

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,  
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3861 PRIVATE**

**C. A. JENNINGS**

**32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**22ND MARCH, 1918 Age 21**

*HE HAS DONE HIS DUTY*

## Clarence Albert JENNINGS

Clarence Albert Carrison was born at Port MacDonnell, South Australia on 6th June, 1896 to parents Robert Edward Carrison & Mary Ann Jennings.

[Mary A. Jennings married Walter Charles Carrison on 21st September, 1897 in South Australia]

Clarence Albert Jennings attend Port MacDonnell State School, South Australia.

Robert Carrison, father of Clarence Albert Carrison, died on 6th September, 1908 at Bendigo, Victoria.

Clarence Albert Carrison was a 22 year old, single Labourer from Mt. Gambier, South Australia when he enlisted on 30th June, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) under the name of "Clarence Jennings". His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. A. Carrison, Tea Tree Farm, Port MacDonnell, South Australia.

Private Clarence Jennings, Service number 3861, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 30th October, 1917 with the 5th Pioneer Battalion, 10th Reinforcements. Whilst at sea, Private Jennings was admitted to the Ship's hospital on 1st November, 1917 for 1 day, suffering seasickness. He was again admitted to the ship's hospital from 28th November, 1917 until 19th December, 1917, suffering from mumps. Private Jennings disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th December, 1917.

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

Private Clarence Jennings was marched in to the Pioneer Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 27th December, 1917. He was then transferred to 32nd Battalion (15th Training Battalion) at Codford, Wiltshire on 2nd January, 1918.

Private Clarence Jennings was absent without leave from 2400 hrs on 6th February, 1918 & was apprehended at 0930 hours on 12th February, 1918. He was given a total of 13 days forfeiture of pay.

Private Clarence Jennings was admitted sick to Clearing Hospital at Codford from 15th Training Battalion & transferred to New Zealand General Hospital on 25th February, 1918 with measles & pneumonia.

Private Clarence Jennings died at 4.40 p.m. on 22nd March, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand Hospital at Codford. A Post Mortem examination was conducted on 23rd March, 1918 & the result was "*Bacteriological investigation of heart blood & spleen pulp is being carried out*". Later Army forms carried the cause of death as Measles & Purulent Bronchitis.

A death for Clarence A. Jennings, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Clarence Albert Jennings was buried on 25th March, 1918 in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave No. 96 with a Military Funeral.

From the burial report - *Coffin was good Elm. – Pte Jennings was a keen soldier and his conduct was exemplary. He was very popular and his loss is keenly felt.*

Private Clarence Albert Jennings requested in his Will, dated 10th July, 1917 that all his personal property including his Military Estate to be given to his mother – Mary Ann Carrison of Port MacDonnell, South Australia.

Private Clarence Albert Jennings 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 Jennings' mother (as his father was deceased) – Mrs M. A. Carrison of Tea Tree Farm, Port MacDonnell, South Australia (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Clarence Albert Jennings – service number 3861, aged 21, of 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Robert Edward Jennings & Mary Ann Carrison Jennings, of Port MacDonnell, South Australia.

Private C. A. Jennings is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

Private C. A. Jennings is also remembered on the Mt Gambier War Memorial in Vansittart Park, Commercial Street West, Mt Gambier, South Australia.



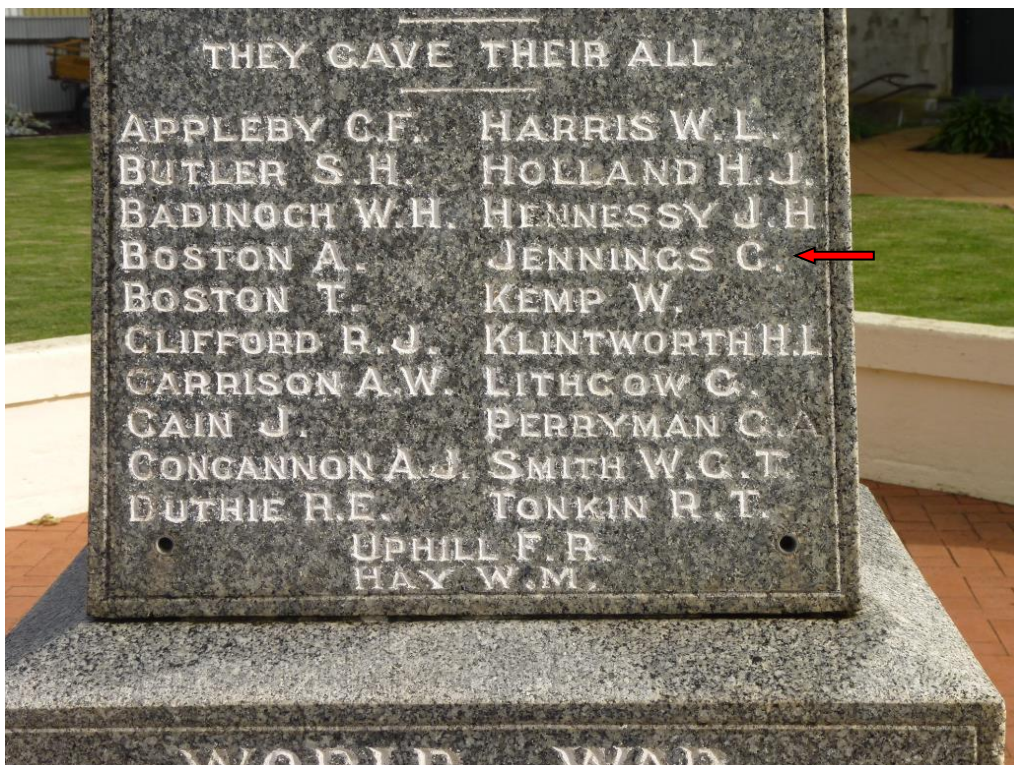
**Mt. Gambier War Memorial** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Private C. Jennings is also remembered on the Port MacDonnell War Memorial, located on the corner of Esplanade and Charles Streets.



**Port MacDonnell War Memorial** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(49 pages of Private Clarence Albert Jennings' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



## \*\* SOLDIERS DIED WITH SAME SERVICE NUMBER – BOTH BURIED AT CODFORD

Private Frank James Cattermole had a service number of 3861 with the 48th Battalion, Australian Infantry. Private Clarence Albert Jennings also had a service number of 3861 but with the 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. Both men died of bronchitis & are buried with a grave in between them at Codford ANZAC Cemetery. Jennings died 22nd March, 1918 & Cattermole died 14th June, 1918.



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

388th Casualty List

SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Died of Illness

Private C. A. Jennings, Port Macdonnell, March 22.

*(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW, Tuesday 9th April, 1918)*

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### **PORT MACDONNELL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The April meeting of the Port MacDonnell District Council was held on Monday.....

CR. Laslett said that since last meeting Priv. Clarence Jennings had died in England. He had been on active service. He moved that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mr and Mrs Walter Carrison, his parents, in their sad bereavement. – Carried.

*(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia, Tuesday 9th April, 1918)*

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### 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 Codford 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)*

Private C. A. Jennings does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*HE HAS DONE HIS DUTY*

### **St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England**

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

*(Information from CWGC)*

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*



*(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)*



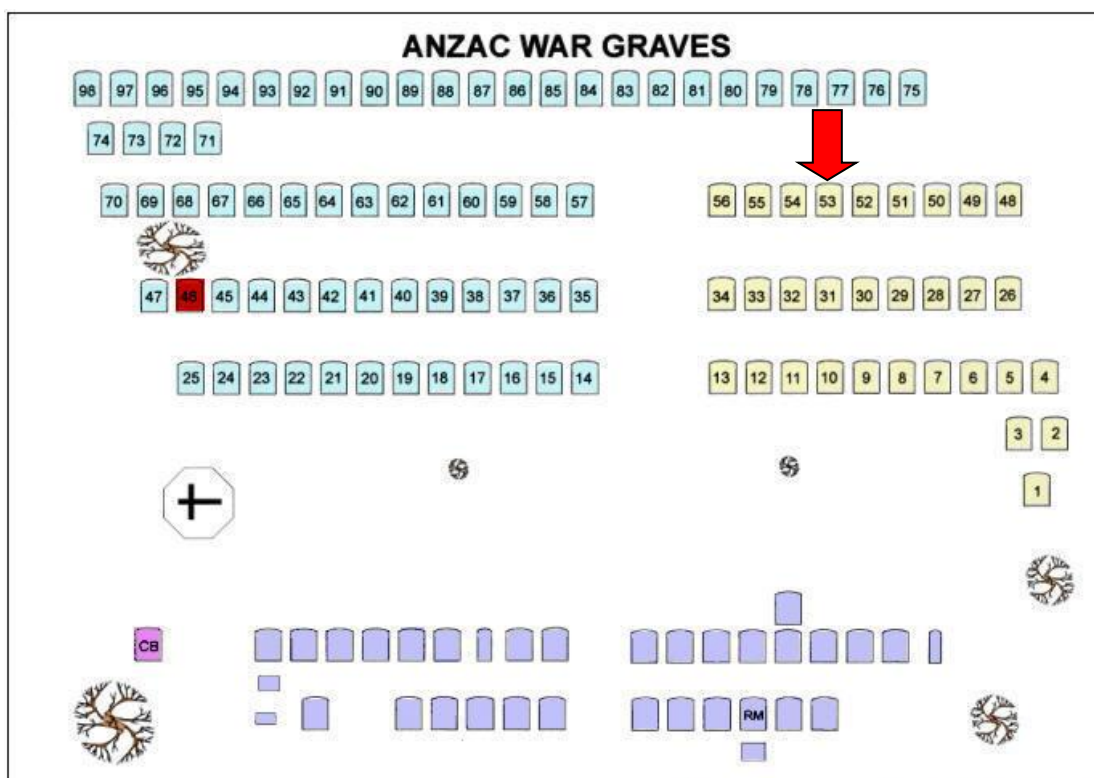
Photo of Private C. A. Jennings' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photos by Romy Wyeth 2013)*



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private C A Jennings is located in Last Row of Australians (Right hand side) Grave Plot # 53 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 96)



- Australian Soldiers
- Welsh Soldier
- New Zealand Soldiers
- Local Burials
- UK Soldier

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth