

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3791 PRIVATE

L. STONE

57TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 20

*Too Far Away
Thy Grave To See
But Not Too Far
To Think Of Thee*

Leslie STONE

Leslie Stone was born at Windsor, Victoria on 4th April, 1899 to parents William and Fanny Stone (nee Whybrow). He was baptised at Prahran, Victoria on 3rd May, 1899.

Leslie Stone attended Hornby Street State School, Windsor, Victoria.

Leslie Stone was an 18 year old, single, Clerk from Windsor, Victoria when he enlisted at Prahran, Melbourne, Victoria on 30th November, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3791 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Stone, 11 James Street, Windsor, Victoria. Leslie Stone stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 years with Senior Cadets. His father stated on information provided for the Roll of Honour that Leslie Stone had completed compulsory training.

As Leslie Stone was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad. W. Stone & F. Stone both signed their consent.

Private Leslie Stone was posted to Recruit Depot at Broadmeadows from 5th December, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st (Depot) Battalion at Broadmeadows on 21st December, 1917. Private Stone was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 58th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 8th February, 1918 then transferred on 9th February, 1918 to 10th Reinforcements of 57th Battalion.

Private Leslie Stone embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor (A71)* on 28th February, 1918 with the 57th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 20th April, 1918.

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 Leslie Stone was marched in to 14th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 20th April, 1918.

Private Leslie Stone was appointed Acting Corporal from 14th May, 1918 while posted with 14th Training Battalion, Codford.

Acting Corporal Leslie Stone was on command at school of Instruction at Candahar Barracks from 4th June, 1918.

Acting Corporal Leslie Stone proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 22nd July, 1918 from 14th Training Battalion at Codford.

Acting Corporal Leslie Stone reverted to the rank of Private on 22nd July, 1918 on proceeding overseas to France.

Private Leslie Stone was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 24th July, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 27th July, 1918 & was taken on strength of 57th Battalion from 10th Reinforcements on 3rd September, 1918.

Private Leslie Stone was wounded in action on 29th September, 1918. He was admitted to 50th Casualty Clearing Station on 29th September, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to leg then transferred to Ambulance Train 19. Private Stone was admitted to 6th General Hospital, Rouen, France on 30th September, 1918. He was invalided to England on 2nd October, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* with G.S.W. to leg.

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..... The battalion entered its last major battle of the war on 29 September 1918. This operation was mounted by the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions, in co-operation with American forces, to break through the formidable German defences along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion withdrew to rest on 2 October and was still doing so when the war ended. The battalion disbanded in March 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie Stone was admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England on 3rd October, 1918 having been Gassed. The Hospital Admissions form records: "*Burns legs & face, body & arms _____. Broncho pneumonia. P.M. Showed extensive sloughing of trachea. Died 8/10/18.*" (Note: the columns on Hospital Admissions form show admitted 3/10/18 to 7/10/18.)



Private Leslie Stone died at 5.15 pm on 7th October, 1918 at Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from Wounds, Mustard Gas poisoning & Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Leslie Stone, aged 19, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

Private Leslie Stone was buried on 10th October, 1918 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number Z.H.O. 106 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Leslie Stone - *Coffin was good, Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack", and borne to the graveside, where the Last Post was sounded. The burial service was conducted by the Rev: J. T. Thomas, C.F. of the Kitchener War Hospital, Brighton. 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.*

Private Leslie Stone requested in his Will, dated 24th January, 1918 that the whole of his property and effects be left to his mother – Mrs Fanny Stone of 11 James St., Windsor.

Private Leslie Stone was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Stone's father – Mr W. Stone, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922 but was returned – reissued May, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie Stone – service number 3791, aged 20, of 57th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Fanny Stone, of 11 James St., Windsor, Victoria, Australia.

Private L. Stone 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

L. Stone is remembered on the Windsor State School Honour Roll, located in Stonnington (Windsor) Primary School, Hornby Street, Windsor, Victoria.



Windsor State School Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Nancy Alford)

L. Stone is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(61 pages of Private Leslie Stone'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





L. STONE. 3791. M.I.
Private, 10th Rfts., 57th Btn.
E. 30/11/17.



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

STONE – Officially reported died from effects of gas, in Kitchener Military Hospital, on October 7, 1918, No. 3791 Private Leslie Stone, beloved son of Mr and Mrs W. Stone, of 11 James street, Windsor, and loved brother of Will, Harold (on active service), Ada, Jack and Jean.

Paid the supreme sacrifice.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 October, 1918)

THE 444th CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private L. Stone, Windsor

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 27 November, 1918)

WINDSOR

Private G. E. Wallis died of wounds on the 4th October, and Private L. Stone on the 7th of the same month.

(*The Prahran Telegraph*, Victoria – 30 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

STONE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Leslie Stone, aged 19 years, who died from the effects of gas on 7th October, 1918.

We miss him, for we loved him.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

STONE – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Les. Stone, died from effects of gas, 7th October, 1918.

Too far away thy grave to see,
But not too far to think of thee.

-Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Will and Carrie.

STONE – In loving memory of my dear pal, Private Leslie Stone, who was killed in action in France, 7th October, 1918.

God needed one more angel
Amid His shining band,
And so He bent with loving smile
And clasped my dear pal's hand.

Till the new day breaks and the shadows flee away.

-Inserted by his friend, Albert Young, Earl-street, Windsor.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 October, 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 L. Stone does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Too Far Away Thy Grave To See

But Not Too Far To Think Of Thee

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private L. Stone's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham)



(Photo from CWGC)