

# Alcester War Memorial, Warwickshire, England



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1380 PRIVATE**

**A. B. JEPHCOTT**

**18TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**4TH AUGUST, 1916    Age 26**

## Arthur Boobyer JEPHCOTT

Arthur Boobyer Jephcott was born 24th July, 1890 at Alcester, Warwickshire, England to parents Edward Arthur & Agnes Amelia Jephcott (nee Boobyer). Arthur Boobyer Jephcott was baptised on 30th July, 1890 at Alcester, Warwickshire, England. His father was an Auctioneer & the family lived at Church Street, Alcester.

The 1891 England Census recorded Arthur B. Jephcott as an 8 month old baby, living with his parents at Church Street, Alcester, Warwickshire. His parents were listed as Edward A. Jephcott (Auctioneer, aged 29, born Alcester, Warwickshire) & Agnes A. Jephcott (aged 28, born Llanvonych, Breconshire). Also listed with the family was Mary E. Gould (General Servant, aged 17 ?).

The 1901 England Census recorded Arthur B. Jephcott as a 10 year old living with his parents at Church Street, Alcester, Warwickshire. His parents were listed as Edward A. Jephcott (Auctioneer, aged 39) & Agnes A. (aged 38). Arthur was the eldest of three children listed on this Census (all born Alcester, Warwickshire) – Arthur then Archibald H. Jephcott (aged 6) & Agnes P. Jephcott (aged 11 months). Also listed was a visitor – Frederick H. Barnett (Clergyman Church of England, aged 43), Charlotte S. Barnett (Sister-in law, aged 43) & Frederica G. Barnett (Visitor, aged 11). Two servants were also listed – Charlotte Keely (Cook (domestic), aged 22) & Alice E. Veale (Nurse (domestic), aged 15).

The 1911 England Census recorded Arthur Jephcott as a 20 year old Electric Light fitter boarding with John Skerrett (Coachman, aged 53) & Eliza Skerrett (aged 51) in a 6 roomed dwelling at High Street, Repton, near Burton on Trent, Derbyshire.

Artur Jephcott, Electrician, aged 21, was a passenger on *Seydlitz* which arrived at the port of Sydney on 27th May, 1912.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Willoughby, subdivision of Lane Cove Road, North Sydney, NSW listed Arthur Boobyer Jephcott, Electrician, of Bay Road.

Arthur Boobyer Jephcott was a 24 year old, single, Electrical Mechanic from "Elsinore" Bay Road, North Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, NSW on 27th January, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 18th Infantry Battalion, "D" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1380 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Edward Arthur Jephcott, Cooper's Corner, Alcester, Warwickshire, England.

Private Arthur Boobyer Jephcott embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 25th June, 1915.

Private Arthur Boobyer Jephcott proceeded to join the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 16th August, 1915.

Private Arthur Boobyer Jephcott was wounded in action at Gallipoli Peninsula on 27th August, 1915. He was taken to 16th Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac on 28th August, 1915 with bullet wounds to thigh. Pte Jephcott was transferred to Hospital Ship *Maheno* on 28th August, 1915 for Mudros. He was invalided from Mudros to England on 30th August, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Hunts Green*.

Private Arthur Boobyer Jephcott was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford, England on 16th September, 1915 with gunshot wounds to right hand, back & right thigh. He was transferred to Military Convalescent Hospital, Epsom on 21st October, 1915 & discharged on 29th October, 1915 to furlough.

Private Arthur Boobyer Jephcott left Monte Video Military Camp at Weymouth, Dorset, England to rejoin M.E.F. on 22nd February, 1916 & returned to duty in Egypt on 23rd February, 1916.

He reported from Details at Moascar on 9th March, 1916.

Private Arthur Boobyer Jephcott proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 18th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th March, 1916.

## 18th Battalion

The 18th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 22 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

The battalion had not been ashore a day when it was committed to the last operation of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' which lasted until 29 August and cost it 50 per cent casualties. For the rest of the campaign the 18th played a purely defensive role, being primarily responsible for holding Courtney's Post. The last members of the battalion left Gallipoli on 20 December.

After further training in Egypt, the 18th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 25 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August. The battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time in late August.

*(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Arthur Boobbyer Jephcott was killed in action on 4th August, 1916 in France.

An undated, unsigned memo in the Service Record file for Private Arthur Boobbyer Jephcott reads: "*Pte Jephcott was Killed by shell fire in O.G. 1. at Pozieres. Lieut. Leslie (since K. in. A.) of our Battalion subsequently visited his relations, I am told, and gave them what information he could. Jephcott was killed as he entered O.G. 1. before it's actual capture. It is very hard to discover whether he was actually buried. Enquiries have several times been made but no reliable information has been forthcoming. It is probable, I fear, that he was not actually buried.*"

### War Diary – 18th Battalion

*Pozieres – 4th August, 1916:*

*40 O/Ranks arrived from Details & Reinforcements. 2 H. E. enemy shells fell at Battalion Hd Qrs, killing 2/O/R & wounding 23 O/Ranks.*

*Evening fixed for attack on enemy trenches "O.G.1." and O.G.2. Operation Order No. 2 together with report by Lt-Col Wisdom D.S.O. giving full details, are attached.*

*(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Arthur Boobbyer Jephcott is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Probate details:

*Arthur Boobbyer Jephcott of Alcester, Warwickshire. Private in 17th Battalion 5th Australian Infantry Brigade died 4 August 1916 in action in France. Probate Birmingham 8 January 1917 to Edward Arthur Jephcott Auctioneer. Effects £369 5s. 4d.*

A claim for a War Pension for Agnes A. Jephcott, Ickneild House, Alcester, mother of the late Private Arthur Boobbyer Jephcott, was later withdrawn.

Private Arthur Boobbyer Jephcott was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Jephcott's father in England - Mr E. A. Jephcott, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent April, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Boobbyer Jephcott – service number 1380, aged 26, of 18th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward A. and Agnes A. Jephcott, of Icknield House, Alcester, Warwickshire, England.

A. B. Jephcott is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial located in St. Leonard's Park, corner of Walker & Ridge Street, North Sydney, NSW, Australia.



**North Sydney War Memorial**

*(Photos from Register of War Memorials, NSW – David Roden & Andrew Howell)*





Private A. B. Jephcott is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 86.



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

A. B. Jephcott is remembered on the Alcester War Memorial located in the grounds of St. Nicholas Church, Alcester, Warwickshire, England.



**Alcester War Memorial** (Photos by David Malin & Helen Steed)

A Memorial Plaque for Private Arthur Boobyer Jephcott is located inside St. Nicholas Church, Alcester, Warwickshire, England.



*Gallipoli*

*1915*

*France*

*1916*

*In Humble Submission to the Will of*

*God*

*This Tablet is in loving Memory of*

*PRIVATE ARTHUR BOOBYER JEPHCOTT*

*18th Battalion Australian Imperial Forces*

*Eldest son of E.A. & A.A. Jephcott of this town*

*Who was wounded in Gallipoli and fell at Pozieres*

*France on August 4th 1916. Aged 26 years.*

*"His Life For*

*His Country*

*His Soul to*

*God"*

(32 pages of Private Arthur Boobyer Jephcott'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





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05301.191

**Private Arthur Boobbyer Jephcott**



### **Newspaper Notices**

#### **AUSTRALIAN LOSSES**

#### **FIGHTING IN TURKEY**

#### **NINETIETH LIST**

New South Wales

#### **WOUNDED**

Pte A. B. JEPHCOTT, 18th (England)

(*Evening News*, Sydney, NSW – 12 October, 1915)

## **CASUALTIES**

### **152nd LIST ISSUED**

NEW SOUTH WALES

RETURNED TO DUTY

Pte A. B. JEPHCOTT, 18 B., (England)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney, NSW – 14 March, 1916)*

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## **CASUALTIES**

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

KILLED IN ACTION

Pte A. B. JEPHCOTT, England.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney, NSW – 25 September, 1916)*

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### **Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France**

Villers-Bretonneux became famous in 1918, when the German advance on Amiens ended in the capture of the village by their tanks and infantry on 23 April. On the following day, the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, with units of the 8th and 18th Divisions, recaptured the whole of the village and on 8 August 1918, the 2nd and 5th Australian Divisions advanced from its eastern outskirts in the Battle of Amiens.

The memorial is the Australian National Memorial erected to commemorate all Australian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium during the First World War, to their dead, and especially to name those of the dead whose graves are not known.

The Australian servicemen named in this register died in the battlefields of the Somme, Arras, the German advance of 1918 and the Advance to Victory. The memorial stands within Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, which was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from other burial grounds in the area and from the battlefields.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of around 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours. The names are engraved on the memorial in order of battalion, then alphabetically under rank.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*





Villers-Bretonneux Memorial (Photos from CWGC)





Photo of Pte S. B. Jephcott's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

