

**Bulford Church Cemetery,  
Wiltshire, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1717 PRIVATE**

**J. E. MITCHELL**

**60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**10TH DECEMBER, 1917**

## John Edward MITCHELL

John Edward Mitchell was born at Williamstown, Victoria in 1882 to parents Edward & Victoria Esther Mitchell (nee Gabb).

John Edward Mitchell married Ada Ross on 31st March, 1902 at Registrar's Office, South Melbourne, Victoria.

The 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the subdivision of Port Melbourne record John Edward Mitchell, Labourer & Ada Mitchell, Home Duties, living at 24 McCormack Street, Port Melbourne.

John Edward Mitchell was a 33 year old, married, Starch Labourer from 24 McCormack Street, Port Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne on 7th February, 1916 with the 15th Infantry Brigade, 58th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1717 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Ada Mitchell, of 24 McCormack Street, Port Melbourne, Victoria.

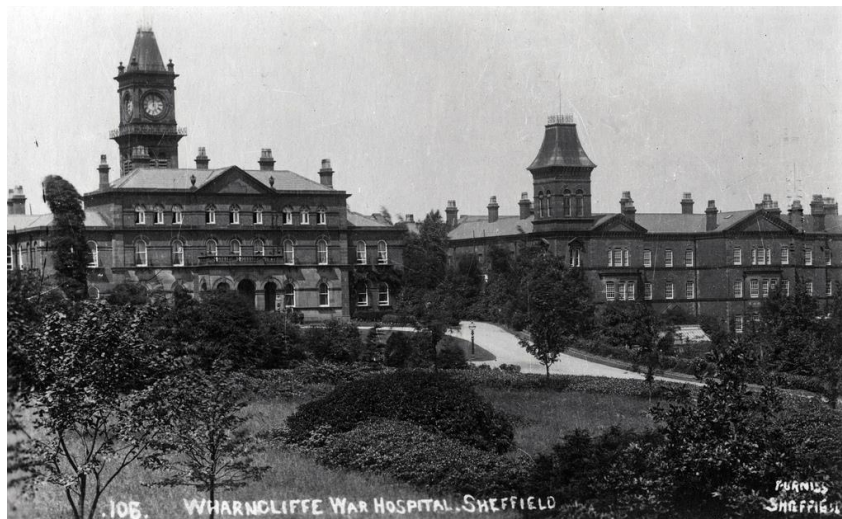
Private John Edward Mitchell embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Eurpides* (A14) on 4th April, 1916 & disembarked at Alexandria.

Private John Mitchell was taken on strength of 60th Battalion on 25th May, 1916 at Ferry Post, Egypt which was a training camp.

Private John Mitchell embarked on *Kinfauns Castle* from Alexandria on 18th June, 1916 to join British Expeditionary Force in France. He disembarked at Marseille, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private John Mitchell was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916 with a gunshot wound to the hand. He was taken to 35th General Hospital on 21st July, 1916 & embarked on Hospital Ship *Brighton* at Calais for England on 25th July, 1916.

Private John Mitchell was admitted to Wharnccliffe War Hospital, Sheffield, England on 25th July, 1916 with a gunshot wound to the right hand. He was discharged on 8th September, 1916. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*F.B. removed. No complications.*"



**Wharnccliffe War Hospital, Sheffield**

Private John Mitchell was marched in from Perham Downs to No. 3 Command Depot on 13th October, 1916.

Private John Mitchell proceeded Overseas from 15th Training Battalion on 11th November, 1916 & was marched in from England at Etaples, France on 13th November, 1916. He was marched out to 60th Battalion on 29th November, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion from being wounded on 2nd December, 1916.

Private John Mitchell reported sick on 7th December, 1916 – cause no yet determined. He was transferred to 36th Casualty Clearing Station then to Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 6th January, 1917. Private Mitchell was discharged to Base Depot on 9th January, 1917. He was taken on strength with 5th Australian Divisional Base Depot from Hospital on 11th January, 1917.

Private John Mitchell was admitted sick to Hospital in France from 5th Australian Divisional Base Depot on 19th March, 1917 suffering from Renal Calculus. He was transferred to Convalescent Depot on 31st March, 1917 with cystitis. Private Mitchell was discharged on 25th April, 1917 & marched in to Base Depot at Cayeaux, France, then to 5th A.D.B.D. at Etaples. He was marched out to his Unit on 28th May, 1917 & rejoined his Unit the same day.

Private John Mitchell reported sick on 9th June, 1917 & was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance in France. From there he was taken to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station & transferred by Ambulance Train on 10th June, 1917. Private John Mitchell was admitted on 11th June, 1917 to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen & transferred to England on 28th June, 1917 aboard the *Aberdonian*.

Private John Mitchell was transferred to Bath War Hospital, England on 29th June, 1917 for treatment. He was then transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 23rd July, 1917.

Private John Mitchell was on furlo from 10th to 24th September, 1917 & to report to Depot at Weymouth at the conclusion. He was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 22nd September, 1917.

Private John Mitchell was admitted to Medical Office No. 4 Group, No. 2 Australian Command Depot on 25th September, 1917 with Renal Calculus. The Medical notes record that he had previously had an attack in December, 1916.

Private John Mitchell was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire from 26th October, 1917 with Syphilis. He was transferred on 5th November, 1917 to Convalescent Training Depot, Parkhouse with Syphilis & dermatitis. He was discharged on 1st December, 1917.

Private John Mitchell was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford on 1st December, 1917 with Arsenical Dermatitis.

Private John Edward Mitchell died at 10.45 p.m. on 10th December, 1917 at 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire from Arsenical Dermatitis.

A death for John E. Mitchell, aged 34, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private John Edward Mitchell was buried on 13th December, 1917 in Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire – Grave No. 11 Australian Reserve Section (CWGC Plot number 3. I. 10.) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private Mitchell – *The deceased was not long in Hospital but was given every attention whilst there, both by Nurses and Doctors, and the Chaplain also saw him regularly. He was given a full Military Funeral, the coffin being of good stained wood. Six of his comrades in Hospital acted as Pallbearers and marched at the side of the Gun Carriage.*

Private John Edward Mitchell requested in his Will, dated 6th June, 1917 that all his real and personal estate be bequeathed to his wife Ada Mitchell.

Private J. E. Mitchell was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. – signed for by Ada Mitchell in November, 1922. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Mitchell's widow – Mrs A. Mitchell (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922). Later correspondence was sent to the following addresses & returned unclaimed – 24 McCormack St, Port Melbourne & 220 The Esplanade, Port Melbourne. Several enquires were made by Base Records, Melbourne to locate Mrs A. Mitchell. In August, 1923 the Department of Repatriation advised the current address of Mrs A. Mitchell as 5 Railway Place, Coburg, Victoria. The Victory Medal was eventually signed for by Ada Mitchell after sending correspondence to 5 Railway Place, Coburg in August, 1923.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. E. Mitchell – service number 1717, as having served with 60th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

War Pensions were granted to the following, in respect of the service of the late Pte John Edward Mitchell:

- Ada Mitchell, Widow – granted 40/- per fortnight from 14th February, 1918
- Ada E. Mitchell, daughter – granted 20/- per fortnight from 14th February, 1918
- John E. Mitchell, son – granted 15/- per fortnight from 14th February, 1918
- Violet M. Mitchell, daughter – granted 10/- per fortnight from 14th February, 1918
- Herbert J. Mitchell, son – granted 10/- per fortnight from 14th February, 1918
- Clara B. Mitchell, daughter – granted 10/- per fortnight from 14th February, 1918
- William G. Mitchell, son – granted 10/- per fortnight from 14th February, 1918

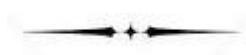
Private J. E. Mitchell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 170.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(88 pages of Private John Edward Mitchell'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*





**John Edward Mitchell (Teddy)**

(photo taken c1912 at his sister's wedding – Ada Alexander nee Mitchell)



### **Newspaper Notices**

#### **AUSTRALIA'S HEROES**

CASUALTY LISTS Nos. 378 & 379

VICTORIA – DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte J. E. Mitchell, Port Melbourne

(*The Ballarat Star*, Victoria – Monday 14th January, 1918)

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### 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 in Bulford Church Cemetery. 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 22nd July, 1921, to Mrs A. Mitchell at 24 McCormack Street, Port Melbourne, advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late Pte J. E. Mitchell, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private J. E. Mitchell does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire, England**

Many of the 71 First World War burials in Bulford Church Cemetery were made from Bulford Camp, one of the military training grounds directly associated with Salisbury Plain. The cemetery also contains three Second World War burials.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Bulford Church Cemetery** *(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)*





**Bulford Church Cemetery** (Photos from CWGC)





Photo of Private J. E. Mitchell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)*