



Australian Soldiers Stationed in Sutton Veny

During World War I, large numbers of soldiers of the Australian Army Corps were stationed in camps around Sutton Veny. 144 soldiers and nurses died in local hospitals, forty of them in the 'flu epidemic of 1918/19, and they are buried in Sutton Veny churchyard. Their graves are beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Every year, on the Sunday nearest to ANZAC Day (25 April), a service is held here in their memory.

Traditionally, children from the village school picked hedgerow flowers and laid a posy on each grave, and the service was broadcast direct to Australia. The broadcast has been discontinued but posies are still laid.

This embroidery, based on the badge of the Australian Forces, was instigated by the Australian High Commissioner and paid for by The Returned & Services League to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Australian landings at Gallipoli in 1915. It was dedicated by the Rector, the Rev. A.R. Webb, on 24 April 1994.

Source: Sutton St. John the Evangelist