

**St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery,  
Moston, Greater Manchester, Lancashire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**5423 PRIVATE**

**J. VICKERS**

**25TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**20TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 36**

## James VICKERS

James Vickers was born in 1880 at Manchester, Lancashire, England to parents John & Susannah Vickers (nee Broadhurst).

The 1881 England Census recorded James Vickers as a 5 year old \* (*Based on other Census information, James was probably 5 months old & the enumerator probably forgot to write the "months"*) living with his family at 18 Tonge Street, Ancoats, Manchester, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as John Vickers (\_\_\_\_ Labourer, aged 28, born Manchester) & Sussanah Vickers (aged 28, born Manchester). James was one of four children listed on this Census, all born at Manchester – John Vickers (aged 7), Elizabeth Vickers (aged 4), Robt. Vickers (aged 2) then James being the last on the list (with age more likely to be 5 months as the children were listed in order of age downwards). Also listed with the family was a Boarder – Robt. Vickers (Fruit Hawker, aged 20).

The 1891 England Census recorded James Vickers as a 10 year old Scholar, living with his family at 77 Branson Street, Ancoats, Manchester, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as John Vickers (Labourer in Allum works, aged 37, born Salford, Lancashire) & Susannah Vickers (aged 36). James was one of eight children listed on this Census, all born in Manchester – John T. Vickers (*Cott* Hooker in warehouse, aged 17), Elizabeth Vickers (Cardroom Hand, aged 14), Robert Vickers (Lurry Boy, aged 12), then James, Alice Vickers (Scholar, aged 8), Joseph Vickers (aged 4), Susannah Vickers (aged 2) & Charles Vickers (aged 5 months).

The 1901 England Census recorded James Vickers as a 19 year old Railway Carter living with his family at 57 Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester, Lancashire. His parents were listed as John Vickers (Allum Maker *M.Chem*, aged 50) & Susannah Vickers (aged 49). James was one of seven children listed on this Census – Elizabeth Vickers (Cotton Spinner, aged 24), Robert Vickers (Wood Padding Case Maker, aged 22), then James, Alice Vickers (Cotton Spinner, aged 17), Joseph Vickers (Apprentice Plumber, aged 15), Susannah Vickers (aged 13) & Charles Vickers (aged 9).

[The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Fortitude Valley recorded a "James Vickers", Car Conductor, of 26 Duncan Street. The 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Fortitude Valley recorded a "James Vickers", Car Conductor, of Avon, Leichhardt Street.]

James Vickers was a 34 year old, single, Street Lamp Attendant from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5423 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Susan Vickers of 93 Boswick Street, Holt Town, Manchester, England. Robert Vickers, of Eleventh Street, Trafford Park, Lancashire, England was also listed as James Vickers' brother.

Private James Vickers embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Itonus* (A50) on 8th August, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.

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 James Vickers was marched in from Hurdcott Camp to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1916.

Private James Vickers was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 suffering from Asthma.

Private James Vickers died at 2.45 am on 20th November, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Acute Pleurisy.

A death for James Vickers, aged 35, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Pte James Vickers contains a letter written by E. M. Bowes, Assistant Matron, Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury Plain which reads: "*He was admitted to hospital on 18.11.16 suffering from*

*Pleurisy. He was very ill but at first the disease seemed to be yielding to treatment but on the night of the 19<sup>th</sup> he became much worse and his heart showed signs of giving up. The Medical Officer and the Sisters worked continuously with him but of no avail. He died at 2.45 am on the 20<sup>th</sup> and was buried on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was a very good patient and although he was in hospital such a short time (less than 2 days) his nurses became very fond of him – he bore his sufferings so manfully and bravely. Please convey to his relatives our very sincere sympathy.”*

Private James Vickers was buried on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number N. 109. He was buried in the family plot & shares a headstone with his family. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

*(Note: Some of the forms in Pte James Vickers' Service record file state he was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1916 – this was corrected on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 – Ref. D/O 8/848. One form has been marked “Exhumed”.*

*Susannah Vickers, mother of the late Pte James Vickers wrote to Base Records on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 regarding a letter she received dated 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 stating the cause of death of her son & the fact that he was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire. Her reply reads in part “..But I wish to point out that through the courtesy and good will of the M.O. at Fargo Fargo Military Hospital, the body of my late son was conveyed to Manchester and he was buried with military honours at St. Joseph's R.C. Cemetery, Moston, Manchester, Lancs, England. I have forwarded this information so that your record may be a correct one.”*

*A memo from Base Records to The Official Secretary (Military) Australia House, London on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1926 reads in part: “In connection with the report of burial of the late No. 5423 Private J. Vickers, 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion, in the Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, it is desired to point out that according to a statement received from the deceased's mother, the remains of this soldier were subsequently removed to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston, Manchester, and I should be glad of your further confirmatory advice in the matter in order that the records may be amended of necessary.”*

*\*\*It is not clear if Pte Vickers was originally buried in Durrington Cemetery then exhumed or if he was originally buried in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston. Durrington Council Burial records do not show a record of burial for Pte James Vickers.*

A War Pension was granted to Susannah Vickers, of 93 Beswick Street, Holt Town, Manchester, mother of the late Pte James Vickers, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1917.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Vickers – service number 5423, aged 36, of 25th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Susannah Vickers of 93 Beswick St., Holt Town, Manchester, England.

Private J. Vickers is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 106.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte James Vickers 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 Pte Vickers' mother – Mrs S. Vickers, in England, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent July, 1922).

(36 pages of Pte James Vickers' 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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

VICKERS – In loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Private JAMES VICKERS, 25<sup>th</sup> Batt. Australian Imperial Force, who died of pleurisy at Fargo Military Hospital, Rolleston, Salisbury. – MOTHER, BROTHERS and SISTERS, 93 Beswick-street, Manchester.

*(Manchester Evening News, Manchester, Great Manchester – 27 November, 1916)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **CASUALTY LIST NO. 251**

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF ILLNESS

J. Vickers, England, 20/11/16

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland, Australia – 16 December, 1916)*

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## **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England**

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston contains 358 Commonwealth War Graves from both World Wars – 214 are related to World War 1 & 144 relate to World War 2. There is also 1 Polish Foreign National burial.

The casualties of World War 1 are mostly named on a Screen Wall (including those of eleven Belgium soldiers whose remains have been removed to Belgium). There are no headstones for those so named. There are also scattered burials for both World Wars in the cemetery.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston** *(Photo by Mike Berrell)*



Photo of Pte James Vickers' Private Family Headstone located in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



***JOHN Beloved Husband Of***

***Susannah Vickers***

***Who Died Dec 28, 1904.***

***Aged 51 Years***

***Also SUSANNAH***

***His Beloved Wife***

***Died Nov 20, 1925***

***Aged 74 Years***





*(Photos from Great War Forum – littlemiss)*



***Also JAMES***

***Their Beloved Son***

***Died Nov 20, 1916***

***Aged 36 Years***

***Also ALICE***

***Their Beloved Daughter***

***Died Dec 31, 1930***

***Aged 48 Years***