

**Sutton Veny,  
Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**

**World War 1**



*Lest We Forget*



**57603 CORPORAL**

**W. J. GRIFFITHS**

**9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**10TH NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 25**

*The Lord Gave  
And The Lord Hath Taken Away  
Blessed Be His Name*

# Wyndham Jones GRIFFITHS

Wyndham Jones Griffiths was born in Perth, Western Australia on 12th September, 1893 to parents David William & Rose Eileen Griffiths (nee Fogg).

Wyndham Jones Griffiths attended Norwood State School, Perth, Western Australia.

Wyndham Jones Griffiths was a 24 year old, single, Grazier from Billabong, Deeford, Queensland when he enlisted at Rockhampton, Queensland on 15th February, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr D. W. Griffiths of Moora, Western Australia.

Private Wyndham Jones Griffiths, Service number 57603, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 with the 4th (Q) Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918. Private Griffiths was appointed Provisional Sergeant on 5th June, 1918 while at sea.

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.

Provisional Sergeant Wyndham Jones Griffiths was marched in to 5th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 12th August, 1918. He was allotted to Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 13th August, 1918 & marched out the same day to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire where his rank reverted back to Private.

Private Wyndham Jones Griffiths was appointed Acting Corporal on 13th August, 1918.

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 14th August, 1918 with Influenza.

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 29th October, 1918 with Influenza.

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths died at 6.15 p.m. on 10th November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Wyndham Griffiths, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded and Missing File for Corporal W. J. Griffiths contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death and burial. A reply from the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny reads:

*“Re 57603, A/Cpl. W. J. Griffiths, 9th Battn. A.I.F. The above named N.C.O. was admitted to this Hospital suffering from Influenza and later developed pneumonia, from which complication he died at 6.15 p.m. on the 10th November. He was ministered to by the C. of E. Chaplain previous to passing away, and was buried in Sutton Veny Churchyard on November 15th 1918.”*

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths was buried at 2 p.m. on 15th November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England – Grave no. 26.

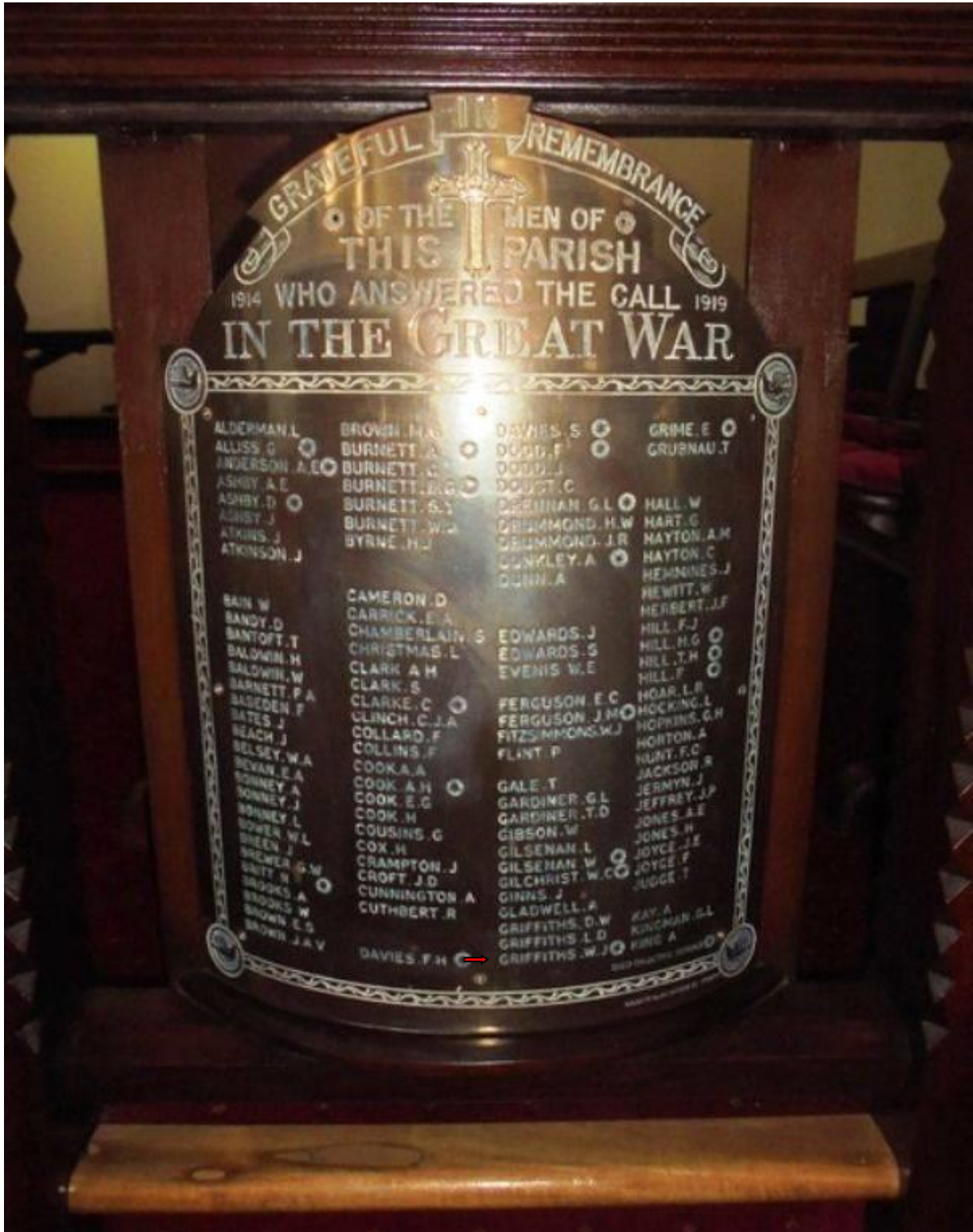
*From the burial report of Acting Corporal Griffiths - Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the 1st Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased's Unit Comrades acted as Pall bearers. 4 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Unit attended as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths 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 Acting Corporal Griffiths's father – Mr D. W. Griffiths

(sent April, 1922 & November, 1922). The Memorial Scroll had been incorrectly inscribed & a new scroll had to be issued pending receipt of blank scrolls.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths, 57603, of 9th Battalion, A.I.F., as the son of David William and Rose Eileen Griffiths, or Moora, Western Australia.

W. J. Griffiths is remembered on the St. James Honour Roll, located in S. James' Anglican Church, Roberts Street, Moora, Western Australia.



St. James Honour Roll, Moora (Photo from Monument Australia – Father Ted Doncaster)



W. J. Griffiths is remembered on the Moora War Memorial, located on Clinch Street, Moora, Western Australia.



**Moora War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Bryan Hardy)





W. J. Griffiths is remembered on the Moora Honour Wall 1914 – 1918, located in Centenary Park, Gardiner & Clinch Streets, Moora, Western Australia.



**Moora Honour Wall 1914 – 1918**

*(Photo above from Monument Australia; below by Rosie Ritorto)*



W. J. Griffiths is remembered on the Moora Roll of Honour, located in Moora Town Hall, Padbury Street, Moora, Western Australia.



Moora Roll of Honour (Photos from Waymark)





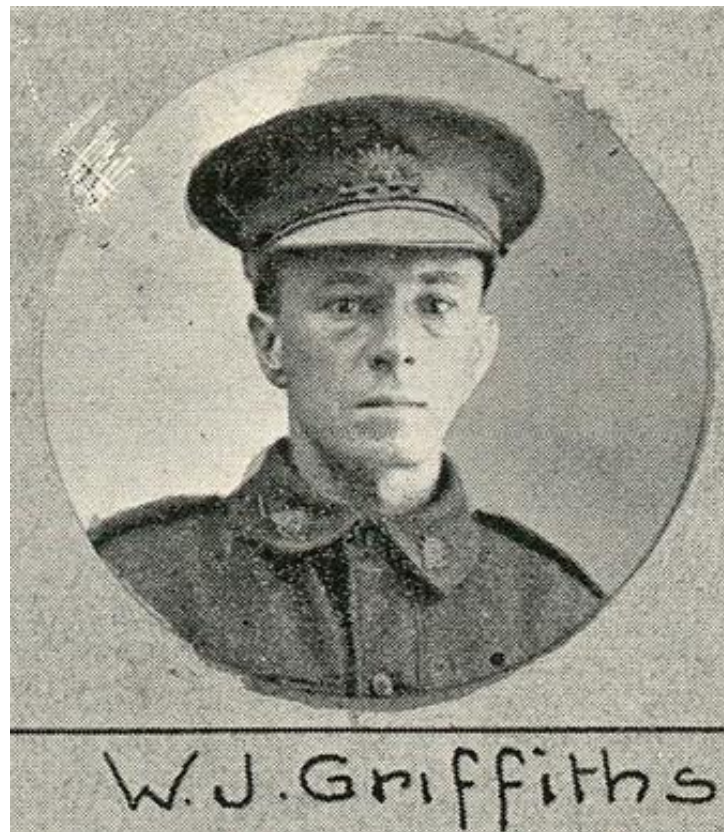
W. J. Griffiths is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 56.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(43 pages of Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths' 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.*



*(The Queenslander Pictorial – 15 June, 1918)*

## **Newspaper Reports**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

GRIFFITHS – Sergeant Wyndham Jones Griffiths (late of Billabong, Deeford), died in hospital, Sutton, England, influenza, on November the 10th, 1918.

Gone but not forgotten.

(Inserted by his Partner, J. Campbell)

GRIFFITHS – In fond and loving memory of our dear friend, Sergeant W. J. Griffiths (Wyn), died in hospital in England, November 10th, 1918.

*Oh Lord to Thee I yield the gift.*

Deeply mourned

(Inserted by his true and loving friends Vi, May and Daphne)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Qld - Thursday 28 November, 1918 & *The Capricornian* – Saturday 7 December, 1918)

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### **Thanks**

Mr and Mrs D. W. Griffiths and family thank all those kind friends who sent cards and letters, and for personal expressions of sympathy in the death on active service of their eldest son and brother, Wyn.

(*The Midlands Advertiser*, Moora, W.A. – Friday 6 December, 1918)

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

GRIFFITHS – A tribute of love to the memory of my dear friend, Sergeant W. J. Griffiths (Wyn), died in hospital in England, November 10th, 1918.

Your life, with all its love and

Manliness, will never pass away.

(Inserted by his true and loving Friend, Vi. Carnell)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Qld - Monday 10 November, 1919)

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### 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)*

Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away Blessed Be His Name*

### **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



**War Graves at Sutton Veny** *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Corporal W. J. Griffiths' Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*