

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



63241 PRIVATE

H. J. G. BOON

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 25

He Endureth Hardship

As A Good Soldier

Of Jesus Christ

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. J. G. Boon is located in
Grave Plot # 67. J. 7. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Harry James Gordon BOON

Harry James Gordon Boon was born on 11th June, 1894 in Hobart, Tasmania to parents Henry & Isabel Blake Boon (nee Bigwood).

Harry James Gordon Boon married Ada Constance Barrow on 9th February, 1916. (published in *The Mercury*, Tasmania 27th March, 1916). Harry James Gordon Boon was employed by Brownell Bros. Limited. (Mentioned in Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue – Newsletter 44 – August 2009. Original source – *The Draper of Australasia* - a trade directory).

Harry James Gordon Boon was a 24 year old, married, Draper from West Hobart, Tasmania when he enlisted at Hobart, Tasmania on 5th June, 1918 with the 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 63241 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Ada C. Boon of 37 Hill Street, West Hobart, Tasmania. Harry Boon stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 2 years with Garrison Artillery & had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service – "Reason unknown". Harry James Gordon Boon also listed on his Attestation Papers that he had one child.

Pte Harry James Gordon Boon embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 5th December, 1918. Pte Boon had been admitted to Ship's Hospital on voyage over to England on 27th October, 1918 & was discharged the following day.

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 Harry James Gordon Boon was marched in to 1st Training Battalion in Wiltshire & allotted to Reinforcements of 12th Battalion on 5th December, 1918.

Private Harry James Gordon Boon was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital on 28th December, 1918. He was transferred & admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 28th January, 1919 with Broncho pneumonia.

Private Harry James Gordon Boon died at 1.50 a.m. on 8th February, 1919 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho pneumonia.

A death for H. J. Boon, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Harry James Gordon Boon was buried on 11th February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 67. From the burial report of Pte Boon - *Coffin was 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, Sutton Veny. The Pall was supported by six members of the A.I.F. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Harry James Gordon Boon requested in his Will, dated 1st October, 1918, that all his property & effects to be left to his wife – Ada Constance Boon.

Pte Harry James Gordon Boon 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 Pte Boon's widow – Mrs A. C. Boon (sent July, 1921 & October, 1922)

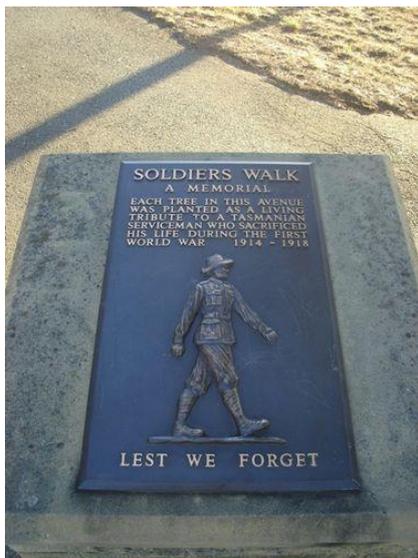
The CWGC lists Private Harry James Gordon Boon, 63241, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Henry and Isabel Blake Boon; husband of A. C. Boon, of 115 Forest Rd. West, Hobart, Tasmania. Born at Hobart.

Private H. J. G. Boon is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Harry James Gordon Boon is also remembered with a tree (H 20 – marked with red arrow on map below) on the Soldiers Memorial Avenue, Queens Domain, Hobart, Tasmania. 520 trees were planted in 1918 & 1919 to commemorate soldiers, mainly from Hobart, who died in World War 1.



Soldiers Memorial Avenue, Hobart





Map of Soldiers Memorial Avenue – Hobart (Map from [The Soldiers Memorial Avenue](#))

H. J. G. Boon is also remembered on the Honour Board located in the foyer of the Hobart Town Hall.



Honour Board in foyer of Hobart Town Hall (Photo from *Monument Australia* – Arthur Garland)

(44 pages of Pte Harry James Gordon Boon'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

WAR PRECAUTIONS ACT

TIME-PAYMENT GOODS REMOVED

GOODS TO BE RETURNED, AND DAMAGE PAID

The case was concluded at the Court of Requests yesterday, before the Commissioner (Mr. W. O. Wise) in which proceedings were taken under the War Precautions Act and Regulations.

The plaintiff was Kate Reason, who sued McCrow and Sons, furniture dealers, and E. Midson, their for £25 damages for the seizure and removal of her furniture and wearing apparel from 8 Brisbane-street.

The case was opened the previous day when plaintiff stated that she was the wife of Edward Fitzgerald, of Hobart but that she was the dependent of Gunner Joseph Reason, 15th Battalion, Fourth Infantry Brigade, Machine-gun Service in France, who was the father of her two children. She had bought goods valued at £15 17s., from defendants, and had paid about £1 6s on them in the hire payment system.

Legal argument followed as to whether the War Precautions Act applied in this case, in which plaintiff was not divorced from her husband, but was dependent on Gunner Reason.

Mr. W.M. Hodgman (Messrs. Page Hodgman, and Seager) represented plaintiff and Mr. V. I Chambers (Messrs. Butler, McIntyre and Butler) appeared for the defendants.

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Harry James Gordon Boon, salesman for defendants, stated that he removed the goods from plaintiff's room to the storeroom at the top of defendant's premises.

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(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – Wednesday 4 October, 1916)

RECRUITING

The following entered Claremont camp on Thursday, Friday and Saturday –H. J. G. Boon (Hobart),.....

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Wednesday 12 June, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

DIED - OTHER CAUSES

Pte H. J. G. Boon, W. Hobart – 8/2/19

(*Zeehan and Dundas Herald*, Tasmania – Wednesday 19 March, 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 Harry James Gordon Boon does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Endureth Hardship As A Good Soldier Of Jesus Christ

Photo of Pte H. J. G. Boon's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)

