

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



6866 PRIVATE

**H. A. PLUMMER**

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH OCTOBER, 1918 AGE 22

*Beloved Son Of*

*W. C. Plummer Of Perth, W.A.*

*CWGC Headstone for Pte H. A. Plummer is located in  
Grave Plot # 14. G. 7. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Harold Alexander PLUMMER

Harold Alexander Plummer was born in 1895 at Korumburra, Victoria to parents William Charles & Mary Ann Plummer (nee Drew). He was a 21 year old, single, Miner from Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted at Laverton, Western Australia on 19th February, 1917 with the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6866 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William Charles Plummer of 28 Monger Street, Perth, Western Australia. (A death for Mary Ann Plummer was registered in 1908. In 1911 William C. Plummer married Bertha Hartley.)

Private Harold Alexander Plummer embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1917.

Pte Plummer was written up for an Offence at Durban on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1917 when he was absent without leave from Troopship A30 from 7 am on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1917 till reporting at 11 pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1917. Award was admonished by Major Murdock & he forfeited 2 days' pay.

Pte Plummer was written up for an Offence at Durban on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1917 – “Breaking away from Troopship while under open arrest at 9.30 am & remaining absent till reporting midday 23/7/17.” He was awarded a total of 144 hours field punishment by detention by Major Murdock.

Pte Plummer was written up for an Offence at Sierra Leone on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 – “Neglecting to obey an order of an N.C.O.” He was awarded 7 days field punishment No. 2 by Major Murdock.

Pte Plummer disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Plummer was marched in to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.

Pte Plummer was written up for an Offence at Rollestone on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 – “Conduct to the prejudice of good order & Military discipline in that he at Rollestone on 14/9/17 used insolent language to his superior Officer.” He was awarded 14 days confined to Camp & forfeited 14 days pay.

Pte Plummer was written up for an Offence at 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 - absent without leave from 6 am on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 till 3 pm on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He was awarded 14 days confined to Camp & forfeited 9 days' pay.

Pte Plummer was marched in to 6<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire from 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1917.

Pte Plummer proceeded overseas to France from Fovant via Southampton on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 & was marched in to Australian Base Depot at Havre on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1918. Pte Plummer was marched out to his Unit on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1918 & Taken on strength with 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1918.

Pte Plummer was wounded on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 & taken to 49<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance with a gunshot wound to leg. He was transferred to 22<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital at Camiers on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 & transferred to England on the Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1918. Pte Plummer was admitted to Fort Pitt Military Hospital at Chatham with a shrapnel wound to left leg on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1918.

Pte Plummer was on furlo from 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 & to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. However, Private Plummer was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park, Middlesex on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 with Influenza. He was transferred to Military Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 16<sup>th</sup> August to 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 with Syphilis. He was then transferred to C. T. Depot at Parkhouse on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 & discharged on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1918.

Pte Plummer was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in two to three weeks).

Private Harold Alexander Plummer was admitted to the Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 with Influenza & transferred to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 seriously ill with Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia.

Private Harold Alexander Plummer died at 12.15 p.m. on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Harold Plummer, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Harold Alexander Plummer was buried at 2 pm on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 14. From the burial report of Pte Plummer - *Coffin was polished Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery. Six of deceased's Unit comrades supported the Pall. 2 Officers and about 80 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Unit followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Harold Alexander Plummer requested in his Will dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his sister Florence Alice Goddard of East Perth & that she also be appointed as Executor of the Will.

Pte Harold Alexander Plummer was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Plummer's father – Mr W. C. Plummer (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Harold Alexander Plummer, 6866, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of William Charles and Mary Ann Plummer of 182 Carr St, West Leederville. Born at Korumburra, Victoria.

Private H. A. Plummer is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 80.



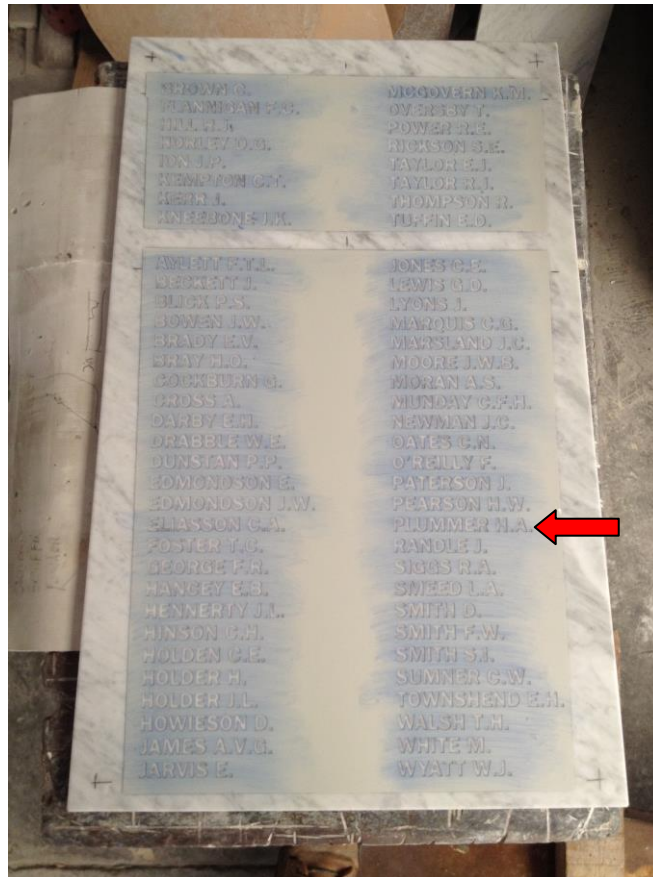
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The West Leederville War Memorial is located at 84 Cambridge St, West Leederville, Western Australia. Harold Plummer was not included on the original War Memorial which was unveiled in 1924 however, the West Leederville War Memorial received a facelift in 2015, as part of a grant from the Australian Government that was approved in 2014. H. A. Plummer is one of 50 names which were added to the Cenotaph in 2015. The addition of the extra 50 names were added to a new back panel & listed below the original 16 names & were added in alphabetical order.



West Leederville War Memorial & the existing back panel where the additional 50 names will be added.





The work in progress by Perth Monumental Works – a mock up of how the names will fit on the back panel





*West Leederville War Memorial photos courtesy of Rosemary Ritorto – Local Studies Librarian, Town of Cambridge*

An article in the local newspaper the *Cambridge Post* , February 21, 2015 –

**Names added 100 on**

*Far from fading away, 49 West Leederville servicemen are finally being recognised on the West Leederville War Memorial almost 100 years after they were killed. Cambridge local studies librarian Rosemary Ritorto said: “I suspect the names were just missed.”*

*Changes in technology meant all sorts of records could now be searched, she said.*

*The Memorial, which stands in Cambridge Street outside the old Town Hall building, was unveiled in 1924.*

*A panel has been removed from the memorial by Perth Monumental Works to add the names to the 130 already there.*

*Ms Ritorto said the names would fit because they would be added with less space between them.*

*The remembered soldiers are: Frank O’Reilly, John Leggo Holder, Edwin Edmondson, Frank Thomas Lewis Aylett, Albert Victor Gordon James, Thomas Charles Foster, Harry Holder, Harold Alexander Plummer, Frederick Ralph George, Wyatt James Wyatt, Leonard Arthur Smeed, John Paterson, Joseph Leonard Hennerty, Poland Alfred Siggs, John Randle, Percival Swithin Blick, Wilfred Ernest Drabble, John Charles Marsland, Frederick William Smith, Edwin Hepburn Townshend, John Beckett, Clarence George Marquis, David Smith, Percy Phillip Dunstan, George Cockburn, Edward Harry Darby, Thomas Henry Walsh, Charles Edwin Holden, James William Bowen, James Whittaker Edmondson, David Howieson, Edgar Vernon Brady, James Lyons, Clifford Nicholas Oates, Morris White, John William Beverhoudt Moore, Cyril William Sumner, Alfred Stephen Moran, Harold Oswald Bray, Jack Carter Newman, Charles Forest Hill Munday, Albert Cross, Ephraim Jarvis, Edwin Manthorpe Hancey, Griffith David Lewis, Stewart Irwin Smith, Hoarce William Pearson, Charles Edward Jones, Carl Alfred Eliasson and Charles Henry Hinson.*

As part of the centenary of Anzac Day Remembrance, banners of some of the soldiers from the area will be hung from the roof of the old Town Hall building, which is next to the Cenotaph, in a Guard of Honour formation. Below is a draft example of the banners which will be used with Pte Harold Alexander Plummer seen second from left.

*(Information & Photos regarding the refurbishment & Banners with thanks to Cambridge Library Local Studies Collection, Floreat, WA)*



**Harold Alexander Plummer (right) was remembered along with other A.I.F. Soldiers in a commemorative Anzac display for 2015 (with thanks to Rosemary Ritorto)**

(69 pages of Pte Harold Alexander Plummer'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**

### **WAR CASUALTIES**

Mr and Mrs W. C. Plummer, 28 Monger Street, Perth, have received a notification that their son, Private Harold Plummer, has been wounded in France.

*(The West Australian, Perth – Wednesday 1 May, 1918)*

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### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **397th and 398th CASUALTY LISTS**

##### **WOUNDED**

Plummer, Harold Alexdr. (Perth).

*(The West Australian, Perth – Friday 10 May, 1918)*

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### **KILLED IN ACTION**

PLUMMER - No. 6866, Private H. A. Plummer, 16th, late 28th Battalion, dearly beloved son of W. C. Plummer, of 28 Monger-street, Perth, died of influenza and pneumonia, at Sutton Veney Hospital, England, on October 24, 1918; aged 22 years and 10 months. Previously reported wounded.

PLUMMER - In sad but loving memory of Private Harold A. Plummer, who died on October 24, 1918, of influenza and pneumonia at Sutton Veney Hospital, England.

Inserted by his ever loving fiancée, E. Cousins, and Mr. and Mrs. Jibbons and family, West Perth.

*(Western Mail, Perth – Friday 8 November, 1918)*

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### **WAR CASUALTIES**

The friends of Mr and Mrs W. C. Plummer, of 28 Monger Street, will regret to learn that their son, Private H. A. Plummer, of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, has died of influenza and pneumonia at Sutton Verney Hospital, England.

*(The West Australian, Perth – Friday 15 November, 1918)*

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## BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr W. C. Plummer, of Monger Street, Perth, wishes to THANK all kind friends for letters, cards, telegrams and personal messages of sympathy in his recent bereavement in the loss of his son Private H. A. Plummer, who died in Sutton Veney Hospital, England, on October 24, 1918, after-active service in France.

(*The West Australian*, Perth – Saturday 23 November, 1918)

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## AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

### W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

#### 448th List of Casualties

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Harold Alex. Plummer, Perth, illness, previously reported wounded.

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – Tuesday 3 December, 1918)

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## SOLDIERS AND SAILORS



PTE. H. A. PLUMMER.

Died of influenza and pneumonia on October 24, at Sutton-veney Military Hospital, England. His father resides at 28 Monger Street.

(*Sunday Times*, Perth – Sunday 2 February, 1919)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Anzac Heroes

PLUMMER - In sad but loving memory of my dear son Private H. A. Plummer, who died at Sutton Veney of influenza and pneumonia after being wounded on October 24, 1919, 16th Battalion, A.I.F.

Gone but not forgotten.

Inserted by his loving father and step-mother, W.C. and Bertha Plummer 182 Carr-street, Leederville.

(*The West Australian*, Perth – Monday 24 October, 1921)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Anzac Heroes**

PLUMMER - In loving but sad memory of my dear son Private Harold A. Plummer, who died of influenza and pneumonia after being wounded at Sutton Veney on October 24, 1918.

Ever remembered

Inserted by his sorrowing father and stepmother, W.C. Plummer 182 Carr-street, Leederville.

*(The West Australian, Perth – Tuesday 24 October, 1922)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Anzac Heroes**

PLUMMER - In loving memory of my dear son, Private Harold, who died of influenza and pneumonia, after being wounded at Sutton Veney.

Though lost to sight to memory ever dear.

Inserted by his loving father, W.C. Plummer and stepmother.

*(The West Australian, Perth – Wednesday 24 October, 1923)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

PLUMMER - In loving memory of my dear son, Private H. A. Plummer, late 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.F., died of Spanish influenza and pneumonia, after being wounded, October 24, 1918.

In memory ever dear.

Inserted by his loving father, W.C. Plummer and stepmother, B. Plummer.

*(The West Australian, Perth – Friday 24 October, 1924)*

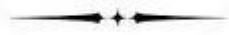
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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04358.001

**Pte Harold Alexander Plummer**



#### 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)*

Pte Harold Alexander Plummer does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Beloved Son Of W. C. Plummer of Perth, W.A.*

Photo of Private H. A. Plummer's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



**War Graves at Sutton Veny** (Photos from CWGC)

