

**Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery,
Bristol, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3953 PRIVATE

F. JESS

20TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH DECEMBER, 1916

R.I.P.

Frank JESS

Francis Gordon Jess was born at Bathurst, NSW to parents John George Jess & Ann Jess. His birth was registered in 1887. (His date of birth is listed as 4th January, 1886 on the Re-engagement in the Royal Navy form).

Frank Gordon Jess attended the Roman Catholic Convent School at Bathurst, NSW.

Stoker 2nd Class Frank Jess re-engaged with the Royal Navy on 11th August, 1904 for a period of 5 years. He was attached to H.M.S. Challenger & his official Number was A.N.F. 384, His previous trade was listed as Butcher.

NSW Police Gazette – 27 September, 1905:

Deserts from His Majesty's Service

From H.M.S. "Challenger" at Sydney

On 25th September, 1905:-

Frank Jess, stoker, 19 years of age, 5 feet 5 inches high, brown hair, gray eyes, fair complexion.

Ernest De Laney, O.S., 24 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches high, brown hair, blue eyes, sallow complexion.

A reward of £3 each will be paid for the arrest of the above-named men.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Belmore, subdivision of Chalmers Street, NSW listed Frank Jess - Cook, & his wife Alice Jess - domestic duties, of 1 Bellevue Street.

Frank Gordon Jess was a 27 year old, married, Cook from 115 Albion Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 19th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3953 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs A. Jess, of 129 Nelson Street, Annandale, Sydney, NSW. Frank Jess stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 5 years with A. & I. R. Navy. According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Frank Jess was in the Navy for two years.

Private Frank Gordon Jess was posted to "D" Company, 20th Battalion on 22nd November, 1915. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 20th Battalion at Casula, Sydney, NSW on 30th December, 1915 for recruit training

Private Frank Gordon Jess embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 20th January, 1916 with the 20th Battalion, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Alexandria on 26th February, 1916.

Private Frank Gordon Jess was marched in at Zeitoun from HMAT *Runic* on 26th February, 1916.

Private Frank Gordon Jess embarked from Alexandria on 20th May, 1916 for Overseas on H.T. *Ivernia* from Training Battalion. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th May, 1916.

Private Frank Gordon Jess was taken on strength of 2nd Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 29th May, 1916. He was taken on strength of 20th Battalion in France on 5th June, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private Frank Gordon Jess was admitted to 1st Anzac Rest Station on 8th August, 1916 with debility then transferred to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance on 8th August, 1916. He was transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 10th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to head. He was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 12th August, 1916 & was then listed for transfer to England on 17th August, 1916. Private Jess embarked for England from Havre, France on 22nd August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Panama*.

20th Battalion

The 20th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.....

After further training in Egypt, the 20th Battalion proceeded to France. It entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time in April 1916 and in the following month had the dubious honour of being the first Australian battalion

to be raided by the Germans. The 20th took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frank Gordon Jess was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital, Maudlin Street, Bristol, England on 24th August, 1916 with Trench Nephritis.

Private Frank Gordon Jess was reported to be dangerously ill at Bishop Knoll Auxiliary Hospital, Bristol, England on 21st October, 1916.

Mrs A. Jess, wife of Private Frank Gordon Jess, of 129 Nelson Street, Annandale, NSW was advised on 30th October that her husband's condition was reported as dangerously ill. She was advised on 8th November, 1916 & again on 22nd November, 1916 that her husband's condition was stationary. Mrs Jess was advised on 6th December that Private Frank G. Jess' condition was improving.

Private Frank Gordon Jess died at 1.55 pm on 25th December, 1916 at Bishops Knoll Hospital (Auxiliary to the 2nd Southern General Hospital), Bristol, England from wounds received in action in France & Acute Nephritis.

A death for Frank G. Jess, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire.

Private Frank Gordon Jess was buried Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bristol, England – Plot number C. 4 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records were advised in January 1917 by the 2nd Military District that the address of Mrs A. Jess, next of kin of the late Private Frank Gordon Jess, was Yarah Acton, Hurlstone Park.

A War Pension was granted to Alice Jess "(correct name McCarron), reputed wife" of the late Private Frank Gordon Jess, of "Ynak", Acton Street, Hurlstone Park, NSW, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 2nd March, 1917. An updated form stated Alice Knowles "(formerly McCarron known as Kess), of 34 Agar St, Marrickville, NSW – "Pensioner married 24/11/17. Name now Alice Knowles." "Dead".

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Knowles, 34 Agar Street, Marrickville, NSW, remarried widow of the late Private Frank Gordon Jess, on 3rd December, 1920, forwarding two photograph's of her late husband's grave. The photographs were redirected to the late Private Jess's father at Ferryman, Murwillumbah, NSW as Mrs Knowles' address was unable to be traced.

Private Frank Gordon Jess was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Jess's wife as the closest next-of-kin, however as her address was not known & communications to her had been returned, the Medals & Memorial Scroll & Plaque were awarded to the late Private Jess's father – Mr J. G. Jess. Mr Jess had signed a Statutory Declaration on 10th June, 1922, declaring that he would preserve with due care any war medals or other items given into his custody on account of his son's service with the Australian Imperial Force and would produce them to the Department of Defence at any time upon receipt of its demand in writing should they be required for the purpose of being handed to someone having prior claims. (Scroll & Plaque sent July, 1922).

Base Records forwarded on to Mr J. G. Jess, Byangum, Tweed River, NSW, father of the late Private Frank Jess, on 20th July, 1923, a memorial Card & photographs depicting the Cross erected in the Soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery where the remains his son was interred & a copy of the "Western Daily Press" describing the pilgrimage made to the graves of the Fallen on the occasion of the Anzac Day Service of Remembrance in Bristol. These items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Photographs of the graves of the Australian Soldiers on the occasion of the Anzac Day Pilgrimage had been sent to Base Records in September, 1924 for the next-of-kin of the soldiers interred in Arnos Vale Cemetery by Mr Robert E. Bush & had been forwarded to Mr J. G. Jess, Byangum, Tweed River, NSW.

Photographs of the graves of the Australian Soldiers on the occasion of the Anzac Day Pilgrimage had been sent to Base Records in July, 1925 for the next-of-kin of the soldiers interred in Arnos Vale Cemetery by Mr Robert E. Bush & had been forwarded to Mr J. G. Jess, Byangum. These photos etc were returned to Base Records as unclaimed. (see photos further down).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frank Jess – service number 3953, of 20th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private F. G. Jess is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 91.



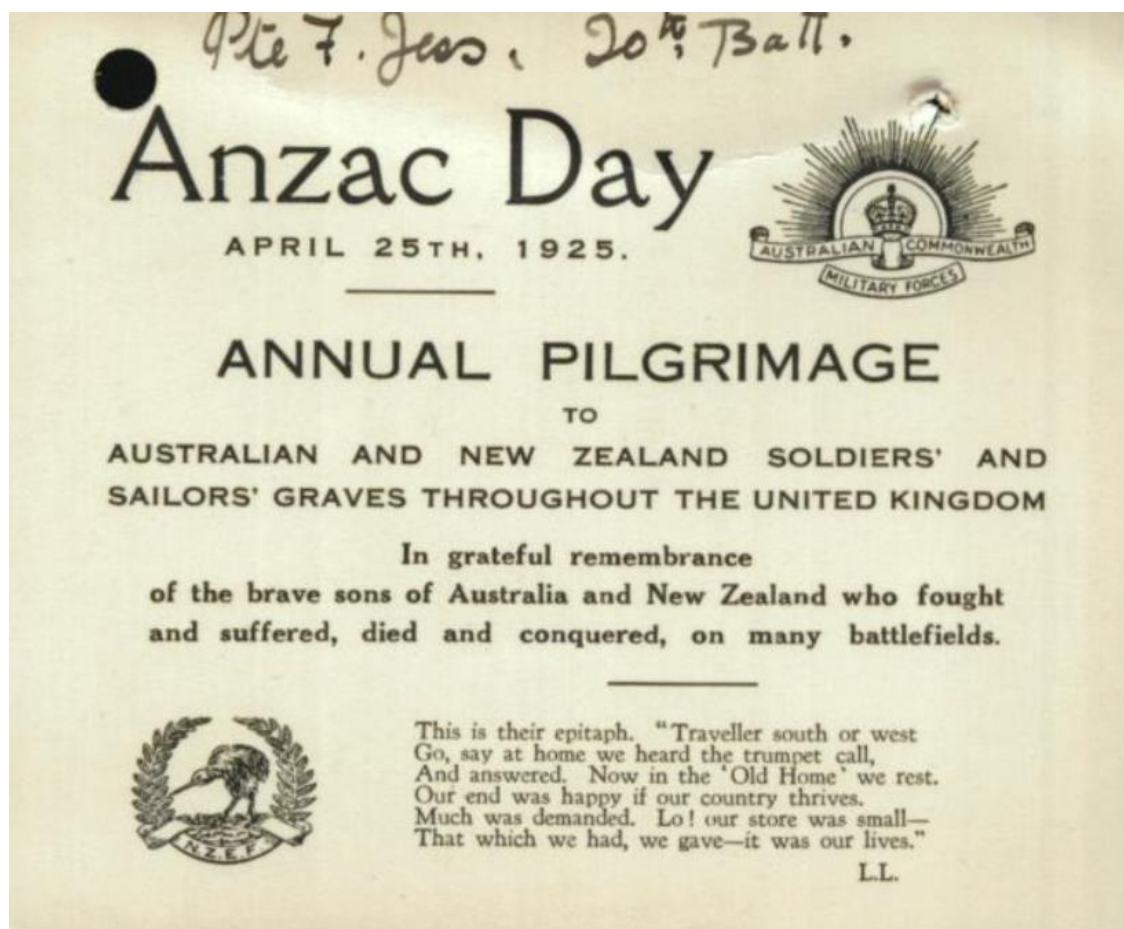
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(77 pages of Private Frank Gordon Jess' 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



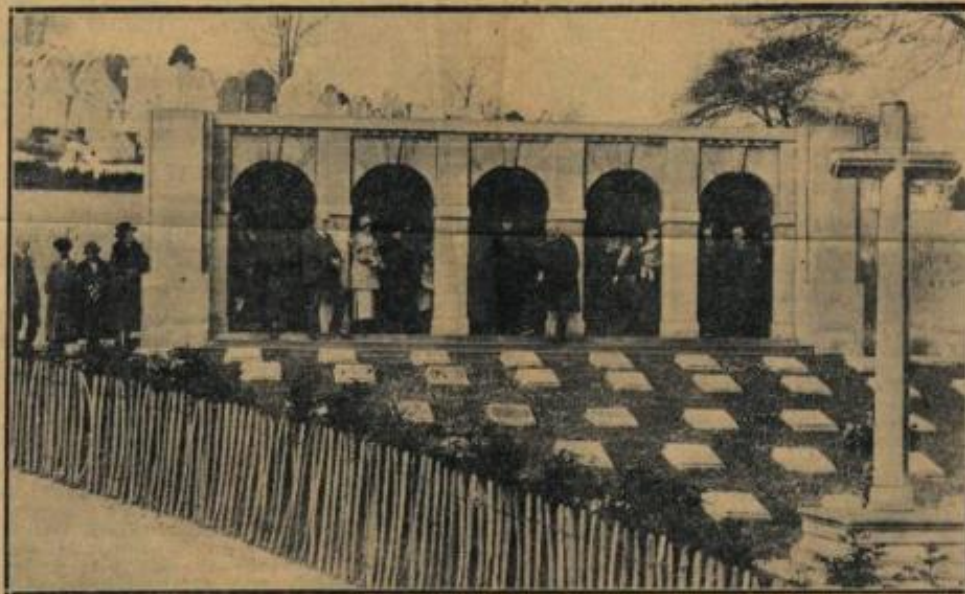
The following items were located in the Service Record file of the late Private Frank Gordon Jess. They had been sent to the late Private Jess's father in 1925 by Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England but were returned to Base Records as unclaimed. The items included an Anzac Day Memorial Card, photograph of the then Imperial War Graves Commission headstones of the Australian Soldiers, photograph of the Cross located in the soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery & a copy of the "Western Daily Press" from 27th April, 1925, describing the pilgrimage to the graves of the Fallen.





Y. APRIL 27, 1925.

GALLIPOLI DAY COMMEMORATION



THE SOLDIERS' CORNER, ARNO'S VALE.

Each year, on the 25th of April, a service of remembrance is held for those who died in Bristol of war wounds, and are buried in Soldiers' Corner, Arno's Vale. On Saturday, in the beautiful sunshine of a typical English spring morning, there assembled many who were associated with hospital work in Bristol for overseas troops, Bishop's Knoll, which, as most people know, was given over as a war hospital from 1914 to 1918, was represented by Mr E. E. Bush (Commandant), Mr and Miss Philp, Mrs Herapath, the Misses Nora and Doris Burt, Miss Vera Savile, Miss Goldsmith, Miss Stafford Jones, Miss Fenne, the Misses Spofforth, Miss Thursfield, Mr E. C. Philp, and Mr A. G. Powell. Mrs E. E. Bush was away from Bristol, and Miss Hall-Houghton and others were unavoidably absent. Miss Laing, another devoted worker at Bishop's Knoll, took a wreath to the one Australian soldier who was buried at Greenbank Cemetery.

Most of these present brought flowers. Mr E. E. Bush placed a very beautiful emblem—the work of one of the Bishop's Knoll sisters—at the foot of the cross in the "Corner," and Mr Philp contributed a wreath of daffodils. Spring flowers there were in plenty, a postman in uniform contributing a bunch of wallflowers, and other sympathetic folk adding their tender tributes.

Bishop Clifford, in his short address, said: "We are gathered here on this 10th anniversary of Gallipoli day to reverently and affectionately commemorate our brethren from various parts of the British Empire who, after having valiantly fought and honourably suffered in the Great War, were brought to this city of Bristol and here breathed their last breath. We laid their bodies in the earth at this spot, and here they rest in hope till the Day of Resurrection. We gratefully cherish their memory. We renew it to-day, and will never allow it to pass from our mind and heart. God's mercy and peace be with them, as is our affectionate regard, and may that great cause for which they gave their lives be ever upheld and prosper and ever honoured among men of goodwill."

Prayer was said, and this simple service which will so greatly comfort the relative was over.



MR E. C. PHILP AND MR R. E. BUSH PLACING WREATHS ON THE CROSS.



Front & Back of photograph found in the Service Record file of Private Frank Gordon Jess
sent by Mr R. E. Bush in 1926

June 24th - 1926. BISHOP'S KNOLL,
STOKE BISHOP,
BRISTOL.

With Mr. R. E. Bush's kind
regards -
Under separate cover, I am
sending you a newspaper
giving a short account of
the Anzac Memorial
Service in Bristol - also
a photograph taken in a
very bad light -



Private Frank Jess – Back row; 2nd from left



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

JESS – Private Frank Jess, died Dec. 25, 1916, from wounds received in France. For King and country. Inserted by his loving wife, Alice Jess.

JESS – Frank Jess, died Dec. 25, 1916, from wounds received in France. Inserted by his loving brother, Private Stephen Jess (now on active service).

JESS – Frank Jess, died Dec. 25, 1916, from wounds received in France. He did his duty. Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Albert and Irene Jess.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 3 January, 1917)

Latest Casualties

262nd LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Pte F. G. Jess, Annandale

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 19 January, 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. 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 15th July, 1921, to Mr J. G. Jess, Ferryman, Murwillumbah, NSW, father of the late Private Frank Gordon Jess, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone his son 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.

Another letter from Base Records, dated 5th September, 1921, to Mr J. G. Jess, Byangum, Tweed River, NSW, father of the late Private Frank Gordon Jess, advised that a form completed by Mr Jess had left the choice of the personal inscription to be selected by the Committee. Base Records advised “as this is a matter solely for the next-of-kin, and if you desire to have such added, I should be glad if you would _____ verse or text containing not more than 66 letters..... and forward same to this office as soon as possible....”

Private F. Jess does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

R.I.P.

Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bristol, England (also known as Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery)

The cemetery was begun in 1856. During both wars, there were a number of military hospitals at Bristol and the city was the depot of the Gloucestershire Regiment. During the Second World War there were also a number of Royal Air Force stations and prisoner of war camps in the area. Bristol (Arnos Vale) Roman Catholic Cemetery contains 52 First World War burials, mostly of men who died at the local hospitals, particularly the 2nd Southern General and the Beaufort, many of whom were landed at Avonmouth from hospital ships from the Mediterranean. Forty of the graves form a war plot, marked by a screen wall bearing the names of the dead. The cemetery also contains 11 Second World War burials and ten Belgian and Portuguese war graves.

(Information from CWGC)



Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery (Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)





Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery (Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)



Australian World War 1 CWGC Headstones in Holy Souls Roman Catholic Cemetery

Private Jess' headstone – back row ; left

(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private F. Jess's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Arnos Vale Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bristol, England.



(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave)