

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4459 PRIVATE

J. CHISHOLM

58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH MAY, 1917 Age 21

James CHISHOLM

James Chisholm was born at Ballarat, Victoria in 1894 to parents James and Emily Alice Chisholm (nee Brookes)

James Chisholm attended Humffray Street State School, Victoria.

Emily Alice Chisholm, mother of James Chisholm, died in February, 1905 at 16 Steinfeld St., Ballarat East, Victoria, Australia.

James Chisholm was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from 16 Stanfield Street, Ballarat, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 12th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4459 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Chisholm, of 16 Stanfield Street, Ballarat, Victoria.

Private James Chisholm was posted to 14th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 16th December, 1915.

Private James Chisholm embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 28th January, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 28th February, 1916.

Private James Chisholm was transferred to 58th Battalion on 1st April, 1916 from 8th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 58th Battalion at Ferry Post on 1st April, 1916 from 2nd Training Battalion.

Private James Chisholm was written up for being improperly dressed on Parade on 12th April, 1916 while posted at Ferry Post. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Camp.

Private James Chisholm embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on Troopship Transylvania. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private James Chisholm was wounded in action on 12th May, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 12th May, 1917 with multiple G.S.W. (gunshot wounds). Private Chisholm was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred & admitted to 18th General Hospital at Camiers, France on 14th May, 1917 with G.S.W. to back with an injury to spinal cord. He was transferred to Calais then invalided to England on 17th May, 1917 on Hospital Ship Princess Elizabeth with G.S.W to Spine & Compound Fracture.

58th Battalion

The 58th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 17 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Roughly half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 6th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 6th, the 58th was predominantly composed of men from Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 23 June, the 58th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles on 19 July. The battle was a disaster. The 58th had the dual role of providing carrying parties and a reserve force. The reserve force (approximately half of the battalion) was ordered to attack late in the battle and was virtually annihilated by machine-gun fire; as a whole, the 58th suffered casualties equal to almost a third of its strength. Despite the grievous losses in its battalions, the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

Early in 1917 the 58th battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, but it was spared from the assault. It did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt, between 9 and 12 May.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 58th Battalion

12th May, 1917 – Hindenburg Line, Bullecourt:

Midnight to 4 am – At midnight Company Commanders were called together and situation discussed and plan of action in accordance with the local situation (see Bde Order No 103) was decided on. Enemy putting up numerous golden flares all along our front. Light shrapnel barrage falling on sector on our right. Enemy heavies shelling area in rear of our lines. Two Lewis Guns with crews were destroyed and numerous casualties occurred in the other teams. At 3.5 am both companies of 60th Battalion had arrived. Owing to weakening of garrison through numerous casualties being reported from all companies – one company (“D”) of the 59th Battalion was called from reserved to reinforce garrison and they were placed in second line twenty minutes before “zero” time “C” Company under Lt R. V. Moon left trench and laid out in shell holes. At 3.40 am (zero hour) our artillery barrage fire opened, which the enemy replied to almost immediately. Enemy firing numerous red rockets with an occasional green flare. At 4 am first report received that everything was going well and men had gone towards their objectives; showing splendid dash when jumping off. Our barrage fire was effective and well placed. Enemy shelled the whole sector heavily. His fire mostly coming from direction of REINCOURT (see Map ECOUST-ST. MEIN) All telephone communications cut and the lines could not be maintained.

From 4am to 5.50 am - At 4.12 am Artillery fire slackened down. Bomb and rifle fire now heavy on our left sector.

“The following reports were received from the two companies engaged in the attack”

Lieut Dawson 4.350 am – Our first attack beaten back. We are re-organising and making another attempt: 4.52 am Now in enemies trench other side of bomb block and as far as cross roads fierce hand to hand fighting with rifle and bombs, 5.21 am – We are holding them and bombing along trench. 5.27 am Huns appear to have suffered heavily and are freely surrendering. We have captured strong post and reached objectives.

Lieut Moon 4.30 am – Have encountered enemy post with M.G. before first objective. 4.37 am Have reached objective in Sunken Road. Can see “Queens” on my left. I am digging in.

Both companies sent in reports from time to time and emphasised the need or more rifle grenades. The contact aeroplanes flew very low over lines at 5.18 am, when the ground flares were lit by the men.

At 8.5 am a company of the 59th Battalion arrived to reinforce and were placed in second line, as the remaining company of 58th Battalion were sent forward to replace casualties in front line. Nearly all the prisoners were taken from sunken road which runs parallel to the front line. At 8.40 am our whole sector was vigorously shelled with H.E. We had difficulty in getting counter-battery action as telephonic communication could not be relied on and recourse had to be made to fower-buzzer set which was on the front line. There were numerous complaints from Company Commanders during the day: that our artillery was shooting into our own trenches; eighteen pounders being mostly at fault and casualties occurred from this source. However our lines could be enfiladed from direction of QUEANT and this was eventually proved to be the case. Nothing unusual occurred from 10 am to 4.30 pm; when sector was again vigorously shelled for two hours. Enemy 77mm guns being very consistent. Orders re relief and guides arranged to meet the incoming unit. In accordance with orders – Battalion Intelligence Officer two observers – one NCO and runner per platoon – one Lewis Gunner per team were detailed to remain with the relieving unit for 24 hours in order to properly instruct the men taking over. The idea is recognised as one of great value. We asked that special stretcher parties be supplied to clear the trenches or our wounded. Thus was arranged by Brigade and trenches were cleared by midnight. During the twenty-four hours the trenches were greatly destroyed. Almost all the posts were blown out and long lengths of the trenches completely filled in throughout the whole tour of duty the behaviour of all ranks was exceptionally fine. The standard of morale in the Battalion is very good. Casualties for today, as follows: Officers Killed:- N. G. PELTON – OC “B” Coy. Lt FRASER, Lt W. G. BARLOW – Bombing Officer, Lt TOPP – OC “C” Coy.

Officers Wounded:- (Seven) Lt R. V. MOON, Lt G. P. HOOPER, Lt B. ANDERSON, 2nd Lt J. SYDER, 2nd Lt A. ROBERTSON, Lt G. FOCKEN, CAPT V. M. COPPLESON – Medical Officer.

Trophies captured four Machine Guns.

Other Ranks Killed

Prisoners captured 2 Officers 184 Other Ranks

“ “ Wounded

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James Chisholm was admitted to 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, England on 17th May, 1917.

Private James Chisholm died in afternoon of 18th May, 1917 at 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. to neck & leg.

A death for James Chisholm, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Steyning, Sussex, England.

Private James Chisholm was buried on 21st May, 1917 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIF. 96 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private James Chisholm - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass fittings. A service was held in the Chapel at the 2nd Eastern General Hospital, was attended by several Nurses, a few Australian Officers and some members of the R.A.M.C. Staff. Wreaths were given by the sister in charge and other members of the ward Pte Chisholm had been in, and by Miss Shearer, sister of the officiating Chaplain. The coffin, covered with a Union Jack was conveyed to the cemetery in a hearse and the burial service was conducted with full military honours, the firing party, buglers and pall bearers being supplied by the Imperial Authorities. Lt. Royal 26th Battalion, A.I.F. and Miss Shearer sister of the Chaplain attended the burial. The grave is in the "Heroes Portion" set aside for the burial of soldiers, and it is noticeable that the graves of men from overseas Dominions are particularly well looked after. A temporary oak cross is to be erected.*

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

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Chisholm – service number 4459, aged 21, of 58th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James and Emily Alice Chisholm, of 16 Steinfeld St., Ballarat East, Victoria, Australia.

Private J. Chisholm is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 165.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Chisholm is remembered on the Humffray Street State School No. 34 Roll of Honour, located at Ballarat Ranger Military Museum, Ranger Barracks, 1812-1816 Sturt Street, Ballarat, Victoria.



Humffray Street Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

J. Chisholm is remembered on the Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda located at Sturt Street and Learmonth Avenue, Ballarat, Victoria.



Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda (Photo from Carol's Headstone Photos)

J. Chisholm is also remembered on the Ballarat Avenue of Honour (1917-1919) where almost 4,000 trees were planted to represent the number of men and women from the Ballarat district who served in World War 1. The trees were planted at intervals of 12 metres along 22 kms of the Ballarat-Burrembeet Road. The Ballarat Avenue of Honour is famous for being the first avenue of its kind in Australia. Tree number 1134 planted by Mr G. Walmsley.



The Arch of Victory was built as an entrance to the Avenue of Honour (*Photo from Monument Australia*)



Ballarat Avenue of Honour (*Photo from Victorian War Heritage Inventory*)

J. Chisholm is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.

Chisholm. C. № 675.	Chisholm. J. P.
Chisholm. C. № 1040.	Chisholm. K.
Chisholm. D.	Chisholm. N. D.
Chisholm. D. A. G.	Chisholm. N. M.
Chisholm. D. S.	Chisholm. R.
Chisholm. D. V. "MM"	Chisholm. R. F.
Chisholm. E.	Chisholm. R. H.
Chisholm. E. G.	Chisholm. R. M.
Chisholm. G. A. № 3510.	Chisholm. R. W.
Chisholm. G. A. № 5008.	Chisholm. S. G.
Chisholm. G. S. "MM"	Chisholm. T. C.
Chisholm. H.	Chisholm. W. B.
Chisholm. H. A.	Chisholm. W. L.
Chisholm. J. № 3049.	Chisholm. W. N.
Chisholm. J. № 4459.	Chislett. B. W.
Chisholm. J. № 5985.	Chislett. F. A.



(40 pages of Private James Chisholm'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

307TH LIST

Died of Wounds

Pte J. CHISHOLM, Ballarat

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 5 June, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT MEN



Pte James Chisholm died of wounds on the 18th May, 1917, at the Brighton General Hospital, England. He was the eldest son of Mr J. Chisholm, Steinfeld street, and was 23 years of age. He was educated at Humffray street State school, and followed farming pursuits, and at the time of enlistment was working at Frankston. He enlisted in June 1915, and sailed for Egypt in January, 1916, and had been in the firing line in France for 12 months. For the last four months he had been in the Lewis Machine Gun Section.

(*The Ballarat Courier*, Victoria – 28 July, 1917)

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 J. Chisholm does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private J. Chisholm's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham)



(Photo from CWGC)