

**Havelock Cemetery,  
Southall, Greater London, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6862 PRIVATE**

**J. W. BENNETT**

**12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**25TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 20**

*Sleep On And Take The Rest*

*We Love Thee*

*But Jesus Loves Thee Best*

## James Walter BENNETT

James Walter Bennett was born at Launceston, Tasmania on 7th December, 1896 to parents James William & Martha Bennett (nee Burns).

James Walter Bennett was a 20 year old, single, Labourer from King Island, Tasmania when he enlisted on 25th September, 1916 at Claremont, Tasmania with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. W. Bennett, King Island, Tasmania.

Private James Walter Bennett was posted to 22nd Reinforcements of 12th Battalion on 25th September, 1916.

Private James Walter Bennett, Service number 6862, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 25th October, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28th December, 1916.

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

Private James Walter Bennett was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1916 from Australia.

Private James Walter Bennett was admitted to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, London, England on 15th January, 1917 seriously ill with Pneumonia. He was reported to be dangerously ill later that same day.

Mr J. W. Bennett, King Island, Tasmania, was advised by Base Records on 19th January, 1917 that his son Private James W. Bennett was dangerously ill with Pneumonia. Mr Bennett was advised on 24th January, 1917 that Private J. W. Bennett had been admitted to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital on 15th January, 1917.

### 12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private James Walter Bennett died at 5.50 am on 25th January, 1917 at 2nd Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, London, England from Pneumonia.

A death for James W. Bennett, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private James Walter Bennett was buried on 27th January, 1917 in Havelock Cemetery, Southall, Greater London, England – Grave number 11 Cross Section.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. W. Bennett, King Island, Tasmania on 20th April, 1920 with the following: "*With reference to my communication of the 23rd May, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your son the late No. 6862 Private J. W. Bennett, 12th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from Grave No. 11, Cross Section, Southall Cemetery, and re-interred in grave No. 4 Cross Section 2, of the same Cemetery. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

Private James Walter Bennett's burial place is now listed by CWGC as X2. 4. and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

I. J. Robinson, Registrar of Pensions, wrote to The Commandant, Base Records Office, Hobart on 30th March, 1917 with the following letter: *“On the 25th January last Private J. W. Bennett of King Island No 6862, 21st Reinforcements, 12th Battalion, A.I. Forces was reported to his mother as having died of pneumonia.*

*They have since had a letter from another son dated February 6th from Lark Hill Camp, Salisbury Plains who stated that he and his brother Jim were together, both quite well.*

*I should be glad of further information on the matter, as Mrs Bennett has applied for a War Pension, and it is now under consideration. Kindly advise me as early as possible, so that the mother may be put out of suspense.”*

The 6th Military District, Hobart forwarded the letter on to Base Records, Melbourne with the following introduction : *“With reference to Telegram B R 34301 reporting the death from pneumonia on 25th January last at 2nd Auxiliary Hospital of No. 6862 Private J. W. Bennett, attached for you information is copy of a letter received from Mr Fred J. Robinson, Registrar of Pensions, King Island. In view of the statement contained in the 2nd para of Mr Robinson’s letter I shall be glad if further enquiries can be made and the result communicated to this office.”*

Base Records replied to 6th Military District, Hobart with the following: *“In view of the fact that the cable notifying this soldier’s death on 25/1/1917 has been confirmed by post, as also that it is only reasonable to assume sufficient time has elapsed for the soldier himself to have communicated with his people, it is regretted without definite evidence at variance with the official report no action can be taken.”*

Private James Walter Bennett 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 Private Bennett’s father – Mr J. W. Bennett, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Walter Bennett – service number 6862, aged 20, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James William & Martha Bennett, of King Island, Tasmania.

Private J. W. Bennett is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



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

J. Bennett is remembered on the King Island Cenotaph, located George & Meech Streets, Currie, Tasmania.



**King Island Cenotaph** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

J. Bennett is remembered on the King Island Honour Roll, located in King Island Town Hall, George & Meech Streets, Currie, Tasmania



**King Island Honour Roll** (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

James Walter Bennett is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

### Front Inscription

*Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918*

*The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.*

*"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."*

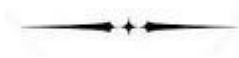


Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

1653	Pte	Allen	Frederick Owen	23.09.1917	29	20th Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC	330
329	Pte	Allen	Edwin	28.07.1917	28	40th Inf Bn	Taranna		2555
4053	Pte	Anderson	George	05.05.1917	20	12th Inf Bn	Stanley		7360
33500	Pte	Andrews	Thomas	13.06.1917	39	NZEF WIR	Fingal		3273
6706	Pte	Andrews	Clarence James	06.04.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Georgetown		6240
4740	Pte	Appoby	Richard	10.04.1917	34	12th Inf Bn	Deloraine		6819
	Capt	Appoby	Arthur Harold	06.05.1917	25	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC	826
6472	Pte	Archer	Geoffrey Raymond	06.04.1917	18	12th Inf Bn	Cape Barren Is.		1507
1963	Pte	Archie	Bertie Vernon	07.06.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Burnie		826
(2719)	2nd Lt	Armstrong	Roginald Montague	11.04.1917	25	47th Inf Bn	Burnie	ANZAC	2788
6067	Pte	Arnstrong	James Francis	05.05.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Cygnat		6666
2678A	Pte	Arnold	William Isaac	08.04.1917	33	4th Pioneer Bn	Darby	ANZAC	1065
2783	Cpl	Askins	Arthur Shookbridge	04.10.1917	39	40th Inf Bn	Hobart		1835
1786	Pte	Atwell	Reuben	17.02.1917	26	40th Inf Bn	Devonport		2542
617	Pte	Austin	John William	13.10.1917	29	40th Inf Bn	St Leonards		2819
275	Pte	Austin	Edward	04.10.1917	32	9th MG Coy	Launceston		4036
1700	L/Cpl	Austins	Gordon Isaac	05.05.1917	28	4th Inf Bn	Wynyard	ANZAC	8717
818	Pte	Austins	Thomas	28.11.1917	25	40th Inf Bn	St Leonards		(715)
5985	Pte	Baddock	Wilbert Arthur	25.02.1917	32	12th Inf Bn	Westbury		413
3453	Pte	Bailey	Arthur Ernest	07.06.1917	24	52nd Inf Bn	St Helens		31442
	Capt	Bailey MID	Guy Brooks	27.03.1917	32	AAMC	Hobart	ANZAC	6822
3574	L/Cpl	Bakar	George Albert	11.04.1917	29	15th Inf Bn	Tullah		4774
5915A	Pte	Bakar	Frederick George	21.10.1917	0	NZEF WIR	Hobart	ANZAC	1172
123	Sgt	Bakar	Arthur Henry B	13.10.1917	36	40th Inf Bn	North Motton		5061
503	Pte	Balaam	Albert James	01.10.1917	24	24th Inf Bn	Sulphur Creek		4999
4288	Pte	Baldock	Edgar	04.10.1917	23	3rd MG Coy	Kimberley		2049
5784	Pte	Balfour	Gordon Harold	22.09.1917	26	17th Inf Bn	Launceston		801
1323	L/Cpl	Banks	Aloysius	04.10.1917	21	24th Inf Bn	Hobart		153
1621	Pte	Bannister	William Thomas	03.01.1917	24	40th Inf Bn	Broadmarsh		800
1614	Pte	Barden	Walter James	30.04.1917	31	40th Inf Bn	Bothwell		(814)
4447	Pte	Barker	Oliver Allen	11.04.1917	20	52nd Inf Bn	Penguin		2327
19754	Cpl	Barnard	Clifford Charlie	03.08.1917	21	8th Fd Arty Bde	Westbury		6556
6467	Pte	Barnard	Eric Gordon	06.04.1917	24	12th Inf Bn	Sorell		364
23	RSM	Barnard	Arthur Victor	22.10.1917	32	10th Fd Arty Bde	Deloraine	ANZAC	1839
2851	Pte	Barnett	William Joseph	06.10.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC	1110
6250	Pte	Barringer	Aeneas Henry	14.04.1917	20	12th Inf Bn	Beaconsfield		15249
956	Sgt	Barratt MM	Sydney John	12.10.1917	28	40th Inf Bn	Beaconsfield		2312
6541	Pte	Barton	Roy Cyril	22.09.1917	26	12th Inf Bn	Launceston		
6617	Pte	Bartwick	Norman Stanley	08.10.1917	24	12th Inf Bn	Colebrook		T/5313
1387	Tpr	Bashfield	Henry Dundas	24.04.1917	25	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Hobart	ANZAC	
6209	Ger	Batchelor	Vernon Alfred C	04.10.1917	25	4th Fd Arty Bde	Hobart	ANZAC	5677
1375	L/Cpl	Bates	Charles	28.06.1917	20	52nd Inf Bn	Hobart	ANZAC	180
1789	Pte	Batich	George	07.06.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Burnie		95
5682	Pte	Batist	Thomas Joseph	15.04.1917	35	12th Inf Bn	Moonah		6265
4287	Pte	Baust	Norman Eric	06.04.1917	24	12th Inf Bn	Jericho		817
(1582)	Lt	Bayrup	Henry	14.09.1917	24	1st Pioneer Bn	Launceston	ANZAC	165
116	L/Cpl	Beaton	Colin Murdoch	05.10.1917	29	40th Inf Bn	Winkleigh		6086
2219	Pte	Beaumont	Bertie Alexander	17.01.1917	21	52nd Inf Bn	Penguin	ANZAC	5172
6562	Pte	Beck	Irvine Samuel	25.04.1918	20	50th Inf Bn	Shellfield		5680
7814	Cpl	Beddiph	Thomas	05.12.1917	38	NZEF CMR	Dunalley	ANZAC	2231
113	Pte	Beilinger	Perry	07.08.1917	31	40th Inf Bn	Exton		4303
2218	L/Cpl	Benger	John Desmond	29.08.1917	21	52nd Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC	399A
29919	Ger	Benfield	Eric William	14.04.1917	23	5th Fd Arty Bde	Latrobe	ANZAC	2323B
23964	Pte	Bennett	Charles Ernest	21.02.1917	0	NZEF AR	Hobart South		184
6662	Pte	Bennett	James Walter	25.01.1917	20	12th Inf Bn	Currie		395
2006	Pte	Bennon	Edward	01.04.1917	31	12th Inf Bn	Claremont	ANZAC	6864
2669	Pte	Bentley	Daryl Vernon	01.04.1917	25	51st Inf Bn	New Norfolk		3280
3992	Pte	Bentley	James Cecil	19.04.1917	25	12th Inf Bn	Ellendale		3281
2787	Pte	Berry	George Arthur	05.10.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Kindred		
4300	Pte	Bester	Ernest Frederick	11.07.1917	22	15th Inf Bn	Portville		
610	Pte	Bessell	Clarence Arthur						

(45 pages of Private James Walter Bennett's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **269TH AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST**

ILL

Pte J. W. Bennett, King Island

*(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 30 January, 1917)*

---

### **Roll of Honour**

#### **Casualty List – No. 269**

HOSPITAL CASES

Private J. W. Bennett, King Island, dangerously ill

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 30 January, 1917)*

---

Pte J. W. Bennett – Mr James Bennett, Currie, is in receipt of the following radiogram from the Base Records Office, Melbourne, dated Jan. 20, 1917:- “Regret reported son, Private James W. Bennett, dangerously ill, pneumonia. Will furnish progress report when received.”

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 31 January, 1917)*

---

### **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **271ST AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST**

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte J. W. BENNETT, King Island – 25th Jan. 1917.

*(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 30 January, 1917)*

---

The Rector received the following last Tuesday : — "Officially reported died of pneumonia, 25th Jan., at 2nd Auxiliary Hospital, 6862. J. W. Bennett, 12 Batt. Please convey to next of kin deepest regret and sympathy of Their Majesties the King and Queen and Commonwealth Government, as well District Commandant, in loss sustained by them and Army.,— C. R. Cox, Captain, Actg. D.A.A. & Q M.G." A memorial service will be held in All Saints' Church on Sunday next, Feb. 18, at 11 a.m.

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 14 February, 1917)*

---

### **LATE PTE J. W. BENNETT**

News was received by Mr and Mrs Jas. Bennett, Currie, on Wednesday, 7th inst., that their son, Pte. James Walter Bennett, had died in England from pneumonia. Pte. Bennett, who was only 20 years of age, left King Island about November last, and, with the 12th Battalion reinforcements, went direct to England, and was only there about three weeks when he developed pneumonia. He was taken to the Australian Auxiliary Hospital, London. It was the 15th of January when his parents were first notified of his illness, and ten days later (the 25th) was the day of his death. Pte. Bennett was born at Sassafra, Tasmania, and came to King Island with his parents two years ago. He was a hard working and steady young man, and his sudden departure from this life came as a great shock to his parents, who have the deepest sympathy of all to whom they are acquainted.

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 14 February, 1917)*

---

### **THANKS**

Mr and Mrs J. BENNETT, of Currie, wish to return thanks to their many kind friends for messages and practical sympathy during their recent sad bereavement.

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 21 February, 1917)*

---

### **IN MEMORIAM**

BENNETT – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, James Walter, who passed away in hospital in London on January 25, 1917, while doing his country's duty.

Gone from this earth so swiftly.

Plucked like a flower in bloom ;

So young, so fair, so loving.

Yet called away so soon.

Just twelve months ago you left us,

How we miss you from your place ;

But you left us to remember.

None can ever fill your place.

Yet again we hope to meet thee

When the spark of life has lied,

There in Heaven with joy to greet thee,

Where no farewell tear is shed.

— Inserted by his loving Mother and Father and Brothers and Sister.

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 16 January, 1918) & (Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 17 January, 1918)*

---

### **In Memoriam**

BENNET – In sad and loving memory of James Walter Bennett, who died on Active Service in England , on January 25th, 1917.

Somewhere in England he's lying,  
He answered Australia's call,  
He died an Australian hero,  
'Tis the grandest death of all.

Far from the scenes of his childhood,  
Away o'er the ocean deep,  
In a foreign land our loved one,  
Lies sleeping his long last sleep.

— Inserted by his loving Father, Mother, Brothers and Sisters.

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 29 January, 1919)*

---

### **In Memoriam**

Died on Active Service.

BENNETT – In sad but loving memory of Pte James Walter Bennett, who died on January 25th, 1917.

He was one of the 12th Battalion  
Who back home never came;  
On Tasmania's Roll of Honor  
You'll find our dear Jimmie's name.

He gave his life for his country,  
King and his loved ones too;  
He died the death of a hero.  
What more could our brother do?

We miss you, for we loved you,  
As memories we recall,  
But parting with our brother  
Was the saddest day of all.

—Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 19 January, 1921)*

---

### **In Memoriam**

BENNETT – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, James Walter Bennett, who died on active service in England, Jan. 25th, 1917.

His King and country called him ;  
The call was not in vain ;  
On Australia's Roll of Honor  
You will find our dear Jim's name.



He has sailed on his last commission  
On that beautiful ship called Rest,  
And his head is safely pillowed  
On His Great Commander's breast.

— Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brothers.

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 25 January, 1922)*

---

### **In Memoriam**

Died on Active Service.

BENNETT – In sad but loving memory of Pte James Walter Bennett, who died on January 25th, 1917.

He was one of the 12th Battalion  
Who back home never came;  
On Tasmania's Roll of Honor  
You'll find our dear Jimmie's name.

He gave his life for his country,  
King and his loved ones too;  
He died the death of a hero.  
What more could our brother do?

We miss you, for we loved you,  
As memories we recall,  
But parting with our brother  
Was the saddest day of all.

—Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 13 January, 1926)*

---

### **In Memoriam**

Died on Active Service.

BENNETT – In sad but loving memory of Pte James Walter Bennett, who died on January 25th, 1917.

Our lips cannot speak how we love you,  
Our hearts cannot tell what to say;  
God alone knows how we miss you,  
As we battle along life's rugged way.

But your dear voice seems gently saying,  
"My dear ones, be brave and true;  
At the end of the lane of shadows  
I'll be waiting and watching for you."

—Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

*(King Island News, Currie, King Island – 23 January, 1929)*

---

\*\*\*Note: At the time of researching (2023) these were the only dates that had been imaged & were available on Trove.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2023

## 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. 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)*

A letter was sent from Base Records, dated 2nd July, 1921, to Mr J. W. Bennett, King Island, Tasmania, advising that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 6862 Private J. W. Bennett, 12th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Base Records contacted Mr J. W. Bennett, King Island, Tasmania, on 26th July, 1921 with the following: *"I am returning herewith portion of circular form "A" filled in by you in respect of your son, the late No. 6862 Private J. W. Bennett, 12th Battalion, in order that your signature may be added. It is noted that the inscription furnished by you exceeds the limit imposed by the Imperial War Graves Commission, viz:- 66 letter, and I shall be obliged if you will abbreviate same. In counting the 66 letters, the spaces between any two words are reckoned as additional letters. Kindly return the form at the earliest possible date."*

Private J. W. Bennett has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

*Sleep On And Take Thy Rest*

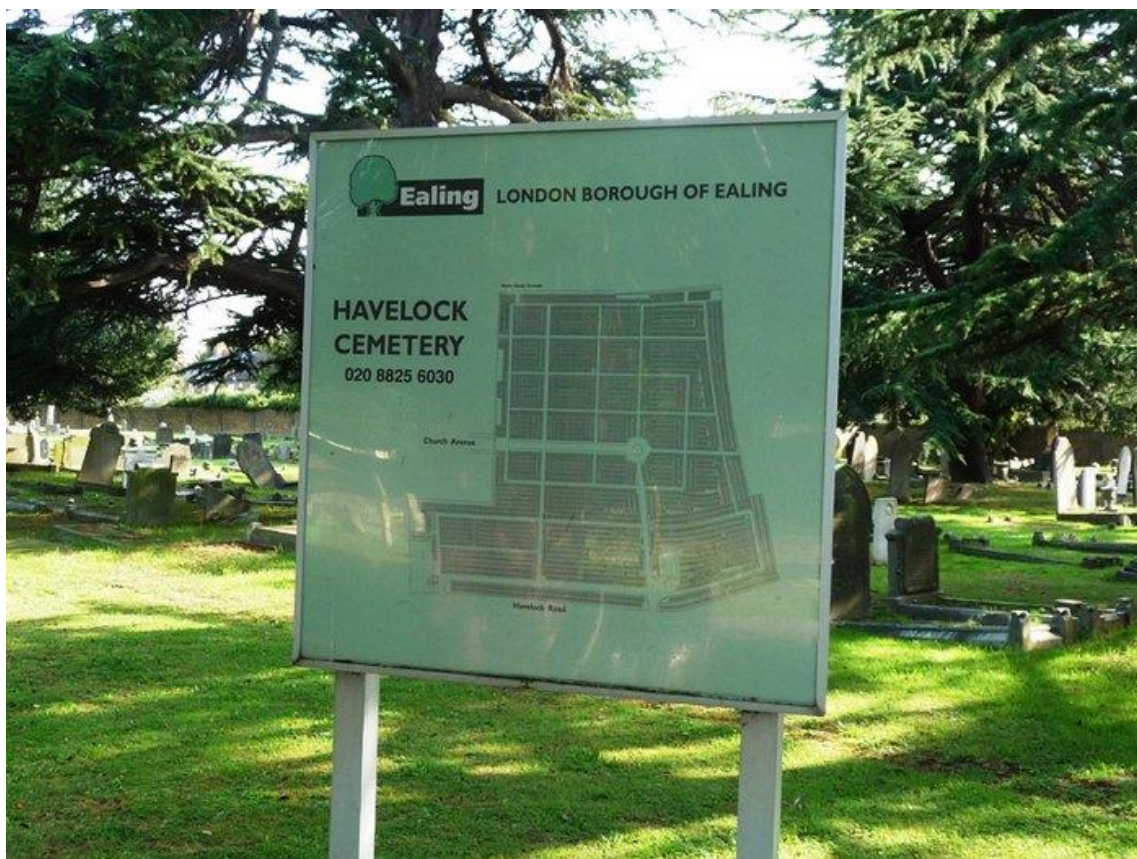
*We Love Thee But Jesus Loves Thee Best*

**Havelock Cemetery (also known as Havelock Norwood Cemetery), Southall, Greater London, England**

There are 83 Commonwealth War Graves located in Havelock Cemetery, Southall – 39 from World War 1 & 44 from World War 2.



**Havelock Cemetery – Church Avenue Entrance**



*(Photo from Find a Grave – DGLISH 2010)*



**Four WW1 Australian War Graves – Read, Alexander, Sanderson & Bennett**

*(Photos courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)*



Photo of Private J. W. Bennett's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Havelock Cemetery, Southall, London, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)*



*(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld 2010)*