

**Wareham Cemetery,
Wareham, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6352 PRIVATE

J. JENNISON

13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 48

*In Memory
Of My Dear Brother
We Miss Him Most
Who Loved Him Best*

John JENNISON

John Jennison was born at Caversham, Dunedin, New Zealand (according to details listed on his Attestation Papers, while several Trees on Ancestry state he was born at Otakaruma Station, Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand) on 22nd July, 1869 to parents Charles Just Jennison and Betsy Ann Jennison (nee Chitty).

John Jennison attended Palmerstone South School, New Zealand.

Bessy Jennison, mother of John Jennison, died on 6th February, 1878 at Palmerston, New Zealand.

John Jennison came to Australia when he was 40 years of age, according to information supplied by his sister – Mrs Adelaide Milligan, for the Roll of Honour.

John Jennison was a 42 year old, single, Carpenter from Coffs Harbour, NSW (according to Embarkation Roll) when he enlisted at Casula, Sydney, NSW on 14th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6352 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Adelaide Milligan, Henley, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Private John Jennison was posted to "B" Company Depot Battalion at Casuala on 14th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company, 13th Battalion on 7th March, 1916 then transferred to "C" Company of 13th Battalion on 1st May, 1916. Private Jennison was transferred to "A" Company of 13th Battalion on 23rd May, 1916. He was transferred to 19th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion on 25th May, 1916 then on 25th August, 1916 transferred to 2019th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion.

Private John Jennison embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 9th September, 1916 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 26th October, 1916.

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 counties of Wiltshire & Dorset.

Private John Jennison was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire from No. 4 Camp, Wareham on 4th November, 1916.

Private John Jennison was sent to Hospital from No. 3 Command Depot at Wool, Dorset on 7th November, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (Not yet determined).

Private John Jennison died at 5.45 am on 14th December, 1916 at Military Hospital, Wool, Bovington Camp, Dorset, England from Carcinoma of Stomach.

A death for John Jennison, aged 43, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Wareham, Dorset, England.

Private John Jennison was buried on 16th December, 1916 in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England – Plot number B. C. 14 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

John Jennison, Carpenter, of Northcote, Auckland, New Zealand was listed in the New Zealand Notices of Deceased Estates as having died Testate.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Milligan, Henly, Dunedin, New Zealand, sister of the late Private John Jennison, in March, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself 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. Mrs Milligan stated that her parents were both deceased (a death was registered in 1918 for Charles Just Jennison, father of the late Private John Jennison) but advised there was an older brother –

William Just Jennison of c/- P.O. Middlemarch, Otago Central, New Zealand. Base Records wrote to Mr W. J. Jennison in May, 1921, stating that as Mrs A. Milligan had been listed as the next-of kin by their late brother upon enlistment & they were enquiring if he had any objections to the War Medals being awarded to Mrs Milligan or whether he desired them to be transmitted to himself, being the person entitled to receive the items under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918. No reply was received.

Private John Jennison 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 Jennison's sister - Mrs Adelaide Milligan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent June, 1922). Mrs Adelaide Milligan, of Queen Street, Milton, New Zealand, signed a Statutory Declaration on 26th April, 1922, declaring that she would preserve all medals & memorabilia given to her on account of the service of her brother, No. 6352 Private J. Jennison, 13th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force and would produce them to the Department of Defence at any time upon receipt in writing if they were required for the purpose of being handed to someone having prior claims.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Jennison – service number 6352, aged 48, of 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles Just Jennison and Betsy Ann Jennison.

Private J. Jennison 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

(48 pages of Private John Jennison'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LISTS 257 AND 258 ISSUED

DIED OF ILLNESS

NEW SOUTH WALES

J. Jennison, New Zealand.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria , Australia– 27 December, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

WELLINGTON, December 30.

Australian Forces, next-of-kin resident in New Zealand:-

Died from Sickness – Privates Jennison and Frear

(*Hastings Standard*, New Zealand, Volume VI, Issue 318 – 30 December, 1916) & (*Wanganui Chronicle*, New Zealand, Volume LX, Issue 16852 - 1 January, 1917)

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*)

Private J. Jennison does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of My Dear Brother

We Miss Him Most Who Loved Him Best

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset contains 71 Commonwealth War Graves. Wareham Military Hospital, with 185 beds, was at Worgret Camp during the First World War and the regimental depot of the Royal Armoured Corps was at nearby Bovington during the Second World War. Wareham Cemetery contains 49 First World War burials and 15 from the Second World War, 5 being unidentified. The cemetery also contains 12 German burials, 1 being an unidentified airman. *(Information from CWGC)*



Wareham Cemetery, Wareham *(Photos courtesy of Tracy Dunne)*



Photo of Private J. Jennison's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)



Private J. Jennison's headstone marked by red arrow (Photo from "[Following the Twenty-Second](#)")