

**Streatham Park Cemetery,
Streatham, Greater London, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



35277 GUNNER

R. CUNNINGHAM

ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY

20TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 26

Reuben CUNNINGHAM

Reuben Cunningham was born on 16th November, 1893 at Battersea, London, England to parents Walter Benjamin & Frances Elizabeth Cunningham (nee Blake). His birth was registered in December quarter, 1893 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Reuben Cunningham was admitted to Sleaford Street School, Wandsworth, London, England from 17th October, 1896. His date of birth was listed as 16th November, 1893. His father was listed as Walter Cunningham from 62 Sleaford Street.

The 1901 England Census recorded Reuben Cunningham as a 7 year old, living with his family at 62 Sleaford Street, East Battersea, London, England. His parents were listed as Benjamin Cunningham (Horse Keeper, aged 41, born Dartford, Kent) & Francis Cunningham (aged 33, born Battersea, London). Reuben was one of seven children listed on this Census (all born Battersea, London) – Francis (daughter, aged 13), Walter (aged 11), William (aged 9) Ruben (aged 7), George (aged 5), Lizzie (aged 3) & Mary (aged 1).

The 1911 England Census recorded Reuben Cunningham as a 17 year old Vanguard with Railway Company, living with his family at 74 Ascalon Street, East Battersea, London, England which was a six roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Walter B. Cunningham (Carman, aged 51) & Frances E. Cunningham (Sack Repairer, aged 43). Walter & Frances had been married for 24 years & had a total of 12 children. All 12 children were listed on this Census (all born at Battersea, London) – Elizabeth F. (Aged 23), Benjamin W. Carman, aged 21), John William (Leather Salesman, aged 19) then Reuben, George (Vanguard, aged 15), Lydia (At School, aged 13), May (At School, aged 11), Charles (At School, aged 9), Kate (At School, aged 7), Ruth (At School, aged 5), Arthur (aged 3) & Louisa (aged 1).

Reuben Cunningham joined British Army on 9th June, 1911 as a Vanguard, aged 18 years & 6 months. His next of kin was listed as his father – Walter Cunningham; mother - Elizabeth Cunningham & brothers – Benjamin & John Cunningham from 74 Ascalon Street, Battersea.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham was posted to Royal Regiment of Artillery (Royal Garrison Artillery) & was issued a Service number of 35277.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham was on Home Service from 15th June, 1911 until 20th March, 1912. He was posted to Malta from 21st March, 1912 to 8th July, 1915. During this time he was posted as an Officer's Groom – "*3rd Class Certificate of Education. Sober, steady & respectable. A good groom, has been with polo ponies*" – dated 30th October, 1913. Gunner Cunningham was on Home Service from 9th July, 1915 until 4th October, 1915.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham was posted to British Expeditionary Force on 5th October, 1915. According to his Medal Index Card – Gunner Cunningham entered a Theatre of War in France on 20th October, 1915.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham embarked from Southampton, England on 20th October, 1915 & disembarked at Boulogne, France on 21st October, 1915. He was posted to 31st Brigade on 23rd November, 1915.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham was attached to 31st Heavy Artillery Group from 1st May, 1916.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham was granted Leave to UK from 10th May, 1916 to 17th May, 1916.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham was granted Leave to UK from 1st to 11th June, 1917.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham was on Leave to England from 15th February, 1918 & returned on 2nd March, 1918.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham was posted from 11th Siege Battery, R.G.A. to Australian Corps Heavy Artillery from 16th November, 1918 & was transferred Eastern Command at Watford, England. He embarked at Dunkirk on 13th January, 1919 to proceed to England as a Watford Detail.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham died at 10.15 am on 20th February, 1919 at Fulham Military Hospital, Hammersmith, London, England from Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia whilst on leave from France. "*Had been ill for 6 days before*

admission. When admitted was in a serious condition Cyanosed & had signs of broncho pneumonia, He showed no improvement and died the following morning at 10.15.”

A death for Reuben Cunningham, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Fulham, London, England.

The body of Gunner Reuben Cunningham was claimed by his mother, living at 142 New Road, Battersea, London, who made all arrangements as to Burial & Cemetery. He was buried in Streatham Park Cemetery, Greater London, England – P. 1 G. 7149.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham does not have a headstone but is instead remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commissions Screen Wall. 1. 7149.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner R. Cunningham – service number 35277, aged 26, of Aust. Corps Heavy Artillery, Royal Garrison Artillery. He was the son of Walter Benjamin & Frances Elizabeth Cunningham, of 142 New Rd., Battersea, London.

Gunner R. Cunningham is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

(31 pages of Gunner Reuben Cunningham's British Army Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives UK & Ancestry).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll) & National Archives UK



Gunner Reuben Cunningham



Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Gunner Reuben Cunningham is remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Streatham Park Cemetery as he has no headstone.

Streatham Park Cemetery, Streatham, Greater London, England

This cemetery is situated in Rowan Road, Streatham Vale. The cemetery contains Commonwealth war graves of both World Wars, and also a Screen Wall Memorial which commemorates service casualties of these wars buried in this cemetery in graves which could not be marked by headstones. A wing has been added to this memorial on which are carved the names of those who died during the Second World War who were accorded the last rite of cremation at the South London Crematorium, which is situated within the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)

Streatham Park Cemetery contains 408 Commonwealth War Graves – 118 relating to World War 1 & 290 relating to World War 2.



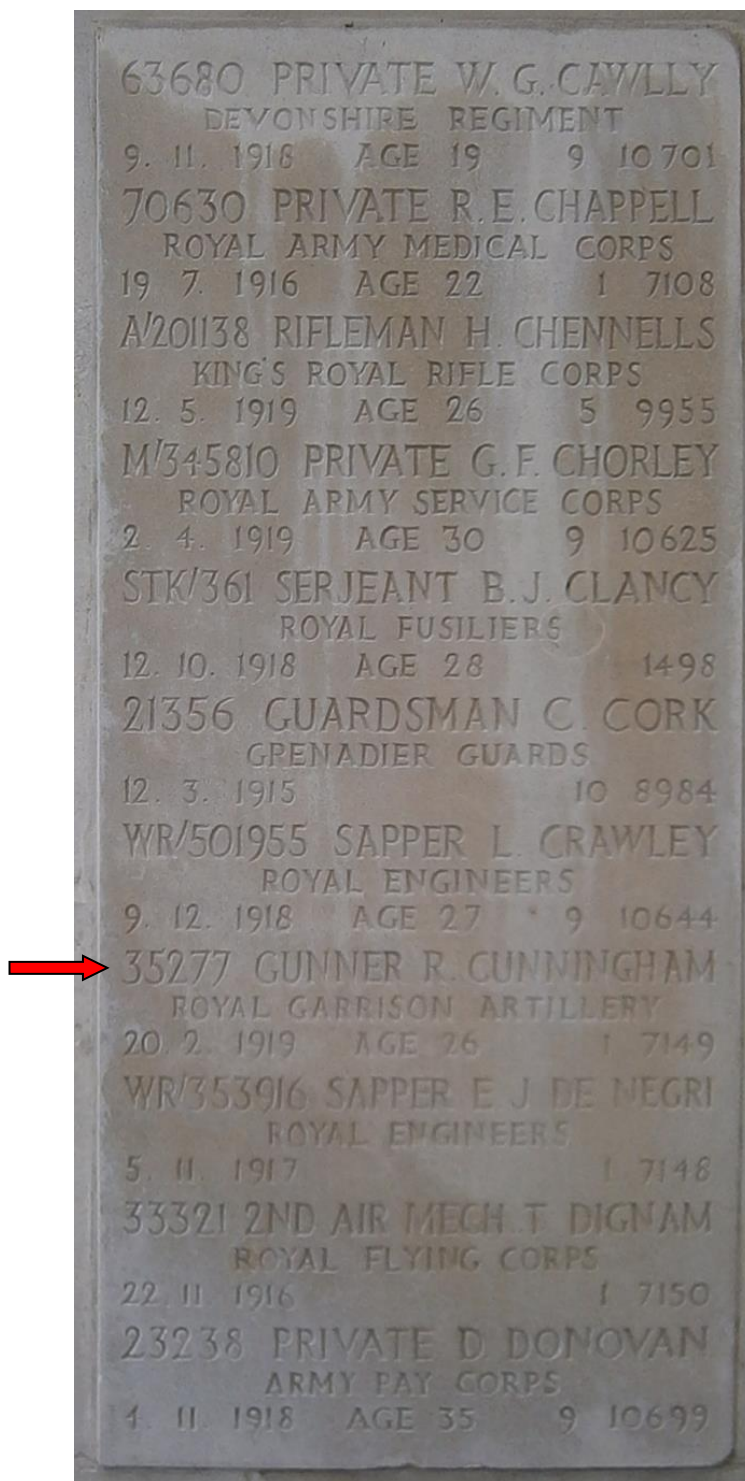
Cross of Sacrifice *(Photo from CWGC)*



Screen Wall & (below) Cross of Sacrifice in front of Screen Wall (Photos courtesy of sallynick – Twitter)



Photo of Gunner R. Cunningham's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Streatham Park Cemetery, Streatham, Greater London, England.



(Photo – Find a Grave – Chris Moran)

