

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,  
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1562 PRIVATE**

**LESLIE KNOX**

**1ST BATTN. A.I.F.**

**15TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 21**

# Leslie KNOX

*real name* **Leopold KNOX**

Leopold Upton Knox was born at Dubbo, New South Wales in 1897 to parents Jaxon Graham Knox & Annie Knox (nee Vitnell).

[Note: A birth was registered in the district of Dubbo, NSW in 1891 for Leopold Knox, son of Jackson G. & Annie Knox. A death was registered in 1891 for Leopold Knox. A birth was registered in 1897 in the district of Dubbo, NSW for Leopold U. C. Knox, son of Jackson G. & Annie Knox.]

Jaxon Graham Knox, father of Leopold Knox, died on 22nd February, 1909 at Narromine, NSW.

Leslie Knox attended the Public School at Narromine, NSW.

Leopold Knox enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 7th January, 1915 at Liverpool Depot, New South Wales under the name of Leslie Knox & stated he was aged 21 years & 3 months, single & a Dealer from Frederick Street, Ashfield, New South Wales. His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his mother Mrs A. Knox of Frederick Street, Ashfield, Sydney, NSW. Leslie Knox stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born at Narromine, NSW.

He was issued a Service number of 1844 which was later changed to 1562. "Leo" was written above his name Leslie Knox on one of his Attestation Papers & one of the Casualty Forms – Active Service listed his name as Private L. J. Knox.

[Note: Private Knox was recorded as 3 different names on different forms in his Service Record file – Leslie Knox, Leo Knox & L. J. Knox. I have recorded his name as Private L. Knox in this research.]

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY PERSON BEING ENLISTED.\*

I, Leslie Knox swear that I will well and serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from 7/1/15

Rps 1844 Deceased

Army Form

Casualty Form – Active Service

Regimental No. 1562 Regiment or Corps 4<sup>th</sup> Rein 1<sup>st</sup> Batt  
Rank Pvt Name Knox, L

Enlisted (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Terms of Service (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Service reckons from (a) \_\_\_\_\_

ation of KNOX Leslie on Enlistment.

**CASUALTY SHEET.—BASE RECORDS, AUSTRALIA.**

Reg'l. No. 1562 (Name) KNOX L.J. (Unit) 1st Battn.

Private Leo Knox (name as per Embarkation Roll), Service number 1844, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on 10th April, 1915 on HMT *Argyllshire* (A8) with 1st Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.

Private L. Knox joined 1st Battalion at Gallipoli on 26th May, 1915.

Private L. Knox was admitted to 1st Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac – Gallipoli on 20th July, 1915 with Pyrexia (Fever). He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Sicilia* on 20th July, 1915 & disembarked at Malta on 28th July, 1915. He was admitted to St. Andrews Hospital, Malta on 28th July, 1915 then transferred on 11th August, 1915 to All Saints Convalescent Camp. Private Knox embarked from Malta for Egypt on 21st August, 1915 on HMT *Southland*.

Mrs A. Knox, Frederick Street, Ashfield, NSW was advised by Secretary of Defence on 5th August, 1915 that her son Private L. Knox was “*sick slight. Disembarked Malta Hospital Ship Sicilia 28th July. Will advise upon receipt further particulars.*”

Private L. Knox reported at Overseas Base Depot at Mustapha on 23rd August, 1915 from Malta. He embarked on HMT *Karoo* on 30th August, 1915 from Alexandria for the Front. Private Knox rejoined 1st Battalion on 8th September, 1915.

Mrs A. Knox, Frederick Street, Ashfield, NSW was advised by Secretary of Defence on 24th September, 1915 that her son Private L. Knox had been admitted to Hospital at Malta from Hospital Ship *Sicilia* suffering from Pyrexia on 28th July.

Private L. Knox disembarked from HMT *Huntsgreen* at Alexandria on 28th December, 1915 (after the evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private L. Knox proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 on HMT *Ivernia*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private L. Knox was “On Command” at Sniping School in France from 18th June, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion on 23rd June, 1916 from “On Command” at Sniping School of Instruction.

Private L. Knox was wounded in action in France - 22/25th July, 1916 (dates as per Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to 1/2 South Midland Field Ambulance on 23rd July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to Forehead & Neck. Private Knox was transferred to No. 44 Casualty Clearing Station on 26th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head. admitted to No. 8 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 6th August, 1916 with G.S.W. to Head & Neck. He was transferred to Havre, France on 8th August, 1916 & embarked for England on 9th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Maheno*.

### **1st Battalion**

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

## War Diary – 1st Battalion

22nd July, 1916:

*Arrangements made for attack. Operation order attached. Extra stores of bombs, ammunition, water & stores were brought to the firing line. Officers sent back Major Lindeman, Lieuts Macgregor, McShane and Beavis. While the attack took place*

*Bn Headquarters moved at 1730 to position in the firing line. A & B Coys left trench at 2345, C & D followed suit when ground was clear.*

23rd July, 1916 Contalmaison:

*Artillery barrage for 2 minutes started at 0028 and at 0045. Message received from Lt Burstall that German trenches on the right were taken at 0109. A message then received that German 2nd line trenches were taken but no particulars were forthcoming. 60 prisoners were brought into the old firing line and sent back to the A.P.M. at Albert at 0130. Satisfactory information was not forthcoming so Lt. Col. J. Heane D.S.O. with Bombers, H.Q. Staff and Signallers went to German first line leaving Lt Col, O. G. Howell-Price in charge of the old Bn Headqrs dugout. A message was then sent to the Brigadier that the line was taken. Col Hearn met Lt Burstall in German 1st line and sent him immediately for information about the 2nd and 3rd lines. Word received that 3rd line was taken about 0145. Work at consolidating the 1st line commenced. Signallers obtained communication with 3rd Bn. Wires were run to D. Coy in the 2nd line.....*

*Our losses to 12 noon on the 24th July were 5 Officers and 67 (?) other ranks killed, 6 Officers and 197 other ranks wounded, 49 other ranks missing and 2 Officers Died of wounds.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private L. Knox was admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, Fishponds, Bristol, England on 10th August, 1916 wounded. He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, on 14th October, 1916. Private Knox was reported to be seriously ill on 6th November, 1916.

Mrs A. Knox, Frederick Street, Ashfield, NSW was advised by Base Records on 31st August, 1916 that "No 1844 Private L. Knox, 1st Battalion has been reported wounded, the nature of which is not yet known here."

Mrs A. Knox, Frederick Street, Ashfield, NSW was advised by Base Records on 13th November, 1916 that her "...son Private Leslie Know seriously ill will furnish progress report when received."

Private L. Knox died at 6.55 am on 15th November, 1916 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. to Skull & Septic Meningitis.

The Report of Death of a Soldier (Army Form B. 2090) recorded No. 1562 Private Leo Knox, 1st Battalion, died on 15th November, 1916 at No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex from (primary) Gun shot wound Skull (secondary) Septic Meningitis.

A death for Leo Knox, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private Leslie Knox was buried on 17th November, 1916 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number Aust. 11 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. (Note: His headstone has the name "Leslie Knox")


Annie Knox, "Armoy" Frederick St, Ashfield, wrote to Base Records on 28th January, 1917 regarding her son No. 1844 Private Leo Knox, 4th Reinforcements, 1st Battalion. "Would you please send me a certificate of the death of my son Pvt L. Knox who died in the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, on the 15/11/16. I was advised at the

Victoria Barracks to write & ask you for a certificate of death. I had a little money placed in the Gov Savings Bank which my son was to have drawn on his attaining his majority. I now wish to draw same but cannot do so without proof of death & it will be some time I was informed before his pay book comes through. You will oblige."

Base Records replied to Mrs A. Knox on 1st February, 1917 enclosing as requested a certificate of report of death of the late No. 1562, Private L. Knox, 1st Battalion.

Annie Knox, "Armoy" Frederick St, Ashfield, replied to Base Records on 17th February, 1917 with the following: "The death certificate as requested to hand, but there is a slight mistake in the name. Deceased's name was Leopold Knox he always signed Leo Knox. I took the certificate to the Barracks in Sydney & they told me they could do nothing but advised me to return it to you for correction. Would you be so kind as to send me a corrected form ? as it is absolutely useless to me bearing the name Leslie. You will greatly oblige."

RM



Australian Imperial Expeditionary Forces.

This is to Certify that, according to the records, No. 1562, (1844) ~~Private Leslie Knox,~~  
~~1st Battalion,~~  
~~Australian Imperial Force.~~

died of (No record available)

at 1st Auxilliary Hospital, on 15th November, 1916.  
Harefield.

The official notification of the above is contained in Cable No. C.I.B.L. 715, from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 16th November, 1916, confirmed by Mail from the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London, 20th November, 1916.

Melbourne, 1st February, 1917.

*[Signature]*  
Major.  
Officer in Charge Base Records.

D.586/7.15.-C.9076

Base Records replied to Mrs A. Knox on 26th February, 1917 enclosing "as requested, an amended certificate of report of death of the late No. 1562, Private L. Knox, 1st Battalion."

A War Pension was granted to Annie Knox, "Armoy" Frederick St, Ashfield, mother of the late Private Leo Knox, 1844, 1st Battalion, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 19th January, 1917.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Knox, "Armoy" Frederick St, Ashfield, NSW on 23rd March, 1920 stating she was noted as the registered next of kin of the late No. 1844/1562 Private L. Knox, 1st Battalion but were enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was still alive. (The "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" 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.)

Annie Knox, "Armoy" 76 Frederick St, Ashfield, replied to Base Records on 28th March, 1920 advising "I am the nearest blood relation to the late Pvt L. Knox No 1844 of the 1st Battalion, his father died at Narromine N.S.W. on 21st Feb 1909."

Private Leo (Leslie) Knox was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Knox's widowed mother – Mrs A. Knox, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie Knox – service number 1562, aged 21, of 1st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Jaxon Grahame Knox & Annie Knox, of Ashfield, Sydney.

Leo Knox is remembered on the Ashfield Presbyterian Church Roll of Honor, located in Ashfield Presbyterian Church, 1 Knox Street, Ashfield, Sydney, NSW.



Ashfield Presbyterian Church Roll of Honor (Photo from War Memorials Register of NSW – Laurie Parks)

Leo Knox is remembered on the Ashfield Presbyterian Church Great War Memorial Window and Honour Roll, located in Ashfield Presbyterian Church, 1 Knox Street, Ashfield, Sydney, NSW.



(Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW – Laurie Parks)





**Ashfield Presbyterian Church Great War Memorial Window and Honour Roll**

The Ashfield War Memorial located in Ashfield Park, corner Orpington Street & Parramatta Road, Ashfield, NSW does not list individual names.



**Ashfield War Memorial** (Photo from War Memorials Register of NSW – Robert Ingui)



Private L. Knox is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 29.

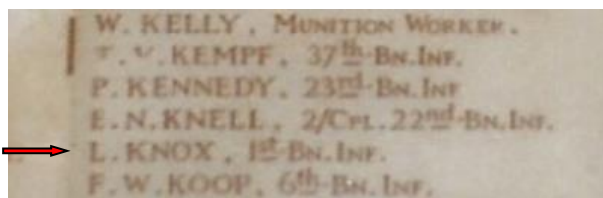


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

L. Knox is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.

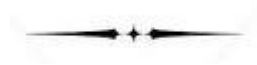


Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



(76 pages of Private Leslie Knox'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**

### **ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **64th CASUALTY LIST**

The following is the continuation of the 64th casualty list, wounded, etc...

Pte L. Knox, 1st Bn. (4th Rfcts), Ashfield (disembarked at Malta).

*(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 17 August, 1915)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **THE 90TH LIST**

##### **New South Wales**

In Hospital

AT MALTA – Pte L. KNOX, 1st (Ashfield)

*(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 13 October, 1915)*

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#### **CASUALTY LIST**

The 167th casualty list ....

NEW SOUTH WALES

RETURNED TO DUTY

Pte L. KNOX, Ashfield (previously reported ill)

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 6 May, 1916)*

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## **LATEST CASUALTY LIST**

### **Many Wounded and Sick**

The 244th casualty list.....

Died of wounds or other causes: Pte L. Knox (Ashfield)

*(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 28 November, 1916)*

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## **CASUALTIES**

### **244th LIST**

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Pte L. Knox, Ashfield (15/11/16)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 November, 1916)*

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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)*

## St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

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.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P02293.001

Harefield, Middlesex, England. c. 1918. The Australian corner of Harefield churchyard, containing the graves of 111 AIF personnel and one nursing sister who died of wounds or illness at No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park. The graves have rectangular headstones with carved scrolls at top and bottom and all bear the words "Erected by his comrades" and "ANZAC".

Reading from front to back the headstones include:

Far left: 170 Private (Pte.) Robert Sydney Wake, 5th Battalion, died 1916-02-08 aged 24; 323 Private (Pte.) Cecil Rupert Rowlands, Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC) died 1916-07-20;

second row: 185 Private (Pte.) George Arthur Kelly, 2nd Battalion, died 1916-04-17 aged 31; **1562 Private (Pte.) Leslie Knox, 1st Battalion, died 1916-11-15 aged 21;**

third row: 196 Sergeant (Sgt) Thomas Regan, 8th Light Horse Regiment, died 1916-07-02 aged 27; 1748 Private (Pte.) Percy Albert Giddens, 14th Battalion, died 1917-01-01;

fourth row: 4585 Private (Pte.) Arthur John Taylor, 10th Battalion, died 1916-07-16 aged 37; 13810 Private (Pte.) Mervyn Francis Moffatt, 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, died 1916-10-10 aged 19.

Photo of Private Leslie Knox's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*



**St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield** (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield** (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

