

**Sutton Veny,
Wiltshire, England
War Graves
World War 1**



Lest We Forget



7840 PRIVATE

C. J. EVANS

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH MARCH, 1918 Age 19

Duty Called, He Left Home

God Called, He Went Home

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte C. J. Evans is located in
Grave Plot # 330. D. 20. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Charles James EVANS

Charles James Evans was born on 17th July, 1898 at Cooma, NSW to parents Charles William & Isandra Evans (nee Mackey).

Charles James Evans attended Provisional School at Central Colo, NSW.

Charles James Evans was a 19 year old, single, Farmer (Orchard Labourer) from Central Colo, via Windsor, NSW when he enlisted at Sydney, NSW on 15th November, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr C. W. Evans of Glenisbrook, Mittagong, NSW. Charles stated that he had previously been rejected for His Majesty's Service due to being medically unfit. Both of Charles's parents signed their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad as he was under the age of 21 years.

Private Charles James Evans, Service number 7840, embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 19th December, 1917 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 26th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 16th January, 1918.

Private Charles James Evans re-embarked at Port Said on 24th January, 1918 & disembarked at Taranto (Italy) on 2nd February, 1918. Private Evans entrained from Taranto on 5th February, 1918 & detrained at "Cherberg" (France) on 12th February, 1918. He embarked from "Cherberg" on 12th February, 1918 & disembarked at Southampton, England on 13th February, 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 Charles James Evans was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 13th February, 1918.

Private Charles James Evans was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital on 21st February, 1918 & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 22nd February, 1918.

Private Charles James Evans died on 25th March, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Influenza, Measles, Bronchitis & Pleurisy.

A death for Charles J. Evans, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Charles James Evans was buried on 28th March, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 230. (CWGC has Grave no. as 330).

From the burial report of Private Evans - Coffin was good polished wood – The full band of the 1st Training Battalion preceded the funeral party, which consisted of a firing party of 12 comrades of the deceased soldier and a number of mourners from the same Battalion. Full military honours were paid to the deceased, and a beautiful wreath given by the deceased soldier's comrades was placed on the grave. The deceased was held in high respect in the Battalion and his loss is deeply felt by men and officers.

Private Charles James Evans requested in his Will, dated 13th December, 1917, that the whole of his estate he bequeathed to his father – Charles William Evans of Mittagong, NSW.

Private Charles James Evans 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 Private Evans' father – Mr C. W. Evans (sent July, 1921 & October, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles James Evans, 7840, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Charles William and Isandra Evans of "Glenisbrook, Mittagong, New South Wales. Born at Cooma.

Private C. J. Evans is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 32.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. J. Evans is also remembered on the Mittagong and District War Memorial located on the corner of Old Hume Highway & The Highlands Way, Mittagong, NSW.



Mittagong and District War Memorial

(Photos from War Memorials Register NSW – David Roden & Peter Levarre-Waters)

(55 pages of Private Charles James Evans' 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.



****Connected to Private Charles James Evans :**

Older brother - Trooper William Evans, 1596, served in Egypt & was wounded twice. He returned to Australia on 8th September, 1919 & was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.



Newspaper Reports

LOCAL AND GENERAL

Mr C. W. Evans, of Mittagong, has been notified of the death of his son, Private C. J. Evans, from illness in hospital in England. Private Evans sailed shortly before Christmas, but did not go into the firing line. He was only 19 years of age. Mr Evans has also another son who has been on active service in Egypt for over two years.

(Robertson Advocate, NSW – Tuesday, 9 April, 1918 & The Southern Mail, Bowral, NSW – Tuesday, 9 April, 1918)

LATEST CASUALTIES

388th LIST – NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED (Other Causes)

C. J. Evans, Mittagong (cause not stated)

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – Friday 12 April, 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)

Private Charles James Evans does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Duty Called, He Left Home God Called, He Went Home

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)





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376



Photo of Private C. J. Evans' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)