

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



53684 GUNNER

A. BERRY

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

21ST OCTOBER, 1918 Age 28

In Loving Memory

Of Our Dear Alick

Who Gave His Life

That We May Live

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Gnr. A. Berry is located in
Grave Plot # 4. F. 4. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Alick BERRY

Alick Berry was born on 8th November, 1889 in the county of Shropshire, England to parents Charles & Elizabeth Berry (nee Gardiner). (CWGC lists the place of birth as Hodnet, Salop, while the information supplied for the Australian Roll of Honour by Charles Berry (father) states born at Booley, Stanton Upon Hines Heath, Shropshire). Alick's birth was registered in the December quarter, 1889 in the district of Wem, Shropshire.

The 1891 England Census recorded Alick Berry as living with his parents at Stanton upon Hine Heath, Shropshire, England. His parents were recorded as Charles Berry (Agricultural Labourer, aged 26, born Stoke Salop) & Elizabeth Berry (aged 30, born Fern Hill, Salop). Also listed was Margaret Ann Wardman, sister-in-law of Charles Berry (aged 11, born Fern Hill, Salop).

A death for Elizabeth Berry, aged 39, was registered in the district of Mt. Drayton, Shropshire.

The 1901 England Census recorded Alick Berry as an 11 year old living with his father & younger sister at The College, a 4 roomed dwelling at Hodnet, Shropshire. Alick's father was listed as Charles Berry (Widower, aged 36, Agricultural Labourer) & his sister as Alice Berry (aged 9, born Salop, Stanton).

The 1911 England Census listed Alick Berry as a 21 year old servant – Waggoner on a farm working for Widow Mary Whitfield & her 5 adult aged children at The Hearne, Hodnet, Salop, Shropshire.

The 1911 England Census listed Charles Berry (aged 46) & his wife Ada Berry (aged 38, born Bronington, Flintshire, Wales) living at Crab Mill, Hodnet, Salop in a four roomed dwelling with their 6 children (2 with surname of Williams & 4 with surname of Berry). Charles & Ada had been married for 9 years.

Alick Berry, Farm Labourer, was listed as a passenger on the *Moravian* which arrived in Sydney on 23rd February, 1913. On information for the Roll of Honour, Charles Berry (father) stated that Alick had come to Australia at the age of 23.

Alick Berry was a 28 year old, single, Farmer from Yarrabandai, NSW when he enlisted at Parkes, NSW on 26th February, 1918 with the 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 53684 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr C. Berry of Crabwell Hodney, Shropshire, England.

Pte Alick Berry embarked from Sydney on SS *Field Marshal* on 19th June, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 26th August, 1918.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Berry was marched in from Australia & allotted to Reinforcements, 13th Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 26th August, 1918 & then marched into 14th Training Battalion.

Pte Berry was transferred to Artillery Details & marched out to RBAA (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury on 7th October, 1918. He was taken on strength & mustered as Gunner on same day.

Gunner Alick Berry sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 14th October, 1918 with Influenza & was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 17th October, 1918 suffering from Broncho pneumonia.

Gunner Alick Berry died during the night on 21st October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Alick Berry, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner Alick Berry was buried at 11 a.m. on 26th October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 4. From the burial report of Gunner Berry - *Coffin was good polished elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery. Six of deceased's Unit comrades acted as pall bearers. An Officer and about twenty N.C.O.'s and men from the deceased's Unit attended as Mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Alick Berry requested in his Will, dated 15th May, 1918, that all his property both real & personal be left to his father – Charles Berry of Crab Hill, Hodnet, Shropshire, England.

Gunner A. Berry is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 22.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Berry is also remembered on the Yarrabandai Heroes Honour Roll, located at the Trundle War Memorial School of Arts, Tullamore Road, Trundle, NSW.



Yarrabandai Heroes Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Ian Leonard, Secretary Trundle RSL)

Gunner Alick Berry was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Berry's father – Mr Charles Berry in England (both sent November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Gunner Alick Berry, 53684, of Australian Field Artillery, as the son of Charles & Ada Berry, of Higgins Wood Styche, Market Drayton, Salop, England. Born at Hodnet, Salop. (*OPC Note – Ada Berry was Alick Berry's stepmother*).

(42 pages of Gunner Alick Berry'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.



Newspaper Reports

PERSONAL

Recent enlistments included P. Hobbs and R. J. T. Moulden, both horse trainers residing at Parkes, and A. Berry, farmer, Yarrabandai.

(Forbes Advocate, NSW – Tuesday 5 March, 1918)

YARRABANDAI

Privates A. Berry, and R. Christie, were up on final leave last week, and were tendered a public send-off by the presidents of Yarrabandai and district. Each soldier was presented with a wristlet watch. Mr. W. J. Keast acted in the capacity of chairman with his usual efficiency. Messrs. P. and J. O'Gorman made the presentations. Dancing was indulged in until daybreak. Excellent music was supplied by Mrs Walsh and Messrs J. and W. Madden, L. Morris and others. Mr W. Anderson, ably acted as M.C.

(Western Champion, Parkes, NSW – Thursday 23 May, 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 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)

Gunner Alick Berry does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Loving Memory Of Our Dear Alick Who Gave His Life That We May Live

Photo of Gunner A. Berry's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)

