



In Memory of
Captain
KENNETH TRAVERS STEPHEN, MC

Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery
Second Trench Mortar Battery R.F.A.
who died age 31
on 22 April 1918

Son of Sidney and Blanche Stephen,
of Brighton, Victoria.

Remembered with honour
AUBIGNY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, FRANCE



CAPTAIN
KENNETH TRAVERS STEPHEN
 SECOND TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY,
 R. F. A.



Kenneth Travers Stephen was the eldest son of Sidney and Blanche Stephen of Brighton, Victoria. He was a staff member of Toowoomba Grammar School during 1907. He was born 1887 in St Kilda, Victoria and finished his schooling at Haileybury College in Victoria. At school he captained the eighteen for two years and was a good ruck man. He matriculated with honours in classics. After his year of teaching at Toowoomba Grammar School he also was a master at Haileybury College before attending Melbourne University where he studied Law. After qualifying as a solicitor, he became a barrister and practiced at Maffra, Gippsland, Victoria.

He resigned from his practice to serve his country. He went to England and joined the Royal Artillery in January 1916 and he rose to the rank of Captain. He served with distinction in Belgium and France, and was awarded the Military Cross, but died of

wounds on 22 April 1918

Toowoomba Grammar School Archives state that he was a staff member at the school from January 1907 to December 1907. He is remembered on the Toowoomba Grammar School World War 1 Memorial in the school's Old Hall. He is also on the Australian War Memorial Honour Roll and Haileybury College Memorial.

Formation and Development of Mortar Batteries in World War 1 – reference ‘The Long Long Trail (longlongtrail.co.uk)

In 1914, no organisation existed for trench mortars as the weapons simply did not exist in the British army. Along with the early and faltering development of the weapons, the organisation into batteries was rather haphazard and was left to local command. The infantry, artillery and engineers were all involved from time to time. By December 1915, high command ordered that light mortar units would be manned by the infantry and the medium/heavy units by the Royal Field Artillery. In March 1916, the medium trench mortar batteries formally came under the command of Divisional artillery, while the light Stokes batteries left battalion-level control and came under brigade command. At this time, each Division was given a Divisional Trench Mortar officer, the batteries were numbered, and a badge was introduced to identify mortar personnel.

External Links

[Australian War Memorial Honour Roll](#)

[CWGC](#)

[Virtual War Memorial](#)



The 58 mm trench mortar was a series of French weapons. Type 1 (French: Mortier de 58 T N°1), sometimes referred to as Lance Torpilles, was a transitional mortar built in small numbers and used in World War I. Type 1b was used by both the French Army and Italian Army during the First World War. Type 2, also known as the Crapouillot or "little toad" from its appearance,[2] was the standard French medium trench mortar of World War I.

The Second Trench Mortar Battery was part of the Second Field Artillery Brigade, Second Division. Its personal consisted of five officers and 181 men. The equipment consisted of 12 - 582 trench mortars (French Type), which were transported by means of carts drawn by horses. The ammunition was also hauled by means of the same carts, a load consisting of 18 bombs. batteries; and to assume command of any special concentration of mortar units for specific operations. The smaller mortar batteries were carried by the infantry.

STEPHEN mc		R.F.A.	Lieut
Kenneth Travers		- - -	Capt. i.
		Comm:	R.F.A. 16.6.16
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
R.F.A. VICTORY	i. Off. 132.	246c	Dead 22.4.16. *Comm RFA (SR) 16-6-16 1vx 4819. dt 22/8/12. NUN/9/14973.
BRITISH	" "	" "	
STAR	" "	" "	
Theatre of War first served in		France	
Date of entry therein		19-9-16	
21/22		*Excl from EF/9/1145 NUN 8/14973	

K. 1880

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British Record for Kenneth Travers Stephen