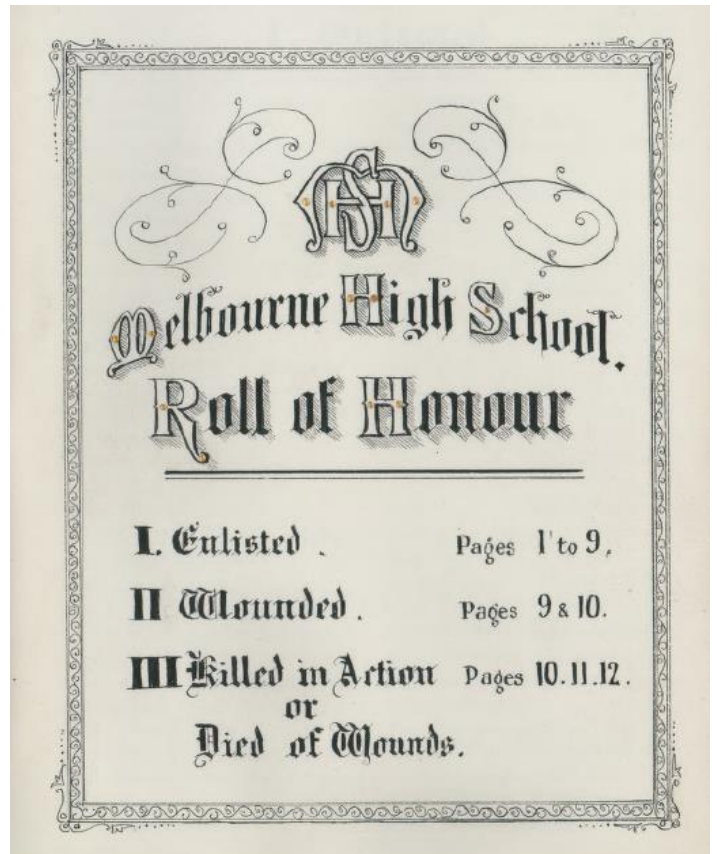
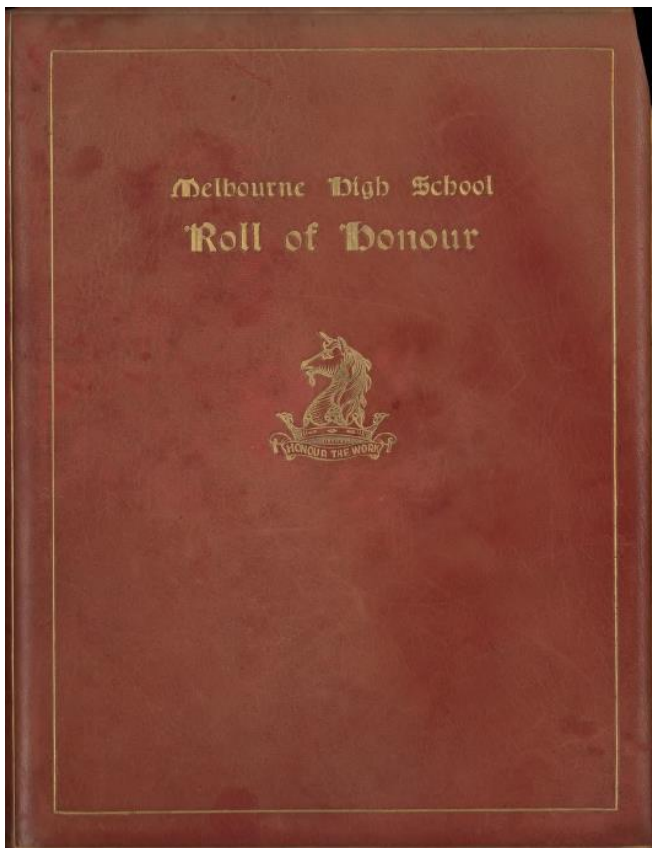
There are 9 former Students of Melbourne High School who served in World War 1 & who are buried in the UK.



Melbourne High School Memorial Hall

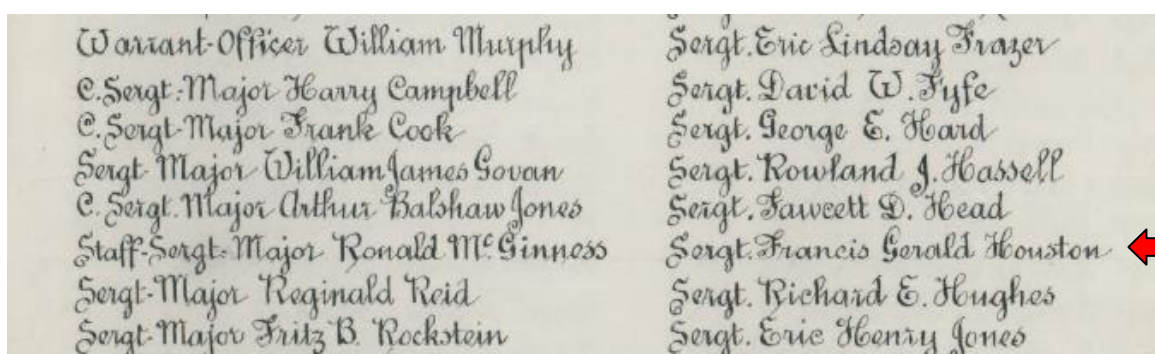
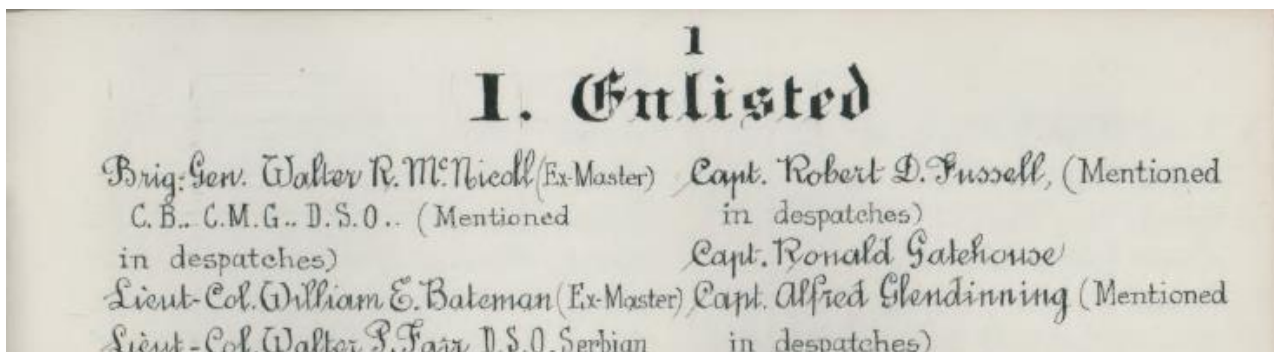


Melbourne High School Honour Roll Book

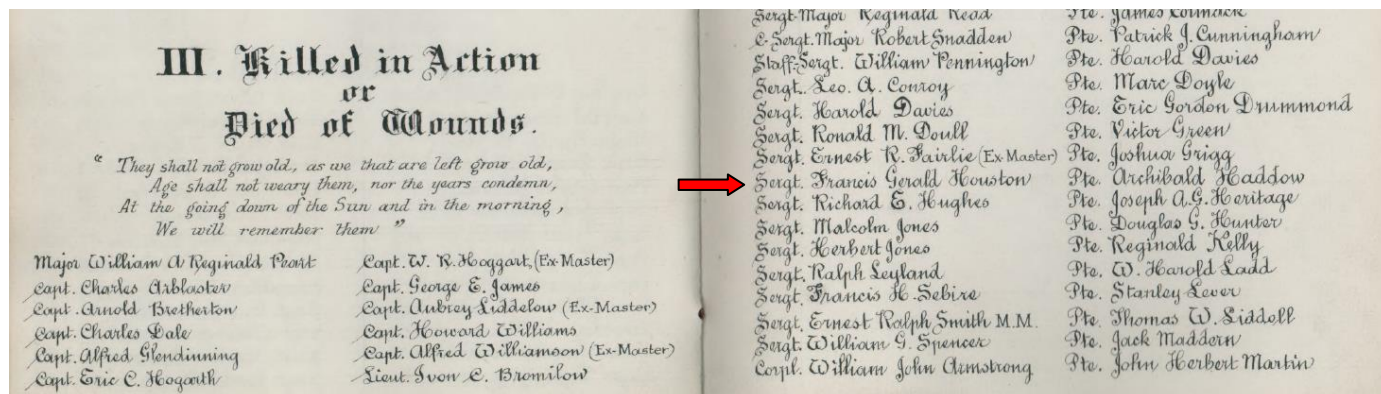


I. Enlisted .	Pages 1 to 9,
II Wounded .	Pages 9 & 10.
III Killed in Action or Died of Wounds.	Pages 10. 11. 12.

Sergt. Francis Gerald Houston is named on the Melbourne High School Honour Roll Book – under those who I. Enlisted (page 3) & under those III. Killed in Action or Died of Wounds (page 11).



Melbourne High School Honour Roll Book – Page 3



Melbourne High School Honour Roll Book – Page 11

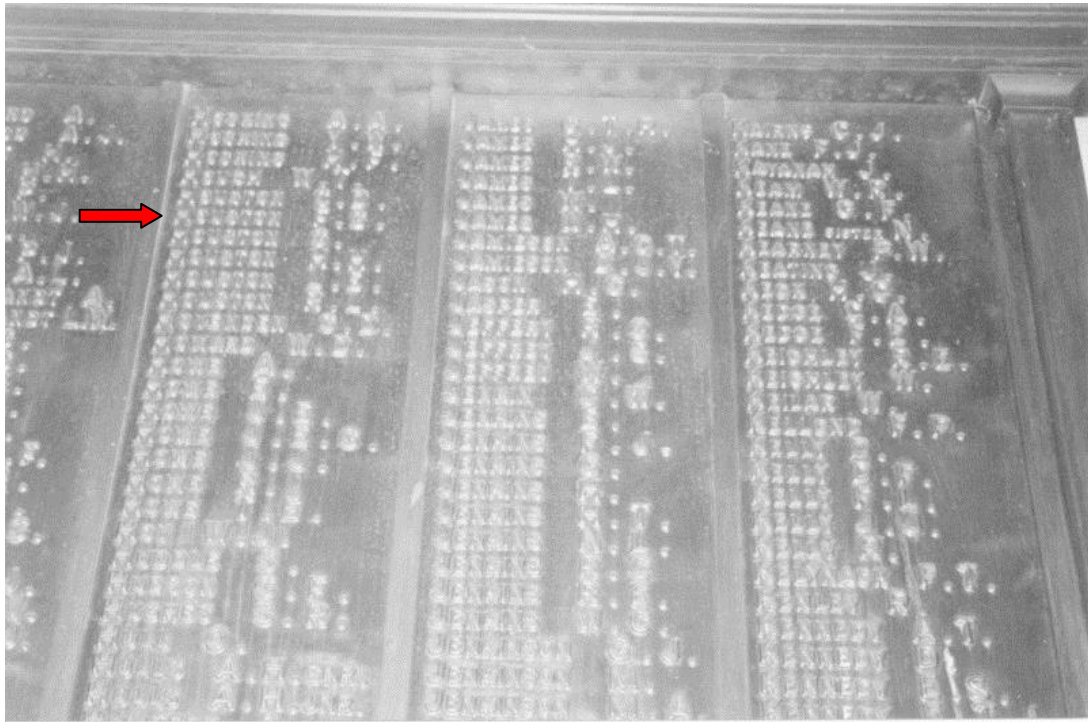


(Melbourne High School information & photos courtesy of Luke Savage, Honorary School Archivist, Melbourne High School)

F. G. Houston is remembered on the Soldiers Memorial Institute, Pall Mall, Bendigo, Victoria.



Soldiers Memorial Institute, Bendigo (Photos from Monument Australia)



Soldiers Memorial Institute, Bendigo

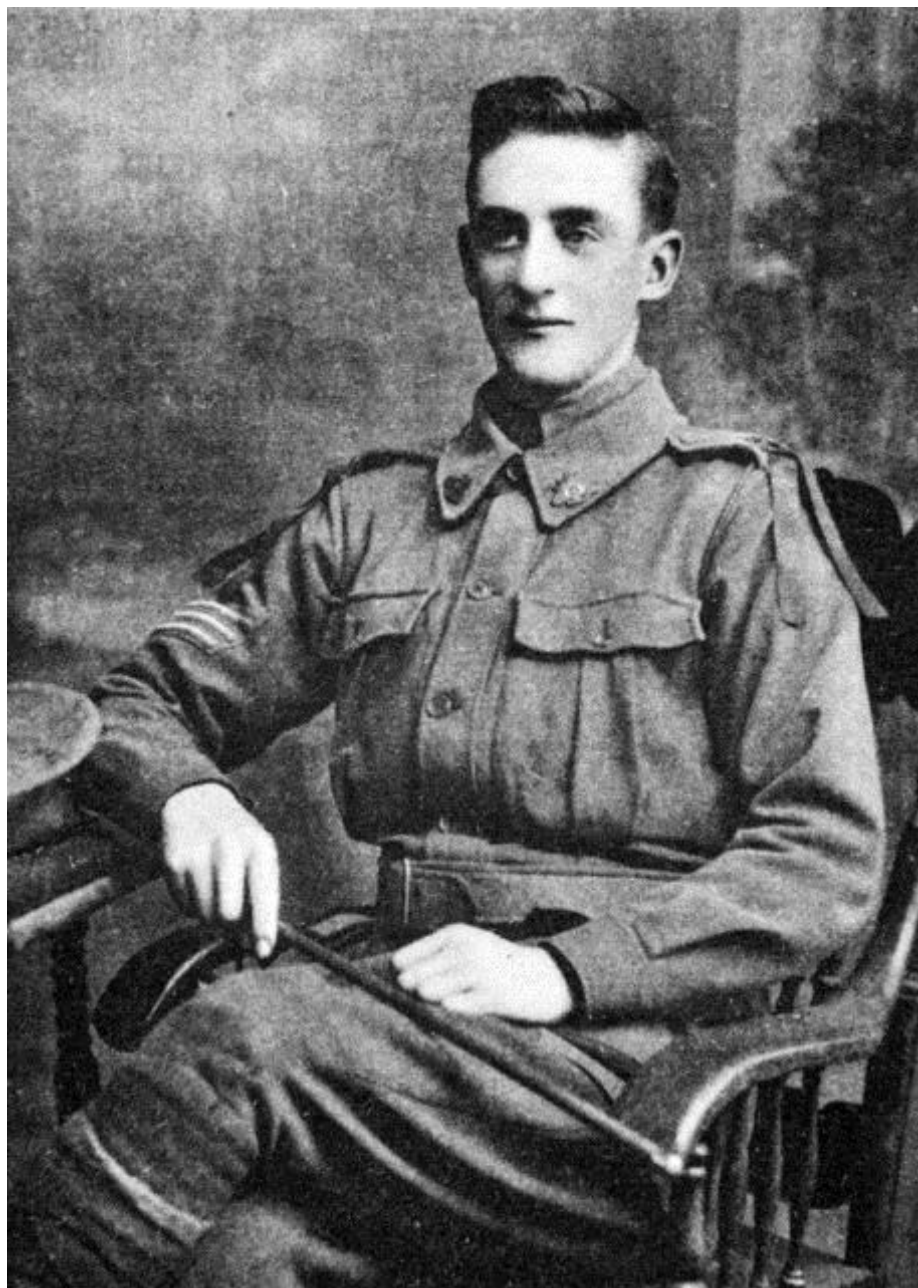
G. Houston is remembered on the All Saints Anglican Church Honour Roll, located in Bendigo RSL, 73 – 75 Havilah Road, Bendigo, Victoria.



All Saints Anglican Church Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

(62 pages of Sergeant Francis Gerald Houston's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

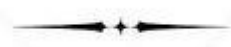
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05413.039

Francis Gerald Houston



Obituary

FRANCIS GERALD HOUSTON, son of Mr. James and Mrs. Sara L. Houston, was born at Horsham, Victoria, on 25th August, 1896. He was educated at the Hawthorn West State School, and later at the Melbourne High School and Bendigo High School. While in the school at Melbourne he was a member of the Champion Cadet Team of Victoria.

He entered the service of the Bank on 12th May, 1914, at Bendigo, and enlisted on 25th August, 1915.

Francis G. Houston left Australia in March, 1916, with reinforcements for the 7th Battalion, but on arrival in Egypt, joined the 57th Battalion, and served with it in that country.

He sailed with the battalion for France in June, 1916; proceeded to the Somme battlefield, and was present at the Battle of Fleurbaix in the following month. He continued to serve on the Somme until October, 1916, when he was wounded at Flers and sent to hospital in England for treatment. He had recovered from his wound and was on the eve of returning to France to rejoin his battalion, when he contracted congestion of the lungs and died on 8th December, 1916, aged twenty years and four months.

(Bank of New South Wales Roll of Honour, 1921 - page 190)



Newspaper Notices

THE NEW SOLDIERS

The following passed the medical test last week at the Bendigo recruiting office, and will leave for camp in due course, most of them this week:- Francis Gerald Houston, bank clerk, Barkly Place, Bendigo.....

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 15 July, 1915)

LETTERS FROM SOLDIERS

IN THE ARABIAN DESERT

SERGEANT F. G. HOUSTON

Letters received by Mr and Mrs James Houston, of Bendigo, from their son, Sergeant F. G. Houston, furnish a descriptive account of the outpost work of the Australians in Egypt. Under date 26th April last he writes:— "Our old company has been split up and drafted all over the place. I am in a new brigade now. Colonel—— is the brigadier, and General —— is the commander of the division. About 30 from our old company and 46 men from details left our old camp on 12th April. I was in charge of the party. We carried all our belongings, kitbag full, equipment, rifle and bayonet, and entrained from our old camp at about 8 o'clock that night. We travelled in open trucks for about a couple of hours, and then disentrained at Moaska. We bivouacked there for the night in the open on the sand, and got up at 3 o'clock next morning. We were then served with a 12oz. tin of bully beef and five biscuits — rations for 24 hours — and 120 rounds of ammunition each. We then, with full packs (containing everything we possessed), rifle, bayonet and ammunition, marched 16 miles through Egypt and into Arabia. Many dropped out by the way, but I stuck to it, although I was mighty tired at the end of it. On Easter Saturday we marched from our present camp about a mile through Arabian desert, over a mountain of sand, and took up duty as supports and sentry groups. It was placed in charge of a sentry group guarding a break in the barb wire entanglements. We had to dig a trench to accommodate our-selves in the sand, and sandbag it all to prevent it falling in. I can assure you we had a pretty stiff time of it in the sweltering heat of the sun, with no protection whatever from the heat, and miles and miles of sand and myriads of flies round us. We were working like niggers all Easter Sunday, digging ourselves in. We are allowed one quart of water a day to drink and wash in, so you can see we rarely get a wash. We are not allowed to take off any of our clothes or our equipment, but sleep (when we get any) with everything on. I have not had my equipment or clothes off for five days and night now. Such a thing as a bath or change of clothing is an unheard of luxury. As one needs every drop of a quart of water a day to drink, you can see that we can spare none for washing purposes. We are

expecting an attack any moment now. A Light Horse patrol has been missing for over 36 hours, and it is feared that they have been cut off by the Turks. The Turks attacked an outpost about 15 miles from here on Easter Monday, but were driven off, and fled in our direction. They also bombarded the town of K—— with their artillery, so you can see we have been having a pretty lively time this Easter. At the first camp I was in I met Willie, Roy and Ellis Lackmann and Dave Knight. It was a coincidence meeting four cousins in the same camp. As I have had no leave since coming to Egypt, I have been un-able to find any trace of Bert or of the——th Light Horse. Our provisions and water are brought out to the trenches by camel trains. I met Wally Jackson whilst on the march, but could not stop to talk. We just recognised one another. He was driving an A.S.C. waggon in Egypt. Agar Kirby is in my company, but is not out in the trenches. We expect to be relieved here shortly and go to France. The flies and heat are pretty bad, and the nights are bitterly cold.

Writing on 30th May, Sergeant Houston said:— "We marched in from the trenches last Saturday week. Up next morning as usual at 3 o'clock, and marched about 10 miles into the desert, carrying kit, equipment, rifle, etc., for manoeuvres. The following morning we were up again at 3 o'clock, and went back to the trenches for another week. During the three weeks in the trenches we were up every morning at 3 o'clock when not on duty for the night. Had to sleep in clothes, boots, etc., and worked on Sundays just as on other days.

In a later letter, Sergeant Houston writes:— "We are back from the trenches now — marched 13 miles to camp. It is not so hard here, as there is a canteen, where one can buy eatables, etc. The march back was something to remember, with heat, dust rising in clouds choking one, and filling eyes and mouth; empty water bottles and parched lips. Some of the lads had to drop out. I have seen only one town in Egypt, and that was a small one we passed on our way to Arabia. All I have seen of Egypt or Arabia so far is desert. By the way, the desert is not flat, but very hilly, and on the march we were either climbing steep hills or going down them. I have received only two letters since I left Australia. We get no war news, save what we glean from an old Australian paper. It is hard to realise that winter is coming on in Australia, when it is so intensely hot here. And the flies! As soon as you open your mouth to speak about a dozen dive in. They are on the move at 3 a.m. If you are lying down at dinner hour you must wrap a blanket round your head to keep them off. Then they crawl up your sleeves or down your socks. Yesterday we were taken for a swim in the old salt water canal, and I can tell you it was the best dip I have had. You can guess we enjoyed it, when you remember that we hadn't had our clothes off for four weeks."

(Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo, Victoria – 1 July, 1916)

BEAUTIES OF FRANCE

SERGEANT F. G. HOUSTON

"DON'T GRIEVE FOR THE DEAD."

"BE PROUD OF THEM."

Sergeant F. G. Houston, son of Mr James Houston, head teacher of the North Bendigo State School, writing from France, states:— "After the journey from Egypt to Marseilles we travelled continuously for three days and three nights, so that you can understand that we saw a great part of France. One of the tunnels we passed through was over 2¼ miles long. France is without doubt the most fertile country in the world. It was like travelling through fairyland. Call to mind the most fertile and best bit of country you have seen, and I tell you in all sincerity that the worst plain in France is equal to, if not better, than it. Everything is so exceedingly neat and clean and picturesque. Middle-class homes have fish ponds in their gardens, and I can't describe the beautiful roses and flowers and the beautiful setting out of the gardens. In the country the fields are covered with poppies and all manner of wild flowers. Whilst travelling through Egypt we crossed the Nile, and when I tell you that France has rivers flowing all through it of almost equal breadth, it will give you some idea of the fertility of this country. As for the roads, they are like billiard tables, and the worst roads in the country villages are better than St. Kilda-road. They are magnificently made, as are also the bridges and other structures. I had the privilege of visiting a Roman Catholic chapel in a village close to the firing line and a church in a little village such as this is almost equal in design, decorations, statues, and fittings to St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. It is veritably a Garden of Eden. Of course, it is the beginning of summer here, and the fruit trees are all in blossom, the crops are ripening, and the horses and cattle are in the pink of condition. It was hard to realise when travelling through this country that there was a war on, and that we were to be in the thick of it in a few days. When one has seen this country it is easy to understand why the French love their country so much, and are all willing to sacrifice everything — 'the flower of their manhood'— for it. It is also easy to see the reason why the 'cultured Germans' covet France so much, but they will never obtain possession of any more of it. In fact, they are

slowly, but surely, being driven back. The French people gave us an enthusiastic welcome all along the line as we travelled in the train, giving us chocolates and cigarettes. It is heart breaking to see these brave people who force smiles of welcome and cheery words to their lips, but whose hearts are breaking with grief, for every family in this fair land has lost at least one from its fold, while there are many families in which all the male members have been wiped out. Every one of the women and children are in mourning. Only the very very old men and young children are left in civil occupations. You see old men and women of 70 years working in the fields, and doing young men's work. All the flower of French manhood is away fighting or have been killed. Even the very young children bear the signs of grief in their faces. But I don't think the day is far distant when the Germans will pay, and pay bitterly, for the sorrow and suffering they have caused. Even though I may not be living when that day comes, yet I feel sure that God in His own good time will avenge the wrongs suffered by the French, Belgians, and Serbians, for does he not say, 'Vengeance is Mine: I will repay, saith the Lord.' It is an honor to be able to fight for such people as the French, and although we may suffer many heavy casualties and defeats, and the war may last for many years more, yet in the end we will win. For 'right is might,' and for blood that has been spilt the Germans will pay with their own blood. "There have been heavy bombardments and artillery duels here lately. The noise does not tend toward an undisturbed sleep. Airships have been pretty lively also lately. Whatever you do, don't worry about me. It is all in God's hands. I hope the war is over shortly, and that I may be home for Christmas. Still I knew when I enlisted that I might have to lay down my life for my country and for right, and, after all, thousands of better men than I have given their all. Life every man holds dear, but to the brave man honor is far more dear than life itself. Don't grieve for the dead. Be proud of them, for they are in God's keeping. I met Cyril and Arthur Hart (Eagle-hawk) over here. They are in the cyclists' corps, and are both in the best of health. Ross Freeman is in our company. Agar Kirby is still with me."

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Bendigo, Victoria – 23 September, 1916)

DIED FROM WOUNDS

SERGEANT F. G. HOUSTON

The painfully sad news that his son, Sergeant Francis Gerald Houston, had died in England, where he had been sent to recuperate after having been wounded in France, was conveyed to Mr J. Houston, of Barkly-place on Friday night by the Defence department. Sergeant Houston was only 20 years of age, and was the sixth son of Mr J. Houston, who is head master of the North Bendigo State School. He left Victoria in March last with reinforcements for Egypt. He proceeded to France in June, and was in the trenches with a fortnight's exception, from July until the beginning of October, when he was wounded and invalided to England. Prior to enlisting, Sergeant Houston was on the staff of the Bank of New South Wales at Bendigo, and was highly esteemed and respected by all who knew him. He became connected with the bank early in 1914. Two of the deceased soldier's brothers have returned from the front, wounded, viz., Private Raymond Houston and Trooper Herbert Houston, and their brother, Trooper Clement Houston, is now in camp with the Light Horse ready to go to the front. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents in their great loss. He has been described as "a born soldier and leader of men."

Writing to his chum in Bendigo (Mr Herbert Vine) from the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, on 20th October, the deceased soldier stated:— "*I have been wounded in my right hip. I went down to get another chap who was wounded, and got 'cracked' myself. I had a piece of shell extracted in France (no chloroform). The wound is healing rapidly, though painfully. Had been in trenches 15 weeks (over three months) when I got 'cracked.' Expect to be back in the trenches by Christmas.*"

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Bendigo, Victoria – 18 December, 1916) & (*Bendigonian*, Bendigo, Victoria – 21 December, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

HOUSTON – On the 8th December, 1916 (suddenly), at London, Sergeant Francis Gerald Houston (wounded in France, 8th October), dearly beloved son of Jas. and S. L. Houston, and brother of Private R. L. Houston (late inf.), ex-Trooper H. H. Houston (late L. H.), and Trooper C. D. Houston (late L.H.), aged 20 years.

"He did his duty."

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 December, 1916)

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FOR FREEDOM'S CAUSE



(Kahua, photo.)

Sergeant **FRANCIS GERALD**
HOUSTON,

Wounded in France, subsequently died in England; son of Mr James Houston, of Barkly Place, Bendigo.

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Bendigo, Victoria – 22 December, 1916) & (*Bendigonian*, Bendigo, Victoria – 4 January, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

HOUSTON – In loving memory of the dear son of Jas. and S. L. Houston, 58 Barkly Place, F. G. Houston, C Company, 57th Batt., wounded 12th October, died in London of illness supervening on wound, 8th December, 1916. Aged 20 years. Loved brother of the late J. H., C. W. (on active service abroad), Lieut. R. L. and H. H. (returned Anzacs), Alan and Marjorie.

“He saw his duty and did it.”

Our dear Gerald.

HOUSTON – A tribute to the memory of my dearest pal, Sergeant Francis Gerald Houston, who died in London, 8th December, 1916.

-Inserted by Soss Seeler, Queensland.

HOUSTON – In memory of my friend, Sergeant Gerald Houston, who died in London, result of wounds, on 8th December, 1916.

-Inserted by E.S.

(*Bendigonian*, Bendigo, Victoria – 13 December, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

HOUSTON – A tribute to the memory of our dearest friend, Francis Gerald Houston, who died in London 8th December, 1916.

-H. Vine and Soss Seeber.

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Bendigo, Victoria – 7 December, 1918) & (*Bendigonian*, Bendigo, Victoria – 12 December, 1918)

For Freedom's Cause

HOUSTON – In loving memory of our dear son, Sergeant Francis Gerald Houston, 57th Battalion, who died in London on 8th December, 1916, of illness, supervening on wounds.

One of the "Deathless Army."

(Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo, Victoria – 9 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HOUSTON – In loving memory of our dear son, Sgt. Francis Gerald Houston, 57th Batt., 15th Brigade, who died in London, 8th December, 1916, of illness supervening on wounds.

One of the "deathless army."

- (From 58 Barkly place, Bendigo.)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HOUSTON – In loving memory of my dear brother, Sergt. F. G. Houston, who died of wounds in England, December 8, 1916.

"One of the deathless army."

-(Inserted by A. R. Houston, Warracknabeal).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 December, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HOUSTON – In loving memory of my dear brothers, Sergt. F. G. Houston, 57th Battalion, who died of wounds in England, December 8, 1916, and Trooper H. H. Houston, 4th L. Horse, passed away November 3, 1918.

.....

-(A.R.H., Warracknabeal).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 December, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HOUSTON – In loving memory of Sgt. F. G. Houston, 57th Batt., died London, December 8, 1916, from wounds; also Trooper H. H. Houston, 4th L.H., died Bendigo., November 3, 1918; dear sons of Jas. and S. L. Houston, and loved brothers of C. D. Houston (late No. 2 Battery), R. L. Houston (late 4th Batt.), Alan and Marjorie.

"Till the day break and the shadows flee away."

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 December, 1920)

F. G. Houston is remembered on a headstone with his brother H. H. Houston in Bendigo Cemetery, Victoria. Horace Houston, an original Anzac, who fought with the 4th Light Horse Battalion, died on 3rd November, 1918 in Bendigo Hospital of TB contracted in France.



In Memory Of

Trooper H. H. HOUSTON (Anzac/4th L.H.)

Died Nov. 3rd, 1918 Aged 24

And

Sgt. F. G. HOUSTON, 57th Batt.

Died at London Dec. 8th 1916 Aged 20

Loved Sons of J & S. L. HOUSTON

"They Gave Their All"



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)

Serjeant F. G. Houston does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Dear Son Of J. & S. L. Houston Of Bendigo, Victoria

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green contains burials of both wars - 538. Half of the 482 First World War graves form a plot in the south-west section of the cemetery, the rest form small groups or are scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 5s Second World War graves are scattered. There are also 2 non war burials here. A screen wall in the First World War plot (Sect. 213) records the names of casualties of both wars whose graves could not be individually marked. Also recorded on the wall are the names of five servicemen whose remains were cremated in Kensal Green Crematorium.

(Information from CWGC)



All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green *(Photo by Rodney Burton)*



Cross of Sacrifice - All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green *(Photo by Chris Doran)*

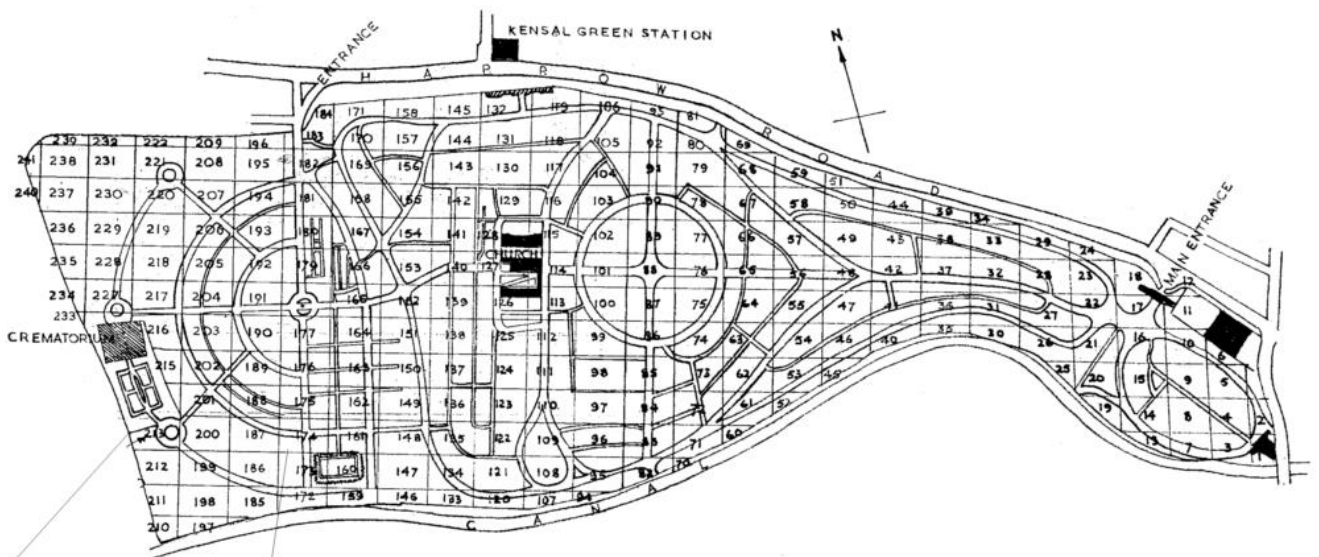
Photo of Serjeant F. G. Houston's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England. (The Australian War Memorial lists F. G. Houston as the rank of Corporal).



(Photo courtesy of Francois Greeff)



All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green (Photo courtesy of Francios Greeff)



Sect. 213 : Main U.K. and N.Z. Plot.
 Sect. 173 and 174 : Main Dominion Plot