

**Kirkton Cemetery,
Fraserburgh, Scotland
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1914 PRIVATE

C. G. FRENCH

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

9TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 27

They Miss Him Most

Who Loved Him Best

Charles Gordon FRENCH

Charles Gordon French was born on 11th February, 1892 at Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland to parents William Greig French & Christina Isabelle Bruce French (nee Horne).

Christina French, mother of Charles Gordon French, died on 10th September, 1902 at Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

Charles Gordon French attended Fraserburgh School, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded Charles French as a 9 year old Scholar, living with his family at 55 Hanover Street, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as William French (Baker, aged 33, born Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire) & Christian French (aged 31, born Tyrie, Aberdeenshire). Charles was one five children listed on this Census (all born Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire) – William French (Scholar, aged 11), then Charles, Alexander French (aged 4), Christian French (female, aged 2) & James French (aged 2 months). Also listed was Jeannie Horne, William French's Sister-in-law, (Fish & Meat Factory Worker, aged 18, born Tyrie, Aberdeenshire).

According to information supplied by his wife for the Roll of Honour - Charles Gordon French came to Australia when he was 19 years old.

Charles Gordon French was a 22 year old, single, Shoemaker when he enlisted at Oaklands, South Australia on 22nd January, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 14th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1914 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William French, of 34 Charlotte Street, Fraserburgh, Scotland. Charles Gordon French stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 6 months with Gordon Highlanders but had left district.

Private Charles Gordon French was posted to Base Depot Infantry on 22nd January, 1915. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 16th Infantry Battalion on 25th February, 1915.

Private Charles Gordon French embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 20th April, 1915.

Private Charles Gordon French was taken on strength of 16th Battalion at Gallipoli on 13th July, 1915.

Private Charles Gordon French was wounded on 17th August, 1915 with gunshot wounds to left leg. He was transferred to Malta on SS *Karoo* on 19th August, 1915 & admitted to St David's Military Hospital. Private French was transferred from Malta to England on Hospital Ship *Italia* on 8th September, 1915.

Private Charles Gordon French was admitted to County of London War Hospital, Epsom on 15th September, 1915 with a bullet wound to leg. He was discharged on 18th October, 1915.

Private Charles Gordon French was marched in to Abbey Wood, England on 10th November, 1915.

Charles Gordon French married Jessie T. Murdoch on 25th December, 1915 at St. Nicholas's Church, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Private Charles Gordon French was taken on strength at Weymouth on 21st February, 1916.

Private Charles Gordon French was written up for an Offence on 9th June, 1916 – Gambling, while posted at Weymouth. He was awarded 168 hours detention.

Private Charles Gordon French was transferred to Perham Downs, Salisbury, Wiltshire from Monte Video on 28th June, 1916.

Private Charles Gordon French proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 9th July, 1917 from 4th Training Battalion. He was marched in from England to 4th A.D.B. D. (Australian Divisional base Depot) at Havre, France on 10th July, 1917. Private French was marched out to his Battalion from Havre on 24th July, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion in the field on 27th July, 1917.

Private Charles Gordon French was sent sick to Hospital on 11th September, 1917. He was admitted to 12th Stationary Hospital with Urticaria & discharged to duty in 22nd September, 1917. He rejoined his Unit in the field on 27th September, 1917

Private Charles Gordon French was transferred to 52nd Battalion on 5th October, 1917.

Private Charles Gordon French was on leave to UK from 17th March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from leave on 24th March, 1918.

Private Charles Gordon French was transferred to 49th Battalion on 16th May, 1918.

Private Charles Gordon French was detached to 4th Machine Gun Battalion on 20th May, 1918.

Private Charles Gordon French was on leave to UK from 23rd August, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from leave on 10th September, 1918.

Private Charles Gordon French was transferred to 4th Machine Gun Battalion on 8th September, 1918.

Private Charles Gordon French was struck off strength in France on 9th January, 1919 ready for return to Australia (1915 Personnel). He was marched out from Havre to England on 15th January, 1918 for return to Australia.

Private Charles Gordon French was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England on 16th January, 1919.

Private Charles Gordon French was admitted to No.1 Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 1st February, 1919 with Influenza. He was reported as dangerously ill with Broncho Pneumonia on 6th February, 1919.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00443

No. 1 Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire 1919

Private Charles Gordon French died at 6 am on 9th February, 1919 at 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for C. G. French, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Charles Gordon French was buried on 18th February, 1919 in Kirkton Cemetery, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland – Plot number 1910. 5. 616. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private French - *Coffin was oak. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by beautiful wreaths sent from : Mrs French, Mrs Munday, and "From the girls". The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and Chaplain the Rev. Taylor, C. of E. Officiated. A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.* Names of relatives and friends present at the funeral – Father – Mr French, Mr Munday, Brother – Mr French and two sons.

Private Charles Gordon French was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private French's widow – Mrs J. T. French, in England, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Gordon French – service number 1914, aged 27, of 4th Bn. Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of William French; husband of Jessie T. Murdoch French, of 59 High St., Fraserburgh.

Private C. G. French is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 176.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. G. French is remembered on the Unley City Honour Roll, located at Town Hall, Unley Road & Oxford Terrace, Unley, South Australia.



Unley City Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia)

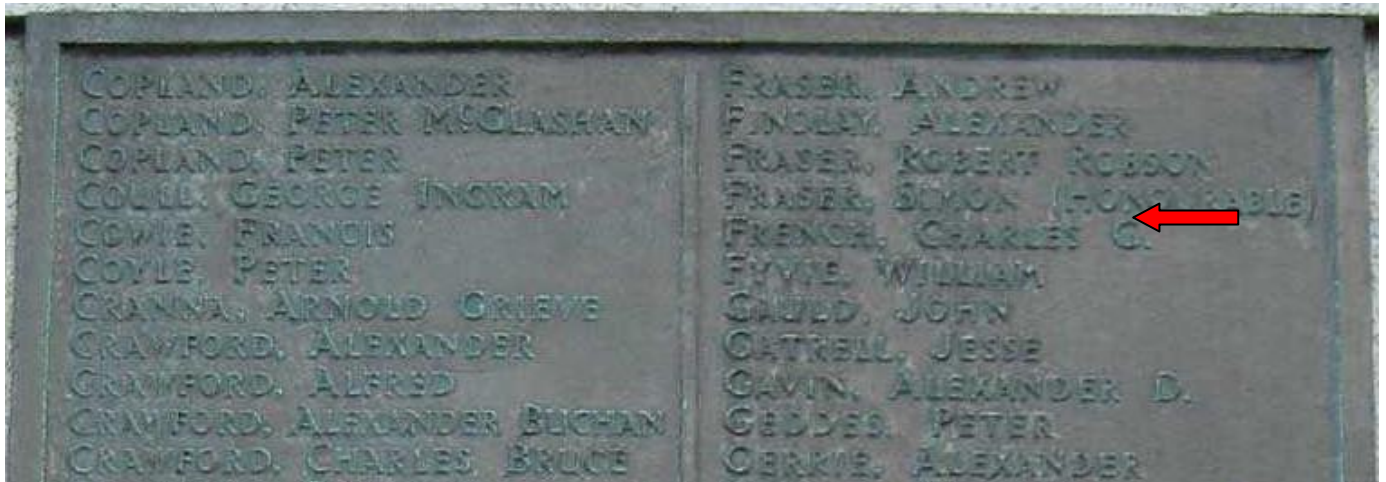
C. G. French is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

Charles G. French is remembered on the Fraserburgh War Memorial, located at the junction of Saltoun & South Roads, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.





Fraserburgh War Memorial

(49 pages of Private Charles Gordon French'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



Private Charles French (Photo from VWMA – Geoffrey Gillon)

Newspaper Notices

CASUALTY LIST No. 460

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died Other Causes

1914 – Pte C. G. FRENCH, Scotland (Feb 9; illness; p.r.w.)

(*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 March, 1919)

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 C. G. French does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

They Miss Him Most Who Loved Him Best

Kirkton Cemetery, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

There are 31 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war here. There are an additional 30 burials of the 1939-45 war, 4 being unidentified seamen of the Merchant Navy.

(*Information & photos from CWGC*)



Photo of Private C. G. French's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Kirkton Cemetery, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Martin Briscoe)

The headstone in front of Private Charles Gordon French's CWGC headstone belongs to his wife & son & reads:

In Memory

Of Our Dear Son

L/Cpl. CHARLES M. FRENCH

Who Was Killed In Action

In Western Europe

3rd August 1944

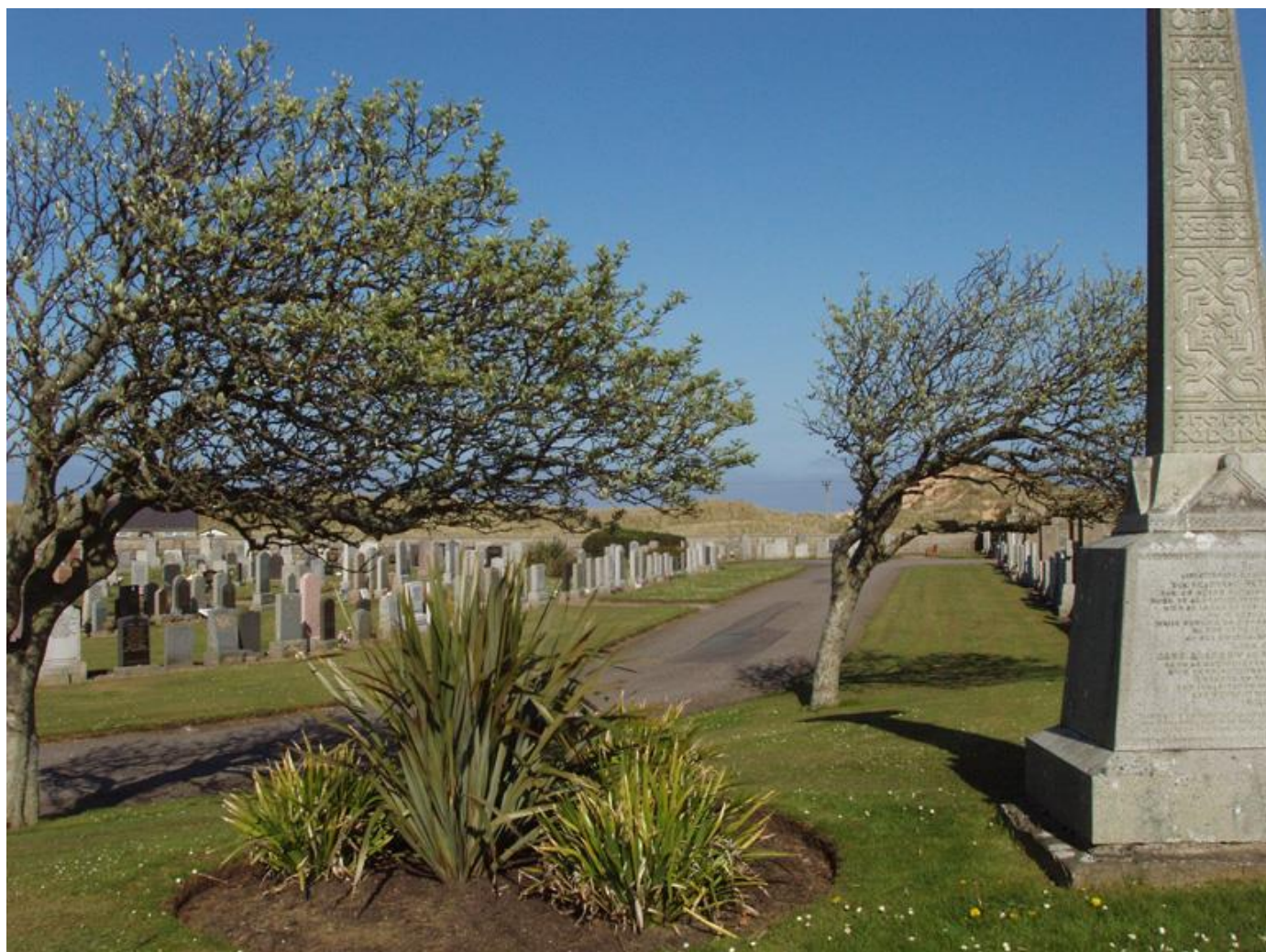
Aged 27 Years

Also His Mother

JESSIE T. FRENCH

Who Died 11th Oct 1964

Aged 73 Years



Kirkton Cemetery, Fraserburgh