

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



6871 PRIVATE

A. E. PROUD

21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 35

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. E. Proud is located in
Grave Plot # 32. I. 11. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Arthur Ernest PROUD

Arthur Ernest Proud was born at Ballarat, Victoria in 1883 to parents Thomas Charles & Margaret Lambeth Proud (nee Cox).

Arthur Ernest Proud married Roberta Annie McKay in Victoria in 1907.

Arthur & Annie Proud had 3 children – Arthur Lindsay (Gordon) (born 20th February, 1909), Alexander (born 11th August, 1910) & Jessie (born 3rd November, 1915).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the Division of Bendigo, subdivision of Quarry Hill listed Arthur Earnest Proud, Plumber of Breen Street. Also listed at Breen Street was Annie Roberta Proud, Home Duties.

Arthur Ernest Proud was a 33 year old, married, Plumber from Quarry Hill, Bendigo, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 4th September, 1916 with the 21st Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6871 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Annie Roberta Proud of 28 Breen Street, Quarry Hill, Bendigo, Victoria. Arthur Ernest Proud had served 3 years with Artillery at Williamstown, Victoria prior to enlisting.

Private Arthur Ernest Proud embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 11th May, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 20th July, 1917.

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 Arthur Ernest Proud was marched in to 6th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 20th July, 1917.

Pte Proud was marched out to Parkhouse on 7th September, 1917 for test pending transfer to Signal Engineers.

Pte Proud was sent to Clearing Hospital at Royal Park on 8th October, 1916 as he had been in contact with Measles. He was transferred to Isolation Camp at Ascot on 9th October, 1916 & discharged on 23rd October, 1917.

Pte Proud proceeded overseas to France from Fovant via Folkestone on 28th November, 1917. He was marched in from England at Havre, France on 30th November, 1917.

Pte Proud joined his Battalion (21st) in the field on 6th December, 1917.

Pte Proud was sent to 6th Australian Field Ambulance in Belgium on 4th January, 1918 with Scabies. He was discharged to duty on 9th January, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion.

Pte Proud was sent to 4th Sty. Hospital at Arques on 4th February, 1918 & transferred to Base Depot on 11th February, 1918.

Pte Proud was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre on 12th February, 1918.

Pte Proud rejoined his Battalion in France on 18th April, 1918.

Pte Proud was wounded in action on 19th May, 1918. He was taken to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France with a gunshot wound to left arm. Pte Proud embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* on 23rd May, 1918 & was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe with a gunshot wound to left forearm on the same day. Pte Proud was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 4th July, 1918 & discharged to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 24th July, 1918.

Pte Proud was marched out to No. 2 Command Depot on 9th September, 1918.

Pte Proud was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 23rd October, 1918.

Private Arthur Ernest Proud was sent to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 3rd November, 1918 with Influenza & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 5th November, 1918 with Influenza.

Private Arthur Ernest Proud died at 10.00 hrs on 14th November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Arthur E. Proud, aged 36, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Ernest Proud was buried on 19th November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 32. From the burial report of Pte Proud - *Coffin was 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 from No. 1 Australian Command Depot. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. Two Officers and 100 N.C.O.'s and Men from No. 1 Command Depot followed the remains to the graveside. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Arthur Ernest Proud requested in his Will dated 26th July, 1917 that all his property & effects (Military & Civil) be left to his wife – Annie Roberta Proud of 71 King St, Bendigo, Victoria.

Private A. E. Proud is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 94.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Arthur Ernest Proud was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Proud's widow – Mrs Annie Proud (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922). Mrs Annie Proud of 103 Olinda St, Quarry Hill, Bendigo wrote to Base Records on 12th May, 1920 requesting a Memoriam Badge. A form was sent to Mrs Proud for application for the "In Memoriam" Badge.

The CWGC lists Private Arthur Ernest Proud, 6871, of 21st Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Thomas Charles and Margaret Proud; husband of A. R. Proud of 103 Olinda St., Bendigo, Victoria. Born at Ballarat.

A letter was written to the Repatriation Dept on 30th October, 1934 from Alex Proud of "Sutton Veny" 103 Olinda St, Bendigo – son of Mrs Annie Proud, widow of late Pte Arthur Ernest Proud. The letter was written saying that his mother had passed away over 12 months ago & they were considering erecting a monument at her grave but wished to know what assistance was given by the Dept to enable the name of deceased soldiers buried abroad to be placed on a memorial. Alex Proud stated he had been informed that "*some kind of plaque on a slab is supplied by your Department*". Base Records replied to Alex Proud on 2nd November, 1934 & the letter read in part as follows: " *it is desired to point out that, as the whole of the expense of providing official headstones in the case of members of the Australian Imperial Force buried abroad is being borne by the Government, which is also responsible for the future care and maintenance of the graves of our Fallen, it is not the intention of the Department to supply relatives with name-plates or other means of commemorating these soldiers elsewhere. There is no objection, however, to your including the particulars of the abovenamed soldier on any private memorial,*"

Annie Roberta Proud was buried on 4th November, 1933 at Kangaroo Flat Cemetery (Lockwood Road, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria) in Grave number 3976 (Presbyterian). Pte Arthur Ernest Proud is remembered on a headstone with his wife Annie Roberta Proud.



(98 pages of Pte Arthur Ernest Proud'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.





Private Arthur Ernest Proud



Newspaper Reports

COUNTRY RECRUITS

The following recruits enlisted in Melbourne on Monday -A. E. Proud...

(Bendigo Advertiser, Vic – Wednesday 6 September, 1916)

News has been received from Mrs A. E. Proud, of King Street, that her husband, Private A. E. Proud, has been wounded in France, and is now in the Norfolk War Hospital suffering from gunshot wounds in the left forearm.

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Vic – Thursday 13 June, 1918)

VICTORIAN CASUALTIES

CASUALTY LIST NO. 450

DIED OF ILLNESS

PROUD, A. E., Bendigo 14/11/18

(The Argus, Melbourne, Vic – Saturday 7 December, 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)

A letter was sent from Base Records to Mrs A. R. Proud of 103 Olinda Street, Quarry Hill, Bendigo, dated 28th July, 1921, advising that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on her late husband's Headstone (Pte A. E. Proud) in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

Pte Arthur Ernest Proud does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Private A. E. Proud's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)