

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,
Birmingham, West Midlands**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5436 PRIVATE

G. H. WOOLLEY

21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

20TH APRIL, 1917

George Herbert (Bert) WOOLLEY

George Herbert Woolley was born at Maribyrnong, Victoria on 22nd May, 1875 to parents George & Jane Eliza Woolley (nee Mitchell). His birth was registered in the district of Essendon, Melbourne, Victoria.

George Herbert Woolley married Agnes Caroline Carter on 18th January, 1899 in Broken Hill, New South Wales.

A son – Herbert Reginald Woolley was born on 30th November, 1900 at Coleraine, Victoria.

George Herbert Woolley stated he was aged 37 year old, married & a Carpenter from 346 Ascot Vale Road, Moonee Ponds, Victoria when he enlisted at Brunswick, Victoria on 18th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5436 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Agnes Caroline Woolley, 346 Ascot Vale Road, Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

Private George Herbert Woolley was posted to “D” Company, 22nd Depot Battalion on 17th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to “C” Company, 22nd Depot Battalion on 26th April, 1916 then transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 19th Battalion at Broadmeadows. Private Woolley was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 21st Battalion at Royal Park on 26th May, 1916.

Private George Herbert Woolley embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles (A32)* on 28th July, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th September, 1916.

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 George Herbert Woolley proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 16th November, 1916 per S.S. *Victoria*. He was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 17th November, 1916. Private Woolley joined 21st Battalion in France on 2nd December, 1916 from 14th Reinforcements.

Private George Herbert Woolley was wounded in action in France on 10th February, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance & transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on 11th February, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to right Arm. Private Woolley was transferred to 12th General Hospital at Rouen on 13th February, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Right Arm. He was transferred to England on 6th March, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. David* from 12th Canadian General Hospital at Rouen

21st Battalion

The 21st Battalion was raised, as part of the 6th Brigade, at Broadmeadows in Victoria in February 1915. Its recruits hailed from all over the state. The later enlistment of these men, and their average age of 29, would seem to indicate a more considered decision to enlist that set them apart from those who did so amidst the heady enthusiasm of late 1914.....

After evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, the 21st Battalion arrived in France in March 1916. In April, it was the first Australian battalion to commence active operations on the Western Front. During the battle of Pozieres it was engaged mainly on carrying duties, but suffered its heaviest casualties of the war during the fighting around Mouquet Farm.

In early May 1917, the battalion fought at Bullecourt, and then in October participated in the 3-kilometre advance that captured Broodseinde Ridge, east of Ypres. Like the rest of the AIF the battalion saw out the year recuperating from the trials of the Ypres sector.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 21st Battalion

In the Trenches – 10th February, 1917:

6 pm - Situation normal.

8 pm – Stokes & F A Bombardment for 8 minutes, Quick. Enemy retaliation caused us

Killed 4 Wounded 8

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Herbert Woolley was admitted to 2nd Birmingham War Hospital, Northfield, England on 7th March, 1917 & was removed from Seriously Ill List.

Private George Herbert Woolley died at 6.45 pm on 20th April, 1917 at 2nd Birmingham War Hospital, Northfield, Birmingham, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. right Arm & Septic Pneumonia.

A death for George H. Woolley, aged 39, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Kings Norton, Worcestershire, England.

Private George Herbert Woolley was buried on 25th April, 1917 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Selly Oak, Birmingham, England – Grave No. 469.

From the burial report of Private George Herbert Woolley - Coffin was polished Elm with Brass Fittings. The Coffin was taken to the Cemetery in a Hearse. The Coffin Bearers were supplied by the R.A.M.C. Birmingham, The last Post was sounded. A Burial Service was held in the Church of England Chapel in the Cemetery by the Rev W. T. Clements. About 20 Australian Soldiers were present at the Funeral. No Relatives were present.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – his name is remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 469 as he does not have a headstone.

Private George Herbert Woolley requested in his Will dated 14th December, 1916 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects to be given to his wife – Agnes Woolley, 346 Ascot Vale Rd, Moonee Ponds, Victoria, Australia.

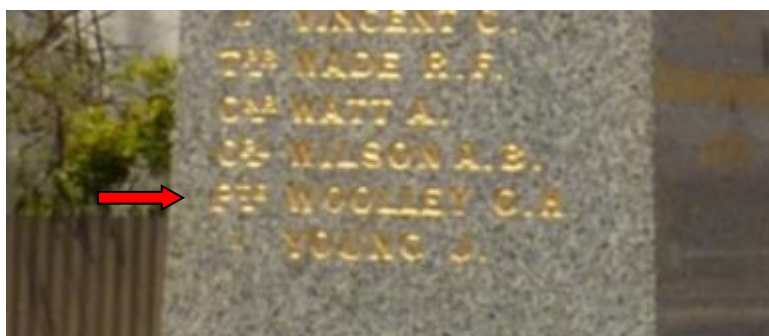
Private George Herbert Woolley was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Woolley's widow – Mrs A. C. Woolley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent May, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private G. H. Woolley – service number 5436, of 21st Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

G. H. Woolley is remembered on the Coleraine War Memorial, located at 78 Whyte Street, Coleraine, Victoria.

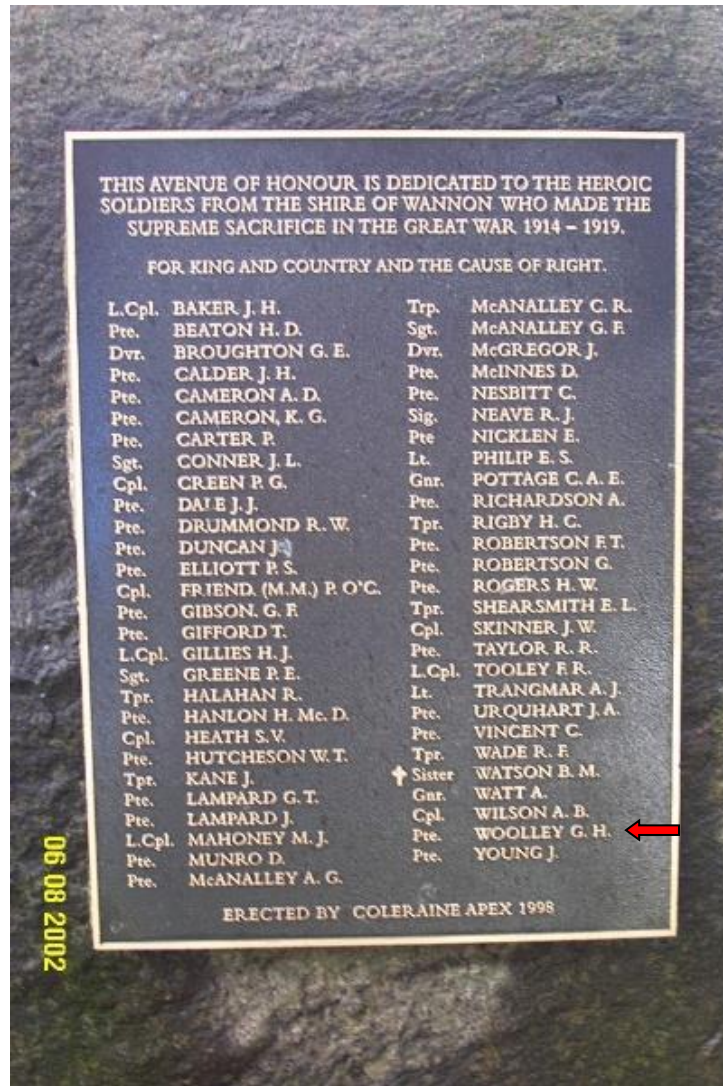


Coleraine War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



G. H. Woolley is remembered on the Coleraine Avenue of Honour, located on Glenelg Highway, Coleraine, Victoria.





Coleraine Avenue of Honour (Photos from VHD)

Private G. H. Woolley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 95.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(40 pages of Private George Herbert Woolley'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

277TH LIST

Details of Victorian losses are as follow –

Wounded

Pte G. H. Woolley, Moonee Ponds (dang)

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 9 March, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

WOOLLEY – Died of wounds on 21st April, Private George Herbert Woolley, loving husband of Agnes Woolley, and dearly loved father of Roy.

A gallant sacrifice.

Deeply and sadly mourned.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 April, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 291

DIED OF WOUNDS

Victoria

WOOLLEY, G. M., Moonee Ponds, 21/4/17

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 May, 1917)

AUSTRALIANS ABROAD

Killed in action

News has been received of the death of Private George Herbert Woolley from wounds received while on active service in France. He was second son of Mrs George Woolley, of Coleraine. Private Woolley was born at Essendon in 1875. He leaves a widow and grown-up son.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 May, 1917) & (*Flemington Spectator*, Victoria – 10 May, 1917) &

(*The Essendon Gazette and Keilor, Bulla and Broadmeadows Reporter*, Moonee Ponds, Victoria – 10 May, 1917)

In Memoriam

WOOLLEY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, George Herbert Woolley, died of wounds received in France, 21st April, 1917.

Remembered just the same to-day

As in the hour he passed away;

From memory's page we will not blot

Three little words – Forget me not.

-Inserted by his loving mother, father and brothers.

(*Coleraine Albion and Western Advertiser*, Victoria – 18 April, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WOOLLEY – In fond and loving memory of my dear husband, G. H. (Bert) Woolley, and father of Roy, who died of wounds received in France on 21st April, 1917; also my dear brother, Stanley Carter, who was killed in action at Gallipoli in 1915.

Died of wounds in London,

That is all the cable says;

But they who knew and loved him,

Knows a hero died that day.

There is a link death cannot sever,

Love and remembrance last for ever.

-Inserted by his loving wife A. Woolley, and son, Roy, 346 Ascot Vale-road, Moonee Ponds.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 April, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WOOLLEY – In sad and loving memory of my dear husband, G. H. (Bert) Woolley, 21st Battalion, who died of wounds received in France on the 21st April, 1917; also my dear brother, Stan. Carter, killed 24th August, 1915 at Gallipoli.

There is a link death cannot sever –

Love and remembrance last for ever.

-Inserted by his loving wife and son, Roy, 346 Ascot Vale-road, Moonee Ponds.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 April, 1920)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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 G. H. Woolley does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



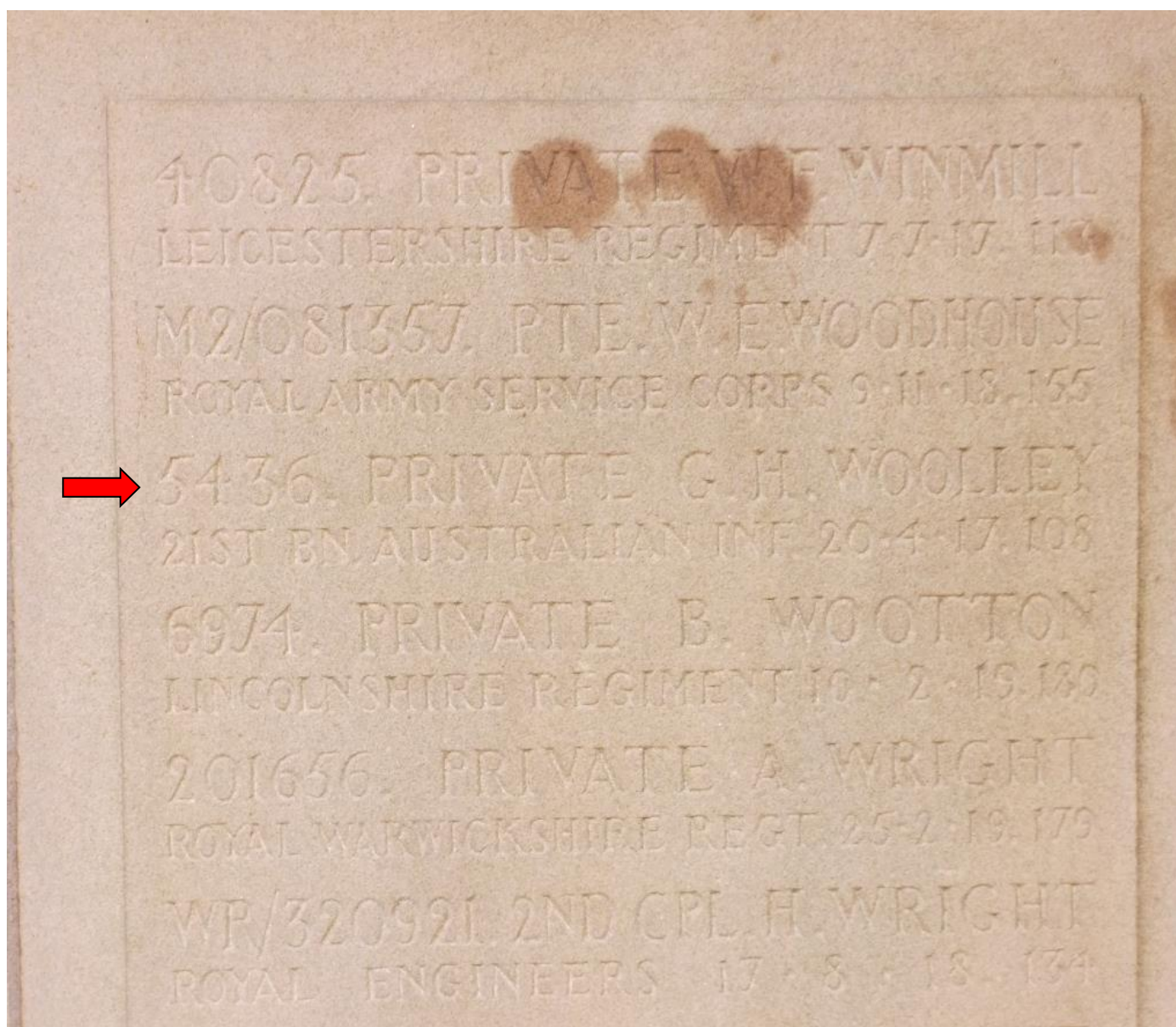
(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)



Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham (*Photos from CWGC*)



Photo of Private G. H. Woolley's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

