

**Sutton Road Cemetery,
Southend-On-Sea, Essex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2663 PRIVATE

E. M. SPOONER

60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31ST JULY, 1916 Age 45

He Sleeps In A Far Off Grave

Ever Remembered

Edward Mason SPOONER

Edward Mason Spooner was born at Southampton, Hampshire, England in 1862 to parents James Mason Spooner and Ann Spooner (nee Lucas).

The 1871 England Census recorded Edward Spooner as a 9 year old, living with his family at London Street, Ratcliff, Stepney, London, England. His mother was listed as Sarah Ann Spooner (age 39, born Rotherhithe, Surrey). His father was not listed with the family in this Census. Edward was one of six children listed in this Census (all born Southampton, Surrey except the baby – John Mason Spooner) – William Spooner (aged 13), Richard Spooner (aged 10) then Edward, Rose Spooner (aged 6), Hariett Spooner (aged 3) & John Mason Spooner (11 months, born Ratcliffe, Middlesex).

The 1881 England Census recorded Edward Spooner as an 8 year old Box Maker living with his family at 85 Walker Street, Bromley St. Leonard, London. His parents were listed as James Spooner (Sailmaker, aged 54, born Bethnal Green, Middlesex) & Ann Spooner (aged 51). Edward was the eldest of four children on this Census – Edward then Rose Spooner (aged 17), John (aged 10) & Thomas Spooner (aged 8, born Stepney, Middlesex).

Edward Mason Spooner married Rebecca Sarah Dodd in 1888 in Victoria, Australia. They had 10 children between 1889 & 1913: James Edward Spooner (born 1889); Harriet Maud Mary Spooner (born 1891); Sarah Rebecca Spooner (born 1893); Herbert Richard Spooner (born 1896); William Arnold Spooner (born 1899); Rosina Lily Spooner (born 1902); Thomas Henry Spooner (born 1905); Ivy Louise Spooner (born 1907); John Mason Spooner (born 1910) & Florence May Spooner (born 1913).

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Melbourne, subdivision of Carlton, Victoria recorded Edward Mason Spooner, Packing Casemaker & his wife Rebecca Spooner, Home Duties, living at 124 (?) Newry Street, Carlton.

The 1912 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Batman, subdivision of Fitzroy Central, Victoria recorded Edward Mason Spooner, Casemaker; Sarah Rebecca Spooner, Home Duties & James Edward Spooner, Boxmaker, living at 56 Newry St., North Fitzroy.

The 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Brunswick North, Victoria recorded Edward Mason Spooner, Casemaker; his wife Rebecca Sarah Spooner, Home Duties; James Edward Spooner, Boxmaker & Sarah Rebecca Spooner, Boxmaker, living at 76 Talbot St., Brunswick.

Edward Mason Spooner stated he was a 44 year old, married, Carpenter of 76 Talbot Street, West Brunswick, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 12th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2663 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs R. S. Spooner, of 76 Talbot Street, West Brunswick, Victoria.

Private Edward Mason Spooner was posted to Camp on 12th June, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 18th June, 1915.

Private Edward Mason Spooner embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 26th August, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

Private Edward Mason Spooner was admitted to Anzac Advance Base at Mudros on 4th December, 1915 from Alexandria & was discharged to join his Unit on 6th December, 1915. He joined 7th Battalion at Anzac on 7th December, 1915 & was posted to "A" Company.

7th Battalion

The 7th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade....

The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Edward Mason Spooner disembarked from HMT *Empress of Britain* on 7th January, 1916 at Alexandria ex Lemnos (after the evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private Edward Mason Spooner was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance at Tel-el-Kebir on 29th January, 1916 with Piles. He was transferred & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Cairo on 29th January, 1916 with Haemorrhoids. Private Spooner was transferred & admitted to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Cairo on 10th February, 1916. He was discharged on 24th February, 1916 & admitted to Convalescent Camp at Helouan on the same day. Private Spooner was discharged from Convalescent Camp on 21st March, 1916.

Private Edward Mason Spooner was posted to 2nd Training Battalion (as part of 58th Battalion) at Zeitoun on 26th March, 1916. He was taken on strength of 58th Battalion at Ferry Post on 1st April, 1916.

58th Battalion

The 58th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 17 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Roughly half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 6th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 6th, the 58th was predominantly composed of men from Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Edward Mason Spooner was transferred from 58th Battalion to 60th Battalion on 2nd April, 1916 & was taken on strength of 60th Battalion at Ferry Post on 3rd April, 1916.

Private Edward Mason Spooner embarked from Alexandria on 18th June, 1916 on *Kinfauns Castle* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private Edward Mason Spooner was reported wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 8th Stationary Hospital in France on 22nd July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Shoulder & Back. Private Spooner embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* on 23rd July, 1916.

60th Battalion

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The majority of both groups were Victorians. The new battalion formed part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 28 June, the 60th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the battalion. In a single day, it was virtually wiped out, suffering 757 casualties. These losses meant the battalion saw little further offensive action in 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 60th Battalion

Trenches on Fromelles Front – 19th July, 1916:

Coy. Cmdrs and all other available officers received final instructions re assault at Batn. Hdqtrs at 10 am.

Zero time 11 am Head of battalion moved past Brigade Hqts at 1.30 and marched via V.C. Sap to front line trenches under heavy enemy artillery bombardment. Friendly artillery very heavily bombarding enemy trenches. Battalion established in front line trench by 4.20, Lewis Guns excepted, a few casualties having occurred, some serious. Battalion scaled parapet and advanced in four waves, the first wave leaving at 6.45, the last at 7. Each wave advanced under very heavy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, suffering very heavy casualties. Advance continued to within 90 yards of enemy trenches. The attack was held up, although it is believed some few of the battalion entered enemy trenches. During the night 19/20 a few stragglers, wounded and unwounded, returned to our trenches.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Edward Mason Spooner was admitted to H. M. Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, England on 24th July, 1916 with G.S.W. to both shoulders. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Extensive wounds of both shoulders. Much sepsis also damage to right scapula. Secondary haemorrhage. Patient recovered temporarily & then collapsed.*"

Private Edward Mason Spooner died at 4.55 am on 31st July, 1916 at H. M. Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital (affiliated with Chatham), Southend-on-Sea, Essex, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W to both shoulders.

A death for Edward M. Spooner, aged 49 (actual age 54), was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Rochford, Essex, England.

Private Edward Mason Spooner was buried in Municipal Cemetery, Sultan Road, Southend – Grave No. 1169.

Private Edward Mason Spooner's burial place is now listed by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, England – Plot number E. 3438 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

[Note: There are seven WW1 Australian Soldiers buried in Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, England.

Originally five Soldiers were buried in 1916 in Municipal Cemetery, Sultan Road. The five were exhumed from Municipal Cemetery, Sultan Road at a later date & re-interred in separate graves in Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-On-Sea.

Private Emery & Sergeant Naylor were originally recorded as being buried in Grave No. 3492 in Sultan Road Cemetery. Private Scott was originally recorded as being buried in Grave No. 5975 in Municipal Cemetery, Sultan Road. Private Spooner & Sergeant Yelverton were originally recorded as being buried in Grave No. 1169 in Municipal Cemetery, Sultan Road.

Of the five that were exhumed only one soldier has a copy of a letter in his Service Record file that was sent to next-of-kin advising of the exhumation. This is a transcript of the letter that was sent to Private Emery's father on 19th August, 1919: "*With reference to my communication of the 6th March, 1917, regarding the burial of your son, the late No. 3540, Private H. E. Emery, 59th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, to the effect that the remains of your son have been exhumed from Common Grave No. 3492 and re-interred in Separate Single Grave No. 3439 in Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-on-Sea, England. This work is carried out with the utmost care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

The two soldiers that were buried in 1917 were buried in Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-On-Sea undisturbed.]

Private Edward Mason Spooner was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Spooner's widow - Mrs R. S. Spooner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 (address Clarence St., E. Brunswick) & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edward Mason Spooner – service number 2663, aged 54, of 60th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James Mason Spooner and Ann Spooner; husband of Rebecca S. Spooner, of Clarence St., East Brunswick, Victoria, Australia.

Private E. M. Spooner is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 171.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. M. Spooner & his son J. E. Spooner are both remembered on the Brunswick Town Hall Honour Roll, located in Foyer of Brunswick Town Hall, 233 Sydney Road, Brunswick, Melbourne, Victoria.



Brunswick Town Hall Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Bruce Garrett)



(44 pages of Private Edward Mason Spooner's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H061 36

Private Edward Mason Spooner



Connected to Private Edward Mason Spooner:

Son – James Edward Spooner (born 5th October, 1889):

Joined Royal Navy on 26th July, 1910 – Stoker 2nd Class.

Enlisted in Australian Imperial Force on 12th July, 1915 as a 25 year old, single, Boxmaker. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 23rd November, 1915 on HMAT Ceramic with 7th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements as Private 3941.

Transferred to 59th Battalion on 26th February, 1916 then transferred to 60th Battalion on 15th March, 1916 (with his father).

Reported Missing in Actio in France on 19th July, 1916. Court of Enquiry Held on 4th August, 1917 with the finding that he was Killed in action on 19th July, 1916. Remembered on VC Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, Fromelles, France – Panel 22.

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

144th LIST ISSUED

ILL

Pte E. M. Spooner, 7th Batt., W. Brunswick

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 February, 1916)

756 CASUALTIES

IN 192ND LIST

Died, Cause Not Stated

Pte E. M. SPOONER, West Brunswick, 31/7/16

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 14 August, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

SPOONER – Died of wounds at Chatham Hospital, London, on the 31st July, Private E. M. Spooner, beloved husband of N. S. Spooner, and father of Private J. Spooner (now on active service), Mrs J. Rogers, Mrs W. Chamberlain, Herbert, William, Rose, Tom, Ivy, Jack, Florrie.

He helped to bring Australia into fame,

To build for her a never-dying name;

Foremost was he in thickest strife,

For King and country laid he down his life.

-Inserted by his sorrowing wife and family, Mary-street, West Brunswick.

SPOONER – Died of wounds at Military Hospital, Chatham, on the 31st July, Private E. M. Spooner, loving father of Mrs J. H. Rogers, Mrs W. Chamberlain (Irymple), loved brother of W. Spooner, Union-street, Northcote.

He never shunned his country's call,
But gladly gave his life – his all,
He died, the helpless to defend,
A noble soldier, noble end.

-Inserted by his loving daughters and sons-in-law, Private J. H. Rogers (on service), Mrs Rogers, Mr and Mrs W. Chamberlain.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SPOONER – In loving memory of my dearly beloved husband and father, Private Edward Mason Spooner, who died of wounds, 31st July, 1916, also my beloved eldest son and brother, Private James Edward Spooner, killed in action, 19th July, 1916.

Father and son united.

Gone are the faces we loved so dear,
Gone are the faces we loved so dear,
Silent the voices we long to hear;
A painful shock, a blow severe,
To part with the ones we love so dear.

-Inserted by his loving wife, mother, and family, Mountfield-street, East Brunswick.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 July, 1918)

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*)

Private E. M. Spooner has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

He Sleeps In A Far Off Grave

Ever Remembered

Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, England

This cemetery contains 127 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war and 152 burials of the 1939-45 war, including 1 unidentified seaman of the Merchant Navy. In addition there are 4 Foreign National war burials here. There are 2 small Screen Wall memorial panels naming those of the 1914-1918 war whose graves are not marked by headstones.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Hawk Moth)



(Photo from CWGC)

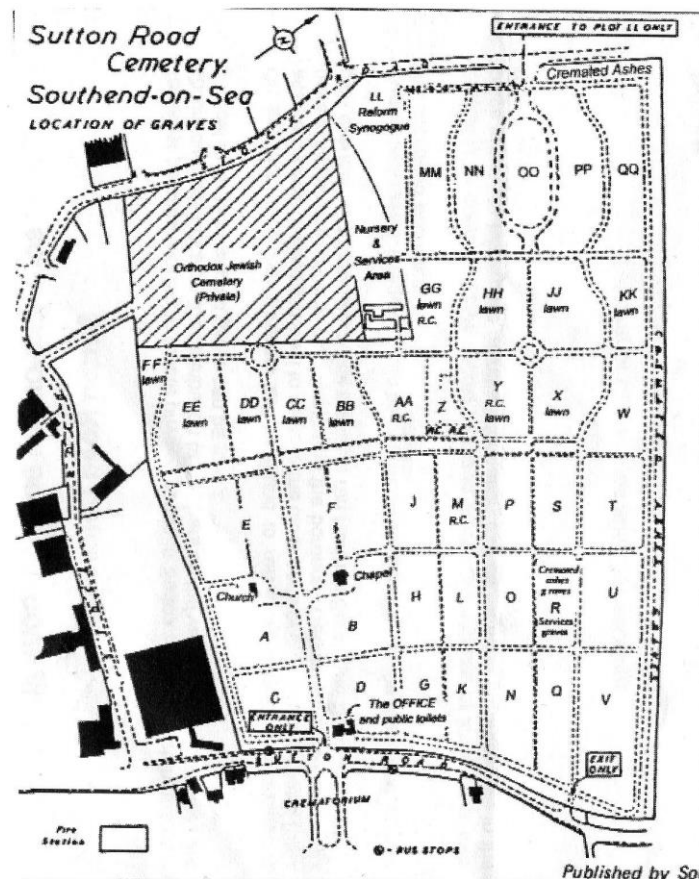
Photo of Private E. M. Spooner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)



Row of 7 Australian WW1 Headstones (Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)



(Find a Grave – J Keeffe)