

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



Lest We Forget

World War 1



402 PRIVATE

P. BENNETT

17TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 26

Nearer My God To Thee

Percy (Paddy) BENNETT

Percy Bennett was born at Peakhurst, Sydney, New South Wales on 21st November, 1889 to parents Frederick Robert and Eliza Ann Bennett. His birth was registered in 1890 in the district of Hurstville, New South Wales.

Percy Bennett attended Peakhurst Public School, NSW.

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour – “Paddy” Bennett had served with New Guinea Expeditionary Force.

Percy Bennett was a 24 year old, single, Bus Driver when he enlisted with Australian Naval & Military Expedition on 12th August, 1914. His religion was listed as Wesleyan

Percy Bennett was issued with a Service Number of 74 & was posted to “A” Company, 1st Tropical Unit.

Private Percy Bennett embarked from Sydney, NSW on H.M.A.S. *Berrima* on 19th August, 1914.

Private Percy Bennett was discharged on 4th March, 1915 from Australian Naval & Military Expedition – termination of period of engagement. He had served for 206 days.

Percy Bennett was a 25 year old, single, Bus Driver from Forest Road, Peakhurst, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 16th March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 402 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Eliza Ann Bennett, of Forest Road, Peakhurst. Percy Bennett stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served for 6 months with 1st Expeditionary Force & had been discharged – Time elapsed.

Private Percy Bennett was posted to “A” Company, 18th Battalion on 19th March, 1915 for training. He was transferred to 17th Battalion on 12th May, 1915.

Private Percy Bennett embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 12th May, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 17th Infantry Battalion “A” Company.

Private Percy Bennett proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) for Gallipoli Peninsula on 16th August, 1915.

Private Percy Bennett disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 9th January, 1916 (after evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private Percy Bennett embarked from Alexandria on 17th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd March, 1916.

Private Percy Bennett was wounded in action in France on 26th July, 1916. He was admitted to 57th Field Ambulance on 26th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to head & eyes then transferred & admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 27th July, 1916. Private Bennett embarked from Rouen on 31st July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick*.

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

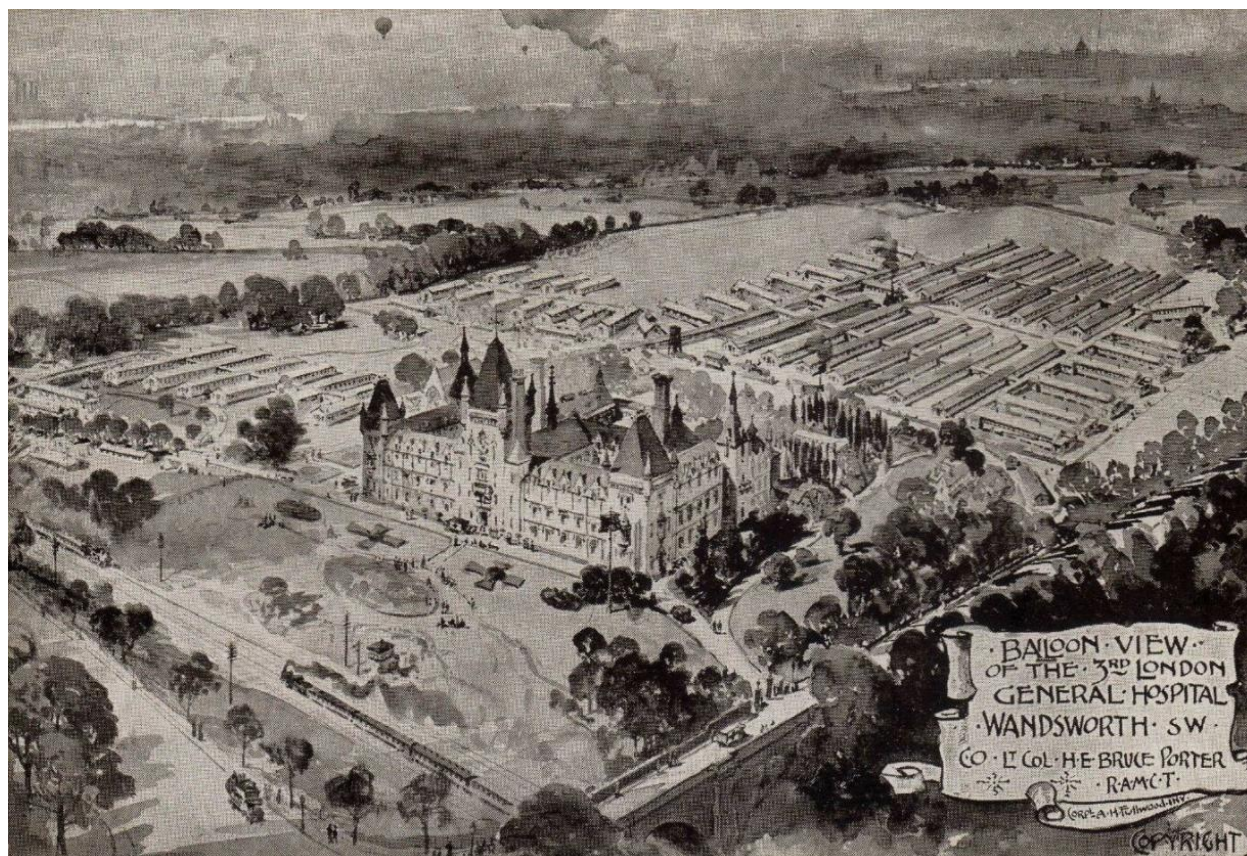
Private Percy Bennett was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 1st August, 1916 with G.S.W. to Head & both eyes.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01040

3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth



Private Percy Bennett died at 4.35 am on 7th August, 1916 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. of Skull & Septic Meningitis.

A death for Percy Bennett, aged 27, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Wandsworth, Greater London, England.

Private Percy Bennett was buried on 10th August, 1916 in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Block 19 Grave No. 29.

This is now recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Grave Reference - Aust. 27. Private Bennett has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Percy Bennett contains 3 letters regarding Private Bennett:

- *“Died at 3rd London Gen. Hosp. 1_ -8-16 and was buried at Wandsworth Cemetery – he was suffering from gun shot wound of skull. Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 26-10-16.*
He was unconscious the last few days – his brother came the day after he died and was at the funeral. His brother has all particulars. Cert. by – Hospital Report 26-10-16.
- Informant P. Bennett 6529 (formerly 432) 17th Battalion, C. Co (formerly A) No. 4 Australia General Hospital Randwick. *“A careful reliable witness”* wrote the following account: *“I knew Bennett well – he was a “Cobber” of mine, and had the same name and initial – his number was 402, and he and I were in the original Battalion, and left Australia in the “Osterley” in 1915. He was in C. Company, when he was hit – we had been transferred from A. Company. He came from some part of Sydney. He was of medium, height, dark, of medium build.*
I saw him being carried away on a stretcher early in August, 1916, on Pozieres Ridge – he was badly wounded in the shoulder and thigh, and I felt sure he could not live long, he was so badly wounded, but I had not heard he had died. I was right alongside him, when he was on the ground, and he said “Carry the old name through lad.”
- Lieutenant H. G. Mathews, M.C., 17th Battalion, A. Company, A.I.F. No. 4 Australia General Hospital Randwick. *“A very reliable witness”* wrote the following account: *“I knew Bennett; he was in A. Co. II Platoon under me. He was medium height, thickly built, fair and was called Paddy. He was wounded in a hand-to-hand bomb fight in Munster Alley just to the right of Pozieres in front of the Windmill, a continuation of O.G.I. He then climbed back into the trench laughing and was evidently taken to the Clearing Station on a stretcher. I had not heard that he had died until I saw your book. I recognise his number as 402. He was a very solid and good natured soldier and was always cheerful.”*

Private Percy Bennett was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bennett's father – Mr F. R. Bennett, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent April, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Percy Bennett – service number 402, aged 26, of 17th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frederick Robert and Eliza Ann Bennett, of “Windsor”, Forest Rd., Peakhurst, New South Wales.

P. Bennett & his brother S. Bennett are both remembered on the Oatley War Memorial, located in Oatley Memorial Gardens, Oatley Avenue & Frederick Street, Oatley, NSW.



Oatley War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



P. Bennett & his brother S. Bennett are both remembered on the Hurstville War Memorial, located in Memorial Square, Forrest Road, Hurstville, NSW.



Hurstville War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Private Bennett is remembered on the Municipality of Hurstville Honour Roll No. 1, located in Hurstville City Museum & Gallery, 14 MacMahon Street. Hurstville, NSW.

Newspaper item – *The St. George Call*, Kogarah, NSW – 31 August, 1918:

HURSTVILLE PHOTOGRAPHIC HONOR ROLL

An effort is being made to obtain a photo of every soldier enlisted from Hurstville for inclusion in an Honor Roll, which is to be presented to the Municipality. Relatives desirous of having photos included, are requested to forward them promptly to the Acting Town Clerk, or to Mr A. Brown, Stationer, Hurstville, at which latter address the Roll will be on view prior to presentation.

Each photo must be endorsed on the back with the name and address of sender, and the name of Soldier and date of enlistment.

All photos will be returned to their owners unharmed.....



Municipality of Hurstville Honour Roll No. 1 (Photo from AWM - Places of Pride)



Municipality of Hurstville Honour Roll No. 1

111. BENNETT, PTE (?)

(Unsure if photo is of Percy or his brother Sydney)

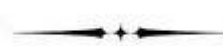
Private P. Bennett is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 82.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(31 pages of Private Percy 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05301.093

**Studio portrait of 402 Private (Pte) Percy (Paddy) Bennett,
17th Battalion, of Peakhurst, NSW.**

A bus driver prior to enlisting on 16 March 1915, he embarked from Sydney, NSW, aboard HMAT Thermistocles on 12 May 1915. He died on 7 August 1916, of wounds received at Pozieres, France, aged 26. His brother, Pte Sydney Bennett was killed in action on 21 September 1917 in France, aged 31 (see P05301.094). On the Roll of Honour circular it was stated their grandfather and great grandfather had fought at Crimea, Waterloo and the Indian Mutiny.

[Connected to Private Percy Bennett:](#)

Older brother Sydney Bennett - Enlisted on 19th August, 1914 as a 28 year old, Miner from Peakhurst. Service No. 315 – 4th Battalion. Embarked from Sydney on 20th October, 1914 on HMAT Euripides. Killed in action on 21st September, 1917. Remembered on Villers Bretonnuex Memorial, France.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P05301.094

Private Sydney Bennett



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

BENNETT – Private Paddy Bennett, died from wounds received in France, August 7, 1916.

Greater love hath no man than this, that he laid down his life for his friends.

Inserted by his sorrowing father, mother, sisters and brothers, Windsor, Forest-road, Peakhurst.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 19 August, 1916)

MORE CASUALTIES

NSW KILLED AND WOUNDED TWO LISTS

THE 200th AND 201st

Killed in Action

Pte P. BENNETT (Peakhurst), 7/8/16

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 29 August, 1916)

RETURN THANKS

MR AND MRS F. R. BENNETT and Family, of "Windsor," Forest road, Peakhurst, wish to return their most Sincere Thanks to all kind Friends for their great Kindness and Sympathy during their recent Sad Bereavement.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 8 September, 1916)

A Memorial service in honor of the late Pte Paddy Bennett, who was killed in action in France, was held in the Peakhurst Methodist church on September 3rd. Rev. G. W. Payne delivered an appropriate sermon.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 15 September, 1916)

Roll of Honor

In loving memory of PRIVATE PERCY BENNETT, died of wounds received in France, August 7th, 1916.

"Greater Love hath no Man than this."

Inserted by his loving Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters, "Windsor," Forest-road, Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 3 August, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BENNETT – In loving memory of our dear Son and Brother, Pte Paddy Bennett, who died of wounds received in France, August 7th, 1916.

Greater love hath no man than this.

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters, "Windsor," Forest Road, Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 9 August, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BENNETT – In loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Pte Percy Bennett, died of wounds, 7th Aug., 1916, and Pte Sydney Bennett, killed in action, 21st Sept., 1917.

A beautiful memory left behind,
And a duty noble done,
Their sacrifice was not in vain
Thank God for victory won.

Inserted by their loving mother, father, sisters and brothers. "Windsor," Forest road, Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 8 August, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BENNETT – In loving memory of Private Percy (Paddy) Bennett, who Died of Wounds received in France, August 7, 1916.

Also Private Sydney Bennett, who was Killed in Action September 22, 1917.

Inserted by their Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters, "Windsor," Forest-road, Peakhurst. Ever Remembered.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 6 August, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

BENNETT – In loving memory of Private P. Bennett, who died of wounds August 7, 1916; also Private S. Bennett, killed in action September 21, 1917. Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters, and brothers, Forest Road, Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 12 August, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

BENNETT – In loving memory of Private Percy Bennett, died of wounds August 7, 1916; also Private Sydney Bennett, killed in action September 21, 1917. Inserted by their loving father and mother, brothers and sisters, of Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 10 August, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

BENNETT – In loving memory of Private P. Bennett, died of wounds 7th August, 1916; also Private Syd. Bennett, killed in action 22nd September, 1917.

Greater love hath no man.

Inserted by their loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 7 August, 1925)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BENNETT – In loving memory of Private Paddy Bennett, who died of wounds received in France on August 7, 1916; also Private Sydney Bennett, killed in France on September 22, 1917.

"Greater love hath no man."

Inserted by their loving father and mother, Mr and Mrs F. R. Bennett, Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 6 August, 1926)

IN MEMORIAM

BENNETT – In loving memory of Private P. Bennett, died of wounds August 7, 1916; also Private Syd. Bennett, killed in action September 21, 1917. Thy will be done. Inserted by their loving mother, father and family.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 5 August, 1927)

IN MEMORIAM

BENNETT – In loving memory of Pte P. Bennett, died of wounds August 7, 1916; also Pte Syd. Bennett, killed in action September 22, 1917. Thy will be done. Inserted by their loving father and mother, brothers, and sisters, Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 10 August, 1928)

IN MEMORIAM

BENNETT – In loving memory of Private P. Bennett, died of wounds August 7, 1916; also Private Syd. Bennett, killed in action September, 1917. Not forgotten by mother, father, sisters and brother, Forest Road, Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 9 August, 1929)

IN MEMORIAM

BENNETT – In loving memory of Private P. Bennett, died of wounds August, 1916; also Private Syd. Bennett, killed in action September, 1917.

Inserted by their loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, Forest Road, Peakhurst.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 15 August, 1930)

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)

Private P. Bennett does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Nearer My God To Thee

Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16917

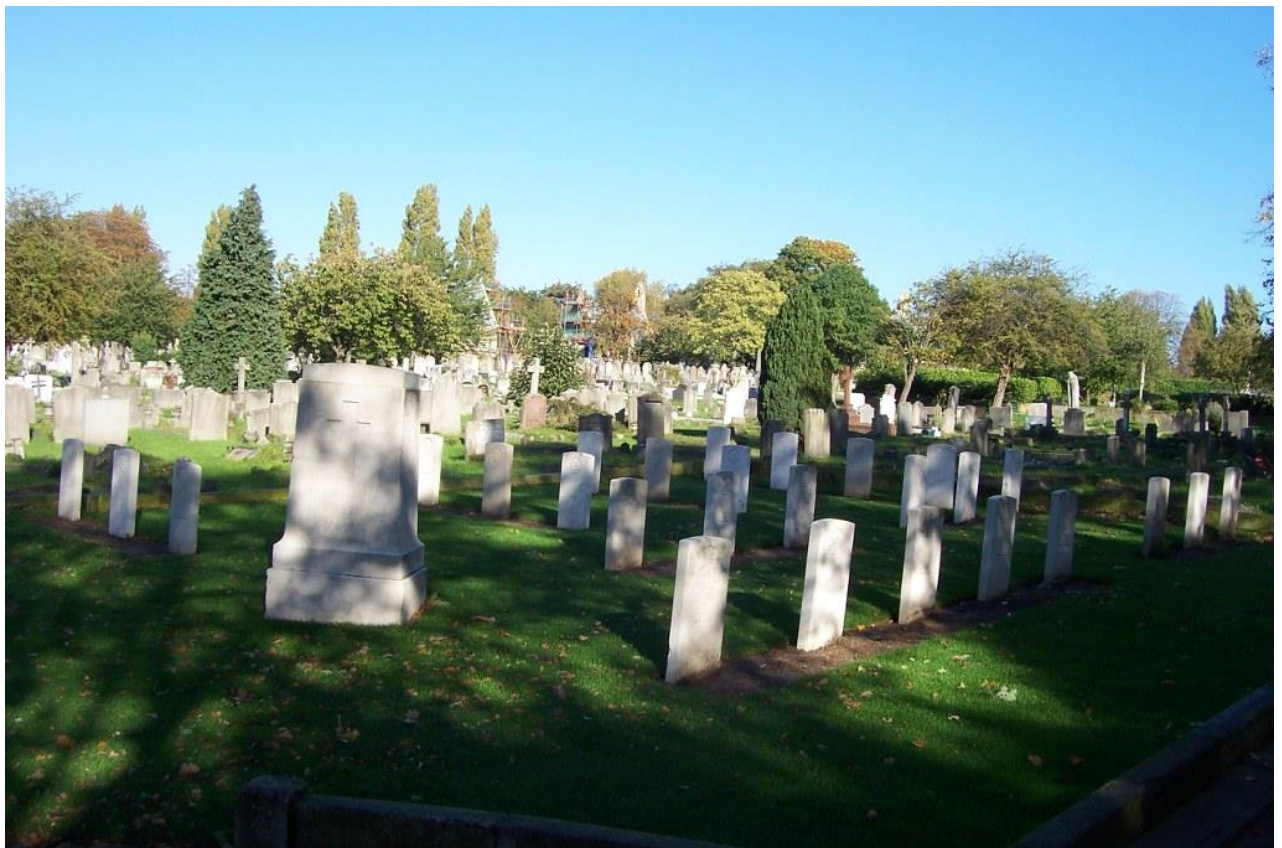
A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London (taken 15 April, 1931)



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(Photos from CWGC)*





Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private P. Bennett's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)