

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,  
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3619 PRIVATE**

**N. F. PONT**

**57TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**26TH DECEMBER, 1916**

## Norman Frederick PONT

Norman Frederick Pont was born at Geelong, Victoria in 1892 to parents James Robert & Ellen Amelia Pont (nee Griffiths).

The 1914 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Corio, subdivision of Newton and Chilwell, Victoria, listed Norman Frederick Pont, Labourer from 60 Fyans St, Chilwell, Geelong.

From the Court of Petty Sessions, Geelong, Victoria on 13th November, 1915: Norman Frederick Pont was accused by Constable James Lewis Loughron: "Defendant on 12th November 1915 at Geelong did behave in an insulting manner in a public place." The case was adjourned till 16th instant & accused was on bail for £10. The case was adjourned on 16th November, 1915 "*to a day to be fixed – see 28.3.16*". The complaint was withdrawn on 28th March, 1916.

Norman Frederick Pont was a 23 year old, single, Labourer (listed as Woollen Mill Hand on Attestation Papers) from Latrobe Terrace, Chilwell, Victoria (mother's residence) when he enlisted on 7th September, 1915 at Geelong, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr James Robert Pont, Lyons Street, Chilwell, Victoria.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was posted to "D" Company at Geelong on 10th August, 1915 (date as per Statement of Service form) for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion at Broadmeadows on 22nd November, 1915.

Private Norman Frederick Pont, Service number 3619, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 5th January, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 22nd Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

### 22nd Battalion

The 22nd Battalion AIF was formed on 26 March 1915 at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria. The battalion became part of the 6th Brigade of the 2nd Division....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Norman Frederick Pont was allotted to & proceeded to join 57th Battalion at Zeitoun on 23rd February, 1916. He was taken on strength of 57th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 23rd February, 1916 from 22nd Battalion.

### 57th Battalion

The 57th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 18 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. 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.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Norman Frederick Pont reported sick on 24th February, 1916 & was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance with Influenza then was transferred to No. 2 Field Ambulance on the same day. He was transferred & admitted to No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 27th February, 1916 with Bronchitis. Private Pont was transferred to No. 4 Hospital Train on 9th March, 1916 & was admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital, Heliopolis on the same day. He was discharged to No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital at Abbassia on 21st March, 1916 then transferred & admitted to Ras-el-Tin Camp Hospital at Alexandria on 23rd March, 1916. Private Pont was discharged to Base at Tel-el-Kebir on 17th April, 1916.

Base Records advised Mr J. R. Pont, Fyans Street, Chilwell, Victoria, father of Private Norman Frederick Pont, on 17th March, 1916 that No. 3169 Private N. F. Pont, 57th Battalion, late 22nd Battalion, had been admitted to 3rd General Hospital, Mudros West on 9th March, 1916 with bronchitis mild.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was allotted to & proceeded to join 24th Battalion at Zeitoun on 14th March, 1916.

### **24th Battalion**

...The Battalion was reunited in Egypt in early 1916 and proceeded to France in March. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in July and August 1916.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Norman Frederick Pont was marched in to Combined Training & General Base Depot & posted to 6th Training Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 18th April, 1916.

Private Norman Frederick Pont embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 10th May, 1916 on H.M.T. *Scotian* with 24th Battalion to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 18th May, 1916.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was admitted to No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Moussoi on 20th May, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was discharged to duty on 29th May, 1916.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was taken on strength of 57th Battalion on 31st July, 1916 in France.

### **57th Battalion**

...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)*

Private Norman Frederick Pont was admitted to Casualty Clearing Station on 9th August, 1916 with Influenza from 4th Field Ambulance. He was admitted to 1st Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 11th August, 1916 with inflamed glands of Neck. Private Pont was evacuated sick on 19th August, 1916 & embarked for England from Calais on 20th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Newhaven*.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was admitted to Carrington Hospital, Bagthorpe, Nottingham, England on 21st August, 1916 with Inflamed Glands of Neck & Suppurating Ear. He was transferred to No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, Middlesex on 2nd September, 1916.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was marched in to No. 2 Australian Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 5th September, 1916 from Harefield. He was medically classified as B – not fit for one month. He was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Wool, Dorset on 16th October, 1916 from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was sent sick to Bulford Hospital on 28th October, 1916 from Administrative Headquarters London. (Another entry on Statement of Service form recorded he was sent "*sick to Bulford Hospital from No. 3 Com Depot Wool V.D.*" on 30th October, 1916). He was admitted to 1st A.D.H. (Australian Dermatological Hospital) at Bulford, Wiltshire on 31st October/1st November, 1916. Private Pont was transferred to Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 8th December, 1916. He was discharged from Delhi Hospital on 18th December, 1916. Total Period V.D. – 50 days.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was admitted to Hospital at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 19th December, 1916 with Pleuro Pneumonia (severe). The Hospital Admissions form recorded the date of admission as 18th December, 1916 & he was admitted with Double Pneumonia. He was reported on 19th December, 1916 to be dangerously ill.

Private Norman Frederick Pont died at 8.30 am on 26th December, 1916 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Double Pneumonia.

A death for Norman F. Pont, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was buried on 28th December, 1916 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 231 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Edward Gurr, of Messrs Gurr, Frier & Co, Public Accountants & Auditors, Geelong, wrote to Base Records on 6th January, 1917: *“Mr J. R. Pont has received word through Canon Wheeler of the death of his son 3619 Pte N. F. Pont of Pneumonia at Tidworth Hospital. Official Record of his death is now required to fix up his affairs. We shall be glad therefore if you will let us have same at your early convenience.”*

Base Records replied to Messrs Gurr, Frier & Co., on 5th February, 1917 advising *“... the necessary confirming documents, covering the report of death of the late No. 3619, Private N. F. Pont. 24th Battalion, have not yet been received by this Department. Your request, however, has been noted for compliance at the earliest possible date....”*

Base Records replied to Messrs Gurr, Frier & Co., on 7th March, 1917, enclosing, as requested in their communication of 6th January, 1917, a certificate of report of death of the late No. 3619 Private N. F. Pont, 57th Battalion.

Doyle & Kerr, Solicitors, Melbourne, Geelong & Terang, wrote to Base Records on 31st January, 1917 regarding Private N. F. Pont No. 3619 57th Battalion, advising *“we are acting for James Robert Pont the father of the abovenamed deceased and would request that you forward us Certificate of Death, A short time since you were written to by Messrs E. G. Gurr Frier & Co on the same matter but they wrote on behalf of the mother, Mrs Ellen Pont who died on the 24th January instant....”*

Base Records replied to Messrs Doyle & Kerr, Solicitors, on 7th March, 1917, enclosing, as requested, a certificate of report of death of the late No. 3619 Private N. F. Pont, 57th Battalion.

Mr J. R. Pont, 393 Pakington Street, Geelong, wrote to Base Records on 15th March, 1917 with the following: *“....would you be so kind and send me my sons Death Paper for the Lodge Private N F Pont No 3619 24 Bat Died on Dec 25th as it is nearly three months now and I am in need of it as I lost my wife six weeks ago she took it to heart over the Boys....”*

Base Records replied to Mr J. R. Pont, on 20th March, 1917, enclosing, as requested, a certificate of report of death of the late No. 3619 Private N. F. Pont, 57th Battalion.

A claim for the War Pension by James Robert Pont, 393 Pakington St, Geelong, father of Private Norman Frederick Pont, 3619, 57th Battalion was rejected – not dependent.

Another statement shows that a War Pension was granted to James Robert Pont, 393 Pakington St, Geelong, father of Private Norman Frederick Pont, 3619, 57th Battalion, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 5th July, 1917.

Private Norman Frederick Pont was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Pont's father – Mr J. R. Pont, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922. The Plaque was returned unclaimed & marked “Deceased” in September, 1922).

Ellen Amelia Pont, mother of Norman Frederick Pont, died on 26th January, 1917 at Geelong, Victoria. James Robert Pont, father of Norman Frederick Pont, died on 20th June, 1922 at Geelong, Victoria.

A notice was prepared for the Press on 3rd November, 1922 to locate the next of kin of the late Private Norman Frederick Pont.

Base Records wrote to Mrs C. Condor, 28 Bond Street, Geelong, Victoria on 2nd October, 1922: *“On 1/8/22 a Memorial Plaque issuable in respect of the late No. 3619 Private N. F. Pont, 57th Battalion, was despatched to your father at 393, Packington Street, Chilwell, Geelong, but the packer was subsequently returned to this office marked “deceased.” As both parents are stated to be deceased and it is desired to dispose of this memento kindly advise the name and address of your eldest brother, or of there are no brothers, the name and address if the eldest sister should be given.”*

Mrs Elsie Munyard, No. 20 Tucker St, Breakwater, wrote to Base Records on 12th November, 1922 with the following: *“Just a line as some of my friends called to tell me that you were seeking me in \_\_\_\_\_ the Melbourne Paper as next kin for my late Brother Pte N F Pont 3619 5 Batt there is also the late Pte R J Pont 4906 5 Batt killed 23.8.18. Having lost my father nearly four months I was then Mrs C. Condor But since Fathers Death I married again to Mr Munyard. You will kindly excuse writing as my nerves are very Bad if you want any more proof I can get it for you .”*

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. Munyard, 20 Tucker St, Breakwater, Victoria on 20th November, 1922: *“With reference to your communication of 12th November, and in order to dispose of certain war mementoes issuable in respect of the services of your two brothers, the late No. 3619 Private N. F. Pont, 57th Battalion, and No. 4906 Private R. J. Pont, 5th Battalion, I should be glad to learn the name and address of the eldest surviving brother, or in the event of there being no brothers, the name and address of the eldest sister should be given...”*

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. Munyard, 20 Tucker St, Breakwater, Victoria on 6th March, 1923: *“I should be glad if you would complete the attached Memorial “A” Form in respect of your brother, the late No. 4906 Private R. J. Pont, 5th Battalion, and return same to this office at the earliest possible moment. It is also desired to bring the records of the above named soldier, and the late No. 3619 Private N. F. Pont, 57th Battalion, up to date, and I should be obliged if you would reply to my enquiry of 20/11/22 wherein the address of the soldiers’ eldest brother was requested, or in the event of there being no brother, the name and address of their eldest sister.”*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Norman Frederick Pont – service number 3619, of 57th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private N. F. Pont 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*



N. Pont is remembered on the Russell Street Baptist Church Chilwell (Newtown) Honor Roll, located in One Hope Baptist Church, 4 – 32 Province Boulevard, Highton, Victoria.



**Russell Street Baptist Church Chilwell (Newtown) Honor Roll** (Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

N. F. Pont is remembered on the Geelong & District Fallen Roll of Honour, located in Geelong & District Peace Memorial, Johnstone Park, Gheringhap Street, Geelong, Victoria.



**Geelong Peace Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)



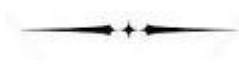
Geelong & District Fallen Roll of Honour



(Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

(76 pages of Private Norman Frederick Pont'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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

Illness

Pte N. F. Pont, Chilwell

*(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 27 March, 1916)*

---

### **DEATHS**

#### **ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

PONT – Died of illness, Hospital, Tidworth, Private Norman F. Pont, of 393 Pakington-street, Chilwell, aged 25 years.

Greater Love hath no man than this, he lay down his life for his friends.

-Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, Elsie, Dot, Clarence, and Bob, on active service.

*(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 12 January, 1917)*

---

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **262nd LIST**

Died of Illness

Pte N. F. PONT, Chilwell

*(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 12 January, 1917)*

---

### **NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS**

#### **FALLEN, WOUNDED, MISSING BULLETINS**

In the 262nd casualty list issued last evening.....

The following Geelong and district names appear in the list:- ....Pte N. F. Pont, Chilwell, died of illness; 26/12/16;....

*(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 12 January, 1917)*

---



## DEATHS

PONT – On the 26th January, 1917, at Geelong, Ellen, dearly loved wife of James R. Pont, of 393 Pakington-street, Chilwell; mother of the late Private G. F., late Private N. F., and R. J. (now in hospital, London), also Elsie, Dot, and Clarence (Geelong); aged 50 years. (Deeply regretted)

-Her remains were interred privately Eastern Cemetery.

W. B. KING & SON, Undertakers.

*(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 26 January, 1917)*

---

## PEACE MEMORIAL

### NAMES ON FOYER

The following are additional names that have been received for inscription on the Foyer records....

.....Norman Frederick Pont, Robert James Pont.....

*(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 24 October, 1925)*

---

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, to Mr J. R. Pont, 393 Pakington Street, Geelong, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 3619 Private N. F. Pont, 57th Battalion, 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 N. F. Pont does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

*(Information from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

*The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.*

*Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground*

*Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.*

*Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

### Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

*A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.*



**Tidworth Military Cemetery** (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)





**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)



Photo of Private N. F. Pont's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)*

