

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



5353 GUNNER

T. F. MORRIS

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

3RD NOVEMBER, 1918

*Private Headstone for Gunner T. F. Morris is located in
Grave Plot # 28. I. 7. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Thomas Frederick MORRIS

Thomas Frederick Morris was born at Bundaberg, Queensland on 6th April, 1888 to parents Thomas & Fanny Morris (nee Hales). He was a 27 year old, single, Stockman from Burnett Heads, Bundaberg, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 18th June, 1915 with the 10th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5353 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr T. Morris of Burnett Heads, Bundaberg, Queensland. (Note – one of Thomas Frederick Morris's Attestation Papers has the Service number of 5348 then crossed out & replaced with 5353. The same applies for his Casualty Form – Active Service & information supplied for the Roll of Honour, supplied by Thomas Frederick Morris's father also quotes both Service numbers).

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the Division of Wide Bay, subdivision of Musgrave listed Thomas Frederick Morris, Burnett Heads, Labourer, along with his mother – Fanny Morris, Burnett Heads, Home Duties & his father Thomas Morris, Burnett Heads, Farmer.

Driver Thomas Frederick Morris embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 27th September, 1915. (The War Gratuity form states Dvr. Morris embarked on 9th September, 1915 on HMAT *Ballarat* (A70).)

Driver Morris was taken on strength with 7th Battery from 10th Reinforcements at Heliopolis on 20th November, 1915.

Driver Morris proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) at Alexandria on 23rd March, 1916. He disembarked at Marseille on 29th March, 1916.

Driver Morris was mustered as Gunner in France on 18th August, 1916. This "reversion from Driver to Gunner was at soldier's own request".

Gunner Morris was wounded in action in France on 6th June, 1917. He was sent to 9th Field Ambulance & transferred to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station on 7th June, 1917. Gunner Morris was admitted to 26 General Hospital at Etaples on 8th June, 1917 with a gunshot wound to his side.

Gunner Morris was transported to England on 10th June, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Birmingham on 12th June, 1917 & discharged on 16th June, 1917 fit for Command Depot. He was sent on furlo from 29th June, 1917 to 11th July, 1917.

Gunner Morris was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 11th July, 1917 from furlo.

Gunner Morris was marched out to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 18th July, 1917 & medically classified as A3 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp, to which transferred for hardening, prior to rejoining Unit overseas).

Gunner Morris was marched out to Overseas Training Depot at Perham Downs on 20th July, 1917. He was then transferred on 29th July, 1917 to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire.

Gunner Morris proceeded overseas to France from Larkhill via Southampton on 8th August, 1917. He was marched in at Rouelles, France on 9th August, 1917 & marched out on 12th August, 1917 to 1st Division Artillery. Gunner Morris rejoined his Unit from being wounded on 14th August, 1917.

Gunner Morris was on leave to England on 22st January, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 6th February, 1918.

Gunner Morris was wounded in action (2nd occasion) – Gassed on 27th March, 1918. He was taken to 1st Australian Field Ambulance then admitted to 11th Casualty Clearing Station on 27th March, 1918. Gunner Morris was admitted to 35 General Hospital at Calais on 29th March, 1918 & transferred to England on 4th April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen*.

Gunner Morris was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital at Thorpe, Norwich on 4th April, 1918 & transferred to 1st Auxilliary Hospital on 19th April, 1918. He was discharged to No. 3 Com. Depot on 30th April, 1918.

Gunner Morris was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade on 27th June, 1918.

Gunner Morris was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury on 12th July, 1918.

Gunner Thomas Frederick Morris was brought in to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire dead on 3rd November, 1918. He had died at Longleat Camp, Warminster.

A Post Mortem was held at Sutton Veny Military Hospital on 7th November, 1918 on Gunner Morris, 7th A.F.A. attached R.B.A.A – Service Number 5348. There were no signs of external injury except a small cut on the chin. Death resulted from rupture of an aneurysm, first part of aorta, into the pericardium.

A death for Thomas F. Morris, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner Thomas Frederick Morris was buried at 3 p.m. on 11th November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 28. From the burial report of Gunner Morris - *Coffin was polished Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pall Bearers. 2 Officers and about 30 N.C.O.'s and Men from R.B.A.A. followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. A floral wreath from deceased's Uncle was placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral was Mr H. Morris (Uncle) of 11 Harborne Road, Beech Lane, Birmingham.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Thomas Frederick Morris has a request from the Red Cross on behalf of Gunner Morris's family to obtain the fullest details possible regarding his death & burial. A letter from Officer in Charge of Military Hospital, Sutton Veny writes: *"The above named was not a patient in this hospital, but died out of Hospital, and all arrangements for the burial were carried out by his Unit..."*

Another letter from Adjutant, R.B.A.A., (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) Heytesbury reads : *".....The following is a copy of a report received from Adjutant, Canadian Forestry Corps Camp, Warminster, in which Camp the death occurred.*

"5346 Pte Morris, T.F. 7th Battery. I beg to report that the marginally named man died in the Guard Room of this Unit at about 11.35, 3.11.18.

This man was brought into Camp about 2300, 2.11.18, by two Australian soldiers who reported that he was too tired to proceed to his camp, and asked permission for him to sleep here for the night. This was granted. Morris was quite sober when brought in, he slept well during the night and in the morning our C.A.M.C. Serg. saw him and gave him a tonic. He said he was better and would proceed to Camp at noon. The CSM offered him a lift in the car which was going in the direction of Heytesbury, but he refused saying he was well enough to ride his bicycle. I visited the Guard Room about 1000 and found Morris sleeping. At about 1130, the Police Corporal reported to me that Morris was showing signs of distress. I immediately proceeded to the Guard Room, and found him unconscious and breathing very feebly. I 'phoned for the nearest Civil Medical Practitioner as we have no M.O. in Camp, but was unable to get him, and was informed that he was out. I then phoned Sutton Veny Hospital for an ambulance and returned to the Guard Room. The man was dead. I ordered the Police Corporal to search his pockets and found his paybook bearing his particulars as noted. I then reported the matter to the A. P. M. Australians by 'phone and on his instructions handed the body together with his effects, over to Sutton Veny Hospital."

The deceased was buried from Sutton Veny Hospital at 1430 on 11th November, 1918, and interned in Sutton Veny Cemetery....."

Thomas Frederick Morris requested in his Will dated 1st March, 1918 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Fanny Morris of Burnett Heads. His Service Number was quoted on the Will as 5348.

Gunner Thomas Frederick Morris was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Morris's father – Mr T. Morris (received October, 1921 & October, 1922).

The CWGC lists Gunner Thomas Frederick Morris, 5353, of 3rd A.F.A. Bde, Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F., as the son of Thomas and Fanny Morris. Born at Bundaberg, Queensland.

Gunner T. F. Morris is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 13.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. F. Morris is also remembered on the Bundaberg War Memorial located at Bourbong & Barolin Streets, Bundaberg, Queensland.



Bundaberg War Memorial (Photos from Queensland War Memorial Register – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)

(55 pages of Gunner Thomas Frederick Morris'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.



Newspaper Reports

THE COMMONWEALTH

THE 392ND CASUALTY LIST

Gunner T. F. Morris, Bundaberg, wounded (second occasion), gas

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Qld – Tuesday 23 April, 1918)

THE 448TH AND 449TH LISTS

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Gnr. T. F. Morris, Bundaberg, 3/11/18 (C.N.S., previously reported wounded)

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Qld – Monday 2 December, 1918)

Gunner Thomas Frederick Morris has a Private Headstone, rather than a CWGC headstone, in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. His Service number is engraved as 5348 – which was used on some Army forms.





(Photos courtesy of Linda Robson)

St. John The Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*

