

**Hampstead Cemetery,
London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1372 PRIVATE

R. J. KERR

14TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH NOVEMBER, 1915

In Loving Memory Of Dear Roy

Son Of Mr & Mrs W. Kerr

Of Camperdown

Roy Joseph KERR

Roy Joseph Kerr was born at Camperdown, Victoria in 1893 to parents William & Mary Ann Kerr (nee Spence).

Roy Joseph Kerr attended the State School at Camperdown, Victoria.

Roy Joseph Kerr was a 21 year old, single, Dairy Farmer from Leura, Camperdown, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 3rd October, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1372 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – William Kerr, Leura, Camperdown, Victoria.

Private Roy Joseph Kerr was posted to Reinforcements on 3rd October, 1914 for recruit training.

Private Roy Joseph Kerr embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 22nd December, 1914 with the 14th Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcements.

Private Roy Joseph Kerr was transferred to No. 1 Company, 14th Battalion on 19th February, 1915.

Private Roy Joseph Kerr was reported wounded at Gallipoli on 21st August, 1915. (The Casualty Form – Active Service recorded “*Wounded Week ending 21/8/15*” “*Dnelles*” – Dardanelles). He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance with a bullet wound to head then transferred to Mudros on 22nd August, 1915. Private Kerr embarked for England from Mudros on *Franconia* on 23rd August, 1915.

14th Battalion

The Headquarters of the 14th Battalion opened at an office at 178 Collins Street, Melbourne in the last week of September 1914. On 1 October it relocated to Broadmeadows Camp where the battalion's recruits, principally from Melbourne and its suburbs, were taken on strength and trained. With the 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions, the 14th formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash. It embarked for overseas on 22 December and, after a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, arrived in Egypt on 31 January 1915. In Egypt, the 4th Brigade became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division with which it would serve at Gallipoli.

The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC Cove on the afternoon of 25 April 1915. On 19 May the Turks launched a massive counter-attack. During this fighting Lance Corporal Albert Jacka of the 14th was awarded the AIF's first Victoria Cross. Jacka's leadership and courage became legendary within the AIF and he was eventually commissioned in the 14th Battalion, which came to be widely known as "Jacka's Mob". From May to August 1915 the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the ANZAC front line. In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost, although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. At the end of the month, the 14th Battalion suffered further heavy casualties when it was committed to the unsuccessful attack on Hill 60. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 14th Battalion

21st August, 1915:

Morning quiet. Attacking force for afternoon's operations issued with rations, water, ammunition, sandbags & tools.

11.00 – The six Officers concerned reconnoitered the ground to be attacked over, and orders for attack issued.

14.45 – Artillery bombardment opened and heavy rifle fire kept up from out trenches to prevent movement of enemy.

15.30 – First line consisting of 100 of 13th Bn. advanced immediately bombardment ceased.

15.45 – Second line 4 Officers and 100 others of 14th Bn under MAJOR C. M. M. DARE advanced on Hill 60 and suffered heavily in crossing Southern Bank of KAIAJIK DERE from enemy's Machine Gun and rifle fire.

16.00 – Third line 100 each of 13 & 14th Bns/ attempted to advance to support First and Second lines but suffered heavily and were unable to get forward at all. Also an attempt made by Hampshire Bn. was also driven back. The first and second lines which had crossed the Kaijik Dere and occupied the Northern bank were unable to get forward without support so Major C. M. M. Dare assumed command and ordered the position to be consolidated and firepits were dug and sandbags filled. These two lines which now consisted of 100 all ranks were holding a line over 2 yards long, and as all communication was cut off with the rear the position was strengthened as far as possible.

Between 21.30 & 22.00 – The Third Line under Major Herring arrived under cover of darkness and bringing picks & shovels, so the fire pits were connected to form a trench. During the night the enemy opened heavy fire at frequent intervals on our trenches and several bombs were thrown on our left flank. Our artillery shelled the enemy's trenches on our immediate front throughout the night. All remained quiet in front of No. 2 Post held by 14th Bn less 250 detached.

List for 21st shows total casualties for the 2 days [21st & 22nd August, 1915]

Strength:-

15 Officers 460 others

Casualties:-

Killed:- 1 Officer 14 others Lieut K. G. W. Crabbe

Wounded:- 2 Officers 53 others Lieut F. H. Dadson & Lieut V. G. Coultie

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Roy Joseph Kerr was admitted to Military Hospital, New End Section, Hampstead, London, England on 9th September, 1915 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to head.

Private Roy Joseph Kerr died at 7.15 pm on 7th November, 1915 at the Military Hospital, New End Section, Hampstead, London, England of wounds - gunshot wound to the head.

A death for Roy Kerr, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Hampstead, London, England.

Private Roy Joseph Kerr was buried at 2 pm on 11th November, 1915 in Hampstead Cemetery, London, England – Plot number Q. 4. 30 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Australian Military Office, London, wrote to The Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne, Victoria on 24th November, 1915, advising of the death on 7th November, 1915 of No. 1372, Private R. J. Kerr, 14th Battalion as the result of a gun shot wound in the head. The letter continued with: "*On the 3rd November Private Kerr was visited by the Medical Officer from this Department, and then was found to be seriously ill, having been twice trephined, had meningitis and repeated Jacksonian fits, also cerebellar hernia, R. Hemianopia and partial aphasia.*

The funeral took place from the Hospital to the Hampstead Cemetery at 2 pm on the 11th November, the High Commissioner being represented by Lieutenant Colonel H. W. Lee, A.I.F.

The 17th Rifle Brigade furnished an escort and mourners, full military honours being accorded. The Revd: Dr Gillies, Presbyterian Church, Hampstead, London, officiated at the interment at 2.30 pm and the number of the grave is 212, in section W.E.

Wreaths were sent by Sisters and Comrades in the Ward of the Hospital, and other Sisters and Nurses in the institution, also by Mrs Johnson and friends."

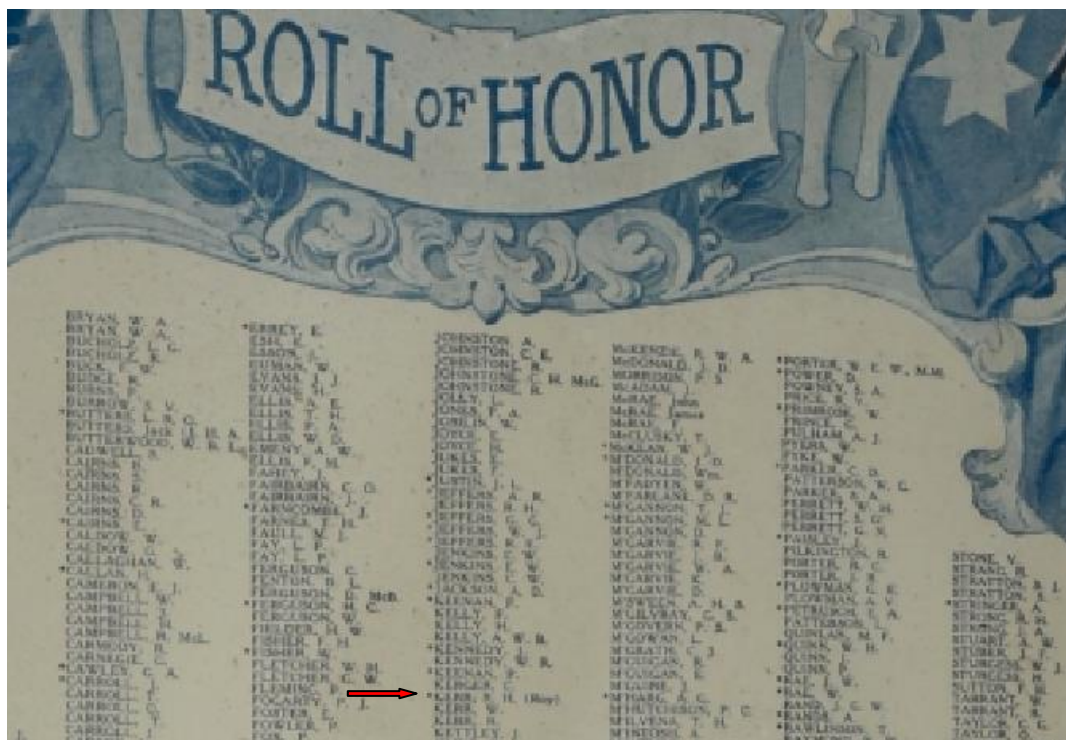
Private Roy Joseph Kerr was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Kerr's father – Mr W. Kerr, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Roy Joseph Kerr – service number 1372, of 14th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William & Mary Kerr, of Higheren, Camperdown, Victoria, Australia.

R. H. (Roy) Kerr is remembered on the Terang & Camperdown Roll of Honour, located in Camperdown RSL, 14 Pile Street, Camperdown, Victoria.



Terang & Camperdown Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



R. J. Kerr is remembered on the Camperdown War Memorial, located at Manifold & Cressy Streets, Camperdown, Victoria.



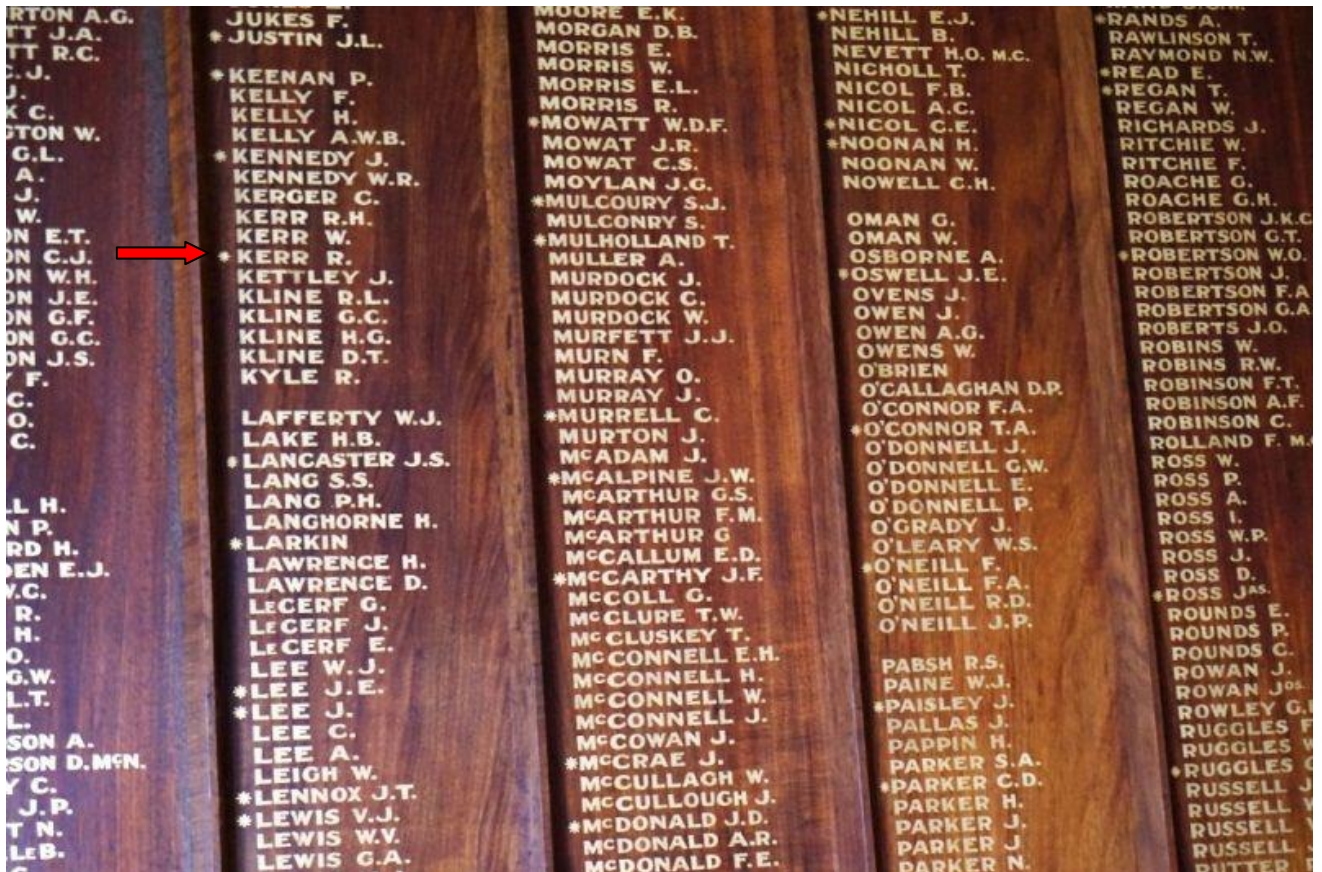
Camperdown War Memorial (Photos from Carol's Headstones)



R. Kerr is remembered on the Shire of Hampden Honour Roll, located in Corangamite Shire Offices, 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown, Victoria.



Shire of Hampden Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



Roy Kerr is remembered on the Camperdown Presbyterian Church Honour Roll, located in Camperdown Uniting Church, 24 Leura Street, Camperdown, Victoria.



Camperdown Presbyterian Church Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

Private R. J. Kerr is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 73.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(Private Roy Joseph Kerr has 2 separate Service Record files (11 pages & 23 pages) which 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



Newspaper Notices

In Camperdown

CLERGYMAN ENLISTS

Private Charles Arthur Lewis (Church of England clergyman, Princetown), and Roy Joseph Kerr (Leura, Camperdown), have joined the Second Expeditionary Force. They enlisted at Camperdown.

(Camperdown Chronicle, Victoria – 1 October, 1914)

Australian Casualties

PRIVATE R. J. KERR

Mr and Mrs W. Kerr, of Camperdown on Monday received word from the Defence Department that their son Private R. J. Kerr, who was recently killed in action at Gallipoli, is now in hospital, in London.

(Camperdown Chronicle, Victoria – 30 September, 1915)

AUSTRALIA'S LOSSES

LIST OF CASUALTIES

85th and 86th Lists

Pte R. J. Kerr

Pte. Roy Kerr, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Kerr, of Leura farm, Camperdown, who is with the Australian force at the Dardanelles, has been wounded in action. Private Kerr is about 22 years of age, and was attached to the 14th Battalion. He volunteered shortly after the outbreak of war and participated in the early operations of the Australian Army at the Dardanelles. He is a native of Camperdown and is well-known and highly respected throughout the community.

(Cobden Times and Heytesbury Advertiser, Victoria – 6 October, 1915)

AUSTRALIA'S HEROES

The 105th casualty list is published this morning, and in it will be found a few further district names, though fortunately no deaths are reported. These are:- Ill – Private R. J. Kerr, Camperdown (seriously).

(Hamilton Spectator, Victoria – 8 November, 1915)

DIED ON SERVICE

KERR – On the 7th November, at New End Hospital, Hampstead, England, from wounds received at the Dardanelles, Roy Joseph Kerr, of the 14th Battalion, and fourth son of William and Mary A. Kerr, Leura, Camperdown, age d22 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 November, 1915) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 November, 1915)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

116th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte R. J. Kerr, Camperdown

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 27 November, 1915)

KERR FAMILY AT THE FRONT

Word has been received that Pte R. J. Kerr, son of Mr and Mrs W. Kerr, of "Leura," Camperdown and nephew of Mrs S. Kerr, of Kialla, has died of wounds in a London hospital. His brother is ill in a Manchester hospital.

Mr and Mrs S. Kerr's two sons are both on active service; the other brother who was wounded and sent to Egypt, has recovered, but is doing special duty in the "land of the Pharaohs" in connection with the care of horses.

(*Shepparton News*, Victoria – 29 November, 1915)

Personal

Word has been received that Pte R. J. Kerr, son of Mr and Mrs W. Kerr, of "Leura," Camperdown and nephew of Mrs S. Kerr, of Kialla, has died of wounds in a London hospital. His brother is ill in a Manchester hospital.

(*Kyabram Guardian*, Victoria – 3 December, 1915)

Victory's Vanguard: The Lads Who Have Lost and Won





PTE. R. J. KERR
Died of Wounds.

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 December, 1915)

THE ROLL OF HONOR: VICTORIANS KILLED AND WOUNDED AT THE DARDANELLES





Pte. R. J. Kerr
14th Bn., Died Wounds.

(*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 December, 1915)

IN MEMORIAM

KERR – In loving memory of Roy J. Kerr, who was wounded at Gallipoli, and died at Hampstead Hospital, London, England, November 7th, 1915, fourth son of William and Mary A. Kerr, aged 22 years.

Inserted by his loving parents, brother and sisters, "Leura," Camperdown.

(*Camperdown Chronicle*, Victoria – 7 November, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

KERR – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Roy Joseph Kerr, 14th Battalion, wounded at Gallipoli, August 21st, 1915, died at Hampstead, England, Nov. 7th, 1915, aged 22 years.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

(*Camperdown Chronicle*, Victoria – 8 November, 1917)

The Soldiers' Graves

A photograph received by Mr W. Kerr, of Camperdown, from the Base Records Office, Melbourne, indicates in a comforting manner that, though many of our soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice in other lands and are taking their last long sleep thousands of miles from their beloved Australia, where the opportunity offers their graves are

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tended with loving care. The photograph referred to is of the grave of Mr Kerr's son Pte. Roy Joseph Kerr, late of the 14th Battalion, who died of wounds on November 7, 1915, at a military hospital, England, and who was buried Hampstead cemetery, London, on November 11, 1915. At the head of the grave a handsome cross has been erected by Mr Johnstone, a friend of the deceased soldier. Inscribed on the cross and plainly readable on the photo are the words: "A.I.F. Australia. 1372 Pte. R. J. Kerr, 14th Bn, 7/11/15." Beneath the cross are pot plants, the centre of the grave is occupied by a handsome glass casket, while beautiful flowers adorn the remainder. The late Pte Kerr's last resting place is tended by Mrs Johnstone. That the good work of caring for the soldiers' graves is thoroughly carried out in England is also revealed by the photograph, which shows others that give evidence that they are continually cared for. It is comforting to know that the Military authorities, who have been so much blamed, so at least some work well. This photograph is mounted on a handsome folding card on which are printed particulars of Pte Kerr, the date of his death, etc.

(*Camperdown Chronicle*, Victoria – 5 September, 1918) & similar story in (*Terang Express*, Victoria – 6 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

KERR – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, 1372, Private Roy J. Kerr, 14th Battalion, who was wounded at Gallipoli, August 21st, 1915, and died at Hampstead, Eastend Hospital, Nov. 7th, 1915, aged 22 years.

Though lost to sight, memory dear.

-Inserted by his loving parents, Highview, Camperdown.

(*Camperdown Chronicle*, Victoria – 8 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

KERR – In loving memory of R. J. Kerr (Roy) who died in England, Hampstead Hospital, on Nov. 7, 1915 from wounds received at Gallipoli on August 21, 1915.

Inserted by his Parents, Brothers and Sisters.

(*Camperdown Chronicle*, Victoria – 8 November, 1919)

Roy J. Kerr is remembered on the Kerr Family headstone located in Camperdown Cemetery, Victoria.



Camperdown Cemetery, Victoria (Photos courtesy of Carol's Headstones)





In Loving Memory of

Our Dear Parents

WILLIAM KERR

Died 9:Feb. 1941 Aged 83.

MARY A KERR

Died 14: May 1941 Aged 77.

Also ROY J. KERR

14: BATT. A.I.F.

Died 7: Nov. 1916 Aged 22.

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)

Private R. J. Kerr does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory Of Dear Roy
Son Of Mr & Mrs W. Kerr Of Camperdown*

Hampstead Cemetery, London, England

Hampstead Cemetery is located at Fortune Green with the entrance at the northern end of Fortune Green Road, 400 metres from West Hampstead Railway Station.

There are 217 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war and a further 45 of the 1939-45 war here. In addition there is 1 Polish soldier and 1 Czech soldier burials and 1 non war military burial.

Those whose graves cannot be marked by headstone are recorded by name on a Screen Wall memorial in the War Graves Plot where the majority of the burials are to be found, near the Northern boundary, to the right of the main entrance.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Hampstead Cemetery *(Photo by Marathon)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00781

Four Australian graves at Hampstead Cemetery on Anzac Day. On the far left is the grave of 337 Private (Pte) Leslie William Hamilton, 3rd Battalion, of Wagga Wagga, NSW who died of his wounds on 15 September 1915 aged 21 years. From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.



4 Australian WW1 War Graves

Left to Right: Hamilton, Westaway, Cameron & Kerr (Photo by D – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private R. J. Kerr's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hampstead Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo by julia&keld - Find a Grave)



Private J. Cameron & Private R. J. Kerr (Photo by D – Find a Grave)