

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



382 PRIVATE

S. D. KIRK

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

9TH NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 25

In Fond Memory Of

Our Dear Son & Brother

Safe In The Arms Of Jesus

*CWGC Headstone for Pte S. D. Kirk is located in
Grave Plot # 29. I. 8. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Sidney Donald KIRK

Sidney Donald Kirk was born at Barcaldine, Central Queensland in 1893 to parents James McKay Kirk & Ruth Kirk (nee Sweet). He was a 23 year old, single, Grazier from Rathdonnell Street, Auchenflower, Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 29th March, 1916 with the 3rd Machine Gun Company, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 382 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs R. Kirk of Strath Dilla, Rathdonnell Street, Auchenflower, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 19th September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th November, 1916.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was marched in from Australia to Details No. 3 Camp Parkhouse on 15th November, 1916 then marched out to Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham from Parkhouse Camp on 23rd November, 1916.

On 18th December, 1916, Pte Kirk was written up for being absent without leave from Belton Park from 2 a.m. 18th December to 12 midnight 18th December, 1916. He was awarded 3 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 1 days pay.

Pte Kirk was sent sick to Hospital from Australian Machine Gun Training Depot on 13th January, 1917 & admitted to No. 1 Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 8th February, 1917 until 6th March, 1917. Pte Kirk was transferred to Parkhouse Military Hospital with V.D. & was discharged to duty on 12th April, 1917. He was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot on 12th March, 1917 & readmitted to Parkhouse Military Hospital on 15th March, 1917. Pte Kirk was discharged to duty on 11th April, 1917. Pte Kirk was marched in to Camp H'qtrers at Perham Downs on 16th April, 1917.

Pte Kirk proceeded overseas to France from Grantham via Folkestone on 11th May, 1917 from Australian Machine Gun Training Depot. He was marched in at Camiers, France on 12th May, 1917 & marched out to 3rd Machine Gun Company on 23rd May, 1917 where he was taken on strength in the field.

Pte Kirk was on leave to England on 20th March, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 23rd March, 1918.

A.I.F. Order 1151 – “Designation changed to 1st Machine Gun Battalion” for Pte Kirk on 1st April, 1918.

Pte Kirk was granted leave to UK on 16th June, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 3rd July, 1918.

Pte Kirk was wounded in action on 9th July, 1918. He was admitted to 3 A.F.A with a shrapnel wound to right shoulder then transferred to 1st A.C.C.S. Pte Kirk was discharged to duty on 12th July, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion.

Pte Kirk was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 10th August, 1918. He was admitted to 15 A.F.A. with a shrapnel wound to left hand & then transferred to 55 C.C.S the same day. Pte Kirk was admitted to 2 Can. General Hospital at Boulogne on 12th August, 1918 & marked for transfer to England on 13th August, 1918. Pte Kirk embarked for England on 14th August, 1918 on *Carisbrook Castle*. Pte Kirk was admitted to 2/1st Southern General Hospital on Dudley Road, Birmingham on 15th August, 1918 with a gun shot wound to left hand. He was transferred on 26th August, 1918 to Australian Auxillary Hospital at Dartford & discharged the next day for furlo.

Pte Kirk was to report to Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 10th September, 1918 at the completion of his furlo. Pte Kirk was absent without leave on 10th September, 1918. He was marched in from A.H.Q. London on 12th September, 1918 & medically classified as B1 A1 – which meant he was fit for light duty only for 4 weeks. Pte Kirk was written up for being absent without leave from 11 a.m. on 10th September to 11a.m. 11th September, 1918. He forfeited a total of 3 days pay.

Pte Kirk was marched out to No. 4 Command Depot at Weymouth on 17th September, 1918 & marched in to No. 2 Con. Depot at Hurdcott on 17th September, 1918. Pte Kirk was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill on 30th October, 1918.

Pte Kirk was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital on 1st November, 1918 & then admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 2nd November, 1918 with Influenza. Notification was sent to Mrs Kirk advising that her son was in Hospital seriously ill with Influenza & Pneumonia.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk died at 8.10 am on 9th November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Sydney Kirk, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was buried at 3 p.m. on 15th November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 29. From the burial report of Pte Kirk - *Coffin was Elm with brass furnishings – Deceased was accorded a full Military funeral, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from the A.I.F. Overseas Training Brigade. Six of deceased's Unit Comrades supported the Pall. 2 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Company attended as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral were: (Uncle) Mr & Mrs F. Little of 29 Perriams House, Butleigh via Glastonbury & (Friend) Mr & Mrs A. H. Pickles of 61 Boreham, Warminster.*

Private S. D. Kirk is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Sidney Donald Kirk was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Kirk's mother – Mrs R. Kirk (July, 1921 & November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Sidney Donald Kirk, 382, of 1st Battalion, Australian Machine Gun Corps, A.I.F., as the son of James MacKay Kirk and Ruth Kirk of "Strathdilla", Rathdonnel St., Auchenflower, Brisbane, Queensland. Born at Blackall.

(97 pages of Pte Sidney Donald Kirk'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.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01756

3rd Machine Gun Company at Bailleul France, 22nd February, 1918

Pte S. D. Kirk (back row 4th from left)



** Connected to Pte Sidney Donald Kirk:

Private James McKay Kirk – father of Sidney Kirk, 4822, 9th Battalion A.I.F., wounded in 1917 in France & invalided home. Died in Brisbane on 2nd November, 1919 as a result of his wounds, aged 56. Buried in Brisbane General (Toowong) Cemetery, Queensland, Australia on 3rd November, 1919. (Ruth Kirk, wife of James Kirk buried 10th December, 1942, aged 89 years).



Newspaper Reports

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

Private S.D. Kirk, another grandson of the late Mrs. Jane Kirk, Bow Street, Rockhampton and son of Private J. M. Kirk, Blackall, arrived from the west yesterday morning. He is on final leave. Private S. D. Kirk's enlistment brings the total contribution of the late Mrs. Kirk to the forces of the Empire to five sons and three grandsons. Private S. D. Kirk will leave for Brisbane today. He will be accompanied by his Uncle, Private W. Kirk who recently returned from the front.

(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland - Saturday 17 June, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

S. D. Kirk (Auchenflower)

(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland - Saturday 10 August, 1918)

PERSONAL NOTES

Gunner S. D. Kirk, of Wandsworth selection, is reported wounded (second occasion), his first wound being received two months ago.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland - Saturday 7 September, 1918)

PERSONAL NOTES

The sad news has been received by Mr and Mrs J. M. Kirk, Rathdonnell Street, Auchenflower, that their youngest son, Private Sidney Donald Kirk, of a Machine Gun Battalion, died of pneumonia in England, on November 9, after two years' active service, during which he was twice wounded. Private S. D. Kirk was well known in Central Queensland, where he was engaged in sheep farming. Mrs Tichborne, of "Waddington", Sandgate and Mrs F. Adams, Moorooka, are sisters of the deceased soldier.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland - Tuesday 19 November, 1918)

THE 450th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OTHER CAUSES, QUEENSLAND

Pte S. D. Kirk (Auchenflower) p.r.w.

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW - Friday 27 December, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

KIRK – In proud and loving memory of Gunner S. D. Kirk, 3rd Machine Gun Company, A.I.F., who, after being twice wounded, died at Sutton Veny, November 9, 1918.

We longed for his safe return,
We longed to grasp his hand,
But God has postponed the meeting,
'Twill be in that better land.

Inserted by sorrowing mother, brothers and sisters.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland - Saturday 8 November, 1919)

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 Sidney Donald Kirk does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Fond Memory Of Our Dear Son & Brother Safe In The Arms Of Jesus



Photo of Private S. D. Kirk'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)*