

# CAPTAIN CLARENCE SMITH JEFFRIES, VC





COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 55946

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE,  
BASE RECORDS OFFICE, A. I. F.,  
MELBOURNE. 26th April, 1918.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Fifth Supplement No. 30433 to the London Gazette dated 14th December, 1917, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, the late Captain C. S. Jeffries, 54th Battalion.

x x x x

AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS

\* HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer :-

Captain CLARENCE SMITH JEFFRIES.

For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when his Company was held up by enemy machine-gun fire from concrete emplacements. Organizing a party, he rushed one emplacement, capturing four machine-guns and 35 prisoners. He then led his company forward under extremely heavy enemy artillery barrage and enfilade machine-gun fire to the objective.

Later, he again organized a successful attack on a machine-gun emplacement, capturing two machine-guns and thirty more prisoners.

This gallant officer was killed during the attack, but it was entirely due to his bravery and initiative that the center of the attack was not held up for a lengthy period. His example had a most inspiring influence. \*

x x x x

The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 57 dated 18th April, 1918.

Yours faithfully,

J. Jeffries, Esq.,  
General Manager,  
Abermain Collieries,  
Abermain, N.S.W.

*J. J. J.* Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records.



**Treasure:** Principal Robyn Cragg with the historic World War I letters found in a school clean-up.

## Hero lives again after King's letter found in school clean-up

By EDWARD O'REILLY

STAFF of Waratah Technology High dug up more than they bargained for when they embarked on a recent clean-up of the school's old store rooms.

Hidden among the fading posters and tattered textbooks was a piece of history regarded to be of national significance.

At the centre of interest are two framed letters relating to former student and later a captain in the Australian Imperial Forces during World War I, Clarence Smith Jeffries.

Capt Jeffries was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross after charging two machine-gun nests at Passchendaele, France, in October, 1917.

The 23-year-old's group of 15 men captured more than 60 enemy soldiers and six machine guns during the two attacks.

The letters, accompanied by a miniature Victoria Cross, are addressed to Capt Jeffries's father Joshua, then superintendent at Abermain Collieries.

The first told Mr Jeffries of the details of his son's death and of King George's approval of the granting of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery in the former British Empire.

In the second letter, signed



Awarded: Capt Jeffries

personally by King George, Mr Jeffries was told that the King regretted he could not present the award personally.

How and when the letters came to be in the school's possession is unknown, but the recent clean-out almost resulted in them being lost forever.

Covered in dust and grime, the letters could not be seen beneath the frame's glass and were thrown into the garbage skips by the school staff.

It was only by chance that the school caretaker Mr Ron Wood-

house noticed the frame itself was in good condition and rescued it from the garbage.

'I rubbed the dust off it and saw it was signed by someone called George,' Mr Woodhouse said.

'I didn't think much of it at first, but then I cleaned the rest of it and realised it may have been important.

'I had someone check them out and found they were authentic.'

School principal Ms Robyn Cragg, who is also a lieutenant-colonel in the Australian Army Reserve, recognised the letters' value immediately.

Ms Cragg said it was only last year that the school built a memorial display to Capt Jeffries in the school's foyer.

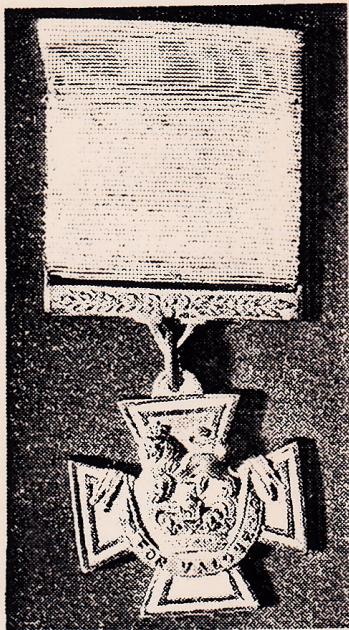
'No doubt about it, these are of national significance,' Ms Cragg said.

'How they came to be discarded is unknown, but from the amount of dirt and grime on them they have been stored for a long, long time, possibly since the school moved to this location in 1936.'

Ms Cragg said the documents would need restoration and the school wanted to forward them to another location for permanent public display.

# Memories of Hunter's heroes are still shining down the years

TODAY on the other side of the world at Sailly-le-Sec, in France, 14 aged former Australian Diggers will lay a wreath and a scroll of honour will be unveiled at Australia's 3rd Division Army Memorial. The major commemorative ceremony is to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War I and coincides with the decisive battles won by the Australian forces on the Western Front in 1918. This reminder of the loss of 46,000 Aussie soldiers over there is very timely because last week a colleague had an odd inquiry. A former student at Newcastle Boys High (Waratah High since 1977) raised an issue after the RSL recently bought Kevin 'Dasher' Wheatley's 1965 posthumous Victoria Cross for valour at auction for a record \$165,000. And the inquiry was: whatever happened to the old Victoria Cross once in the foyer of Newcastle Boys High School?



The Victoria Cross

EVERYONE later seemed to agree that the missing VC was awarded posthumously to the Hunter Valley's Captain Clarence Jeffries for gallantry at Passchendaele, France, on October 12, 1917. Later, Col Standen, president of the NBHS Old Boys Association, said he believed that the VC was now in permanent safekeeping in a side passage in Newcastle's Christ Church Cathedral, which was exactly where *Topics* found it.

IF anyone knows about WWI military matters it's Dave Dial, military historian, of Pelaw Main, who wears the full Light Horse-



with  
**Mike Scanlon**



Lt James  
Bruce

Capt Clarence  
Jeffries

man's uniform and is in every Anzac Day parade. And it turned out that Dave did indeed know a bit about the late Clarence Jeffries, of Abermain. 'There's actually a plaque at Dudley Public School to Jeffries and also to Currie, another VC winner, who both went to that school,' he said.

DAVE also said that a former Hunter Valley miner, James Bruce, who was a sergeant with Jeffries in the 34th Battalion when the latter died at Passchendaele in 1917, had earlier worked for Jeffries's father, Joshua, the then superintendent of Abermain Collieries. 'Jeffries was an only child and Bruce was actually looking after Jeffries, who was only a fortnight shy of his 23rd birthday when he was killed,' said Dave. 'Jeffries's company, including he and Bruce, came under very heavy fire but captured six enemy machine guns and 65 prisoners that day. They were ordinary men doing superhuman feats. Now Bruce was 38 years of age, and married with four children, when he enlisted in World War I. And he came from Pelaw Main, the same town where I now live. Bruce, later a lieutenant, was killed in 1918, and Joshua Jeffries, in gratitude for Bruce trying to look after his son, made two of Bruce's eldest sons trainee mining surveyors. They were only 14 or 15 years old. It was very unusual. And Alice, the widow of James

Bruce's second eldest son, Tom, is still alive today in Pelaw Main.' People might be interested to know also that even today there is a Jeffries Park with a magnificent war memorial on donated land in Abermain. And now you know why it's there.

WELL, if the late Capt Jeffries seems almost unknown today, then Sgt, later Lt, James Bruce is truly a forgotten Hunter hero even though he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) and Military Cross. Dave Dial again: 'I put a Roll of Honour remembrance notice in *The Newcastle Herald* on July 17 this year on the 75th anniversary of his death,' said Dave of the fearless late Lt Bruce. Dave also suspects that the Germans may have put a bounty on Bruce's head. 'Bruce had red hair and even a German nickname. He was called the "Ginger-haired Australian Devil" as he'd killed about 30 enemy.' And, finally, did I mention that included in the 3rd Division being honoured in France today are the 34th and 35th Battalions. Jeffries and Bruce belonged to the 34th (called 'Maitland's Own') and the 35th was 'Newcastle's Own'. Dave Dial said the 34th Battalion's colours were purple on green but Newcastle's 35th Battalion colours were brown on gold, which are still Newcastle's City Council colours and can be seen on any official flag, say, atop the Newcastle Town Hall or by driving past the flagpole at the NCC's works depot in Turton Rd, Waratah.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

### ROLL OF HONOUR

**BRUCE**, Lieut. James. —  
D.C.M., M.C.  
34th Battalion First AIF.  
K.I.A. 17th July, 1918.  
Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

GARLIC is the main ingredient in a festival early next month in the cultural melting pot of Sydney's inner west. The inaugural Multicultural Herb and Garlic Festival (September 11 and 12) is hoped to ease tensions and attract 150,000 to Marrickville, recently dubbed Australia's most multicultural municipality. As Ms Maureen Mead, one of the coordinators, said: 'There are over 70 languages spoken here so I think garlic is one of the few things people have in common, apart from social security.'



# Victoria Cross ribbon switch stuns historian

NH 6.3.99

By MIKE SCANLON

THE ribbon of a prized Victoria Cross medal held in trust by Christ Church Cathedral has been replaced after complaints that it was 'shabby'.

Stunned military historian David Dial said the rare World War I medal was won posthumously by the Hunter Valley's Captain Clarence Jeffries in October 1917 for valour in the Battle of Passchendaele.

The value of the medal in an untouched state is unknown but the Victorian RSL paid \$134,000 last November for an 1918 medal won by another Australian.

Mr Dial said on Thursday he had first heard rumours from a suburban RSL last January that the ribbon on the Jeffries medal had been quietly replaced.

A trip to the cathedral confirmed his fears.

'At the time I was helping visiting Belgium war historian Jeroen Huygelier,' Mr Dial said.

'He also felt that the Hunter's Victoria Cross medal was now not the same.

'Admittedly, the original ribbon had faded ... but the brand new ribbon is also much shorter.'

Mr Dial said Capt Jeffries' mother gave



**Captain Jeffries**

the VC to the cathedral in 1950 for 'permanent safekeeping' in memory of those killed in the Great War.

The Dean of Newcastle, the Very Rev Graeme Lawrence, said there had been complaints about the 'shabby' state of the medal.

'I wanted to make sure it was in pristine condition, to restore its lost lustre,' he said.

'I acted out of good faith to preserve it.'

Dean Lawrence did not know the whereabouts of the removed ribbon.

An RSL member who worked on war ribbons had offered to restore the 82-year-old medal.

'I don't even know if it was the original ribbon or not anyway,' Dean Lawrence said.

The ribbon had been replaced 'some months ago'.

**Mystery:** The Victoria Cross awarded posthumously to Captain Clarence Jeffries for valour in the Battle of Passchendaele in October 1917.

*Extract from the 'Newcastle Regional Museum Newsletter' April 1995:*

By the time that the First World War ended in 1918, approximately 17 000 men and women from the Hunter Valley had enlisted and served in the Australian Forces. Of these 17 000, only three individuals were awarded the famous Victoria Cross.

The Victoria Cross was instituted in 1856, as a reward for acts of extreme valour demonstrated in the field by one hundred and eleven British soldiers during the Crimean War. It was available to both officers and men at the time and is currently also available to civilians and women. It remains the most highly prized military award on earth.

The three Newcastle recipients were all twenty-two years of age when they qualified for the award. All were infantrymen, two were junior officers and they each served in a different unit and earned their V.C.s on different battlefields. Two of the three lived to receive their award.

Captain Clarence Smith Jeffries, born at Wallsend and the son of the manager of the Abermain Colliery, was the first to qualify for the award. Serving with "Maitland's Own" 34th Battalion, he was leading his company in the Third battle of Ypres (Belgium), near Passchendaele, when he was pinned down by enemy machine gun fire emanating from concrete dug-outs. He quickly organised a team of two NCOs and twelve men and, despite the thick and muddy ground, rushed the machine guns. This resulted in the capture of four machine guns and thirty-five enemy troops. The whole company then advanced still under heavy artillery and new machine gun fire which had commenced to the right of the company position. He again organised an attacking party which stole up on the gun when it was firing in another direction but was killed when the machine gun swung onto him. Despite this, the group succeeded in capturing two machine guns and thirty more prisoners. He is buried at Tyne Cot Military Cemetery, Belgium.

*From the Newcastle Herald "Topics" (undated, 1995) the following additional information is attributed to Dave Dial of Pelaw Main:*

A former Hunter Valley miner, James Bruce, who was a sergeant with Jeffries in the 34th Battalion when the latter died at Passchendaele in 1917, had earlier worked for Jeffries' father, Joshua, the then superintendent of Abermain Collieries. Jeffries was an only child and Bruce was actually looking after Jeffries, who was only a fortnight shy of his 23rd birthday when he was killed. Jeffries' company, including him and Bruce, came under very heavy fire but captured six enemy machine guns and 65 prisoners that day. They were ordinary men doing superhuman feats. Now Bruce was 38 years of age, and married with four children, when he enlisted in World War 1. He came from Pelaw Main. Bruce, later a lieutenant, was killed in 1918, and Joshua Jeffries, in gratitude for Bruce trying to look after his son, made two of Bruce's eldest sons' trainee mining surveyors. They were only 14 or 15 years old. It was very unusual. And Alice, the widow of James Bruce's second eldest son, Tom, is still alive today in Pelaw Main. There is a Jeffries park with a magnificent war memorial on donated land in Abermain.

### *Other Information From Miscellaneous Sources (unverified 1997)*

From C Standen (4/97): Born 26/10/1894; was 20 years old when he applied for a commission; killed in the Battle of Ypres, Phase 5, on 12/10/17 (two weeks before his 23rd birthday); VC awarded 17/10/97; his grave is at the Tyne Cot British Cemetery, Passchendaele, "5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles E.N.E. of Ypres", Belgium, Plot 40, Row "E", Grave 1.

From G Clayton (3/97): Joined CMF 1/7/12 (14th Infantry, but some mention of the 14th Hunter River Lancers); private for 6 months; corporal for 6 months; promoted to sergeant 1/7/13; completed an exam 30/5/14 and qualified for commission appointment; made a provisional lieutenant 1/7/15; became a 2nd lieutenant 30/4/16.

### *NBHS OBA Committee Meeting Records*

The Minutes of Committee Meeting of 16/11/95 record the fact that Doug Kelly had successfully bid for two items of Jeffries memorabilia at auction, at a total cost of \$580. These comprised his personal, signed copy of the military textbook "Solutions of Practical Problems", dated 1913, and an inventory of his personal effects consigned to his mother after his death. These were added to the NRL collection.

The Minutes of 8/2/96: Doug Kelley had been told that the Jeffries VC, held by the Newcastle Cathedral, is in poor condition. He also believed that the Jeffries campaign medals may not have been collected from the Defence Dept., in which case they could still be collected by someone with the proper authority. DK was to investigate further.

### *Hospitalisation*

Capt. Jeffries was wounded in action on 9/6/17, embarked for England on 15/6/17, and was admitted to London General Hospital 16/6/17, with a "G.S.W. Thigh" (gun shot wound to the thigh?). He was transferred from the hospital on 21/6/17 and shown as "Convalescent" on 4/7/17. He "proceeded overseas France" on 27/8/17 and rejoined his unit on 2/9/17. He was killed in action on 12/10/17.

### *Medals*

The 1914/15 Star was issued, signed N E, presumably before Jeffries was killed (whereabouts unknown).

He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross on 21/12/17.

The following were sent to his father: British War Medal, D/39, N° 38446, 13/1/22; Victory Medal, D39, N° 38134, registered post number 8237 from GPO Melbourne, as recorded 5/3/23; "Where The Australians Rest" 17/2/22. A Memorial Plaque was sent to his father 6/12/22, N° 357444; Memorial Scroll 17/2/22, N° 357444.

Where are all of the medals now?

## ***His Grave***

A document N° AA/LS/5/9964 lists three exhumations, for a Private Smith, Capt. Jeffries, and a Private Morrison, who were killed 4.9.16, 12.10.17 and 2/5.10.17 respectively. Their grave references are all similar in style, with Jeffries' being "Plot 40. Row "E" Grave 1". Each went to a different place, with Jeffries' final resting place being described as "Tyne Cot British Cemetery, Passchendaele. 5¼ miles E.N.E. of Ypres". This suggests that all three had been buried at the same cemetery, then exhumed to be buried at cemeteries built after the war near to the sites of the battles.



***Old Boy Dick Sanders at the grave of Captain Jeffries, 21 July 2017***





CAPTAIN  
C. S. JEFFRIES, VC.  
34TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.  
12TH OCTOBER 1917 AGE 23



ON FIELDS ETERNAL DAWNING  
GROUND  
THEIR SPIRIT TENTS ARE SPREAD





CAPTAIN  
C. S. JEFFRIES, VC.  
34TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.  
12TH OCTOBER 1917 AGE 23



ON FAMES ETERNAL CAMP  
GROU  
THEIR SILENT TENTS ARE SPR



my heart for life

lest we forget

lest we forget  
back of Am borse Wood

Remember

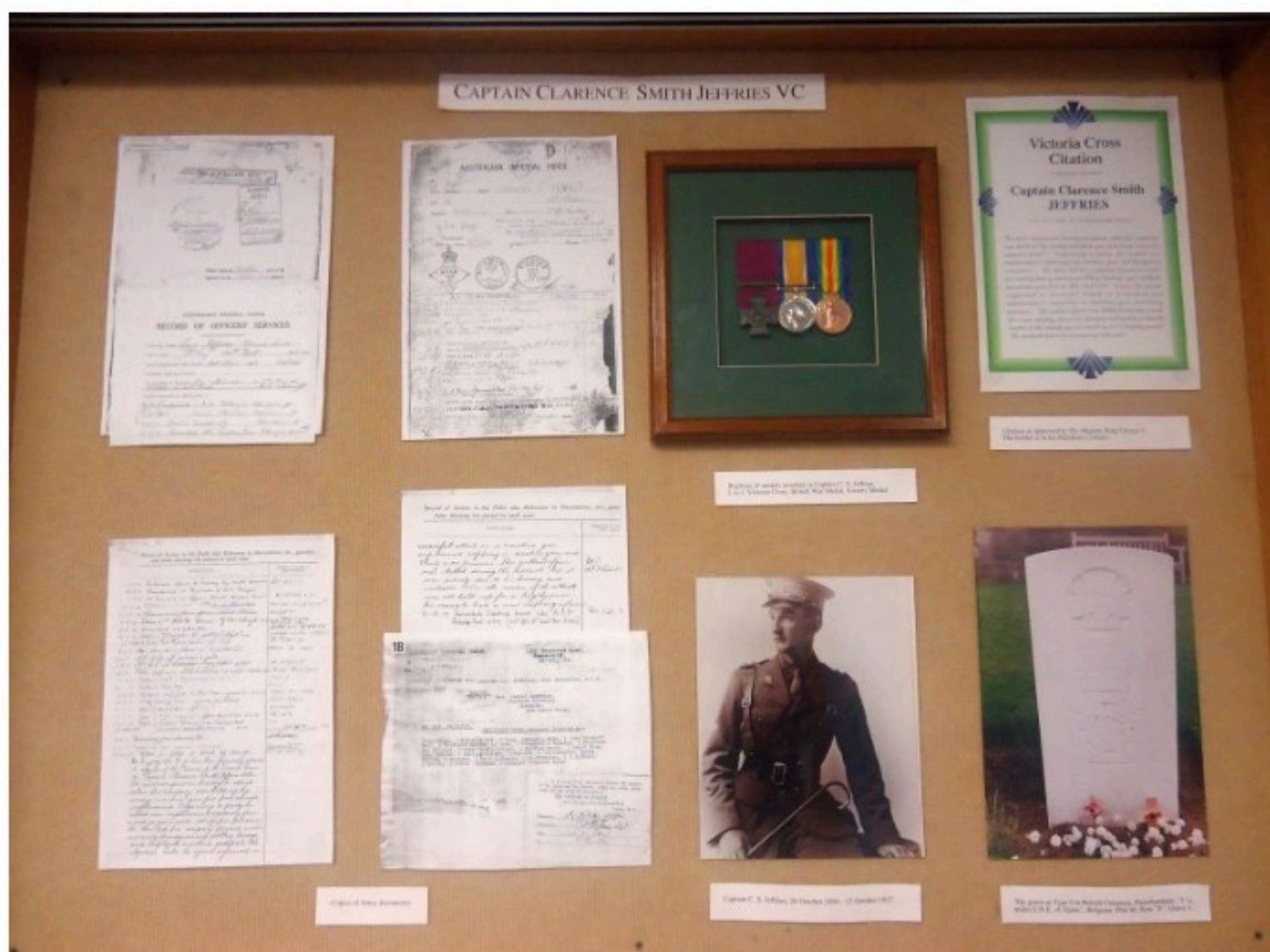


**Ryan Dudley**

Yesterday at 14:34

My relation Capt. Clarence Smith Jeffries' grave has appeared a few times on this site; however, when I recently visited I was able to take this shot of it surrounded by images of five of his cousins (Steel, Reay and Tunney families) who also lost their lives in the war. Unfortunately, I do not have an image of cousin number six, Sgt. George Wanless, 35th Bn, but I am still looking.





A display case containing various items of Captain Jeffries memorabilia, including his photograph and copies of his medals and citation, was presented to CCWTC and officially unveiled on 24 April 1997.

An identical case was presented to NHS. It was officially unveiled in conjunction with the renaming of the library as the 'Captain C S Jeffries VC Memorial Library'. The ceremony, originally proposed for 11 November 1997, was postponed following the sudden death of Past President Colin Standen, who had single-handedly prepared both display cases.

Photos of the individual items, plus others added since, are given below.

Transferred to

D 41803

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No.

C138

Rank

Name

JEFFRIES C. S. (V.C.)

Unit

34<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Casualty

C. S. M. High

General (Rank 11.6.17) 2<sup>nd</sup> Red Cross Hosp

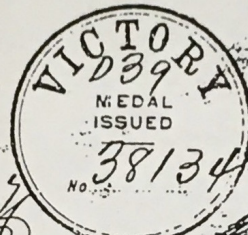
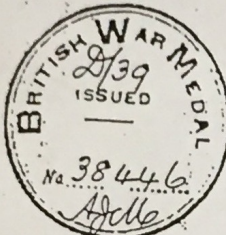
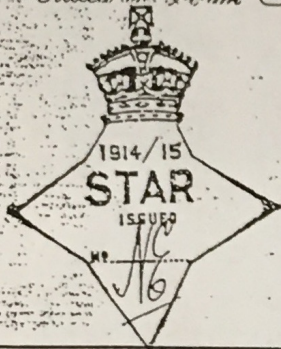
J. S. W. High

W.P.M. 477.1.21.87... adm. 16 June 173<sup>rd</sup> London General Hosp

Convalescent

Killed in Action 12/10/17

W.P.M. 480/9220<sup>B</sup>... London 21-6-17  
W.P.M. 495... London 4/7/17  
W.P.M. 1963/138... London 27/10/17



DATE

A.F. B. 103 Received

PURPORT.

A.F. B. 2090A Received.

REF. NO.

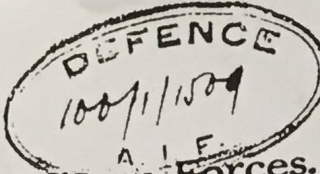
22 JUN 1917  
26 JUN 1917  
17 JUL 1917  
OCT 29 1917  
OCT 29 1917  
25-11-17  
25-3-18  
22-3-18  
20-8-18  
11-9-18  
4-7-19  
22-6-21  
13/1/22

INDEX

N. O. K. advised in hospital 11-6-17 wounded.  
N. O. K. advised in hospital 16-6-17 (transferred)  
N. O. K. advised Convalescent.  
M.G. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION.  
C. S. M. ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION 12-10-17  
COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS

CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF  
Cable No. C 2881963 inde 10/21 D = 6/14/17  
"Will" to D.P.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> M.D. ch 27/21  
- V. Gross to N.O.K. per H.E. the C. S. P. M. No. 30/115  
PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. 2/14  
Form of Comm. Received 2/14 B.R.M. No. 3/14  
PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. 2/14  
C. M. Forms 7 Returned to Unit C.O. M. Inf  
Effects ex "Barunga" lost at sea M83/963  
Circular B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re Graves despatched 12/12/19 25-5-20  
PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TRANSMITTED TO NEXT OF KIN. B.R.M. No. 53/7  
BRITISH WAR MEDAL issued 2nd M.D.B.R.M. No. 4232 54/266

24216  
25-5-20  
53/7  
54/266



Form A. 22 (Rev. 1.7.14)

Australian



Military Forces

Application for a Commission in the Australian Imperial Force

Handwritten signature/initials

No.	Particulars.	
1.	Surname ...	JEFFRIES
	Other names (in full) ...	Clarence Smith
2.	Educational Qualifications ...	Student High School Newcastle
3.	Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated) ...	A.I.F. 11 months in India still serving 6 months private 6 months corporal 6 months sergeant 12 months 2nd Lieut. Approved for promotion 1 July 1915
4.	Date on which applicant qualified at a competitive examination for first appointment as 2nd Lieutenant (U.T. Regulation 132) ...	
5.	Present Civil Employment ...	Surveyor
6.	Date of Birth and Age ...	Date of Birth: 26 <sup>th</sup> October 1894 Age: 21
		6 Months
7.	If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject ...	British Subject
8.	Married or Single ...	Single
9.	Postal Address ...	Herman Collessy Herman
		Battalion Area: 14A
10.	Next of Kin ...	Father: Joshua Jeffries General Manager Bernard Collessy Herman

GAZETTED Q. of A. GAZETTE. No. 19 of 10/2/16

Date 28/4/16

Signature of Applicant Clarence S. Jeffries

NOTE—Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces are required to attach a satisfactory certificate of moral character, or, if they are serving in the Permanent or Citizen Forces, to be recommended by their Commanding Officer. They are also to state on the back of this form the subjects in which they desire to be examined in Part II., and where exemptions are claimed for educational subjects, the authority for same is to be stated, and where necessary to be supported by certificate.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

In the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces, Proceedings of Medical Board, in accordance with instructions contained in "Standing Orders for the Army Medical Services," will be substituted for this Certificate; such Board, however, will not be assembled until after the nomination of the Candidate to undergo examination has been approved by the Military Board of Administration.

I, do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not ruptured, has not been operated on for Hernia, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.

Height ... Weight ... Chest Measurement ... Eyesight ...

Signature of the Examining Medical Officer

John R. Blanks Lt Col

RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER

I recommend that the candidate above-named be appointed a 2nd Lieutenant in the Corps under my command, and I certify:—

- 1. That such appointment will be within the authorized establishment for the current year.
- †(a) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 33 have been fully complied with, or
- †(b) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 132 have been fully complied with.
- (c) That all candidates higher in order of merit, by competitive examination, have been absorbed.

On appointment the candidate will be posted to 34<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Battery, or Coy., &c.

Date ... Commanding ... RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT Recommended, Candidate considered suitable

Date ... Commandant 2nd Military District

N.B.—Record of War Service (if any) to be shown on back of Form

18

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

110 Greyhound Road,  
Hammer Smith,  
London, W. 6.

DMH. 9. Kit Store.

Inventory of Effects of:- Captain C.S. Jeffries, 34th Battalion, A.I.F.

Forwarded to:- LEGATEE.  
(Mother) Mrs. Joshua Jeffries,  
Abermain Colliery,  
Abermain,  
New South Wales.

Ex. K.S. 22/11/17.

ONE CABIN TRUNK (Sealed) Containing:-

Linen Bags, 1 Mosquito Net, 1 Song. Collars, Ties, 1 "Sam Browne"  
Belt, 1 Pr. Field Glasses in case, 2 Whistles & lanyard, 1 Manicure  
Set in Case, 2 Camp Candle Sticks, 1 Clothes Brush, 1 Sword Frog,  
Spur Chains, 2 Buttons, Sticks, Postcards, 1 Lettercase, Books,  
Photos, 5 Buttons, 1 Pr. S.D. Slacks, 1 Pr. Breeches, 1 S.D. Tunic,  
2 Shirts, 4 Suits Pyjamas, 1 Singlet (Tussore Silk).

No. of Package D/S. 2787. 927.

In the event of any discrepancy between the contents  
of this parcel and the inventory mailed you to-day, please  
return this slip, giving full particulars to

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE,  
A.I.F. Kit Store, 110, Greyhound Road,  
London, W. 6.

Packed by R. Gray

Checked by W. H. L. S.

Date 23. 1. 18


Ex C. P. C.

Footnote: These personal effects were never received by his mother, as the ship carrying them was sunk at sea.





Record of Service in the Field, also Reference to Decorations, etc., granted, and dates showing the period in each case.

PARTICULARS	Reference to Orders or other Authority
2.5.16 Embarked Overseas by Rhydny by HMAT Hororata	GR 1369/5/3
23.6.16 Disembarked at Plymouth by HMAT Aragon	DO 25/589E 8.4.16
1.10.16 On command at Officers School Chelsea, London.	FR 1348 DO 24/19075 97
21.11.16 PROCEEDED OVERSEAS FRANCE, Southampton	DO 26/815E
21.10.16 Rejoined unit from Officers School Chelsea	HW 3982
11.6.17 Adm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pk H. Rouen. GSW. High severe	HW 3982
9.6.17 Wounded in action	C.A.S. 2101 G.W.D. 1017
16.6.17 Adm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lond Gen H. GSW High severe	HR 916 10 254 23/6/17
15.6.17 Comd for long. H. S. Peter de Bricks. 1 <sup>st</sup> Pk High	PE 27/256 2.7.17
9.6.17 Wound wounded is placed on Seconded List	A.P. 201 P2 H/395E 11
12.7.17 M.P. Unfit all services 2 weeks	C.A. 4330/29/1
2.8.17 Fit for service to Overseas Force Depot 16/9/17	L.R. 5885 P. 54/3892E
26.7.17 Prom. Capt vice Wolstenholme B.A. 14/7/18. A.P. 201	C. 7.5. - 15
27.12.16 M/Out to L.G.S + M/20.16 Unit. 3.9.12-14	C. 7.10
12.1.17 M/Out to Snip Sch.	C. 7.22 A.K. 1187/14
22.4.17 M/Out to Unit from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Div. 1 <sup>st</sup> Sch + rejoined 22.4.17	C. 7.23 C. 7/25
2.5.17 To Adj. School of Inst. + rejoined from Detach.	A.K. 1300/112
9.6.17 Adm. 9 <sup>th</sup> Aust. F. Amb. + 1 <sup>st</sup> Pk C.P. 2.	A.R. 7454
9.6.17 Adm. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pk C.P. 2. Wounded + 1 <sup>st</sup> Pk Amb. Train 10.6.17.	D. 13
16.8.17 Disch. to Terham Downs from Cobham Hall	C.R. 4330/25/1. 2. 471 4063E 15/9
27 AUG 1917 PROCEEDED OVERSEAS FRANCE	A.P. 201 230
2.9.17 Resumed duty from Seconded List.	C. 2. 4685 17.9
2.9.17 Rejoins unit from England wounded	A.I.F. list 2577/10/17
<p>12-10-17 Killed in action is struck off strength.</p> <p>His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the Award of the Victoria Cross to Captain Clarence Smith Jeffries 34<sup>th</sup> Bn for most conspicuous bravery in attack when his company was held up by enemy machine gun fire from concrete emplacements. Organising a party he rushed one emplacement, capturing four machine guns and thirty five prisoners. He then led his company forward under extremely heavy enemy artillery barrage and inflicted machine gun fire to the objective. Later he again organised a</p>	
<p>successful attack on a machine gun emplacement capturing two machine guns and thirty more prisoners. This gallant officer was killed during the attack, but it was entirely due to his bravery and initiative that the centre of the attack was not held up for a lengthy period. His example had a most inspiring influence</p> <p>21.12.17. Awarded Victoria Cross Vide A.S. 7 Orders list 1037. (34<sup>th</sup> Bn 3<sup>rd</sup> Aust Div. Orders)</p>	<p>D. 6 / A.S. List 21</p> <p>D.O. 1/29 2</p> 

WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."

*Mr J Jeffries 17/2/22*

SCROLL

MEMORIAL  
SCROLL

To  
*Father*

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*Mr J Jeffries*

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*357 444*

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*17/2/22*

MEMORIAL  
PLAQUE

To  
*Father*

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*Mr J Jeffries Esq*

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*357 444*

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*17/2/22*

5 MAR 1922

VICTORY MEDAL TO *Father* R.R.P.R. 42

Registered Post No. *4237* G.P.O. Melbourne.





The grave at Tyne Cot British Cemetery, Passchendaele, "5¼ miles E.N.E. of Ypres",  
Belgium:  
Plot 4D, Row "E", Grave 1.



## Victoria Cross Citation

Posthumously Awarded to

### Captain Clarence Smith JEFFRIES

on the 12th October, 1917 at Passchendaele, Belgium

*For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when his company was held up by enemy machine-gun fire from concrete emplacements. Organising a party, he rushed one emplacement, capturing four machine-guns and thirty-five prisoners. He then led his company forward under extremely heavy enemy artillery barrage and enfilade machine-gun fire to the objective. Later, he again organised a successful attack on a machine-gun emplacement, capturing two machine-guns and thirty prisoners. This gallant officer was killed during the attack, but it was entirely due to his bravery and initiative that the centre of the attack was not held up for a lengthy period. His example had a most inspiring influence.*

Replicas of medals awarded to Captain C. S. Jeffries  
l. to r. Victoria Cross, British War Medal, Victory Medal





Replica medals, documents and display cabinet presented by the Newcastle Boys' High School Old Boys' Association.



### Cathedral sh

By JANEK SPEIGHT  
ONE of Australia's 45 Victoria Cross medals was displayed proudly at Christ Church Cathedral yesterday among a

## Cathedral shows World War I treasures collection

By JANEK SPEIGHT

ONE of Australia's 45 Victoria Cross medals was displayed proudly at Christ Church Cathedral yesterday among a range of other Anzac artefacts.

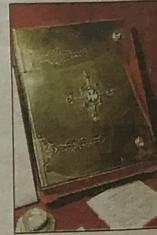
The medal, awarded to Dudley-born Captain Clarence Jeffries, is thought to be the only one on public display in NSW.

Captain Jeffries was killed while capturing a German machine gun post at Passchendaele on October 12, 1917 in World War I.

Next to the medal was the



ARTEFACTS: Left, a Victoria Cross awarded to Captain Clarence Jeffries; right, the Book of Remembrance with its solid gold cover.



golden "Book of Remembrance", recording all the names of fallen soldiers in the Diocese of Newcastle.

The cover was created by

Hunter artist Emma Dann using the wedding rings of hundreds of Hunter women widowed in the Great War.

Parishioner Adrian Price

leads tours around the cathedral during the day, showing the St Michael Chapel and the Union Jack flag flown at the 13th Australian Infantry Battalion headquarters at Gallipoli.

"The chapel was added in 1923 and was specifically built because there were no bodies or gravestones for families to mourn over," he said.

"It is dedicated to those families who lost loved ones."

A Field of Remembrance was also installed with wooden crosses bearing soldiers' names planted in the cathedral's front lawn.



**HEROIC:** Christ Church Cathedral Anzac Day tour guide Adrian Price holds a picture of Victoria Cross recipient Captain Clarence Jeffries.  
Picture: Max Mason-Hubers