

**Bournemouth East Cemetery,  
Bournemouth, Dorset  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2511 LANCE CPL**

**D. D. WHITHAM**

**19TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**3RD NOVEMBER, 1917**

*Sadly Missed By  
His Loving Wife And Sons  
Bella, Don And Arthur*

## David Donald WHITHAM

David Donald Whitham was born at Newcastle, NSW in 1883 to parents David Donald and Elizabeth Whitham (nee Ross).

David Whitham, father of David Donald Whitham, died in January, 1889 in Newcastle, NSW.

David Donald Whitham attended school at Parramatta, Sydney, NSW.

David Donald Whitham married Isabella May Murray at St. Leonards, Sydney, NSW in 1908.

A son – Donald David Whitham was born on 2nd December, 1908 & baptised on 24th January, 1909 in Christ Church, Lavender Bay, North Sydney, NSW. Another son – Arthur Edwin Whitham was born on 30th July, 1914 & baptised on 6th September, 1914 in Christ Church, Lavender Bay, North Sydney, NSW.

David Donald Whitham was a 32 year old, married, Milk Carter from 6 Sheppeard Street, Marrickville, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Warwick Farm Camp, Sydney, NSW on 2nd August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2511 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. Whitham, 6 Sheppeard Street, Marrickville, Sydney, NSW

Private David Donald Whitham was posted to 15th Reinforcements of 19th Battalion.

Private Daniel Donald Whitham (name as per Embarkation Roll) embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 5th October, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements.

Private David Donald Whitham was taken on strength of 19th Battalion on 5th February, 1916.

Private David Donald Whitham proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 18th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th March, 1916.

Private David Donald Whitham was absent without leave from 8.30 am till 5 pm on 15th August, 1916 (8 ½ hours). He was awarded 4 days Field Punishment No. 2 on 18th August, 1916.

Private David Donald Whitham was sent to Hospital in France on 22nd September, 1916. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 22nd September, 1916 with an injury to his knee. He was transferred to 2nd Divisional Rest Station on 22nd September, 1916 & discharged to duty on 6th October, 1916. He rejoined 19th Battalion the same day.

Private David Donald Whitham was sent to Hospital in France on 31st October, 1916. He was admitted to 39th Casualty Clearing Station on 1st November, 1916 with Scabies & discharged to duty on 9th November, 1916. He rejoined 19th Battalion on 9th November, 1916.

Private David Donald Whitham was absent without leave while on active service from 7.30 am on 9th December, 1916 to 5 pm on 11th December, 1916 (87 ½ hours). He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 2 by Commanding Officer.

Private David Donald Whitham was sent to Hospital on 30th December, 1916. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 30th December, 1916 with Scabies. He was transferred to CRS (Camp Reception Station) on 30th December, 1916 & rejoined 19th Battalion on 9th January, 1917.

Private David Donald Whitham was appointed Lance Corporal on 11th June, 1917.

### 19th Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A large number of the 19th's original recruits had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) in the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914.....

After further training in Egypt, the 19th Battalion proceeded to France. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 19th Battalion attacked near Flers between 14 and 16 November, in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.

In 1917, the 19th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost five times as strong, at Lagincourt. The Battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

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

Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham was admitted to Hospital on 12th July, 1917 while on leave in UK in London. He was admitted to 1st A.D. H. (Australian Dermatological Hospital) at Bulford, Wiltshire, England on 12th July, 1917 with Gonorrhoea that he had contracted in London between 5th & 7th July, 1917. Lance Corporal Whitham was discharged on 12th September, 1917.

Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England from Bulford on 12th September, 1917.

Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham was admitted to Hospital at No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 13th September, 1917 with arthritis.

Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham was admitted to Burden Hospital at Weymouth on 5th October, 1917 with Dysentery & arthritis. He was reported as seriously ill. Lance Corporal Whitham was transferred to Mont Dore Hospital, Bournemouth on 18th October, 1917.

Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham died at 5.50 pm on 3rd November, 1917 at Mont Dore Military Hospital, Bournemouth, Hampshire, England from Ulcerative Colitis.

A death for David D. Whitham, aged 33, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Christchurch, Hampshire, England.

Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham was buried at 3.30 pm on 6th November, 1917 in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England – Plot number O. I. 144 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The sister of the hospital reported that deceased died a peaceful death whilst in his sleep, and that he was well liked and a favourite amongst them all at the hospital. The funeral left the hospital at 2 o'clock. Full military honours were accorded, a firing party being supplied by the Royal Engineers. A Gun Carriage was provided by the Artillery, the coffin being covered with the Union Jack. The procession passed through the town on its two mile journey to Boscombe Burial Ground, and attracted much attention from onlookers.*

*A preliminary service was held at the Chapel in the Cemetery, service being conducted according to the Church of Scotland by the Rev. W. Gilchrist of Boscombe Manse, Boscombe. Deceased's remains were interred in the soldier's corner next to other comrades of the Australian Imperial Force. Three buglers provided by the Royal Engineers sounded the "Last Post" after the customary volleys being fired. There were about 30 people present at the graveside. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham contains a letter to the Red Cross on behalf of Matron, Mont Dore Military Hospital, Bournemouth which reads: *"I beg to say that Pte D. D. Whitham – 19th Batt, A.I.F. was admitted to Mint Dore from Weymouth Military Hosp. on Oct. 18th – 17 & died on Nov. 3rd. Pte Whitham was suffering from ulcerative colitis & was in a very weak state when he came to us. Everything possible was done for him & he seemed quite contented – he did not suffer much actual pain – just got gradually weaker. His wife was written to from time to time & informed of his condition. Pte Whitham was buried at Boscombe Cemetery near here – he had a Military funeral. His personal belongings were forwarded to The Kit Store, Greyhound Road, Hammersmith."*

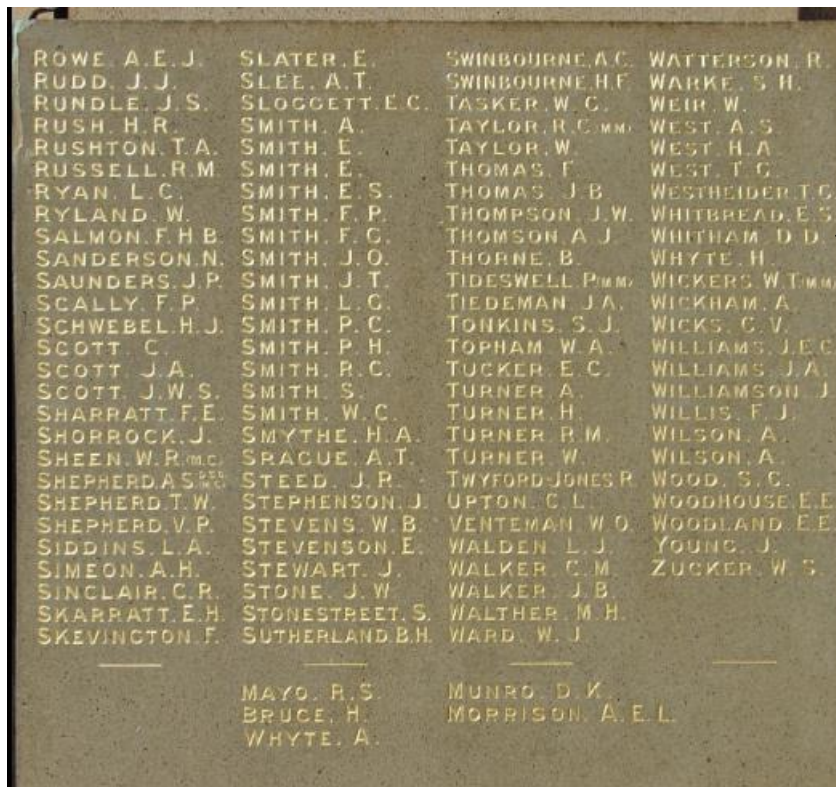
Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Whitham's widow – Mrs I. Whitham, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham – service number 2511, aged 32, of 19th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of David Donald and Elizabeth Whitham; husband of Isabella May Whitham, of 30 Bailey St., Newtown, Sydney, New South Wales.

D. D. Whitham is remembered on the Marrickville Soldiers Memorial, located in front of Marrickville Town Hall, Marrickville Road, Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.



**Marrickville Soldiers Memorial** (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)





Lance Corporal D. D. Whitham is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 90.



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

(40 pages of Lance Corporal David Donald Whitham'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**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

WHITHAM – (Block Morrison) – Pte David Donald, died of illness, November 3, 1917, while on leave in England from France, aged 33 years 11 months. Inserted by his loving wife and sons, Bella, Arthur, Donald.

WHITHAM – (Block Morrison) - Pte David Donald, died of illness, November 3, 1917, while on leave in England from France, aged 33 years 11 months. Inserted by his sorrowing mother, step brother and sisters, Arthur, Rose, Fanny, Lena, Morrison; also his brother and sister-in-law, Eldwin and Annie Whitham.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 November, 1917)*

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### **CASUALTY LIST**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

ILL

Pte DAVID DONALD WHITHAM, North Sydney (seriously)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 November, 1917)*

## **373rd CASUALTY LIST**

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte DAVID DONALD WHITHAM, North Sydney 5/11/17 (previously reported ill)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 December, 1917)*

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#### **On Active Service**

WHITHAM – In loving memory of my dear husband and our father, Lance-corp. D. D. Whitham (Block- Morrison) 19th Batt., died of illness in England, November 3, 1917, while on leave from France, after 2 years and 1 month's service. Inserted by his loving wife and sons, Belle, Donald, Arthur.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 November, 1918)*

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#### **On Active Service**

WHITHAM – In loving memory of my dear husband and our father, Lance-cpl. D. D. Whitham (Block- Morrison) 19th Batt., died of illness in England, November 3, 1917, while on leave from France, after two years and one month's service. Inserted by his loving wife and sons, Belle, Donald, Arthur.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 3 November, 1919)*

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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)*

Lance Corporal D. D. Whitham does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Sadly Missed By His Loving Wife And Sons*

*Belle Don And Arthur*

## **Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England**

Some of the 120 First World War burials in this cemetery are those of soldiers who died in Bournemouth's auxiliary and private hospitals. 75 of these graves are in a special plot on the main path and include a Special Memorial to 2 soldiers drowned off Bournemouth in January 1915, whose bodies were not recovered. The plot also contains 7 of the 68 Second World War burials, the rest being scattered throughout the cemetery. One of the First World War burials is unidentified. There are 4 Foreign National war burials here.

The war plot is enclosed by a hedge, and the War Cross is on the West side of it. It was at one time called Boscombe Cemetery.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Bournemouth East Cemetery** *(Photo from CWGC)*





**Bournemouth East Cemetery** (Photos from CWGC)



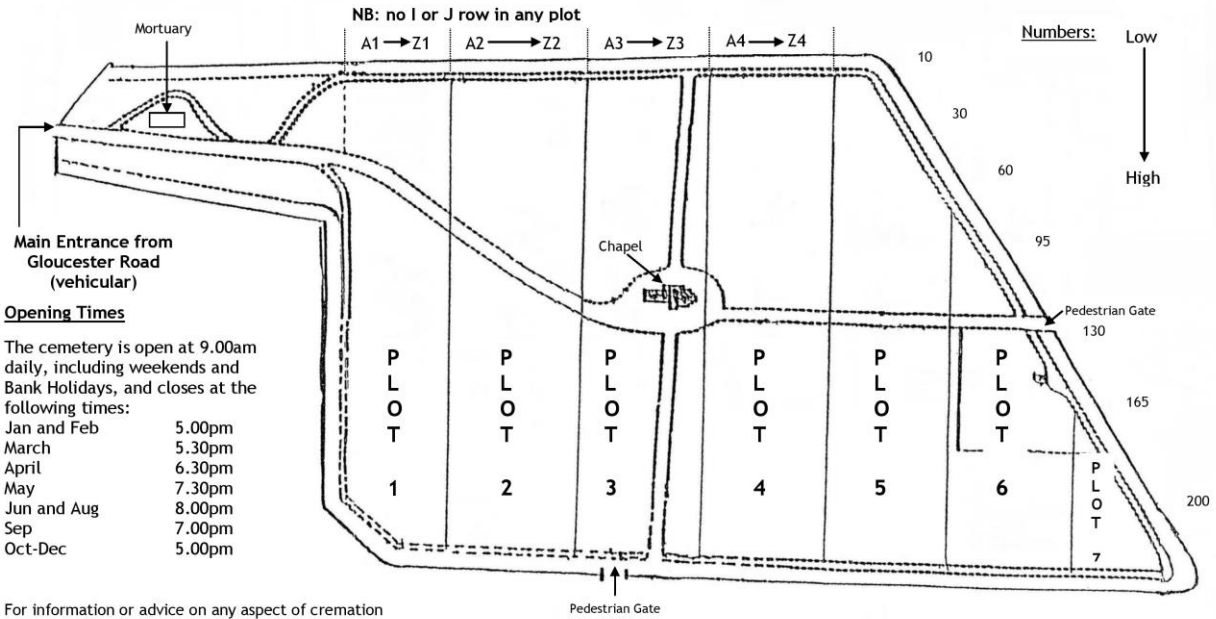


Photo of Lance Corporal D. D. Whitham's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England



*(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)*

**East Cemetery, Gloucester Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6JB**



**Opening Times**

The cemetery is open at 9.00am daily, including weekends and Bank Holidays, and closes at the following times:

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Jan and Feb | 5.00pm |
| March       | 5.30pm |
| April       | 6.30pm |
| May         | 7.30pm |
| Jun and Aug | 8.00pm |
| Sep         | 7.00pm |
| Oct-Dec     | 5.00pm |

For information or advice on any aspect of cremation or burial please contact:

Bournemouth Bereavement Services  
Bournemouth Crematorium  
Strouden Avenue  
Bournemouth  
BH8 9HX

Tel: 01202 526238  
Email: crematorium@bournemouth.gov.uk

