

**Botley Cemetery,
Botley, Oxfordshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



55 SERJEANT

F. W. C. BOOTLE

4TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 26

Francis William Courtenay BOOTLE

Francis William Courtenay Bootle was born on 10th May, 1890 at Moree, NSW to parents Francis James Essington Bootle and Elizabeth Margaret Sarah Bootle (nee Marks).

Francis William Courtenay Bootle attended Forbes, Morpeth & Orange Public Schools. He then attended The Sydney Church of England Grammar School in 1906 & then Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Orange – Molong Polling Place recorded Francis William Courtenay Bootle as a Grazier from Larras Lake, NSW.

Francis William Courtenay Bootle was a 24 year old Farmer when he enlisted at Holsworthy, Sydney, NSW on 6th February, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 55 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr F. J. E. Bootle, Woodward Street, Orange, NSW.

Francis William C. Bootle was attached to 2nd Reinforcements of 1st Veterinary Section (no date recorded).

(Note: the Australian War Memorial & the Commonwealth War Graves Commission both have the spelling of "Courtenay" as Francis William Courtney Bootle. Some of the forms in the Service Record file have the spelling as Courtenay others as Courtney.)

Francis William C. Bootle is not recorded on the Embarkation Rolls on the Australian War Memorial website.

Private Francis William C. Bootle embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ajana* (A31) on 19th December, 1914. (Note: A form in the Service Record file has the ship & date crossed out & in pencil replaced with "*Runic on 19th February, 1915 ?*" Also the rank is listed as "*Trooper 423.*")

Private Francis William C. Bootle was taken on strength from Reinforcements on 18th June, 1915 at Maade.

Private Francis William C. Bootle was Absent from Parade & drunk. He was awarded 168 hours detention & forfeited 5 days' pay; fined 10/- & 14 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks). (no date recorded).

Private Francis William C. Bootle was admitted to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital at Cairo on 22nd December, 1915 with a "hurt knee". He was discharged to duty on 30th December, 1915.

Private Francis William C. Bootle joined New Zealand & Australian Division at Moascar on 29th February, 1916.

Private Francis William C. Bootle was promoted to Sergeant on 7th March, 1916 with 1st Veterinary Section.

Sergeant Francis William C. Bootle was transferred to 1st F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 13th March, 1916. A form in the Service Record file records that "*No. 423 Bootle, F. W. C. from 1st Vet Section to 1st Field Artillery Brigade 13-3-16.*"

Sergeant Francis William C. Bootle embarked from Alexandria on 21st March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916. (Casualty Form – Active Service has recorded he disembarked in November)

Sergeant Francis William C. Bootle was transferred to 4th Battalion from 2nd Battery 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade on 12th (date of 14th also listed) October, 1916 with a view to obtaining a commission.

Sergeant (Cadet) Francis William C. Bootle joined No. 6 Officers' Cadet Battalion at Balliol College, Oxford, England on 1st December, 1916.

Sergeant (Cadet) Francis William C. Bootle was admitted to General Hospital at Oxford, England on 6th December, 1916 seriously ill with Nephritis. He was discharged to duty on 29th December, 1916.

Sergeant (Cadet) Francis William C. Bootle was admitted to 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford, England on 2nd February, 1917 with Bronchitis & Nephritis. He was reported as seriously ill on 4th February, 1917.

Sergeant (Cadet) Francis William C. Bootle died on 14th February, 1917 at 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford, England from Nephritis & Bronchitis.

A death for Francis Bootle, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Oxford, Oxfordshire, England.

Sergeant Francis William C. Bootle was buried on 17th February, 1917 in Botley Cemetery, Botley, Oxfordshire, England – Plot number I1.75.

Mr F. J. E. Bootle, of Woodward Street, Orange, NSW, father of the late Sergeant F.W.C. Bootle, wrote to Base Records on 25th July, 1921 in reply to them sending him a pamphlet regarding the installation of an Imperial War Graves Headstone on his son's grave. He stated in his letter that he *"was still adverse to the cross being removed.... more especially as my two sons who have seen the grave are also very much adverse to such being done.... It was erected by his comrades which we think to be a great honour and before removal and before removal (as they say) the subscriber would require to be consulted of possible. The sentiment is considerable and besides they say the present headstone is not such an outstanding one to make it conspicuous."*

Base Records received a letter from The Official Secretary, Australia House, London, dated 29th May, 1923 regarding Sergeant F. W. C. Bootle, stating that communications had been *"received from the Imperial War Graves Commission, stating that the present memorial which is erected over the grave of the above mentioned N.C.O. in Botley Cemetery, Oxford, will not be disturbed. Kindly advise the next of kin accordingly."* Base Records advised Mr Bootle in July, 1923 of the decision not to disturb the private memorial erected over the grave of his son.

Sergeant Francis William C. Bootle now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Sergeant Francis William Courtney Bootle was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Bootle's father – Mr F. J. E. Bootle, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Francis William Courtney Bootle – service number 55, aged 26, of 4th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Francis James Essington Bootle and Elizabeth Margaret Sarah Bootle, of Woodward St., Orange, New South Wales.

Sergeant F. W. C. Bootle is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 39.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. W. C. Bootle is remembered on the Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore) WW1 Roll of Honour located to the side of the entrance steps to grandstand building at the School's Memorial Playing Fields at Northbridge.



Sydney Church of England Grammar School WW1 Roll of Honour



(Photos courtesy of Kate Riseley, School Archivist, Shore School)

From *The Torch Bearer* (The Magazine of the Sydney Church of England Grammar School) April, 1917:

*Since our last issue the flag has floated no less than eight times at half-mast. The names of the fallen are- L. W. G. Last, A. A. Hillyard, J. Hay, J. J. Wildridge, F. W. M. Busby, **F. W. C. Bootle**, O.C. Taylor and J. Mocatta.*

F. Bootle is remembered on the Molong & District Roll of Honour, located in the Molong Soldiers Memorial Hall, Bank Street, Molong, NSW.



Molong & District Roll of Honour (Photo from NSW War Memorials Register- Gary Brown)

F. Bootle is remembered on the Molong War Memorial, located in Village Green, Bank & Gidley Streets, Molong, NSW.



Molong War Memorial (Photos from Virtual War Memorial Australia)

F.W. Bootle is remembered on the Shire of Canobolas Honour Roll, located in Memorial Hall, 231 Anson Street, Orange, NSW.



Shire of Canobolas Honour Roll (Photo from Virtual War Memorial Australia)

F. W. Bootle is remembered on the Orange Cenotaph, located in Robertson Park, Byng Street, Orange, NSW.



Orange Cenotaph (Photos by Henry Moulds)



Sergeant Francis William C. Bootle is remembered on the Moree Anzac Centenary Memorial Park, located at Anne & Gosport Streets, Moree, NSW.



Moree Anzac Centenary Memorial Park

(Photo above from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown; below by Liz Williamson)



(41 pages of Sergeant Francis William Courtney Bootle'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





DAIRY CLASS, JANUARY-JUNE, 1909.

Back Row: Students Tollemache, Warden, Colwell, **Bootle**, Kelsey, H. Rogers, Cowan, Mr. W. Thompson (Engineer), Desbois, McDiarmid.

Middle Row: F. Wilkinson, Lukins, Hyndes, Mr. J. G. McMillan (Dairy Instructor), Mr. J. Houston (Assistant), Henry, Farleigh, Holden.

Front Row: Brownlie, White, Bronsdon, Morgan.

University Archives Ref: AI-49052 Hawkesbury Agricultural College Journal (Vol.VI, No.9) August 1909 p.137



Newspaper Notices

Roll of Honour

The following have enlisted from Molong and district to fight in defence of the Empire and the freedom of the world...

Vet. Surgeon F. W. C. Bootle, Molong

(*Molong Argus*, NSW – 14 May, 1915)

Local and General

Sergt F. W. C. Bootle, of Molong, is reported ill.

(*Molong Express and Western District Advertiser*, NSW – 30 December, 1916)

PERSONAL

Casualty lists last week contained the following information...dangerously ill, Private P. Wicks (Cowra), Sergeant F. W. C. Bootle (Orange)....

(Forbes Advocate, NSW – 2 January, 1917)

FOR AUSTRALIA

TWO CASUALTY LISTS

Two casualty lists, the 266th and 267th, were issued this morning....

NEW SOUTH WALES

RETURNED TO DUTY

Cadet F. W. C. BOOTLE, Orange (previously reported seriously ill)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 22 January, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BOOTLE – Dec. 14, at the General Hospital, Oxford, Sergeant Francis William Courtenay Bootle, eldest son of F. J. E. Bootle, Surveyor, Orange, aged 26 years.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW - 26 February, 1917)

CASUALTIES

275th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Sgt. F. W. C. Bootle, Orange

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 2 March, 1917)

Sgt F. C. W. Bootle is remembered on his parents' grave at Orange Cemetery, NSW – Church of England Section N Graves 91/92.



Orange Cemetery, NSW (Photo by maditi – Find a Grave)



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)

Serjeant F. W. C. Bootle does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Botley Cemetery, Botley, Oxfordshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

During the First World War, the 3rd Southern General Hospital (an Oxfordshire Territorial Unit) was housed in the Examination Schools and a number of other buildings in Oxford. Oxford (Botley) Cemetery contains 156 burials from the First World War, all in the war graves plot in section I/1. The cemetery was designated a Royal Air Force regional cemetery during the Second World War and was used by RAF stations in Berkshire and neighbouring counties. Practically all of the 516 Second World War burials (one of them unidentified) are in the war graves plot, which was extended from the section used during the First World War. The architectural features of the plot were designed by Edward Maufe, ARA. In addition to the Commonwealth war graves, Oxford (Botley) Cemetery contains almost 70 war graves of other nationalities.

There are eight Australian World War 1 War Graves.

(Information from CWGC)



Botley Cemetery (Photo by Stephen Potts – Find a Grave)



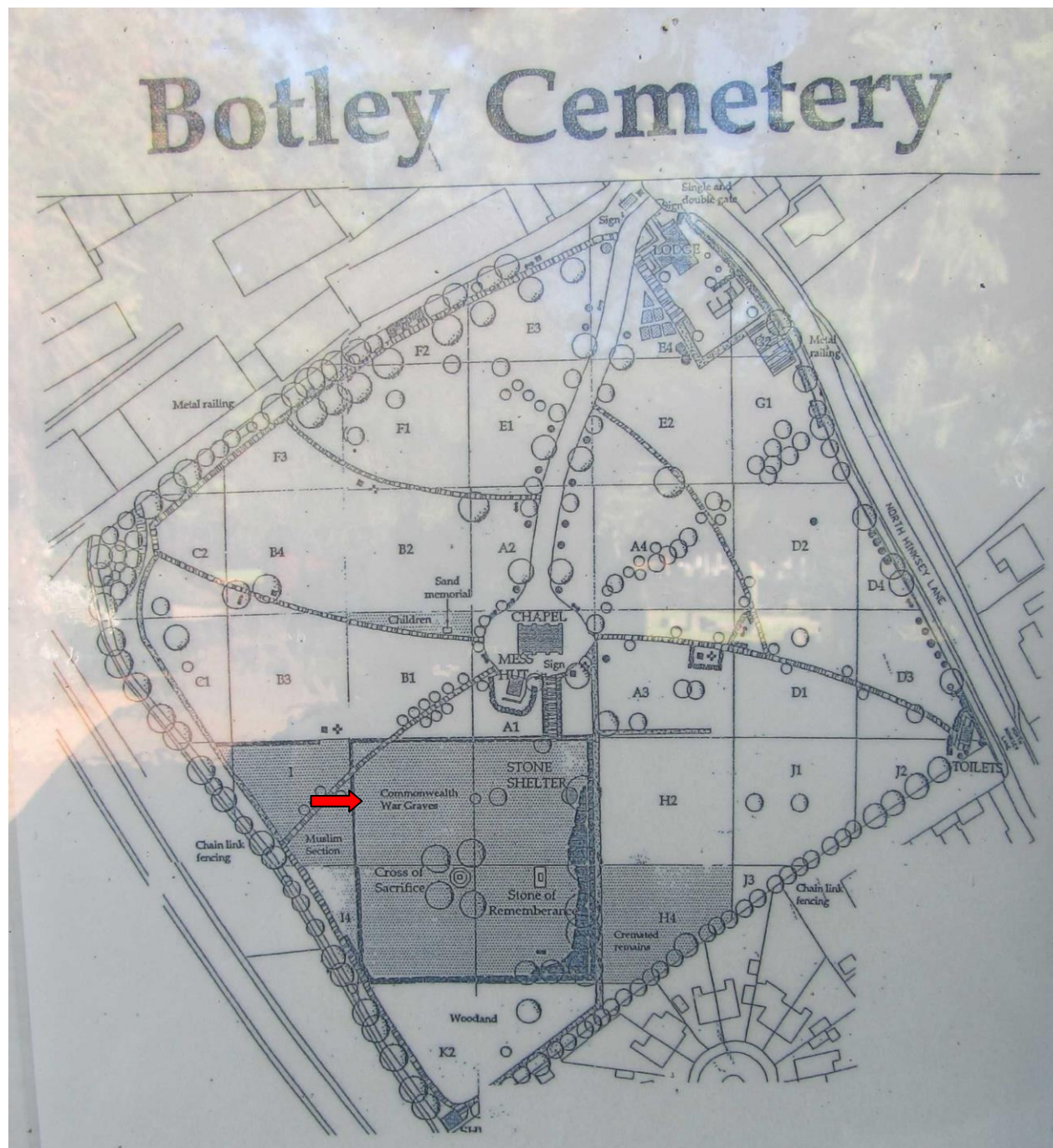
Botley Cemetery (*Photos from CWGC*)



Photo of Serjeant F. W. C. Bootle's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Botley Cemetery, Botley, Oxfordshire, England.



(Photo by Stephen Potts – Find a Grave)



(Maps by Kevin Smith – Find a Grave)

