

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



1165 LANCE CPL.

R. J. CAMERON

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH DECEMBER, 1918 Age 27

Great Love Hath No Man

That He Lay Down

His Life For His Country

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Lance Cpl. R. J. Cameron is located in
Grave Plot # 36. H. 11. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Robert John CAMERON

Robert John (Bob) Cameron was born at Camberwell, Victoria in 1891 to parents William Henry (Harry) & Annie Jane Cameron (nee McCready). He was a 25 year old, single Farmer from Toora North, Victoria when he enlisted at Leongatha, Victoria on 8th March, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 37th Infantry Battalion "D" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 1165 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Annie Cameron of Toora North, via Toora South, Victoria.

Pte Robert John Cameron embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Persic* (A34) on 3rd June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th July, 1916.

Pte Robert John Cameron proceeded Overseas to France from Southampton on 22nd November, 1916.

Pte Cameron was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 7th December, 1916 with Mumps. He was transferred to 7th General Hospital at St. Omer on 8th December, 1916 with Mumps (slight). He was discharged & rejoined his Battalion on 29th December, 1916.

Pte Cameron was detached for duty with 3rd Div. Medium Trench Mortar Battery on 17th February, 1917.

Pte Cameron was appointed Lance Corporal on 12th October, 1917.

Lance Corporal Cameron proceeded on leave to England on 26th November, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from leave on 9th December, 1917.

Lance Corporal Cameron proceeded on leave to Paris on 19th March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 1st April, 1918.

Lance Corporal Robert John Cameron was wounded in action on 29th August, 1918 with a gunshot wound to left wrist. He was admitted to 11th Field Ambulance then transferred to 12 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 29th August, 1918. Lance Corporal Cameron embarked for England on *Aberdonian* on 1st September, 1918 & was admitted to 4th Southern General Hospital at Plymouth on 2nd September, 1918 with shrapnel wound to left wrist.

Lance Corporal Cameron was sent on furlo from 15th October, 1918 to 29th October, 1918 where he was then to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Lance Corporal Cameron was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 29th October, 1918 where his convalescent classification was B1 A3 – which indicated that he would be fit for Overseas Training Camp in two to three weeks.

Lance Corporal Cameron was marched out to Overseas Training Battalion at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 7th November, 1918 & transferred to Reinforcements of 5th Battalion.

Lance Cpl. Cameron was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 15th November, 1918 with Influenza & Broncho pneumonia. He was transferred to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny with Influenza & Pneumonia on 16th November, 1918.

Lance Corporal Robert John Cameron died at 08.10 on 15th December, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Robert J. Cameron, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Cpl. Robert John Cameron contains a request from the Red Cross to ascertain the nature of the wounds or sickness of L./Cpl. Cameron. A reply from the Matron of Military Hospital, Sutton Veny reads:

"1165 R. J. Cameron, 5th Battalion, A.I.F. was admitted to Military Hospital, Sutton Veny on 16-11-18 suffering from Influenza. Broncho Pneumonia supervened and he died on 15-12-18. Buried in Churchyard Sutton Veny."

Lance Corporal Robert John Cameron was buried at 2.30 p.m. on 19th December, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 36. From the burial report of L./Cpl. Cameron - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage, preceded by a Firing Party from the Australian Overseas Training Brigade. Six of the deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A number of Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of the A.I.F. followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

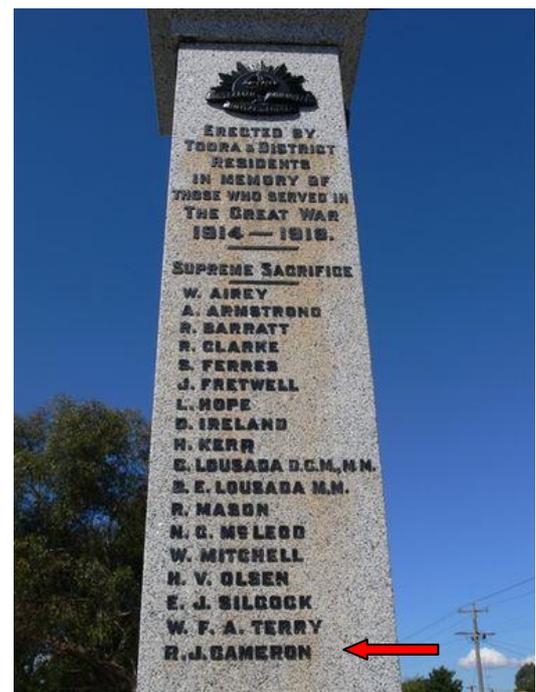
Robert John Cameron requested in his Will, dated 20th May, 1916, that all his Estate both real and personal be left to his mother- Mrs Annie Cameron & that his father – William Henry Cameron be appointed Executor of his Will.

Lance Corporal R. J. Cameron is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 43.



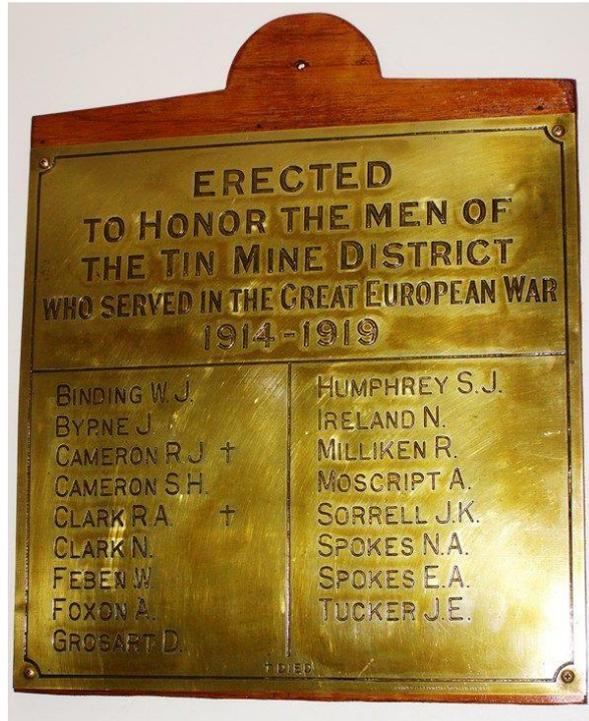
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. J. Cameron is also remembered on the Toora War Memorial located on Welshpool Road (Cnr Stanley Street), Toora, Victoria.



Toora War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

R. J. Cameron is also remembered on the Tin Mine District Honour Roll located in RSL Hall at 19 Stanley Street, Toora, Victoria.



Tin Mine District Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

Lance Cpl. R. J. Cameron was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to L/Cpl Cameron's father as the next-of-kin – Mr W. H. Cameron (sent March, 1922 & November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Lance Corporal Robert John Cameron, 1165, of 5th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of William Henry and Annie Cameron of Toora, South Gippsland, Victoria.

(64 pages of Lance Cpl. Robert John 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

DIED ON SERVICE

CAMERON – On the 15th December, at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, of influenza and pneumonia, Lance-Corporal R. J. Cameron (Bob), beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. H. Cameron of Toora North, aged 27 years.

Dearly loved, sadly missed.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Wednesday 8 January, 1919)

DEATHS

On Active Service

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CAMERON – On the 15th December, at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, of influenza and pneumonia, Lance-Corporal R. J. Cameron (Bob), beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. H. Cameron of Toora North, and the dear family friend of Mr and Mrs D. Beattie and family, Toora Upper, late of Larnoo-avenue, West Brunswick, aged 27 years.

One of the best.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – Friday 10 January, 1919)

VICTORIA'S ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST NO 456

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Lance-Corp. R. J. Cameron, Toora North (illness)

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 30 January, 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 A. Cameron (mother of late L./Cpl. Robert John Cameron) reminding her that a communication from the Defence Department regarding an inscription of the Headstone of her son located in Sutton Veny had not been answered & that non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would be accepted as indicating that she desired no further action.

Lance Cpl. Robert John Cameron does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Great Love Hath No Man That He Lay Down His Life For His Country

Photo of Lance Cpl. R. J. 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)*

