

**High Wycombe Cemetery,  
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**7294 PRIVATE**

**J. W. POOLEY**

**23RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**14TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 20**

*Peacefully Sleeping.*

*So True, So Brave.*

## Joseph Walker POOLEY

Joseph Walker Pooley was born at Hawthorn, Victoria on 23rd September, 1898 to parents Joseph and Julia Pooley (nee Cartwright).

Joseph Walker Pooley attended Manningtree Road School, Hawthorn, Victoria.

Joseph Walker Pooley was an 18 year old, single, Painter from 28 Barton Street, Hawthorn, Victoria when he enlisted on 18th September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7294 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Pooley, of 28 Barton Street, Hawthorn, Victoria. Joseph Pooley stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets & 4 years & 2 months with Citizen Forces & was still serving.

As Joseph Walker Pooley was under the age of 21, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. J. Pooley & Julia Pooley both signed their consent on 11th January, 1917.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was posted to 21st (Depot) Battalion, A.I.F. at Royal Park on 18th September, 1916. He was transferred to "D" Company, 24th Battalion at Royal Park on 7th October, 1916. Private Pooley was transferred on 8th November, 1916 to "D" Company, Domain then transferred to 1st (Depot) Battalion, A.I.F. at Royal Park on 17th January, 1917. Private Pooley was transferred to 24th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 25th January, 1917.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ballarat* (A70) on 19th February, 1917 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 24th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 25th April, 1917. HMAT *Ballarat* (A70) was torpedoed on 25th April, 1917 while in the English Channel by submarine (UB 32 – Commander - Max Viebeg.) There were around 1,752 people on board at the time. Efforts made to tow the ship to shallow water failed and she sank off The Lizard the following morning. No lives were lost.

Description of the Torpedoing of the *Ballarat* in a letter by Pte J. W. Pooley in the *Kyneton Guardian*, Victoria newspaper 5 July, 1917:

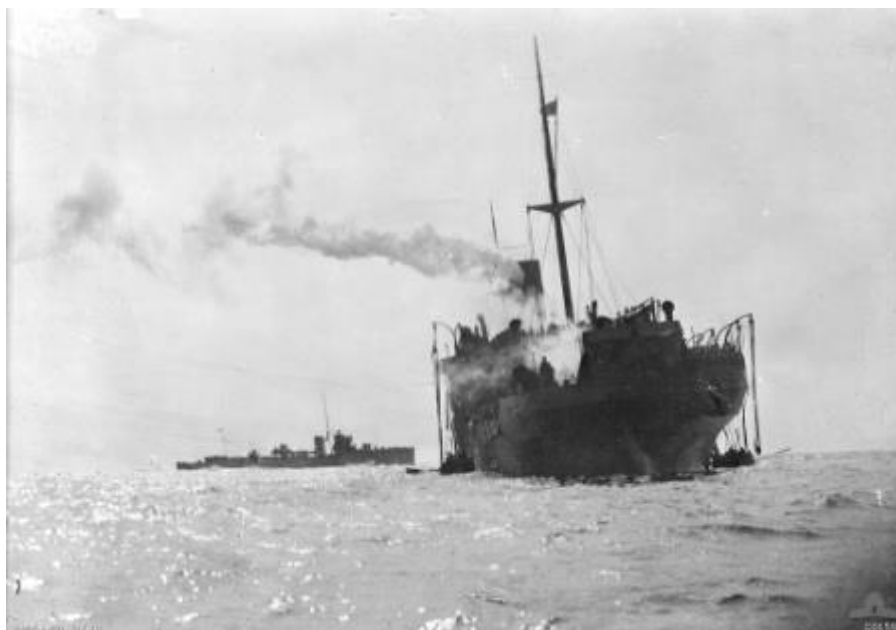
### **THE TORPEDOED BALLARAT**

*Mrs Grant, of Lauriston street, forwards us the following interesting letter describing the torpedoing of the Ballarat from Pte. J. W. Pooley:-*

*"Durrington, May 8, 1917.*

*"I am now safely in England, after having rather a rough time. After leaving Capetown we called into a port on the African coast, arriving there on Good Friday morning, and having hot cross buns for tea. We were there for five days anchored in the harbor, but were not allowed onshore. We left on Easter Tuesday. The town had no white population. Everything went well till Anzac Day. We were only 150 miles off England in the morning. There was to be a service at 2 in the afternoon in commemoration of the landing at the Dardanelles. At 5 minutes to 2 everything was ready for the service, when we were torpedoed. I was down below on my troop deck when we were hit. What saved everybody below was that the torpedo struck the wool and flour, otherwise we would have been blown to atoms. We were hit in the stern, and the torpedo was fixed amidships. Skilful manipulation on the captain's part saved the ship from going down too fast. Immediately we were struck everyone marched to his boat station in a manner which upheld the honor of the Australians. There was no panic, and fine discipline prevailed. An hour after the misfortune we had five destroyers, one trawler and three aeroplanes with us. Then the work of picking up the boatloads of men by the destroyers proceeded in a manner worthy of the best traditions of the British Navy. I was in the boat two hours after we were hit, and then was lowered over the side into a destroyer. By this time nearly everyone was off. and our destroyer steamed around the ship looking for anyone who might not have been picked up, but was glad to see no one was lost. Then, with the setting sun, we raced across the water at 30 knots an hour, and our last glimpse of the ship was that she was slowly sinking. On our arrival at Devonport we were put up at the naval barracks for the night. The sailors showed us every courtesy and consideration possible. I must say I am sorry I am not in the navy to mix with such brave and good boys. The next day we entrained for camp, and had a lovely train ride for 180 miles through beautiful country, arriving at 11 p.m. Then we had a hot tea and a well-earned rest. I lost everything except*

*my wallet. We are now settled down in our new home, and things are going well. Our food is good; but food scarcity is more serious than the people of Australia realise."*



**HMAT Ballarat sinking 25th April, 1917 & map showing her position**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART13329

**Artwork – The sinking of the troopship “Ballarat”. Painted by Frank Crozier in 1936.**

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 Walker Pooley was marched in to 2nd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 26th April, 1917.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 20th August, 1917 from Durrington. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 21st August, 1917. Private Pooley was marched out to join 23rd Battalion on 29th August, 1917 & was taken on strength of 23rd Battalion in the field on 1st September, 1917.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was sent sick to Hospital. He was admitted to 11th Casualty Clearing Station on 28th March, 1918 – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of Unknown origin). Private Pooley was transferred to No. 26 Ambulance Train on 29th March, 1918 & admitted to 10th Canadian Stationary Hospital at Calais, France the same day – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Private Pooley embarked from Calais on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 2nd April, 1918.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was admitted to General Military Hospital at Colchester, Essex on 2nd April, 1918 with Trench Fever. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent on 8th April, 1918. Private Pooley was discharged to No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 12th April, 1918.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Hospital on 12th April, 1918. The Hospital Admissions form reads: *In bed 14 days out of bed 8 days complains of pains in head & legs, insomnia, inability to walk more than 1 mile, and complains of eyes or ears, no \_\_\_cardia heart & chest clear.* Private Pooley was medically classified on 22nd April, 1918 as B1A1 (Fit for light duty only – four weeks). He was medically classified as B1A2 (fit for overseas training camp in three to four weeks) on 1st May, 1918 & B1A4 (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit) on 17th May, 1918.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 25th May, 1918.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from Overseas Training Brigade, Sandhill Camp, on 19th June, 1918.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 21st June, 1918. He was marched out to 23rd Battalion on 23rd June, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in France from Sick on 24th June, 1918.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was wounded in action in France on 1st September, 1918. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to arm & cheek. Private Pooley was transferred to 61st Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Ambulance Train. Pte Private Pooley was admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 2nd September, 1918. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship on 3rd September, 1918.

### **23rd Battalion**

After manning the front line throughout the bleak winter of 1916-17, the battalion's next trial came at the second battle of Bullecourt in May. After the failure of the first attempt to capture this town, by troops of the 4th Australian Division, this new attack was heavily rehearsed. The 23rd Battalion succeeded in capturing all of its objectives, and holding them until relieved, but, subjected to heavy counter-attacks, the first day of this battle was the battalion's single most costly of the war. Later in 1917 the battalion moved with the rest of the AIF to the Ypres sector in Belgium, and in October participated in the battle to secure Broodseinde Ridge.

In April 1918 the 23rd helped to turn back the German spring offensive, and then took part in the battles that would mark the beginning of Germany's defeat - Hamel, Amiens and Mont St Quentin. The fighting for Mont St Quentin resulted in the battalion's only Victoria Cross, awarded to Private Robert Mactier.

The battalion fought its last battle around the town of Beaufort between 3 and 4 October. It left the front for the last time on the night of 5 October, and was resting when the armistice was declared on 11 November. The 23rd Battalion disbanded in Belgium on 30 April 1919.

*(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

## Battles of Mont St. Quentin and Péronne

The end of August found German troops at their last stronghold at Mont St Quentin - overlooking the Somme River and the town of Péronne. Mont St Quentin stood out in the surrounding country, making it a perfect observation point and a vital strategic area to control. This area was key to the German defence of the Somme line. As it was such an important area, Lieutenant General Sir John Monash was keen to capture it and thus possess a valuable position.

### The Attack

This Australian operation is sometimes regarded as the finest achievement of the AIF. The 2nd Australian Division crossed the Somme River on the night of 31 August, and attacked Mont St Quentin at 5 am, from the unexpected position of northwest. It was a difficult position as it was an uphill fight for the troops, across very open ground where they were vulnerable to attack from the German-held heights above.

Rifle grenades and trench mortars were employed to outflank outpost positions. The battalions positioned to the right made a lot of noise to distract the Germans, while the centre and left battalions got a foothold on the hill and in Feuillaucourt.

By 7 am, the troops had gained the village of Mont St Quentin and the slope and summit of the hill, by working in small groups. The five German divisions were confused and dispersed, and many had fled. By midnight on 31 August, Monash's troops had captured 14,500 prisoners and 170 guns since 8 August. Allied troops also broke through lines to Péronne by 8.20 am on 1 September.

However, the Germans quickly regrouped and launched a counter-attack, and the first day of September saw fierce fighting and heavy losses. Germans attacked and heavily shelled Péronne. Much of the fighting was hand-to-hand combat.

The outnumbered Australians were pushed back off the summit of Mont St Quentin, and lost Feuillaucourt. Relief battalions were sent, and with their reinforcement, all the areas were retaken by the Australians, but at the cost of 3,000 casualties.

After heavy and exhausting fighting, the Australians established a stronghold on the area and forced the complete withdrawal of the Germans from Péronne. By the night of 3 September, the Australians held Péronne. They captured Flamicourt the next day, and advanced 2 miles to the east.

Monash said of the Mont St Quentin and Péronne campaign that it "*furnished the finest example in the war of spirited and successful infantry action conducted by three divisions operating simultaneously side by side.*"

The fight had also included battalions from every Australian state. British Commander General Lord Rawlinson remarked that this feat by the Australian troops under Monash's command was the greatest of the war.

Forced out of Péronne, the Germans had to retreat to their last line of defence- the Hindenburg Line.

*(Battle information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 23rd Battalion – 1st September, 1918 at Mt St. Quentin:

*At 6 am after considerable difficulty in getting on to the JOT SAYE TRENCH as the Boche had managed to mop up the Garrison of the 18th Battn & worked his way into the Trench system in I14a. Coys were able to attack Mt St Quentin at this hour, heavy M. gun fire & old wire in front of trench system, inflicted heavy casualties and coupled with the stubborn resistance of the enemy, temporarily checked our advance. After a conference of 4 Battn Commanders at Bn Hdrs it was decided with the G.O.C's approval to put the 21st Battn into a renewed attack to take place at 1 pm under artillery fire. It was necessary for the 21st Bn to participate on account of the heavy casualties suffered by the two attacking Battns 24th & 23rd Battns. Under adverse conditions the Battn was reorganised and at 1 pm attacked in conjunction with 21st & 24th Bns. Approximate strength at zero 100 rifles. Attack progressed favourably but enemy \_\_\_ held the village strongly with enemies machine Guns (?). These were overcome at about 3pm and Coy's were established East of village in system running from I15A 4.9 to J16 A5.2 (Road) with only 21st Battn on the right & 3 Coys on our left. As the 53rd Battn has failed after 3 gallant attempts to get passed their J.OT one right flank was subjected to a considerable M gun fire, this was eventually stopped as 53rd Bn again attacked & were successful. Our capture of the village casing (?) the position. Battn consolidated in this position. The day had been one of hard fighting under difficulties, but spirit & determination of the men being of high standard carried the position of great tactical importance and afterwards referred to as the key of PERONNE. Our casualties were heavy, losing Lieut Claydon Killed Capt Moss Lieuts Griffin Love OConnell 2 Lts Medward (later died of wds) Gabriel. 26*

*ROS KIA 118 Wd. In the early morning one British prisoner of War came into our lines having escaped. Weather fine & warm.*

(War Diary Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was admitted to War Hospital at Reading, Berkshire, England on 4th September, 1918 with gunshot wounds to forearm & face (severe). The Hospital Admissions from reads "*Wounded 1. IX. 18 – 3 operations for haemorrhage from pharynx in France. Taken out of train at Reading owing to further haemorrhage. 7.IX. 18. operation .....10.IX.18 No further haemorrhage. Death from Pneumonia 14.IX.18.*"

Private Joseph Walker Pooley died at 9.35 pm on 14th September, 1918 at No. 1 Reading War Hospital, Reading, Berkshire, England from wounds received in action – Gunshot wounds to Tongue & Haemorrhage & Broncho Pneumonia. Private Pooley's uncle – Mr Cartwright of Winyard, Wycome Road, West Highwycombe was present at the death.

A death for Joseph W. Pooley, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Reading, Berkshire, England.

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was buried on 19th September, 1918 in High Wycombe Cemetery, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England – Plot number 249 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Pooley - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was buried with Full Military honours. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack", and the "Last Post" sounded at the graveside, where the Rev. Geed conducted the burial service.*

*Wreaths were sent from the following:- Uncle and Aunt, Cousins, Mr & Mrs Martin & family, Mrs Wilkinson & family, And the Mother and Father. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

*Relatives present at the funeral – (Uncle & Aunt) Mr & Mrs Pooley, (Uncle & Aunt) Mr & Mrs Cartwright, (Cousin) Pte Seymour.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Joseph Walker Pooley contains a letter from Margaret Grey which reads:

Sep 15

Eastfield

Whitchurch, Reading

Dear Mrs Sargood

One of my men died in No. 1 War Hospital Reading yesterday –  
7084 Pte J. Pooley, 23rd Batt.

*He was wounded badly in the mouth and arm. He was to have gone to hospital at Manchester, but the train had to be stopped at Reading on the night of Sept 4th as he was then in such a critical condition. He had 3 severe haemorrhages & 2 operations & we hoed he might have lived, but he died last night at 9 pm.*

*He has several relations at High Wycombe, who have been to see him, & an uncle & aunt saw him, 3 hours before he died.*

*I believe he is to be buried at High Wycombe.*

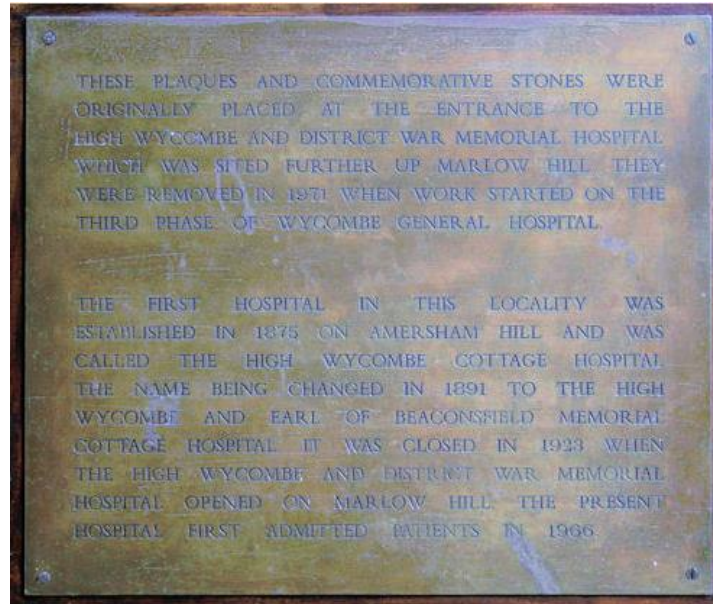
*I am writing to his people in Australia.*

Private Joseph Walker Pooley was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Pooley's father – Mr J. Pooley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1922 & Plaque sent December, 1922).



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Joseph Walker Pooley – service number 7294, aged 20, of 23rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joseph and Julia Pooley, of 28 Barton St., Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia. Born at Melbourne, Victoria.

J. W. Pooley is remembered on the High Wycombe Hospital Memorial located at the entrance to High Wycombe Hospital, Buckinghamshire, England – Panel No.2 (of 4).



HIGH WYCOMBE	WCHARMAN, son.	VICKERBERT, son.	CHJEFFERSON,	J. LANGSTON,	MEDALING, son.	A. NICHOLLS,	A. PETERS,
E.J. GOODEARL,	R. HARRALL, son.	D. GHEKMAN,	W. JOHNSON, son.	ADLAURENCE,	J. KENDY,	J. NOBLE,	W.S. PHILLIPS,
S.M. GOODEARL, son.	R.G. HARRIS,	CH. GIDDOTT,	A.G. JONES, son.	G. LAWRENCE, son.	I. MENDAY,	T. NOBLE,	G.E. PICKETT,
EWGOTCH, son.	G. HARVEY,	N. HILDRETH,	A.L. JONES,	J. LAWRENCE, son.	H.R. MERRICK, son.	R. NORTH,	E. PICTON,
S.R. GOOLBORN,	C.W. HARVEY,	R.A. HOBBS, son.	D. JOYNSON,	S.H. LEACH,	E. NORTON-EGGCE, son.	A.E. OKLADE, son.	G.H. PIENCI,
H. GRACE,	V.W. HARVEY,	E. HODGKINSON,	S. KEARLEY,	G. LEE,	W. AMES,	A.G. OKLADE,	M. PIENCE,
W. GRANGE, son.	H. HORRE,	H. HODGKINSON,	M. KEATING,	T. LEE,	A. MITCHELL,	AD. OKLADE,	C. PIENCE,
G.H. GRANT, son.	V. HOUNSLOW,	H. HORRE,	L. KEENE,	E.G. LEWIS, son.	G. MOORE,	AD. OKLADE,	C. PIENRIDGE,
P. GRAY,	E. HOUSE,	V. HOUNSLOW,	R. KEENE,	E. LEWIS,	L.A. MORGAN, son.	AD. OKLADE,	E. POOOCK, son.
G. GRAY,	J. HOWES,	L. HATT, son.	W. KIBBY,	R. LEWIS,	K.M. MORRIS,	AD. OKLADE,	J.W. POOLEY, son.
H. GRAY,	E. ROWLAND,	G. HATTON,	A. KING,	I. LIPSCOMB,	J. MORRIS,	AD. OKLADE,	R.E. PRICE, son.
J.A. GRAY, son.	B. ROWLETT,	G. HATTON,	C. KING,	T. LITCHFIELD,	A.M. MORRIS,	AD. OKLADE,	G. PRIEST,
W. GRAY,	R.G. HUDSON, son.	J. HAWES,	E.E. KING,	A. LORD, son.	E. MUNDAY,	AD. OKLADE,	H. PRIEST,
W. GRAYSON-ELLIS,	R. HUDSON,	T. HAWES,	W. KING,	C.T. LOVEJOY, son.	S. MYRTON,	G. PARKER,	G. PRITCHARD,
B.F. GREEN,	J. HUGHES,	R. HAWKINS,	C.K. KIPPING,	C. LOWE,	A. NASH,	J. PARKER,	H. PRITCHARD,
W. GREEN,	C.J. HUMPHREY,	R.T. HAWKINS,	T. KIPPING, son.	W. LOWE,	G. NASH,	G. PARKER,	H. PUSEY,
H. GRIFPIN,	V. HUMPHREY,	E.W. HAWKINS, son.	EL. KNIGHT, son.	H. LUDLOW,	H.L. NASH, son.	E. PARKER, son.	A. QUARTERMAN,
V. GRIGSON,	G. HUMPHREY,	S.A. HAYDON,	G.J. LACEY,	D. LUNNOR,	M. NASH, son.	J. PARKER,	J. RACKSTRAW,
E. GRIMSDILL,	E.G. RUNT,	W. HEARN,	N. LACEY,	G. LUNNOR,	G. NEAL,	G. PARKER,	L.J. RACKSTRAW, son.
A.C. HATE, son.	T. IRONS,	C.W. HEARN,	T. LACEY,	W. LUNNOR,	R. NEALE,	G. PARKER,	W. RAY,
G. HALL, son.	E.I. IVES, son.	C.W. HEARN,	T. LAMBOURN,	J. LUNNOR,	CH. NEIGHBOUR,	G. PARKER,	W. REDDING,
E.A. HALL,	R. IVES, son.	C.W. HEARN,	R. LANCE, son.	R. MARTIN,	E.S. NEWELL,	T. PARKER,	T. REDDUP, son.
J.D. HAMLET,	W. IVES,	R. HEATH,	A.E. LANGE, son.	K. MASSELL,	H.C. NEWELL,	G.W. PEARCE, son.	V. REEVES,
R.A. HARMAN, son.	B.J. JACOBS,	B. HEATHER,	G. LANGSTON, son.	E. MAYER,	E.E. NEWMAN,	G. PEARSON,	E.G. REYNOLDS,
	J.J. JAMES,	J.L. HEATHER,	G. LANGSTON, son.	A. MAYER,	R.T. NEWMAN,	B.V. PEAKINS,	E.C. REYNOLDS,

High Wycombe Hospital Memorial (Photos courtesy of June & Peter Underwood [www.buckinghamshireremembers.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamshireremembers.org.uk))

Private J. W. Pooley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 100.



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

(61 pages of Private J. W. Pooley'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**

### **DIED ON SERVICE**

POOLEY – Died of wounds received in France, 14th September, 1918, Private J. W. Pooley, 23rd Battalion, loving youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. Pooley, Barton street, Hawthorn, and loving brother of Victor (returned), Frank, Lizzie, Lorna, Jessie and Mally, aged 20 years.

Thy will be done.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 September, 1918)

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### **DEATHS**

#### **On Active Service**

POOLEY – Died of wounds received in France, 14th September, Private J. W. Pooley, 23rd Battalion, loving youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. Pooley, Hawthorn, and loving brother of Victor (returned), Frank, Lizzie, Lorna, Jessie and Mally, aged 20 years. Thy will be done.

POOLEY – Died of wounds in hospital, Reading, England, on 24th September, Private J. W. Pooley, aged 20 years. His duty nobly done.

-Inserted by his sincere friends, Mr and Mrs Wood, Minnie and Gladys.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 September, 1918)



## **DIED ON SERVICE**

POOLEY – Died of wounds received in France 14/9/18, Private J. W. Pooley, 23rd Battalion.

One of the best.

-(Inserted by his friend, J. E. Grant, Daylesford.)

POOLEY – Died of wounds received in France 14th September, Private J. W. Pooley, 23rd Battalion, aged 20 years.

One of the bravest and best.

-(Inserted by his sincere friends Mr and Mrs Grant and Maggie, Lauriston street, Kyneton).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 September, 1918)

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## **DIED ON SERVICE**

POOLEY – Died of wounds received in France 14/9/18, Private J. W. Pooley, 23rd Battalion, aged 20 years.

His duty nobly done.

-(Inserted by his friend M. A. Mattinson, Yarra street, Newport).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 September, 1918)

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## **BEREAVEMENT CARDS**

Mr and Mrs POOLEY and Family desire to express their sincere THANKS to all their friends for their kind expressions of sympathy on the death of their beloved son and brother, Private J. W. Pooley, 23rd Battalion, on active service. 28 Barton street, Hawthorn.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 October, 1918)

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## **AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**

### **439th Casualty List**

Other Victorians

### **ACCIDENTALLY KILLED**

Pte J. W. POOLEY, Hawthorn

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 4 November, 1918)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

POOLEY – In proud and loving memory of our dear son Joseph M. Pooley, late of the 23rd Battalion, wounded on the 1st September, 1918, at Mont St, Quentin; died of wounds on 14th September, 1918, at the Reading War Hospital, England.

He rests in a shroud of glory,

Every debt of honor paid.

-(Inserted by his sorrowing father, mother, sisters and brothers.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 September, 1919)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

POOLEY – In loving memory of our dearly loved son and brother, Private J. W. Pooley, who died of wounds in Reading Hospital, England, September 14, 1918.

Gone, but not forgotten.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 September, 1920)

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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. 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. W. Pooley does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Peacefully Sleeping. So True, So Brave*

### **High Wycombe Cemetery, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England**

High Wycombe Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the 48 First World War graves being scattered throughout the cemetery.

The plot set aside for service burials during the Second World War was little used, but there is a small group of 10 graves in this part of the cemetery. The rest of the 59 Second World War burials are scattered.

(*Information from CWGC*)



(*Photo from Find a Grave – E.R. Lee*)





**High Wycombe Cemetery** (Photos from CWGC)



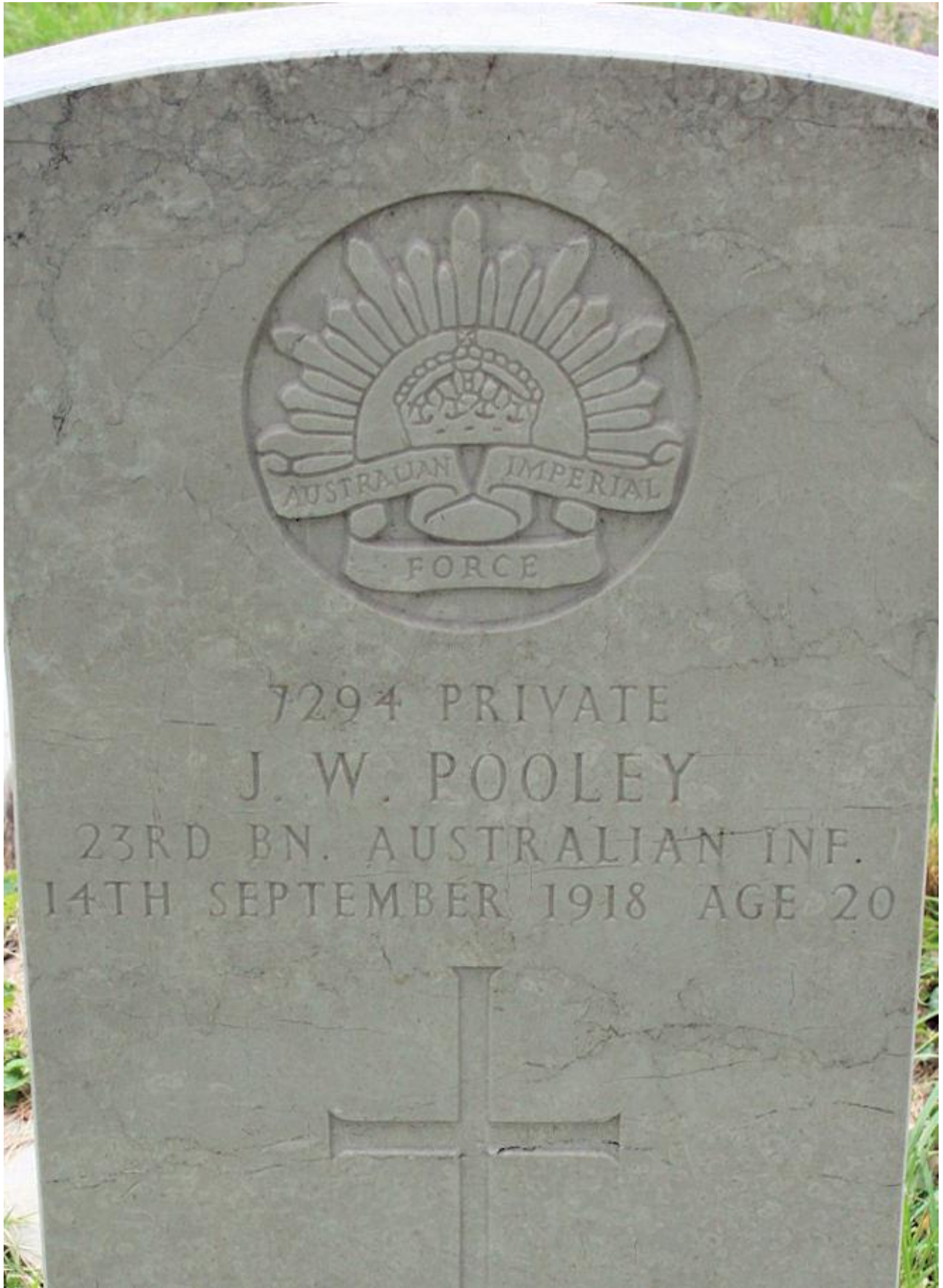


Photo of Private J. W. Pooley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in High Wycombe Cemetery, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England.



*(Photo by Wayne Bywater)*





*(Photo courtesy of Peter Underwood)*