

KATTERNS, J.

John Justin Leichardt Katterns was born in 1892 to John Thomas Katterns and Margaret McCarthy, in Sydney. He trained with the Senior Cadets in Albury, his place of association, and where his name is recorded on the Albury War Memorial.

By 1910, the family lived at 227 Cardigan Street, Carlton. John enlisted in Melbourne in 1915. His NAA File contains a letter he wrote to his mother, when it seemed he would return to Australia for medical treatment. Instead, John remained overseas.

An article published by the Carlton Community History Group (CCHG) gives more details, as well as insight into issues faced by the families of many of the soldiers.

AIF Project Entry

John Justin Leichardt KATTERNS

Regimental number	1983
Place of birth	Leichardt New South Wales
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Wine and spirit merchant
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	23
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs M Katterns, 66 Dorritt Street, Carlton, Victoria.
Enlistment date	13 January 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	6th Battalion, 5th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/23/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A20 <i>Hororata</i> on 17 April 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Sergeant
Unit from Nominal Roll	6th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 7 June 1918.
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy. The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the

Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.

After the war an appeal in Australia raised £22,700, of which £12,500 came from Victorian school children, with the request that the majority of the funds be used to build a new school in Villers-Bretonneux. The boys' school opened in May 1927, and contains an inscription stating that the school was the gift of Victorian schoolchildren, twelve hundred of whose fathers are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery, with the names of many more recorded on the Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is now twinned with Robinvale, Victoria, which has in its main square a memorial to the links between the two towns.

Panel number, Roll of Honour,
Australian War Memorial

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NAA: B2455, KATTERNS J J L, SERN 1983.

Sands & McDougall's Melbourne, suburban and country directory : 1910

Sands & McDougall's directory of Victoria : 1915

CCHG Publication: *Carlton in the War Stories of the Men and Women Who Served*.

<http://www.cchg.asn.au/greatwar.html#katterns> Viewed 16.11.2023.