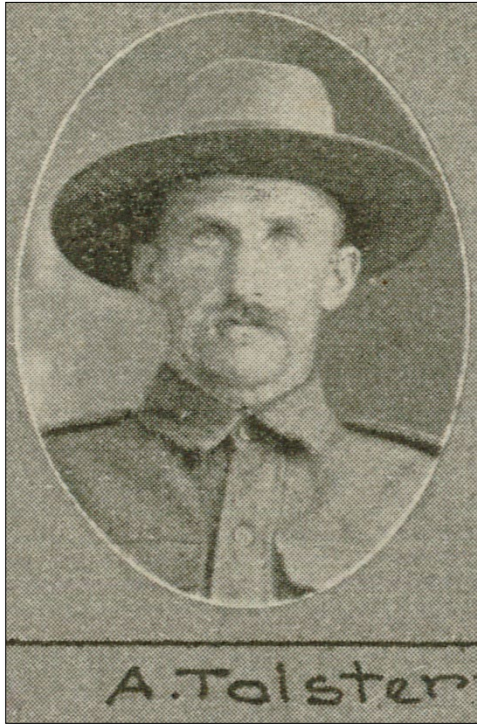


TOLSTOI, Andre



A. Tolster (sic TOLSTOI) one of the soldiers photographed in *The Queenslander Pictorial*, supplement to *The Queenslander*, 1916. (2014). John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Rank: Private

Service Number: 5760

Unit: 15th Battalion, 18th reinforcement

Place of Birth: Warsaw, Russia (From Service Record) (At that time Warsaw was in Russia, not Poland)

Date of Birth: c. 1873

Enlisted at: Enoggera, Qld, on 6 January 1916, aged 42 years 8 months.

Next-of-kin was wife, Mrs Agnes Madeline Rosina Tolstoi (nee Tucker, married 1905 Qld), resided Sumners Buildings, Denham Street, Rockhampton, Qld. (Parents: William and Hitine TOLSOI)

On enlistment he was 5 ft 6.5 inches and weighed 156 lbs. His chest measurement was 39-42 inches. His occupation was miner. Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT A49 *Seang Choon* on 4 May 1916. Proceeded overseas to France 30 September 1916. Joined 15th Battalion 13 October 1916.

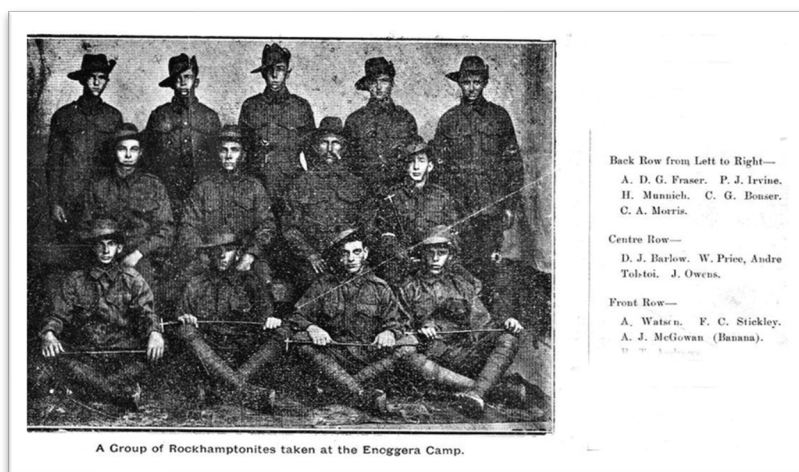
Killed in Action 11 April 1917. Commemorated at Australian National Memorial, Villers Bretonneux, France MR26 Part VI S-Z.

Private Andre Tolstoi, 15th Battalion, a Polish immigrant born in Warsaw (in Russia before the First World War) who died at Bullecourt is also commemorated on the memorial. He was a 42-year-old miner from Rockhampton, Queensland, when he joined the AIF on 6th January 1916. Lance Corporal Stapleton later recalled:

Tolstoi was in B Company. He joined in Australia. He was well over 40 years of age and was married ... He had several wounds on his body which he had got in other wars ... On the 11th April 1917, we were attacking Bullecourt. We failed to hold our objective which we had taken and when we were retiring to our lines I came across Tolstoi in a shell hole: he was then wounded in the leg and bandaging it himself. We did not hold the ground where he was and I did not see him again – This was about 1.30 pm.⁹

Private Leonard Grisbrook saw Tolstoi killed by a shell in OG 2 Trench.

Extract from book: “Bullecourt 1917: Breaching the Hindenburg Line”, by Paul Kendall.
(Information was originally from AWM: Red Cross Missing and Wounded File” at the Australian War Museum, Canberra, Australia)



Service Record: [View digital copy \(naa.gov.au\)](http://naa.gov.au)

Paulette Flint, 2024

AUX ARMES.

To the Editor.

Sir.—Australians! Do you want to become a military nation by forcing your statesmen to bring in conscription? Then stay at home. Do you believe in the voluntary system, breaking down of militarism? Do you believe in Right against Might? Do you want to prove to the world that your greatest efforts are to secure a lasting peace; force a general disarmament and give a chance to human toil to secure the fruits of its labour? Then enlist now! We require all our moral and physical courage. But we can do it. Proclamations by the Allies are to secure a lasting peace and free the world from armaments' insane craze. This should be the greatest incentive for all classes to make a superhuman effort to end for ever the present outburst of fanatical racial destruction raging over Europe.

Come at once! Now is the time to do it. Do not lag behind. It is no want of courage that keeps you here. I know you better: it is indifference. I have heard the expression everywhere. "The boys are doing well; they will pull through." They will; but you can save thousands of those brave men's lives, you can shorten the struggle considerably. You can relieve much suffering and misery, by enlisting now. There is danger—great danger—for civilisation, freedom, and justice.

Come now! As I am writing I see wrecked Belgium and unhappy Serbia, a sea of humanity calling to heaven to relieve their burning, intense suffering, women with babies in their arms, the picture of despair, calling to you to deliver them from this hell on earth. Act at once! Say "I am coming. I will relieve you or die in the attempt!"

Come on, every one who possibly can! I am not asking you to go while I stay behind. I am a fully-trained man five years in the French Foreign Legion, a dozen scraps in South American republics. I hate militarism because of my knowledge of its fanatical rivalry, its sense of superiority through increased armaments, the cruelty and slavery inflicted under the principles of discipline, the absolute surrender of freedom of thought or action under its rule. But we must fight to-day to crush this tyrant, to destroy and pulverise this cancer, the greatest scourge that ever visited this planet, and to this end is the Call To Arms. On the 21st of this month you will see a Russian by birth, but a lover of liberty, married, and father, asking the recruiting sergeant at Rockhampton for a rifle to defend your country, humanity, and justice.

Come on now! To Arms! To Serbia!

ANDRE TOLSTOL.

Sumner's Buildings, Denham-street,
Rockhampton.

13th December, 1915.