

ARTHUR JAMES SPREADBURY.

34. PRIVATE.

1ST WEST AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED INFANTRY.

(1ST W.A.M.I.).

ANGLO-BOER WAR,

1899 – 1902.

When it became obvious that a war between Britain and the two Boer republics of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal was about to happen, Western Australia along with the other Australian colonies, sent an offer of troops to the War Office in London.

This offer was accepted, with the requirement being 5 officers and 125 other ranks as stated by the British authorities.

A call for volunteers was sent to the commanding officers of the various volunteer corps in the state, as while previous military experience was not considered to be essential, it was thought to be an advantage in selecting the required number of volunteers.

Among those volunteers who answered the call was Arthur James Spreadbury, who gave the following details on his Attestation Form :-

Name :	Arthur James Spreadbury.
Age :	19 years, 9 months.
Date of Birth :	30.1.1880.
Birthplace :	Twyford Sub-District, Winchester County, Southampton, England.
Occupation :	Labourer.
Previous Military Service :	12 months, 1 st Infantry Regiment (Fremantle Infantry), Western Australia. 6 months, 2 nd Field Battery (Fremantle Artillery) (Still serving as 431 Gunner) Western Australia.

After passing the required medical examination, Arthur Spreadbury was accepted in the 1st West Australian Permanent Infantry Company, as the contingent was titled, with the number 34 and the rank of Private.

Following a brief period of infantry training at Karrakatta Camp, the contingent was considered ready to embark for South Africa.

Boarding the Transport MEDIC, at Albany, the contingent departed on the 7.11.1899.

On arrival in Cape Town on the 27.11.1899, the contingent entrained for De Aar to join the Kimberley Relief Force and were employed on the lines of communication between De Aar and Modder River.

By now, the British authorities had seen the need for more mounted troops and on the 1.2.1900, the West Australian contingent was converted into Mounted Infantry, with their title being changed accordingly, to the 1st West Australian Mounted Infantry (1st W.A.M.I.).

Private Spreadbury fought with the 1st W.A.M.I., for the complete duration of their period of service in South Africa, until the contingent returned to Australia aboard the Transport ORIENT, from Cape Town, on the 13.12.1900.

Arriving in Albany on the 29.12.1900, the contingent returned to the Karrakatta Camp, where they were discharged on the 29.3.1901.

After his discharge, Arthur married Miss Emily Johnson and had 4 daughters and 1 son.

Took up farming at Newcarnie near Merredin, where he died of Pneumonic Influenza, on the 27.10.1919.

The following articles appeared in the MERREDIN MERCURY Newspaper, in regard to his death and funeral :-

“ MERREDIN MERCURY, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 1919.

ORBITUARY.

MR. ARTHUR SPREADBURY.

Quite a gloom was cast over the settlement at Newcarnie and district when Mr. Arthur Spreadbury, one of the most widely known and popular farmers of that centre had passed away on Monday night, the cause of death being Pneumonic Influenza.

The deceased who had contracted the malady in a severe form, was attended by Dr. Morgan Richards, but despite the unremitting care and attention of the medical gentleman and the devoted attention of his good wife and neighbours, he gradually sank and passed away as stated on Monday night.

His loss will be keenly felt in the Newcarnie district, as he was always ready and willing to associate himself with any movement that tended to the welfare of the community, whilst his efforts in the cause of charity will long be remembered by all those with whom he came in contact.

The body was conveyed to Merredin on Wednesday morning and reposed in the Anglican Church, from whence the funeral left at 4. O'clock in the afternoon, the remains being interred in the Merredin Cemetery.

The burial ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Turton, whilst the funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. H. Rasmussen.

Deceased leaves a Widow and three children to mourn his loss “.

“ MERREDIN MERCURY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1919.

RETURN THANKS.

MR. WALTER SPREADBURY.

Wishes to thank the ladies of Newcarnie, especially Mrs. Grier and Mrs. Ducas, for their kindness and attention to his late brother Arthur, during his late sad illness.

Also the people of Newcarnie who made him so welcome during his stay there.

Walter Spreadbury.

“Nottingham House, “

7th Avenue,

Claremont. “

“ MERREDIN MERCURY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 1919.

RETURN SINCERE THANKS.

Mrs. Spreadbury, of Newcarnie, wishes to thank the people of Newcarnie, and Mr. and Mrs. Milner of Merredin, for the great kindness to her and her children, in their late sad bereavement.

To Mesdames, Grier, Ducas, and Mitchell, who tried so hard to save him, I specially thank.

Words can never express my gratitude to one and all. “

Awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal (Q.S.A.), with the clasps, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Wittebergen and Cape Colony.

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MERREDIN MERCURY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 1919.

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Mrs. Spreadbury, of Newcarnie, wishes to thank the people of Newcarnie, and Mr and Mrs. Milner of Merredin, for the great kindness to her and her children, in their late sad bereavement;

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Mrs. Emily Spreadbury,
Newcarnie,
Via Merredin.

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