

Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



57663 PRIVATE

V. H. CONLEY/ CONLY*

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 21

Got Touched Him

And He Sleeps

Till the Resurrection Day

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte V. H. Conley is located in
Grave Plot # 361. E. 13. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Victor Harold CONLEY/ONLY*

Victor Harold Conly was born at Isisford, Queensland on 7th June, 1897 to parents Henry Herbert & Emily Conly (nee Taylor).

Victor Harold Conly attended school at Inglewood, Queensland.

(Note: Victor enlisted using the surname Conly, however in letters written to Base Records by his grandmother – she uses the surname Conley)

Victor Harold Conly was aged 20 years & 11 months single and a Labourer from Enoggera, Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane on 10th May, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 57663 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his Grandmother – Mrs Charlotte Hullin of Enoggera Terrace, Enoggera, Brisbane, Queensland. Victor Conly had served for about 8 months in the District Guards. Victor Conly had previously been rejected for Service due to defective vision.

Private Victor Harold Conly embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 with the 9th Battalion, 4th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 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.

Private Victor Harold Conly was marched in to 5th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 12th August, 1918. He was allotted to Reinforcements 6th Battalion on 13th August, 1918 & marched out to 1st Training Battalion.

Private Victor Harold Conly was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 11th October, 1918 with Influenza.

Private Victor Harold Conly died at 4.15 a.m. on 18th October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of from Influenza & Broncho-Pneumonia.

A death for Harold V. Conly, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte V. H. Conley contains the following letter from the Matron, The Military Hospital, Sutton Veny:

“Died 18-10-18 V. H. Conley, 57663 & Died 12-10-18 A. E. Low, 7714.

Re the above named soldiers. They both died of Influenza and complications and were only in the Hospital a few days. They both came in so ill that they were unable to talk much and the only thing that Pte V. H. Conley did mention his Mother, and regretted being so far from Home. I very much regret we cannot tell you more about them, but we had no opportunity as they were delirious. They were both buried in Sutton Veny Churchyard.”

Private Victor Harold Conly was buried at 3 p.m. on 22nd October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 361. From the burial report of Private Conly - *Coffin was polished elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag was conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage. The cortage was preceded by a Firing Party and a Band from the 1st Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased's Comrades supported the Pall. Three Officers and about 50 N.C.O.'s and men of the Depot as mourners. A floral wreath from his Comrades in the 9th Battalion was placed on the grave. A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private Victor Harold Conly requested in his Will dated 23rd May, 1918 that the whole of his property & personal effects be left to his grandmother – Mrs Charlotte Helen Conly (Opp School of Arts, Enoggera, Queensland.)

Private Conly's effects were received by Mrs Charlotte Hullin & signed for by her on 10th July, 1919.

Private Victor Harold Conly was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque & the Medal were sent to "Untraceables" originally before being sent to Mrs C. Hullin, grandmother of late Private Conly, of 192 Wharf Street, Brisbane, Queensland at a later date.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Victor Harold Conley, 57663, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Herbert and Emily Conley. Born at Isisford, Queensland.

Private V. H. Conley is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(43 pages of Private Victor Harold Conly/Conley'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) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY - In loving memory of my dear brother, Private V. H. Conley, 9th Battalion, who died in England.
Your cheery smile will ne'er from memory fade,
Nor yet will I forget the noble sacrifice you made
But when my heart is sore for you
 I seem to hear you say,
Keep up your heart, we'll meet again,
 On that eternal day.
 Gone, but not forgotten.
Inserted by brother, Private R. Conley.

CONLEY .- In loving, memory of our dear grandson Private V H Conley , died of pneumonia in Sutton Veny Hospital
England, October 18, 1918, age 21 years.

There is a lonely grave in England,
 Where our brave young hero sleeps,
There's a cottage home in Queensland,
 Where his loved ones sit and weep.
We think of him in silence,
 And his name we oft recall,
And there's nothing, left to answer
 But his photo on the wall.
 Deeply mourned
Inserted by his sorrowing grandparents, H. and C. Hullin.

CONLEY. - In loving memory of our dear nephew Private V. H. Conley, died of pneumonia in Sutton Veny Hospital
England, October 18, 1918, age 21 years.

Only a grave of a hero,
 Only a mound of earth,
Far from the land of wattle,
 The place that gave him birth
Somewhere in England he is lying,
 He answered his country's call;
He died an Australian hero,
 Fighting to save us all.
 Deeply mourned
Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt S. and E. Hart

CONLEY. - Dead of pneumonia, on the 18th of October, 1918, Private V. H. Conley.

Forget not he who died
 When peace shall reign once more,
Remember still that lonely grave
 Beyond some foreign shore.
 Deeply mourned.
Inserted by his loving aunt Henrietta Hullin.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Saturday 2 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST NO. 447

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Victory Harold Conly, Enoggera, 18/10/18 (Illness)

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Thursday 28 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY - In loving memory of our dear grandson, Private Victor Harold, 9th Battalion, A.I.F., died of pneumonia, at Sutton Veny, England, 18th October, 1918, aged 21 years and 4 months.

Days of sadness still come o'er us,
Hidden secret tears still flow;
For memory keeps our loved one near us,
Though he died two years ago.

Inserted by his sorrowing grandparents, H. and C. Hullin.

CONLEY –

Far away from all who loved him,
In a hero's grave he lies;
And tho', dear Harold, your body resteth,
Your memory will never die.

Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt S. and E. Hart

CONLEY –

The war is over, the victory won,
To some those words sound nice;
But, oh, how sad the heart of those
Whose loved ones paid the price.

Inserted by his loving aunt Henrietta Hullin.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Monday 18 October, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY - In loving memory of our dear grandson, Pte Victor Harold, 9th Battalion, A.I.F., died of pneumonia, at Sutton Veny, England, 18th October, 1918, aged 21 years and 4 months.

Some time, some day, our eyes shall see
The dear face we hold in memory,
And God shall link the broken chain
Still closer when we meet again.

Inserted by his sorrowing grandparents, H. and C. Hullin.

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CONLEY –

We cannot clasp your hand, dear Harold,
Your grave we cannot see;
But this little verse will always tell
That we always remember thee.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle E. and S. Hart

CONLEY –

It's sweet to be remembered,
And this our love we'll show;
We hold you still in memory,
As the years they come and go.

Inserted by his loving aunt H. Hullin.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Wednesday 19 October, 1921)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY - In sad but loving memory of our dear grandson and nephew, Pte. Victor Harold who died of pneumonia at Sutton Veny, England October 18, 1918.

Four years have passed and none can tell
The loss of one we loved so well;
But while he lies in peaceful sleep
His memory we shall always keep.
We remember when others forget.

Inserted by his loving grandparents, H. and C. Hullin.

CONLEY .-

Gone from the earth but leaving memories
Death cannot take away.
Memories that will always linger
While on earth we stay.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, S. and E. Hart

CONLEY -

There is a link death cannot sever,
Love and remembrance lasts forever.

Inserted by his loving aunt H. Hullin.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Wednesday 18 October, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY - In loving memory of Pte. Victor Harold, 9th Batt., who died of pneumonia at Sutton Veny, Eng., 18th October, 1918.

Always remembered.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle E. and S. Hart

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Friday 19 October, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY - In loving memory of Pte. Victor Harold, 9th Batt., who died of pneumonia at Sutton Veny, England, 18th October, 1918.

The din of war may roll
 With all its raging flight;
Grief may oppress the soul
 Throughout the weary night.
God giveth His beloved sleep.

Inserted by his grandparents, H. and C. Hullin.

CONLEY – Dearer to memory than words can tell are the thoughts of him we loved so well.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, H. and J. Phillips.

CONLEY - In loving memory of Victor Harold Conley, 9th Batt., died of pneumonia at Sutton Veny, England, October 18th, 1918.

We are thinking of you, Harold,
 We are thinking of the past;
Picturing in memory
 Just as we saw you last.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle E. and S. Hart

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Saturday 18 October, 1924)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY - In proud and loving memory of our grandson and nephew, Pte V. H. Conley, 9th Batt., died of pneumonia, Sutton Veny, England, October 18th, 1918, aged 21 years.

In childhood's winsome page,
 In manhood's joyous bloom,
In feebleness and age,
 In death's dark, gath'ring gloom,
God doth His own in safety keep;
He giveth His beloved sleep.

Inserted by his grandparents, H. and C. Hullin.

CONLEY –

One of the best. a helping hand,
 He gave to all he knew,
Until at last he have his life,
 To help the Empire through.

Inserted by his aunt and uncle, H. and J. Phillips.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Monday 19 October, 1925)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY - In loving memory of our dear grandson and nephew, Pte Victor Harold Conley, 9th Batt., died of pneumonia, in Sutton Veny, England, October 18, 1918, aged 21 years and four months.

Sweet be they rest,
And peaceful they sleeping;
God's way is best,
Tho art in His keeping

Inserted by his loving grandparents, H. and C. Hullin.

CONLEY –

Fond remembrance of the past
Will always bring regret;
Until our lives shall cease to be
We never will forget.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, H. and J. Phillips.

CONLEY – October brings sad memories.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle E. and S. Hart

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Monday 18 October, 1926)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY - In loving memory of our dear grandson and nephew, Victor Harold, 9th Batt., died of pneumonia, in Sutton Viny, England, October 18th, 1918.

On the other side of Jordan,
In the sweet fields of Eden;
Where the tree of life is blooming,
There is rest for you.

Inserted by his loving grandparents, H. and C. Hullin.

CONLEY - Life's highest mission he fulfilled, and bravely answered duty's call.

Inserted by his aunt and uncle. E. and H. Hart.

CONLEY.

No last look or word of love,
So suddenly on us great sorrow fell;
Our dear one passed to the great unknown
Without bidding us a last farewell.

Inserted by his aunt and uncle, H, and J. Phillips

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Tuesday 18 October, 1927)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CONLEY – In loving memory of our dear grandson and nephew, Pte Victor Harold Conley, 9th Batt., died of pneumonia in Sutton Veny, England, October 18th, 1918, aged 21 years.

The voice now hushed, that used to sing.

We will hear where Christ is King

Inserted by his loving grandparents H. and C. Hullin.

CONLEY –

God has him in His keeping,

We have him in our hearts.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, E. and S. Hart.

CONLEY –

Cold is the grave where dear Harold is laid

Sweet is the memory that never will fade.

Gone and forgotten by some he may be,

But never forgotten one moment by me.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle H. and J. Phillips.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Thursday 18 October, 1928)

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)

Private Victor Harold Conley does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

God Touched Him And He Sleeps Till The Resurrection Day

St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. The 26th Division was concentrated at Sutton Veny in April 1915 and No 1 Australian Command was there from the end of 1916 to October 1919. There was also a hutted military hospital of more than 1200 beds at Sutton Veny for much of the war and No 1 Australian General Hospital was stationed there after the Armistice. Sutton Veny (St John) Churchyard contains 168 First World War burials, 167 of them in a plot at the north west corner of the church. Of these, 143 are Australian. There is only one Second World War burial in the churchyard.

(Information & colour photos from CWGC)



St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376

St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny



Photo of Private V. H. Conley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)