

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



61919 PRIVATE

T. RYAN

AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENTS

5TH FEBRUARY, 1919 AGE 19

*The Hour
Of My Departure Came
I Hear The Voice
That Calls Me Home*

*CWGC Headstone for Pte T. Ryan is located in
Grave Plot # 58. B. 22. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Thomas RYAN

Thomas Ryan was born at Richmond, Victoria on 22nd April, 1899 to parents Thomas & Sophia Lavinia Ryan (nee Renhard). He was a 19 year old, single, Tanner from 16 Duke Street, Richmond, Victoria when he enlisted at Richmond, Victoria on 6th June, 1918 with the 13th (V) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 61919 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sophia L. Ryan of 16 Duke Street, Richmond, Victoria (father deceased). Thomas Ryan had previously served with Cadets for 4 years & the Citizen Forces for 12 months.

Mrs Ryan was sent a letter from Recruiting Depot at Richmond stating that “your son has enlisted at this Depot and being a minor over the age of nineteen does not need parental consent. I am desirous of knowing if you have any objection to his enlistment.... Also please state if any other sons serving with the A.I.F.” Mrs Ryan replied stating “I have no objection to my son’s enlistment or have no other son serving with the A.I.F.”

Private Thomas Ryan embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918. He was admitted to Ship’s Hospital at sea on 3rd December, 1918 & disembarked in England on 5th December, 1918 & was admitted directly to a U.K. Hospital.

Pte Ryan was admitted to Military Hospital at Gravesend on 5th December, 1918 with Mumps. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Gravesend on 13th December, 1918. Pte Ryan was discharged to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

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 Thomas Ryan was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Ryan was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 27th January, 1919 with Influenza.

Private Thomas Ryan died at 8.15 am on 5th February, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Ryan, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Ryan was buried on 10th February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 58. From the burial report of Pte Ryan - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from the 1st Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased’s late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The funeral was attended by Two Officers and about 80 N.C.O.’s and Men who followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Thomas Ryan requested in his Will dated 12th September, 1918 that the whole of his property and effects be left to his mother – Mrs Sophia Lavena Ryan.

Pte Thomas Ryan 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 Pte Ryan’s mother – Mrs S. L. Ryan (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Thomas Ryan, 61919, of 13th Australian Reinforcement, A.I.F., as the son of Sophia Lavinia Ryan of 4 Boyd St., Richmond, Victoria and the late Thomas Ryan.

Private T. Ryan is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Richmond War Memorial located at Barkly Gardens, Coppin Street, Richmond does not list individual names.



Richmond War Memorial *(Photo from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)*

(61 pages of Pte Thomas Ryan'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.



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 Thomas Ryan does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Hour Of My Departure Came I Hear The Voice That Calls Me Home



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



Photo of Private T. Ryan's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)