

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6949 PRIVATE

W. T. ANDREWS

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

20TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 35

The Lord Gaveth

And The Lord Hath Taken Away

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. T. Andrews is located in
Grave Plot # 368B. E. 22. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

William Thomas ANDREWS

William Thomas Andrews was born at Abercrombie Street, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW in 1883 to parents William Thomas & Mary Ann Andrews (nee Ledwell).

William Thomas Andrews married Annie Ledwell in 1908.

William Thomas Andrews was a 33 year old, married, Driver from Ultimo, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, on 1st November, 1916 with the 23rd Reinforcements, 2nd Infantry Battalion of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6949 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs A. Andrews of 49 McKee Street, Ultimo, Sydney, NSW. William Andrews had served 2 years with the Australian Rifles.

Pte William Thomas Andrews embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Benalla (A24)* on 9th November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9th January, 1917. Pte Andrews' records show that he was sent sick to Hospital at Capetown from HMAT *Ceramic* on 1st November, 1916 – this is then questioned with the date of 1st December, 1916. Pte Andrews was written up while at sea – Crime – Absent without leave for 6 hours in 4th December, 1916. He forfeited a total of 3 days pay.

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 William Thomas Andrews proceeded Overseas to France on 3rd May, 1917 via Folkestone from 1st Training Battalion. He was marched in at Etaples, France on 4th May, 1917 & was taken on strength with 23rd Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion on 11th May, 1917.

Pte Andrews was written up while in France – Crime – While on Active Service - Drunkenness on 7th June, 1917. He was awarded 7 days F. P. & a total forfeiture of £1-15 0.

Pte Andrews was sent to Divisional Duties from 31st October & rejoined his Battalion on 4th November, 1917.

Pte Andrews was sent on furlough to U.K. on 8th February, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 25th February, 1918.

Pte Andrews was sent to Hospital sick while in France on 17th May, 1918. He was admitted to No. 15 Casualty Clearing Station then to No. 32 Stat. Hospital with diarrhoea on 19th May, 1918.

Private William Thomas Andrews was invalided to UK with debility (Hospital Admission from states Trench Fever) on 5th June, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Jan Buydel* & admitted to War Hospital at Exeter with debility – diarrhoea on 6th June, 1918. He was discharged on 25th June, 1918 & on furlo from 27th June, 1918 to 11th July, 1918 when he was to report to No. Command Depot at Sutton Veny.

Pte Andrews was written up on 7th August, 1918 for “being in the lines when he should have been on parade.” He was awarded 5 days confined to Camp.

Pte Andrews was Absent without Leave from midnight on 3rd September, 1918 & returned at 5.25 a.m. on 4th September, 1918. Award – Admonished.

Private William Thomas Andrews was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital, Sutton Veny on 8th September, 1918 with diarrhoea & discharged on 25th September, 1918.

Private William Thomas Andrews was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital, Sutton Veny on 16th October, 1918 with Influenza.

Private William Thomas Andrews died at 6.10 a.m. on 20th October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for William T. Andrews, aged 35, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private William Thomas Andrews was buried at 11.30 a.m. on 23rd October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 368 B. From the burial report of Pte Andrews –

“The coffin was good polished elm with brass mounts. The deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin being draped with the Australian flag and conveyed to the graveside on a gun carriage, preceded by a Firing Party and Band from No. 1 Australian Command Depot. Six of Pte Andrews’s’ unit comrades acted as Pallbearers. The funeral was attended by 4 Officers and 50 Non Commissioned Officers and Men from No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny. The Headquarters of the A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. The utmost care and attention is being devoted where possible to the graves of our fallen soldiers. It is understood that photographs are being taken as soon as practicable for transmission to next-of-kin.”

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte William Thomas Andrews contains the following letter from the Assistant Matron, The Military Hospital, Sutton Veny:

“Pte Andrew died of Influenza and was buried at Sutton Veny. He was ill only a few days here, and was so ill when admitted that there was no opportunity of learning much about him. This epidemic had been severe and so fatal that it has been a very sad time, and we very much regret that we have been unable to get more particulars. Everything was done for him that was possible, but it was not possible for him to tell about his home.”

Pte William Thomas Andrews requested in his Will, dated 7th June, 1917, that all his personal estate he bequeath to his wife – Mrs Annie Andrews.

Private W. T. Andrews is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 31.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte William Thomas Andrews was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Andrews’s widow – Mrs Annie Andrews (sent December, 1921 & November, 1922)

The CWGC lists Private William Thomas Andrews, 6949, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of William Thomas & Mary Ann Andrews, of 54 Darghan St, Glebe, Sydney. Born at Sydney.

(60 pages of Pte William Thomas Andrews’ 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) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

DEATHS

ANDREWS – My dear husband Private W. T. Andrews, who died of pneumonia on October 20, 1918. somewhere in France, after a year and eleven months' active service. Enlisted from McKee-street, Ultimo.

Death often comes to show
We love more deeply than we know.
But love in death should make us see
What love in life should always be.

Inserted by his loving wife, Annie Andrews; also his loving stepson, W. T. Ferguson (on active service)

ANDREWS – Our dear brother-in-law, Pte Will Andrews, died of illness, October 20, 1918. Deeply mourned by his brother-in-law, Frederick Ledwell, and family.

ANDREWS – Died of pneumonia, in France, October 20, 1918, Pte W. T. Andrews, aged 35 years. Inserted by his loving sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mrs Reynolds, Pte W. H. Reynolds (on active service), also his loving sister-in-law, Ada Ledwell, also niece, nephews.

ANDREWS - Died of pneumonia, in France, October 20, 1918, Pte W. T. Andrews, aged 35 years. Inserted by his loving sister-in-law, brother-in-law, Mrs and Mr Check; also his loving brother-in-law, S. Ledwell (on active service).

ANDREWS - Died of pneumonia, in France, October 20, 1918, Pte W. T. Andrews.

There's one bond death cannot sever,
Loving memories last for ever.

Inserted by his loving step-daughter, Gladys.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 2 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ANDREWS – In loving memory of my dear husband, Private W. T. Andrews, died of pneumonic influenza, October 20, 1918. Inserted by his loving wife, A. Andrews, also his stepson and stepdaughters, Will, Gladys, Lily; stepchildren, Lily, Ethel, Nancy.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Wednesday 20 October, 1920)



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 William Thomas Andrews does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Gaveth And The Lord Hath Taken Away



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



Photo of Pte W. T. Andrews' Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)