

**Welford Road Cemetery,
Leicester, Leicestershire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



231 SERGEANT

F. N. KNIGHT

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

9TH NOVEMBER, 1918

An O.L.

He Became

A Profitable Member Of

The King And Commonwealth

Frank Nicholls KNIGHT

Frank Nicholls Knight was born at Witherley, near Atherstone, Leicestershire, England in 1895 to parents Isaac and Martha Orill Knight (nee Robinson). He was baptised on 26th May, 1895 at the Parish Church, Witherley, Leicestershire, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Frank N. Knight as a 5 year old, living with his family at Market Place, Rugby, Warwickshire, England. His parents were listed as Isaac Knight (Licensed Victualler, aged 35, born West Bromwich, Stafford) & Martha Knight (Assistant in Pub, aged 3_, born Northampton). Also listed was Frank's younger sister – Caroline Knight (aged 1, born Rugby, Warwick) & Martha Robinson (Sister-in-law of Isaac Knight, widower, aged 69, Living on own Means).

Frank Nicholls Knight attended Lower School of Lawrence Sheriff, Rugby, England, having gained a Governor's Scholarship. He matriculated with honours from Oxford University.

The 1901 England Census recorded Frank Nicholls Knight as a 15 year old at School, living with his family at Queens Head Inn, West Street, Rugby, Warwickshire, England. His parents were listed as Isaac Knight (Licensed Victualler, aged 45) & Pattie Orill Knight (Helper, aged 43). Frank Knight was the eldest of five children on this Census – Frank then Hilda Nicholls Knight (At School, aged 14, born Witherley, Leicestershire), Caroline Nicholls Knight (At School, aged 11, born Rugby, Warwickshire), Thomas Nicholls Knight (At School, aged 8, born Rugby, Warwickshire) & Richard Nicholls Knight (aged 1, born Rugby, Warwickshire).

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour – Frank Knight came to Australia when he was 17 years old.

Commonwealth of Australia Gazette – 9 April, 1914:

66th (Mount Alexander) Infantry-

HENRY STUART DOBBIE and FRANK NICHOLLS KNIGHT to be 2nd Lieutenants (provisionally). Dated 1st March, 1914.

Frank Nicholls Knight applied for a Commission in the Australian Imperial Force on 25th November, 1915. He was aged 20 years & 7 months (date of birth listed as 14th April, 1895) & a Draughtsman from Hargreaves St., Castlemaine, Victoria. Frank Knight stated on his application form that he had completed 1 year with Senior Cadets & 2 ½ years with Citizen Forces. He had been 1st Lieutenant with 66th Infantry & had attended No. 2 Musketry School at Port Melbourne.

Frank Nicholls Knight applied for a Commission in the Australian Imperial Force on 25th January, 1916. He was aged 20 years & 10 months (date of birth listed as 14th January, 1895).

Frank Nicholls Knight was a 21 year old, single, Engineer and Draftsman from Bull Street, Castlemaine, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 16th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 231 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr I. Knight, of Bull Street, Castlemaine, Victoria. Frank Knight stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 1 year in Senior Cadets & 3 years with Citizen Forces with rank of 1st Lieutenant.

Frank Nicholls Knight was posted to 20th Depot Battalion at Castlemaine, Victoria on 14th March, 1916 with the rank of Acting C.S.M. (Company Sergeant Major). He was posted as Acting Sergeant on 18th April, 1916 at Castlemaine Camp then transferred to Machine Gun School at Port Melbourne on 19th April, 1916.

Private Frank Nicholls Knight embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 4th May, 1916 with the 2nd Machine Gun Company, 2nd Reinforcements.

Private Frank Nicholls Knight was taken on strength of 1st Divisional Troops at Tel-el-Kebir on 5th July, 1916.

Private Frank Nicholls Knight embarked from Alexandria for Overseas on 29th July, 1916 on HMT *Arcadia*.

Private Frank Nicholls Knight was appointed Acting (Extra Duty Pay) Corporal for period 11th August, 1916 to 5th October, 1916. He was appointed Acting Corporal (without Pay) from 6th October, 1916.

Acting Corporal (without Pay) Frank Nicholls Knight was promoted Corporal (with extra duty pay) from 6th October, 1916.

Corporal Frank Nicholls Knight was to be E.D.P. (Extra Duty Pay) Sergeant from 25th November, 1916 to 31st December, 1916.

Private Frank Nicholls Knight was appointed E.D.P. (Extra Duty Pay) Corporal while posted a Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham from 1st 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. The Machine Gun Corps trained at Grantham, Lincolnshire, England.

E.D.P. Corporal Frank Nicholls Knight was taken on strength of 22nd Machine Gun Company on 17th March, 1917 from Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham, England.

E.D.P. Corporal Frank Nicholls Knight proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 17th March, 1917 from Machine Gun Training Depot.

E.D.P. Corporal Frank Nicholls Knight reverted to ranks on proceeding overseas on 17th March, 1917.

Private Frank Nicholls Knight was promoted to Sergeant in the Field on 15th March, 1917 (date as per Casualty form – Active Service) while posted with 22nd Machine Gun Company.

Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight was transferred from 22nd Machine Gun Company on 12th July, 1917 to complete establishment at A.M.G.T.D. (Australian Machine Gun Training Depot) in England.

Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight reported at A.I.F. Headquarters, London, England on 13th July, 1917 & was instructed to report at Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham on 16th July, 1917. Sergeant Knight was marched in to the Australian Machine Gun Training Depot, Grantham, England on 16th July, 1917.

Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight was attached for duty with Permanent Cadre of Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham on 4th October, 1917 – Orders from Headquarters, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England.

Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight ceased duty with Permanent Cadre of Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham on 2nd January, 1918. He proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 2nd January, 1918 from Grantham. Sergeant Knight was marched in to M.G.C.B.D. (Machine gun Company Base Depot) at Camiers, France on 3rd January, 1918. He was marched out from M.G.C.B.D. on 6th January, 1918 & was taken on strength of 22nd Machine Gun Company in the Field on 8th January, 1918.

Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight was appointed Acting C.S.M. (Company Sergeant Major) vice Williams promoted from 27th June, 1918.

Acting C.S.M. (Company Sergeant Major) Frank Nicholls Knight was promoted to Temporary C.S.M from 19th July, 1918.

Acting C.S.M. (Company Sergeant Major) Frank Nicholls Knight made an application to relinquish the temporary rank of C.S.M. back to Sergeant on 24th October, 1918. His application was approved & he reverted back to the rank of Sergeant on 24th October, 1918 at his own request.

Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight was on leave to UK from 1st November, 1918.

Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight died on 9th November, 1918 while on leave at 13 Severn Street, Leicester (the residence of his Uncle – Mr F. O. Robinson) from Pneumonia following Influenza.

A death for Frank N. Knight, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Leicester, Leicestershire, England.

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Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight was buried on 13th November, 1918 in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England – Plot number 01. "U". 395 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sergeant Frank Nicholas Knight - *Coffin was good. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, and Bugler being in attendance. The coffin was conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by many beautiful wreaths sent by:- Mr R. O. Robinson & family, Mr E. T. Stevens & family and Mrs Parkes & family. The burial service was conducted at the graveside by the Rev: E. A. Kinlock Jones of St. Saviours Church, Leicester, and the "Last Post" was sounded. 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 or Friends present at the Funeral – Uncle – Mrs F. O. Robinson & Uncle – Mr F. Partridge.

Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight requested in his Will (extracted from his PayBook) that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mrs Martha O. Knight, "Maryville" Bull Street, Castlemaine, Victoria.

Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Knight's father - Mr Isaac Knight, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both received in March, 1923).

Mrs Martha Knight wrote to Base Records in February, 1923 asking if she was entitled to any Medals & Plaques that she had seen illustrated in the Argus newspaper that had been unclaimed. She stated it had been her third application on behalf of her son Frank Nicholls Knight, No. 231 Sergeant. Base Records replied that the British War Medal had been passed to Victoria Barracks, Melbourne from where it would be arranged to be delivered to the deceased's father, who was the person entitled to receive the Medals in keeping with the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918. Base Records advised that the Victory Medal & other items would follow as they became available.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight – service number 231, of 2nd Bn, Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of Isaac and Martha Orrill Knight, of "Maryville," Bull St., Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia.

Sergeant F. N. Knight is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. N. Knight is remembered on the Castlemaine Town Hall Honour Roll, located at Castlemaine Town Hall, 48 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine, Victoria.



Castlemaine Town Hall Honour Roll (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

F. N. Knight is remembered on the Christ Church War Memorial Stained Glass Window, located in Christ Church, 8 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine, Victoria.



Christ Church War Memorial Stained Glass Window, Castlemaine

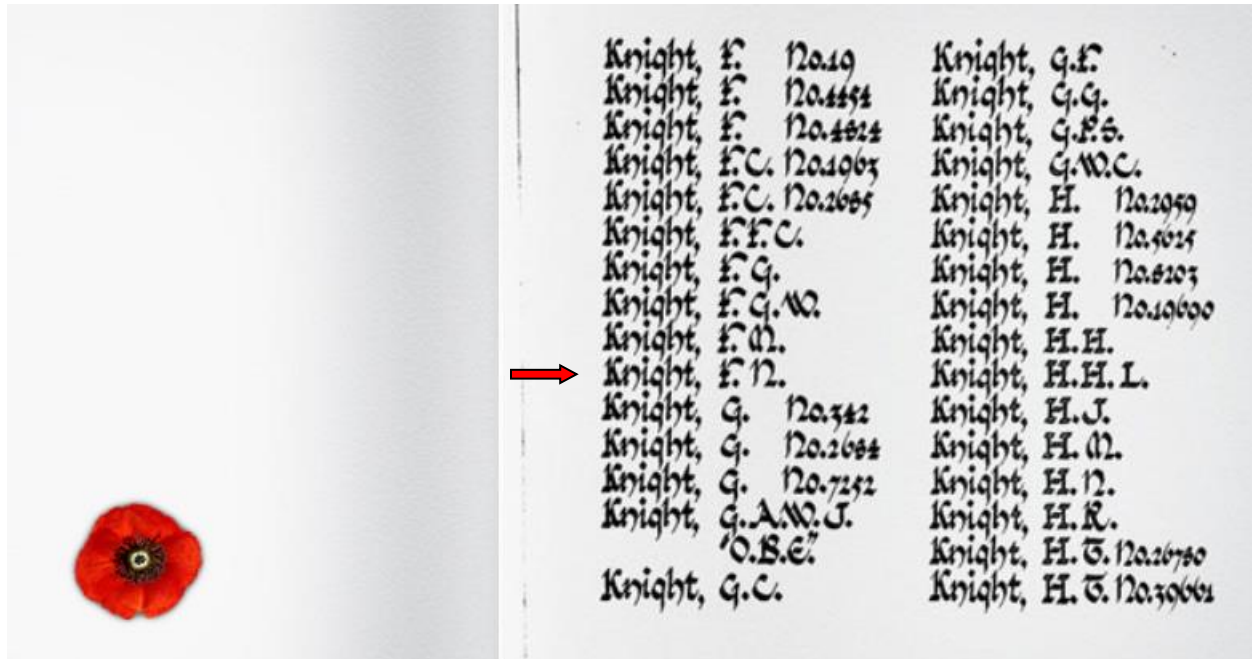
(Photos from Monument Australia)

The Castlemaine War Memorial, located in front of RSL Hall, 36 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine, Victoria, does not have individual names.



Castlemaine War Memorial *(Photo from Monument Australia)*

F. N. Knight is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(73 pages of Sergeant Frank Nicholls Knight'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



Newspaper Notices

CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT SOLDIERS

VICTIM TO PNEUMONIA

PRIVATE F. N. KNIGHT

Mr and Mrs Knight, of Bull street, have received the painful intelligence that their eldest son, Private F. N. Knight, died of pneumonia at his uncle's residence in Leicester, England. He enlisted in 1915, prior to which he was employed as a clerk at the Foundry. He was a Lieutenant in the local Citizen Forces, but went into the Castlemaine Camp as a private. He was 23 years of age, and a very popular young man.

(Castlemaine Mail, Victoria – 18 November, 1918)

CASTLEMAINE CASUALTY

Word has been received that Pte F. N. Knight, of Castlemaine, had died of pneumonia at his uncle's residence, Leicester, England. Pte Knight was a Lieutenant in the Citizen Forces and was employed as accountant at Thompson's Foundry, Castlemaine.

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 19 November, 1918)

NEWS OF SOLDIERS

On Saturday Mr and Mrs Knight, of North Castlemaine, received word that their son, Private F. N. Knight, who enlisted in 1915, had died of pneumonia at his uncle's residence, Leicester, England. Private Knight was a lieutenant in the Citizens' Forces and was employed as accountant at Messrs Thompson and Co.'s Foundry, Castlemaine.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 19 November, 1918)

AUSTRALIANS AND THE WAR

Died of Illness

Pte F. N. KNIGHT, son of Mr and Mrs Knight, of Castlemaine, died at his uncle's residence, in Leicester, England, from pneumonia. He enlisted at Castlemaine in 1915.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 November, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

450th Casualty List

NORTHER VICTORIANS

DIED FROM ILLNESS

Sgt. F. N. KNIGHTS, Castlemaine

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

KNIGHT – Inn loving memory of our friend, Sergeant Frank N. Knight, 2nd M.G. Company, called to higher service on November 9, 1918. (Inserted by Mr and Mrs R. Morison and family, Maldon.)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 November, 1919)

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)*

Sergeant F. N. Knight does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

An O.L.

He Became a Profitable Member Of The King And Commonwealth

("O.L." – refers to "Old Laurentain" the school he attended in England)

Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England

Between 1914 and 1919, the 5th Northern General Hospital, with more than 2,600 beds, occupied several buildings in Leicester and North Evington. More than 95,000 officers and men were admitted to the hospital, which recorded 514 deaths before its closure. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force operational training station near Leicester. Leicester (Welford Road) Cemetery contains 286 First World War burials, more than half of them forming a war graves plot with a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. The 46 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, which also contains eight Belgian war graves, 1 of which is unknown.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo by daglish – Find a Grave)



Cross of Sacrifice & Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester *(Photo from CWGC)*



(Photo courtesy of Brian Fare – 2022)

Photo of Sergeant F. N. Knight's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Brian Fare – 2022)



(Photo by Doc Wilson – Find a Grave – 24 December, 2013)



(Photo by Jackie Marsh – Find a Grave – 14 November, 2015)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00731

Mr and Mrs A T Sharp visiting the graves of seven Australians at the Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, including the grave of Kathleen Adele Brennan, Australian Red Cross Society, member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment. Brennan died of influenza at Leicester, England on 24 November 1918.

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.

THE WELFORD ROAD CEMETERY

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

PLAN OF THE CEMETERY AS EXISTING

BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

PLANNING CODE: 2019/01/00000000

