

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



63720 GUNNER

WILLIAM HARDACRE CAREY

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

16TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 20

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Gunner W. H. Carey is located in
Grave Plot # 365. E. 17. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

William Hardacre CAREY

William Hardacre Carey was born on 26th June, 1898 at Neutral Bay, Sydney, NSW to parents Harry Hardacre Carey & Liliac Cross Carmichael Hume Carey (nee Lyne).

William Hardacre Carey attended Church of England Grammar School at North Sydney from 1911 - 1912.

William Hardacre Carey was a 19 year old, single Clerk (Articled to a Tea Broker) from Gordon, NSW when he enlisted at Sydney, NSW on 17th January, 1918 with the 35th Reinforcements, Field Artillery of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 63720 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Harry Hardacre Carey of “Valeyria” Rosedale Street, Gordon, NSW. William Hardacre Carey stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Cadets for 4 years & served with Militia for 2 years – still serving. Both parents – H. H. Carey & Lily Carey signed their consent to allow their son, who was under the age of 21 years, to serve in the Australian Imperial Force on active service abroad.

Gunner William Hardacre Carey embarked from Sydney on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918. Gunner Carey had been admitted to Ship's Hospital on 9th July & discharged the following day on 10th July, 1918.

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.

Gunner William Hardacre Carey was marched in from Australia to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 12th August, 1918.

Gunner William Hardacre Carey was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 11th October, 1918 suffering from Influenza & Pneumonia then transferred to Military Hospital, Sutton Veny on 13th October, 1918.

Gunner William Hardacre Carey died at 7 p.m. on 16th October, 1918 at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny from Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for William H. Carey, aged 20, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner William Hardacre Carey was buried at 10.30 a.m. on 19th October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 365. From the burial report of Gunner Carey - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Union Jack was conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the 1st Australian Artillery Depot at Heytesbury. Six unit comrades of the deceased supported the Pall. Wreaths from father, mother & Jack. (Aunts) Edie & Margie, were placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral was Gunner Carey's Aunt – Miss Edith M. Carey of Borstal Lodge, Rochester, Kent.*

William Hardacre Carey requested in his Will, dated 7th March, 1918, that his whole Estate (both real & personal) be left to his mother – Mrs Liliac Carey.

Gunner William Hardacre Carey 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 Gunner Carey's father – Mr H. H. Carey (sent July, 1921 & November, 1922)

Gunner W. H. Carey is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 22.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. H. Carey is also remembered on the Gordon Roll of Honour located at Gordon Railway Station, corner of St. John's Avenue & Wade Lane, Gordon, NSW.



Gordon Roll of Honour (Photo from Register of War memorials in NSW – David Roden)

W. H. Carey is also remembered at the Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore) WW1 Roll of Honour located to the side of the entrance steps to grandstand building at the School's Memorial playing fields at Northbridge.



WWI Honour Roll Memorial Wall at Northbridge (Photos courtesy of Kate Riseley, School Archivist, Shore School)

The CWGC lists Gunner William Hardacre Carey, 63720, of Australian Field Artillery, 35th Reinforcements, as the son of Harry Hardacre Carey and Lilas Carey of 18 Bridge St., Sydney.

(52 pages of Gunner William Hardacre Carey'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.



***Gunner William Hardacre Carey was the grandson of Sir William Lyne K.C.M.G., late Premier of NSW & Minister of Customs in Federal House.

*** Gunner William Hardacre Carey was the nephew of Major C. M. Featherstonhaugh D.S.O., 12th Light Horse A.I.F.



Gunner William Hardacre Carey

Newspaper Reports

DEATHS

CAREY – October 16, 1918, William Hardacre (Hardie), late 35th Reinforcements F.A., A.I.F., of pneumonia, England (by Cable), elder son of Mr and Mrs H. H. Carey, Gordon.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Thursday 24 October, 1918)

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)

Gunner William Hardacre Carey does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



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

Photo of Gunner William Hardacre Carey's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)



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