Chichester Cemetery,

Chichester, West Sussex

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3146 PRIVATE

S. M. HUNTER

52ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH NOVEMBER, 1916

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Stephen Morven HUNTER

Stephen Morven Hunter was born at Launceston, Tasmania around 1895.

Stephen Morven Hunter was a 20 year old, single, Labourer from Invermay, Launceston, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 28th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3146 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs L. Hunter, of Invermay, Launceston, Tasmania. As Stephen Hunter was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for him to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. W. Hunter & Laura Hunter both signed their consent on 24th July, 1915.

Private Stephen Morven Hunter was posted to 10th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion.

Private Stephen Morven Hunter embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 16th October, 1915 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements.

Private Stephen Morven Hunter was allotted to & proceeded to join 52nd Battalion on 3rd March, 1916 from 3rd Training Battalion at Zeitoun. He joined 52nd Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 3rd March, 1916.

Private Stephen Morven Hunter proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 5th June, 1916 on *Ivernia*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 12th June, 1916.

Private Stephen Morven Hunter was wounded in action in France on 3rd September, 1916. He was admitted to 13th Field Ambulance on 3rd September, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to legs then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station. Private Hunter was transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 5th September, 1916 with shrapnel wounds & fractured right leg. He embarked for England from Boulogne on 6th September, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* with shrapnel wounds to right leg.

52nd Battalion

The 52nd Battalion was raised at Tel el Kebir in Egypt on 1 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were veterans from the 12th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 12th, the 52nd was originally a mix of men from South and Western Australia and Tasmania. From March 1916, the battalion's reinforcement groups mainly comprised men from Queensland. The 52nd became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.

After arriving in France on 11 June 1916, the 52nd fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm on 3 September. It had been present during an earlier attack mounted by the 13th Brigade between 13 and 15 August, but had been allocated a support role and missed the fighting. In this second attack the 52nd had a key assaulting role and suffered heavy casualties- 50 per cent of its fighting strength. The battalion saw out the rest of the year alternating between front line duty, and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary - 52nd Battalion

FRONT LINE - 2-9-16 to 5-9-16:

Attached report of C.O. re operations is explanatory.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 1

The Brigade will on the morning of the 3rd of September take and capture MOUQUET FARM and line 2S c 95 - 36-03 - 27 d 94 - 73 - 42 inclusive.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

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Private Stephen Morven Hunter was admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England on 7th September, 1916 & was reported as seriously ill.

Private Stephen Morven Hunter died on 5th November, 1916 at Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, Sussex, England from wounds received in action – Shrapnel wounds & fractured right leg & Double Pneumonia.

A death for Stephen Hunter, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Chichester, Sussex, England.



Graylingwell War Hospital

Private Stephen Morven Hunter was buried on 8th November, 1916 in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England – Square 121 Grave No. 48. (Note the Grave details have been crossed out in the Service Record file for Private Hunter & replaced in red with "Square 134 Grave No. 82."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists the Grave reference for Private Stephen Morven Hunter as Plot number 134.81 and he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter was sent to Base Records by Laura Hunter, 249 Charles Street, Launceston, in July, 1920 stating that Private S. M. Hunter had no father as he died some years ago & she had not heard from his mother for years. She had *"adopted the boy when he was only a baby his mother never gave a penny for his keep. Me and my husband worked for the boy just the same as if he was our one and he took to us as mother and father....his mother had him before she as married. He is the only one she had..."*

A letter written to Base Records from Repatriation Commission, Tasmania in February, 1933 stated that Mrs Laura Hunter was the foster mother of the late Private Stephen Morven Hunter & she had died at Launceston on 13th December, 1926. Her husband, William Hunter, had been living at Rosevale, Tasmania at the time of Mrs Hunter's death. Base Records then contacted Mr William Hunter, Rosevale, Tasmania in February, 1933 stating that they were desirous of arranging for the disposal of the late soldier's Victory Medal and Memorial Plaque. They had been informed that Mrs Laura Hunter was deceased & would like to be advised if the mementoes could be safely forwarded to his present address.

Private Stephen Morven Hunter was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Hunter's Foster Mother – Mrs L. Hunter, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Stephen Hunter – service number 3146, of 52nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Stephen Morven Hunter is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania

(Photos from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

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Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania

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Private S. M. Hunter is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 155.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(43 pages of Private Stephen Morven Hunter'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) & National Archives

Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

TWO CASUALTY LISTS RELEASED

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

Pte S. M. Hunter, Invermay

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 10 October, 1916)

PERSONAL NOTES

Mrs W. Hunter, of 63 Goderich-street, Inveresk, has received word from her son, Private Stephen M. Hunter, to the effect that he had been admitted to the Chichester War Hospital, ill.

(Daily Telegraph, Tasmania - 10 October, 1917)

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THE ROLL OF HONOUR

238TH AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

ILL

Pte S. M. Hunter, Invermay, seriously

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania - 28 October, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Launceston, Tuesday - The 243rd Australian casualty list was officially released at 9 o'clock to-night.

DIED OF WOUNDS

3146 – Private S. M. Hunter, Invermay, 5/11/16

(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania - 22 November, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HUNTER – No. 3146 Private S. M. Hunter, 52nd Battalion, died from gunshot wound and double pneumonia in Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, on November 5, 1916.

He has borne his cross, he has gained his crown,

Though he sleeps in a far-off grave;

And we think of his life, a duty done,

Manly, unselfish, and brave.

-Deeply mourned by mother and father, Mr and Mrs Hunter, Launceston.

(Daily Telegraph, Tasmania - 29 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HUNTER – Private S. M. Hunter, died of gunshot wounds and double pneumonia on November 6, 1916, at War Hospital, Chichester (England).

No one knows how much we miss him,

No one knows what bitter pain

We have suffered since we lost him,

Home will never be the same.

-Inserted by mother and father, W. L. Hunter, Launceston.

(Daily Telegraph, Tasmania - 16 November, 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 S. M. Hunter does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England

Chichester Cemetery has 174 Commonwealth War Graves. Also known as Portfield Cemetery.

Of the 89 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, the majority are in a War Graves Plot in Squares 121 and 126 bordering a path on the far right hand side of the cemetery. This was constructed by the City Corporation, who also erected the War Cross at the eastern end of the enclosed plot especially designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and closely resembling the Commission's own Cross of Sacrifice. The names of the 1914-1918 war dead in the cemetery are engraved on the base of the Cross. There are also 75 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, mainly in two adjoining Church of England dedicated Squares, Nos. 115 and 159, in the south-western portion of the cemetery enclosed by a hedgerow on three sides, on the fourth side a wall bearing the inscription 1939-1945 THE MEN AND WOMEN BURIED IN THIS PLOT DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE. In the northern section a further Square, No. 42, is dedicated to Roman Catholic burials, there is a metal plaque bearing a similar inscription. There are also 7 non-Commonwealth war burials and 4 non World War burials in the care of C.W.G.C. within the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*

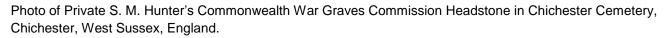


Chichester Cemetery (Photo by Adrienne – Find a Grave)



Some War Graves in Chichester Cemetery (Photo above by Basher Eyre; below from CWGC)







(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



Private Hunter's headstone in background (Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



Chichester Cemetery (Photo by Adrienne – Find a Grave)