

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**31524 DRIVER**

**P. DEGIDAN**

**AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY**

**13TH JANUARY, 1918**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Driver P. Degidan is located in  
Grave Plot # 313. D. 3. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Patrick DEGIDAN

Patrick Degidan was born at Yorketown, South Australia on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1889 to parents Michael & Katherine Degidan (nee English). He was a 27 year old, single Porter from Sth Australian Railway from Yorketown, Sth Australia when he enlisted at Burra, Sth Australia on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 with the 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Ammunition Column of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 31524 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Michael Degidan of Yorketown, Sth Australia.

Pte Patrick Degidan was promoted to the rank of Driver on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Driver Patrick Degidan & his younger brother Michael John Jerome Degidan, 31523, aged 18, embarked from Melbourne on RMS *Orontes* on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

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.

Driver Patrick Degidan was marched in from Australia to Details Camp at Parkhouse, England on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1917. He was marched out to Bulford Camp on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1917. Driver Degidan was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1917.

Driver Patrick Degidan was admitted sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1917. He was discharged on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.

Driver Degidan was marched in from Fargo Hospital to R.B.A.A. at Heytesbury, Wiltshire.

Driver Patrick Degidan was sent sick to Bulford Hospital on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1917 & then transferred to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1917 seriously ill.

Driver Patrick Degidan died at 9.10 p.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Tuberculosis Generalized.

A death for Patrick Degidan, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Driver Patrick Degidan was buried on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. (not numbered). From the burial report of Driver Degidan - *Coffin was polish elm with Brass Mounts – A Military Funeral was held at Sutton Veny and carried out with a full ceremony and Military Honours. A number of comrades of the deceased were present at the funeral ceremony which was performed by the Roman Catholic Chaplain for the District. A movement is on foot to erect a tombstone.*

Driver Patrick Degidan requested in his Will, dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1918, that £50 sterling be bequeathed to Katherine Marie Enright Kelly of Rose Terrace, Wayville (widow). The rest of his Estate was to go to his sister – Mary Agnes Degidan.

Driver Patrick Degidan 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 Driver Degidan's father – Mr M. Degidan (sent November, 1922 & October, 1922).

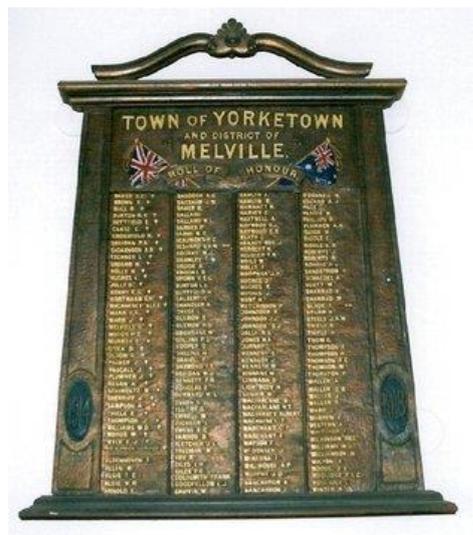
The CWGC lists Driver Patrick Degidan, 31524, of 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. Ammunition Col., Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Driver Patrick Degidan is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.



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

P. Degidan & M. J. Degidan are both remembered on the Yorketown Town and District Honour Board for WW1.



**Yorketown Town and District Honour Board for WW1**

*(Photo from RSL Virtual War Memorial)*

A War Pension was granted to Catherine Teresa Degidan of Yorketown, mother (married) of late Driver Degidan (unmarried son) in the sum of 20/- per fortnight as from 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1918.

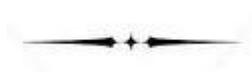
(68 pages of Driver Patrick Degidan's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.*



Connected to Driver Patrick Degidan :

Younger brother - Michael John Jerome Degidan, 31523. Wounded in Action – gassed in France on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1918, invalided to England on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1918. Gunner Degidan returned to Australia 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1919.



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **LOCAL MEMS.**

Mr P. Degidan assistant at the Gawler North Railway Station has received notice of removal to Lyndoch and his place will be taken by the man whose position he is to fill. The reason for this is that the Gawler North billet is henceforward to be considered one for a married man. Business people and the regular passengers will regret Mr Degidan's removal.

(*Bunyip*, Gawler, Sth Aust. – Friday 25 December, 1914)

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### **From Yorketown**

Mr P. Degidan, is spending a week at his home prior to going into camp.

(*The Mail*, Adelaide, Sth Aust. – Saturday 24 June, 1916)

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### **From Yorketown**

Messrs P. and M. J. Degidan, who have enlisted in the A.I.F., left for camp on Thursday.

(*The Mail*, Adelaide, Sth Aust. – Saturday 1 July, 1916)

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### **From Yorketown**

Signallers M. and P. Degidan have been at home for a few days on leave. They returned last week.

(*The Mail*, Adelaide, Sth Aust. – Saturday 11 November, 1916)

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### **From Yorketown**

Signallers P. and M. Degidan, who have been at home on long leave, left on Monday en route for Melbourne.

(*The Mail*, Adelaide, Sth Aust. – Saturday 16 December, 1916)

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## **SOCIAL AND PERSONAL**

Another soldier known to the Gawler residents, Sgnr. P. A. Degidan, has died serving his country. Prior to enlisting this soldier was engaged on the railway, being first stationed at Lyndoch and afterwards at the two station offices at Gawler and North Gawler. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Degidan, of Yorketown, Yorke's Peninsula. He left for England in December, 1916, and after several months' training became ill. He was discharged from hospital in the October following but a short time after relapsed, and died from the effects of his illness on January 9th. In civil life he took a keen interest in all sport, and when in Gawler was an active member of the Willaston tennis club. Special reference to his demise was made in the Catholic church.

(*Bunyip*, Gawler, Sth Aust. – Friday 8 February, 1918)

## AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

### 382nd Casualty List

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

Driver P. Degidan, Yorketown, January 9

*(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW – Saturday 9 February, 1918)*

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## THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

**DEGIDAN** – Dvr. T. Degidan, of 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Ammunition Column, who died on the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

*(The Register News-Pictorial, Adelaide, Sth Aust. – Monday 14 January, 1929)*

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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)*

A letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, from Base Records, was sent to Mr M. Degidan of Yorketown, Sth Australia, father of the late Driver Patrick Degidan, reminding him that a communication from the Defence Department regarding an inscription that could be placed on his son's headstone at Sutton Veny had not been replied to. Mr Degidan was advised that non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would be accepted as indicating that no further action be taken.

Driver Patrick Degidan does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Photo of Driver P. Degidan'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*)