

**Cambridge City Cemetery,
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2703 PRIVATE

E. KENNETH

10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31ST MARCH, 1917

Ernest KENNETH

Ernest Kenneth was born on 25th January, 1897 at Moorook, South Australia (birth registered in Wellington, South Australia) to parents David & Ann Kenneth (nee Riley).

Ann Kenneth, mother of Ernest Kenneth, died in district of Port Adelaide, South Australia on 6th December, 1907.

David Kenneth, father of Ernest Kenneth, died in Adelaide, South Australia in 1910.

[Newspaper notice – *The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 28 May, 1910:

KENNETH – The Friends of the late Mr DAVID KENNETH, late Naval Reserve, Port Adelaide, are respectfully informed that his Funeral will leave his late residence, Russell-street, Glanville on Sunday, at 3 pm , for the Woodville Cemetery.]

Ernest Kenneth was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from Mary Street, Glanville, South Australia when he enlisted at Keswick, South Australia on 2nd August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2703 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Mary Jane Lawson, of Mary Street, Glanville, South Australia. Ernest Kenneth stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 4 years with the Naval Reserve. As Ernest Kenneth was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Both parents of Ernest Kenneth were deceased so his sister – Mary Jane Lawson signed her consent for her brother to join the Expeditionary Force.

Private Ernest Kenneth was posted to R Group on 2nd August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 16th Battalion on 1st September, 1915 then transferred again to 6th Reinforcements of 27th Battalion on 16th September, 1915.

Private Ernest Kenneth embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 27th October, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 27th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private Ernest Kenneth was allotted to & proceeded to join 10th Battalion at Zeitoun on 27th February, 1916 from 7th Training Battalion. He was taken on strength of 10th Battalion from 27th Battalion at Serapeum on 28th February, 1916.

Private Ernest Kenneth proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on Troopship *Saxonia* on 27th March, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916.

Private Ernest Kenneth was written up for a Crime – “*Absent from Battalion area without a pass and returning at 20.45 drunk on 3rd May, 1916*”. He was awarded 144 hours No. 2 Field Punishment on 5th May, 1916.

Private Ernest Kenneth was written up for a Crime in France on 26th December, 1916 - “*Disobeying a lawful command given by his superior Officer in that he did not go on fatigue when ordered to do so.*” A Court Martial was held on 4th January, 1917 for the Trial of Pte E. Kenneth, 2703B, of 10th Battalion. He was awarded 40 days F. P. No.2 (Field Punishment) on 4th January, 1917.

Private Ernest Kenneth was sent to Hospital sick on 27th February, 1917. He was admitted to 45th Casualty Clearing Station on 27th February, 1917 with Trench Feet then transferred to Ambulance Train 9 on 28th February, 1917. Private Kenneth was admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 1st March, 1917 with Trench feet. He was embarked for England on 3rd March, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth*.

10th Battalion

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 10th Battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bitter trench warfare. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917, the battalion returned to Belgium to take part in the major British offensive of that year - the Third Battle of Ypres.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Ernest Kenneth was admitted to The County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury near St. Albans, England on 4th March, 1917 suffering from Trench Feet - severe. He was transferred on 16th March, 1917 to Cambridge Hospital – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

Base Records advised Mrs Mary Lawson, of Mary Street, Glanville, South Australia, on 20th March. 1917 that Private Ernest Kenneth had been admitted to Hospital on 4th March with Trench Feet – severe. She was advised on 25th March, 1917 that Private Ernest Kenneth was seriously ill. Mrs Lawson was advised again on 28th March, 1917 that Private Ernest Kenneth was dangerously ill.

Private Ernest Kenneth died on 31st March, 1917 at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England. A Post Mortem was held by Captain W. Malden, Pathologist. *“Rather thin man no marks of external violence. Fading rash in flanks & knees. Thorax – Rt lung, densely bound down with adhesions all over, whole surface of lung studded with many infarcts from size of walnut to pea. Lt lung no adhesions, same pyaemic condition as right. Heart – normal. Abdomen – Kidneys engorged, supra renals show numerous small masses, white, resemble tubercles, enlarged glands in mesentery & near supra renals, no obvious haemorrhage. Brain – A good deal of C.S. Fluid escaped, vessels engorged very little pus anywhere, gelatinous. Up Sylvian fissures. Small collection of pus on root of cerebellum. Lateral ventricles contain much blood-stained dirty looking fluid, no black anywhere, ventricles not distended. Spinal Cord – no pus anywhere visible, no excess of C.S. Fluid.”* Cause of death from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis & Pyaemia.

A death for Ernest Kenneth, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Private Ernest Kenneth was buried on 3rd April, 1917 in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England – Grave number 2611 Section B. From the burial report of Private Ernest Kenneth – *Military Funeral. No Gun Carriage or firing party provided. Coffin was taken to Cemetery in Hearse. No floral tributes. The Coffin Bearers were supplied by 1st Eastern General Hospital R.A.M.C. The Last Post was sounded & Memorial Service was held in R. C. Chapel at Cemetery.*

In April, 1920, a letter was sent by Base Records to Mrs M. J. Lawson, of Mary Street, Glanville, South Australia, sister of the late Private Ernest Kenneth, advising that the remains of her late brother had been exhumed from former site & re-interred in Grave No. 3318 Section “C”, Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, England. *“This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”*

Private Ernest Kenneth has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Ernest Kenneth contains a letter from H. B. Stephen, Newnham College, Cambridge which reads: *“When I got to the 1st Eastern Hospital this afternoon I was told of the death of Pte Ernest Kenneth 27033, 10th Batt. A.I.F., He was one of three Australians suffering from cerebro spinal meningitis, and it appears that this poor boy’s death was quite unexpected and unlooked for. On Sunday I was in the same isolation ward to see another Australian – Bayliss. This I did without permission from the authorities so I beg you not to refer to my going. But being there I am now surprised that I was told nothing of the other two cases of which I knew nothing until it was too late even to go to the funeral of Kenneth. This took place early in the afternoon of to-day. Some friend of mine in this college help to keep flowers on all the graves and we shall not leave this new one forlorn.”*

Base Records contacted Mrs M. J. Lawson, of Mary Street, Glanville, South Australia, sister of the late Private Ernest Kenneth, in November, 1920 stating that she was noted on the records as the next-of-kin & asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself – specifically if his father & mother were living - due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

No reply was received so Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 4th Military District, stating they had written to Mrs Lawson with no reply & asked if Headquarters could provide the information so that the War Medals could be disposed of.

The 4th Military District advised Base Records in March, 1921 stating that both parents of the late Private Ernest Kenneth were deceased & Mrs Mary Lawson, who was the only sister, died on 28th May, 1919. The only relation living was Mr Percy William Kenneth, of Marion St., Glanville, South Australia, brother of the late Private Ernest Kenneth.

Private Ernest Kenneth was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Kenneth's brother - Mr P. W. Kenneth, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private E. Kenneth – service number 2703, of 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private E. Kenneth is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 59.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. Kenneth is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(53 pages of Pte Ernest Kenneth'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



Newspaper Notices

PORT ADELAIDE

LOCAL

Juvenile Offenders' Court

George Sullivan, aged 16 years, and Ernest Kenneth (14) pleaded guilty to having been on the premises of H. Martin & Co., St. Vincent street, on November 13. Mr Martin said the boys were found in his shop at 9 o'clock in the evening. They ran away, but were captured. Defendants were also charged with having stolen a bicycle valued 30/., the property of Malcolm Bray, at Glanville on November 11. The bicycle, which was in pieces, was taken from a shed at informant's premises. Some of the parts were returned. On each charge defendants were fines 5/ and 10/ costs. 30/ each in all.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 November, 1911)

PERSONAL NOTES

Mrs M. J. Lawson, of Glanville, has been officially notified that Pte Ernest Kenneth, was admitted into hospital on March 4, suffering from a severe attack of "trench feet."

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 March, 1917) & (Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 March, 1917)

THE AUSTRALIANS

283rd CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ILL

2793 – Pte E. KENNETH Glanville (ser.)

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 March, 1917)

2877th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died of Sickness

2703 Pte E. KENNETH Glanville, Mar 31.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 April, 1917)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

KENNETH – On the 31st March, Private Ernest Kenneth, died of sickness in England, deeply beloved brother of Mrs G. Lawson and Mr P. Kenneth, Glanville.

KENNETH – On the 31st March, in England, Private Ernest Kenneth (Jock), beloved cousin of L. Russell, Lockleys, in his 20th year.

(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 May, 1917) & (The Advertiser, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 1 May, 1917)

& *(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 May, 1917)*

THE LATE PRIVATE E. KENNETH

Mrs G. A. Lawson, Mary-street, Glanville, has been notified that her brother, Private Ernest Kenneth, late 10th Battalion, died of sickness on March 31. He was the youngest son of the late David and Ann Kenneth, of Glaville. He enlisted in July, 1915 and sailed in October of that year for the front. He was 20 years of age, and was well respected by all who knew him.



Private E. Kenneth

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 May, 1917) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 May, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

KENNETH – In loving memory of my dear mate, Private Ernest Kenneth (Jock), 10th Battalion, who died March 31, 1917, in the 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, England.

No matter how I miss you, Jock,
Or changes I may see;
As long as life and memory live,
I will remember thee.

-Inserted by mate, W. B. Craske.

LAWSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Ernest Kenneth, who died in England on March 31, 1917.

Dear is the memory he left behind

Of a life that was manly, clean and kind.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother, sister-in-law and brother-in-law.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 April, 1918) & (The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, Sth Australia –2 April, 1918)

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 18th July, 1921, to Mr P. Kenneth. Marion Street, Glanville, South Australia, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his brother, the late Pte E. Kenneth, 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.

Private E. Kenneth does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge (known locally as Newmarket Road Cemetery) contains 1,019 Commonwealth War Graves – 186 from World War 1 & 833 from World War 2.

The 1st Eastern General Hospital, with 1,173 beds, was posted to Cambridge during the First World War, initially at the Leys School and Trinity College, later in huts. The First World War burials in Cambridge City Cemetery are mostly in two plots, one in the southern part of the burial ground, known as the Dominion Plot, and the other on the northern boundary. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western border of the Dominion Plot, while in the centre of the other is a memorial cross of Portland stone which was erected by private subscription. The Second World War graves are also mainly in two War Graves Plots with a few others scattered throughout the cemetery. The general Service plot was established in 1940, and the Air Force plot in 1942 for the burial of casualties from the Air Force stations set up in the eastern counties during the war. These included Bomber Command bases in Lincolnshire and fighter stations in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Stone of Remembrance, which was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder in July 1951, stands near the centre of the Air Force plot. Cambridge City Cemetery contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 829, (inclusive 3 unidentified), from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains four non-war service burials and ten war graves of other nationalities.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Photo of Private E. Kenneth's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.



(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)



Entrance to Cambridge City Cemetery & Map (below) (Photos by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

