

**Bournemouth East Cemetery,  
Bournemouth, Dorset  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2913 CORPORAL**

**J. L. KEFFORD**

**47TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**6TH APRIL, 1918 Age 26**

*His Country Called*

*He Answered*

## Joseph Leslie KEFFORD

Joseph Leslie Kefford was born at Warwick, Queensland on 20th October, 1891 to parents John & Annie Brown Kefford (nee McDowall).

Joseph Leslie Kefford attended school at Toowoomba, Queensland.

The 1913 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wide Bay, subdivision of Nanango, Queensland recorded Joseph Leslie Kefford, Bush Worker, from Mannuem Creek.

Joseph Leslie Kefford was a 25 year old, single, Carpenter from Mannuem Creek, via Kingaroy, Queensland when he enlisted at Maryborough, Queensland on 10th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2913 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Kefford, Mannuem Creek, via Kingaroy, Queensland. Joseph Kefford stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets at Toowoomba for 18 months. He also stated he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service.

Private Joseph Leslie Kefford was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 16th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 47th Battalion on 20th October, 1916.

Private Joseph Leslie Kefford embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 27th October, 1916 with the 47th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 23rd November, 1916 with Vaccinia & discharged on 24th November, 1916. Private Kefford disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

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 Joseph Leslie Kefford was marched in to 12th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire from Australia on 9th January, 1917.

Private Joseph Leslie Kefford was sent sick to Hospital on 20th January, 1917 from 12th Training Battalion, No. 14 Camp at Codford & rejoined 12th Training Battalion, No. 14 Camp at Codford on 26th January, 1917.

Private Joseph Leslie Kefford proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 28th March, 1917 from 12th Training Battalion at Codford.

Private Joseph Leslie Kefford joined 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th March, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 31st March, 1917 & was taken on strength of 47th Battalion on 7th April, 1917.

Private Joseph Leslie Kefford was appointed to Lance Corporal on 19th June, 1917 in Belgium.

Lance Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford was promoted to Temporary Corporal to date from 19th November, 1917 vice 4041 Sergeant Westwood evacuated wounded on 12th October, 1917.

Temporary Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford was promoted to Corporal on 23rd January, 1918.

Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford was granted leave from 20th February, 1918 & returned from leave on 8th March, 1918.

Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford was wounded in action in France on 28th March, 1918. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 28th March, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to thigh. Corporal Kefford was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then admitted to 9th U.S. General Hospital at Rouen, France on 30th March, 1918. He embarked for England on 2nd April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St David*.

## 47th Battalion

The 47th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 15th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 15th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men recruited in Queensland and Tasmania. The new battalion was incorporated into the 12th Brigade of the Australian Division.

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On 11 April it took part in the attack mounted against the heavily defended village of Bullecourt - part of the formidable Hindenburg Line to which the Germans had retreated during February and March. Devoid of surprise, and dependent upon the support of unreliable tanks, the attack failed. Later in the year, the focus of the AIF's operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium where the 47th took part in the battles of Messines and Passchendaele.

The 47th rotated in and out of the front line throughout the winter of 1917-18. In the spring of 1918, it played a role in turning the great German Spring Offensive by defeating attacks around Dernancourt during the last days of March and the first days of April 1918.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### From War Diary – 47th Battalion

Casualties for 28th March, 1918:

Other Ranks			Officers	
Killed	Died of Wounds	Wounded	Killed	Wounded
18	1	68	2	10

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

Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford was admitted to Military Hospital, Boscombe, Hampshire, England on 3rd April, 1918 with Shrapnel wounds to right thigh.

Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford died at 10.45 am on 6th April, 1918 (time of death as per Morning State of Sick form, however a Telegram from the Hospital to Administrative Headquarters records the time as 10.55 am) at Military Hospital, Boscombe, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action – shell wound to right thigh.

A death for Joseph L. Kefford, aged 25, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Christchurch, Hampshire, England.

Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford was buried at 3 pm on 10th April, 1918 in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England – Plot number O. I. 143 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag. Two beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by relatives and friends. Gun Carriage, Firing Party, Buglers and Palbearers were supplied by the Royal Engineers stationed at Boscombe. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Chapel at the Cemetery by the Rev. W. Gilchrist. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

*Names of relatives and friends present at the funeral – Cousin – Miss C. Robinson, Hollyholme, Sibsey, Boston.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford contains a request to the Red Cross by Mr R. Kefford, 23 College Rd, Reading, stating that he had received word from his son in France who had seen a notice that J. L. Kefford, 2813 was killed. Mr Kefford stated that J. L. Kefford was the youngest son of his brother – Joseph Kefford. The O. C. Military Hospital, Boscombe replied: " *Re 2913 Pte Kefford 47th Battn., A.I.F. I beg to*

inform you that he was admitted here from France 3/4/18 with Shell Wound R Thigh, which was not considered severe. He however suddenly collapsed through Heart Failure and died 6/4/18. He was buried with full Military Honors at Boscombe Cemetery in special portion set apart for soldiers.”

Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Kefford’s father – Mr J. Kefford, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

(Note: Joseph Kefford, father of the late Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford, died on 24th April, 1918 at Kumbia, Queensland. Receipts for the Plaque & Scroll were signed for by A. B. Kefford).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford – service number 2913, aged 26, of 47th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Annie Brown Kefford, of Mannuem Creek, Kingaroy, Queensland and the late Joseph Kefford.

J. L. Kefford is remembered on the Kingaroy RSL Roll of Honour, located at 126 Kingaroy Street, Kingaroy, Queensland.



Kingaroy RSL Roll of Honour (Photo from Queensland War Memorials)

J. L. Kefford is remembered on the Stone of Remembrance, located in Memorial Park, William Street, Kingaroy, Queensland.



**Stone of Remembrance, Kingaroy** (Photos from Monument Australia)



J. L. Kefford is remembered on the Kumbia School of Arts WW1 Roll of Honour, located in Kumbia School of Arts, 29 – 31 Bell Street, Kumbia, Queensland.



Kumbia School of Arts WW1 Roll of Honour (Photo from Queensland War Memorials)

Corporal J. L. Kefford is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 143.



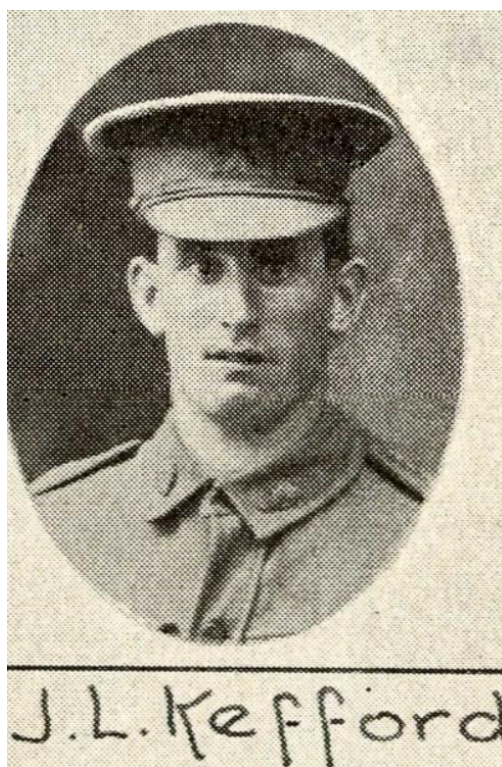
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(44 pages of Corporal Joseph Leslie Kefford'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



**Joseph Leslie Kefford**



*(Queenslander Pictorial – 21 July, 1917)*

Corporal J. L. Kefford is remembered on his parents' headstone in Kumbia Cemetery, Kumbia, Queensland.





## Newspaper Notices

### AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Australian casualty list No. 391 was issued this morning.

Died of Wounds

Corporal J. L. Kefford (Mannum Creek)

*(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 27 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. 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)*

Corporal J. L. Kefford does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*His Country Called He Answered*

### **Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England**

Some of the 120 First World War burials in this cemetery are those of soldiers who died in Bournemouth's auxiliary and private hospitals. 75 of these graves are in a special plot on the main path and include a Special Memorial to 2 soldiers drowned off Bournemouth in January 1915, whose bodies were not recovered. The plot also contains 7 of the 68 Second World War burials, the rest being scattered throughout the cemetery. One of the First World War burials is unidentified. There are 4 Foreign National war burials here.

The war plot is enclosed by a hedge, and the War Cross is on the West side of it. It was at one time called Boscombe Cemetery.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Bournemouth East Cemetery** *(Photo from CWGC)*



**Bournemouth East Cemetery** (*Photos from CWGC*)

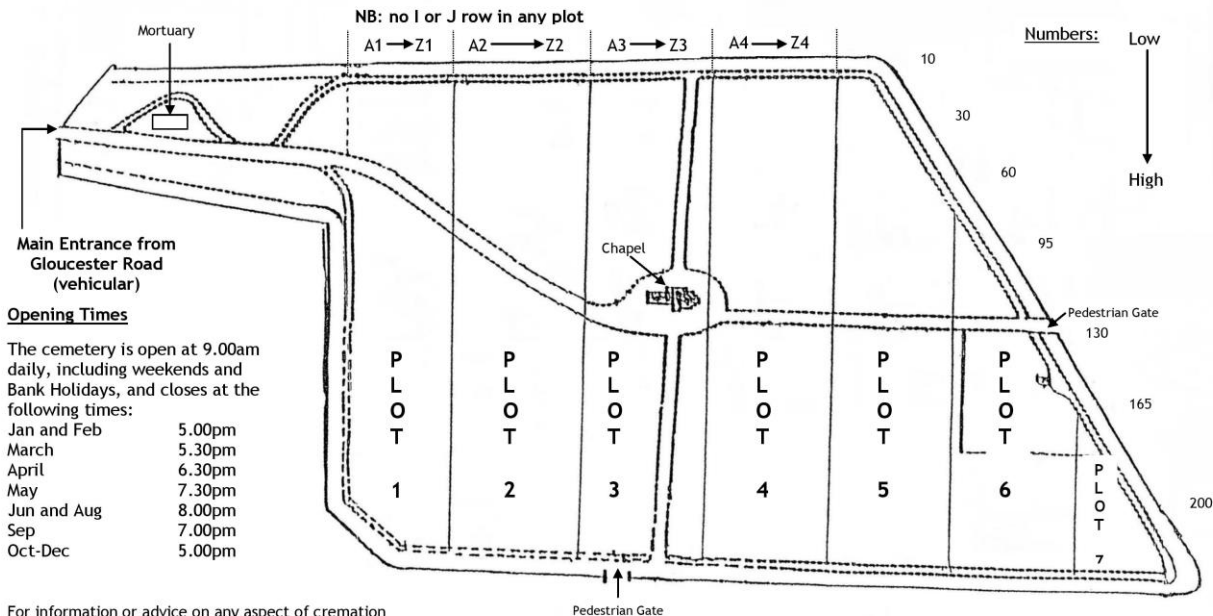


Photo of Corporal J. L. Kefford's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England



*(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)*

**East Cemetery, Gloucester Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6JB**



**Opening Times**

The cemetery is open at 9.00am daily, including weekends and Bank Holidays, and closes at the following times:

Jan and Feb	5.00pm
March	5.30pm
April	6.30pm
May	7.30pm
Jun and Aug	8.00pm
Sep	7.00pm
Oct-Dec	5.00pm

For information or advice on any aspect of cremation or burial please contact:

Bournemouth Bereavement Services  
 Bournemouth Crematorium  
 Strouden Avenue  
 Bournemouth  
 BH8 9HX

Tel: 01202 526238  
 Email: crematorium@bournemouth.gov.uk

