



Pupils from Sutton Veny Church of England Primary School lay flowers on the graves at St John the Evangelist Church as part of the Anzac Day service in Wiltshire yesterday, showing their respect to the brave Australian and New Zealand men who gave their lives in the Great War

PICTURE: CLARE GREEN

Poignant Show of Respect for Fallen Heroes

Children born in another century kept alive a West village's close links with fallen soldiers from Down Under yesterday, as a poignant but proud ceremony continued.

Ever since the end of the Great War almost 100 years ago, the pupils of Sutton Veny primary school have commemorated Anzac Day by making sure every one of the 173 graves in the churchyard next to their playground has a poppy.

Thousands of Australian soldiers were billeted in camps around the village during the First World War, with Kiwi troops further afield on Salisbury Plain. The injured were brought back to field hospitals nearby, and tragically many of those who survived the war succumbed to the Spanish flu outbreak in 1918.

"Each child from the school places a posy on a war grave," said head teacher Rachael Brotherton. "It is a very moving service. Visitors, and relatives of those who died, frequently contact the school.

Meanwhile, to mark Anzac Day, the British Newspaper Society re-published a report from the Western Daily Press from October 1916, reporting on the stir the Australian soldiers had in Wiltshire as they returned from Gallipoli.

Our correspondent Clara E de Moleyns reported local girls were queuing up to "lose their hearts to them". One trooper declared he had been "proposed to by 33 maidens".

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