

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



11972 DRIVER

J. J. McCURDY

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

3RD APRIL, 1919

Greater Love Hath No Man

*CWGC Headstone for Driver J. J. McCurdy is located in
Grave Plot # 79. K. 8. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Joseph James McCURDY

Joseph James McCurdy was born near Lake Charm, Victoria in 1891 to parents James & Alicia McCurdy (nee Horne).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Wimmera, subdivision of Kerang listed Joseph James Horne McCurdy, Lake Charm, Farmer. Also listed at Lake Charm were the following McCurdys – Alicia – Home Duties; Alicia Evelyn – Home Duties; James – Farmer.

Joseph James McCurdy was a 24 year old, single Farmer from Koondrook, Victoria when he enlisted at Bendigo, Victoria on 17th August, 1915 with the 1st Divisional Ammunition Column, 14th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 11972 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. McCurdy of 47 Winchester Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

Gunner Joseph James McCurdy embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 28th January, 1916.

Gunner McCurdy was taken on strength from Reinforcements & posted to No. 1 Section at Cairo on 29th February, 1916. He was transferred to 22nd Bty. at Tel-el-Kebir on 8th March, 1916 & mustered as Driver on 12th March, 1916.

Driver McCurdy embarked to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 21st March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseille, France.

Driver McCurdy was transferred & taken on strength with 21st F.A.B. on 15th May, 1916.

Driver McCurdy was transferred to 1st Brigade on 24th January, 1917.

Driver McCurdy was sent sick to Hospital on 5th February, 1917 & transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on 6th February, 1917 with Mumps. He was discharged to duty on 23rd February, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 25th February, 1917.

Driver McCurdy proceeded on leave on 20th August, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 5th September, 1917.

Driver McCurdy was sent to Hospital sick on 26th December, 1917 & admitted to 50th Field Ambulance with Diarrhoea on 27th December, 1917. He was transferred to 11th Australian Field Ambulance with Debility on 30th December, 1917. He was discharged on 1st January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 4th January, 1918.

Driver McCurdy proceeded on leave to UK on 8th October, 1918 & returned from leave on 26th October, 1918.

Driver McCurdy was marched out ready for return to Australia on 12th February, 1919. He embarked for England on 24th February, 1919 & marched in at No. 3 Command Depot at Parkhouse on 25th February, 1919.

Driver McCurdy was absent without leave from R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) on 17th March, 1919. He was marched in to Parkhouse "on paper only – still AWL" on 20th March, 1919.

Driver Joseph James McCurdy died at about 10 p.m. on 3rd April, 1919 at Demobilisation Camp, Heytesbury. He was admitted dead to 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny. Cause of death was investigated & it was found that Driver McCurdy had died of Atheroma of coronary artery, Interstitial myocarditis.

A death for Joseph J. McCurdy, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Driver Joseph James McCurdy was buried on 7th April, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 79. From the burial report of Driver McCurdy - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed 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. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the*

graveside. A large number of Australians followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.

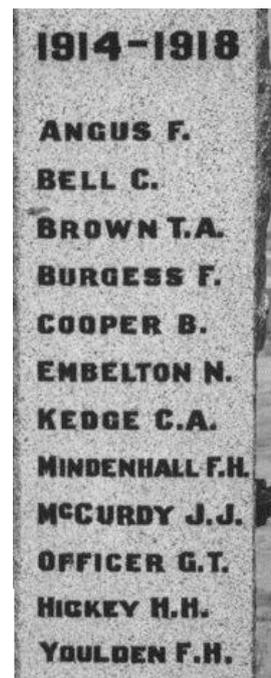
Joseph James McCurdy requested in his Will dated 17th January, 1916 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his father – James McCurdy.

Driver J. J. McCurdy is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 11.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. J. McCurdy is also remembered on the arched gateway leading to Lake Charm Public Hall, Murray Valley Highway, Lake Charm, Victoria.



Arched Gateway for Lake Charm Public Hall (Photos from Heritage Victoria)

Driver Joseph James McCurdy was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver McCurdy's mother (father deceased) – Mrs Alicia McCurdy at new address 377 Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills, Victoria. (sent November, 1921 & November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Driver Joseph James McCurdy, 11972, of 1st Bde, Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F., as the son of James and Alicia McCurdy of 377 Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills, Victoria. Born at Lake Charm.

(52 pages of Driver Joseph James McCurdy'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.



**** Connected to Joseph James McCurdy**

(Brother) Driver Randolph Gordon McCurdy, 11974, Australian Field Artillery, returned to Australia December, 1918. Died 16th March, 1920, aged 33. He was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. Buried in Kerang Cemetery, Victoria

Newspaper Notice

McCURDY – On the 16th March, 1920, at Melbourne Hospital, Randolph Gordon McCurdy (late A.I.F.), dearly loved son of Mrs and the late James McCurdy, of Lake Charm and Canterbury, loved brother of Mrs Aitken (Canterbury) and Thomas and Ernest McCurdy (Koondrook), and the late Joseph McCurdy (A.I.F.), aged 33 years.

Peace, perfect peace.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – Wednesday 17 March, 1920)



Newspaper Reports

DIED ON SERVICE

McCURDY – At the 1st Australian General Hospital, England (suddenly), Driver J. J. McCurdy, dearly loved youngest son of Mrs and the late James McCurdy, late of Lake Charm; loved brother of Mrs Aitken, Canterbury; T. J. and E. W. McCurdy, Koondrook and R. G. McCurdy, A.I.F.; loved fiancé of Jean May, Malvern, age 28.

Thy will be done

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – Saturday 10 May, 1919 & *The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – Saturday 17 May, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

McCURDY- In loving memory of our dear husband and father, who died at Kerang on 3rd July, 1916; also my son Joseph (A.I.F.), who died at Sutton Veney, England, on 3rd April, 1919; also my son Randolph (A.I.F.), who died at Melbourne Hospital on 16th March, 1920.

There is no death to the love that lives
Or the faith that stands serene,
They are waiting for us the ones we love,
There is only a door between
(Inserted by their sorrowing wife and mother and family.)
(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – Saturday 3 July, 1920)

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 Veney. 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)

Driver Joseph James McCurdy does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Great Love Hath No Man



Photo of Driver J. J. McCurdy'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)*