

Baverstock War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



4174 PRIVATE

M. KENNY

29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14th JANUARY, 1917 Age 42*

(*should be 43 according to age on Attestation Papers & 41 according to his wife – Roll of Honour information)

Michael KENNY

Michael Kenny was born at Whittlesea, Victoria around 1874 to parents Michael & Christina Kenny. Michael Kenny married Evelyn Margaret Vincent in 1901, in Victoria.

Michael Kenny was a 42 year old, married, Labourer from 143 Elizabeth Street, North Richmond, Victoria when he enlisted on 16th May, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4174 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Evelyn Kenny, 143 Elizabeth Street, North Richmond, Victoria.

Pte Michael Kenny embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 21st October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 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 county of Wiltshire.

Private Michael Kenny was admitted to Isolation Hospital on 14th January, 1917 from “A” Company 8th Training Battalion, No. 9 & 10 Camps, Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Michael Kenny died at 1.30 p.m. on 14th January, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Michael Kenny, aged 43, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Information from Roll of Honour, completed by the widow of Pte Kenny states his age at death as being 41 years.)

Private Michael Kenny was buried on 16th January, 1917 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

From the burial report of Pte Michael Kenny – *He was buried with full Military Honours, a Firing Party and Band being supplied by the 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott. The Rev. Miller, Church of England minister officiated.*

Private M. Kenny is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 115.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Michael Kenny was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Kenny's widow – Mrs Eveline M. Kenny (December, 1921 & August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Michael Kenny – service number 4174, as being 42 years old & served with 29th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Michael and Christina Kenny. Born Whittlesea, Victoria.

A War Pension was granted to Eveline Maggie Kenny, of North Richmond, widow of late Pte Michael Kenny, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 19th March, 1917. Pensions were also granted to the late Pte Michael Kenny's five children :

- Adeline Lucy Kenny - granted £1 per fortnight from 19th March, 1917
- Verena Maud Kenny - granted 15/- per fortnight from 19th March, 1917
- Thelma Noreen Kenny - granted 10/- per fortnight from 19th March, 1917
- Thomas Vincent Kenny - granted 10/- per fortnight from 19th March, 1917
- James Michael Kenny – granted £1 per fortnight from 29th March, 1917

(38 pages of Pte Michael Kenny's 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

ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST No. 269

VICTORIA - Died of Illness

M. Kenny, N. Richmond

(The Brisbane Courier – Queensland – Tuesday 30 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 at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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 28th June, 1921, to Mrs E. Kenny, 143 Elizabeth Street, North Richmond advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte M. Kenny, 4174, 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. A letter, not dated, in the Service Record File for Pte Michael Kenny, to Base Records, from Mrs E. Kenny advises a change of address to 10 Mackay St, Essendon – date received 13th December, 1921.

Pte M. Kenny does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte M. Kenny's CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.

(Photo from CWGC)