

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**59464 SERJEANT**

**E. G. ARENTZ**

**3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**24TH SEPTEMBER, 1919 Age 36**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Serjeant E. G. Arentz is located in  
Grave Plot # 93. M. 6. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Eric Gordon ARENTZ

Eric Gordon Arentz was born at Tingha, in the New England district of New South Wales in 1883 to parents Martin & Agnes Arentz (formerly Butler, nee Hill).

Eric Gordon Arentz was a 31 year old, single, Miner when he enlisted at Tingha, NSW on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1916.

Eric Gordon Arentz was a 33 year old, single, Miner from Tingha, NSW when he enlisted at Armidale, NSW on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 with the Armidale Depot Battalion of the Australia Imperial Force. His service number was N40567 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A, Arentz of Ruby Street, Tingha, NSW (Father died in 1905). Eric Arentz stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for serving for His Majesty's Services "on account of father's birth." (Martin Arentz had been born on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1841 at Weisel, Germany).

Private Eric Gordon Arentz was admitted to Liverpool Field Hospital on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 for 5 days with Lumbago. He was discharged on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1917.

Private Eric Gordon Arentz was again admitted to Liverpool Field Hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1917. On admission he was reported as "being incapable of walking on account of dual stiffness of lower extremities & sharp pain at intervals – was in Hospital 17 days ago." He was discharged on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1917, after 46 days with Chronic Rheumatism. Private Arentz was given an Invalid Transfer Certificate & was recommended for a Convalescent Home for treatment for a period of one month.

Private Eric Gordon Arentz was discharged medically unfit - not due to misconduct, on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1917. This was approved by the Medical Board.

Eric Gordon Arentz was a 34 year old, single, Bandmaster from Tingha, NSW when he re-enlisted at Sydney, NSW on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 with the 13<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 59464 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A, Arentz of Ruby Street, Tingha, NSW.

Pte Eric Gordon Arentz embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 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 Eric Gordon Arentz was marched in to 5<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade from Australia & allotted to Reinforcements of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

Private Eric Gordon Arentz was marched out from Sutton Veny to Education School at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1919 & marched out to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Brigade at Sutton Veny on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1919.

Pte Arentz was promoted to Temporary Corporal while at Tidworth on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1919.

Temp. Cpl. Arentz was promoted to Er/Cpl. & T. Sgt. while at No. 2 Group on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1919.

Sergeant Eric Gordon Arentz was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1919.

Sergeant Eric Gordon Arentz died at 7.30 a.m. on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Typhoid.

A death for E. G. Arentz, aged 35, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Sergeant Eric Gordon Arentz was buried on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 95. (Burial report states grave no. 95, however CWGC states grave no. 93). From the burial report of Sergeant Arentz - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mountings. Sergeant Arentz was given a military funeral. The firing party consisted of 13 other ranks from No. 2 Group and the last post was sounded by a bugler. The coffin was covered with an Australian flag.*

Eric Gordon Arentz requested in his Will dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1918, that the whole of his property & effects be left to his mother – Mrs Agnes Arentz of Tingha, NSW.

Sergeant Eric Gordon Arentz is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 35.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Sergeant Eric Gordon Arentz 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 Segt. Arentz's mother – Mrs A. Arentz (July, 1921 & December, 1922)

The CWGC lists Sergeant Eric Gordon Arentz, 59464, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Agnes Arentz, of Ruby St, Tingha, New South Wales, and the late Martin Arentz.

Unfortunately, Eric Gordon Arentz is not listed on the Tingha War Memorial for 1914-1918 possibly because his death was in September, 1919.



**Tingha War Memorial** (Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Audrey McArdle)

(115 pages of Sergeant Eric Gordon Arentz'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.*



**Eric Gordon Arentz**

*(Photo from MyHeritage – Fiona McLennan)*

## **Newspaper Reports**

### **PERSONAL**

Mrs Arentz, of TIngha, has received word that her son, Sergeant Eric Arentz, has died in the Sutton Veny Military Hospital from typhoid fever. Sergeant Arentz, who was only 36 years of age, enlisted in 1916, but contracted rheumatic fever in Liverpool Camp, and was sent to the Convalescent Home at Moree, and later discharged. He again enlisted in 1917, and sailed about June, 1918, arriving at the front when the armistice was signed. He was then transferred to England, where he remained until his untimely end. At his second time of enlistment deceased was and had been for some time, bandmaster at Moree, and was very popular. His Moree friends will regret to hear of his death.

*(Moree Gwydir Examiner and General Advertiser, NSW – Friday 10 October, 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)*

Serjeant Eric Gordon Arentz does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Serjeant E. G. Arentz'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)*

