

**Sutton Veny,
Wiltshire, England**

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



38731 GUNNER

F. H. GARRETT

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

23RD MARCH, 1919 AGE 31

*To The Sacred Memory Of
A Beloved Son & Husband*

Francis Henry GARRETT

Francis Henry Garrett was born in Hobart, Tasmania on 19th July, 1886 to parents Henry Lewis (Harry) Garrett & Martha Garrett (nee Fisher).

Henry Lewis (Harry) Garrett, father of Francis Henry Garrett, died on 6th December, 1893 at Sandy Bay, Tasmania.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Brisbane North, Queensland recorded Francis Henry Garrett, Clerk from Darraville, Fortescue St.

Francis (Frank) Henry Garrett was a 30 year old, married, Bank Clerk (Bank Official for Commonwealth Bank) from Queen Street, Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 28th April, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Marion Catherine Garrett of “Murilea”, Beach Road, Sandringham, Victoria.

Francis Henry Garrett married Marion Catherine Batterbury on 7th July, 1917 in Queensland.

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett, Service number 38731, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 19th December, 1917 with the Field Artillery, 33rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 16th January, 1918. He entrained from Suez to Alexandria, Egypt on 22nd January, 1918 & detrained to Camp A, Gabarri on 23rd January, 1918.

Gunner Garrett embarked from Alexandria on HMT *Abassich* on 29th January, 1918 & disembarked at No. 9 Rest Camp, Taranto on 4th February, 1918. Gunner Garrett entrained from Taranto to Cherbourg on 7th February, 1918 & detrained on 14th February, 1918. He embarked on HMT *Price George* from Cherbourg on 14th February, 1918 & disembarked at Southampton, England on 15th 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.

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett was marched in to RBAA (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 15th February, 1918.

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett proceeded overseas to France from Southampton on 23rd September, 1918. He was marched in from England at Rouelles on 24th September, 1918 & marched out on 26th September, 1918 to A. C. Rfct. Camp.

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett was taken on strength in the field on 1st October, 1918 with 1st D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column). He was transferred to 1st D.A.H. Qtrs (Divisional Artillery Headquarters) on 30th October, 1918.

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett was marched out for return to Australia on 5th March, 1919 & proceeded to England from Havre on 12th March, 1919.

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett disembarked at Southampton, England from France on 13th March, 1919 & was to proceed to Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 14th March, 1919 with Influenza & Pneumonia.

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett died at 11 p.m. on 24th March, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho pneumonia.

A death for Francis H. Garrett, aged 32, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Gunner F. H. Garrett contains a letter from the Matron, No. 1 Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny which reads:

"38731 Gnr. F. H. Garrett 1st Div. Art. was admitted here on the 13th March 1919 suffering from Influenza & Pneumonia. He was an exceedingly good patient, and very much liked in the ward. We did so hope to pull him through, but his heart gave out when he was just about at the stage for his crisis and he died on the 23rd March 1919 at 11 p.m. He was buried in the little cemetery of St. John the Evangelist Church at Sutton Veny."

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett was buried on 27th March, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 77. From the burial report of Gunner Garrett – *The deceased soldier was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin (elm with brass mounts) draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party, 1st Australian Training Brigade, Sutton Veny. Six Australians supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A large number of Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett requested in his Will dated 18th December, 1917 that all his possessions to be left to his wife – Marion Catherine Garrett.

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Garrett's widow – Mrs M. Foot (previously Garrett. Marion Garrett remarried on 8th October, 1921 to Eric Sydney Foot) (sent July, 1921 & November, 1922). The Victory Medal was apparently returned unclaimed & was sent to "Untraceables" in May, 1923.

The CWGC lists Gunner Francis Henry Garrett, 38731, of Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F., as the son of Mrs Martha Garrett; husband of Marion C. Garrett of 138 Racecourse Rd, Newmarket, Victoria. Born at Hobart, Tasmania.

Gunner F. H. Garrett is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 11.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. H. Garrett is remembered on the Commonwealth Bank Honor Roll, now located in Reserve Bank of Australia Museum, 65 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW.



Commonwealth Bank Honor Roll

(90 pages of Gunner Francis Henry Garrett'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) & National Archives.

Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

List No. 464

DIED FROM OTHER CAUSES

Gunner F. H. Garrett, Newmarket Victoria, illness

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Qld – Monday 12 May 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GARRETT – To the sacred memory of my beloved husband, Francis Henry Garrett, who passed on from 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, England, on March 23, 1919.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Tuesday 23 March, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GARRETT – To the beloved memory of Francis Henry Garrett, who passed on from Sutton Veny, England, on March 23, 1919. (Poppetta)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 23 March, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GARRETT – To the beloved memory of Francis Henry Garrett, who passed on from Sutton Veny, England, on March 23, 1919.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Wednesday 23 March, 1927)

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)

Gunner Francis Henry Garrett does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

To The Sacred Memory of A Beloved Son & Husband

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 Gunner F. H. Garrett's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)