

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



5063 PRIVATE

J. L. CAMERON

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 30

Loved And Remembered

So Sadly Missed

Good-Night Les,

Mother

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. L. Cameron is located in
Grave Plot # 17. H. 3. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

John Leslie CAMERON

John Leslie Cameron was born in 1888 at Macarthur, Victoria to parents Dugald & Louisa Cameron (nee Beecham).

John Leslie Cameron, railway employee, was listed on the 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the Division of Batman, subdivision of Fitzroy Central. John Leslie Cameron & his parents – Dugald & Louisa were all listed as living at 526 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy.

John Leslie Cameron was a 28 year old, single Railway employee from 526 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 1st February, 1916 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5063 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs L. Cameron of 526 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria (father deceased).

Pte John Leslie Cameron embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Suffolk (A23)* on 1st April, 1916 & disembarked at Suez on 11th May, 1916.

Pte John Leslie Cameron was re-allotted to 15th Training Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt on 24th May, 1916. He embarked to join the British Expeditionary Force from Alexandria, Egypt on 21st June, 1916 & disembarked at Marseille, France on 30th June, 1916. Pte Cameron was taken on strength with 59th Battalion in France on 21st July, 1916.

Pte Cameron was detached to 5th Divisional Grenade School from 17th September to 22nd September, 1916 then rejoined his Unit. Pte Cameron was again detached to 5th Divisional Grenade School from 28th September to 13th October, 1916 then rejoined his Unit.

Pte Cameron was sent sick to Hospital on 27th October, 1916 & admitted with Piles. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital with Haemorrhoids on 29th October, 1916.

Pte Cameron was transferred back to England on the *Gloster Castle* on 3rd November, 1916 from Havre & admitted to Belfast Military Hospital in England with Chronic Arthritis on 7th November, 1916. He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital on 5th December, 1916 at Harefield.

Pte Cameron was marched in at Wareham on 9th December, 1916. Pte Cameron was transferred to 65th Battalion from 59th Battalion on 23rd March, 1917.

Pte Cameron was transferred to 59th Battalion on 19th September, 1917 & marched out to 63rd Draft Battalion.

Pte Cameron proceeded overseas from Southampton on 14th October, 1917 & marched in at Havre on 15th October, 1917.

Pte Cameron was taken on strength with his Unit in the field on 26th October, 1917.

Pte Cameron was on command to 4th Army Musketry School on 15th March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 26th April, 1918.

Pte Cameron was wounded in action on 8th August, 1918 with a gunshot wound to left arm & wrist. He was sent to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to 20th General Hospital at Camiers on 9th August, 1918 & admitted with Gunshot wound to arm & left shoulder.

Pte Cameron was invalided to UK (wounded) on 13th August, 1918 & admitted to Fort Pitt Military Hospital at Chatham, England with a gunshot wound to left wrist on 13th August, 1918. Pte Cameron's mother was advised of his injury.

Pte Cameron was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 16th September, 1918 with G.S.W. to left shoulder & arm.

Pte Cameron was given furlo from 20th September, 1918 to 4th October, 1918. He was marched in to 2nd Command Depot at Weymouth on 4th October, 1918.

Pte Cameron was marched in to 1st Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 10th October, 1918.

Private John Leslie Cameron was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 1st November, 1918 with Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia.

Private John Leslie Cameron died on 4th November, 1918 (2.30am or 4.30 am - not clear) at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for John L. Cameron, aged 31, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private John Leslie Cameron was buried at 3 p.m. on 8th November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 17. From the burial report of Pte Cameron - *Coffin was polished elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the A.I.F. Overseas Training Brigade. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. 2 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men attended as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Pte John Leslie Cameron contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives of Pte Cameron to obtain the fullest details possible of the death & burial of Pte Cameron. A reply from the Registrar of Military Hospital, Sutton Veny reads:

"Pte Cameron was admitted with Influenza, and later contracted Pneumonia, from which complication he died at 8.30 a.m. on Nov. 4th, 1918. He was buried at Sutton Veny Churchyard on Nov. 9th, 1918, the number of the Grave space being "17 – Military Section".

Private J. L. Cameron is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte John Leslie Cameron was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Cameron's mother – Mrs L. Cameron (sent December, 1921 & November, 1922 returned unclaimed resent July, 1923).

Three photographs of Pte John Leslie Cameron's grave were sent to his mother – Mrs L. Cameron at 165 Alexandria Parade, North Fitzroy, Victoria on 3rd September, 1923. From information concerning Mrs Cameron's new address – it is noted that she was receiving a War Pension.

The CWGC lists Private John Leslie Cameron, 5063, of 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Dugald and Louisa Cameron of 94 Clarke St, Northcote, Victoria. Born at Macarthur Victoria.

(98 pages of Pte John Leslie Cameron 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR

VICTORIAN LIST

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Pte J. L. Cameron, N. Fitzroy, 4/11/18 (illness)

(Weekly Times, Vic – Saturday 14 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

CAMERON – In loving memory of dear old Les, who died of pneumonia, November 4, 1918, at Sutton Veny. (Inserted by Nell O'Connor, nee Womersley, Woodhouse, Lubeck).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Vic – Tuesday 4 November, 1919)

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 dated 5th July, 1921 was sent to Mrs L. Cameron at 49 Emmaline St, Croxton, Victoria, (mother of late Pte J. L. Cameron) advising her that previous communications from the Defence Department regarding the inscription on the headstone of her son – Pte J. L. Cameron at Sutton Veny, had not been acted upon. Non – receipt of a reply within 21 days would indicate that she desired no further action.

Pte John Leslie Cameron does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Loved And Remembered So Sadly Missed Good-Night Les, Mother

Photo of Pte J. L. Cameron's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)

