Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

428   SERJEANT

J. R. POOLE

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH NOVEMBER, 1916   Age 30

John Richardson POOLE

John Richardson Poole was born in Camden, NSW in 1886 to parents George and Esther Poole (nee Thorn). His birth was registered as John L. R. Poole (only initials of the middle names are recorded on the NSW B.D.M.'s website)

George Poole, father of John Richardson Poole, died on 23rd November, 1899 at Brownlow Hill, New South Wales.

John Richardson Poole was a 26 year old, single, Coach-driver from Camden, NSW when he enlisted on 22nd August, 1914 with the 1st Light Horse Regiment "C" Squadron of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 428 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Poole, of Camden, NSW. John Richardson Poole was serving in 9th Light Horse Regiment at Camden at the time of enlisting.

John Richardson Poole was posted to 1st Light Horse as Provisional Sergeant on 22nd August, 1914.

(Provisional) Sergeant John Richardson Poole embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 20th October, 1914.

(Provisional) Sergeant John Richardson Poole proceeded to join the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 9th May, 1915.

(Prov.) Sergeant John Richardson Poole was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 20th May, 1915 at Gallipoli Peninsula – vice Sgt. R. S. Smith, 470, killed.

Temporary Sergeant John Richardson Poole was promoted to Sergeant on 20th June, 1915 vice Sgt. Smith died of wounds.

Sergeant John Richardson Poole was sent to Hospital from 1st Light Horse Brigade on 10th July, 1915 – Cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined) & rejoined his Unit on 21st July, 1915.

Sergeant John Richardson Poole was sent to Hospital on 22nd August, 1915 & was transferred & admitted to 19th General Hospital at Alexandria on 5th September, 1915 with enteric. He embarked from Alexandria on Hospital Ship *Karoola* for England on 23rd September, 1915.

Sergeant John Richardson Poole was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital at Cardiff on 5th October, 1915.

Sergeant John Richardson Poole was placed on the Supernumerary List on 4th December, 1915.

Sergeant John Richardson Poole was transferred from 1st Light Horse to 2nd Battalion on 6th September, 1916.

Sergeant John Richardson Poole proceeded overseas to France to Reinforcements of 2nd Battalion on 16th September, 1916. He was taken on strength at 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 17th September, 1916.

Sergeant John Richardson Poole joined 2nd Battalion in the field in Belgium on 29th September, 1916.

Sergeant John Richardson Poole was wounded in action on 12th October, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance with a bomb wound to neck. He was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred & admitted to No. 13 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 15th October, 1916 with wounds to neck (severe). Sergeant Poole was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 18th October, 1916.

War Diary – 2nd Battalion

12th October, 1916

Bn moved at 1900 from WOODCOTE HOUSE to OTTAWA Camp by route march.

Raiding party attacked enemy's trenches as per Operation Order attached.

….. Enemy discovered party on NO MANS LAND before it got into position and immediately opened up a bombing attack, Enemy's trenches were successfully entered. Two prisoners being captured and war material.

Casualties 1 Off Killed LT C. De Winton

1 OR killed and 7 OR wounded.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant John Richardson Poole was admitted to St. Anselm's, Walmer, Kent, England on 18th October, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to head & neck.

Sergeant John Richardson Poole died at 4.30 pm on 5th November, 1916 at Military Hospital*, Shorncliffe from wounds received in action – shrapnel wounds to neck and face (& Acute Lobar Pneumonia).

A death for John Poole, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Eastry, Kent, England.

(*Note – The Field Service Army Form B2090 records that Sergeant John Richardson Poole died at the Military Hospital, Shorncliffe but from information provided for the Red Cross – the O.C. of St. Anselm's V.A.D. Hospital, Walmer states that Sergeant Poole died at St. Anselm's& was then taken to Shorncliffe Military Hospital. The death was registered in the district of Eastry of which Walmer comes under & confirms the Red Cross information. Other soldiers who have died at the Military Hospital, Shorncliffe have had their deaths registered in the district of Elham, Kent. Another internal memo (page 27 of Service Record) states that Sergeant John Richardson Poole, died from wounds received in action on 5th November, 1916 at St. Anselm's Voluntary Aid Detachment, Shorncliffe.)

Sergeant John Richardson Poole was buried on 9th November, 1916 in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England – Plot number Q. 465. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sergeant John Richardson Poole contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his sufferings, death and burial. A reply was received from O/C V.A.D. Hospital, St. Anselm's, Walmer in January, 1917: "*No. 428 Pte J. R. Poole, 2nd Battn. A.I.F. was admitted to the above hospital from France suffering from very severe Shrapnel wound in the face and neck. After a few days he developed a caroted aneurysm which had to be operated on. The wounds were very septic, Sir Frederic Eve, our consulting Surgeon, came down from London, to consult with our local Surgeons and found that an operation was the only chance he had, the operation was performed by Sir Frederic and the patient rallied from the operation but died of Septic Pneumonia five days later. He knew of his serious condition and had several nice talks with me, all he wished for was to see a particular soldier friend, who was fortunately in England, and whom I was able to get down to see him four or five days before he died, he stayed with him for two days. The patient asked me to write to his mother if the end came, this of course I did. He also saw our Chaplain on several occasions, I had very nice talks with him, his end was most peaceful. His body was removed to Shorncliffe Military Hospital, and he was buried there with full Military Honours. Mr Short attended the funeral for us*"

Sergeant John Richardson Poole was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sgt. Poole's mother - Mrs E. Poole, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).
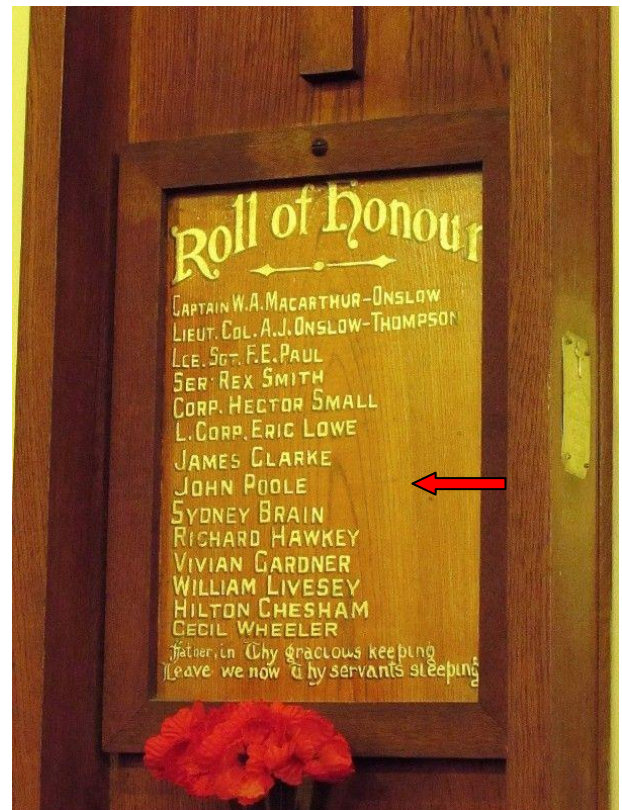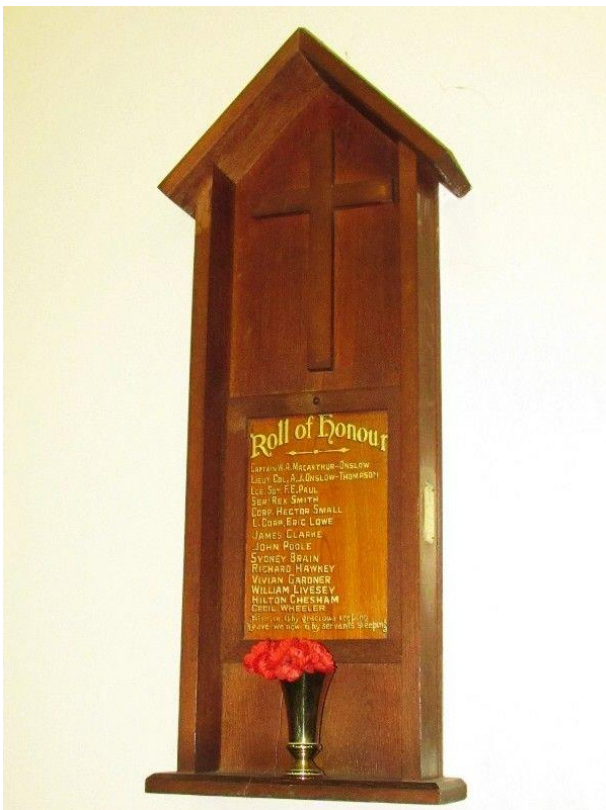
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant John Richardson Poole – service number 428, aged 30, of 2nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Esther Poole of Brought St., Camden, New South Wales.

Sergeant J. R. Poole is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 34.

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

John Poole is remembered on the St. John's Anglican Church Roll of Honour, located inside St. John's Anglican Church, Menangle Road, Camden, NSW.

St. John's Anglican Church Roll of Honour *(Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)*

Sgt. J. R. Poole is remembered on the Camden Cenotaph / Macarthur Park Obelisk, located in Macarthur Park, Menangle Road, Camden, NSW.

Camden Cenotaph *(Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown/John Huth)*

(37 pages of Sergeant John Richardson Poole'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

GALLIPOLI LOSSES

EIGHTY–SECOND CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Sgt. J. R. POOLE, 1st L.H., Camden (in 19th G.H., Alexandria)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 25 September, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

POOLE – November 5th, 1916, at Stanselms Military Hospital, Thorncliffe, England, Sergt. J. R. Poole, from wounds received in France, aged 30 years, beloved son of Mrs George Poole, of Camden. Deeply mourned by his mother sisters and brothers.

(*Camden News*, NSW – 16 November, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

SEVERELY WOUNDED

NEW SOUTH WALES – Sgt. J. R. Poole, Camden

(*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 November, 1916)

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216 DEAD

ANOTHER CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Stg. J. R. Poole, Camden

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 21 November, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

POOLE – November 5th, 1916, at Stanselms Military Hospital, Thorncliffe, England, Sergt. J. R. Poole (Jack) from wounds received in France.

He rose responsive to his country's call;

And gave for her his best, his life, his all.

Inserted by his friend, Leicester Butler.

(*Camden News*, NSW – 30 November, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

POOLE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergt. J. R. Poole, 1st Light Horse, who died at Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, England, Nov. 5, 1916, from wounds received in France.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers

(*Camden News*, NSW – 1 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

POOLE – A tribute to the memory of Sergt. J. R. Poole, (Jack), 1st L. Horse Regiment, who died of wounds at St. Anselm's Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, England, on 5th November, 1916.

Inserted by his friend, Leicester Butler.

(*Camden News*, NSW – 1 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

POOLE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergt. J. R. Poole, 1st Light Horse, who died at Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, England, Nov. 5, 1916, from wounds received in France.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers.

POOLE – In loving memory of Sergeant J. R. Poole (Jack) died of wounds at Shorncliffe, England, on 5th November, 1916.

Inserted by his friend, Leicester Butler.

(*Camden News*, NSW – 7 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

POOLE – In loving memory of Sergt. J. R. Poole, 1st Light Horse, died at Shorncliffe Coast Hospital from wounds received in France, 5th November, 1916.

Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters.

POOLE – In loving memory of Sergt. J. R. Poole (Jack), who died at Shorncliffe, England, 5th November, 1916.

Inserted by his cousin, Leicester Butler.

(*Camden News*, NSW – 6 November, 1919)

HONOUR ROLL

POOLE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergt. J. R. Poole, 1st Light Horse, who died at Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, England, Nov. 5, 1916, from wounds received in France. Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers.

(*Camden News*, NSW – 11 November, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

POOLE – In loving memory of Sergeant J. R. Poole, (Jack), died of wounds at Shorncliffe , England, 5th November, 1916. Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers.

(*Camden News*, NSW – 3 November, 1921)

** Esther Poole, mother of the late Sergeant John Richardson Poole, died on 25th December, 1923.

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)

Sergeant John Richardson Poole does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery belongs to the Ministry of Defence and contains war graves of both World Wars.
It is close to the military camp at Shorncliffe, 2 miles west of Folkestone

During the First World War a number of Canadian military establishments were centred on Shorncliffe. There were camps and a Machine Gun School which were served by the Shorncliffe Military Hospital (later No. 9 Canadian General), the Moore Barracks Military Hospital (later No. 11 Canadian General), and other Canadian hospitals. The Canadian Army Medical Corps Training Depot was at or near Shorncliffe during almost the whole of the war. On three occasions Canadian soldiers were killed during air raids on Shorncliffe.

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery contains 471 First World War burials, more than 300 of them Canadian. Second World War burials number 81, including 1 unidentified U.K. soldier and 1 Polish Foreign National. The cemetery also contains a screen wall on which are commemorated 18 Belgians originally buried in a mausoleum, now demolished.

There are 11 Australians from World War 1 buried in this Cemetery – 2 with Royal Air Force.

(Information from the CWGC)

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone *(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone *(Photo above courtesy of Paul Kendall & below Stephen Summerfield)*

Photo of Serjeant J. R. Poole's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England.

Cross of Sacrifice *(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*