

**Willesden New Cemetery,
Willesden, Greater London
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



21 SERGEANT

J. H. CASSON

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

17TH OCTOBER, 1916 Age 23

John Hulbert (Bertie) CASSON

John Hulbert Casson was born at Ballan, Victoria on 30th January, 1893 to parents Ostle and Amelia Geneva Casson (nee Sinnamon). He was baptised at Ballan, Victoria on 7th April, 1893.

John Hulbert Casson attended Elmhurst State School, Victoria.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Corangamite, subdivision of Ararat, Victoria listed John Hulbert Casson, Railway Employee, of High Street, Ararat.

John Hulbert Casson was a 21 year old, single, Railway employee from "Kilsyth", via Croydon, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted at Ararat, Victoria on 12th October, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 21 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Ostle Casson, of "Kilsyth", via Croydon, Melbourne, Victoria.

John Hulbert Casson was attached to No. 2 Mobile Veterinary Section, A.I.F. on 12th October, 1914. He was promoted to Sergeant on 1st November, 1914.

According to information listed on the Roll of Honour supplied by his father – John Hulbert Casson had served for 4 years as Farrier Sergeant with 19 Australian Light Horse also "*On enlistment was detailed by Captain Strong to assist Lieut. Boreham to form the Victorian Unit of the Veterinary Corps.*"

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Bakara (A41)* on 22nd December, 1914 with the Army Veterinary Corps, 2nd Mobile Veterinary Section.

(Note- there is no record to show where Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was after he embarked from Australia in December, 1914 until he was admitted to Hospital in Cairo in January, 1916).

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was admitted to 4th Auxiliary Hospital at Cairo on 6th January, 1916 with Mumps. He was discharged the same day & admitted to 4th Auxiliary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 6th January, 1916 with Mumps. Sergt. Casson was discharged from Hospital on 25th January, 1916 & proceeded to duty on 30th January, 1916.

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was transferred to 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) at Zeitoun on 10th March, 1916 & was taken on strength of 2nd D.A.C. from 2nd M.V. (Mobile Veterinary) Section on 10th March, 1916.

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson embarked from Alexandria on H.T. *Magdalena* on 20th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force).

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was attached to No. 4 Section in France on 4th May, 1916.

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was admitted to Anzac Rest Station in France on 16th August, 1916 with Enteritis & Rheumatism. He was transferred & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux on 17th August, 1916 with Myalgia. Sergt. Casson embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* at Boulogne, France on 20th August, 1916.

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was admitted to 3rd Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, England on 6th September, 1916.

The family of Sergeant John Hulbert Casson received a telegram on 21st September, 1916 advising that Sergt. Casson was dangerously ill with a cerebral tumor.

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was reported seriously ill suffering from a Tumour on the brain at 3rd Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, England on 16th October, 1916.

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson died on 17th October, 1916 at 3rd Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, England from Cerebral Tumour.

A death for John H. Casson, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Ecclesall Bierlow, Derbyshire/West Riding of Yorkshire, England.

The body of Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was sent from the Hospital authorities at Sheffield to his Uncle – John Casson for burial. Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was buried on 21st October, 1916 in Willesden New Cemetery, Willesden, Greater London, England – Plot number N. 639 (in the Family Grave) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Miss M. Casson, sister of the late Sergeant John Hulbert Casson, advised Base Records in August, 1922 of the change of address of the next-of-kin which was now her mother – Mrs Amelia Geneva Casson to “Bromfell”, Oxford Road, Croydon, Victoria as her father had died about three months prior.

Sergeant John Hulbert Casson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergt. Casson's father - Mr O. Casson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant John Hulbert Casson – service number 21, aged 23, of 2nd Div. Ammunition Col., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Ostle and Amelia G. Casson, of Kilsyth, Croydon, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Born at Ballan, Victoria.

Sergeant J. H. Casson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. Casson is remembered on the Elmhurst State School Honour Roll, located in Mechanics Institute, High Street, Elmhurst, Victoria.



Elmhurst State School Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

H. Casson is remembered on the Elmhurst & District Honour Roll, located in Mechanics Institute, High Street, Elmhurst, Victoria.



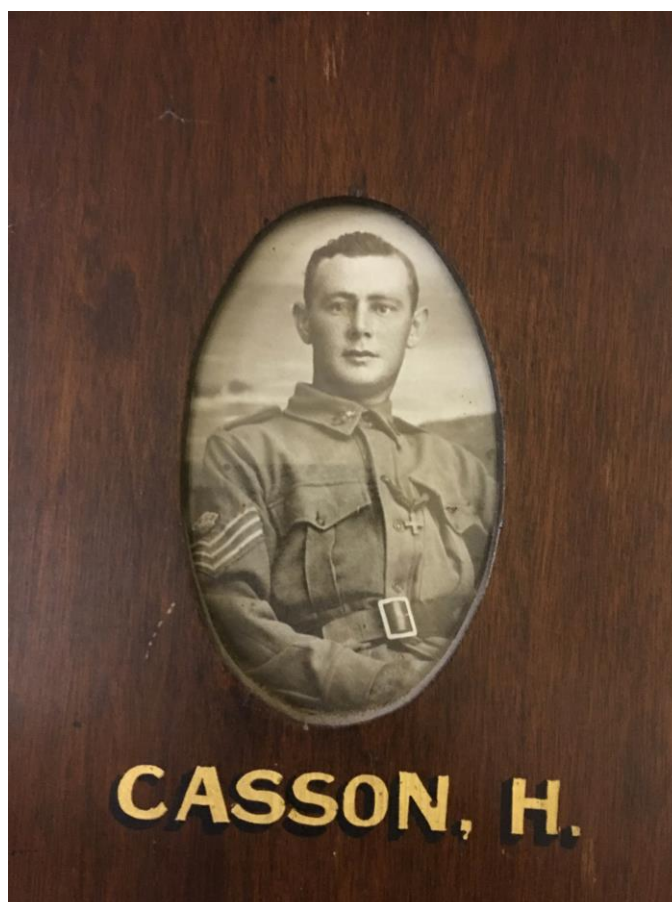
Elmhurst & District Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

H. Casson is remembered on the Elmhurst & District Photographic Honour Roll (top row, middle), located in Mechanics Institute, High Street, Elmhurst, Victoria.



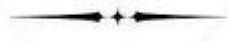
Elmhurst & District Photographic Honour Roll

(Photo above from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald; below courtesy of Janine Curtis)



(51 pages of Sergeant John Hulbert Casson's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

Four more young fellows have registered, through the Town Clerk, for service with the Second Expeditionary Force for the war:- John Hulbert Casson, Terence Rapkins, William J. Pidley and Harold J. Hand.

(The Ararat Advertiser, Victoria – 10 October, 1914)

DEATH

On Active Service

CASSON – (By Private Cable) On 18th October, at Sheffield Military Hospital, England, from illness and shell shock, after two years' faithful service for King and Country, Sergeant John Hulbert (Bertie) Casson, dearly loved and only son of Mr and Mrs Ostle Casson, of Kilsyth, Croydon and late of Elmhurst, and dearly loved and only brother of Millie; an ardent member of Holy Trinity branch of C.E.M.S., Ararat.

“His duty nobly done.”

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents and sister.

(The Ararat Advertiser, Victoria – 21 October, 1916)

KILLED AT THE FRONT

SERGEANT JOHN HULBERT CASSON

A number of personal friends will learn with sorrow that Sergeant John Hulbert Casson, the only son of Mr and Mrs Casson, of Croydon, and formerly of Elmhurst, has made the supreme sacrifice. Sergeant Casson was born at Ballan, and was for some years at Elmhurst as a lad when his parents were resident there, Mr Casson being in charge of the police station. Subsequently the young man came to Ararat, and was an employee at the local railway station. He was a member of the Ararat Church of England Men's Society, and his quiet, manly demeanor won for him the good opinion of all who knew him. He enlisted over two years ago and saw a good deal of active service and he died in the Sheffield Military Hospital, England, from illness and shell shock. Much sympathy will be felt for the family of the deceased soldier.

(The Ararat Advertiser, Victoria – 21 October, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

CASSON – (By Private Cable) On 18th October, at Sheffield Military Hospital, England, from illness and shell shock, after two years' faithful service for King and country, Sergeant John Hulbert (Bertie) Casson, dearly loved and only son of Mr and Mrs Ostle Casson, of Kilsyth, Croydon and late of Elmhurst, and dearly loved and only brother of Millie.

His duty nobly done.

-(Inserted by his sorrowing parents and sister).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 October, 1916) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 October, 1916)

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

In a recent casualty list appears the name of Sergt. J. H. Casson, son of Mr and Mrs Casson, of Croydon, who was killed in action. Sergt. Casson was born at Ballan, his father then a member of the police force, being stationed here for many years.

(*Ballan Times*, Victoria – 26 October, 1916)

DEATH

CASSON – (By Private Cable) On 18th October, at Sheffield Military Hospital, England, from illness and shell shock, after two years faithful service for King and Country - Sergeant John Hulbert (Bertie) Casson, dearly loved and only son of Mr and Mrs Ostle Casson, of Kilsyth, Croydon dearly loved and only brother of Millie, nephew od M. and Z. Sinnamon, Maldon.

His duty nobly done.

(*Maldon News*, Victoria – 27 October, 1916)

THE 240th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Sergeant J. H. Casson, Kilsyth

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 8 November, 1916)

JUDICIAL AND LAW NOTICES

After the expiration of fourteen days from the publication hereof application will be made to the Supreme Court of the State of Victoria, in its Probate jurisdiction, that PROBATE of the WILL of JOHN HULBERT CASSON, formerly of Elmhurst, in the said State, blacksmith, but late a member if the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Forces, deceased, be granted to Mary Amelia Casson, of Kilsyth, in the said State, spinster, the sister of the said deceased and the executrix named in and appointed by the said will.

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(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 November, 1916)

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. 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)

Sergeant J. H. Casson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Willesden New Cemetery, Willesden, Greater London, England

Willesden New Cemetery contains 257 Commonwealth War Graves - 135 First World War graves and 122 from the Second World War. Most of the graves are scattered, although 29 of the Second World War graves form an informal group. A Screen Wall bears the names of those casualties from both wars buried in the cemetery whose graves could not be individually marked. The cemetery also contains a memorial erected by the Borough Council to the civilians of Willesden who lost their lives in enemy air raids.

(Information from CWGC)



Willesden New Cemetery *(Photo by julia&keld)*

Photo of Sergeant J. H. Casson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Willesden New Cemetery, Willesden, Greater London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)



Cross of Sacrifice in Willesden New Cemetery (Photo by Mike Ganly – Find a Grave)



Map of Willesden New Cemetery