

**Efford Cemetery,  
Plymouth, Devon  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**51 PRIVATE**

**B. F. WOOLCOCK**

**40TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 21**

*Not Lost But Gone Before*

## Bertie Francis WOOLCOCK

Bertie Francis Woolcock was born on 4th August, 1895 at Waratah, Tasmania to parents Richard & Edith Ann Woolcock (nee Lock).

Bertie Francis Woolcock attended school at Waratah, Tasmania.

Bertie Francis Woolcock was a 20 year old, single, Postal Assistant from Waratah, Tasmania when he enlisted on 4th March, 1916 at Claremont, Tasmania with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 51 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Richard Woolcock, Waratah, Tasmania. Bertie Woolcock stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Cadets – 92nd Infantry for 3 years.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Private Bertie Francis Woolcock received a gold medal for getting 100% marks in Signallers' examination at Broadmeadows Camp, Victoria.

Private Bertie Francis Woolcock was posted 40th Battalion (no date recorded).

Private Bertie Francis Woolcock embarked from Hobart, Tasmania on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 1st July, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 40th Infantry Battalion Headquarters & disembarked at Devonport England on 22nd August, 1916.

### 40th Battalion

The 3rd Division was raised in Australia early in 1916. The 40th Battalion was Tasmania's contribution to the strength of the division and it joined the Victorian-raised 37th, 38th and 39th Battalions to form the 10th Brigade.

The battalion embarked for the Western Front in July 1916 and by December was serving in the trenches in France...

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

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 Bertie Francis Woolcock was admitted to Military Hospital, Devonport, England on 22nd August, 1916 – “*sick slight.*”

Private Bertie Francis Woolcock died on 28th August, 1916\*\* at Military Hospital, Devonport, England from Enteric & Pneumonia.

*\*\*[Note: Some of the forms in the Service Record file for Private Bertie Woolcock recorded that he died on 22nd August, 1916. Most of these were altered to show the date of death as 28th August, 1916 – as per his Private Headstone. The Australian War Memorial & the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website both have the date of death listed as 29th August, 1916. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone Details form has the date of death as 29th but the Graves Registration form has 28th. I believe that there is more evidence in the Service Record file to support the date of death as 28th August, 1916 so both AWM & CWGC were advised at the time of research – August 2021]*

*\*\*UPDATE – Both AWM & CWGC have changed the date of death for Private Bertie Woolcock to 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.*

A death for Bertie F. Woolcock, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Private Bertie Francis Woolcock was buried on 31st August, 1916 in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number C. 3948 & has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Mr R. Woolcock, father of the late Private Bertie Francis Woolcock, wrote to Base Records on 23rd November, 1916 to advise that his new address was changing from Waratah to 10 Douglas St., Invermay, Launceston, Tasmania.

Mr R. Woolcock, 10 Douglas St., Invermay, Launceston, Tasmania, wrote to Base Records on 2nd September, 1921 to advise: *"...Re grave of my late son, Private B. F. Woolcock, I have already had a headstone erected at my own expense. If anything could be done to improve the grave I would be very grateful to you...."*

Base Records wrote to Mr R. Woolcock, 10 Douglas St., Invermay, Launceston, Tasmania, on 9th September, 1921 stating *"...circular, form A, completed in respect of your son, the late No. 51 Private B. F. Woolcock, 40th Battalion, it is noted you have expressed the wish to have the Star of David incised on the headstone. For your information I would point out that the Star of David is the emblem of the Jewish faith, whereas the Cross is symbolical of Christianity – irrespective of any particular denomination. As the records show your son's religion as Methodist it is thought you would prefer to have the Christian Cross inscribed. Please advise me in the matter as soon as possible."*

Mr R. Woolcock replied to Base Records on 13th September, 1921 stating *"...It was a mistake on my part, as I would like to have the cross incised on my late son's headstone."*

Private Bertie Francis Woolcock was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Woolcock's father – Mr R. Woolcock, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Bertie Francis Woolcock – service number 51, aged 21, of 40th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Richard and Edith Ann Woolcock, of 100 Douglas St., Invermay, Launceston, Tasmania.

Private B. F. Woolcock is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.



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

B. F. Woolcock is remembered on Launceston Post & Telegraph Roll of Honour, located at Wellington Street, South Launceston, Tasmania.



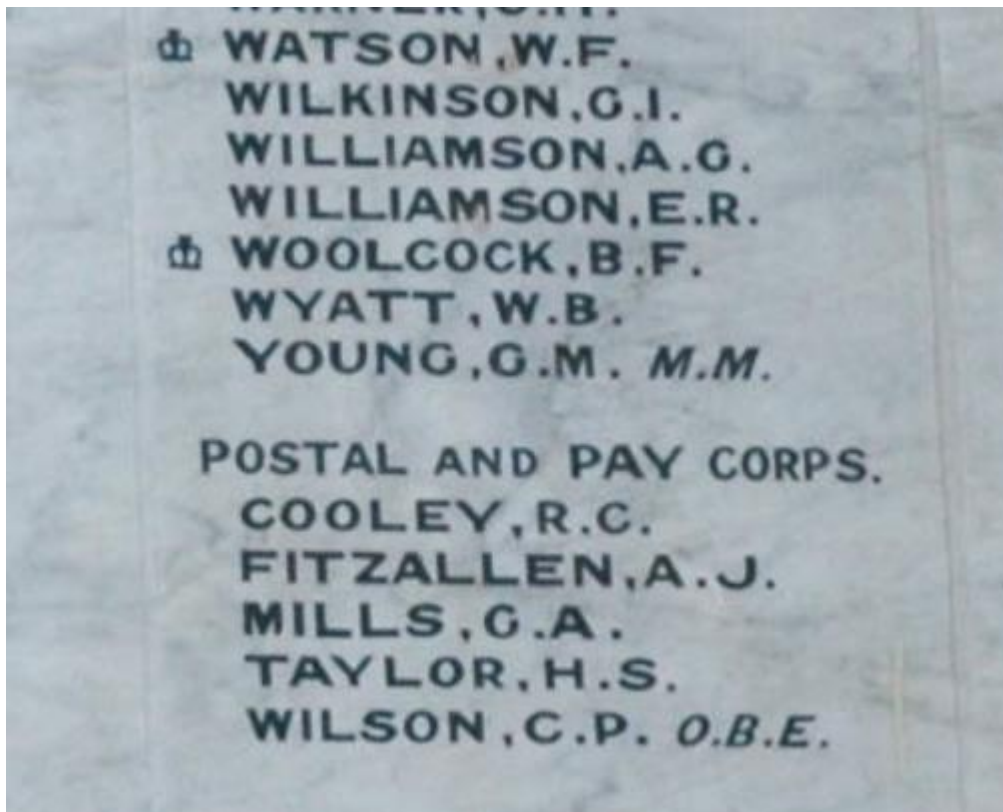
**Launceston Post & Telegraph Roll of Honour**

*(Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)*

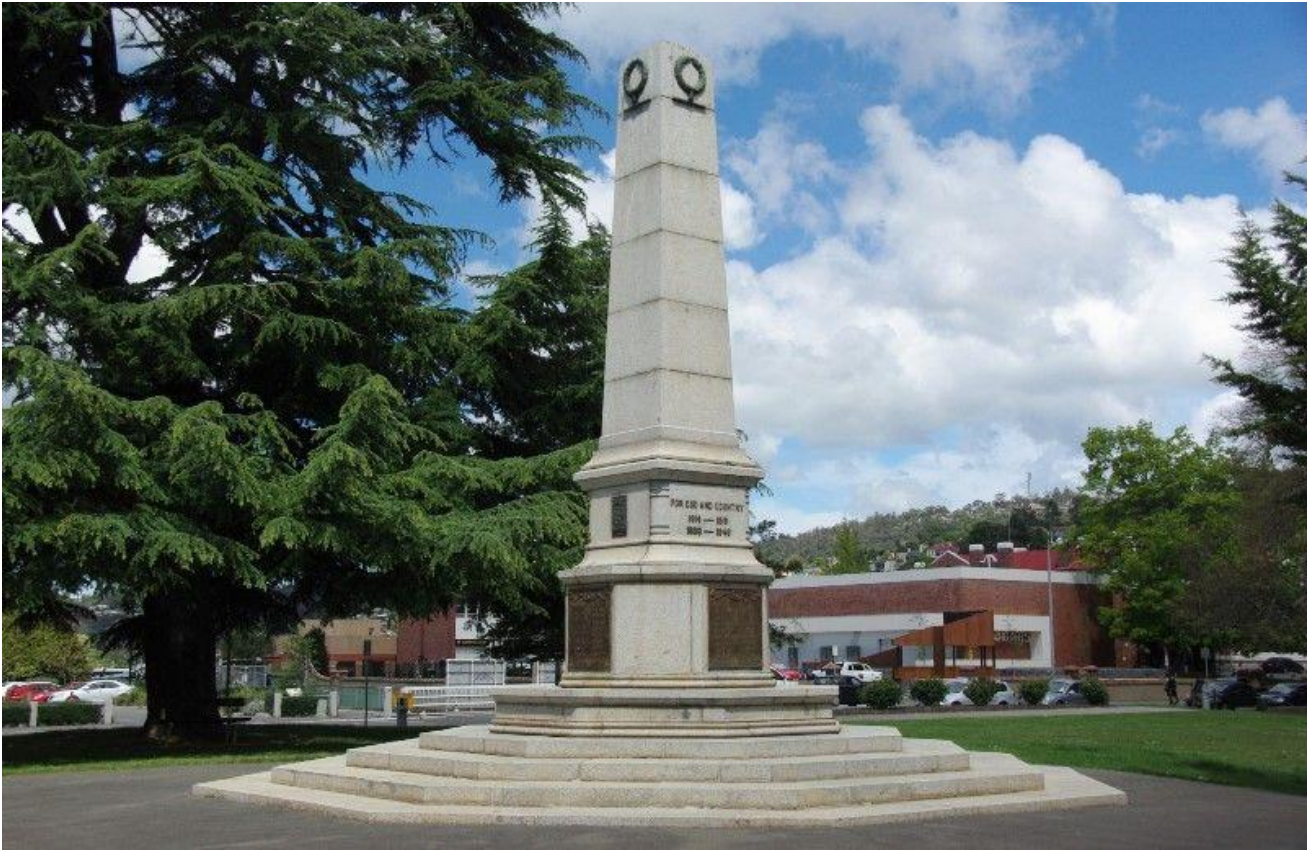
B. F. Woolcock is remembered on Postmaster General's Department, Tasmania Honour Roll located at General Post Office, Elizabeth & Macquarie Streets, Hobart, Tasmania.



Postmaster General's Department, Tasmania Honour Roll (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



B. F. Woolcock is remembered on Launceston Cenotaph, located at Paterson Street, Launceston, Tasmania.



Launceston Cenotaph (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter Williams)





Bertie Francis Woolcock is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

### Front Inscription

*Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918*

*The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.*

*"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."*



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

ANZAC	3352A	Pvt	Wool	John Thomas	10.08.1918	24	4th Inf Bn	Darwinport East	
ANZAC	4067	Pvt	Warren	Daniel Cyril	25.05.1918	17	1st Inf Bn	Battery Point	
ANZAC	3059	Pvt	Washington	John Frederick	28.08.1918	32	NZEF Art	Bothwell	ANZAC
ANZAC	12316B	L/Cpl	Wool	George	28.11.1918	20	4th Inf Bn		
ANZAC	1974	Pvt	Woolley	Alfred Ernest	17.28.1918	35	2nd Trench Coy	Clarendon	ANZAC
ANZAC	1158	Tpr	Woolley	Richard Mack W.	24.04.1918	19	3rd Inf Bn	Melton	ANZAC
ANZAC	3258	Pvt	Woolley	Francis Leonard	04.08.1918	22	52nd Inf Bn	Evandale	
ANZAC	3528	Pvt	Woolley	Robert John	04.08.1918	24	52nd Inf Bn	Emmaville	
ANZAC	2252	Pvt	Woolley	Edmond Raymond	24.07.1918	29	12th Inf Bn	Philly	ANZAC
ANZAC	2218	Pvt	Woolley (Lancs)	Alfred	25.07.1918	23	1st Pioneer Bn	Chatham	
ANZAC	3243	Pvt	Woolley	Robert Ernest	24.04.1918	17	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
ANZAC	7029	Pvt	Woolley	Alfred	08.08.1918	21	2nd Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	4269	Pvt	Woolley	Richard	19.08.1918	22	12th Inf Bn	Mack Creek	
ANZAC	3842	Pvt	Woolley	Francis Joseph	18.07.1918	33	6th Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	3522	Pvt	Woolley	William Ernest	08.08.1918	19	2nd Inf Bn	Philly	
ANZAC	3163	Pvt	Woolley	Horace Stanley	03.10.1918	23	32nd Inf Bn	Ringswood	
ANZAC	10691	Cpl	Woolley	William Alfred	31.03.1918	20	6th Pz Coy Bde	St Leonards	
ANZAC	1683	Pvt	Woolley	Yeshu Mennie	30.01.1918	43	2nd Inf Bn	Woolcock	
ANZAC	2187	Pvt	Woolley	Richard Thomas	05.07.1918	19	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	1608	Cpl	Woolley (LCA)	Charles Edward	14.11.1918	24	2nd Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
ANZAC	2081	Pvt	Woolley	Edward William	05.05.1918	23	22nd Inf Bn	Lindisfarne	
ANZAC	2043B	Pvt	Woolley	Arthur	18.10.1918	9	NZEF Coy	Spiby Bay	
ANZAC	3308	Pvt	Woolley	Mary John	19.04.1918	18	12th Inf Bn	Uverston	
ANZAC	4268	Pvt	Woolley	Charles Frederick	19.05.1918	19	12th Inf Bn	North Hobart	
ANZAC	3705	Pvt	Woolley	Oliver Albert	05.08.1918	24	2nd Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	13791	Cpl	Woolcock	Thomas Frederick	05.12.1918	18	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	3044	Pvt	Woolley	Robert John	05.08.1918	23	2nd Inf Bn	Darwinport East	ANZAC
ANZAC	2331	Pvt	Woolley	Robert Joseph	09.08.1918	19	12th Inf Bn	St Leonards	ANZAC
ANZAC	2401	Pvt	Woolley	Philip Eric	06.08.1918	25	12th Inf Bn	Uverston	
ANZAC	8766B	Pvt	Woolcock	Cyril William	27.08.1918	19	NZEF Coy	Longford	
ANZAC	8188	Pvt	Woolcock	Sydney Owen	27.08.1918	19	NZEF Coy	Longford	
ANZAC	1603	Pvt	Woolcock	Charles Arthur	03.08.1918	29	2nd Inf Bn	North Hobart	
ANZAC	51	Pvt	Woolcock	Walter Francis	29.08.1918	21	2nd Inf Bn	Cygnal	ANZAC
ANZAC	1291	Pvt	Woolley	Colin Samuel	05.08.1918	29	2nd Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	2089	Pvt	Woolley	John Thomas	18.08.1918	20	2nd Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
ANZAC	3003	Pvt	Woolley	Robert Joseph	29.07.1918	19	2nd Inf Bn	Wynyard	
ANZAC	3002	Pvt	Woolley	Alfred Alexander	19.08.1918	24	2nd Inf Bn	Philly	
ANZAC	3204	Pvt	Woolley	Robert Joseph	29.07.1918	20	2nd Inf Bn	Wynyard	
ANZAC	3094	Pvt	Woolley	Thomas William	05.08.1918	23	2nd Inf Bn	Clarendon	ANZAC
ANZAC	2774	Pvt	Woolley	Charles Ernest	03.09.1918	20	52nd Inf Bn	Uverston	
ANZAC	3057	Pvt	Woolley	Charles Ernest	28.10.1918	21	22nd Inf Bn	St Leonards	
ANZAC	3006	Pvt	Woolley	John Thomas	07.08.1918	25	2nd Inf Bn	Philly	
ANZAC	3058	Pvt	Woolley	John Thomas	08.08.1918	24	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
ANZAC	2064	Pvt	Woolley	John Frederick	02.04.1918	23	12th Inf Bn	Philly	
ANZAC				Bertie Francis	29.08.1918	21	12th Inf Bn	Lindisfarne	
ANZAC	308	Pvt	Woolley	Thomas William	05.08.1918	23	2nd Inf Bn	Lindisfarne	ANZAC
ANZAC	68	Pvt	Woolley	Hugh Harold	29.04.1918	25	1st Inf Bn	Clarendon	ANZAC
ANZAC				Ernest William	02.04.1918	28	1st Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC
ANZAC	1007	Cpl	Woolley	John Charles	05.12.1918	18	12th Inf Bn	Lindisfarne	
ANZAC	2072	Pvt	Woolley	John Edward	23.07.1918	18	12th Inf Bn	Lindisfarne	
ANZAC	2069	Pvt	Woolley	John Edward	13.10.1918	26	2nd Inf Bn	Darwinport East	
ANZAC	2148	Pvt	Woolley	Richard Ernest B.	18.07.1918	17	NZEF Art	Philly	
ANZAC				Cyril Thomas D. J.	29.07.1918	20	2nd Inf Bn	Philly	

1003	Sgt	Woodward	Charles Arthur	03.09.1918	20	52nd Inf Bn	North Hobart
51	Pvt	Woolcock	Charles Conant G	04.09.1918	24	52nd Inf Bn	Cygnal
1201	Pvt	Woolley	Bertie Francis	29.08.1918	21	40th Inf Bn	Waratah
			Gordon Stewart	05.09.1918	20		



(51 pages of Private Bertie Francis Woolcock'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**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

The following appointments are announced:

..... Bertie Francis Woolcock, telegraph messenger at Waratah.

*(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 10 May, 1909)*

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### **POSTAL APPOINTMENTS**

Melbourne, July 9

Bertie Francis Wolcock, assistant at Waratah, was successful in the examination for appointment as telegraphist.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 10 July, 1911)*

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### **HOBART DEFENCE FORCE**

#### **Y.M.C.A. TENT**

The Young Men's Christian Association, with their usual vigour and zeal for the young manhood of the community, in addition to installing a tent at the Concentration Camp, Pontville, have equipped a second tent at the camp, Sandy Bay Golf Links, where the daily papers and latest war news are supplied twice each day, under the superintendence of Mr C. W. Hemery. Before breaking camp on return home, Mr B. F. Woolcock, on behalf of the twenty Signallers of the 92nd Infantry, handed Mr Hemery the sum of £1 towards the funds of the Association, as a mark of appreciation of the efforts made on their behalf.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 4 September, 1914)*

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### **ENTERED CAMP AT CLAREMONT**

The undermentioned men joined the Claremont camp on Wednesday:-.....B. F. Woolcock....

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 11 March, 1916)*

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## SUCCESS OF TASMANIAN SIGNALLERS

A squad of Claremont signallers returned from Victoria in the s.s. Rotomahana. yesterday. They have been attending the Broadmeadows Signalling School] during the past month, and have been unusually successful. No fewer than 12 signallers out of 16 secured gold medals which are awarded to those who secure 98 points or more in the examination. The school was held under Lieutenant T. V. Cole, who considered the Tasmanian representatives the "best squad in the school." The following were the signallers who gained first class medals: Privates B. J. Jackson, H. M. Jordan. Rivert-Carnac, **B. F. Woolcock (the four securing 100 per cent.)**, L. Biggs, R. Biggs, J. A. Cawther, C. W. Bell. Fors'und, K'Kinlay, H. G. Richards, and Young (98 per cent each). The "boys" were of course, gratified at their success.

*(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 12 May, 1916)*

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## AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

### 214th AND 215th LISTS ISSUED

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

TASMANIA – B. F. Woolcock, Waratah.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 September, 1916)*

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## RETURN THANKS

Mr and Mrs R. Woolcock and family of Waratah, tender their sincere thanks to the many kind friends for expressions of sympathy conveyed to them by telegrams, letters and cards, in their recent sad bereavement in the loss of the dear and beloved son, B. F. Woolcock.

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 23 September, 1916)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

WOOLCOCK – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sgn. B. F. Woolcock, died at Devonport Military Hospital, England, August 28, 1916.

No mother was there to soothe his brow;  
    No brother there to say good-bye;  
No father to take him by the hand,  
    When death was drawing nigh.

No loved ones stood around him  
    To catch his last faint sighs;  
Nor whisper just one loving word  
    Before he closed his eyes.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sister, 10 Douglas street, Invermay.

*(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 28 August, 1917)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

WOOLCOCK – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, B. F. Woolcock, who died at Devonport Military Hospital, England, on August 28, 1916.

One of the Fortieth.

In a soldier's grave he is sleeping,  
One of the earth's bravest and best;  
In our hearts we shall miss him for ever,  
Still we know he is only at rest.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sister, R. and E. A. Woolcock, 10 Douglas street, Launceston.

*(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 28 August, 1918)*

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## **On Active Service**

WOOLCOCK – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Signaller B. F. Woolcock, who died at Devonport Military Hospital, England, on 28th August, 1916.

One of the Fortieth.

Died of illness, said the cable;  
We could scarcely read it through,  
For our hearts were nearly broken,  
As we realised 'twas true.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, sister and brothers, 10 Douglas-street, Invermay.

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 27 August, 1919) & (Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – 28 August, 1919)*

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## **On Active Service**

WOOLCOCK – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Signaller B. F. Woolcock, who died at the Devonport Military Hospital, 28th August, 1916.

Ever in our memory

-Inserted by his loving parents and brothers

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 28 August, 1920)*

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## Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private Bertie Francis Woolcock has a Private Headstone.

## **Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England**

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area. Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth. PLYMOUTH (EFFORD) CEMETERY contains 338 scattered burials of the First World War. The 109 Second World War burials, including 5 unidentified, are also scattered apart from a small group in Section C, in a plot set aside for service burials that was actually little used. The Commission also maintains five non-war burials within the cemetery and 12 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Greek merchant seamen. PLYMOUTH CITY CREMATORIUM is situated in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery and 61 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on a screen wall set into a recess in the hedge behind the Cross of Sacrifice.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Cross of Sacrifice in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth** *(Photo from CWGC)*



**War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth** (Photos courtesy of Rebecca Smith)

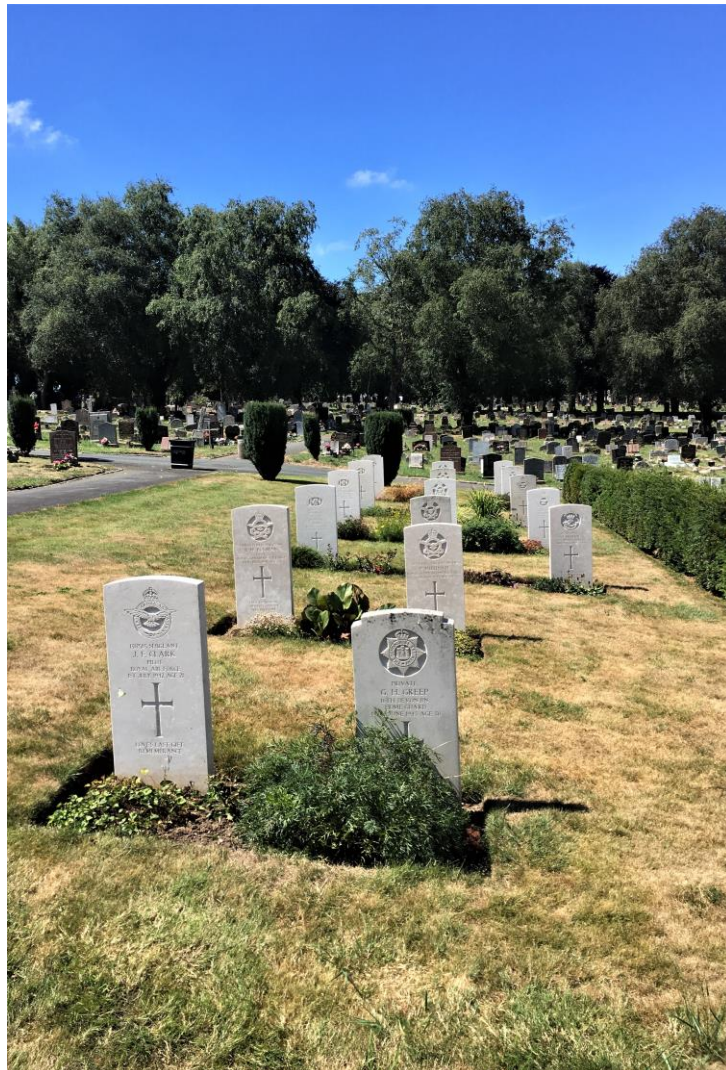


Photo of Private B. F. Woolcock's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo – Find a Grave Cliff Barry)

*In  
Memory  
Of  
Signaller  
B. F. WOOLCOCK  
40TH Battalion A.I.F.  
Beloved Second Son of  
R. & E. Woolcock,  
Of Waratah, Tasmania  
Born at Waratah, Augt 4TH 1895,  
Died at Devonport Hospital,  
England, Augt 28TH 1916  
Not Lost But Gone Before*



**War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth** (Photo from CWGC)