

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5632 LANCE CPL.

E. A. LILJESTRAND

23RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH JUNE, 1918

Erik Arvid LILJESTRAND

Erik Arvid Liljestrand was born around 1887 at Kyrkslatt, Finland. His father was Adolph. A. Liljestrand.

Erik Arvid Liljestrand was a 29 year old, single, Seaman from Sailors' Home, Flinders Street, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 10th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5632 & his religion was Lutheran. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Adolph A. Liljestrand, Helsingfer, Finland, Russia.

Private Erik Arvid Liljestrand was posted to "A" Company, 23rd Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 11th April, 1916 for recruit training. Private Erik Arvid Liljestrand was transferred to Field Artillery Brigade _ Reinforcements on 30th May, 1916. He was transferred to "C" Company, 23rd Battalion at Royal Park in early August, 1916 then transferred to "B" Company, 15th Reinforcements, 23rd Battalion at Royal Park on 7th August, 1916.

Private Erik Arvid Liljestrand embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 25th September, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th November, 1916.

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.

Private Erik Arvid Liljestrand proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone per *Princess Henrietta* on 13th December, 1916 from 6th Training Battalion.

Private Erik Arvid Liljestrand was marched in from England to 2nd Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 14th December, 1916. He was marched out to join his Unit on 17th December, 1916 & was taken on strength of 23rd Battalion on 18th December, 1916.

Private Erik Arvid Liljestrand was wounded in action in France on 3rd May, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred & admitted to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd May, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head. He was transferred to No. 6 Ambulance Train on 3rd May, 1917 & admitted to 9th General Hospital, Rouen, France on the same day. Private Liljestrand was transferred & admitted to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 5th May, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 11th Convalescent Depot on 10th May, 1917. He was admitted to 11th Convalescent Depot at Buchy on 11th May, 1917. Private Liljestrand was discharged to duty on 22nd May, 1917.

War Diary – 23rd Battalion

FRONT LINE SUPPORTS – 3rd May, 1917:

As attached report of action of 23rd Bn against Hindenburg Line. (Full report – Appendix 5)

Extract of Appendix 5 (O= Officers/ O.R. = Other Ranks)

<i>Casualties</i>	<i>Killed</i>		<i>Wounded</i>	
	<i>O.</i>	<i>O.R.</i>	<i>O.</i>	<i>O.R.</i>
	<i>2</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>227</i>
	<i>Wounded & Missing</i>		<i>Missing</i>	
	<i>O.</i>	<i>O.R.</i>	<i>O.</i>	<i>O.R.</i>
		<i>5</i>		<i>79</i>

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Erik Arvid Liljestrand was marched in to 2nd Australian Base Depot at Etaples on 22nd May, 1917 then on 28th May, 1917 "to Camp Adj on Command" at Havre, France. He was marched back in to 2nd Australian Divisional Base from Camp Adj on 8th July, 1917 then marched out to his Unit on 30th July, 1917. Private Liljestrand rejoined 23rd Battalion in the Field on 31st July, 1917.

Private Erik Arvid Liljestrand was appointed Lance Corporal with 23rd Battalion on 24th November, 1917.

Lance Corporal Erik Arvid Liljestrand was wounded in action (2nd occasion) in France on 19th May, 1918. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 19th May, 1918 with Shrapnel wounds to back. Private Liljestrand was transferred to 61st Casualty Clearing Station on 19th May, 1918 then transferred the same day to Ambulance Train 25. He was admitted to 7th Canadian General Hospital at Etaples on 20th May, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to back & arm. Private Liljestrand embarked for England from France on 26th May, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen*.

War Diary – 23rd Battalion

J 5 a 29 - 18th May: Lt McAiker (?) USA left us today. At night same routine as on previous

“ - 19th May: night followed by Bde attack at 2 am. Special party (Lts Lowe & Smith) from Bn carried on with mopping up VILLE SUR ANCRE – 6th Northampton Regt on left – C Coy moved forward prior to operation to EMU SUPPORT at night D Coy (Lt Holland) relieved 24th Bn Coy N. of river Ancre completed by midnight 19/20.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

23rd Battalion

The 23rd Battalion was raised in Victoria in March 1915 as the third battalion of the 6th Brigade....

After manning the front line throughout the bleak winter of 1916-17, the battalion's next trial came at the second battle of Bullecourt in May. After the failure of the first attempt to capture this town, by troops of the 4th Australian Division, this new attack was heavily rehearsed. The 23rd Battalion succeeded in capturing all of its objectives, and holding them until relieved, but, subjected to heavy counter-attacks, the first day of this battle was the battalion's single most costly of the war. Later in 1917 the battalion moved with the rest of the AIF to the Ypres sector in Belgium, and in October participated in the battle to secure Broodseinde Ridge.

In April 1918 the 23rd helped to turn back the German spring offensive, and then took part in the battles that would mark the beginning of Germany's defeat - Hamel, Amiens and Mont St Quentin.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Erik Arvid Liljestrand was admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England on 26th May, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to back & Paraplegia.



Lance Corporal Erik Arvid Liljestrand died at 10.40 am on 9th June, 1918 at Kitchener Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from Pneumonia, Paraplegia following wounds received in action – G.S.W. to Back.

A death for Erik A. Liljestrand, aged 31, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

Lance Corporal Erik Arvid Liljestrand was buried at 2 pm on 12th June, 1918 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZHO. 108 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Erik Arvid Liljestrand - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack. Firing Party, Trumpeter and Pallbearers were present. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Erik Arvid Liljestrand contains a letter from Major, Registrar, for Colonel, O.C. Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton which reads: "5632 L/Cpl Liljestrand, E.A., 23rd Btn, A.I.F. Deceased – Reference your enquiry re the above mentioned man. He was admitted to this Hospital suffering from G.S.W. Back, Paraplegia. He had complete paralysis from the waist downwards, and if he had lived, he would never have been able to use his lower limbs. He died of pneumonia, cause by fluid connected with wound. He was buried at Brighton Borough Cemetery (Soldiers' sec.) on Wed. 12th June at 2.00, the Hospital Chaplain who had been visiting him during his illness, took the service; a representative from Hqs. A.I.F. Horseferry Rd. attended the funeral. His personal effects were forwarded to the Oi/c Effects, A.I.F. and will in due course be sent to his next-of-kin."

Lance Corporal Erik Arvid Liljestrand was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Liljestrand's father – Mr A. A. Liljestrand, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England November, 1922).

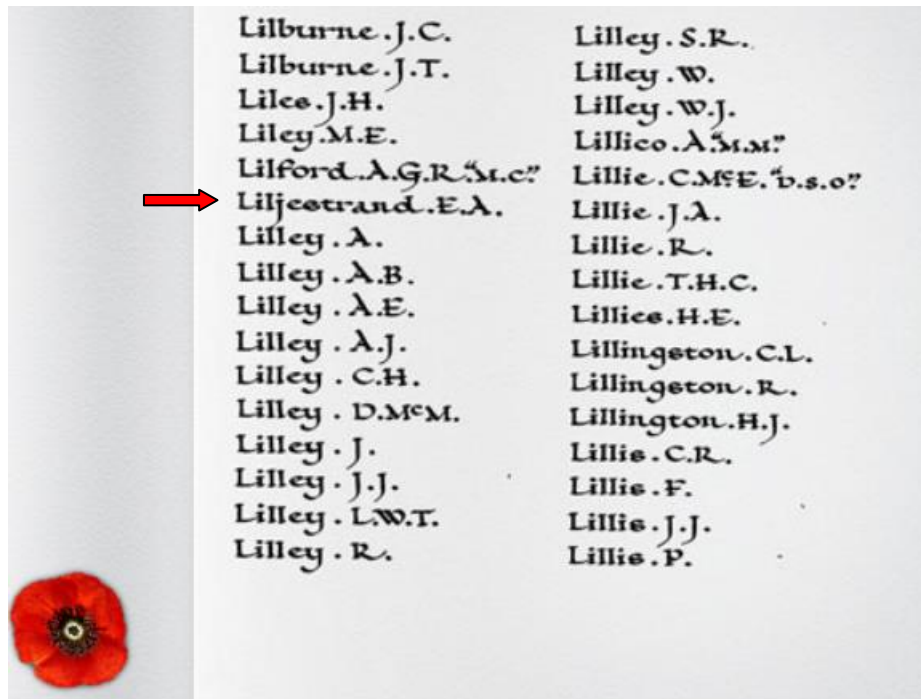
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private E. A. Liljestrand – service number 5632, of 23rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Lance Corporal E. A. Liljestrand is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 99.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. A. Liljestrand is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(35 pages of Lance Corporal Erik Arvid Liljestrand'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



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 305

Victoria

WOUNDED

E. A. Liljestrand

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 June, 1917)

DEATHS

On Active Service

LILJESTRAND – Officially reported died of wounds 9th June, Corporal Eric Liljestrand, aged 26 years, 23rd Battalion. A good and true friend. One of the best. He gave his life for our country.

-Inserted by his friend, Gladys Sheils.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 June, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

VICTORIAN LIST

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Pte F. A. LILJESTRAND, Russia, illness, result of wounds, 9/6/18

(*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 June, 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*)

Lance Corporal E. A. Liljestrand does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Lance Corporal E. A. Liljestrand's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham)