

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



63313 PRIVATE

C. G. MATTHEWS

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

29TH JANUARY, 1919

*CWGC Headstone for Pte C. G. Matthews is located in
Grave Plot # 41. F. 8. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Charles George MATTHEWS

Charles George Matthews was born on 25th December, 1898 near Launceston, Tasmania to parents (nee He was a 19 year old, single Farmer from South Arm, Tasmania when he enlisted at Hobart, Tasmania on 4th July, 1918 with the 3rd (T) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 63313 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs S. Jones of 104 Bight Street, East Brunswick, Victoria.

A letter in the Service record file of Pte Charles George Matthews to the recruiting Officer, Hobart from Charles F. Seager for Secretary Neglected Children Dept, dated 4th July, 1918 reads:
“This is to certify that Charles George Matthews is a ward of the Department for Neglected Children and has my consent, as his guardian, to enlist for active service.”

Private Charles George Matthews embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 5th December, 1918. Pte Matthews had been admitted to the Ship's Hospital at Sea on 16th November, 1918 & was discharged on 28th November, 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 Matthews was marched in to 1st Training Battalion on 5th December, 1918 & allotted to Reinforcements of 12th Battalion.

Private Charles George Matthews was sent sick to 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 22nd January, 1919.

Private Charles George Matthews died at 6.30 a.m. on 29th January, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Acute Pneumonia (Broncho Pneumonia).

A death for C. G. Matthews, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Charles George Matthews was buried at 3 p.m. on 3rd February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny – Grave no. 41. From the burial report of Pte Matthews - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from No. 1 Command Depot. Six Australians supported the Pall. An Officer and 50 other Ranks followed the remains and were present at the graveside Ceremony. The “Last Post” was sounded and three volleys fired over the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Susan Jones, mother of late Pte C. G. Matthews, of 104 Blythe St, Brunswick, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 16th January, 1919 advising that she had not heard from her son since he sailed from Melbourne on 5th October, 1918. A reply was sent dated 28th January, 1919 advising Mrs Jones that the transport on which her son Pte C. G. Matthews had arrived safely at its destination and as no further information was available regarding Pte Matthews it was assumed that he was with his Unit.

Pte Charles George Matthews requested in his Will dated 1st October, 1918 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Susan Jones of 104 Blyth St, East Brunswick, Victoria.

Pte Charles George Matthews was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also produced in honour of soldiers who had died & were sent to the next-of-kin. Pte Matthews' father was deceased so his next-of-kin was listed as his mother - Mrs Susan Jones who signed for receipt of the Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque in December, 1922. She had also signed for receipt of the personal effects of Pte Matthews in August, 1919. Susan Jones' last contact address held by the Army was 88 Albert St, West Brunswick, Victoria. Enquiries were made by the Army & in a letter

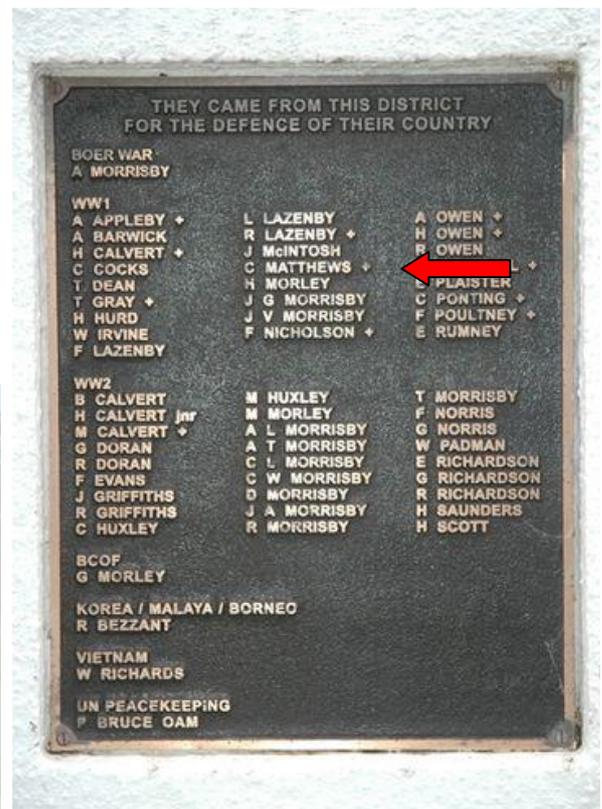
dated 12th July, 1921 the following was written regarding the location of S. Jones of 26 Carnarvon St, Brunswick (last known address as advised by Mrs S. Jones in November, 1919 & the same address Mrs Jones was residing at when she received the War Gratuity payment): “*This person is not on the Electoral Rolls but ascertained moved to Roden St, Nth Melbourne. Following up enquiries at 154 Capel St and 215 Abbotsford St, Nth Melbourne was informed by Mrs Black, butcher of 213 Abbotsford St that Mrs S. Jones from Brunswick lodged with her 3 years ago but sold up her home & went to NSW but locality there unknown.*” As a result of the enquiry, the War Medal entitled to Pte Matthews was sent to the “Untraceables” section as the next-of-kin could not be located. A signed receipt by Mrs S. Jones dated 26th September, 1922 for British War Medal is included in Pte Matthews Service Record file.

Private C. G. Matthews is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 66.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Matthews is also remembered on the South Arm War Memorial located at South Arm & Jetty Roads, South Arm, Tasmania.



South Arm War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

The CWGC lists Private Charles George Matthews, 63313, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

(58 pages of Pte Charles George Matthews' 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

ROLL OF HONOUR

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte C. G. Matthews, Eats Brunswick, Vic., 29/1/19

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Wednesday 19 February, 1919)

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)

Pte Charles George Matthews does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Photo of C. G. Matthews's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



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