

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



3861 PRIVATE

C. A. JENNINGS

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND MARCH, 1918 Age 21

HE HAS DONE HIS DUTY

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte C A Jennings is located in Last Row of Australians (Right hand side) Grave Plot # 53 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 96)

Clarence Albert Jennings was born at Port MacDonnell, South Australia to parents Robert Edward & Mary Ann Carrison Jennings in 1895. He was a 22 year old, single Labourer from Mt. Gambier, South Australia when he enlisted on 30th June, 1917 with the 5th Pioneer Battalion, 10th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3861 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. A. Carrison, Tea Tree Farm, Port MacDonnell, South Australia.

Pte Clarence Albert Jennings embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 30th October, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th December, 1917. Whilst at sea, Pte Jennings was admitted to the Ship's hospital on 1st November, 1917 for 1 day, suffering seasickness. He was again admitted to the ship's hospital from 28th November, 1917 until 19th December, 1917, suffering from mumps.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Jennings was marched in to the 15th Training Battalion at Sutton Veny on 27th December, 1917. He was then transferred to 32nd Battalion at Codford on 2nd January, 1918.

Pte Jennings was absent without leave from 2400 hrs on 6th February, 1918 & was apprehended at 0930 hours on 12th February, 1918. He was given a total of 13 days forfeiture of pay.

Pte Jennings was admitted sick to Clearing Hospital at Codford from 15th Training Battalion & transferred to New Zealand General Hospital on 25th February, 1918 with measles & pneumonia.

Pte Clarence Albert Jennings died at 4.40 p.m. on 22nd March, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand Hospital at Codford. A Post Mortem examination was conducted on 23rd March, 1918 & the result was "*Bacteriological investigation of heart blood & spleen pulp is being carried out*". Later Army forms carried the cause of death as measles & Purulent Bronchitis.

A death for Clarence A Jennings, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte Clarence Albert Jennings – he was buried on 25th March, 1918 at St Mary's Cemetery Codford, Grave No. 96 with a Military Funeral. *Coffin was good Elm. – Pte Jennings was a keen soldier and his conduct was exemplary. He was very popular and his loss is keenly felt.*

Pte Clarence Albert Jennings requested in his Will, dated 10th July, 1917 that all his personal property including his Military Estate to be given to his mother – Mary Ann Carrison of Port MacDonnell, South Australia.

Private C. A. Jennings is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



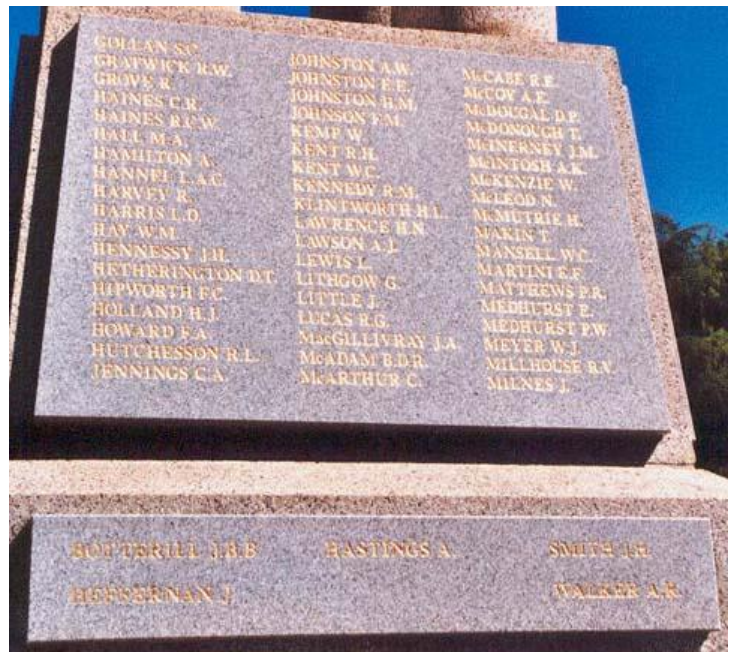
(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

Pte Clarence Jennings is also remembered on the Port MacDonnell War Memorial, located on the corner of Esplanade and Charles Streets.



Port MacDonnell War Memorial (Photos from Tributes of Honour)

Pte Clarence Albert Jennings is also remembered on the Mt Gambier War Memorial in Vansittart Park.



Mt. Gambier War Memorial (Photos from Tributes of Honour)

Pte Clarence Albert Jennings 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 Pte Jennings' mother (as his father was deceased) – Mrs M. A. Carrison of Tea Tree Farm, Port MacDonnell, South Australia (July, 1921 & November, 1922)

(49 pages of Pte Clarence Albert Jennings' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

388th Casualty List

SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Died of Illness

Private C. A. Jennings, Port Macdonnell, March 22.

(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW, Tuesday 9th April, 1918)

PORT MACDONNELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

The April meeting of the Port MacDonnell District Council was held on Monday.....

CR. Laslett said that since last meeting Priv. Clarence Jennings had died in England. He had been on active service. He moved that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mr and Mrs Walter Carrison, his parents, in their sad bereavement. – Carried.

(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia, Tuesday 9th April, 1918)

** SOLDIERS DIED WITH SAME SERVICE NUMBER – BOTH BURIED AT CODFORD

Pte Frank James Cattermole had a service number of 3861 with the 48th Battalion, Australian Infantry. Pte Clarence Albert Jennings also had a service number of 3861 but with the 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. Both men died of bronchitis & are buried with a grave in between them at Codford ANZAC Cemetery. Jennings died 22nd March, 1918 & Cattermole died 14th June, 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 at Codford War Graves Cemetery. 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)

Pte C. A. Jennings does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte C. A. Jennings' Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



(Photo by Romy Wyeth)