Wandsworth Cemetery,

London, England

War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4156 PRIVATE

W. P. BOLAND

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 39

Lord Have Mercy On His Soul

R.I.P.

William Patrick BOLAND

William Patrick Boland was born at Richmond, Victoria in 1876 to parents James & Margaret Boland (nee Curtain).

William Patrick Boland attended Xavier's College, Kew, Victoria.

William Patrick Boland was a 39 year old, single, Labourer, from 260 Pier Street, Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 24th September, 1915 at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4156 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Boland, Richmond, Victoria.

Private William Patrick Boland was posted to No. 30 Depot on 24th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Company, 3rd Depot Battalion on 27th September, 1915 then transferred on 9th November, 1915 to 13th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion.

Private William Patrick Boland embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Borda (A30)* on 17th January, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 9th February, 1916.

Private William Patrick Boland joined 11th Battalion at Serapeum on 17th March, 1916 & was posted to "C" Company. He was written up for a Crime on 19th March, 1916 at Garrison Camp, Zeitoun – 1. Breaking out of Camp while under open arrest 2. Drunk. He was awarded 10 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private William Patrick Boland embarked from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 on H.M.T. *Corsican* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 5th April, 1916.

Private William Patrick Boland was written up for an Offence while at Sailly on 1st May, 1916 "While on Active Service – absent from Parade." He was awarded 3 days confined to Camp.

Private William Patrick Boland was wounded in action in France 22 – 25th July, 1916 (dates as per Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 22nd July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Back then transferred on 23rd July, 1916 to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station. Private Boland was transferred & admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 24th July, 1916. He was transferred to England on 29th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew*.

11th Battalion

The 11th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and with the 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

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After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 11th Battalion returned to Egypt. It was split to help form the 51st Battalion, and then bought up to strength with reinforcements.

In March 1916, the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres, the battalion manned trenches near Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme valley for winter.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary - 11th Battalion

Firing Line - 22nd July, 1916:

Capt A. H. Macfarlane O/C "A" Coy was killed during the early morning,

Copy of Battalion orders for first offensive against POZIERES is attached (Appendix E)

Narrative of the operations embracing the whole time Battalion was in the firing lune (19th – 25th July), is attached. (Appendix F)

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Appendix F:

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Our casualties during the operation were:-

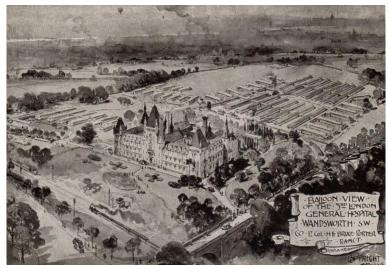
	Killed	Wounded	Missing
Officers	6	11	1
Other Ranks	62	358	91

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Patrick Boland was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England on 30th July, 1916.



3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth



Private William Patrick Boland died at 4.20 pm on 5th August, 1916 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. of Spine.

A death for William P. Boland, aged 39, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Wandsworth, Greater London, England.

Base Records advised Mr J. Boland, Richmond, Victoria on 9th August, 1916 that No. 4156 Private W. P. Boland, 11th Battalion was dangerously ill suffering from gunshot wound to spine.

J. Boland, 635 Bridge Rd, Richmond, wrote to Base Records on 10th August, 1916 with the following: "I received notice today that (my son) No 4156 Private W. P. Boland 11th Battalion is dangerously ill from gunshot wound – Could you kindly let me know the Hospital he is in."

Base Records replied to Mr J. Boland on 15th August, 1916: "....and you will ere this be aware, through the Military Commandant, Victoria, of the regrettable news of the demise of your son, No. 4156 Private W. P. Boland, 11th Battalion. Detailed circumstances of his loss will not, it is anticipated, be known here until the receipt, at a later date, of the final official confirming document from the Front, when all such particulars as may then come to hand will be made available to you."

Private William Patrick Boland was buried in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Block 19, Grave No. 29.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Boland, 635 Bridge Road, Richmond, Victoria on 16th April, 1920: "With reference to my communication of the 15th January, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your son the late No. 4156 Private W. P. Boland, 11th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from block 19 grave No. 29 Wandsworth Cemetery, and re-interred in grave No.30, Australian Section, Wandsworth Cemetery, Wandsworth, London. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."

This is now recorded by CWGC as Plot number Aust. 30 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records wrote to Miss Boland, 635 Bridge Road, Richmond, Victoria on 28th October, 1916 enclosing, in duplicate, the report of death of her brother, the late No. 4156, Private W. P. Boland, 11th Battalion.

The Commonwealth Bank – Superintendent, Savings Bank Department, Melbourne, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 17th May, 1917 requesting the Death Certificate & next of kin of the late 4156 William Patrick Boland, 11th Battalion.

Base Records replied to The Superintendent, Savings Bank Department, Perth, on 21st May, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 4156 Private W. P. Boland, 11th Battalion & advised that the next-of-kin was shown as Mr James Boland (father), 635 Bridge Road, Richmond, Victoria.

The Commonwealth Bank – Superintendent, Savings Bank Department, Perth, wrote to Base Records on 6th June, 1917 requesting the Death Certificate of No. 4156 W. P. Boland, 11th Battalion.

Base Records replied to The Superintendent, Savings Bank Department, Perth, on 15th June, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 4156 Private W. P. Boland, 11th Battalion.

Private William Patrick Boland was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Boland's father – Mr J. Boland, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent February, 1922).

The address for Mr James Boland, father of the late Private William Patrick Boland, was changed to "Therese" 43 Parkside St, Elsternwick. (dated 1st November, 192_)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Patrick Boland – service number 4156, aged 39, of 11th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James & Margaret Boland. Native of Richmond, Victoria, Australia.

W. P. Boland is remembered on the Associated Stock & Station Agents of Melbourne Roll of Honour, This Roll of Honour was originally hung at the Associated Stock & Station Agents office, Bourke St, Melbourne, but is now at the Pakenham Saleyards – Victoria Livestock Exchange Officer Foyer, Exchange Drive, Pakenham, Victoria. (A notation was made by the photographer "Many of the names on the board will not be of local men.")



(Photo from Empire Call – Jenny Coates)

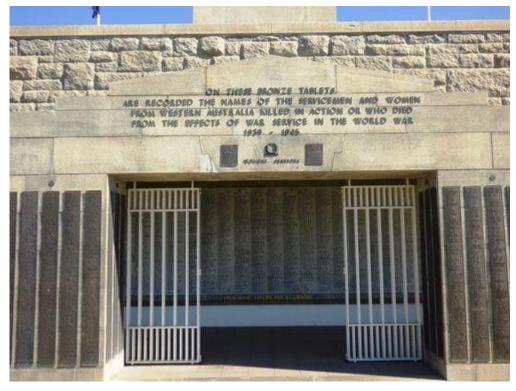
W. P. Boland is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



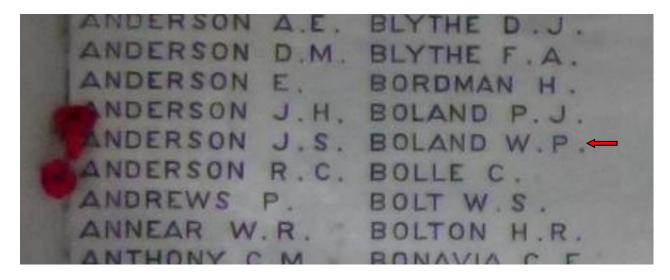
Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





11th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



Private W. P. Boland is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 61.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(58 pages of Private William Patrick Boland'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

DIED ON SERVICE

BOLAND – On the 5th August, died of wounds received in France, William, beloved son of James and the late Margaret Boland, Richmond, and loved brother of Edward, Margaret, and Agnes.

R.I.P.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 August, 1916) & (The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 August, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

BOLAND – On the 5th August, died of wounds received in France, William, beloved son of James and the late Margaret Boland, Richmond, and loved brother of Edward, Margaret, and Agnes.

R.I.P.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria - 15 August, 1916)

DEATHS

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(Advocate, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIANS IN WAR

198th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte W. P. BOLAND, Richmond

(Hamilton Spectator, Victoria – 24 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHTH LIST

WEST AUSTRALIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

W. P. Boland, Richmond, Vic

(Kalgoorlie Western Argus, Western Australia – 29 August, 1916)

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 W. P. Boland does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Lord Have Mercy On His Soul

R.I.P.

Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925. (Information from CWGC)



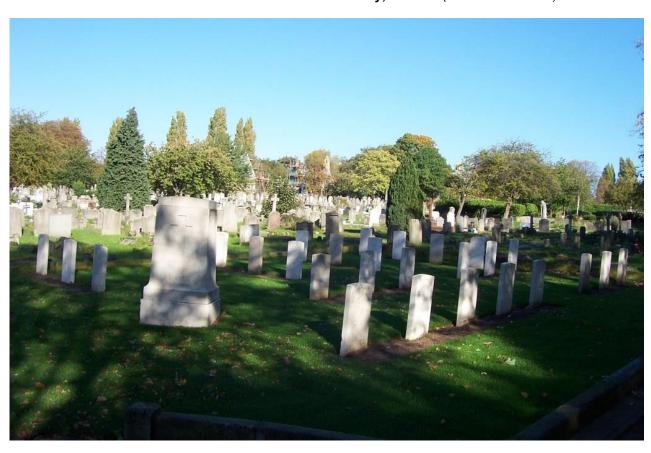
A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London (taken 15 April, 1931)



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London (Photos from CWGC)





Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private W. P. Boland's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld 2009)