

ELLIOTT, P. N.

Plunkett Noble Elliott (1893 – 1917) was the third of four children born to John Plunkett Elliott and Ellen Thompson. John was a policeman, and the children were registered in different localities, reflecting the different places where he worked.

By the time Plunkett was 12, the family were living at 246 Palmerston Street, Carlton. In 1906, his sister Dulcie was confirmed at St Jude's, and the family was then living at 480 Lygon Street.

Plunkett enlisted in May 1916 and was killed in action in France less than a year later. For a number of months his family believed that he had been taken prisoner, but in March 1918 his death was officially confirmed.

AIF Project Entry

Plunkett Noble ELLIOTT

Regimental number	5580
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Clerk
Address	Police Station, Brighton, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	22
Next of kin	Father, John Plunkett Elliott, Police Station, Brighton, Victoria.
Enlistment date	4 May 1916
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	1 August 1916
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	22nd Battalion, 15th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/39/4
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A9 <i>Shropshire</i> on 25 September 1916.
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	22nd Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 3 May 1917.
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	Australian National Memorial, Villers- Bretonneux, France. Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.

The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 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.

After the war an appeal in Australia raised £22,700, of which £12,500 came from Victorian school children, with the request that the majority of the funds be used to build a new school in Villers-Bretonneux. The boys' school opened in May 1927, and contains an inscription stating that the school was the gift of Victorian schoolchildren, twelve hundred of whose fathers are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery, with the names of many more recorded on the Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is now twinned with Robinvale, Victoria, which has in its main square a memorial to the links between the two towns.

96

War service: Western Front
Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal.

Panel number, Roll of Honour,
Australian War Memorial
Other details

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NAA: B2455, ELLIOTT P N, SERN 5580.
BDM VIC

Sands & McDougall's Melbourne, suburban and country directory : 1905

State Library of Victoria: St Jude's Confirmation Register

AWM: Australian Red Cross: Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau Files

Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

5580 Private
Plunkett Noble Elliott

22nd Battalion

~~Ans. 9.3.18
no slip~~

Police Station
Brighton
Victoria
Jan 1st 1918.

To The Red Cross Commissioners

Dear Sirs.

Would you be kind enough
to try and send the letter enclosed to
my Brother, who is in Germany.

We have heard from two persons that
he was taken prisoner on May 3rd but
nothing official has been reported to us.

This No 5588 Private P. N. Elliott

~~22nd Bn.~~

~~Australian Imperial Force.~~

Thanking you in anticipation
I am

Yours very sincerely
Plunkett Elliott

Miss Dulcie Elliott
Police Station,
Brighton, Victoria.

5th March, 1919.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry for :-

5580 Pte. P.H. ELLIOTT, 22nd Battalion, A.I.F.

We very much regret to inform you that he is now officially reported killed in action on 3.5.17, having previously been reported missing on that date. There has never been any trace of him as a prisoner of war and the Secretary of our Prisoners of War Department here assures us that there are no unidentified Australians imprisoned in Germany. In spite of our efforts to do so, we have never been able to obtain any news of his fate.

It happens unfortunately in only too many cases of men eventually reported killed in action, that no particulars of their death are ever obtained.

It can only be assumed that they fell unnoticed in the turmoil and confusion of an attack, and that their bodies were buried either by the enemy or by the earth thrown up through subsequent shelling.

Should we ever succeed in obtaining any information concerning Pte. Elliott we shall at once advise you through our local office in the Colonial Mutual Chambers,
60, Market Street,
Melbourne.

with which we are in constant communication both by cable and letter. If you keep in touch with it you will be able to obtain all possible news without the delay that application to England necessarily entails.

Regretting that we are unable to send you more satisfactory news of your brother and assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Ryan
SECRETARY.