

**Botley Cemetery,
Botley, Oxfordshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



673 PRIVATE

J. PITT

42ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 28

In Memory

Of The Beloved Son

Of Mrs Pitt, Childers. Q'Land

Joseph PITT

Joseph Outten Pitt was born at Maryborough, Queensland on 11th September, 1890 to parents Joseph and Emma Naomi Pitt (nee Turner).

Joseph Pitt, father of Joseph Outten Pitt, died on 11th June, 1904 at Apple Tree Creek, Childers, Queensland.

Joseph Outten Pitt attended Apple Tree Creek School at Childers, Queensland.

The 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wide Bay, subdivision of Childers, Queensland recorded Joseph Pitt, Labourer from Apple-tree Creek.

Joseph Pitt was a 25 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted on 29th December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 673 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Emma Pitt, of Childers, Queensland. Joseph Pitt stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been temporarily rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to his teeth.

Private Joseph Pitt was posted to No. 10 D.B. (Depot Battalion) on 30th December, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 34th Battalion on 15th January, 1916. Private Pitt was transferred to 42nd Service Battalion, A.I.F. on 23rd February, 1916.

Private Joseph Pitt embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 5th June, 1916 with the 42nd Infantry Battalion, "C" Company & disembarked at Southampton, England on 23rd July, 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 Joseph Pitt was written up for an Offence on 28th August, 1916 while posted at Larkhill, Wiltshire – Absent without leave from 12 midnight on 27th August, 1916 til 2.30 pm on 28th August, 1916 – 14 ½ hours. This was admonished by Captain A. Pott, Commanding Battalion.

Private Joseph Pitt proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 25th November, 1916.

Private Joseph Pitt was sent to Hospital sick on 13th December, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion the same day.

Private Joseph Pitt was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 13th February, 1917 with Pleuritis. He was transferred to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 14th February, 1917 & admitted with "Br Catarrh". Private Pitt was transferred to D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 14th February, 1917 then transferred to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station on 27th February, 1917 with Bronch. Catarrh & Debility. He was transferred to No. 10 Ambulance Train on 2nd March, 1917 & admitted the same day to 8th Stationary Hospital at Wimereux, France with Debility. Private Pitt was transferred to No. 1 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne, France on 8th March, 1917.

Private Joseph Pitt was admitted to hospital at Boulogne, France on 15th March, 1917 with "ulcer tonsil". He was transferred to No. 7 Convalescent Depot on 3rd April, 1917 then transferred to No. 10 Convalescent Depot on 12th April, 1917. Private Pitt was admitted to No. 10 Convalescent Depot at Ecault on 13th April, 1917 with an "ulcer tonsil."

Private Joseph Pitt was transferred to No. 3 Rest Camp at Ecault on 5th June, 1917. He was marched out to Harfleur on 7th Jun, 1917 from No. 3 Rest Camp & marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles on 8th June, 1917. Private Pitt was marched out from 3rd A.D.B.D. at Rouelles on 3rd August, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the Field on 4th August, 1917.

Private Joseph Pitt was appointed Lance Corporal with 42nd Battalion on 2nd September, 1917.

Lance Corporal Joseph Pitt was on furlough in France from 28th November, 1917.

Lance Corporal Joseph Pitt reverted to the rank of Private on 2nd January, 1918.

Private Joseph Pitt was admitted to Australian Field Ambulance on 23rd February, 1918. He was transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 24th February, 1918 with an injury to his back. Private Pitt was discharged to duty on 9th March, 1918 & re-joined his Battalion on 12th March, 1918.

Private Joseph Pitt was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 28th May, 1918 then transferred to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 29th May, 1918 with Orchitis. He was transferred & admitted to 1st General Hospital at Etretat on 2nd June, 1918. Private Pitt embarked for England on 28th June, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle*.

42nd Battalion

The 42nd Battalion was raised at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane, in December 1915 and became part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. Due to sharing its numeric title with the famous Scottish regiment the Black Watch, the battalion became known as the "Australian Black Watch". This association was recognised with a bagpipe band.

After training in Australia and Britain, the 42nd deployed to France on 26 November 1916 and entered the frontline for the first time on 23 December. The winter of 1916-17 was horrendous, and the 42nd spent much of it in the front line, the remainder being spent alternating between training and labouring in the rear areas.

In 1917, the operations of the 3rd Division were focussed on the Ypres sector of Belgium. The 42nd participated in major battles.....Broodseinde on 4 October, and Passchendaele on 12 October. Even though the battalion was in a reserve role, the battle of Passchendaele proved particularly costly. It lost over a third of its strength, principally from German gas attacks, and trench foot caused by the sodden condition of the battlefield.

Belgium remained the scene of the 42nd Battalion's activities for the next five months as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in blunting the drive towards the vital railway junction of Amiens.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Joseph Pitt was admitted to Horton County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England on 29th June, 1918 with Orchitis. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital Dartford on 15th July, 1918. Private Pitt was granted furlough from 19th July, 1918 to 2nd August, 1918 & was then to report to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Joseph Pitt was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 2nd August, 1918. He was medically classified as B1 B (Unfit for active service for a few weeks).

Private Joseph Pitt was sent to sick to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 2nd September, 1918 (Appendicitis) then admitted - cause "N.Y.D. (Colic)" (not yet determined).

Private Joseph Pitt was transferred to 3rd Southern General Hospital at Oxford, England on 19th October, 1918.

Private Joseph Pitt died at 8.30 am on 27th October, 1918 at 3rd Southern General Hospital (Tesdale House, Abingdon Section), Oxford, England from Pneumonia following Influenza.

A death for Joseph Pitt, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, England.

Private Joseph Pitt was buried on 31st October, 1918 in Botley Cemetery, Botley, Oxfordshire, England – Plot number I1.141 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Joseph Pitt - *Coffin was Elm with brass mounts. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the*

graveside, where the "Last Post" was sounded and the Rev: A. S. Beckett of Oxford officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Newspaper item - Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 26 April, 1919:

THE LATE PRIVATE JOSEPH PITT

Mrs. Joseph Pitt, of Appletree Creek, has received the following letter from Gertrude Smith, night nurse at Tesdale House, Red Cross Hospital, Berkshire, England, anent the death of her son, Private Joseph Pitt:

Dear Madam. — Before this reaches you, you will have heard the sad tidings of the passing away of your brave boy, Joseph Pitt, and as I was with him all through the last night, I felt it might be some little comfort to you to have a letter from me, as you must just long to hear all you can, and my heart aches for you brave patient mothers who cannot be with your darlings through the last days. Your son came to our hospital on Saturday, October 19th, and I was on night duty, and very constant attendance on him through the week until he passed quietly away on Sunday morning, 27th, at 8.30 a.m. I could see at once he was very ill, and he had his constitution not been as good as it was, he could never have lived the week. We did everything we could to save him, and our matron is very clever, and the doctor stayed with me the last night up till 6 a.m., hoping against hope, but the septic pneumonia is a hard foe to fight, and it would conquer at the last. But I am thankful he did not suffer much, and was so cheery and grateful. I was so struck by his thoughtfulness the final night I was with him, and was giving him some nourishment, by his saying "Sit down, nurse, you must be tired." Dear lad, they do not often think of that — he was so grateful, and had a way of saying things felt "good" like the soft warm pneumonia jacket. I could see how he loved Australia and wanted to tell me of the beautiful birds and butterflies, only he could not talk much as it made him cough, and he used to say "I wish I could talk," and we would reply "when you are better," hoping he might pull through, but it was not to be. The good Father in Heaven has called his brave soldier for other work in the sinless land, where there shall be no more weariness or terrible war, and surely your boy has heard the "well done, good and faithful servant" from his Captain. Our chaplain was with him several times, and that last night when he said the Lord's Prayer, your boy was able to join in, and when I went to your boy afterwards he said "He is a nice fellow." If there is anything you want to know that I am able to tell you, please write and ask me. I know what it is to lose one very dear right away in Canada, and the sorrow it is to know we could not be with him at the last. We had many Australians in that same night that Private Pitt arrived, and I know one of them means to write to you. Our little hospital is a V.A.D. one, and we try to make it as homelike as possible, and your boy was able to be in a room with only one other patient, and on looking round the first morning, he said, with an air of great satisfaction "This is a cosy little room." The doctor and matron, and all the nurses who attended on your boy were very fond of him - he was so cheery and hopeful, and did so want to get well. He used to sleep a great deal, which was a great comfort for him. He told me he had been gassed twice, so the lungs had not much chance when pneumonia set in. We in England feel so keenly the splendid sacrifice our men from the Dominions are offering up, and the wonderful work they have accomplished. This is but a poor letter, but my heart is very sore for you, and for all who loved Pitt - and they must be many, for he was a splendid specimen of young manhood. It is a grand death to die for one's country, and for the freedom of the world, but the blank these young lives leave behind is very terrible. May God give comfort, as He only can and believe me to remain. i am, etc. GERTRUDE SMITH.

Private Joseph Pitt was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Pitt's widowed mother – Mrs E. Pitt, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

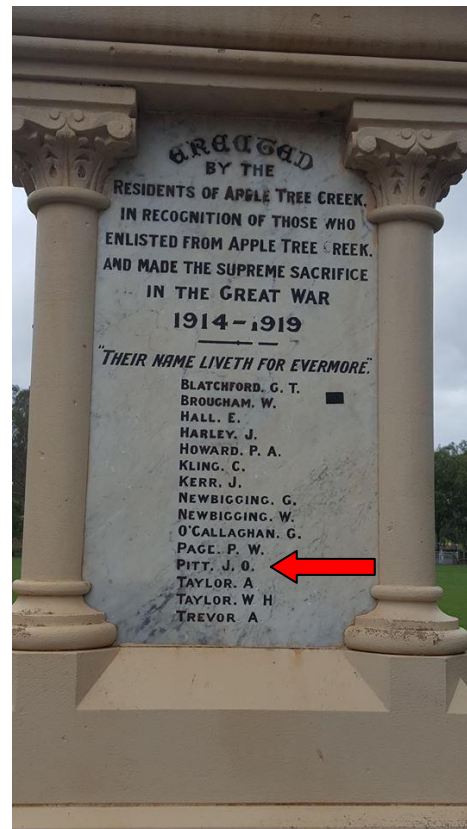
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Joseph Pitt – service number 673, aged 28, of 42nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joseph and Emma Naomi Pitt, of Apple Tree Creek, Childers, Queensland.

Private J. Pitt is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 136.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. O. Pitt is remembered on the Apple Tree Creek War Memorial, located on Bruce Highway, Apple Tree Creek, Queensland.



Apple Tree Creek War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Faithe)

J. O. Pitt is remembered on the Apple Tree Creek Honour Board, located in Memorial Hall, Bruce Highway, Apple Tree Creek, Queensland.



Apple Tree Creek Honour Board (Photo from Virtual War Memorial Australia)

J. Pitt is remembered on the C.S.R. Co's Childers Mill Roll of Honour, located in the Isis sub-branch R.S.L., 55 Churchill Street, Childers, Queensland.



C.S.R. Co's Childers Mill Roll of Honour (Photo from Queensland War Memorials Register)

J. Pitt is remembered on the Isis District Roll of Honour, located at Marscke Road, Isis Central, Queensland.



Isis District Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Faithe)

(50 pages of Private Joseph Pitt'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



Joseph Pitt

Newspaper Notices

APPLETREE CREEK

The deepest sympathy is expressed for the mother and family of the late Private Joseph Pitt, of the 42nd Battalion, who recently died from wounds in England. He was a fine specimen of Australian manhood, and was the main stay of his widowed mother and her family, he being the eldest. He was much respected and beloved by all who knew him, and was 28 years of age at the time of his death. His father, Joseph Pitt, died in 1904.

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 18 December, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Queensland Casualties

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Joseph Pitt, Childers, 27/10/18, illness, p.r.d.o.i.

(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 3 January, 1919)

ISIS

IN MEMORIAM

Childers, October 29.

The Isis Shire Council have from time to time, as our brave soldier lads have returned home, presented them with a memento in the form of a certificate, thanking them for their services on behalf of the citizens. On Monday afternoon last a special meeting of the Council was held at the Council Chambers, and the relatives of those soldiers who had fallen in the great war were presented with an "In Memoriam" certificate, suitably framed.....

The following is a list of the names of those who paid the supreme sacrifice:-Joseph Pitt....

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 1 November, 1919)

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)

Private J. Pitt does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Beloved Son Of Mrs Pitt, Childers, Q'Land

Botley Cemetery, Botley, Oxfordshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

During the First World War, the 3rd Southern General Hospital (an Oxfordshire Territorial Unit) was housed in the Examination Schools and a number of other buildings in Oxford. Oxford (Botley) Cemetery contains 156 burials from the First World War, all in the war graves plot in section I/1. The cemetery was designated a Royal Air Force regional cemetery during the Second World War and was used by RAF stations in Berkshire and neighbouring counties. Practically all of the 516 Second World War burials (one of them unidentified) are in the war graves plot, which was extended from the section used during the First World War. The architectural features of the plot were designed by Edward Maufe, ARA. In addition to the Commonwealth war graves, Oxford (Botley) Cemetery contains almost 70 war graves of other nationalities.

There are eight Australian World War 1 War Graves.

(Information from CWGC)



Botley Cemetery (*Photos from CWGC*)



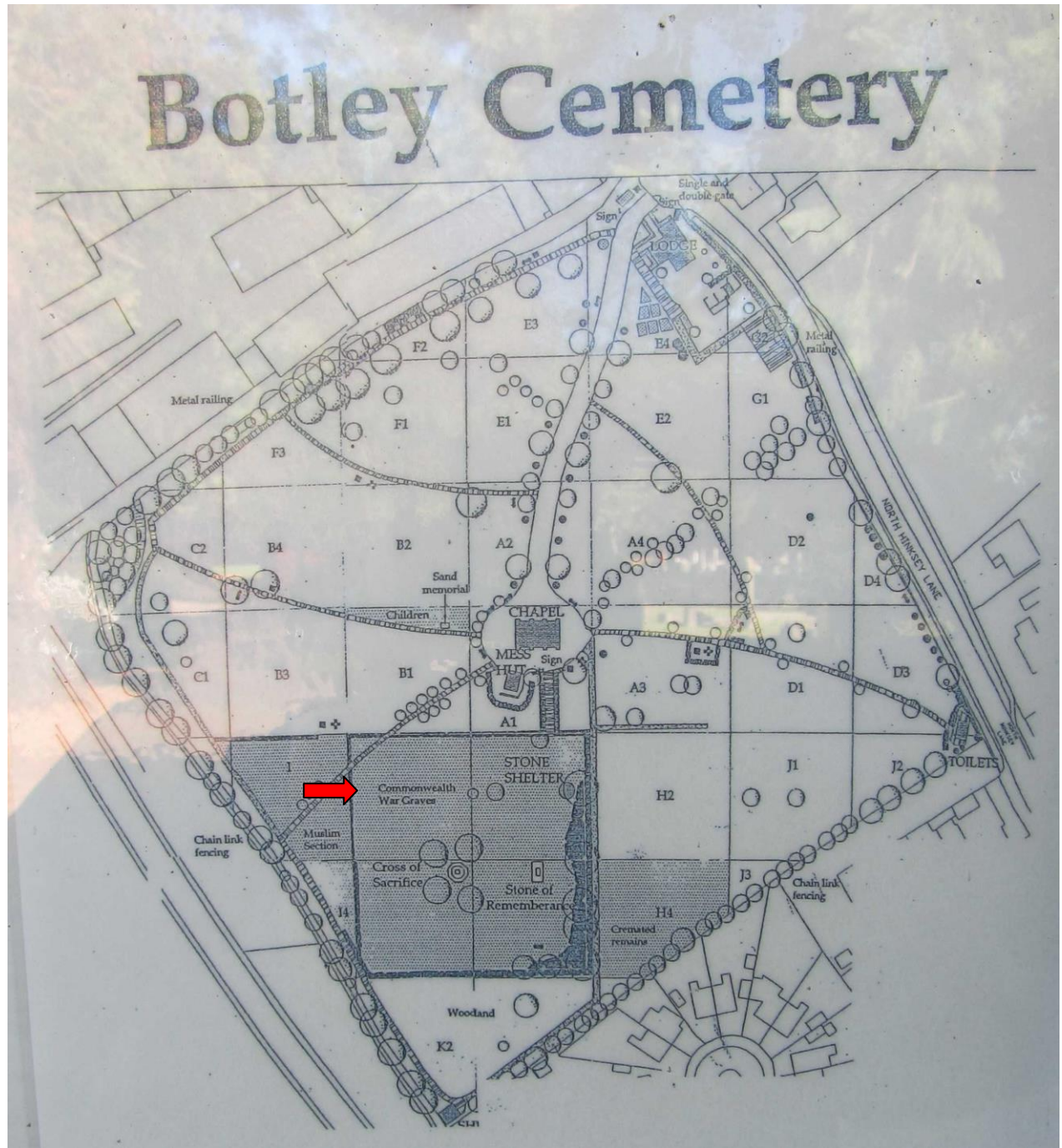
Photo of Private J. Pitt's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Botley Cemetery, Botley, Oxfordshire, England.



(Photo by Stephen Potts – Find a Grave)



(Photo by Stephen Potts – Find a Grave)

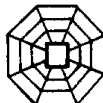


(Maps by Kevin Smith – Find a Grave)



STONE OF REMEMBRANCE

PLOT H. 3



CROSS OF SACRIFICE

PLOT I. 2



SHELTER

REGISTER BOX

PLOT H. 1

1914-1918
WAR
BURIALS

PLOT I.1

GERMAN
BURIALS

GERMAN
BURIALS

ITALIAN
BURIALS

E
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T
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A
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E

OXFORD (BOTLEY) CEMETERY

WAR GRAVES PLOT

