

BOLITHO, L. (M.C.)

Leslie Bolitho's family came from Sale, Victoria. He married May Garland in 1915, at St Jude's, Carlton, just prior to his embarkation. She had been born in Carlton and her mother Bridget ran a draper's business from their family home, 134 Rathdowne Street, Carlton.

AIF Project Entry

Leslie BOLITHO

Service number	4
Date of birth	25 December 1891
Place of birth	Lilydale, Victoria
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Bank Clerk
Address	C/o Mrs Garland, 134 Rathdowne Street, Carlton, Victoria.
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	23
Height	5' 5.5"
Weight	140 lbs
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs May Bolitho, c/o Mrs Garland, 134 Rathdowne Street, Carlton, Victoria.
Previous military service	Served for 1 year in Light Horse, Citizen's Military Force.
Enlistment date	10 March 1915
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	15 March 1915
Place of enlistment	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Sergeant
Unit name	29th Battalion, B Company
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/46/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A11 <i>Ascanius</i> on 10 November 1915.
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Promotions	2nd Lieutenant, Unit: 29th Battalion Promotion date: 16 December 1916. Lieutenant Unit: 29th Battalion Promotion date: 2 April 1917.

Recommendations (Medals and Awards) Fate	Military Cross Recommendation date: 11 August 1918. Returned to Australia 28 March 1919.
Medals	Military Cross 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. He did excellent work throughout and when the position was somewhat obscure, he made a reconnaissance of the line under heavy machine gun fire, and obtained information which was of great assistance to his commanding officer. When the latter was wounded, he commanded the battalion most successfully until relieved.' Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 61 Date: 23 May 1919.
Discharge date	30 June 1919.
Other details	War service: Egypt, Western Front Taken on strength, 29th Bn, 31 October 1915; 32nd Bn, 30 October 1918. Wounded in action, 13 October 1917. Medals: Military Cross, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Sources	NAA: B2455, BOLITHO Leslie.

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WEDDING.

BOLITHO-GARLAND.

On the 20th October a pretty military and choral wedding of local interest was celebrated at St. Jude's Church of England, Carlton, by the Rev J. Good, the bridegroom being Sergeant Leslie Bolitho, A.I.F., eldest son of Mr and Mrs S. Bolitho, of Sale, and the bride Miss May Garland, second youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs T. Garland, of Rathdown-street, Carlton. The church was prettily decorated by the girl friends of the bride, and the choral service was rendered by a full choir, of which both of the contracting parties had been members. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a gown of ivory crepe de chine. The bodice was inset with Honiton lace; a long court-train lined with pink ninon, and ornamented with seed pearls. Orange blossom hung from the shoulders, and over this fell a pretty tulle veil, which was arranged in cap fashion, with a chaplet of orange blossom. The shower bouquet was of choice bridal roses. The bridesmaids were Miss M. Garland, sister of the bride, and Miss Adela Bolitho, sister of bridegroom, who wore frocks of ivory silk and pink tassel hats, and carried shower bouquets of cream and red roses. The bridegroom was attended by Private W. Mathieson as best man, and Corporal Tom Taylor as groomsman, all wearing the uniform of the A.I.F. Master James Lyall, of Ascot Vale, cousin of the bride, and Miss Edith M'Roberts, of Ivanhoe, cousin of the bridegroom, acted as train-bearers. The reception and wedding breakfast, held in the Carlton Hall, was attended by some seventy of the friends and relatives of the contracting parties. A large number of useful and ornamental presents were received, amongst which were some tokens of esteem from the bridegroom's fellow-officials in the State Savings Bank. A short honeymoon was spent by the happy couple at Ferntree Gully, the bridegroom having to return to his duties with his battalion at Broadmeadows camp. Sergeant Bolitho, together with his brother, have since embarked for active service abroad.