

**Sutton Veny,
Wiltshire, England
War Graves
World War 1**



Lest We Forget



9903 SERJEANT

J. W. CUNNINGHAM

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

7TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 24

*The Lord Gave
And The Lord Hath Taken Away*

John William CUNNINGHAM

John William Cunningham was born at Taringa, Queensland on 30th October, 1894 to parents John & Margaret Cunningham (nee Geddes).

John William Cunningham attended Taringa State School & Brisbane Grammar School (1908-1909) Queensland.

John William Cunningham was a 27 year old, single, Minister – Baptist Student Pastor from Marmion Parade, Taringa, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 3rd November, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Baptist & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Cunningham, Taringa, Brisbane, Queensland. John William Cunningham had served 3 ½ years with Militia in Brisbane.

Private John William Cunningham, Service number 9903, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 9th April, 1916 with the 1st Australian General Hospital, Army Medical Corps, 16th Reinforcements. He was marched in on 16th May, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir from Port Said.

Margaret Cunningham, mother of John William Cunningham, died on 14th April, 1916.

Private Cunningham embarked from Alexandria on HMAT *Corsican* on 28th May, 1916. He was transferred to Bulford Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 4th July, 1916.

Private Cunningham embarked for Overseas to France from Parkhouse, Wiltshire, on 23rd September, 1916 & “*joined from Training Bn. England*” at Etaples, France on 25th September, 1916.

Private Cunningham was transferred to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) on 4th October, 1916 & on 10th October, 1916 temporarily attached from Base details to 2nd Australian Division. He was taken on strength on 13th October, 1916 with 7th Field Ambulance from 16th Reinforcements & promoted to Lance Corporal on 31st March, 1917. Lance Corporal Cunningham was promoted to Sergeant (Clerk) on 19th April, 1917.

Sergeant Cunningham was temporarily detached for duty at Base Records on 20th August, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Temporary duty with Base Records on 29th August, 1917. He proceeded on leave on 26th September, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 7th October, 1917. Sergeant Cunningham proceeded on leave to Paris in late November, 1917 & rejoined from leave in early December, 1917.

Sergeant Cunningham was detached temporarily with A.I.F. Headquarters for duty on 19th December, 1917 & rejoined Australian Field Ambulance on 26th December, 1917.

Sergeant John William Cunningham was Mentioned in Despatches – 9th March, 1918 (from Australian War Memorial).

Sergeant John William Cunningham was “*Specially Mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig’s Despatch of 7.4.18*” (as per Sgt. Cunningham’s Service & Casualty form). This was published in the *London Gazette* (Fourth Supplement No. 30706) dated 28th May, 1918. This was promulgated in *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No. 165, dated 24th October, 1918.

Sergeant Cunningham was detached for temporary duty with 3rd Echelon G.H.Q. on 20th August, 1918 & rejoined from temporary duty on 26th August, 1918.

Sergeant Cunningham was on Leave to U.K. on 10th October, 1918 & rejoined from Leave on 25th October, 1918.

Sergeant Cunningham proceeded to U.K. for R.T.A. (Return to Australia) on 25th January, 1919. He was marched in from his Unit on 26th January, 1919 & marched out to U.K on 28th January, 1919.

Sergeant Cunningham was marched in to 1st Brigade Camp from France on 29th January, 1919

Sergeant Cunningham was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 2nd February, 1919 with Broncho pneumonia. He was reported dangerously ill on 6th February, 1919.

Sergeant John William Cunningham died at 3 a.m. on 7th February, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for John W. Cunningham, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Sergeant John William Cunningham was buried on 11th February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 61.

From the burial report of Sergrant Cunningham – *The late soldier was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin (of elm with brass mounts) being draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from No. 1 Australian Command Depot, Sutton Veny. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. Chaplain the Rev. P. A. Smith (Presbyterian) conducted the burial service, at the close of which the "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A number of Australians, including No. 3268 Private T. W. Constable, 7th Field Ambulance, No. 14574 Private J. Mulcahy & No. 3670, Sergeant D. J. Ward, of 7th Field Ambulance and No. 137 Staff Sergeant N. D. Saxe, Dental Corps, followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

John William Cunningham requested in his Will, dated 13th July, 1917, that all his personal Estate be left to his father – John Cunningham of Taringa, Brisbane, Queensland.

Sergeant John William Cunningham was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll, Memorial Plaque & Certificate for Mention in Despatches were also sent to Sergeant Cunningham's father – Mr John Cunningham (sent January, 1922 & October, 1922).

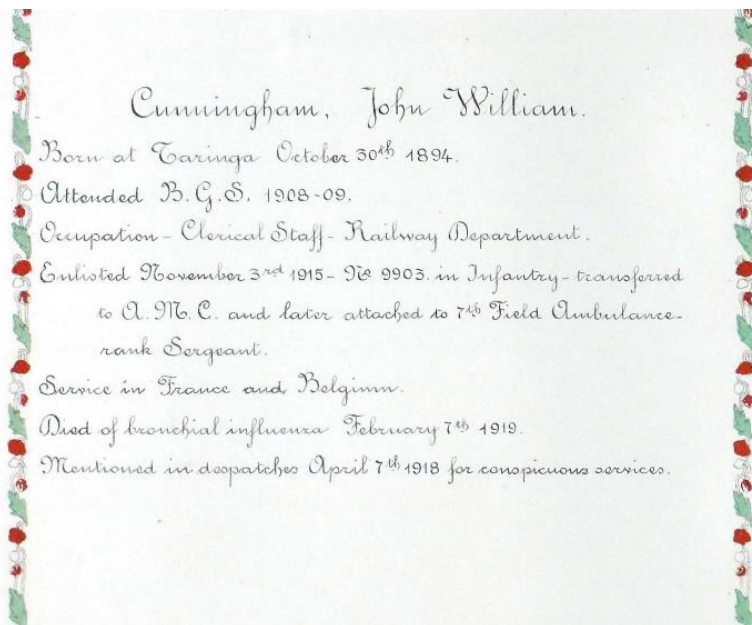
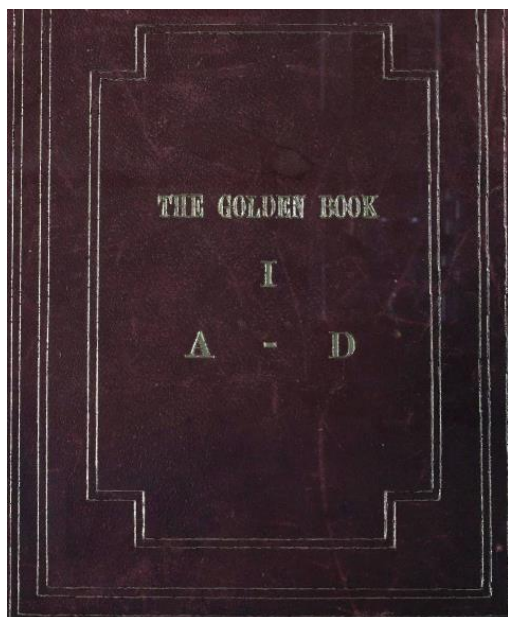
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Sergeant John William Cunningham, 9903, of 7th Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps, A.I.F., as the son of John and Margaret Cunningham.

Sergeant J. W. Cunningham is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 182.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

John William Cunningham (and his brother Walter Henry) are remembered in The Golden Book at Brisbane Grammar School. The volumes contain the names and records of the known 1020 Old Boys who volunteered for service in the First World War. Each name and record occupies an entire page, surrounded by an interlacing border of Flanders poppies.



John William Cunningham's page in The Golden Book, Brisbane Grammar School

Cunningham, John William

Born at Taringa October 30th, 1894.

Attended B.G.S. 1908-09

Occupation – Clerical Staff – Railway Department

*Enlisted November 3rd, 1915- No. 9903 in Infantry – transferred
to A.M.C. and later attached to 7th Field Ambulance- rank Sergeant*

Service in France and Belgium

Died of bronchial influenza February 7th 1919

Mentioned in Despatch April 7th 1918 for conspicuous services.



J. W. CUNNINGHAM.

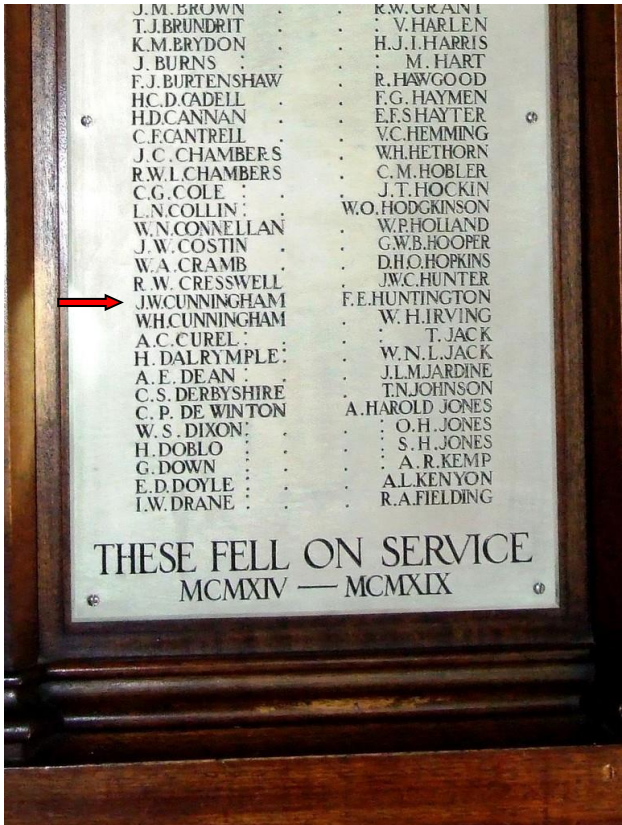
(Photo in *Annals of the Brisbane Grammar School 1869-1922*, compiled by Stuart Stephenson, Brisbane Grammar School, 1923)

(Photo courtesy of Brisbane Grammar School)

J. W. Cunningham & W. H. Cunningham are both remembered on the Brisbane Grammar School Memorial Library WW1 Honour Board.



War Memorial Library, c 1925 Brisbane Grammar School
(Photo courtesy of Brisbane Grammar School)

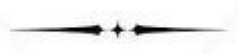


Brisbane Grammar School Memorial Library WW1 Honour Board
(Photo from Queensland War Memorial Register – Lesley McBurney)

J. W. Cunningham is the last name listed on The Roll of Honour in the Brisbane Grammar School Magazine, June 1919 edition.

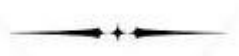
(52 pages of Sergeant John William Cunningham's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.

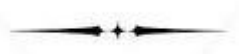


[Connected to Sergeant John William Cunningham](#)

Brother - Bombardier Walter Henry Cunningham, 9384, 5th Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died of wounds 6th August, 1917. Buried in Aeroplane Cemetery, Belgium.



Sergeant John William Cunningham



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Australian Casualty List No. 461 was issued today. It contains the names of 162 Queenslanders, as follows:

DIED FROM OTHER CAUSES

Sergeant J. W. Cunningham (Taringa)

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – Saturday 22 March, 1919)

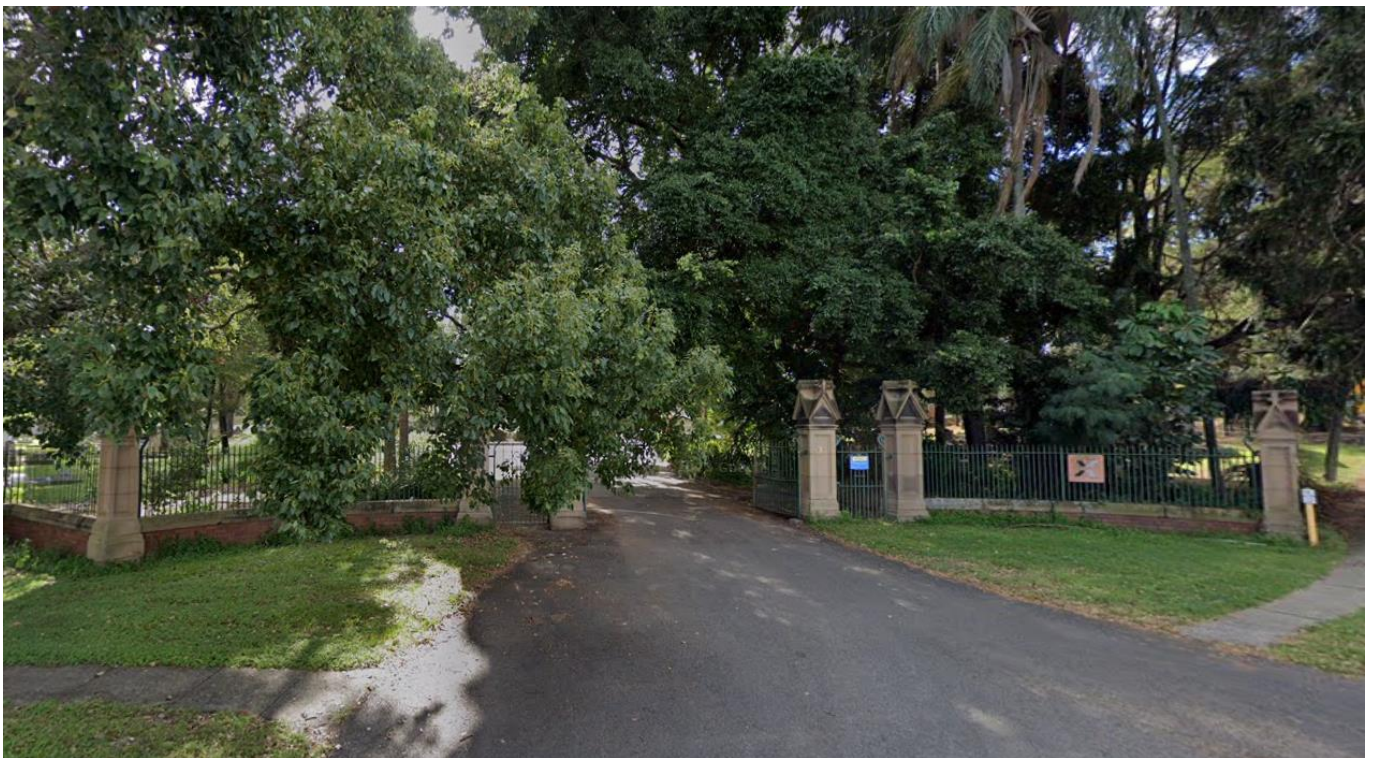
ROLL OF HONOUR

CUNNINGHAM – A tribute to the memory of Sgt. J. W. Cunningham, who died in France February 7th, 1919.

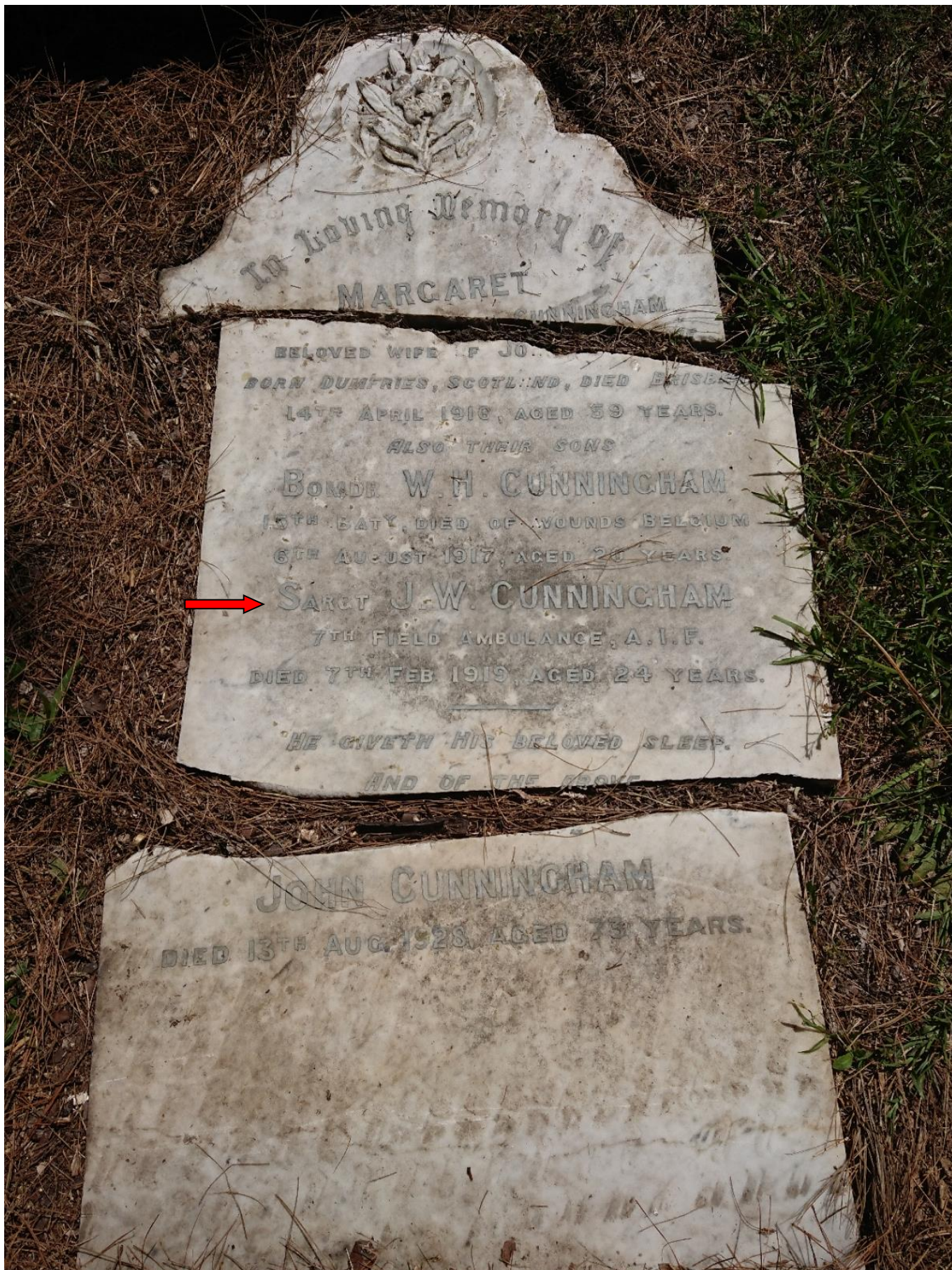
Inserted by Mr and Mrs J. McN., Boyd, Isedale Street, Woolloowin.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – Saturday 7 February, 1920)

J. W. Cunningham & his brother W. H. Cunningham are both remembered on their mother's headstone in Toowong Cemetery, Brisbane, Queensland.



Toowong Cemetery, Brisbane, Queensland.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Kevin Dyson – Feb 2018)

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)

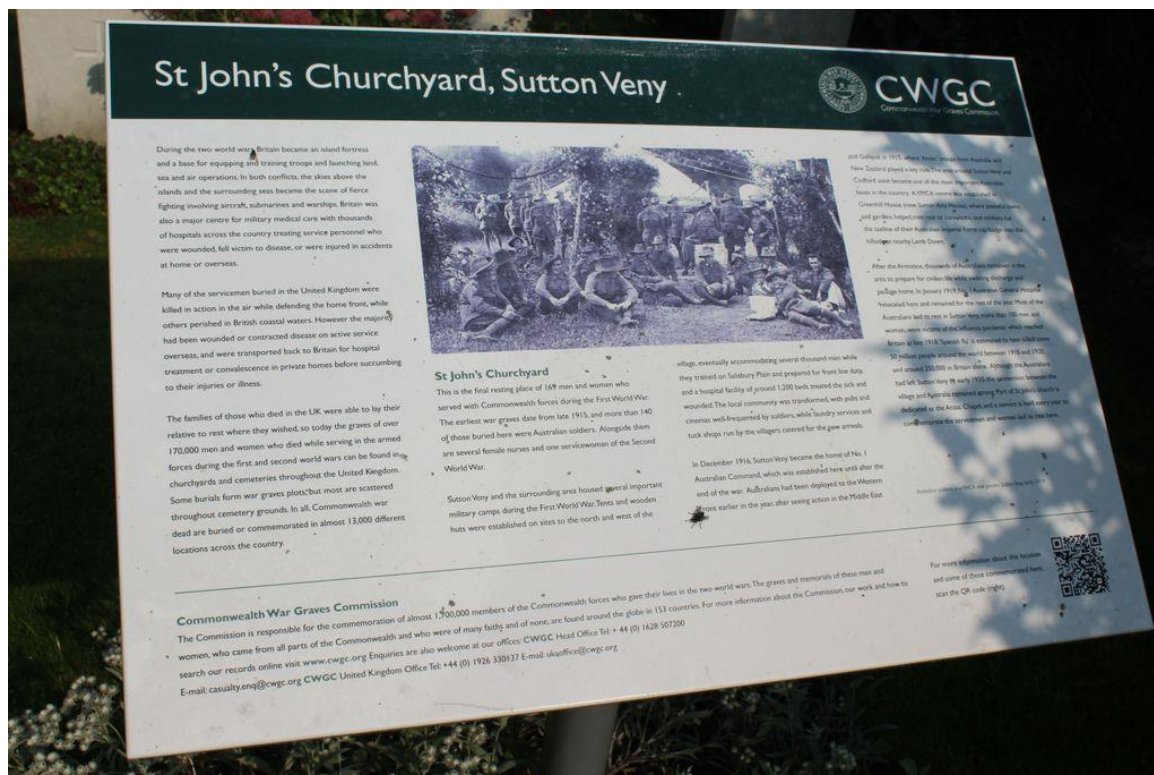
Serjeant John William Cunningham does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away

St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. The 26th Division was concentrated at Sutton Veny in April 1915 and No 1 Australian Command was there from the end of 1916 to October 1919. There was also a hutted military hospital of more than 1200 beds at Sutton Veny for much of the war and No 1 Australian General Hospital was stationed there after the Armistice. Sutton Veny (St John) Churchyard contains 168 First World War burials, 167 of them in a plot at the north west corner of the church. Of these, 143 are Australian. There is only one Second World War burial in the churchyard.

(Information & colour photos from CWGC)



(Find a Grave – Lady Linda)





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376

War Graves at Sutton Veny



Photo of Serjeant J. W. Cunningham's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)