

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



18356 PRIVATE

**R. H. K. MURRAY**

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

19TH JULY, 1919 AGE 23

*A Beautiful Life*

*Nobly Ended*

*At Rest With The Lord*

CWGC Headstone for Pte R. H. K. Murray is located in  
Grave Plot # 91. M. 4. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny

## Robert Hampden Keith MURRAY

Robert Hampden Keith Murray was born at Blackheath, NSW in early 1896 to parents Matthew & Ann Maria Murray (formerly Westerman, nee Venables). He was a 21 year old, single Porter (Railway Employee) from Blackheath, NSW when he enlisted at Sydney, NSW on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917 with the Army Medical Corps, July 1917 Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 18356 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr M. Murray of “Yarrim” Bundarra St, Blackheath, NSW. Robert Murray stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Militia for 4 years & was still serving.

Private Robert Hampden Murray embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Euripides* (A14) on 31st October, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 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.

Private Robert Murray was marched in to A.A.M.C. Training Depot on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

Pte Murray was written up for an Offence at Parkhouse. He was absent without leave from 22.00 on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1918 until 20.00 on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1918. He was punished with 7 days Field Punishment & forfeited 4 days' pay.

Pte Murray proceeded Overseas to France from Parkhouse, via Southampton on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1918. He was marched in at Rouelles, France on 3 April, 1918. He was marched out to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dep. AAMC & taken on strength in the field with 7th Australian Field Ambulance “Supernumerary to Establishment” on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. Pte Murray was taken on strength from Supp.to Establishment in 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

Pte Murray was sent sick to Hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1918 & admitted with diarrhoea. He rejoined his Unit the same day.

Pte Murray was attached for duty with 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1919 & attached for duty to 5/6/7 Field Ambulance on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1919.

Pte Murray was marched out to England ready for return to Australia – Quota 33 on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1919. He was admitted to 39<sup>th</sup> General Hospital on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 with Scabies. Pte Murray was marched out to England on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 & disembarked at Southampton on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1919.

Pte Murray was marched in to No. 2 Group at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire the same day.

Pte Murray was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 with “I.C.T. Left Knee” He was discharged a month later, on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1919 to Training Depot.

Pte Murray was marched out to A.A.M.C. Training Depot at Fovant, Wiltshire on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1919. He was sent sick to hospital & admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1919 with a “swollen jaw”.

Private Robert Hampden Keith Murray died at 1 a.m. on 19th July, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of “Oedema of Face”.

A death for Robert H. K. Murray, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Robert Hampden Keith Murray was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 91. From the burial report of Pte Murray - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried at ST. John the Evangelist Churchyard Sutton Veny. The coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Motor Ambulance preceded by a Firing Party from No. 2 Group, A.I.F., Sutton Veny. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The “Last Post” was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral were – (Cousin) R. V. Murray, 61 Quota A.I.F. (Sutton Veny); (Friend) Mrs Deary, 5 Henille Rd, Bournemouth; (Friend) Miss Peggy Butler, 1 Stafford Road, Bournemouth.*

Pte Robert Hampden Keith Murray requested in his Will dated 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Annie Maria Murray.

Private R. H. K. Murray is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



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

R. H. K. Murray is also remembered on the Blackheath World War 1 Honour Roll which is located at Blackheath Library & Community Centre, cnr Great Western Highway & Gardiner Crescent, Blackheath, NSW.



**Blackheath World War 1 Honour Roll** (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW – Peter Levarre-Waters)



R. H. K. Murray is also remembered on the Blackheath War Memorial Arch which stands at the entrance to Memorial Park, Great Western Highway, Blackheath, NSW.



### Blackheath War Memorial Arch

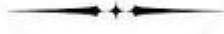
*(Photos from War Memorials Register NSW – Mr Andrew Howell, Architect & David Roden)*

Private Robert Hampden Keith Murray was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Murray's father – Mr M. Murray (sent June, 1921 & November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Robert Hampden Murray, 18356, of 7th Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps, A.I.F., as the son of Matthew and Ann Maria Murray, of "Yarrum", Bundarra St, Blackheath, New South Wales.

(81 pages of Pte Private Robert Hampden Murray'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing file) & National Archives.*



\*\*Connected to Pte Robert Hampden Keith Murray:

(Brother) James Seth Venables Murray, 431, embarked on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1914. Part of Gallipoli campaign 1915. Returned to Australia 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1918. Discharged 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1919. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

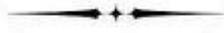
#### Newspaper Article

*Blackheath – The death occurred at Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, on Friday, of James Seth Venables Murray, after a severe illness. The body was brought back to Blackheath and interred in St. Alban's Cemetery on Saturday. Deceased was the first volunteer from Blackheath for the Great War, and saw four and a half years' service. Returned soldiers acted as pall-bearers, and 30 returned mates precede the cortege.*

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – May 26, 1931)*



(Brother) Randolph Leslie Murray, 2591, embarked 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1914. Wounded in 1915 at Anzac Cove. Returned to Australia 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

MURRAY – July 19, at Sutton Veney, Military Hospital, England, Pte Robert Hampden Keith Murray, 7<sup>th</sup> A.F.A., dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs M. Murray, Yarrum, Blackheath, aged 23 years.

MURRAY – Died of illness at the Gen. Military Hospital, Sutton Veney, England, July 19, 1919, Pte R. H. K. Murray, 7<sup>th</sup> Fld. Amb., A.I.F., aged 23 years, son of Mr and Mrs M. Murray, Blackheath. Being dead, he liveth for evermore. By his friends, W. Stimson, Victor, and Hilda, Lewisham.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 2 August, 1919)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

MURRAY – July 19, at Sutton Veney, Military Hospital, England, Pte R. H. K. Murray, 7<sup>th</sup> Field. Ambulance, A.I.F., dearly loved friend of Elsie Bagnall, Watersleigh. Deeply mourned.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 4 August, 1919)*

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# THE 470TH CASUALTY LIST

## DEATHS

Pte R. H. K. Murray (Blackheath), died from illness

*(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – Tuesday 19 August, 1919)*

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## ON ACTIVE SERVICE

MURRAY – In loving memory of my dear friend, Private R. H. K. Murray (Bob), died at Sutton Veny, July 19, 1919. Inserted by his friend Elsie Bagnall.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 19 July, 1920)*

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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 from Base Records to Mr M. Murray, father of late Pte R. H. K. Murray, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1921, advised that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on his son's Headstone in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

Pte Robert Hampden Keith Murray does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*A Beautiful Life Nobly Ended At Rest With The Lord*



Photo of Private R. H. K. Murray'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)*