

**Sutton Veny,  
Wiltshire, England  
War Graves  
World War 1**



*Lest We Forget*



**6261 PRIVATE**

**G. HEARN**

**9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**1ST MAY, 1919 AGE 39**

*In Memory Of  
My Dear Husband  
& Our Father  
Gone But Not Forgotten*

## George HEARN

George Hearn was born at Sydenham, Kent, England around 1879 to parents George & Jemima Hearn (nee Russell).

The 1881 England Census listed George Hearn as 2 year old living with his family at 7 Relingdon Road, Sydenham, Lewisham, London. His parents were listed as George Hearn (Labourer, aged 28, born Ipswich, Suffolk) & Jemimah Hearn (Labourer, aged 27, born Sittingbourne, Kent). George was the youngest of 2 children on this Census, both born at Sydenham, Kent - older sister Hannah (aged 4).

The Hearn family arrived at the port of Cooktown, Queensland from Plymouth, England on 18th November, 1883 aboard the *Almora*. The family consisted of George & Jemma Hearn & their children – Hannah (aged 6), George (aged 4) & James (aged 2).

According to *Pioneers and Settlers Register Far North Queensland to 1920* – Jemima Russell (born 1852, Sidenborn, England, parents John & Ann Russell (nee Swan) married George Hearn in 1871 at Kent, England. They had the following children – Jane (born 1876), Hannah (2 June, 1877), George (born 1879), James (born 1881), unnamed child (died on voyage to Australia), Amy (born 2 January, 1884), Charles William (born 16 June, 1885) & William (born 1888). Jemima Hearn married for a second time to William Henry David Adolph Louis on 30th June, 1894 at Geraldton, Queensland. Jemima & William Louis had Lilly Ivy (born 5 December, 1896 at Geraldton, Qld). Jemima Louis died 19th February, 1902 at Geraldton (now Innisfail).

George Hearn married Elizabeth Mary O'Keefe on 19th August, 1903 in Queensland.

Births for the following children were registered in the state of Queensland with George Hearn listed as father & Elizabeth Mary O'Keefe listed as mother – Eileen Mary (born 1904), Jemmima (born 1906), George (born 1907), Sarah Annie (born 1908), Denis Joseph (born 1909), Harold James (born 1910), Nellie Elizabeth (born 1911, died 1913), Charles (born 1912, died 1917) & Catherine (born 1914).

The 1917 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Herbert, subdivision of Innisfail recorded George Hearn, Carter, & his wife Elizabeth Mary Hearn, Home Duties of Owen Street.

George Hearn was a 35 year old, married, Miner from Ernest Street, Innisfail, North Queensland when he enlisted at Townsville, Queensland on 5th February, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6261 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. M. Hearn of Post Office, Innisfail, North Queensland.

Private George Hearn embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 7th September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd November, 1916.

Private George Hearn proceeded overseas per SS *Golden Eagle* from Folkestone on 17th December, 1916 & was marched in at Etaples, France on 18th December, 1916. He proceeded to join his Unit on 23rd December, 1916 & joined his Battalion in France on 1st January, 1917.

Private Hearn was sent sick to Hospital on 9th March, 1917 & admitted with Rheumatism. He was discharged to duty on 25th March, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 26th March, 1917.

Private Hearn was sent to Brigade Miners on 27th December, 1917.

Private Hearn was sent on leave to UK on 12th January, 1918 & was sent sick to Hospital while on leave on 21st January, 1918. He rejoined his Battalion on 28th January, 1918.

Private Hearn was wounded in action on 19th July, 1918. He was admitted & transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to 20th General Hospital at Camiers on 20th July, 1918 with a shrapnel wound to left forearm. Private Hearn was transferred to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 23rd July, 1918. He was marched in at Havre on 2nd August, 1918 & proceeded to his Unit on 7th August, 1918. He rejoined his Battalion in France on 15th August, 1918 but was sent to Hospital sick on 17th August, 1918. He was transferred on 19th

August, 1918 to 11 Stationary Hospital at Rouen with Furunculosis (boils). Private Hearn was transferred to England on 24th August, 1918 on *Gloucester Castle* & admitted to Convalescent Canadian Red Cross Hospital in England on 25th August, 1918.

Private Hearn was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park, Middlesex on 31st August, 1918 & discharged on 6th September, 1918.

Private Hearn was on furlo from 6th September to 20th September, 1918 to report to No. 4 Command Depot.

Private Hearn was marched in from furlo to No. 4 Command Depot on 20th September, 1918. He was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade on 12th October, 1918.

Private Hearn proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 6th November, 1918 & marched in in France on 7th November, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit the next day & rejoined his Unit on 22nd November, 1918.

Pte Hearn was marched out for R.T.A. (Return to Australia) from France on 27th March, 1918. He was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade on 4th April, 1919.

Private George Hearn was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 26th April, 1919.

Private George Hearn died at 10.15 p.m. on 1st May, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England of Pneumonia.

A death for G. Hearn, aged 41, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private George Hearn was buried on 5th May, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 89. From the burial report of Private Hearn - *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 No. 1 Australian Command Depot, Sutton Veny. Six of the deceased's alte Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A large 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.*

Private George Hearn was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hearn's widow – Mrs E. M. Hearn (sent July, 1921 & October, 1922). Elizabeth May Hearn remarried in 1919 to Charles Strange.

Private G. Hearn is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 56.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. Hearn is also remembered on the Innisfail Roll of Honour 1914-1918 which is located in the Shire Hall, Rankin Street, Innisfail, Queensland.



**Innisfail Roll of Honour** (Photo from Qld War Memorials – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Private George Hearn, 6261, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of George Hearn & Jemima Russell Hearn; husband of E. M. Strange (formerly Hearn), of O'Mara St, Lutwyche, Brisbane, Queensland. Born at Sydenham, London, England.

(69 pages of Private George Hearn'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.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **INNISFAIL NOTES**

Mr G. Hearn's little daughter met with a fatal burning accident through the bed catching fire.

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Monday 21 April, 1913)*

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### **INNISFAIL**

A number of volunteers were farewelled yesterday by the War Council, Mr Lennon, member for the district taking part in the proceeding. Geo. Hearn, of Innisfail, who has volunteered, is a married man with nine children.

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Saturday 13 May, 1916)*

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### **Roll of Honour**

#### **CASUALTY LIST No. 466**

##### **DIED OTHER CAUSES**

G. Hearn, Lutwyche, 1/5/19, illness, p.r.w.

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 19 June, 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)*

A letter from Base Records to Mr E. M. Hearn, dated 15th July, 1921, advised Mrs Hearn that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on her husband's Headstone in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

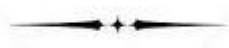
Private George Hearn does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of My Dear Husband & Our Father Gone But Not Forgotten*





**Original Cross Marker for Private G. Hearn**



### **St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England**

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. The 26th Division was concentrated at Sutton Veny in April 1915 and No 1 Australian Command was there from the end of 1916 to October 1919. There was also a hutted military hospital of more than 1200 beds at Sutton Veny for much of the war and No 1 Australian General Hospital was stationed there after the Armistice. Sutton Veny (St John) Churchyard contains 168 First World War burials, 167 of them in a plot at the north west corner of the church. Of these, 143 are Australian. There is only one Second World War burial in the churchyard.

*(Information & colour photos from CWGC)*







AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376





Photo of Private G. Hearn's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



**Photo of original crosses placed on the graves – Pte G. Hearn (just visible to left)**

*(Photo from Australian War Memorial)*