

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2461 PRIVATE

W. A. KNIGHT

52ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND FEBRUARY, 1917

William Alfred KNIGHT

William Alfred Knight was born on 27th April, 1888 at Mackay, Queensland to parents Frederick Alfred & Martha Knight (nee Taylor).

Florence Ann Martha Knight (nee Taylor), mother of William Alfred Knight, died on 17th December, 1911 in the Mackay region, Queensland.

William Alfred Knight married Gladys Evans on 8th December, 1913 in Queensland.

A son – George William Knight was born on 17th October, 1913 to parents William Alfred & Gladys Knight (nee Evans).

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Ithaca, recorded William Alfred Knight, Conductor, of Bowen Bridge Road.

A son – Alfred John Knight was born on 3rd December, 1915 to parents William Alfred & Gladys Knight (nee Evans).

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Ithaca, recorded William Alfred Knight, Conductor, of Mackay Villa, Bowen Bridge Road.

William Alfred Knight was a 28 year old, married (with 2 children), Tram Conductor from Ross Street, Newstead, Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 1st May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2461 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Gladys Knight, of Ross Street, Newstead, Brisbane, Queensland. William Alfred Knight stated on his Attestation Papers that he served for 3 years with Naval Cadets & 2 years & 8 months with Light Horse. He was discharged at his own request.

Private William Alfred Knight was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 1st May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 52nd Battalion on 27th June, 1916.

Private William Alfred Knight embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Seang Choon (A49)* on 19th September, 1916 with the 52nd Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th December, 1916.

52nd Battalion

The 52nd Battalion was raised at Tel el Kebir in Egypt on 1 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were veterans from the 12th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 12th, the 52nd was originally a mix of men from South and Western Australia and Tasmania. From March 1916, the battalion's reinforcement groups mainly comprised men from Queensland. The 52nd became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

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 William Alfred Knight was sent sick to Compound Hospital on 22nd December, 1916 from 13th Training Battalion. He was admitted to Parkhouse Hospital, Wiltshire on 24th December, 1916 with Mumps & discharged on 6th January, 1917.

Private William Alfred Knight was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire on 15th January, 1917 with Bronchitis. He was discharged on 16th January, 1917 to No. 3 New Zealand Hospital at Codford. The Hospital Admissions form reads: "*Admitted No. 3 NZ Hospital this morning (16:1:17) in an unconscious condition. No history was obtained from Australian authorities.....retention of urine which was relieved. Several spots on abdomen...?cerebro spinal meningitis.*"

Private William Alfred Knight was transferred & admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital, Wiltshire on 17th January, 1917 with suspected Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Very ill on admission, wandering delirious....*"

Mrs G. Knight, Ross Street, Newstead, Queensland, wife of Private William Alfred Knight was advised by Base Records on 13th February, 1917 that Private William Knight had been admitted to hospital on 17th January with suspected meningitis – severe.

Private William Alfred Knight died on 22nd February, 1917 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

A death for William A. Knight, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private William Alfred Knight was buried on 26th February, 1917 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 121 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Gladys Knight, of Sandgate Rd, Albion, widow of the late Private William Alfred Knight, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 27th April, 1917. Pensions were also granted to the 2 sons of the late Private William Alfred Knight – George William Knight granted £1 per fortnight & Alfred John Knight granted 15/- per fortnight both from 27th April, 1917.

The Protestant Friendly Society of Australasia - Pride of Queensland Lodge No. 3 wrote to Base Records on 6th March, 1917 stating "*we have just received intimation that one of our member's Mr W. A. Knight, number 2461, 5th reinforcements, 52nd Battalion, 13th Infantry, died at the Wentworth Hospital, Salisbury Plains, on the 22nd February. As his widow is in poor circumstances, with two children, who have been more or less seriously ill for some time past, requires the Lodge funeral account at the earliest possible date. We should esteem it a favour if you could cause us to be furnished with a copy of the death notification, to enable us to liquidate the liability.*"

The Queensland Patriotic Fund, Brisbane requested from Base Records on 12th March, 1917 to "*kindly furnish proof of death of Private William Alfred Knight, No. 2426, 5th reinforcements, 52nd Battalion, 13th Brigade.*"

The Australian Mutual Provident Society, Brisbane, Queensland wrote to Base Records on 2nd April, 1917 with a request from Mrs Knight for the certificate of death for W. A. Knight which they requested be sent direct to them "*and shall be glad if you will please let us have it as soon as possible to expedite payment of the claim...*"

Mr A. Knight, Lime St, New Farm, Brisbane, Queensland, wrote to Base Records on 11th October, 1921 stating "*In answer to the advertisement re the next of kin on No. 2461 Private W. A. Knight, 52 Battalion, A.I.F. I wish to state that I am his Father and would be pleased to hear some information from you about him.*" Base Records replied on 25th October, 1921 stating that the widow of the late No. 2461 had "*in the meantime furnished this office with her present addressIt is not understood what particular information you desire in connection with the abovementioned soldier. Should you not be aware of the locality of his last resting place I have to advise that his remains were interred in Stratford Sub-Castle Churchyard, Salisbury, grave No. 121, C. of E. Section.*"

Private William Alfred Knight was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Knight's widow – Mrs G. Knight, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private W. A. Knight – service number 2461, of 52nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

W. A. Knight is remembered on the Mackay Cenotaph, located in Jubilee Park, Alfred Street, Mackay, Queensland.



(Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)



W. A. Knight is remembered on the Light Street Depot Roll of Honour, located at Brisbane Tramways Museum, Tramway Street, Ferny Grove, Queensland.



Light Street Depot Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

W. A. Knight is remembered on the Brisbane City Hall Honour Roll, located in Foyer, Brisbane City Hall, King George Square, Brisbane, Queensland.



Brisbane City Hall Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia)

Private W. A. 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 155.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(58 pages of Private William Alfred 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

ANOTHER BIG LIST

Casualty List No. 274 was released late last night....

QUEENSLAND

SERIOUSLY ILL

W. A. Knight, Newstead

(The Daily Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 24 February, 1917)

CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 277

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. A. Knight, Newstead, 22/2/17

(The Daily Mail, Brisbane, Queensland – 9 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

KNIGHT – On 22nd February at Wandworth Hospital, Salisbury Plains, England, William Alfred Knight, from meningitis, late Brisbane Tramway Company, aged 29.

Rest in Peace.

Inserted by his loving wife, father, brothers, sisters and relations.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 10 March, 1917) & (The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 16 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

KNIGHT – On 22nd February at Wanworth Hospital, Salisbury Plain, England, William Alfred Knight, from meningitis (late Brisbane Tramway Company), aged 29.

Rest in Peace.

Inserted by his wife and children.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 13 March, 1917) & (The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 17 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

KNIGHT – On the 22nd February at Wansworth Hospital, Salisbury Plains, England, from spinal meningitis, William Alfred Knight, dearly beloved husband of Gladys Knight, aged 29 years.

“He died for the honour of his country.”

(Inserted by his sorrowing Wife, Brisbane)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 30 March, 1917) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 7 April, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

KNIGHT – In loving memory Pte William Alfred Knight, died Salisbury Plains, 22nd February, 1917, aged 29 years.

For King and country.

Inserted by wife, father, sisters and brother.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 February, 1918) & (*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 1 March, 1918) &

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 March, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

KNIGHT – In loving memory Private William Alfred Knight, 52nd Batt., died Salisbury Plain, 22nd February, 1917, aged 29 years.

For King and country.

Inserted by wife, father, sisters and brothers.

KNIGHT – In loving memory of Private Q. A. Knight, who died in England, February 22nd, 1917.

Inserted by his brother and sister-in-law, George and Edith Knight.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 22 February, 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 19th July, 1921, to Mrs G. Knight, c/o Mr R. J. Graham, Coruma Street off Moore Street, Albion, Brisbane, Queensland, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late No. 2461 Private W. A. 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.

Mrs G. Knight, c/o Post Office, Oxford Street, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 14th October, 1921 stating she had *"heard from Queensland Brisbane that you were advertised for next of kin for Private William Alfred Knight No. 2461. Well I am his wife & have been living in Sydney for 2 years with my little boy George & Alfred Knight. I still draw the pension at the Oxford Street Post Office, Sydney."*

Base Records wrote to Mrs G. Knight, c/o Post Office, Oxford Street, Sydney, NSW on 18th October, 1921 stating they had to *"acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 14th October and attach hereto a letter and forms relating to the permanent memorial, etc., which were previously forwarded to your late address and returned unclaimed – hence the advertisement which appeared in the press. Kindly complete the forms and return to his office at the earliest possible date. Your present address has been noted on the records of your husband, the late No. 2461 Private W. A. Knight, 52nd Battalion."*

Private W. A. 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 W. A. 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)

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)