

# Codford War Graves



*Lest We Forget*

## World War 1



**7251 PRIVATE**

**H. HOLDER**

**16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH APRIL, 1917 Age 32**

*DUTY TO THIS PLANE COMPLETED*

*ADMITTANCE TO HIGHER PLANES*

*WON*

## Harry HOLDER

Harry Holder was born in the parish of Penzance, Cornwall, England in 1885 to parents Harry & Grace Leggo Holder (nee Bennetts). His birth was registered in the September quarter of 1885.

Extract from Obituary of the Late Mrs Grace Leggo Holder, mother of Harry Holder, from the *West Australian* newspaper on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1937:

*In 1874 Mrs Holder married the late Mr Harry Holder, a native of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, who predeceased her in March, 1936. Accompanied by their nine children they arrived in Western Australia in 1912 with hopes of meeting fair fortune, but the long war period took its toll. As each son became eligible he enlisted for active service. Their son Jim embarked with the 11th Battalion on the first convoy to leave Australia, while the youngest son and the fifth to enlist embarked on the last troopship. The sixth son remained on home service. Four of the sons paid the supreme sacrifice. Suspense, deaths and prolonged illness of the returned eventually caused Mrs Holder to have a stroke in 1921, through which she became blind.*

Harry Holder was a 31 year old, single, Farm Hand from West Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 7251 & his religion was Church of England (His attestation paper shows Roman Catholic)\*. His next of kin was listed as his father – Harry Holder of 67 Loftus Street, West Perth, Western Australia. According to his Attestation form, Harry Holder had tried to enlist the month before but was rejected due to defective teeth. Information from the Roll of Honour states that Harry Holder had received Territorial Training in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire for 4 years. He had arrived in Australia at the age of 27.

Pte Harry Holder embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Harry Holder was marched in to 4<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Pte Holder was admitted sick to Group Hospital at Codford on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Pte Harry Holder died at 6.20 p.m. on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand Hospital at Codford, England of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Henry Holder, aged 31, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Pte Harry Holder was buried 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1917 at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford, Grave No. 81. According to a letter from Pte Holder's mother, dated October, 1921 there was confusion as to Pte Holder's religion. He had completed his Attestation Form as being Roman Catholic, however Pte Holder's mother states in the letter that he was a "confirmed member of the Church of England." Apparently one of his brothers "had arrived at Codford Camp in time to cancel the arrangements made for a Roman Catholic funeral & to arrange for an Anglican funeral". From the burial report - *The coffin was of polished elm & a Military funeral was conducted." The funeral was attended by his brother and wreaths were sent by him and members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, who attended the funeral also."*

Probate was granted in regards to the Will of late Pte Harry Holder on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 1917. He named his brother – James Bennetts Holder as Executor. The following were listed as Legatees – Grace Leggo Holder – sister, Personal specific; Mary Emma Holder – sister, Personal specific; Martha Holder – sister, Personal specific; James Bennett Holder – brother, Personal specific; Albert Holder - brother, a minor, residuary.

Pte Harry Holder was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Holder's father – Harry Holder (June, 1922 & August, 1922)

A War Pension was granted to Harry Holder, father of late Pte Harry Holder in the sum of 12/6 fortnightly granted from 3/7/1917, in addition to Pension of 12/6 per fortnight already granted in respect of late Pte John Leggo Holder. The same War Pension was applied to late Pte Harry Holder's mother – Grace Leggo Holder.

Private H. Holder is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 79.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

Harry Holder's mother resided at West Leederville. The West Leederville War Memorial is located at 84 Cambridge St, West Leederville, Western Australia. Harry Holder was not included on the original War Memorial which was unveiled in 1924 however, the West Leederville War Memorial received a facelift in 2015, as part of a grant from the Australian Government that was approved in 2014. H. Holder & his brother J. L. Holder are two of fifty names that were added to the Cenotaph in 2015. The addition of the extra 50 names were added to a new back panel below the original 16 names & were added in alphabetical order.



**West Leederville War Memorial**



West Leederville War Memorial & the existing back panel where the additional 50 names were added.



The work in progress by Perth Monumental Works – a mock up of how the names would fit on the back panel



**West Leederville War Memorial with new back panel**

*(Photos courtesy of Rosemary Ritorto – Local Studies Librarian, Town of Cambridge)*



An article in the local newspaper the *Cambridge Post*, February 21, 2015 –

**Names added 100 on**

*Far from fading away, 49 West Leederville servicemen are finally being recognised on the West Leederville War Memorial almost 100 years after they were killed. Cambridge local studies librarian Rosemary Ritorto said: "I suspect the names were just missed."*

*Changes in technology meant all sorts of records could now be searched, she said.*

*The Memorial, which stands in Cambridge Street outside the old Town Hall building, was unveiled in 1924.*

*A panel has been removed from the memorial by Perth Monumental Works to add the names to the 130 already there.*

*Ms Ritorto said the names would fit because they would be added with less space between them.*

*The remembered soldiers are: Frank O'Reilly, John Leggo Holder, Edwin Edmondson, Frank Thomas Lewis Aylett, Albert Victor Gordon James, Thomas Charles Foster, Harry Holder, Harold Alexander Plummer, Frederick Ralph George, Wyatt James Wyatt, Leonard Arthur Smeed, John Paterson, Joseph Leonard Hennerty, Poland Alfred Siggs, John Randle, Percival Swithin Blick, Wilfred Ernest Drabble, John Charles Marsland, Frederick William Smith, Edwin Hepburn Townshend, John Beckett, Clarence George Marquis, David Smith, Percy Phillip Dunstan, George Cockburn, Edward Harry Darby, Thomas Henry Walsh, Charles Edwin Holden, James William Bowen, James Whittaker Edmondson, David Howieson, Edgar Vernon Brady, James Lyons, Clifford Nicholas Oates, Morris White, John William Beverhoudt Moore, Cyril William Sumner, Alfred Stephen Moran, Harold Oswald Bray, Jack Carter Newman, Charles Forest Hill Munday, Albert Cross, Ephraim Jarvis, Edwin Manthorpe Hancey, Griffith David Lewis, Stewart Irwin Smith, Hoarce William Pearson, Charles Edward Jones, Carl Alfred Eliasson and Charles Henry Hinson.*

(56 pages of Pte Harry Holder's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



**\*\* Information from the Roll of Honour by Pte Harry Holder's mother of W. Leederville, Western Australia – states that Harry's brother – John Leggo Holder was Killed in Action in France on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1917. John Leggo Holder is buried at H.A.C, Cemetery, Ecoust- St. Mein. Another brother was incapacitated. Six brothers enlisted.**



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **DEATH**

HOLDER – April 28, at Codford Hospital, Harry Holder, second son of Mr and Mrs Holder, of Perth, Australia.

(*Cheltenham Chronicle*, Gloucestershire, England, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1917)

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### **DEATH**

HOLDER – On April 28, of meningitis at New Zealand Hospital. Colburn Camp, England. Private Harry, 24<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, dearly loved eldest son of H. And G. Holder, 67 Loftus-street, West Perth, and adored brother of John (killed in action April 2), Jim (returned Anzac), Signaller Will (on active service), Grace, Mary, Martha, Walter and Albert. Aged 23 years.

His duty done.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1917)

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### **BEREAVEMENT NOTICES**

Mr and Mrs Holder and Family, of 67 Loftus-street, desire to THANK their numerous friend for letters, telegrams and personal sympathy in the loss of their darling sons and brothers, John who was killed in action in France on April 2, and Harry who died of illness at Codford Camp, England, on April 28.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1917)

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### **DEATHS**

HOLDER – In loving memory of our darling sons and brothers, Harry Holder, who died on April 28, 1917, at Codford Camp, England; and John Holder, killed in action on April 2, 1917. Not dead, but called to higher orders.

Inserted by father, mother, brothers and sisters at 67 Loftus-street, and Will (on active service).

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1918)

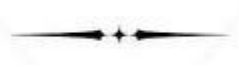
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### **DEATHS**

HOLDER – On August 30, 1921, at 10C St. Leonard's-avenue, West Leederville, James Bennetts (Jim) late of No. 54, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.F., beloved son of Mr and Mrs Harry Holder, and brother of the late Private Harry Holder, died on active service, April 28, 1917, and John Holder, killed in action, April 2, 1917, and Will Holder, late of 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion: also Albert, late W. 3 and Walter Holder, of Home Service and of Grace, Mary And Martha, aged 30 years. A patient sufferer freed from toils and cares of a physical body.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1921)

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### 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 at Codford War Graves Cemetery. 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)*

Pte H. Holder does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

\*\*\* In a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1921 from Pte Holder's mother, in which she explains the error in Pte Holder being listed as Roman Catholic when he was in fact Church of England, she also puts forward the reasoning for the request for the "Star of David" for Pte Holder's CWGC Headstone that is soon to be erected. *"...this was chosen not because of its being a Denominational Emblem. But because of the significance of the six pointed star – inverted triangles – a symbol of considerable, meaning to an Astrologer and Occultist as was the late H. Holder.*

*Our Christian Cross is certainly the Emblem of sacrifice \_\_\_\_\_ it Occult interpretation, never the less knowing my son's ideas I think he himself would prefer the "Star" – The Trinity & Evolution.*

*This is, I suppose, a unique case. I thank you for your kind thoughts in drawing my attention to the seeming, oversight".* Grace L Holder

Outcome – Pte Holder has the Christian Cross on his CWGC Headstone.



**Anzac Cemetery, Codford** (Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth 2013)



Photo of Pte H. Holder's Headstone at Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.

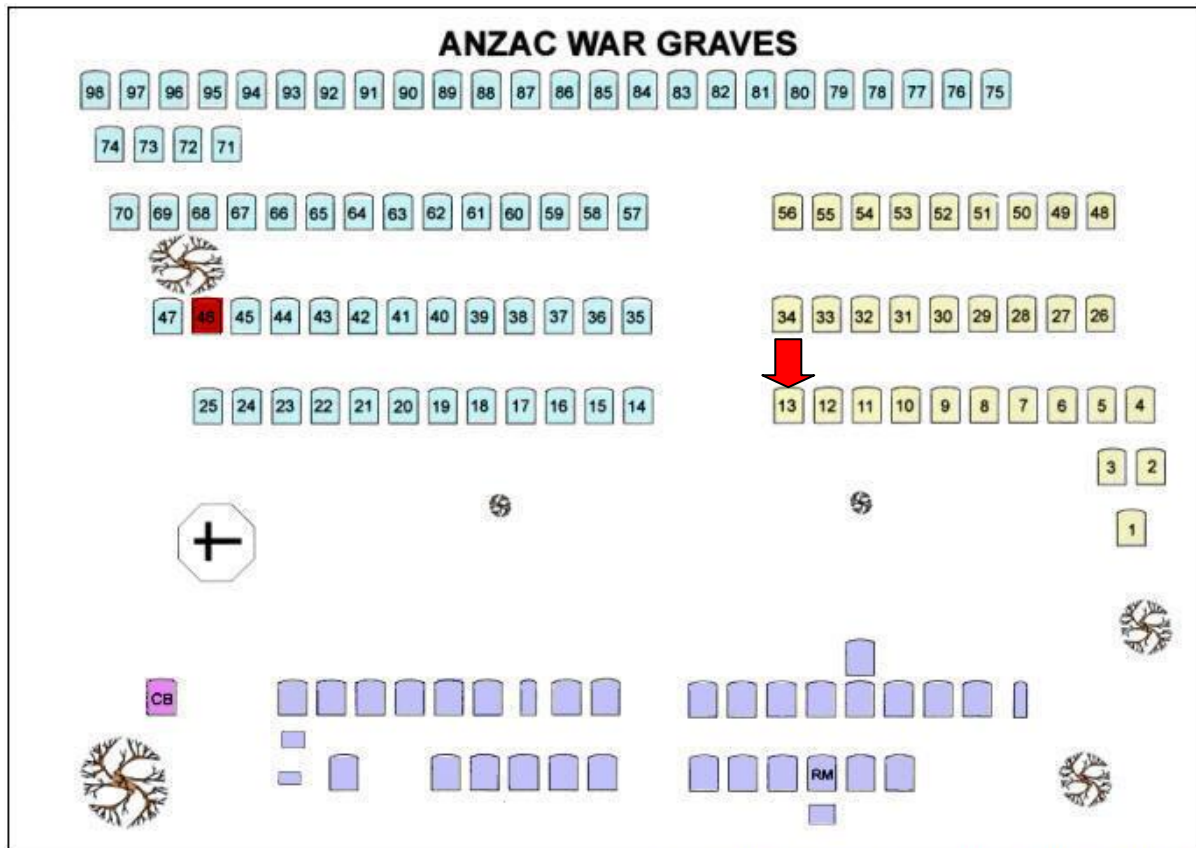


*(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth 2013)*



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Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. Holder is located in Main Front Row (Right Hand side) Grave Plot # 13 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 81)



- Australian Soldiers
- New Zealand Soldiers
- UK Soldier
- Welsh Soldier
- Local Burials

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth