

**Nellfield Cemetery,
Aberdeen, Scotland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1636 GUNNER

J. KENNEDY

AUSTRALIAN T. M. BATTERY

6TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 26

Remembrance

James KENNEDY

James Kennedy was born at Turriff, Aberdeenshire, Scotland on 24th February, 1892 to parents John and Barbara Baxter Kennedy (nee Fowlie).

James Kennedy attended King Street School, Aberdeen, Scotland.

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded James Kennedy as a 9 year old scholar, living with his family at Mains of Gight Cottar House, Fyvie, Aberdeenshire. His parents were listed as John Kennedy (Blacksmith, aged 33, born Aberdeen) & Barbara Kennedy (aged 29, born Millorese, Aberdeen). James was one of five children listed on this Census – John Kennedy (aged 10), then James, Mary (aged 6) & Thomas & William (aged 5).

John Kennedy, Blacksmith, aged 44, his wife Barbara, aged 40 & 3 sons – James, aged 20; Thomas, aged 16 & William, aged 14 & daughter – Mary, aged 17, departed from the port of London on 26th October, 1912 on *Waipara*, bound for Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

James Kennedy was a 23 year old, single, Iron Moulder from Norman Street, East Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 29th May, 1915 at Brisbane with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1636 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Barbara Kennedy of Norman Street, East Brisbane, Queensland. James Kennedy stated on his Attestation papers that he had served 3 years & 256 days with 2nd Highland Field Company Royal Engineers.

Private James Kennedy, Service number 1636, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 29th June, 1915 with 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcements.

Private James Kennedy embarked from Alexandria to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli Peninsula on 4th September, 1915.

Private James Kennedy disembarked from Mudros at Alexandria from HT *Hororata* on 9th January, 1916 (after the evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private James Kennedy proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 14th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 19th March, 1916. He was transferred to 2nd Trench Mortar Battery at Armentieres on 19th April, 1916 and taken on strength the same day in France. His rank was changed to Gunner.

Gunner James Kennedy was sent sick to Hospital on 7th December, 1916. He was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 9th December, 1916 with influenza. Gunner Kennedy embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* from Rouen on 29th December, 1916.

Gunner James Kennedy was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 31st December, 1916 then transferred to No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, England from 21st February, 1917 to 5th March, 1917 with Dysentery. He was discharged to Furlough & on completion was to report to No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs.

James Kennedy, aged 25, of 21 Kings Crescent, Aberdeen, married Helen Robertson Jaffray, aged 26, of 21 King's Crescent, Aberdeen on 8th March, 1917 at St. Andrew's Cathedral, King Street, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Gunner James Kennedy was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 21st March, 1917 & medically classified as B. 1 A. (Fit for light duties).

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 & Dorset. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Gunner James Kennedy was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 28th March, 1917. He was transferred to Delhi Hospital on 29th March, 1917 with Dysentery. Gunner Kennedy was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham on 11th April, 1917 until 8th May, 1917.

Gunner James Kennedy was marched in from Australian Headquarters, London on 10th May, 1917. He was medically classified as B. 1. A. 4 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit).

Gunner James Kennedy proceeded overseas to France from Southampton on 14th June, 1917. He was marched in from England to the AGBD (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles on 15th June, 1917. Gunner Kennedy was marched out to 2nd Division Artillery on 19th June, 1917 & taken on strength with V.2/A. Battery in France on 21st June, 1917.

Gunner James Kennedy was transferred to & taken on strength with 4th AMTM Battery in France on 2nd March, 1918.

Gunner James Kennedy was promoted to Temporary Bombardier to complete establishment on 5th April, 1918.

T/Bombardier James Kennedy reported sick on 19th June, 1918. His rank reverted back to Gunner on being evacuated sick on 19th June, 1918. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 61st Casualty Clearing Station. Gunner Kennedy was admitted to 11th Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 4th July, 1918 then transferred to Buchy. He was transferred on 20th July, 1918 & admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital. Gunner James Kennedy was invalided to England from France on 27th July, 1918 aboard Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle*.

Gunner James Kennedy was admitted to Reading War Hospital, Reading, England on 28th July, 1918 with Dysentery (severe).

Gunner James Kennedy died at 4.45 pm on 6th September, 1918 at Reading War Hospital (also known as Royal Berks Hospital, Reading) from Dysentery & Exhaustion. Gunner Kennedy's Father-in-law – Mr A. Jaffray & brother were present at the time of his death.

A death for James Kennedy, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Reading, Berkshire.

Gunner James Kennedy was buried on 11th September, 1918 at Nellfield Cemetery, Aberdeen, Scotland – Plot number 895 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner James Kennedy – *“The deceased soldier was buried privately from the residence of his father-in-law, Mr A. Jaffray, 21 Kings Crescent, Aberdeen. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were in attendance, and the “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, where The Rev. Erskine Hill, officiated. 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.”*

Gunner James Kennedy requested in his Will, dated 27th July, 1917 that all his real estate be bequeathed to his wife – Mrs J. Kennedy of 21 Kings Crescent, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Gunner J. Kennedy is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 20.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Kennedy is remembered on the East Brisbane War Memorial located in Mowbray Park, Latrobe Street & Lytton Road, East Brisbane, Queensland.



East Brisbane War Memorial (Photos from QLD War Memorials – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)

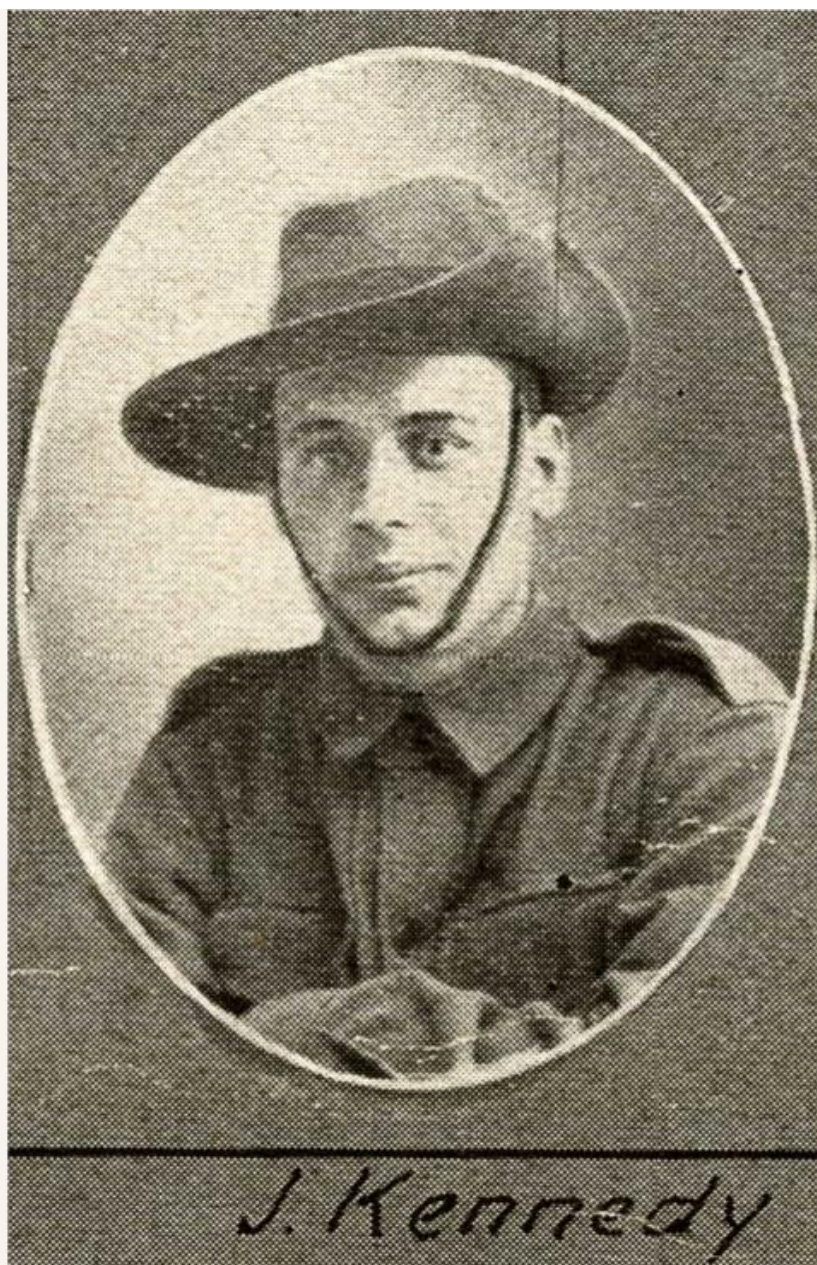


Gunner James Kennedy was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Kennedy's widow – Mrs H. R. Kennedy (Scroll sent – August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

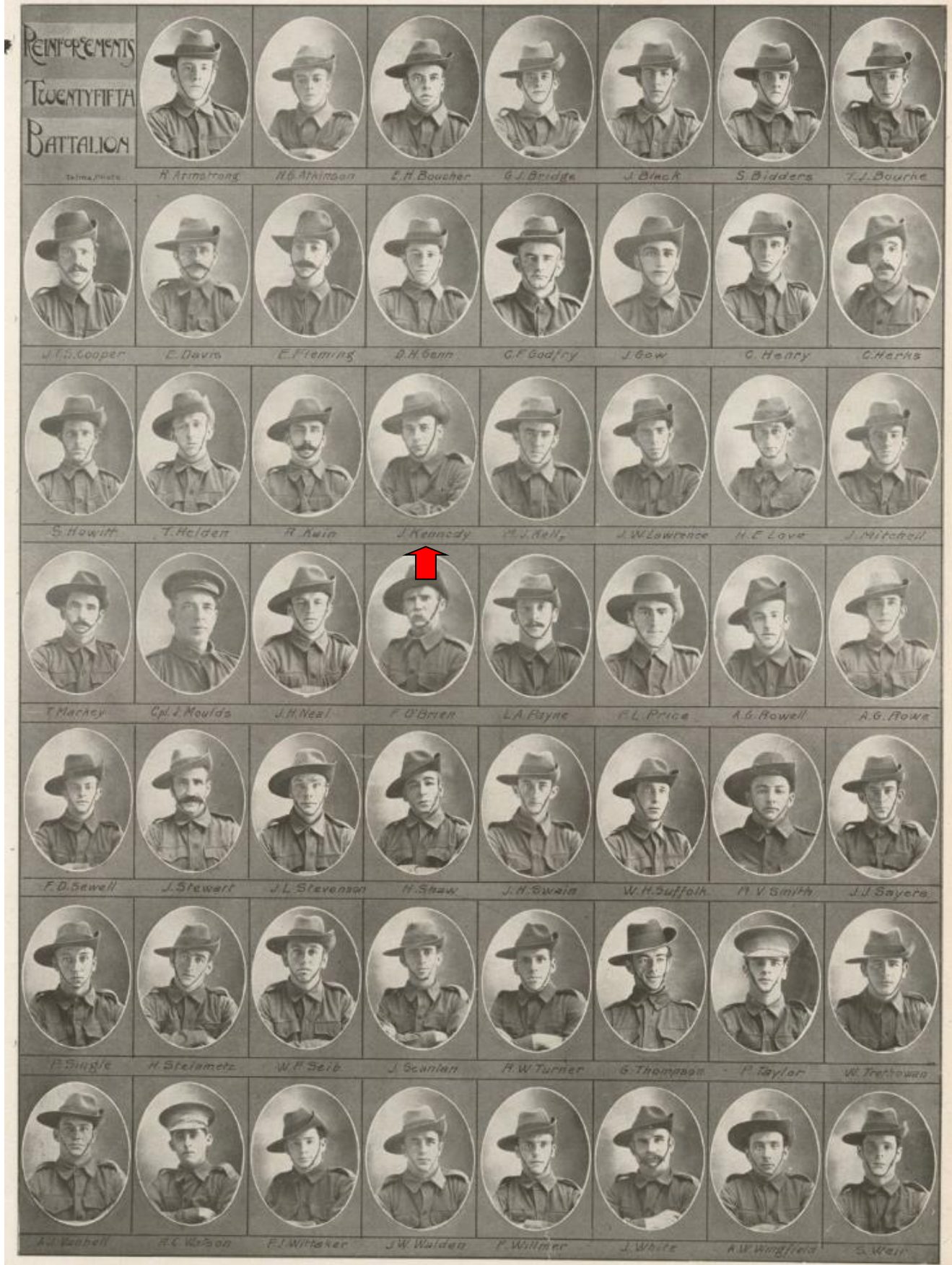
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner James Kennedy – service number 1636, aged 26, of 4th Medium, Australian Trench Mortar Battery. He was the son of John and Barbara Kennedy; husband of Helen Robertson Kennedy, of McConnell St., Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Born in Scotland.

(50 pages of Gunner James Kennedy'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



J. Kennedy (*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland - 28 August, 1915)



Reinforcements Twentyfifth Battalion





Marriage of James Kennedy to Helen Robertson Jaffray



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Died of Other Causes

Gunner J. Kennedy (East Brisbane)

(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Qld – 26 October, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

KENNEDY – In proud and loving memory of Bombardier James Kennedy, 2nd Division Trench Mortar Battery, who gave his life for his country, 6th September, 1918.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, sister and brothers.

KENNEDY - In loving memory of my dear husband, Bombardier James Kennedy, 2nd Division Trench Mortar Battery, who gave his life for his country, 6th September, 1918.

Inserted by his loving wife.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Qld – 6 September, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

KENNEDY – In ever loving memory of my dear husband, Gunner James Kennedy, No. 1636, 4th Medium Trench Mortar Battery, A.I.F., who died in Reading War Hospital, England, on 6th September, 1918.

Inserted by H. R. Kennedy, care P. A. Bennett, Girdleness, McConnell St., Bulimba.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Qld – 6 September, 1920)

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).

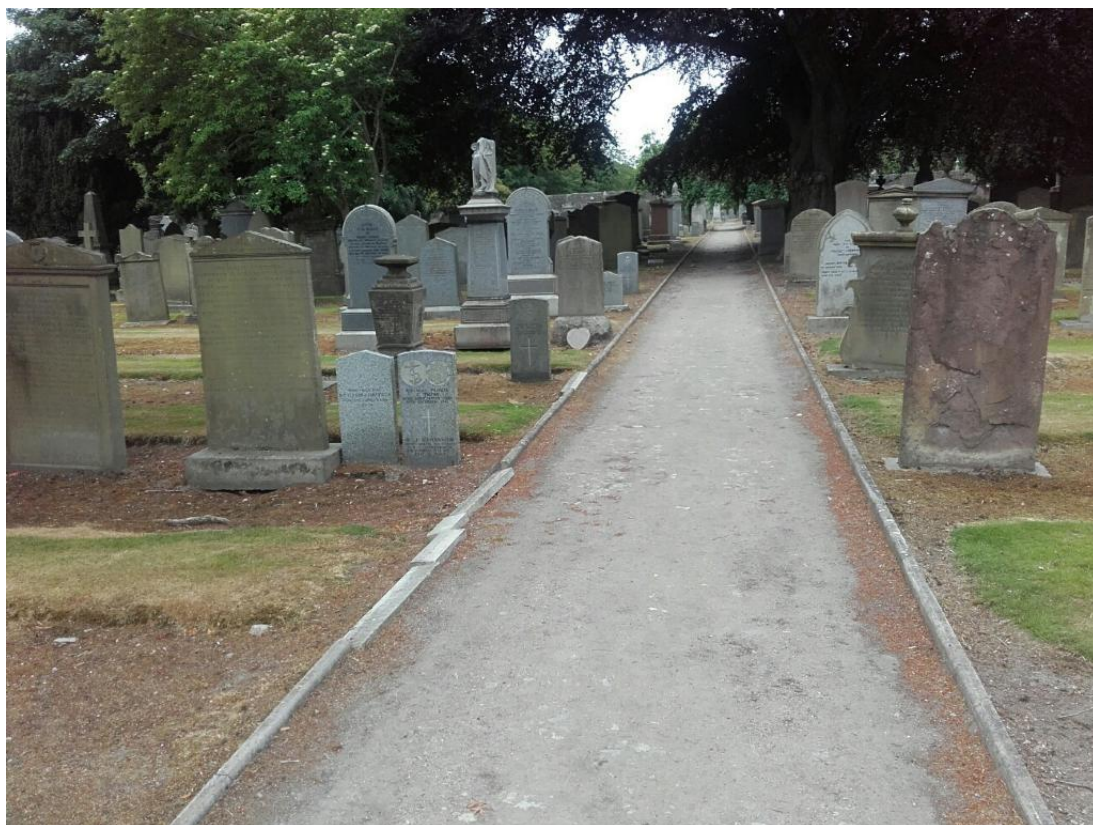
The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government. *(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*
A letter from Base Records, dated 16th July, 1921, to Mrs H. R. Kennedy c/- P. Burnett, McConnell Street, Bulimba, Queensland, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her late husband - Gunner J. Kennedy 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.

Gunner James Kennedy does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Remembrance

Nellfield Cemetery, Aberdeen, Scotland

Nellfield Cemetery contains 46 Commonwealth War Graves – 39 relating to World War 1 & 7 relating to World War 2.



(Photo from CWGC)



(Photo courtesy of GariochGraver 2015)

Photo of Gunner J. Kennedy's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Nellfield Cemetery, Aberdeen, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Mhairi Shewan - 2020)