

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3302 CORPORAL

J. L. GUNNELL

53RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH JANUARY, 1917

John Leslie GUNNELL

John Leslie Gunnell was born at Mudgee, New South Wales on 2nd April, 1871 to parents John Charles & Elizabeth Margaret Gunnell (nee Graham).

John Leslie Gunnell was employed on probation as a Pupil Teacher at Ashfield on 1st May, 1888.

The 1889 (April - June) New South Wales Government Gazette recorded John Leslie Gunnell having gained promotion by examination to Macdonaldtown School.

The 1890 (May - June) New South Wales Government Gazette recorded John Leslie Gunnell having been promoted to Class II at Mudgee School.

The 1891 (September – October) New South Wales Government Gazette recorded John Leslie Gunnell having gained promotion by examination at Mudgee Superior School.

John Leslie Gunnell married Mary Gertrude on 5th July, 1899 at Emmaville, Johnson Street, Annandale, Sydney, NSW. They had the following children – Dorothy Keith Gunnell (born 1900); John Charles Gunnell (born 1901) & Kathleen Mai Gunnell (born 1907).

The 1903-1904 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Redfern, New South Wales recorded John Leslie Gunnell, School Teacher, of 31 Castlereagh Street.

The 1909 New South Wales Department of Public Instructions Lists recorded John Leslie Gunnell, Teacher, at Carrathool School.

The 1911, 1912 & 1913 New South Wales Department of Public Instructions Lists recorded John Leslie Gunnell, Teacher, at Noorooma School.

Mary Gertrude Gunnell, wife of John Leslie Gunnell, died on 19th December, 1912 in Sydney, NSW from diphtheria.

The 1914 New South Wales Department of Public Instructions Lists recorded John Leslie Gunnell, 1st Assistant, at Paddington School.

An application for Enrolment for Active Service for John Leslie Gunnell, of 35 View St, Woollahra, Sydney, NSW recorded that he was aged 44 years, a widower with three children & had previous service with F Company, 3rd Regiment for between 3 & 4 years. He was no longer serving & not had active service. His special qualifications were listed as “*Good Horseman*” & to the question “*Do you volunteer for Active Service in Australia or abroad or both?*” he replied “*Anywhere*”. He was to present himself for a Medical Examination on 1st July, 1915.

John Leslie Gunnell was a 44 year old, widower, School Teacher from Duxford Street, Paddington, New South Wales when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, New South Wales on 15th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his daughter – Dorothy Gunnell, 18 Duxford Street, Paddington, New South Wales.

Private John Leslie Gunnell was posted to 11th Reinforcements of 2nd Battalion.

John Leslie Gunnell, 11th Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion, signed a Statutory Declaration at Liverpool, NSW on 25th October, 1915 “*....do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am a widower and my three children are all under the age of sixteen years.*”

Private John Leslie Gunnell, Service number 3302, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Euripides* (A14) on 2nd November, 1915 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Leslie Gunnell was transferred to 53rd Battalion on 14th February, 1916 from 2nd Battalion at Zeitoun. He was taken on strength of 53rd Battalion on 16th February, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private John Leslie Gunnell was appointed Temporary Corporal with 53rd Battalion from 24th March, 1916.

Temporary Corporal John Leslie Gunnell was promoted to Corporal from 8th May, 1916 with 53rd Battalion while posted at Ismalia.

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell embarked from Alexandria on 19th June, 1916 on *Royal George* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th June, 1916.

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell was wounded in action in France on 10th August, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 15th August, 1916 with G.S.W. to Leg & Hip then transferred on 16th August, 1916 to Ambulance Train. Corporal Gunnell was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 16th August, 1916. He was invalided to England on 18th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel*.

53rd Battalion

The 53rd Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 1st Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 1st, the 53rd was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Sydney. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

The battalion arrived in France on 27 June 1916, entered the front line for the first time on 10 July, and became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, at Fromelles, on 19 July. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster. The 53rd was part of the initial assault and suffered grievously, incurring 625 casualties, including its commanding officer, amounting to over three-quarters of its attacking strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 53rd Battalion

7th, 8th, 9th August, 1916:

Quiet, little sniping or shelling. Working on parapets and dugouts.

10th August, 1916:

Corpl Gunnell (3302) 53rd wounded (serious)

Sgt Baily (9/3) LH wounded

Tpr Seddon (105) LH wounded (slightly)

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell was admitted to 2nd Northern General Hospital, Becketts Park, Leeds, England on 19th August, 1916 with G.S.W. Left Hip. He was discharged to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 14th September, 1916. Corporal Gunnell proceeded on Furlough from Perham Downs on 15th September, 1916.

Miss D. Gunnell, 18 Duxford Street, Paddington, NSW, daughter of Corporal John Leslie Gunnell, was advised by Base Records on 7th September, 1916 that No. 3302 Corporal J. L. Gunnell, 53rd Battalion, had been reported wounded. She was advised on 22nd September, 1916 that No. 3302 Corporal J. L. Gunnell had been admitted to Second Northern general Hospital on 19th August, 1916 suffering from a Gunshot wound to hip mild.

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. Later convalescing & training Units were combined under the same command depots.

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell reported from Furlough to Milbank Hospital on 24th September, 1916. He was transferred to Harefield Hospital on 5th October, 1916. The Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex on 5th October, 1916 due to *"injuries & shock from motor accident."* Corporal Gunnell was discharged from 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex on 7th October, 1916 to Perham Downs.

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell reported back to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 9th October, 1916. He was medically re-classified as B2 b (Temporarily unfit for General Service or Home Service).

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell was admitted to Delhi Hospital, Wiltshire on 31st October, 1916 with Influenza. The Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted to Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 29th October, 1916 with Influenza & was discharged on 8th November, 1916. He was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 10th November, 1916. Corporal Gunnell was placed on Supernumerary List on 13th November, 1916 (states 3rd Echelon, B.E.F. Rouen).

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 21st December, 1916 – seriously ill with Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth on 19th December, 1916 with Broncho Pneumonia.

Miss D. Gunnell, 18 Duxford Street, Paddington, NSW, daughter of Corporal John Leslie Gunnell, was advised by Base Records on 5th January, 1917 that No. 3302 Corporal J. L. Gunnell had been admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital on 21st December, 1916.

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell died at 1.15 am on 7th January, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for John Gunnell, aged 46, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Miss D. Gunnell, 18 Duxford Street, Paddington, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 8th January, 1917 that her father Corporal John L. Gunnell was *"seriously ill Pneumonia and is reported condition stationary will furnish further progress report when received."*

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell was buried on 10th January, 1917 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 245 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell requested in his Will: *"I hereby will, devise & bequeath all my goods, property, money, chattels etc, including Ex-Superannuation & other moneys due to me by the Department of Public Instruction in New South Wales to me dear daughter Dorothy Keith Gunnell, of 16, Duxford Street, Paddington, New South Wales to be used on behalf of my three dear children to their best interests."*

War Pensions were granted to the three children of the late Corporal John Leslie Gunnell, 3302, 53rd Battalion. The children were all listed at 18 Duxford St, Paddington & they were issued the following amounts per fortnight from 15th March, 1917 – Dorothy Keith Gunnell, daughter, £1.10; John Charles Gunnell, Son, £1.10 & Kathleen Mai Gunnell, daughter, £1.

A claim for a War Pension was made by Carrie May, 16 Duxford St, Paddington, sister-in-law of the late Corporal John Leslie Gunnell, 3302, 53rd Battalion. The claim was rejected "*claimant is not a dependent within the meaning of the Act.*"

The Public Trust Office, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 6th November, 1917 requesting a certificate of death in duplicate as steps were being taken to apply for Administration of the estate of the late John Leslie Gunnell.

Base Records replied to The Public Trustee, Sydney, NSW on 13th November, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death, in duplicate, of the late No. 3302 Corporal J. L. Gunnell, 53rd Battalion.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. C. Gunnell, 28 Avoca Street, Bondi, NSW, son of the late Corporal John Leslie Gunnell, on 19th January, 1922: "*On 11.10.21 the Memorial Scroll issuable on behalf of the late No. 3302, Corporal J. L. Gunnell, 53rd Battalion, was despatched to you at 28 Avoca Street, Bondi, NSW, but was subsequently returned unclaimed. The memo (in which was enclosed the King's Message) advising you of the Scroll's despatch has not been returned, and was presumably delivered at your address. Before the Scroll can be redirected to you I should be obliged if you would advise whether it will reach you safely if forwarded to the undermentioned address.*" Written in red "*scroll readdressed to Manly 1/4/22.*"

On 10th February, 1922 a request was sent from Base Records to 2nd D.B. to obtain the present address of next of kin of the late Corporal John Leslie Gunnell. A note, written in red, located in the Service Record file for Corporal John Leslie Gunnell reads: "*Uncle J. G. Merrin, 76 Pitt St, Sydney, NSW*" dated 19/5/1920.

One of the copies of Corporal John Leslie Gunnell's Attestation Papers has the address for his daughter crossed out from 18 Duxford St, Paddington, NSW & written in red is "*28 Avoca St, Bondi, Sydney, NSW*" with a date of 12th April, 1920. The Bondi address has also been crossed out & written in red is "*Son Mr J. C. Gunnell, No. 82 Darley Rd, Manley, NSW*" and dated 30th March, 1922.

Corporal John Leslie Gunnell was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Gunnell's son - Mr J. C. Gunnell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal John Leslie Gunnell – service number 3302, of 53rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Corporal J. L. Gunnell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 157.



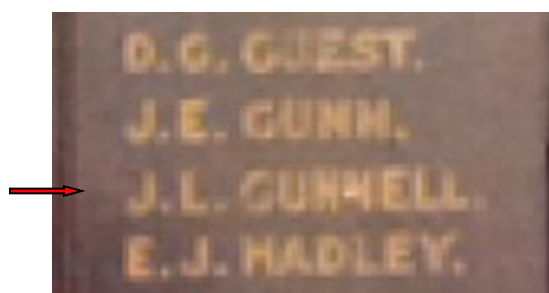
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. L. Gunnell is remembered on the NSW Teachers of Public Schools Who Served in the Great War 1914 – 1918 Roll of Honour, located at NSW Department of Education, 105 Phillip Street, Parramatta, NSW.



NSW Teachers of Public Schools Who Served in the Great War 1914 – 1918 Roll of Honour

(Photo from War Memorial Register NSW – David Roden)



J. L. Gunnell is remembered on the Public School Teachers of New South Wales Who Fell In the Great War 1914 – 1918 Roll of Honour, located at NSW Department of Education, 105 Phillip Street, Parramatta, NSW.



Public School Teachers of New South Wales Who Fell In the Great War 1914 – 1918 Roll of Honour

(Photo from War Memorial Register NSW – David Roden)

(70 pages of Corporal John Leslie Gunnell'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



Newspaper Notices

MEN AND WOMEN

SOME PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

The wife of Mr J. L. Gunnell, public school teacher, at Narooma, South Coast, succumbed to an attack of diphtheria yesterday morning. She arrived in the city with the family for the Christmas holidays a few days ago. Two other members of the family are now seriously ill. The deceased lady was a sister of Mr J. G. Merrin, editor of the "Farmer and Grazier."

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 20 December, 1912)

Australian Casualties

Lists Nos. 216 to 219

New South Wales

Wounded

Cpl J. L. GUNNELL (Paddington)

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 27 September, 1916)

Comforts for Soldiers

Do They Receive Them ?

WICKHAM PACELS ACKNOWLEDGED

On many occasions it has been said that the men in the trenches do not receive the comforts sent to them. The Mayor of Wickham (Ald. Jenner) has received a letter from a soldier in the trenches, thanking him for some 'smokes' he had received from the Mayor. Mrs Plant and Mrs. O'Hare, of Tighe's Hill, were collecting for the Tobacco Fund some months ago, and they received 5s from Mr Jenner. Tobacco to this value was included with other goods sent, and a note, wishing the men good luck over the names of the donors, was placed in the parcel. The letter acknowledging the "smokes" read as follows:-

"Dear Mr. Jenner, Mayor of Wickham.— Very many thanks for 'smokes' received, which are most acceptable. A good smoke under heavy shell fire is a good companion. — Yours appreciatively, H. E. Biden, France."

Little Miss Winnie Jenner has also received a letter from the front. Winnie sent a parcel with those sent by the Wickham Superior Public School, and now she has received a letter thanking her for her thoughtfulness. The letter was written from the 2nd Northern General Hospital, Beckitt's Park, Leeds, England.

“Dear Little Winnie” the letter reads, “I do not know you, but I am writing to thank you for the packet of writing-paper and envelopes you sent for a soldier, which I received in the trenches, and now I am in hospital find it useful to me. I was wounded with shrapnel in the hip and leg on August 9, but am getting on well. After I undergo an operation I will soon get all right. We were fighting in France between Armentieres and La Bassee. I belong to New South Wales. I have a little girl eight years old, named Kathleen; and she has an elder sister named Dorothy and a brother, Jack. They live at No. 18 Duxord Street. Paddington, with their uncle and aunt. I always like to thank those dear ones at home, who are so good to us, and whom we are so pleased to fight for. Good-bye, little lady, and may all good luck and happiness attend you.— Yours sincerely,

“Corporal J L. Gunnell, Ko. 3.302 C. Company, 53rd Battalion, A.I.F.”

Many members of the Wickham Patriotic Committee have received similar letters of appreciation.

(Northern Times, Newcastle, NSW – 7 November, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

GUNNELL – Corporal J. L. Gunnell, second son of the late Mr J. C. Gunnell, Mudgee, and Mrs Gunnell, “Gwynglades.” Cremorne, died of pneumonia in Tidsworth Hospital, England, January 7th, 1917, while recovering from wounds received in action in France.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 19 January, 1917) & (The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 19 January, 1917)

Another District Hero

CORPORAL GUNNELL

KILLED IN FRANCE

Amongst the latest of our soldier heroes to pay the supreme price of patriotism at the western front is Corporal J. L. Gunnell. Corporal Gunnell was a Mudgee boy, being the son of the late Mr J. C. Gunnell, of Perry-street. He was at the time of his enlistment a teacher in the employ of the State Education Department. He leaves a wife and family. Mrs Gunnell was a Miss Merrin, herself a Mudgee girl.

The news of the gallant soldier's death will be received with great and widespread regret. We offer to the greatly bereaved wife and family our most sincere sympathy.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 25 January, 1917)

Latest Casualties

266th AND 267th LISTS

Died of Illness

Cpl J. L. Gunnell, Paddington

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 26 January, 1917)

PADDINGTON SCHOOL RECORD

Teachers and ex-teachers of the Paddington school have responded splendidly to the call for soldiers. Three have been killed, and one wounded, while three others are now at the front. Corporal Gunnell, Gunner Small and Private Loomes are the killed; Captain McKean was severely wounded and invalided, and Messrs Henry, Fraser and King are now with the army somewhere at the front.

(Northern Times, Newcastle, NSW – 1 February, 1917)

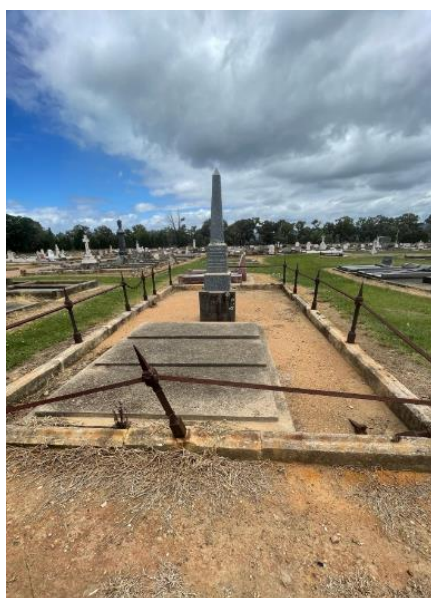
DIED OF WOUNDS

CORPORAL J. L. GUNNELL

The death is announced of Corporal John Leslie Gunnell, second oldest son of the late Mr. J. C. Gunnell, of Mudgee, and Mrs. Gunnell, of Gwynglades, Cremorne. At the time of his death Corporal Gunnell was an inmate of Tidsworth Military Hospital, England, recovering from wounds received while in action in France, when pneumonia, to which he succumbed, supervened. Corporal Gunnell was for many years a member of the Education Department of this State, and was a teacher at the Paddington Superior Public School when he enlisted.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 February, 1917)

John Leslie Gunnell is remembered on Gunnell Family Headstone in Mudgee General Cemetery, Mudgee, New South Wales.





Gunnell Family Headstone (Photos from Find a Grave – Tracey)



JOHN LESLIE GUNNELL

Died 7TH January, 1917

On Active Service Abroad

Aged 45 Years

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 from Base Records, dated 13th July, 1921, to Mr F. C. Gunnell, c/o Miss D. Gunnell, 28 Avoca Street, Bondi, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his father, the late No. 3302 Corporal J. L. Gunnell, 53rd 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.

Corporal J. L. Gunnell does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Corporal J. L. Gunnell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

