

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



63828 GUNNER

A. A. FORSYTH

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

20TH OCTOBER, 1918

*Private Headstone for Gunner A. A. Forsyth is located in
Grave Plot # 1. F. 1. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Archibald Alexander FORSYTH

Archibald Alexander Forsyth was born on 25th June, 1898 in Neutral Bay, NSW to parents Archibald Corbett Forsyth & Louisa Alice Forsyth (nee Small).

Archibald Alexander Forsyth attended Sydney Grammar School, Sydney, NSW.

Archibald Alexander Forsyth stated he was a 21 year old Station Hand when he enlisted on 5th December, 1916 at Sydney with the Depot Signal Training Company. He was given a service number of 60484 & his religion was Church of England. He was discharged on 6th December, 1916 at his parent's request as he was under age.

Archibald Alexander Forsyth was a 19 year old, single, Station Assistant from Northwood, NSW when he re-enlisted at Sydney, NSW on 2nd March, 1918 with the Field Artillery, 35th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 63828 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. C. Forsyth of Maybrook, Narromine, NSW. Both of Archibald Forsyth's parents had signed consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad as he was under the age of 21 years.

Archibald Forsyth had been admitted to Liverpool Field Hospital, Sydney, NSW while in Camp from 7th to 10th May, 1918 suffering from Tonsillitis.

Gunner Archibald Alexander Forsyth embarked from Sydney on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918. Gunner Forsyth had been admitted to the ship's hospital from 30th June, to 9th July, 1918 with V.D.

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 Archibald Alexander Forsyth was marched in from Australia to Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 12th August, 1918.

Gunner Archibald Alexander Forsyth was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 19th August, 1918 & discharged on 2nd September, 1918. He had been treated for Influenza & Sinus problems.

Gunner Forsyth was sent to the Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 9th to 12th October, 1918 with Influenza & possible pneumonia. He was then admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 13th October, 1918, seriously ill with Influenza & Pneumonia.

Gunner Archibald Alexander Forsyth died at 13.40 hrs on 20th October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Archibald A. Forsyth, aged 20, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner Archibald Alexander Forsyth was buried at 3.30 p.m. on 24th October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 1. From the burial report of Gunner Forsyth - *Coffin was good polished elm with Brass Mounts – The deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag was conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage which was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the Australian Artillery Reserve Brigade. Six of deceased's comrades supported the Pall. The funeral was attended by 2 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men of the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery. Wreaths from Major and Mrs A. B. Stott and Mrs J. Kibby were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. The following relatives & friends were present at the Funeral – (Sister) Mrs A. B. Stott of 13 Marine Avenue, Westcliffe-on-Sea & (Friend) Mrs J. Kibby of 58 Lyford Road, Wandsworth Common, London.*

Gunner Archibald Alexander Forsyth requested in his Will, dated 30th May, 1918, that all his real and personal property to be left to his mother - Louisa Alice Forsyth.

Gunner Archibald Alexander Forsyth 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 Forsyth's father at Narromine, NSW, however they were returned unclaimed & marked "deceased". Mrs L. Forsyth, mother of late Gunner Forsyth, wrote to Base Records requesting that the items be sent to her at Mosman, NSW.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner A. A. Forsyth, 63828, of Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Gnr. A. A. Forsyth is remembered on the Sydney Grammar School Honour Board (centre panel), located at Sydney Grammar School, College Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW.



Sydney Grammar School Honour Board (Image courtesy of Sydney Grammar School)

FARRAR, PTE. A.E. ~ FERGUISON, CAPT. A.G. ~ FERGUSSON, CPL. M.G. ~ FIELD, CAPT. J.A.
FINLAYSON, LIEUT. R.B. ~ FLATAU, CAPT. T. ~ FLETCHER, GNR. N.K. ~ FORSTER, PTE. C.S. ~ FORSTER, GNR. B.H.
FORSYTH, GNR. A.A. ~ FORSYTH, DVR. J. ~ FRASER, PTE. N.B. ~ FRIZELL, MJR. T.J.



A. A. Forsyth is also remembered on the Mosman War Memorial which is located in Alan Border Oval, Myahgah Road & The Crescent, Mosman, NSW.



Mosman War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW – David Roden)



Gunner A. A. Forsyth 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

(82 pages of Gunner Archibald Alexander Forsyth'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

NARROMINE

The Rev. C. E. Hughes received a wire from Base Records on Monday afternoon, advising that Gunner A. A. Forsyth had died from influenza and pneumonia.

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – Friday 1 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

FORSYTH – October 20, 1918, in hospital, England, of pneumonia, Gunner A. A. (Peter), aged 20, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. C. Forsyth, Northwood.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW - Friday 1 November, 1918)

Gunner Archibald Alexander Forsyth does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone like most of the soldiers buried in the churchyard at Sutton Veny. Photo of Gunner A. A. Forsyth's private headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

(Note – the service number engraved is incorrect – should be 63828).



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)

