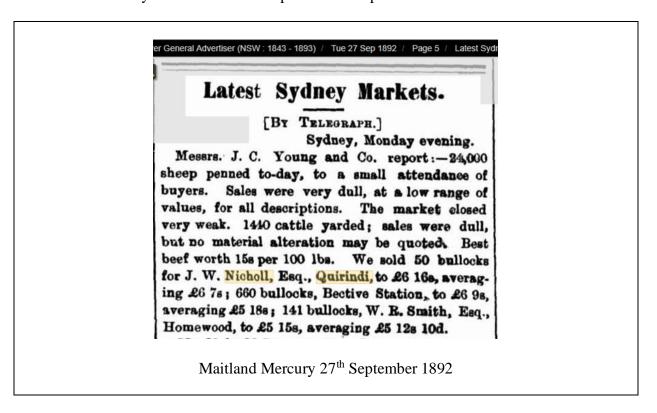
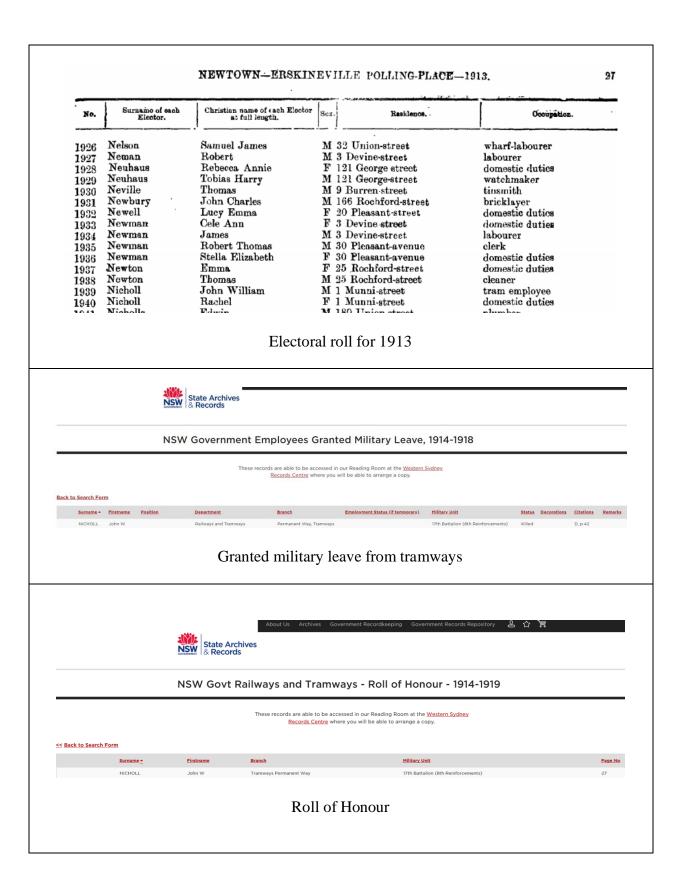
	2010/10/20	
	JOHN WILLIAM NICHOLL	
	(1/4/1880 – 19/7/1916)	
	AUSTRALIA / FRANCE	
	{Jack}	
<u>Parents</u>	Birth and Death	Religion
William Nicholl (Jr) Sarah Jane Nicholl (nee McCluskey)	B – 1 st April 1880 Yarraman, Yarraman Hotel No 2, near Quirindi NSW Australia D – 19 th July 1916 Fromelles France, No known grave. Principle memorial, family plot Quirindi General Cemetery Russell Street Quirindi NSW Australia.	Anglican

Siblings	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Children</u>
Margaret Jane (the younger)	Rachel RhodaWhite	No children
Minnie		
SELF (ANZAC)	14 th February 1907, Pitt street Redfern Sydney.	
Thomas Robert		
Herbert Anglesey Australia		
Arthur Richard (ANZAC)		
Percy (ANZAC)		
Pearl Selina		
Maud Mary		
Nina Violet		
Elsie Eva		
William Albert (ANZAC)		
Claude		

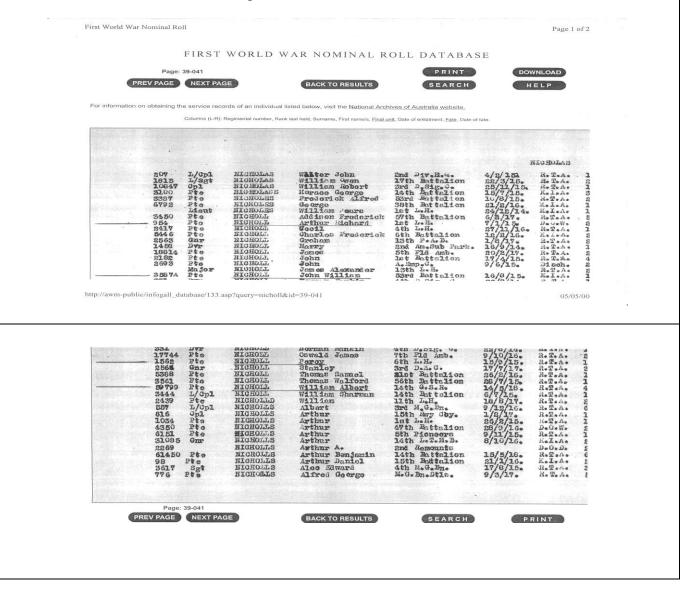
OCCUPATIONS; In his youth John may have participated in some droving with his father as did some of his brothers. He possibly played rugby union as most of the Nicholl boys participated in this sport. Reported as butcher when married, his father had a butcher shop in Quirindi. Later he worked for the NSW tramways as a fettler from where he enlisted in the 1st AIF.

SOLDIER (ANZAC). I believe enlistment was on the understanding that upon return to Australia they would resume their previous occupation.





John William Nicholl 17th Battalion and 53rd Battalion. Regimental No's 3587 and 3587a.



5/9/2018

https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=223119&printFormat=print



John William NICHOLL

Regimental number 3587

Place of birth Yarraman, New South Wales

School Quirindi Public School, New South Wales

Religion Church of England

Occupation Fettler

Address 18 Mary Street, St Peters, New South Wales

Married Married
Age at embarkation 35

Next of kin Wife, Mrs Rachel Nicholl, 62 Wilson Street, Newtown, Sydney,

New South Wales

Enlistment date 16 August 1915

Rank on enlistment Private

Unit name 17th Battalion, 8th Reinforcement

AWM Embarkation Roll number 23/34/2

HMAT A60 Aeneas on 20 December 1915

Regimental number from Nominal Roll 3587A Rank from Nominal Roll Private

Unit from Nominal Roll 53rd Battalion

Fate Killed in Action 19 July 1916

Place of death or wounding Fromelles, France Age at death 36

Age at death from cemetery records 36

Place of burial No known grave

Commemoration details V.C. Corner (Panel No 8), Australian Cemetery Memorial,

Fromelles, France

Panel number, Roll of Honour,

Australian War Memorial

157

Miscellaneous information from cemetery records Parents: William and Sarah NICHOLL; husband of Rachel NICHOLL, 33 Albert Street, Redfern, New South Wales. Native

https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=223119&printFormat=print

1/2

John William Nicholl was one of four brothers who enlisted in the 1st AIF. At the age of 35 years John William enlisted in the 1st AIF on 16th August 1915 in Sydney. At the time of his enlistment he was a tramway fettler in Sydney living at 18 Mary St, St Peters. He was a tall member of the family, height 6 feet ½ inch tall (an isle of Skye trait). John embarked on the HMAT A60 Aeneas on 20th December 1915. In Egypt, John as a reinforcement was taken on 'at strength' by the 53rd Battalion in April 1916.

He embarked for France on the Royal George on 19th June and disembarked at Marseilles on 25th June 1916. The 53rd Battalion was made up of many men from the suburbs of Sydney and was part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division. The 53rd Battalion entered the front line in the Western Front for the first time on 10th July and their first major battle was at Fromelles on the 19th July. The Fromelles Battle was a disaster and the 53rd Battalion was part of the initial assault. The Battalion suffered greatly with 625 casualties, over 34 of its fighting strength. They were mown down by Germans from the Sugarloaf Salient. The 5th Division sustained 5533 casualties in this battle and the British 61st lost 1517. The Germans were lucky to have had 1000 casualties. Unfortunately John Nicholl was reported as "missing in action" on that fatal 19th July and it took until the 2nd September for a court of inquiry to finally confirm he was killed in action and report this to his wife. He has no known grave but occupies a space on the memorial wall at the Australian VC Cemetery at Fromelles. His name also appears on Panel 157 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The VC Cemetery was built in the area that was No Man's Land and has no headstones, only a Memorial Wall of 1299 names of Australians who died in the battle and have no known grave. The lawns contain 410 unidentified bodies of former AIF soldiers who fought in this sector. John's wife, Rachel, remembered him in the paper on 19th July for many years eg.-Sydney Morning Herald 19th July 1929 – "Loving memory lasts forever" – inserted by loving wife R. Nicholl.

1st AIF 17th Battalion

The 17th 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 20 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive 'the attack on Hill 60 'before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. For a short period part of the 17th garrisoned Pope's Hill, but for most of its time on the peninsular the Battalion was responsible for the defence of Quinn's Post, one of the most contested positions along the entire ANZAC front. The Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915.

After further training in Egypt, the 17th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 22 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, although in a reserve role, between 18 and 28 August. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 17th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the

quagmire the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.

In 1917 the 17th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost four times as strong, at Lagincourt. The battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

After another winter of trench duty, 17th Battalion helped to thwart the German Spring Offensive of 1918. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the Allied armies turned to the offensive and the 17th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaurevoir Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle. It was training out of the line when the armistice was declared in November 1918, and was disbanded in April 1919.

1st AIF 53rd Battalion

The 53rd Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 1st Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 1st, the 53rd was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Sydney. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

The battalion arrived in France on 27 June 1916, entered the front line for the first time on 10 July, and became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, at Fromelles, on 19 July. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster. The 53rd was part of the initial assault and suffered grievously, incurring 625 casualties, including its commanding officer, amounting to over three-quarters of its attacking strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

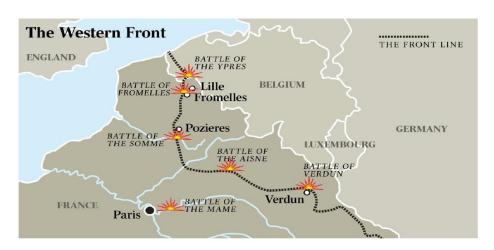
https://www.abc.net.au/ww1-anzac/fromelles-pozieres/story-of-the-days/

The 53rd spent the freezing winter of 1916–17 rotating in and out of trenches in the Somme Valley. During this period the battalion earned the nickname "the Whale Oil Guards" after the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Oswald Croshaw, ordered the troops to polish their helmets with whale oil (issued to rub into feet as a trench foot preventative) for a smart turn out on parade. In March 1917, the 53rd participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. It was spared the assault but did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 53rd's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie. The 14th Brigade took up positions to the north of Villers-Bretonneux and held these even when the village fell, threatening their flanks.

Once the German offensive had been defeated, the Allies launched their own offensive in August 1918. The 14th Brigade did not play a major role in these operations until late in the month, but its actions, including those of the 53rd Battalion at Anvil Wood, were critical to the capture of Péronne, which fell on 2 September. For a succession of courageous actions during the Péronne fighting, Private William Currey was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The 53rd Battalion entered its last major battle of the war on 29 September 1918. This operation was mounted by the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions, in co-operation with American forces, to break through the formidable German defences along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion withdrew to rest on 2 October and was still doing so when the war ended. The progressive return of troops to Australia for discharge resulted in the 53rd merging with the 55th Battalion on 10 March 1919. The combined 53/55th Battalion, in turn, disbanded on 11 April.



Birth;

John was born on the 1st of April 1880 at Yarraman, Quirindi shire NSW Australia. His parents had a hotel there, simply known as the "Yarraman Hotel". See 'Hotels Inns and other holdings'.

Births Search Results

Nan	ne	Registration Number	Father's Given Name(s)	Mother's Given Name(s)	District
?	NICHOLL UNNAMED	19199/1880	WILLIAM	SARAH JANE	MURRURUNDI

Images;

There was a collage of Great War images for my Grandfathers elder brothers displayed at my grandfather's home in New Lambton NSW Australia. I assume it was prepared by my great grandmother Sarah Jane Nicholl at Westdale, however my grandfather did not feature on it as he had enlisted late in the war after two of his brothers had been killed. We returned it to Tamworth to one of Percy's daughters Jill, Percy being remembered on it. Unfortunately, I do not know what ultimately happened to it.



My grandfather's elder brothers circa 1905, assume John William far right.





Tamworth Daily observer 21st February 1917.

Marriage;

John married Rachel White in Sydney 1907.

Marriages Search Results

Registration Number	Groom's Family Name	Groom's Given Name(s)	Bride's Family Name(s)	Bride's Given Name(s)	District
2378/1907	NICHOLL	JOHN W	WHITE	RACHEL R	REDFERN

NSW MARRIAGE REGISTRATION TRANSCRIPTION REF NO: 1907/2378			
GROOM	John William Nicholl		
OCCUPATION	Butcher		
USUAL RESIDENCE	9 Henry Street, Surry Hills, Sydney		
STATUS	Bachelor		
PLACE OF BIRTH	Yarraman, NSWales		
AGE	27 years		
FATHER	William Nicholl		
MOTHER	Sarah McCluskie		
FATHER'S OCCUPATION	Butcher		

BRIDE Rachel Rhoda White

OCCUPATION Home duties

USUAL RESIDENCE 59 Little Albion Street, Surry Hills, Sydney

STATUS Spinster

PLACE OF BIRTH Windsor, NSWales

AGE 25 years

FATHER Charles Austin White

MOTHER Rhoda Cleaver

FATHER'S OCCUPATION Cook

DATE OF MARRIAGE 14th February 1907

PLACE OF MARRIAGE 57 Pitt Street, Redfem

RITES Congregational Church

CONSENT No entry

WITNESSES Kenneth Binns and Florence Mullins

CELEBRANT Fred Binns

NOTES OR SUGGESTIONS Received and Registered by me this 23rd day of February 1907,

R Warburton, District Registrar

NB: THIS TRANSCRIPTION IS NOT A CERTIFIED COPY FROM THE REGISTERS. IT CANNOT BE USED IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WHATSOEVER.

Transcribed by Laurence Turtle PO Box 144 Kurrajong 2758 Phone: (02) 4573 1559

Web Page: http://home.iprimus.com.au/lturtle/

Email: lturtle@iprimus.com.au



Prepared for Kenneth Nicholl

Date Transcribed: 15th October 2021

Deaths Search Results

Name	Registration Number	Father's Given Name(s)	Mother's Given Name(s)	District
NICHOLL RHODA RACHEL	12726/1936	CHARLES OSCAR	RHODA	SYDNEY

NSW DEATH REGISTRATION TRANSCRIPTION

REF NO: 1936./12726

NAME Rachel Rhoda Nicholl

DATE OF DEATH 16th September 1936

PLACE 419 Elizabeth Street

RANK OR PROFESSION No entry

SEX AND AGE Female, 52 years

CAUSE OF DEATH (a) Chronic myocarditis (2) Chronic interstitial nephritis

CERTIFICATION Arthur Hughes, registered

DATE LAST SEEN 16th September 1936

FATHER Charles Oscar White

OCCUPATION Pastrycook

MOTHER Rhoda Cleever

INFORMANT John White, nephew, 419 Elizabeth Street, Sydney

REGISTRATION ACL Baylis, 28th September 1936, Sydney

DATE OF BURIAL 18th September 1936

PLACE OF BURIAL Church of England Cemetery, Rookwood

UNDERTAKER AV Walsh employed by Mrs P Kirby & Son Ltd

MINISTER AND RELIGION OG Dent, Church of England

WITNESSES O Frauenfelder and T Whelan

PLACE OF BIRTH Windsor, NSW

TIME IN AUST COLONIES No entry

PLACE OF MARRIAGE Redfern, Sydney, NSW

AGE AT MARRIAGE 24 years

NAME OF SPOUSE William John Nicholl

CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE No issue

NB: THIS TRANSCRIPTION IS NOT A CERTIFIED COPY FROM THE REGISTERS. IT CANNOT BE USED IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WHATSOEVER.

Transcribed by Laurence Turtle PO Box 144 Kurrajong 2758 Phone: (02) 4573 1559

Web Site: http://home.iprimus.com.au/lturtle/

Email: <u>lturtle@.iprimus.com.au</u>



Prepared for Kenneth Nicholl Date Transcribed: 15th October 2021

Death;

19th July 1916 Pozieres Battle Fromelles France. He was one of nine killed when a shell landed on them.

been killed while in action in France. Mrs. J. W. Nicholl, of Westdale, has received notification that her husband. Private J. W. Nicholl, is reported as having been missing since 19th July. Notification has been received to the effect that Private H. E. McFarland is now in the Second Canadian Stationary

Tamworth Daily Observer 2nd September 1916

Westdale Heroes



PRIVATE JOHN W. (JACK) NICEOLE, eldest son of Mr. W. Nicholf, Westunger, emissed with the Trainway Contingent, 6th September, 1910. Missing that the Pozierts habite. Since July, 19, 1910.

Tamworth Daily Observer 21st February 1917

westpale soldier killed. Mrs. W. Nicholl, of Westdale, has been notified, through the Red Cross Society that Private J. W. Nicholl, previously reported missing, is now reported killed, on July 19, 1916. The late soldier, who was the second son to pay the supreme sacrifice was killed with eight others by a shell. Another son is at present in Egypt with the Light

Tamworth Daily Observer 6th June 1917

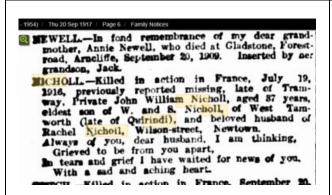
Horse.

Private A. E. Stoneman, who was employed on the railway at Cootamundra, has been killed at the front.

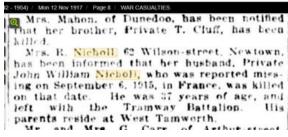
Private A. Miller, a well-known Cootamundra resident, has been killed.

Mrs. W. Nicholl, of Westdale, has been notified through the Red Cross Bureau that her son, Private J. W. Nicholl, was killed on July 19, 1916. A brother was killed, and another is in Egypt.

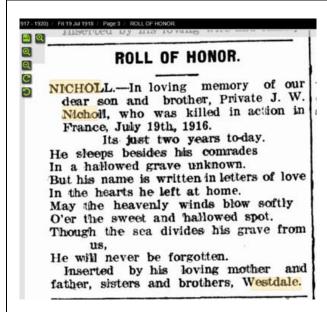
Sydney Morning Herald 8th June 1917



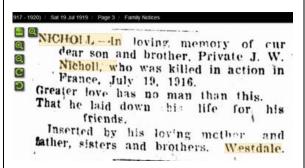
Sydney Morning Herald 20th September 1917



Sydney Morning Herald 12th November 1917



Tamworth Daily Observer 19th July 1918



Tamworth Daily Observer 19th July 1919

Memorials



Family plot Quirindi NSW Australia



Fromelles France¹



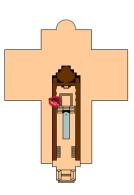
Fromelles France²



Westdale Tamworth NSW Australia



Murrurundi NSW Australia



Canberra; John William Nicholl's name is located at panel 157 in the commemorative area of the Australian War Memorial indicated by a poppy.