

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,  
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6763 PRIVATE**

**J. KNIGHT**

**13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**16TH FEBRUARY, 1917**

## Joseph (Joe) KNIGHT

Joseph Knight was born at Toorale Station, near Louth, NSW in 1895 to parents John & Eliza Knight (nee Keegan). Eliza Keegan was a Gunu woman from Bourke region.

John Knight, father of Joseph Knight, died on 8th June, 1907 at Coonabarabran, NSW.

Joseph Knight was a 21 year old, single, Shearer from Louth, NSW when he enlisted at Dubbo, NSW on 17th July, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6763 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Eliza Knight, of Louth, NSW.

Private Joseph Knight was posted to Dubbo Depot Battalion on 25th July, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 22nd Reinforcements of 13th Battalion on 1st November, 1916.

Private Joseph Knight embarked from Sydney, NSW on SS *Port Nicholson* on 8th November, 1916 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th 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 Knight was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire, England on 10th January, 1917.

Private Joseph Knight was admitted sick (slight) to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England on 13th February, 1917 (as per Casualty Form – Active Service, Gratuity Schedule form & also Statement of Service form). Note – The Medical History form recorded that Private Knight was admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital on 10th February, 1917 & was initially recorded as having Cerebro Spinal Fever but an examination of C.S. fluid proved negative & he was listed as having Broncho pneumonia.

Private Joseph Knight died on 16th February, 1917 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Acute Pneumonia.

A death for Joseph Knight, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private Joseph Knight was buried on 19th February, 1917 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 110 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Eliza Knight, of Melyambo Station, Tilpa, mother of the late Joseph Knight, in the sum of 14/- per fortnight from 27th May, 1917.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Knight, Mount Wood's Station, via Tibooburra, NSW in May, 1921 stating she was noted on the records of the late Private J. Knight as the registered next-of-kin but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was still alive 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.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 2nd District Base, on 30th March, 1922 stating they had written to Mrs E. Knight, Mount Wood's Station, via Tibooburra, NSW, in May 1921 requesting her to advise if the father of the late Private Joseph Knight was still living & if so to furnish his present address. Base Records had received no reply & were requesting 2nd District Base to obtain the information so that the War Medals could be assigned.

Eliza Knight, mother of the late Private Joseph Knight, signed a Statutory Declaration on 12th May, 1922 at Louth, NSW stating that her son was not married & that his father was dead.

Private Joseph Knight was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Knight's mother – Mrs E. Knight, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. Knight – service number 6763, of 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. 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 69.

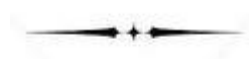


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Private Joseph Knight is listed by The Australian War Memorial as a person of Indigenous descent who enlisted for service in World War 1.

(45 pages of Private Joseph 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*



### Connected to Private Joseph Knight:

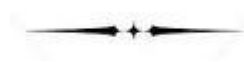
Brother William Albert (Bill) Knight (born 1890) – Enlisted 21st January, 1916 as a 23 year old Labourer from Wilcannia. Service number 105. Embarked from Adelaide with 43rd Battalion on 9th June, 1916. Awarded Military Medal. Returned to Australia 12th March, 1918. Died 1975 at Bourke, NSW

Remembered on Tilpa War Memorial.

Brother Albert Knight (born 1894) – Enlisted 4th November, 1916 as a 21 year old Labourer from Louth. Service number 5709 Embarked with 13th Battalion from Sydney, NSW on 3rd May, 1916. Later transferred to 43rd Battalion. Rank of Corporal. Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal. Returned to Australia 200th May, 1919. Died 1973 at Brewarrina, NSW

Remembered on Tilpa War Memorial.

Both Lance Corporal William Albert Knight & Corporal Albert Knight are listed by The Australian War Memorial as a persons of Indigenous descent who enlisted for service in World War 1.



### Newspaper Notices

#### **WAR'S TOLL AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

The 284th casualty list of the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Forces was issued last night....

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte J. KNIGHT, Louth

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 31 March, 1917)

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#### **PRIVATE C. W. JONES AND J. KNIGHT**

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Private Joe Knight also enlisted from Wilcannia, and was trained at Dubbo and Kiama camps. He is reported as having died on active service on February 16 last, but the cause of his death is not stated. Two brothers of Private Knight, viz., William A. and Albert, are still serving in France, the last named having been wounded, but since reported returned to duty.

(*Western Grazier*, Wilcannia, NSW – 7 April, 1917) & (*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW – 11 April, 1917)

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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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 19th July, 1921, to Mrs E. Knight, Mount Wood's Station, via Tibooburra, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late Private J. Knight 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 J. Knight does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England**

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



**St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle**





**Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice**



**Original Grave Markers**





*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*





*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*





*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*



Photo of Private J. Knight's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*





(Photo by Linda – Find A Grave)

## Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army			NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B			Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)