

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**2304 PRIVATE**

**M. W. CAMERON**

**32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**6TH APRIL, 1919 Age 25**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte M. W. Cameron is located in  
Grave Plot # 81. L. 1. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Murdock William Cameron

Murdock William Cameron was born in Port Lincoln, South Australia in 1894 to parents Alexander & Mary Cameron (nee Baird). Murdock Cameron stated on his Attestation Papers that his place of birth was Witera Station, West Coast, South Australia). He was a 21 year old, single Farrier from Adelaide, Sth Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, Sth Australia on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1915 with the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2304 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr Adam Alexander Cameron of Cowela, Streaky Bay, South Australia.

Pte Murdock William Cameron embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1916.

Pte Cameron was attached to 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1916. He was taken on strength from 4/32<sup>nd</sup> as “supernumerary to establishment” on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1916. Pte Cameron was written up for the offence – “Failing to keep his rifle in a clean condition” – admonished.

Pte Cameron was transferred to Base Details at Moascar, Egypt on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1916. He was with the 8<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir.

Pte Cameron embarked from Alexandria, Egypt on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 on HMAT *Franconia* & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1916.

Pte Cameron embarked for Overseas France on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 & was marched in at Etaples on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1916. Pte Cameron proceeded to join 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion at Etaples on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion from 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Base Depot on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1916.

Pte Cameron was evacuated sick on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 & admitted to Hospital with Influenza. He was transferred to 15<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1916, then to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Rouen on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 & embarked on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick* from Rouen for England on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 with Influenza.

Pte Cameron was admitted to Colchester General Military Hospital with Influenza on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1917. He was transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Auxiliary Hospital on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 & discharged on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 & went on furlo until 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 where he was to report to T. Depot at Perham Downs. Pte Cameron was reported absent without leave on from 3.30 p.m. on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 to 10 p.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1917. He was awarded 5 days C.C. & forfeited 2 days' pay.

Pte Cameron proceeded overseas to France from Infantry Draft Depot from Perham Downs via Southampton on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1917. He was marched in from England in France on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 & marched out to his Unit at Havre on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1917. Pte Cameron rejoined his Battalion on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1917.

Pte Cameron was wounded in action on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1917 and transferred to England from 3<sup>rd</sup> Can. General Hospital at Boulogne with gunshot wounds to his legs on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1917.

Pte Cameron was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Southern General Hospital at Birmingham, England with a gunshot wound to both thighs on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He was discharged on 10<sup>th</sup> October & was sent on furlo until 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 where he was to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Private Murdock William Cameron was marched in from Admin. Headquarters at Sutton Veny from furlo on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1917. He was classified as B1 A2 - which indicated that his physical condition after being wounded was – “Fit for overseas training camp in three to four weeks.”

Pte Cameron was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

On 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1918, Pte Cameron proceeded overseas for France from Overseas Training Brigade at Sandhill Camp, Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire. He was marched out to his Unit on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion in the Field on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

Pte Cameron was sent sick to Hospital on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1918. He rejoined his Unit on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1918.

Pte Cameron was wounded in action on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 – second occasion. He was sent to 5 A.F. Amb & then transferred to 20 Casualty Clearing Station on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1918. Pte Cameron was admitted to 5<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Rouen on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1918.

Pte Cameron was invalided to UK on *Panama* with a Gunshot wound to nose (slight) on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 & was admitted to Military Hospital at Woking from 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 until 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 with an abrasion of skin of bridge of nose. On 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 Pte Cameron was transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield. Pte Cameron was on furlo from 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 to 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 where he was then to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. Pte Cameron was written up for an offence in London – “absent without leave from 10.30 a.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 to 2 p.m. on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1918”. This was admonished by Major C. H. Howard on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1918 but Pte Cameron was to still forfeit 3 days’ pay on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1918 for being absent without leave.

Private Murdock William Cameron was marched in from London from furlo & was classified as B1 A3 - which indicated that his physical condition after being wounded was – “Fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks.”

Pte Cameron was sent sick to Group Hospital at Sutton Veny with Influenza on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 & discharged on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1918.

Pte Cameron was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.

Pte Cameron was marched out to 3<sup>rd</sup> Training Brigade at Lonbridge Deverill on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 & was “On command at 5<sup>th</sup> Divisional Signal School (14<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion) for course of Instruction at Codford, Wiltshire.

Pte Cameron was sent to Hospital sick on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Private Murdock William Cameron was admitted to No. 2 Group Hospital at Hurdcott on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1918 & then transferred to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1918 with Pleurisy. He was reported seriously ill on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1918.

Private Murdock William Cameron was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1919 with Pleurisy – dangerously ill.

Private Murdock William Cameron died at 10 p.m. on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Pleurisy.

A death for Murdock W. Cameron, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Murdock William Cameron was buried on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 81. From the burial report of Pte Cameron - *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 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Training Brigade Sutton Veny. Six of Deceased’s late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The “Last Post” was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A 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 Murdock William Cameron requested in his Will, dated 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1916, that his sister - Mary Ellen Rye receive the land situated in the district of Streaky Bay & all the rest residue remainder of his Estate to be left to his brother – Adam Alexander Cameron. Herbert Alexander & Lily Dolphin of Tahlia, West Coast, South Australia were appointed as Executor & Executrix of the Will.

Pte Murdock William Cameron was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Cameron’s brother (as he was the next-of-kin as both parents were deceased) – Mr Adam Cameron (sent February, 1922 & November, 1922).

Private M. W. Cameron is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

M. W. Cameron is also remembered on the Streaky Bay and District War Memorial located on Bay Road & Montgomerie Terrace, Streaky Bay, South Australia.



**Streaky Bay & District War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)

The CWGC lists Private Murdock William Cameron, 2304, of 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

(94 pages of Pte Murdock William Cameron'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.*



**Pte M. W. Cameron** (Photo from *Chronicle* 8 November, 1919)



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **464<sup>th</sup> CASUALTY LIST**

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

##### **Died Of Other Causes**

2304, Pte M. W. Cameron, Streaky Bay, 7/4/19, p.r. ill.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Saturday 17 May, 1919)

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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*)

Pte Murdock William Cameron does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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



*(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)*



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

