

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



**1579 SERGEANT**

**R. L. MORTON**

**3RD PIONEER BATTN. A.I.F.**

**10TH FEBRUARY, 1919**

*CWGC Headstone for Sgt. R. L. Morton is located in  
Grave Plot # 63. J. 3. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Richard Lewis MORTON

Richard Lewis Morton was born on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1896 at South Yarra, Victoria to parents Richard & Marguerite Morton (nee Hutchinson). He was a 19 year old, single, Soldier from 16 Avoca Avenue, St. Kilda, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1916 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneer Battalion "D" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 1579 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Richard Morton of 16 Avoca Avenue, St. Kilda, Victoria.

Richard Lewis Morton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been discharged by Court Martial on account of being absent without leave December, 1915.

Private Richard Lewis Morton was given the rank of Acting Sergeant on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1916 & then Prov. Sergeant on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1916. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1916.

Sergeant Richard Lewis Morton embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Wandilla* (A62) on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

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.

Sgt. Morton proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1916. Sgt. Moore was sent to Hospital sick on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 & admitted to 10<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance with Balanitis the same day. He was then transferred to 8<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 then to 24<sup>th</sup> Ambulance Train on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 & admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Con. Depot at Boulogne on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1917. Sgt. Morton was admitted to 32<sup>nd</sup> Stat. Hospital on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 & transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Con. Depot on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1917. He was admitted to Hospital at Boulogne from 1<sup>st</sup> Con. Depot on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & transferred to Base Depot on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1917.

Sgt. Morton was marched in at Etaples on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & marched out to his Unit on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1917. He rejoined his Unit from Hospital in 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1917.

Sgt. Morton was detached for Railway construction work at West Cappee on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Sgt. Morton was sent to 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance sick on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 & transferred to 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1917. He was transferred to 6<sup>th</sup> Ambulance Train on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 & admitted to 39<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Havre on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.

Sgt. Morton was transferred to Base Depot on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 at Rouelles. He was marched out to his Unit on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.

Sgt. Morton was sent sick to 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 & transferred to 2 A.C.C.S. From there he was transferred to 28<sup>th</sup> Ambulance Train on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 & admitted to 3 Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1917. He was transferred to 51<sup>st</sup> General Hospital on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 & transferred on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 to 39<sup>th</sup> General Hospital. Sgt. Morton was admitted to Hospital at Havre on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 & transferred to Base on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

Sgt. Morton was marched in to A.I.B.D. at Rouelles on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 & marched out to his Unit on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1918. He rejoined his Unit on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1918.

Sgt. Morton was detached for duty to 184<sup>th</sup> Tunnel Company on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1918.

Sgt. Morton was sent sick to 10<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1918.

Sgt. Morton proceeded on leave to UK on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1918.

Sgt. Morton was sent to Australian Corps PT & BF School on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1918.

Sgt. Morton was sent to UK for training as a Flying Officer on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1918. He disembarked at Folkestone on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 on duty from France to report to Admin. Hdqrs. He was marched in from France on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 at Wendover.

Sgt. Morton proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1918 & was marched in at Boulogne on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1918. He rejoined his Unit from duty in UK on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1918.

Sgt. Morton was detached on 21st January, 1919 for return to Australia. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. at Rouelles on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1919 & marched out to England on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1919.

Sergeant Richard Lewis Morton disembarked at Weymouth, England on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1919 & was marched in to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Brigade Con. Camp the same day.

Sergeant Richard Lewis Morton was sent sick & then admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1919 with Influenza.

Sergeant Richard Lewis Morton died at 11.55 p.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for R. L. Morton, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Sergeant Richard Lewis Morton was buried on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 63. From the burial report of Sgt. Morton - *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 Sutton Veny. Six of Deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A large number of N.C.O.'s and Men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Flowers were sent by "Mr and Mrs G. A. Payne" and "Miss M. Bridge". Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

*Also in attendance at the funeral were – Mr and Mrs G. A. Payne (Friends) of The Bungalow, Cranes Park, Burbiton & Miss M. Bridge (Friend) of Chalfonts West, Drayton, Middlesex.*

Richard Lewis Morton requested in his Will dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Mrs R. Morton, St. Kilda, Victoria.

Sergeant Richard Lewis Morton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sgt. Morton's father – Mr R. Morton (sent April, 1922 & November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Sergeant Richard Lewis Morton, 1579, of 3rd Australian Pioneers, A.I.F., as the son of Richard and Margaret Morton of 16 Avoca Avenue, St. Kilda, Victoria. Born at South Yarra.

Sergeant R. L. Morton is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



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

(68 pages of Sergeant Richard Lewis Morton'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.*



**Sutton Veny Churchyard**

Sergeant Richard Lewis Morton has a Private headstone rather than a 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)*