

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**63369 PRIVATE**

**K. G. DRAKE**

**12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**29TH JANUARY, 1919 Age 19**

*Beloved Son Of*

*W. K. And J. M. Drake*

*Westbury, Tasmania*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte K. G. Drake is located in  
Grave Plot # 42. F. 9. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Kenneth Grant DRAKE

Kenneth Grant Drake was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1899 at Westbury, Tasmania to parents William Kirkwood Drake and Jessie Mary Drake.

Kenneth Grant Drake was an 18 year old, single Cashier from Westbury, Tasmania when he enlisted at Deloraine, Tasmania on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tasmanian) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his service number was T 6837. His next of kin was listed as his father – W. K. Drake of Westbury, Tasmania. Kenneth Grant Drake had previously served with School Cadets.

Kenneth Grant Drake was discharged “Medically unfit not due to misconduct” on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1917. He was unfit due to varicocele & weak physique.

Kenneth Grant Drake was a 19 year old, single Clerk from Westbury, Tasmania when he re-enlisted at Deloraine, Tasmania on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tasmanian) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 63369 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – W. K. Drake of Westbury, Tasmania. To the question on the Attestation Papers – “Do you belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty’s Army, the Marines, the Militia....” Kenneth Drake answered – “Exempt 12 A Area”. He had previously also been rejected for service as he was under age. As Kenneth Drake was under the age of 21 years – both parents had signed their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for service abroad.

Pte Kenneth Grant Drake embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1918. Pte Drake had been admitted to the Ship’s Hospital while at sea from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 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 Kenneth Grant Drake was marched in to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, from Australia & allotted to 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Reinforcements on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1918.

Pte Drake was admitted to Military Hospital at Paddington on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1919 with Influenza while on leave. He was marched in to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Brigade at Sutton Veny on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1919.

Private Kenneth Grant Drake was sent sick to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1919 & admitted with Influenza the next day.

Private Kenneth Grant Drake died at 7.30 p.m. on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Acute Pneumonia.

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

Private Kenneth Grant Drake was buried at 3 p.m. on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 42. From the burial report of Pte Drake - *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. Command Depot. Six Australians acted as Pall bearers. The “Last Post” was sounded and three volleys fired over the grave. A number of N.C.O.’s and men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

*Deceased’s brother – No. 34397 Corporal C. V. Drake, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, A.I.F. was present at the funeral.*

(Gunner Claude Vivian Drake, 34397, was demobilized on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1919. He had disembarked in Australia on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1919)

Pte Kenneth Grant Drake requested in his Will, dated 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1918, that the whole of his property and effects be left to his mother – Jessie Mary Drake of Westbury, Tasmania.

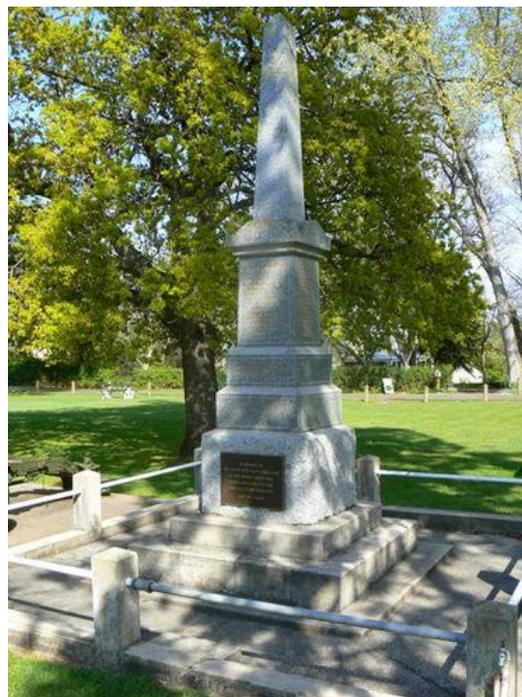
Private K. G. Drake is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



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

K. G. Drake is remembered on the Westbury Uniting Church Roll of Honour for World War 1.

K. G. Drake is remembered on the Westbury War Memorial located in Village Green, Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury, Tasmania.



**Westbury War Memorial** (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

Pte Kenneth Grant Drake 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 Drake's father – Mr W. K. Drake (sent July, 1921 & November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Kenneth Grant Drake, 63369, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of William Kirkwood Drake and Jessie Mary Drake, of Westbury, Tasmania.

(59 pages of Pte Kenneth Grant Drake'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**

### **RECRUITING**

#### **ENTERED CLAREMONT**

Hobart, Tuesday

The following entered Claremont Camp on Monday:- K. G. Drake, clerk, Westbury;

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Wednesday 28 August, 1918)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

DRAKE – On the 29<sup>th</sup> January, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Private Kenneth Grant Drake, fourth son of W. K. and Jessie Drake, Westbury, in his twentieth year.

*(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – Saturday 8 February, 1919)*

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### **TASMANIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **List No. 460**

##### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte K. G. Drake, Westbury, 29/1/19

*(Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – Thursday 6 March, 1919)*

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### **SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL**

#### **UNVEILED AT WESBURY**

The unveiling of the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial at Westbury took place on Sunday, in the presence of a large gathering. The committee had all the details carried out in a most satisfactory manner. A platform was erected near the side of the monument for the speakers and directly in front seats were provided for the parents and relatives of those whose names appeared on the monument.

...The service was of a most impressive nature throughout, which touched the hearts of many present who had lost their dear ones.... A large number of beautiful wreaths were laid around the monument by relatives and friends of the fallen. The monument bears the names of 64 men who fell in the great war. The names which are in alphabetical order, are as follow: .... K. G. Drake....

*(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – Wednesday 28 June, 1922)*

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### 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 Kenneth Grant Drake does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Beloved Son Of W. K. And J. M. Drake Westbury, Tasmania*



Photo of Pte K. G. Drake'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)*