

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**37737 GUNNER**

**W. H. SAMPSON**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**14TH APRIL, 1918 AGE 33**

*His Loyalty He Kept*

*His Love, His Zeal*

*CWGC Headstone for Gunner W. H. Sampson is located in  
Grave Plot # 330A. D. 21. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## William Harold SAMPSON

William Harold Sampson was born in Launceston, Tasmania on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1885 to parents Richard and Caroline Eliza Sampson (nee Pollard).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Bass, subdivision of Launceston East in Tasmania listed William Harold Sampson, warehouseman of 24 Lyttleton Street, Launceston, Tasmania. Also listed at that address were Richard Sampson, Draper; Caroline Eliza Sampson, Domestic duties; Annie Ruth Sampson, Domestic duties; Edith Gertrude, Lady-help & Leila May, Domestic duties.

William Harold Sampson stated he was a 28 year old, single, Bank Clerk from Hobart Savings Bank, Hobart, Tasmania when he enlisted at Hobart, Tasmania on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 with the Field Artillery, 30<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 37737 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Caroline Eliza Sampson of 24 Lyttleton Street, Launceston, Tasmania. William Sampson had previously served with Cadets.

Gunner Sampson was admitted to No. 5 General Hospital from 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 until 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 with Tonsillitis.

Gunner Sampson was admitted to Clearing Hospital at Maribyrnong (Melbourne) from 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 with Influenza then transferred to No. 5 General Hospital from 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 with pharyngitis. He was transferred to No. 14 Australian Auxiliary Hospital from 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 then transferred again to Rest Camp at Macleod from 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.

Gunner William Harold Sampson embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Port Sydney (A15)* on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1917. Gunner Sampson was admitted to Ship's Hospital, while at Sea from 12<sup>th</sup> November – 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 with catarrh. He disembarked at Suez on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1917. Gunner Sampson embarked on HMT *Karoa* from Alexandria on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 & disembarked at Taranto (Italy) on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1917. Gunner Sampson disembarked at Southampton, England on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

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.

Gunner William Harold Sampson was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

Gunner William Harold Sampson was sent sick to Hospital at Sutton Veny with adenoids then reported seriously ill "N.Y.D." (Not yet determined) & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 (Hospital Admissions form states date admitted as 9<sup>th</sup> April; Casualty Form – Active Service has date admitted as 10<sup>th</sup> April).

Gunner William Harold Sampson died on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Emyema; general toxæmia (verified by Post Mortem).

A death for William H. Sampson, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

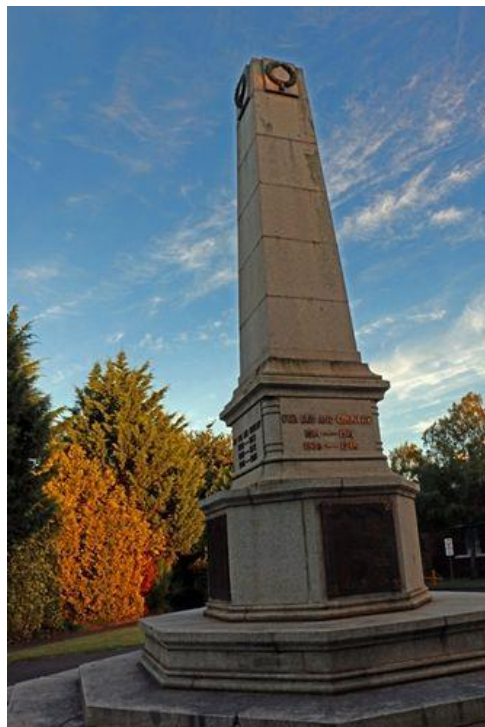
Gunner William Harold Sampson was buried on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 330A. From the burial report of Gunner Sampson - *Coffin was polished Oak with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The Band of No. 1 Australian Command Depot preceded the funeral, which was attended by a Firing Party, pallbearers, the Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of the deceased's battery and a number of personal friends. A large wreath from the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battery R.B.A.A. was placed on the grave. Mrs E. M. Pounsby of 33 Southbourne Rd, Bournemouth, a close friend of the deceased also attended the funeral. Gunner Sampson was most popular with both Officers and men of his Unit and his loss as a soldier and comrade is very keenly felt.*

Gunner W. H. Sampson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 22.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

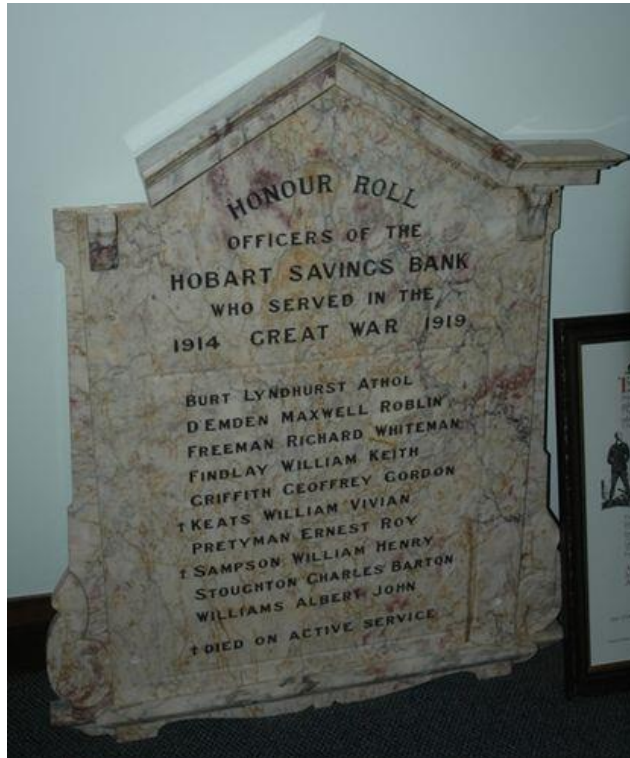
W. H. Sampson is also remembered on the Launceston War Memorial located at Paterson Street, near Bathurst Street Overpass, Launceston.



**Launceston War Memorial** (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

W. H. Sampson is also remembered on the Launceston Roll of Honour which is preserved in the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Community History Museum.

William H. Sampson is also remembered on the Hobart Savings Bank Honour Roll which is located at RSL Headquarters, 68 Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania. (\* Name listed as William Henry Sampson)



**Hobart Savings Bank Honour Roll** (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

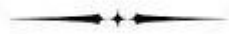
W. H. Sampson is also remembered on the Church Grammar School, Newnham Honour Board which is located inside the Chapel.

Gunner William Harold Sampson was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Sampson's mother – Mrs C. E. Sampson (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922) (father deceased 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1917).

The CWGC lists Gunner William Harold Sampson, 37737, of Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F., as the son of Richard and Caroline Eliza Sampson of 94 Arthur St, Launceston, Tasmania.

(79 pages of Gunner William Harold Sampson'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**

### **DEATHS ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

SAMPSON - On the 14th April, at Military Hospital, Sutton-Veny, Wiltshire, England, Gunner William Harold Sampson, second son of Caroline and the late Richard Sampson.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Monday 22 April, 1918)

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **CASUALTY LISTS – No 395 & 396**

##### **TASMANIAN CASUALTIES**

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Gnr. W. H. Sampson, Hobart, 14/4/18.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Monday 6 May, 1918)

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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*)

Gunner William Harold Sampson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*His Loyalty He Kept, His Love, His Zeal*



Photo of Gunner W. H. Sampson'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)*