

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



963 PRIVATE

J. F. NAUGHTON

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH NOVEMBER, 1916

John Francis NAUGHTON

John Francis Naughton was born at Charters Towers, Queensland on 6th October, 1885 to parents Thomas & Harriett Naughton (nee Butler).

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Herbert, subdivision of Ayr, Queensland recorded John Francis Naughton, Labourer, of Bobawaba.

Thomas Naughton, father of John Francis Naughton, died on 21st June, 1914 at Charters Towers District Hospital, Queensland.

John Francis Naughton was a 28 year old, single, Baker when he enlisted at Randwick, NSW on 1st September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 963 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as Mrs Harriett Naughton, Race Road, Charters Towers, Queensland.

Private John Francis Naughton was posted to 3rd Battalion on 1st September, 1914 for recruit training.

Private John Francis Naughton was given 14 days detention on 27th January, 1915.

Private John Francis Naughton embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 20th October, 1914 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion "E" Company.

Private John Francis Naughton embarked on *Derflinger* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 5th April, 1915.

Private John Francis Naughton was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance at Gallipoli on 8th May, 1915 with Tonsillitis & transferred to Hospital Ship. He rejoined his Unit on 26th May, 1915.

Private John Francis Naughton was wounded in action at Gallipoli. (The "Casualty Form – Active Service" has the date as 16th August, 1915.) He was admitted to Casualty Clearing Station on 15th August, 1915 with bullet wounds to hands, thigh & hip. Private Naughton was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Andonia* from Mudros around 17th August, 1915.

The Medical History Form (Army Form B. 178) recorded that Private Naughton became non-effective on 14th August, by amputation of both arms.

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd 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 served there until the evacuation in December.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 3rd Battalion

15th August, 1915 – ANZAC (Lone Pine):

We took over No. 1 Section of LONE PINE at 09.00. The work of improving & strengthening the firing line by deepening & providing Bomb Proof cover was pushed on with immediately. The enemy was very quiet. Casualties three other ranks wounded.

16th August, 1915 – ANZAC:

The night was quiet very few bombs being thrown. The work on the trenches was pushed on vigorously and the line is now in a good defensive condition. During the afternoon we were heavily bombarded by 75 MM gun firing from GUN RIDGE. Our artillery seem unable to deal with this gun. Casualties 2 other ranks wounded.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Francis Naughton was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England on 30th August, 1915 with Gunshot wounds to both hands (Amputated both hands), gunshot wounds to right leg, knee & thigh.

Mrs H. Naughton, Charters Towers, was advised on 11th September, 1915 by Secretary of Defence that her son had been *“wounded August 16th not reported seriously. No other particulars available. Will immediately advise anything further received.”* She was advised on 15th September, 1915 that her son was seriously ill in King George Hospital, London. Mrs Naughton cabled back to Secretary of Defence *“hope you will soon be better letter following love from Mother.”*

Mrs H. Naughton, Charters Towers, was advised on 21st October, 1915 by Secretary of Defence that her son was progressing satisfactorily.

Newspaper article – *The Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 23 October, 1915:

THE EUROPEAN WAR

Mrs T. Naughton, Racecourse Road, has received letters from her son, Private J. F. Naughton, now in King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London. The first was written from H.M./ Hospital Ship Rewa on August 18, by the Chaplain Rev. V. L. Kellan, stating Private Naughton, on whose behalf he was writing, as unfortunately he could not write himself, was brought to the ship suffering from severe wounds from a bomb. “I deeply regret to say,” the writer continues, “that he has lost both his hands. It is indeed very sad, but he is doing very well and is most heroic about it. May God reward you and him for the great sacrifice he has made for his King and country. Such men are the honor of the Empire, and you may well be proud of having such a son.” The other letter was written at his dictation by a nurse in the hospital, and stated he had a very bad knee, but thank goodness, through the kindness of the Sisters it was doing well. He wrote most cheerfully of the loss he had sustained. The nurse added that he was an excellent patient – patient, brave and cheerful.

Newspaper article – *The Evening Telegraph*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 10 March, 1916:

Lost Both Hands

YET WRITES VERY WELL

TOWERS SOLDIER IN LONDON

The following letter from Mr Jack Naughton to his sister, Mrs Worsfield, of Charters Towers, is of sad interest. Jack is a son of Mrs Naughton, of Racecourse Road, and the family are extremely well known and highly respected, having carried on business here for the past thirty years. The writer enlisted at Bathurst and was sadly wounded at the Dardanelles, where he lost both hands, and it is doubtful if he will recover the use of one of his legs. Lady Robinson, (Agent-General's wife) is supplying him with artificial limbs, and other ladies have been more than kind to him in his misfortune. This letter is one of many he has written himself in spite of his infirmities, and all through he has never be-moaned his fate, and kept a stout heart, to the admiration of his new friends in Britain, and his old ones here.

He writes from King George Hospital, Stamford-street, Waterloo, London S.E., A. G. Ward, on January 8th:—Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and received your letter and remittance all right. I have been outdriving a lot, and to theatres, and was at a music hall, called the Coliseum. Madame Sarah Bernhardt was acting; she is over seventy years of age, and she had a leg taken off. The place was crowded. It was a great honour to see a play like that, as there were thousands turned away. But they always make room for a wounded soldier. They took me up in a lift and then a man carried me on his back. Queen Alexandra and the Queen of Portugal were in a box just at the back of me, and we had tea in there with Lady Birdwood, and all eyes were turned on me, because I had to be fed and could not walk. The people are good here; they can't do enough for me. There is another lady I wish you would write to and thank—Mrs E. Tuff, 4 Repley Buildings, Rushworth-street, London S.E. She has been very good to me,

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and she lost her husband in the war ten months ago. He is reported missing, but she has heard he is dead. She is a real good sort; cannot do enough for me. The doctor is going to fix me up with crutches; I have been trying to walk on crutches, and it is funny to see me holding them and getting along I generally go to ladies' places for tea, and girls eighteen and over smoke cigarettes and the mother and father with us after tea. It looks terrible, but it is the fashion with the high ladies. I don't like it and have told them. I said they ought to jump into trousers straight away. I am pretty good at writing now and it don't take me long to scribble a few lines.

Private John Francis Naughton was discharged from The King George Hospital & transferred to 1st Australian General Hospital, Harefield on 12th April, 1916. (The date of 12th April, 1916 was listed on the Admission to Hospital form, however the "Casualty Form – Active Service" has the date of 31st May, 1916.)

Newspaper article – *The Northern Herald*, Cairns, Queensland – 21 April, 1916:

Letter from a Handless Soldier

Mrs McKeown, Sheridan Street, has received the following letter from Private J. F. Naughton, written in King George Hospital and dated February 1st:- "I had a bit of stiff luck getting wounded, as badly as I did. I got both my hands off at the wrists and I was wounded in both legs. My right leg will never be much good to me. I was under six operations with it. I am opened from the knee to the thigh, but my wounds are all healed now. I surprise the people what I can do without hands, but whenever I go anywhere I have to be carried and fed like a baby. It will be a long time before I can get back to Australia. I have to go into another hospital to get artificial hands. I have written his letter with the pencil between my wrists."

A Medical Report was completed on Private John Francis Naughton on 22nd May, 1916 at 1st Australian General Hospital, Harefield. His disability was reported as "Amputation both arms" which had occurred at Gallipoli on 14th August, 1915 when a bomb exploded in his hands while on active service, necessitating immediate amputation of both hands. His present condition as described as "Both hands amputation. Right knee almost completely ____". The Medical Board recommended that Private Naughton be discharged as permanently unfit for any military service.

Private John Francis Naughton was admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London on 31st August, 1916

Private John Francis Naughton was discharged from St. Mary's Convalescent Hospital on 19th October, 1916 for furlough & was to then report to A.D.M.S. at Headquarters for extension of artificial limbs on 20th November, 1916.

Private John Francis Naughton was admitted to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital on 25th October, 1916 with kidney trouble.

Private John Francis Naughton died at 3 am on 18th November, 1916 at Fulham Military Hospital, Hammersmith, London, England from Renal Calculus Nephritis Botany inadequacy.

A death for John F. Naughton, aged 31, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Fulham, London, England.

Private John Francis Naughton was buried on 21st November, 1916 in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England – Soldiers' Plot, Grave No. 22 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. A telegram to Records Australian Forces, London on 18th November, 1916 stated the funeral was to be held at 9.30 am.

A letter was written from Base Records on 19th April, 1920 to Mrs H. Naughton, mother of the late Private Naughton, of Racecourse Road, Charters Towers, Queensland, advising that the remains of her son, the late No. 963, Private J. F. Naughton, 3rd Battalion, had been exhumed from the former site & re-interred in Grave No. 9 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.*"

Private John Francis Naughton requested in his Will dated 11th November, 1914, that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to James Naughton, Racecourse Road, Charters Towers, Queensland.

Base Records contacted Mrs H. Naughton, mother of the late Private Naughton, of Racecourse Road, Charters Towers, Queensland in August, 1920 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs H. Naughton replied that her husband had died on 21st June, 1914 & her son had no wife or children.

Private John Francis Naughton was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Naughton's mother – Mrs H. Naughton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. F. Naughton – service number 963, of 3rd Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

J. F. Naughton is remembered on the Richmond Hill Teachers and Ex-Pupils Roll of Honour, located at Zara Clark Transport and Folk Museum, 36 Mosman Street, Charters Towers, Queensland.

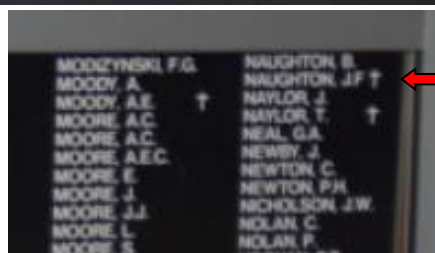


Richmond Hill Teachers and Ex-Pupils Roll of Honour (Photo from VWMA – Marjorie Earl)

J. F. Naughton is remembered on the Charters Towers WW1 Wall of Remembrance, located at Prior Street, Richmond Hill, Queensland.



Charters Towers WW1 Wall of Remembrance (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



The Charters Towers War Memorial, located at Gill Street, Charters Towers, Queensland does not list individual names.



Charters Towers War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

Private J. F. Naughton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 37.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(80 pages of Private John Francis Naughton's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

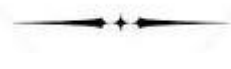
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16947

Private John Francis Naughton



Newspaper Notices

TWO CASUALTY LISTS

PROGRESS REPORT

Pte J. F. Naughton, 3rd Bn., Charters Towers (progressing satisfactorily; previously reported wounded and dangerously ill)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 1 November, 1915)

Australia's My Home

We have received from a correspondent the original of the following written under the conditions as stated by the unfortunate Anzac himself:-

There a place where the sun shines nearly every day,

And the skies are ever blue;

Where the folks are happy as the days are long,

And there's lots of work to:

Where the soft wind blows, and the gum tree grows,

As far as the eye can see;

And the magpie chaffs, and the kookaburra laughs,

Australia is the place for me.

Written with pen between wrists as both hands are off.

Pte J. F. NAUGHTON, D. Coy., 2nd Bat, A.I.F.

Harefield Hospital,

17.4.16

(*The Southern Districts Advocate*, Katanning, Western Australia – 1 November, 1916)

LATEST WAR NEWS

246th CASUALTY LIST

Pte J. F. Naughton, Charters Towers, died of illness.

(*The Evening Telegraph*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 5 December, 1916)

Social and Personal

The flag at the Town hall,,, is flying half-mast today (Wednesday) in memory of Lieut. W. H. Gartrell and Pte J. F. Naughton, news of whose death was received during the past week.

(*The Evening Telegraph*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 29 November, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

NAUGHTON – In loving memory of Private John Francis Naughton, who died of wounds at the Fulham Military Hospital, Hammersmith, London, on November 18th, 1916.

A loving son and brother, true and kind.

Loved by those he left behind;

Far from the land of wattle.

The place that gave his birth,

His heart was good, his spirit brave-

His resting place a soldier's grave.

(Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers, Mrs T. Naughton and family).

(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Queensland – 19 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

NAUGHTON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private J. F. Naughton, who died of wounds, Military Hospital, England, November 18th, 1916.

You are always in our thoughts, dear Jack,

It is sweet to speak your name.

In life we loved you dearly –

In death we do the same;

And now he is sleeping his last long sleep,

And his grave we may never see;

But some gentle hand, is a distant land,

Will lay down a flower for me.

(Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers, H. Naughton.)

(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Queensland – 18 November, 1920)



J. F. NAUGHTON

(Photo from 'Queenslanders who fought in the Great War.')



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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 26th July, 1921, to Mrs H. Naughton, of Plant Street, Charters Towers, Queensland advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late Pte J. F. Naughton, 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. F. Naughton does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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)*

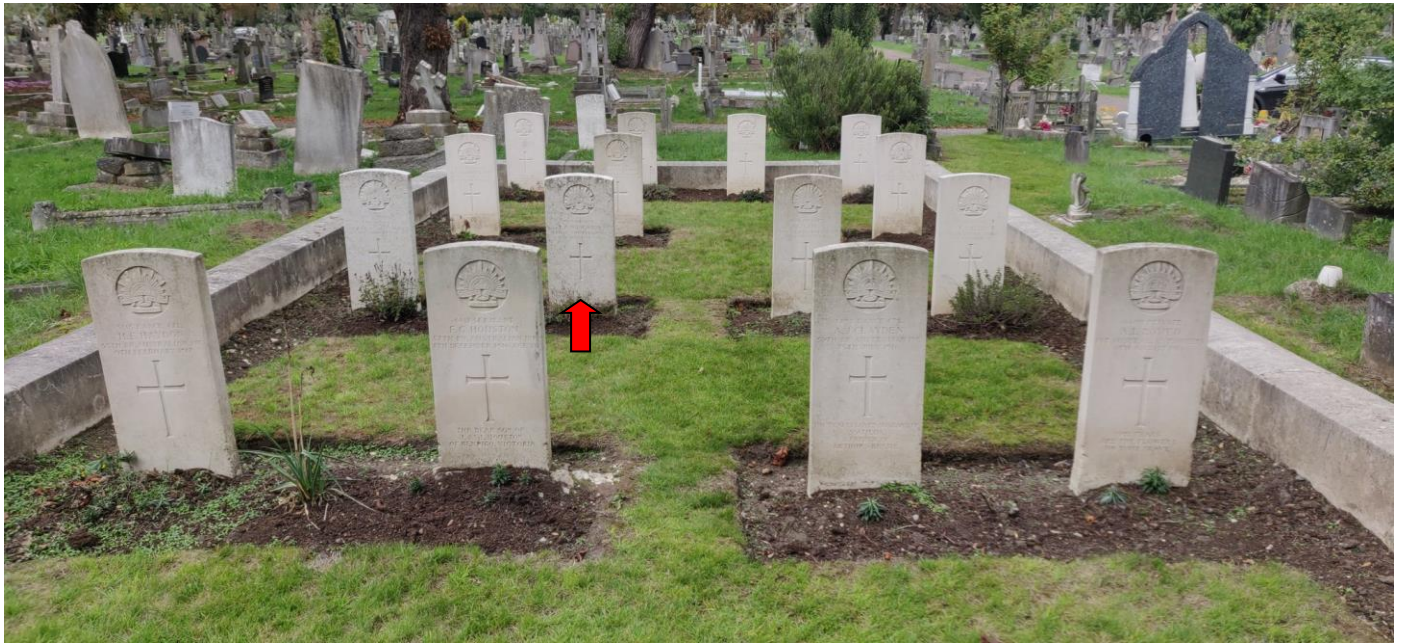


Cross of Sacrifice - All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green *(Photo by Chris Doran)*

Photo of Private J. F. Naughton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England.



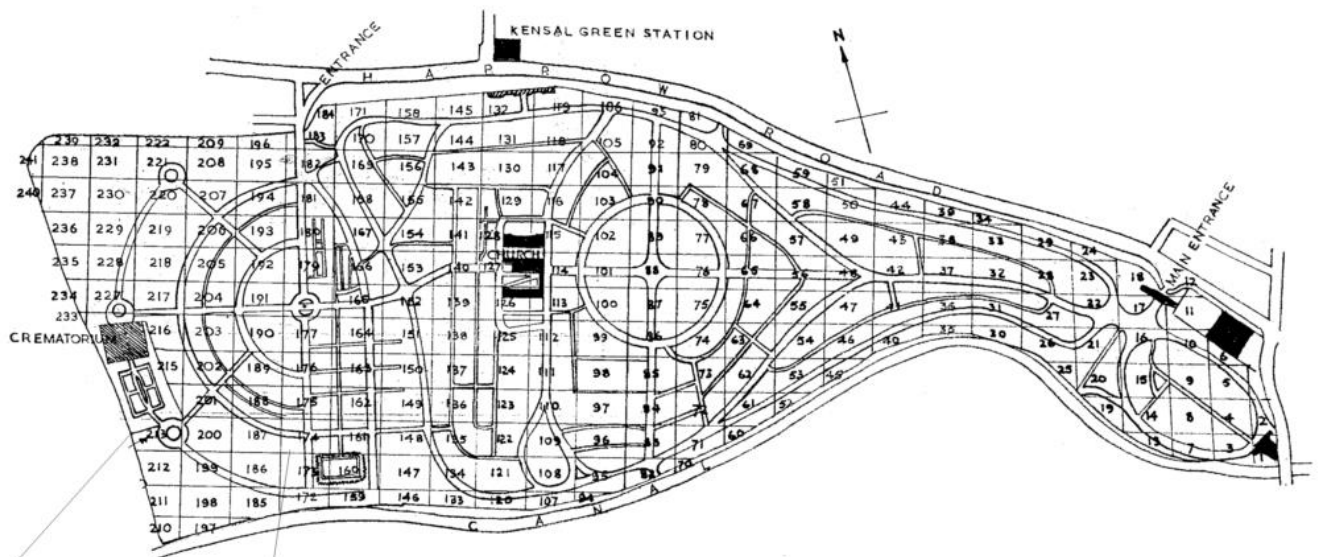
(Photo courtesy of Len Scott)



All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green – Private Naughton’s Headstone marked with red arrow

(Photo courtesy of Dave Shackson)

Map of All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London



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

War Memorial's wounded Anzac mystery unravelled by high school history teacher

By [Tegan Osborne](#) for [Shooting the Past](#)



PHOTO: The mystery surrounding this photo of a WWI soldier appears to have been solved. (ABC RN: Tegan Osborne)

Clever detective work by a high school history teacher has helped identify an Anzac amputee from World War I.

The search for the soldier's name began in September when the Australian War Memorial put out a call for information to help to identify the soldier, who appeared in a photograph from the AWM collection. The soldier in the photo was missing both hands, but remarkably, appeared to be writing a letter.

Nothing else was known about the picture, except that it was donated to the memorial after WWI, and was likely taken at the No 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Harefield, England.

Listen to Shooting the Past



Hear the program that sparked the search for information about the AWM's photo of the Anzac amputee.

After reading about it online, 38-year-old Ryan Dudley from Camden in NSW began trawling online service records and newspaper archives for possible leads.

"I thought, 'Well, why not? Let's have a look and see what I can find,'" he said.

Through dogged work, Mr Dudley — who teaches history and has a keen interest in genealogy — managed to track down a newspaper article mentioning an Anzac named Jack Naughton, from Charters Towers in North Queensland.

The article was based on a letter Private Naughton sent to his sister in 1915, after returning to England following his injury. In it, he spoke of being treated well by his new acquaintances, who had taken him out driving, and to a music hall attended by European royalty.

But it's the newspaper's introduction to the letter that gave away the connection to the AWM photo:

Lost both hands yet writes very well, Towers soldier in London

The following letter from Jack Naughton to his sister Mrs Worsfield, of Charters Towers, is of sad interest ... The writer enlisted at Bathurst and was sadly wounded at Dardanelles, where he lost both hands, and it is doubtful he will recover the use of one of his legs ... This letter is one of many he has written himself in spite of his infirmities.

The Evening Telegraph (Charters Towers, Qld) March 10, 1916.

Another article, based on a letter from an Australian woman in the UK, mentioned a soldier called Naughton, whom she met at Harefield Park Hospital:

Central Queenslanders in England, letter from Mrs H G Wheeler

Mrs H G Wheeler, writing to Miss M S Trotman from London on the 19th of April, says ... On Friday Mrs Hall very kindly drove me out to Harefield Park Hospital ... Naughton, the Charters Towers boy, is also there waiting for his hands to be fitted. His thigh is sufficiently healed to allow him to walk a little without crutches.

Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld) July 27, 1916.

Family still living in Qld, Tas

Using online genealogy resources, Mr Dudley then tracked down two of Private Naughton's living relatives.

His great niece, Robyn Aylmer from Launceston, said she felt a strong sense of connection to the man in the AWM's photo as soon as she laid eyes on it.

"When I saw the photo, I thought, 'Oh my God, how amazing ... that's definitely a Naughton'," Ms Aylmer said.

"I knew he died in the war ... but other than that, no — they never talked about it at all."

Ms Aylmer said it didn't surprise her at all that after losing his arms, Jack Naughton — whose full name was actually John Francis Naughton — was still determined to write home.



PHOTO: Robyn Aylmer and her husband Geoff live in Launceston, Tasmania. (Supplied)

"They [Private Naughton and his siblings] were all North Queensland bushmen ... and a very practical and tough bunch," she said.

"[His] brother Thomas was my grandfather ... they were an extremely resilient family."



PHOTO: Wyn Hall inherited this photo of Private John Francis Naughton from her mother. (Supplied: Wyn Hall)

Mr Dudley also managed to track down another relative, Wyn Hall from Gordonvale in North Queensland.

Private Naughton was the nephew of Ms Hall's great-grandmother.

Ms Hall inherited a different photo of him from her mother — and the similarities between this photo, and the AWM's image, are striking. She's since passed on the photo to a relative in Charters Towers, who told her a little more about Private Naughton.

"He was going to marry one of the nurses that looked after him," she said.

Naughton's story led to proper burials for soldiers

The memorial's photograph shows us an image of a resilient and determined man.

But as Professor Bruce Scates, from the Australian National University's School of History explains, like so many other Anzacs, Private Naughton's story ended in tragedy.

Private Naughton died in England from kidney disease on November 18, 1916, about a year after being injured. But the indignities he suffered did not end there.

"He was buried initially in an open grave ... there were just so many casualties, we couldn't keep pace with the number of men dying in the hospitals," Professor Scates said.

"Up until 1917 we were still burying [soldiers] en masse. The only people who got individual graves were officers, and nurses, who are honorary officers. Other than that, men were often buried in pits."



PHOTO: John Francis Naughton's name can be found on the AWM's Roll of Honour in Canberra. (ABC RN: Tegan Osborne)

Private Naughton's body was left exposed at Kensal Green Cemetery in London for weeks. The grave was only covered after protests from Australian expatriates.

In 1921, Private Naughton's body was exhumed and placed in a separate plot for Australian soldiers.

Professor Scates said Australian anger over the undignified treatment Private Naughton received in death eventually led to the establishment of more fitting burial practices for the fallen. So the humble private from Charters Towers actually played an important role in shaping how Australia's war dead were treated.

"Really, the story of Naughton after his death is as important as the story before it," Professor Scates said.

A 'convincing' connection

Professor Scates said there was a "fairly convincing" case to be made, that the soldier in the AWM's photo was indeed Private Naughton.

"The historical record is never complete, and its often complex and contradictory. Having said that, you've got a huge volume of evidence there that suggests that this is Naughton," he said.

Professor Scates said Australia's historical record was being "democratised" by the internet — and there were two groups of people that needed to be acknowledged.

"All the libraries that have been involved in the digitisation project of our papers ... [and] the general public, who are now out there, claiming history as their own, following up those exciting leads," he said.



PHOTO: Joanne Smedley holds the memorial's photo of Private John Francis Naughton. (ABC RN: Tegan Osborne)

AWM curator Joanne Smedley, from the memorial's photographs, film and sound section, said having a name to the photograph allowed the memorial to give it its proper place in history.

The photograph has now been added to Private Naughton's entry on the AWM's online Roll of Honour.

"It's a little bit of a mystery that has perhaps been solved," Ms Smedley said.

"All those connections that are now being made, it allows us to tell a story that we haven't been able to tell fully."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-28/history-teacher-helps-solve-anzac-amputee-mystery/9089394>
