

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



6261 PRIVATE

**G. HEARN**

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST MAY, 1919 AGE 39

*In Memory Of*

*My Dear Husband*

*& Our Father*

*Gone But Not Forgotten*

CWGC Headstone for Pte G. Hearn is located in  
Grave Plot # 89. M. 2. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny

## George HEARN

George Hearn was born at Sydenham (Kent) England around 1879 to parents George & Jemima Hearn (nee Russell).

The 1881 England Census listed George Hearn as 2 year old living with his family at 7 Relingdon Road, Sydenham, Lewisham, London. His parents were listed as George Hearn (Labourer, aged 28, born Ipswich, Suffolk) & Jemimah Hearn (Labourer, aged 27, born Sittingbourne, Kent). George was the youngest of 2 children on this Census, both born at Sydenham, Kent - older sister Hannah (aged 4).

The Hearn family arrived at the port of Cooktown, Queensland from Plymouth, England on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1883 aboard the *Almora*. The family consisted of George & Jemma Hearn & their children – Hannah (aged 6), George (aged 4) & James (aged 2).

According to *Pioneers and Settlers Register Far North Queensland to 1920* – Jemima Russell (born 1852, Sidenborn, England, parents John & Ann Russell (nee Swan) married George Hearn in 1871 at Kent, England. They had the following children – Jane (born 1876), Hannah (2 June, 1877), George (born 1879), James (born 1881), unnamed child (died on voyage to Australia), Amy (born 2 January, 1884), Charles William (born 16 June, 1885) & William (born 1888). Jemima Hearn married for a second time to William Henry David Adolph Louis on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1894 at Geraldton, Queensland. Jemima & William Louis had Lilly Ivy (born 5 December, 1896 at Geraldton, Qld). Jemima Louis died 19th February, 1902 at Geraldton (now Innisfail).

George Hearn married Elizabeth Mary O'Keefe on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1903 in Queensland.

Births for the following children were registered in the state of Queensland with George Hearn listed as father & Elizabeth Mary O'Keefe listed as mother – Eileen Mary (born 1904), Jemmima (born 1906), George (born 1907), Sarah Annie (born 1908), Denis Joseph (born 1909), Harold James (born 1910), Nellie Elizabeth (born 1911, died 1913), Charles (born 1912, died 1917) & Catherine (born 1914).

George Hearn was a 35 year old, married, Miner from Ernest Street, Innisfail, North Queensland when he enlisted at Townsville, Queensland on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1916 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6261 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. M. Hearn of Post Office, Innisfail, North Queensland.

Private George Hearn embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1916.

Private George Hearn proceeded overseas per SS *Golden Eagle* from Folkestone on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 & was marched in at Etaples, France on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1916. He proceeded to join his Unit on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916 & joined his Battalion in France on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Hearn was sent sick to Hospital on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 & admitted with Rheumatism. He was discharged to duty on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Pte Hearn was sent to Brigade Miners on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

Pte Hearn was sent on leave to UK on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 & was sent sick to Hospital while on leave on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1918. He rejoined his Battalion on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

Pte Hearn was wounded in action on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. He was admitted & transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to 20<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Camiers on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 with a shrapnel wound to left forearm. Pte Hearn was transferred to No. 6 Con. Depot at Etaples on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1918. He was marched in at Havre on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1918 & proceeded to his Unit on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. He rejoined his Battalion in France on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 but was sent to Hospital sick on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. He was transferred on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 to 11 Sty Hospital at Rouen with Furunculosis (boils). Pte Hearn was transferred to England on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 on *Gloucester Castle* & admitted to Con. Can. Red Cross Hospital in England on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. Pte Hearn was transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park, Middlesex on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1918 & discharged on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

Pte Hearn was on furlo from 6<sup>th</sup> September to 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 to report to No. 4 Command Depot.

Pte Hearn was marched in from furlo to No. 4 Command Depot on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1918. He was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1918.

Pte Hearn proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 & marched in in France on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit the next day & rejoined his Unit on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1918.

Pte Hearn was marched out for R.T.A. from France on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1918. He was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1919.

Private George Hearn was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1919.

Private George Hearn died at 10.15 p.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Pneumonia.

A death for G. Hearn, aged 41, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private George Hearn was buried on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 89. From the burial report of Pte Hearn - *Coffin was 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 from No. 1 Australian Command Depot, Sutton Veny. Six of the deceased's alte Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A large number of Australians followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte George Hearn was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Hearn's widow – Mrs E. M. Hearn (sent July, 1921 & October, 1922). Elizabeth May Hearn remarried in 1919 to Charles Strange.

Private G. Hearn is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 56.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. Hearn is also remembered on the Innisfail Roll of Honour 1914-1918 which is located in the Shire Hall, Rankin Street, Innisfail, Queensland.



Innisfail Roll of Honour (Photo from Qld War Memorials – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)

The CWGC lists Private George Hearn, 6261, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of George Hearn & Jemima Russell Hearn; husband of E. M. Strange (formerly Hearn), of O'Mara St, Lutwyche, Brisbane, Queensland. Born at Sydenham, London, England.

(69 pages of Pte George Hearn'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

### INNISFAIL NOTES

Mr G. Hearn's little daughter met with a fatal burning accident through the bed catching fire.

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Monday 21 April, 1913)*

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#### INNISFAIL

A number of volunteers were farewelled yesterday by the War Council, Mr Lennon, member for the district taking part in the proceeding. Geo. Hearn, of Innisfail, who has volunteered, is a married man with nine children.

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Saturday 13 May, 1916)*

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#### 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 E. M. Hearn, dated 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, advised Mrs Hearn that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on her husband's Headstone 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.

Pte George Hearn does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of My Dear Husband & Our Father Gone But Not Forgotten*



Photo of Private G. Hearn's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



**Photo of original crosses placed on the graves – Pte G. Hearn (just visible to left)**

*(Photo from Australian War Memorial)*



**War Graves at Sutton Veny** *(Photos from CWGC)*

