

**Beckenham Crematorium & Cemetery,  
Beckenham, Kent**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**GREASER**

**W. HUMPAGE MMR**

**H.M.S. VICTORY**

**30TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 29**

*At Rest*

## William John HUMPAGE

William John Humpage was born in Sydney, NSW in September, 1889 to parents William F. and Jessie E. Humpage (nee Gardner). His birth was registered in 1889 in the district of Waterloo, Sydney, NSW.

A "*W. J. Humpage. aged 25, born Sydney*" was recorded as a Sailor on *Cawdor Castle* which had travelled from the Port of Calcutta to Sydney, via Melbourne on 10th December, 1917.

William John Humpage joined Mercantile Marine Reserve & was given an official number of 7711.

### **Mercantile Marine Reserve (M.M.R.)**

Many merchant seamen and fishermen were in the Royal Naval Reserve (R.N.R.) during wartime. For example, they served on trawlers employed in anti-submarine and minesweeping duties, drifters engaged in boom defence, or on the armed merchant cruisers used to enforce the British naval blockade.

During 1916-1920 the Mercantile Marine Reserve (M.M.R.) was used to engage officers and seamen on board vessels employed on government service. The crews of vessels commissioned as auxiliaries by the Admiralty were signed on under a T.124 agreement, whereby they agreed to serve in any commissioned vessel, but retained aspects of their civilian pay and benefits. (*Wikipedia*)

William John Humpage posted to H.M.S. *Victory*.

### **H.M.S. *Victory***

From 1906 H.M.S. *Victory* was a permanent establishment at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth.

Greaser William John Humpage died on 30th September, 1918 at Norwood Cottage Hospital, England from influenza and pneumonia.



A death for William J. Humpage, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Croydon, Surrey, England.

Greaser William John Humpage was buried in Beckenham Crematorium & Cemetery, Beckenham, Kent, England – Plot number W5.7656. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Medal Card for William John Humpage records he was born in Sydney in 1892. His Mercantile Marine Medal & British Medal were issued in Australia to Mrs Jesse Humpage, 45 Farr St. Rockdale, NSW.

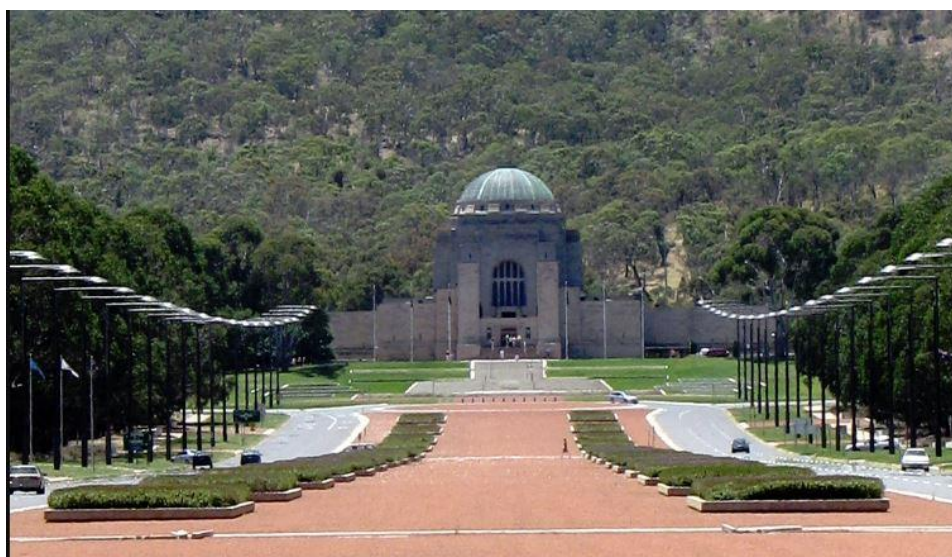
The Naval Casualties, Indexes, War Grave Rolls and Statistic Book for World War 1 recorded William John Humpage, Greaser, 7711, of M.M.R., who died on 30th September. 1918. His next-of-kin was his mother of 5 Gibb Street, Rockdale, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Greaser William John Humpage – service number 7711, aged 29, of H.M.S. Victory, Mercantile Marine Reserve. He was the son of William and Jessie Humpage, of 45 Farr St., Rockdale, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Greaser William John Humpage 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 Area of the Australian War Memorial** (*Capital Photographer*)



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DEATHS**

HUMPAGE – September 30, 1918, at Norwood Cottage Hospital, of influenza and pneumonia, William John, dearly loved only son and brother William, Jessie, and Lillian Humpage and Elsie and Jack Mann, of Gibbes-street, Rockdale, and dear friend of Florence Smith, of England, age 29 years & 1 week. (By Cable).

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 23 November, 1918)*

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### **RETURN THANKS**

Mr and Mrs W. HUMPAGE and FAMILY desire to return THANKS to their many kind relatives, friends, and neighbours, also to the members of the N.S.W. Umpires; Association and the Erskineville Cricket Club, for cards, letters, and words of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement in the loss of their dear son and brother, Will, while in Naval College.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 December, 1918)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

HUMPAGE – In ever-loving memory of our dearly loved only son and brother, William John, who passed to a higher life at Norwood, England, September 30, 1918. So sadly missed by his loving parents, sisters, brother-in-law and little nephew.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 30 September, 1922)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

HUMPAGE – In ever-loving memory of our darling son and brother, Will, who passed to a higher life, September 30, 1918, at Norwood, England. So sadly missed by his parents, sisters, brother-in-law and nephew.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 September, 1923)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

HUMPAGE – In ever-loving memory of our darling son and brother, William John, who passed to a higher life September 30, 1918, aged 29 years. Inserted by William and Jessie Humpage and family.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 October, 1924)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

HUMPAGE – In loving memory of my dear and only son, William J., who passed to a higher life September 30, 1918. Too dearly loved to be forgotten.

Inserted by his loving mother.

HUMPAGE – In loving memory of Will, dearly loved brother and uncle of Elsie, Jack and Glenn Mann.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 October, 1927)*

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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. 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)*

Greaser W. Humpage does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*At Rest*

### **Beckenham Crematorium & Cemetery, Beckenham, Kent, England**

Beckenham Crematorium and Cemetery (opened in 1876 as Crystal Palace District Cemetery) contains burials of both wars. The 130 First World War graves are scattered throughout the cemetery, a number of them came from the Royal Naval Division Depot, H.M.S. Crystal Palace and the Army Service Corps Motor Transport Depot at Grove Park. Some of these graves could not be individually marked which has resulted in 30 casualties being commemorated by name on a screen wall. A further 40 were found to be in locations that could not be satisfactorily maintained and 30 headstones commemorating these casualties, were later erected in the small Second World War plot. This plot contains only 12 of the 127 Second World War burials, plus three special memorials commemorating 3 casualties whose graves elsewhere in the cemetery could not be individually marked.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Beckenham Crematorium & Cemetery** *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*





**Beckenham Crematorium & Cemetery** (Photo above by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave; below from CWGC)





Greaser W. Humpage's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Beckenham Crematorium & Cemetery, Beckenham, Kent, England.



(Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



**Beckenham Crematorium & Cemetery** *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*