

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6232 PRIVATE

JOHN SPENCER CUSSEN

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 26

In Loving Memory Of

*Private Headstone for Pte J. S. Cussen is located in
Grave Plot # 366. E. 18. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

John Spencer CUSSEN

John Spencer Cussen was born at Mount Spencer, near Mackay, Queensland in 1891 He was a 24 year old, single, Contractor from Brookville, Ravenswood, Queensland when he enlisted at Townsville, Queensland on 10th January, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6232 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Jane Cussen of Brookville, Ravenswood, Queensland.

Pte Cussen was admitted to 13th Australian General Hospital from 17th to 21st July, 1916 with Pleurisy.

Pte John Spencer Cussen embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 7th September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd November, 1916. Pte Cussen had been admitted to Ship's Hospital twice while at sea – 26th – 28th September, 1916 with Bronchitis & again from 6th – 11th October, 1916 with Haemoptysis.

Pte Cussen proceeded overseas to France from Folkestone on 17th December, 1916 on *Golden Eagle*. He was marched in at Etaples from England on 18th December, 1916 & proceeded to join his Unit in France on 23rd December, 1916. Pte Cussen joined his Battalion in France on 1st January, 1917. He was sent sick to Hospital on 12th January, 1917 with Bronchitis. He was transferred & finally was admitted to 10th general Hospital at Rouen on 18th January, 1917.

Pte Cussen was transferred to England with Bronchitis on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick* on 21st January, 1917 & admitted to 3rd L. G. Hospital at Wandsworth, England on 22nd January, 1917. Pte Cussen was discharged to furlo on 5th March, 1917 & to report to Perham Downs on 21st March, 1917.

Pte Cussen was marched in at Perham Down on 21st March, 1917 & medically classified as B. 1 A.2 (Fit for Overseas Camp in three to four weeks).

Pte Cussen was marched out to Wareham on 3rd April, 1917 & transferred to 69th Battalion from 9th Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Pte Cussen proceeded overseas to France from Hurdcott via Southampton on 14th October, 1917. He was marched in from England at Havre on 15th October, 1917 & marched out to 9th Battalion on 18th October, 1917. Pte Cussen was taken on strength in Belgium on 20th October, 1917.

Pte John Spencer Cussen was wounded in action on 31st October, 1917. He was taken to Casualty Clearing Station & then admitted to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wound to left arm & hand. Pte Cussen was transferred to 24th General Hospital at Etaples on 8th November, 1917 & transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* on 11th November, 1917.

Pte Cussen was admitted to Military Hospital at Woking, England with a gunshot wound to left arm & hand – severe on 12th November, 1917. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 7th January, 1918 & discharged to furlo on 9th January, 1918.

Pte Cussen reported to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire from furlo on 23rd January, 1918 & was medically classified as B1 A 3 – Fit for overseas camp in two to three weeks on 24th January, 1918.

Pte Cussen was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 6th February, 1918. He proceeded overseas via Southampton on 4th March, 1918 & was marched in to Havre on 5th March, 1918. Pte Cussen was marched out to his Unit on 7th March, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion in the field on 9th March, 1918.

Pte John Spencer Cussen was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 26th May, 1918. He was admitted to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station with a shrapnel wound to hand. He was transferred to Wimereux then on to Boulogne on 31st May, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Aust C. D. at Havre on 1st June, 1918 & discharged on 20th June, 1918 back to duty.

Pte Cussen proceeded to join his Unit on 23rd June, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion from wounds on 26th June, 1918.

Pte John Spencer Cussen was wounded in action (3rd Occasion) on 16th July, 1918 with a shrapnel wound to Buttock. He was finally admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne on same day.

Pte Cussen was transferred to England on 22nd July, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* & was admitted to South African War Hospital, Richmond Park, England with a Gunshot wound to Buttock – severe. He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital in England on 2nd August, 1918 & sent on furlo from 6th to 20th August, 1918 to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Pte Cussen was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 30th August, 1918. He was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade on 13th September, 1918.

Private John Spencer Cussen was sent sick to Group Hospital with Influenza on 7th October, 1918 & then admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 12th October, 1918 seriously ill with pneumonia.

Private John Spencer Cussen died on 16th October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for John S. Cursen, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private John Spencer Cussen was buried at 3 p.m. on 21st October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 366. From the burial report of Pte Cussen - *Coffin was good. Polished elm with Brass Mounts – The deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the Australian Overseas Training Brigade. Six of deceased's Unit comrades acted as pall bearers. The Funeral was largely attended by Officers, N.C.O.'s and men from the Overseas Training Brigade. A floral wreath from Officers, N.C.O.'s and men was placed on the Grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte John Spencer Cussen requested in his Will, dated 27th June, 1917, that his personal Estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Jane Cussen, Brookville, Ravenswood, North Queensland.

Private J. S. Cussen is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte John Spencer Cussen was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Cussen's father – Mr J. S. Cussen (sent July, 1921 & September, 1922). In April, 1921 Mr Cussen, after receiving a letter from his wife, advised Base Records that he gave his permission "to send a War Medal of my late son Private John Spencer Cussen No. 6232" to his wife.

The CWGC lists Private John Spencer Cussen, 6232, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family information is listed.

(103 pages of Pte John Spencer Cussen'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 412

WOUNDED

J.S. Cussen (Ravenswood – second occasion)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Qld – Friday 28 June, 1918)

TOWN AND COUNTRY

Mrs J. S. Cussen, Brookville, Ravenswood (says the "Northern Miner") has received word from Base Records that her son Private John S. Cussen, has been severely wounded (third occasion).

(Cairns Post, Queensland – Saturday 17 August, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 447

DIED FROM OTHER CAUSES

J.S. Cussen (Ravenswood – illness)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Qld – Thursday 28 November, 1918)

Photo of Pte John Spencer Cussen's Private Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



Closeup of Pte John Spencer Cussen's Headstone (Photo courtesy of [D & M Ball](#))



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)

