

**Durrington War Graves,
Wiltshire, England
World War 1**



Lest We Forget



5854 PRIVATE

J. J. JENKINS

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3rd FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 18

A Loving And Only Son

Called Home

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. J. Jenkins is located in Grave Plot # 174
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

John James JENKINS

John James Jenkins was born at Toowoomba, Queensland to parents Thomas James & Harriet Jenkins (nee Morwood). His birth was registered in 1898 (No other children were registered as being born to parents Harriet & Thomas James Jenkins).

John James Jenkins was an 18 year old Electrician from Toowoomba, Queensland when he enlisted on 6th July, 1916 with the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5854 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Thomas James Jenkins of Camperdown, Hill Street, Toowoomba, Queensland. John James Jenkins had been a Sergeant in Cadets at Toowoomba, Queensland & had served 4 years.

Private John James Jenkins embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Boonah* (A36) on 21st October, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th January, 1917. Pte Jenkins had been admitted to Ship's Hospital for 4 days with Influenza from 11th December until 14th November, 1916*. (*Dates as shown on Admissions to Hospital form – he was either admitted for 4 days in November or December).

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 John James Jenkins was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital on 28th January, 1917 from 7th Training Battalion, Rollestone, Wiltshire & admitted with Pneumonia – seriously ill.

Private John James Jenkins died at 9.20 p.m. on 3rd February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for John J. Jenkins, aged 18, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private John James Jenkins was buried on 7th February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 174 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private J. J. Jenkins is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 108.

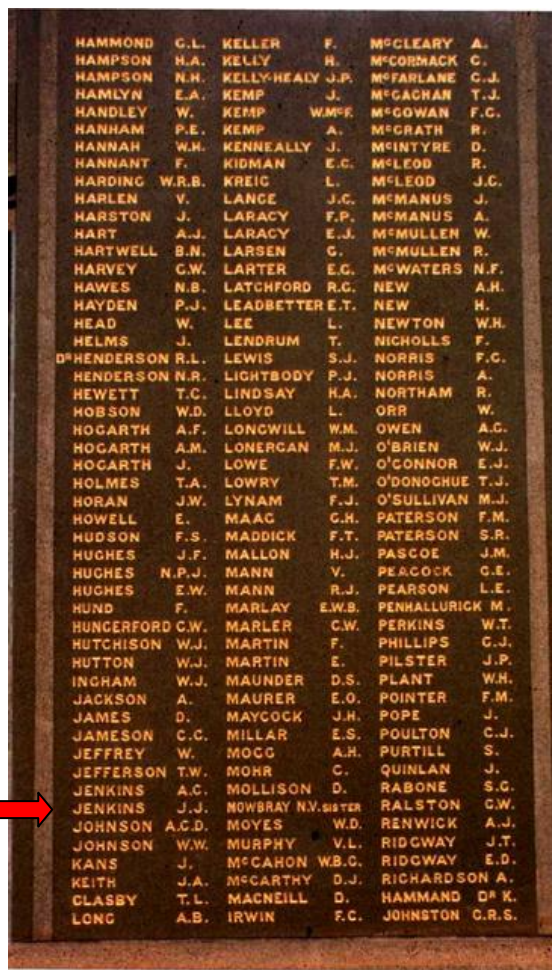


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. J. Jenkins is also remembered on The Mothers' Memorial located at East Creek Park, Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Queensland. The Memorial was built by mothers to honour their soldier sons who did not return from World War 1.



The Mothers' Memorial, Toowoomba (Photo from *Old War Memorials* – Shirley and Trevor McIvor)

Private John James Jenkins 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 Pte Jenkins' father – Mr T. J. Jenkins (sent December, 1921 & July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John James Jenkins – service number 5854 as being 18 years old & served with 26th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas James and Harriet Jenkins of "Camperdown", Hill Street, Toowoomba, Queensland.

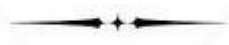
(40 pages of Private John James Jenkins' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives





(Queenslander Pictorial - 30 September, 1916)



Newspaper Reports

COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS

TOOWOOMBA, July 7

There were two volunteers at the Toowoomba recruiting centre to-day, and both were accepted. They were Messrs J. J. Jenkins and J. Partridge (Toowoomba).

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Saturday 8 July, 1916)

PERSONAL NOTES

TOOWOOMBA, February 13.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Jenkins, of Hill-street, Newtown, have been officially advised that their only son, Private J. J. Jenkins, has died of pneumonia in the military hospital at Netley, England. Mr. Jenkins is an ex-Mayor of Newtown. The deceased soldier, who had waited eagerly till he was 18 years of age to enlist, left Queensland last October.

(The Queenslander – Saturday 17 February, 1917)

Note: A telegram dated 5/2/17 was sent to T. J. Jenkins advising that "son Private John James Jenkins admitted Royal Victoria Hospital Netley, England". Pte Jenkins was in fact admitted & died in Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire.

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – LIST NO. 273

DIED OF ILLNESS

J. J. Jenkins (Toowoomba)

(The Capricornian, Queensland – Saturday 24 February 1917)

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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)

Pte J. J. Jenkins does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Loving And Only Son Called Home



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Dave Healing 2013)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private J. J. Jenkins' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)