

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



63774 GUNNER

C. J. McPHERSON

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

21ST OCTOBER, 1918

*CWGC Headstone for Gunner C. J. McPherson is located in
Grave Plot # 5. F. 5. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Cecil John McPHERSON

Cecil John McPherson was born at Camperdown, Sydney, NSW on 16th October, 1897 to parents George & Mary McPherson (nee Tripp). He was a 20 year old, single, Carter from Sutherland, NSW when he enlisted at Sydney, NSW on 19th December, 1917 with the Field Artillery, 35th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 63774 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. McPherson of Oak Street, Sutherland, NSW. The date of birth written on the Attestation Paper has the year as 1896, which had been altered at some stage to show 1897. Those enlisting under the age of 21 had to have their parents sign as consent to allow their sons to enlist in Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Cecil McPherson's application to enlist was marked "Over" for the section "for Persons under 21 years of age" even though he was under 21. The Army would have gone on the birth date on 1896. Cecil McPherson had previously served with Senior Cadets & with Light Horse for 3 years (still serving).

Gunner Cecil John McPherson embarked from Sydney on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918.

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.

Gunner Cecil John McPherson was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 12th August, 1918.

Gunner McPherson was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire with tonsillitis on 19th August, 1918 & discharged on 28th August, 1918.

Gunner Cecil John McPherson was sent to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 15th October, 1918 with Influenza & then transferred to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 18th October, 1918 seriously ill with Pneumonia.

Gunner Cecil John McPherson died at 13.30 hrs on 21st October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Cecil McPherson, aged 20, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner Cecil John McPherson was buried at 3.30 p.m. on 26th October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 5. From the burial report of Gunner McPherson - *Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery. Six of Deceased's comrades supported the Pall. 4 Officer's and about 80 N.C.O.'s and Men who of the Deceased's late Battery attended as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in U. K. were represented.*

Cecil John McPherson requested in his Will dated 5th April, 1918 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Mrs Mary McPherson of Oak Road, Sutherland, NSW.

Gunner Cecil John McPherson 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 Gunner McPherson's father – Mr G. McPherson (sent July, 1921 & November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Gunner C. J. McPherson, 63774, of Details, 35th Reinforcements, Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Gunner C. J. McPherson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 22.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. McPherson is remembered on the Sutherland War Memorial located at Eton Street, Sutherland, NSW.



Sutherland War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)

C. McPherson is also remembered on the Sutherland School of Arts Honour Roll located at Sutherland Shire Historical Society, East Parade, Sutherland, NSW.

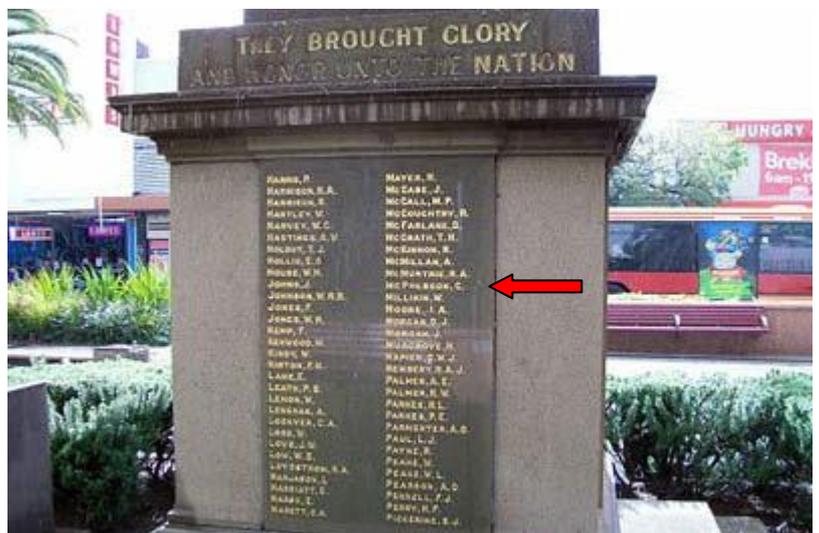


Sutherland School of Arts Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)

C. McPherson is also remembered on the Hurstville War Memorial located in Memorial Square, Forest Road, Hurstville, NSW.

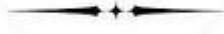


Hurstville War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW – William Wright and Ross Bell)



(50 pages of Gunner Cecil John McPherson'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.



Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR

McPHERSON – Died in England of pneumonia, on October 21, 1918, Cecil John McPherson, Gunner Aust. Field Artillery, dearly-loved second surviving son of Mr and Mrs G. McPherson, of Oak Road, Sutherland, aged 21 years. He answered his country's call. Inserted by his sorrowing parents, brothers, Leslie (O.A.S.), Herbert and sister Marjorie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 2 November, 1918)

448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS

Died of Illness

Gnr. C. J. McPherson, Sutherland, 21/10/18

(St. George Call, Kogarah, NSW – Saturday 7 December, 1918)

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. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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 to Mr G. McPherson of Oak Road, Sutherland, NSW, dated 26th July, 1921, advised that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on the Headstone of his son – the late Gunner C. J. McPherson in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

Gunner Cecil John McPherson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Gunner C. J. McPherson's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)

