

Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk, War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



202 PRIVATE

A. L. HUNT

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

25TH JUNE, 1917

Arnold Leigh HUNT

Arnold Leigh Hunt was born in 1897 at Jamberoo, near Kiama, NSW to parents James and Emma Hunt (nee Arnold).

Arnold Leigh Hunt attended Jamberoo Public School, NSW.

Arnold Leigh Hunt stated he was a 20 year old, single, Railway Cleaner from Woonona, Illawarra when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 11th March, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 20th Infantry Battalion "C" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 202 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Emma Hunt of 47 Ridge Street, North Sydney, NSW.

Private Arnold Leigh Hunt embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 25th June, 1915.

Pte Hunt was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 16th September, 1915 then transferred to Australian Casualty Clearing Station - Anzac with Dysentery. He was admitted on Hospital Ship *Maheno* & transferred to a hospital in Malta with Typhoid on 23rd September, 1915. Pte Hunt embarked on Hospital Ship *Cairnsbrook Castle* from Malta for England on 16th October, 1915.

Pte Hunt was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley on 23rd October, 1915 with Enteric.

Pte Hunt was transferred from Monte Video, Weymouth to Tidworth, Salisbury, Wiltshire on 6th July, 1916.

Private Arnold Leigh Hunt proceeded to France from No. 2 Camp Parkhouse at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 15th July, 1916.

Pte Hunt joined 2nd Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples from England on 17th July, 1916.

Pte Hunt was marched out to Reinforcements of Australian Medical Corps on 31st July, 1916 & taken on strength with 5th Field Ambulance in France on 6th August, 1916.

Private Arnold Leigh Hunt was wounded in action in France on 3rd May, 1917. He was taken to 5th Field Ambulance then transferred to Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 4th May, 1917 with a gunshot wound to back. Pte Hunt was taken by Ambulance Train to Rouen & admitted to 9th General Hospital on 5th May, 1917. He was transferred to England on 28th May, 1917 on Hospital Ship "St. George."

Private Arnold Leigh Hunt was admitted to 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England on 29th May, 1917 with a gunshot wound to spine – lumbar region.

Private Arnold Leigh Hunt died at 9.40 am on 25th June, 1917 at 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England from gunshot wound to spine received in action in France.

A death for Arnold L. Hunt, aged 20, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, Surrey.

Private Arnold Leigh Hunt was buried at 2.30 pm on 29th June, 1917 in Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk – Plot number BA. I. 69 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Hunt - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military honours. Gun carriage drawn by six horses provided by the 72nd Div. Field Artillery stationed at Ipswich conveyed the remains of the deceased soldier to the Cemetery. Firing Party and buglers of the 2/6th Northumberland Fusiliers, under the command of Lieut Matthews were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes. Prior to the interment a service was held in the chapel at the Cemetery by the Rev. C. F. T. Parsons. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by six buglers of the 2/6th Northumberland Fusiliers. Relatives & Friends in attendance at the funeral – Mr & Mrs W. U. Yell (Uncle & Aunt) of 36 St. Helens St, Ipswich; Mrs Potter (Aunt) of 6 Nuddlesboro, Colchester; Mrs Brissend (Aunt) of 33a Adore St. Ogmores Vale, S. Wales; Mr & Mrs Phillips (Cousins) of 33 Dorwin Road, Ipswich.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Arnold Leigh Hunt contains letters in reply to a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details of the wounds, death and burial. The Registrar, 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell writes: "*Pte Hunt died in this Hospital on 25.6.1917 from wounds in back, received on 3.5.17. A cousin visited him a week before he died, and an Uncle and Aunt came from Ipswich, and made arrangements for him to be buried in the cemetery at Ipswich. A wire and also a letter was sent to inform them of his condition, and asking them to let his mother know. His uncle's address is as follows – Mr Yell, St. Helen's, Ipswich.*"

Another letter from Informant- Lance Corporal E. C. Munro, 13629, 5th Field Ambulance reads: "... *both belonged to 5th Field Ambulance. On or about 5/5/17 the 5th Field Ambulance was in front of Bullecourt during an action. Hunt was hit by a machine gun bullet near the 17th Battalion Regimental Aid Post while carrying a wounded man on his stretcher. Informant did not see him hit but saw him on a stretcher at the Regimental Aid Post above mentioned. He was conscious and told Informant that he did not feel too bad. Informant saw no more of him but heard that he died in England afterwards. According to Informant, Hunt was a very popular chap.*"

Pte Arnold Leigh Hunt requested in his Will that in the event of his death the whole of his property to be divided in equal shares to his two sisters – Miss Ella Una Hunt & Miss Australia Hunt c/o Mrs R. O. Kendall, Kiama.

An application for the War Pension by Ella Una Hunt & Australia Kezia Hunt, sisters of late Pte Arnold Leigh Hunt, was rejected on both counts as it was deemed that they were not dependent on the deceased member of the Forces.

Pte Arnold Leigh Hunt was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Hunt's father, as the closest next-of-kin – Mr Hunt (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922). A Statutory Declaration was completed by Arthur Parkins of Balfour Hotel, King St, Sydney, dated 28th February, 1922 stating that James Hunt, father of the late Pte Arnold Leigh Hunt had died about 2 years ago. Mr Parkins also stated that E. Hunt, whose signature appears on the order to deliver the Memorial Plaque is the mother of the above named soldier, and widow of the late James Hunt. Mr Parkins also stated that Mrs E. Hunt had been paralysed for the past seven years and is unable to move about and the only other members of the family were two girls who were at school in Kiama, NSW. Mr Parkins had been a personal friend of the family for the past fourteen years.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arnold Leigh Hunt – service number 202, of 5th Field Amb., Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of James and Emma Hunt, of Jamberoo, New South Wales. Born at Jamberoo.

Private A. L. Hunt is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. L. Hunt is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial located at the top of Walker Street, in St. Leonards Park, North Sydney, NSW.



North Sydney War Memorial (Photo from War Memorial Register NSW – David Roden and Andrew Howell)



(67 pages of Pte Arnold Leigh Hunt'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



Newspaper Notices

WAR CASUALTIES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Miss Leggett, 47 Ridge-street, North Sydney, has received information that Private Arnold Leigh Hunt has died of wounds received in France. He was the only son of Mr and Mrs James Hunt, late of Jamberoo, and was 19 years of age.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 12 July, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HUNT – Died at 1st London General Hospital, June 25, 1917, from wounds received while in action in France, Private Arnold Leigh Hunt, only son of James and Emma Hunt, late of Jamberoo, aged 19 years. His duty nobly done.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 July, 1917)

LATEST CASUALTIES

324th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died (Other Causes)

Pte A. L. Hunt, North Sydney (cause not stated, previously reported wounded)

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 20 July, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN HERO HONORED

To show Australian mother's how their sons are honored in England, a Sydney paper publishes the following letter received by Mrs E. Hunt of Ridge-street, North Sydney, from the officer in charge, Base Records, Melbourne:- "Dear Madam,—With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your boy, the late No. 202, Private Arnold Leigh Hunt, 6th Field Ambulance, at 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England, on June 25, 1917, of wounds received in action who was buried at Ipswich Cemetery, grave No. 69, Field of Honor Section, consecrated ground, on June 29. 1917, the deceased soldier was buried with military honors. A gun-carriage drawn by six horses provided by the Divisional Field Artillery, stationed at Ipswich, conveyed the remains of the deceased soldier to the cemetery. Firing party and buglers of the Reinforcements, Northumberland Fusiliers under the command of Lieutenant Matthews, were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes. Prior to the interment a service was held in the chapel at the cemetery by Rev. C.F. T. Parsons. The 'Last Post' was sounded at the graveside by six buglers of the Reinforcements, Northumberland Fusiliers. "These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the department to forward all information, received in connection with the death of members of the Australian Imperial Forces."

(The Daily Standard, Brisbane, Qld – 1 December, 1917)

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)

Pte A. L. Hunt does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk

Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk contains around 366 Casualties from both World Wars. Around 265 War Graves are from World War 1. There are 4 Australian War Graves from World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



Ipswich Old Cemetery, Suffolk (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Pte A. L. Hunt's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ipswich Old Cemetery, Ipswich, Suffolk, England.



(Photo by julia&keld)