**John Lionel Calvert Booth**

(Former Herkomer student)

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[WWI Pictorial Honour Roll of West Australians](http://ww1wa.gravesecrets.net/)

John Lionel Calvert Booth, the son of John Bainbridge Booth and Margaret Alice Gardom, was born on 28 August 1876 in Killerby, in the North Riding of Yorkshire. His father was a land agent, a farmer of 490 acres and a breeder of shorthorn cattle. John had a younger sister, Kathleen and the family home was Killerby Hall, where they employed a butler, a groom and four female servants. As a child John showed artistic talent, illustrating and writing stories for the rest of his family. Later he loved to draw hunting scenes, which had formed a large part of his childhood, as both his parents were keen members of the Bedale Hunt. In 1886, when he was ten, his father died. The family then moved to Wanstead in Essex and John went as a boarder to Forest School, a public school near Epping Forest.

In 1896 he became a student at the Art School founded in Bushey, Hertfordshire, by the German artist, Hubert Herkomer. The census of 1901 shows John was a boarder with the Kipling family at 16, Falconer Road in Bushey village. On 26 July 1905, he married Margaret Caroline Dockerill, the daughter of Joseph Dockerill and Catherine Barnes, who was also a student at the Herkomer Art School. She was known as ‘Daisy’. John became a journalist and, as a member of the Volunteer Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment, a war artist during the Boer War and the Balkan conflict of 1912/13, where he reported for *Punch.* John and Margarethad two sons, both born in West Chiltington, Sussex.

Early in 1914, the family emigrated to Western Australia, where they purchased a property at Gnowangerup and named it ‘New Killerby’. When war broke out, John enlisted as a Lieutenant in the ANZAC expeditionary forces. He died at sea, aged 38, on 28 April 1915 as a result of wounds received at Gallipoli, three days earlier. He was buried at sea and is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial in Turkey. Among his possessions returned to his wife was his beloved banjo, which went everywhere with him.

His elder son, John Calvert Booth known as ‘Jack’, born on 4 June 1906, died on 13 June 1944 in France at the age of 38. His younger son, Arthur Frank Calvert Booth, born on 1 January 1909, died on 12 July 1941 in Germany at the age of 32. John’s wife, ‘Daisy’, died in Cambridge in 1969, aged 94.

Ltn John Lionel Calvert Booth is commemorated at St. Mary's Parish Church, West Chiltington, Sussex.

[One of our members found this memorial plaque whilst visiting a quiet little Sussex church - Lieutenant John Lionel Calvert Booth.  

Born August 28, 1876, in Killerby, Catterick, Yorkshire, England, the only son of Mr. J.B. Booth, agriculturist, of Killerby.  Husband of Margaret Caroline (née Dockerill) Booth (married 1905) of Wagin, Gnowangerup, Western Australia (later of 3 Fes Street, Fenville, Johannesburg, South Africa).  Father of two sons (born in 1906 and 1909).  During the Boer and the Balkan Wars between Bulgaria and Turkey (1904 and 1909) he served as a war correspondent and artist, representing The Graphic in the latter.  In 1909 he was severely wounded at Constantinople.  He also contributed to Punch and was author and illustrator of Trouble in the Balkans.  Lieutenant Booth enjoyed orchestral music and hunting, and had been a Captain on one of the volunteer battalions of The Yorkshire Regiment.  In 1912 he began farming in Australia and later became a Boy Scout troop leader.  On September 18, 1914, he was appointed Lieutenant in “G” Company, 12th Battalion.  He was mortally wounded on April 25, 1915.  Died of wounds on H.M. Hospital Ship ITONUS on April 28, 1915, aged 38 years, and buried at sea.  

In L.M. Newton’s The Story of the Twelfth (page 52) the author wrote:

 "Booth’s platoon kept a little to the left of Evans’ party as they advanced and became more separated, Booth himself, with about half of his men, being located somewhere near Courtney’s Post, whilst the others were known to have joined up with Lalor’s party during the morning.  It was discovered that he and his party were successful in assisting to beat of a heavy counter-attack during the morning, but details were never obtained from him as he received a severe wound in the head, and afterwards died on the 28th April on the Hospital Ship “Itonus.”  He was a man who had seen considerable war service sa an artist-correspondent in the South African War, and afterwards in Bulgaria and Turkey in 1904 and 1909, being on the staff of the London “Graphic.”  He has been aptly described by one of his fellow officers as a “happy, genial comrade, full of quiet courage, whose presence brought comfort.  His kindly insight into human nature made him the big brother of officers and men.”](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=669906146387364&set=a.274692112575438.71124.195718167139500&type=1&ref=nf)

Sources: Ancestry.com; [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au) freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~akrb61/.../calverts/d10.htm‎ ; [R.B.L Peterborough](https://www.facebook.com/RblPeterborough?ref=stream)

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| [Casualty Record Detail](http://www.cwgc.org/dbImage.ashx?id=3933) |  |
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