

**Comely Bank Cemetery,
Edinburgh, Scotland
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



12 LANCE CPL.

W. KNIGHT

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST MARCH, 1919

William KNIGHT

William Knight was born at Clarence Plains, Hobart, Tasmania around 1885 to parents Lewis (Louis William) & Clara Knight (nee Smith).

William Knight was a 29 year old, single, Groom from Hobart, Tasmania when he enlisted at Warwick Farm, NSW on 13th September, 1915 with the 2nd Battalion, 15th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 12 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Lewis Knight of Hobart, Tasmania.

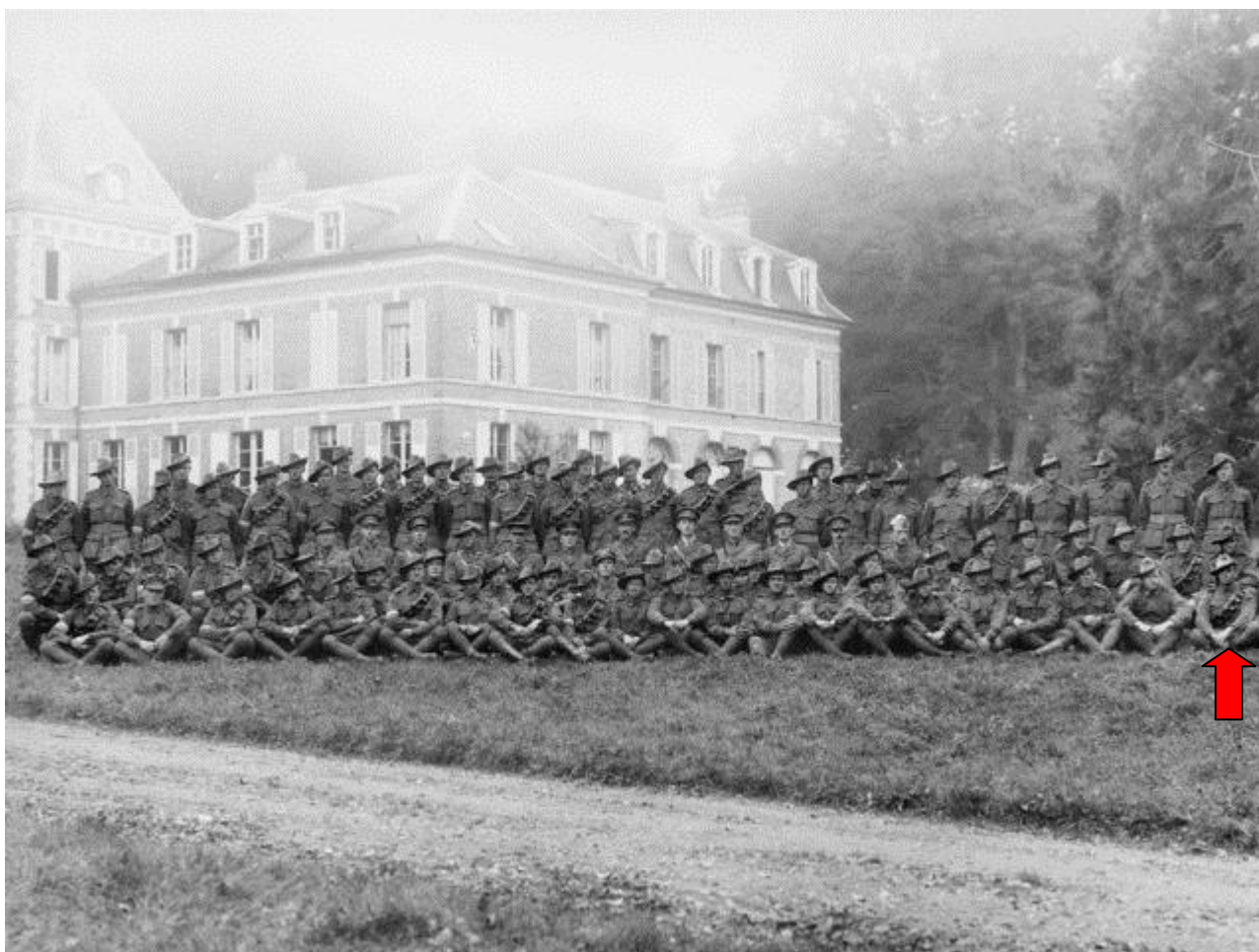
Private William Knight was in Camp training with "B" Company, 2nd Battalion from 14th September, 1915. He was transferred to "C" Company, Rifle Battalion on 21st February, 1916. Pte Knight was transferred on 3rd March, 1916 to Brigade Headquarters as Lance Corporal.

Lance Corporal William Knight embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Marathon* (A74) on 4th May, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9th July, 1916.

Lance Corporal William Knight proceeded overseas to France with 9th Infantry Brigade on 21st November, 1916 from Southampton.

Lance Corporal William Knight was transferred to 35th Battalion & taken on strength on 10th September, 1917.

Lance Corporal William Knight was transferred to 9th Brigade Headquarters & taken on strength on 21st May, 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03671

Group portrait of the Headquarters Staff, Signal Section and Details of the 9th Infantry Brigade taken at Yonville, France on 24th October, 1918.

Identified: 10535 Second Corporal W. J. Easton MM (1); 2525 Sapper (Spr) R. Collins (2); 5318 Spr J. Sommerville (3); 489 Private (Pte) T. P. Mitchell (4); 3387 Pte N. F. Thornton (5); 16367 Driver (Dvr) H. H. Watkinson (6); 7750 Pte J. T. Killeen (7); 21489 Spr G. C. Glover (8); 11016 Spr A. Ariss (9); 1857 Pte A. Rainbird (10); 565 Lance Corporal (L Cpl) J. A. Thomas (11);

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1121 Pte J. A. Farinden (12); 168 Pte A. E. Parker (13); 2814 Pte C. R. Healey (14); 2825 Pte R. S. Johnson (15); 282 Pte V. R. Grinter (16); 10893 Spr N. McLean (17); 2656 Pte W. Cheetham (18); 1421 Pte W. B. Lidgard (19); 2327 Pte W. Hoad (20); **12 L Cpl W. Knight (21)**; 10541 Corporal (Cpl) J. M. Nelson MM (22); 7504 Dvr A. E. G. Guy (23);

Lance Corporal William Knight was on leave to UK from France from 31st January, 1919 to 14th February, 1919.

Lance Corporal William Knight was admitted to 2nd Scottish General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland on 12th February, 1919, whilst on leave from France & suffering from Influenza. He was reported as very ill & his condition later developed to double pneumonia.

Lance Corporal William Knight died on 1st March, 1919 at 2nd Scottish General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland from Pneumonia.

Lance Corporal W. Knight was buried on 7th March, 1919 in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number D. 47 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Knight - *Coffin was good. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, and a large number were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by many beautiful wreaths sent from:- Australian Imperial Forces & New Zealand Forces; Nurses & Sisters from Hospital; Cpl. Holley of the New Zealand Forces; Victoria League; Mrs Cousins; Mrs Hamilton and three lady friends. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and Chap. Rev. Hannan of the 2nd Scottish General Hospital, Edinburgh, officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. A.I.F. Headquarters London were represented at the funeral. Relatives & friends in attendance at the funeral – Brother – 378A Pte Knight, C.E. 4th M.G. Bn, and Cpl. Holley, New Zealand Forces and many Australian & New Zealand soldiers.*

Lance Corporal William Knight was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Knight's eldest brother – Mr Joseph Frederick Knight of 29 Patrick Street, Hobart, Tasmania, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1923 & Plaque sent March, 1923). Mr Lewis Knight, father of William Knight had died on 12th June, 1918.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal W. Knight – service number 12, of H/Q. 9th Bde., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Lance Corporal W. 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 2.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Lance Corporal William Knight is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

1919 - 1921									
THE ARMISTICE THAT ENDED WORLD WAR ONE OCCURRED AT 11 AM ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER 1918. THE OFFICIAL DATES FOR INCLUSION ON THE ROLL OF HONOUR ARE 4/8/1914 TO 31/3/1921									
1919									
6346	Pte	Bales	Harbert Roy	24.01.1919	21	12th Inf Bn	Doraine		
3879	Pte	Barnes	Clifford Aubrey	14.06.1919	23	15th Inf Bn	King Island		
4999	Pte	Barrill	Louiel Lancelot	20.10.1919	22	48th Inf Bn	Zeehan		
6547	Pte	Barnick	William	18.01.1919	30	12th Inf Bn	Oatlands		
7194	Spr	Bassment	Henry	20.02.1919	31	2nd Tunnal Coy	Longford		
18204	Pte	Bennett	Gordon Miles	11.11.1919	25	48th Inf Bn	Westbury		ANZAC
2443	Sgt	Blahou	Douglas George	08.05.1919	31	12th Inf Bn	Devonport		
3122	Pte	Blacklow	William Ernest M	10.10.1919	29	51st Inf Bn	Cygnat		
63241	Pte	Boon	Harry James Gordon	05.02.1919	25	12th Inf Bn	Hobart		ANZAC
811	Pte	Brown	Roy Alexander	12.04.1919	25	48th Inf Bn	Hobart		ANZAC
3897	Sgt	Burbury	Alan Cecil	20.04.1919	25	3rd LI Horse Regt	Oatlands		
39137	Spr	Burke	Richard Charles	01.03.1919	19	12th Inf Bn	Launceston		
4613	Pte	Cantwell	Charles Eric	22.02.1919	25	12th Inf Bn	Hobart		
3924	Pte	Clark	Claude Ernest	30.03.1919	21	12th Inf Bn	Doraine		ANZAC
1517	Pte	Clarke	Thomas George	13.06.1919	31	12th Inf Bn	Launceston		ANZAC
1213	Col	Courtesy	MM Roy	28.07.1919	28	2nd Pioneer Bn	Stanley		
819	LI	Genies	McC	05.01.1919	27	40th Inf Bn	Chudleigh		
24729	Pte	Crealy	Percy	25.10.1919	32	NZEF WB	Hobart		ANZAC
1243	Pte	Dale	John	18.08.1919	25	28th Inf Bn	Cygnat		
7301	Pte	Darley	Berrie Joseph	23.05.1919	25	40th Inf Bn	Hobart		
548	Pte	Devies	Reuben Thomas H	08.10.1919	27	5th MG Coy	Launceston		ANZAC
1240	LCpl	Dooding	John William	10.04.1919	32	28th Inf Bn	Westbury		
6299	Pte	Drake	Kenneth Grant	29.01.1919	19	12th Inf Bn	Devonport		ANZAC
1097	Pte	Finnson	Clyde	26.01.1919	22	28th Inf Bn	Oatlands		ANZAC
817	Tpr	Ferrar	Michael Edward	25.06.1919	24	2nd LI Horse Regt	Ross		ANZAC
2458	Pte	Fisher	Robert Charles	15.11.1919	24	28th Inf Bn	Hobart		
5999	Pte	Fox	Charles Francis	23.06.1919	38	40th Inf Bn	Sheffield		
38773	Gnr	Garnett	Francis Henry	23.03.1919	31	1 Dst Army Hq	Hobart		
1330	Pte	Griffiths	David Edgar	23.01.1919	24	13th PG Army Bde	Warratah		
62027	Pte	Hall	Henry James W	03.02.1919	29	12th Inf Bn	Zeehan		
3140	Pte	Harman	Albert	04.06.1919	22	40th Inf Bn	Wynyard		
23219	Pte	Hartman	Philip John	17.03.1919	30	NZEF CIB	Doraine		nk
7999	Pte	Hay	Burman	04.02.1919	24	12th Inf Bn	Launceston		
238	Sig	Higgs	Hugh Gordon	03.04.1919	21	14th C Sq	Parth		ANZAC
8753	Pte	Homan	Henry George	28.06.1919	29	12th Inf Bn	Newtown		
2911	Spr	Jones	William Robert	23.06.1919	32	12th Inf Bn	Newtown		
3245	Pte	Jordan	Alan Barman	07.05.1919	23	2nd Coy Eng Regt	Currie		
2819	Spr	Kelly	Parochal James	28.01.1919	28	40th Inf Bn	Rockley		
1637	Pte	Kelly	Thomas William	15.11.1919	28	40th Inf Bn	Campana		
2333	Pte	Kelly	Walter Ernest John	23.11.1919	42	40th Inf Bn	Doraine		
12	LCpl	Knight	Theodore James	11.06.1919	28	DEF RASC	St Helens		
2258	Col	Leitch	William	01.03.1919	38	8th Inf Bde HQ	Hobart		ANZAC
3111	LI	Leis	William Douglas	04.05.1919	34	Ordinance Corps	Hobart		ANZAC
1715	Pte	Lindsay	Alfred Dimes	03.09.1919	46	2nd LI Horse Regt	Abbotsford		
6096	Spr	Lawell	Robert	17.06.1919	38	38th Inf Bn	Hobart		
2820	Pte	Leis	Robert	13.07.1919	46	2nd Tunnal Coy	Hobart		
2887	Sgt	Lucas	William George	08.02.1919	31	52nd Inf Bn	Woodbridge		ANZAC
8313	Pte	Matthews	Charles George	18.09.1919	31	7th Fng Sn AFC	Hobart		ANZAC
2315	Pte	McArthur	George William	07.05.1919	28	47th Inf Bn	South Arm		
3281	AM II	McGillivray	Roy Nelson Victor	16.02.1919	31	7th Fng Sn AFC	Port Arthur		
4148	Dir	McIntyre	Robert John	25.01.1919	36	1st Pioneer Bn	Launceston		
2144	Pte	McPherson	Percy Thomas	11.22.1919	28	4th Inf Div HQ	Hobart		
486	Pte	Meares	MM Arthur Albert	07.03.1919	27	12th Inf Bn	Launceston		ANZAC
747	Pte	Mennie	Lionel Stanley	01.06.1919	19	40th Inf Bn	Launceston		
2848A	Spr	Mitchell	Claude Tasmart	19.02.1919	25	8 Div Signal Coy	Launceston		
3222	LCpl	Mills	Charles Stewart	16.02.1919	37	1st Div HQ	Cygnat		
7491	Spr	Moody	Joseph	15.05.1919	30	1st Tunnal Coy	Greenwood		
8058	Pte	Moody	Ernest Charles	07.01.1919	29	12th Inf Bn	Batters Creek		
8092	Spr	Murdoch	Roy Alexander	08.04.1919	27	4th LI Horse Regt	Lafey		

2813	Sqdr	Kelly	Percival James	28.01.1919	31	Railway Coy	Campania	
1853	Pte	Kelly	Thomas William	16.11.1919	29	40th Inf Bn	Tunnack	
2353	Pte	Kelly	Walter Ernest John	23.11.1919	42	40th Inf Bn	Deloraine	
	Capt	Kirwan MBE	Theodore James	11.06.1919	28	BEF RASC	St Helens	
12	L/Cpl	Knight	William	01.03.1919	32	9th Inf Bde HQ	Hobart	
2255	Cpl	Leitch	William Douglas	04.05.1919	34	Ordinance Corps	Hobart	ANZAC
[511]	Lt	Leitch	Alfred Doran	09.09.1919	46	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Abbotsham	ANZAC
1719	Pte	Lindsay	Alfred Arthur John	17.09.1919	36	30th Inf Bn	Hobart	
				15.07.1919	46	2nd Tunnel Coy	Hobart	

(55 pages of Lance Corporal William 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 Lance Corporal William Knight:

Younger Brother – Private Charles Edward Knight, 378A, 4th Machine Gun Company. Enlisted on 3rd July, 1916, aged 23 years & embarked from Melbourne on 19th September, 1916. Returned to Australia on 22nd August, 1919. He was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. Charles Edward Knight died in May, 1977 at Newtown, Tasmania.



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)

Lance Corporal W. Knight does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains 302 War Graves. There are only seven Australians buried in this cemetery from World War 1.

During the First World War, Edinburgh was headquarters to the 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Battalions of the Royal Scots, with the 7th Battalion at Leith. The 2nd Scottish General Hospital (1,000 beds) occupied Craighleith Poorhouse, the Edinburgh War Hospital (2,600 beds) was in the Asylum buildings at Bangour and the Leith War Hospital (585 beds) in the infirmary at Leith. The port of Leith was used by hospital ships from north Russia and about 4,500 officers and men passed through it.

Second World War military hospitals were in Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Bangour. The city was also Scottish Command Headquarters.

Edinburgh (Comely Bank) Cemetery contains 225 burials of the First World War, most of them forming a war graves plot in Section D. The Second World War plot is immediately in front and contains more than half of the 76 Second World War burials. The cemetery also contains a Finnish war grave and two non-war service burials.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Communal Commonwealth War Graves plot in Section D

An unusual feature of the War Graves plot is that the granite headstones lie flat. This was a decision made by the architect, Sir Robert Lorimer. The plot contains WW1 and WW2 casualties/Spanish Flu victims and a member of the Finnish Legion.

Photo of Lance Cpl. W. Knight's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland. (see Update below)



(Photo courtesy of Peter Drysdale)

Lance Corporal W. Knight's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland was replaced in 2021 to correct details on his previous headstone that were incorrect.



(Photo courtesy of Iain Anderson – CWGC 2021)



(Photo courtesy of Iain Anderson – CWGC 2021)



Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00524

Australian Graves at Comely Bank Cemetery in Edinburgh, Scotland.

(From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp, who was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War.)