

**Sutton Veny,
Wiltshire, England**

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



23061 GUNNER

A. E. HODGES

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

10TH OCTOBER, 1916

*In Loving Memory Of
The Dearly Loved Son Of
S. & M. Hodges
Of Laidley*

CWGC Headstone & Private Headstone for Gunner A. E. Hodges is located in
Grave Plot # 277. C. 2. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny

Albert Ernest HODGES

Albert Ernest Hodges was born at Thornton, Laidley, Queensland on 15th April, 1895 to parents Samuel & Martha Hodges (nee McCange/McCauge).

Albert Ernest Hodges attended Thornton State School, Laidley, Queensland.

Albert Ernest Hodges was a 20 year old, single, Farmer from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 24th November, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr S. Hodges of Thornton, via Laidley, Brisbane, Queensland.

As Albert Hodges was under the age of 21 years, both parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. This consent was given on 19th November, 1915 with Samuel Hodges (father) signing & Martha Hodges (mother) making her mark as she was unable to write. Albert Hodges had previously served one year with Light Horse at Laidley.

Gunner Albert Ernest Hodges was written up on 29th December, 1915 for “*overstaying Xmas Leave by 1 ½ days*”. This was admonished & he forfeited 2 days’ pay.

Gunner Albert Ernest Hodges, Service number 23061, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 11th May, 1916 with the 9th Field Artillery Brigade, 1st Reinforcements.

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 Albert Ernest Hodges was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 3rd October, 1916 with Influenza from No. 2 Boyton Camp, Wiltshire. The family Story (supplied by Jennifer Kling) is that “*whilst in the training camp Albert got word that a good friend from home had been stationed in a nearby camp. He borrowed a push bike and decided to ride to find him. Sadly the thin Aussie uniform was no match from the cold harsh conditions and Albert took sick and developed pneumonia.*”

Gunner Albert Ernest Hodges died on 10th October, 1916 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Albert E. Hodges, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner Albert Ernest Hodges was buried on 13th October, 1916 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 277.

Gunner Albert Ernest Hodges 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 Hodges’s father – Mr S. Hodges (sent March 1922 & July, 1922).

A letter was written to Medals Dept at Victoria Barracks in 1925 by the Laidley Sub-branch of RSL, on behalf of Gunner Hodges’ father – enquiring into the Victory Medal for the late Gunner Hodges. A reply was sent advising that as Gunner Hodges “*did not serve in a theatre of War, a Victory Medal was not issuable in connection with his service with the A.I.F.*”

The CWGC lists Gunner Albert Edward Hodges, 23061, of 9th Bde, Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F., as the son of Samuel and Martha Hodges of Thornton, Laidley, Queensland. (CWGC were advised in October 2023 that the correct middle name was Ernest)

Gunner A. E. Hodges is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 15.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Hodges is also remembered on the Laidley War Memorial located at Patrick St. and Whites Road, Laidley, Queensland.



Laidley War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)

A. E. Hodges is also remembered on the Laidley Memorial Gates located at Patrick St. and Whites Road, Laidley, Queensland.



Laidley Memorial Gates (Photos from AWM Places of Pride - Faithe)



(46 pages of Gunner Albert Ernest Hodges' 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.



(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kling)

Newspaper Reports

239th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Gunner A. E. Hodges, Thornton

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Qld – Wednesday 1 November, 1916)

DEATH

HODGES – On the 10th October, at the Military Hospital, Sutton Verney, England, Gunner Albert E. Hodges, dearly beloved youngest son of Mr and Mrs S. Hodges, Thornton, of pneumonia.

(Queensland Times, Ipswich, Qld – Thursday 2 November, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

HODGES - In sad and loving memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law, Gnr. A. E. Hodges, who died in England 10th Oct., 1916.

A better brother never lived,
Nor one so true and kind ;
His equal in this weary world,
We very rarely find.
His loving smiles and kindly ways,
Are pleasant to recall ;
He always had a pleasant word,
And died beloved by all.

(Inserted by his sorrowing brother and sister-in-law, George and Fanny Hodges.

(Queensland Times, Ipswich, Qld – Wednesday 10 October, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HODGES - In loving memory of our dear brother, Albert, who died in England, October 10. 1916.

So dearly, loved, and oh, how sadly missed !
You are not forgotten. Albert dear,
Or will you ever be;
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee.

(Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Mr and Mrs G. Hodges, Thornton.

(Queensland Times, Ipswich, Qld – Thursday 10 October, 1918)

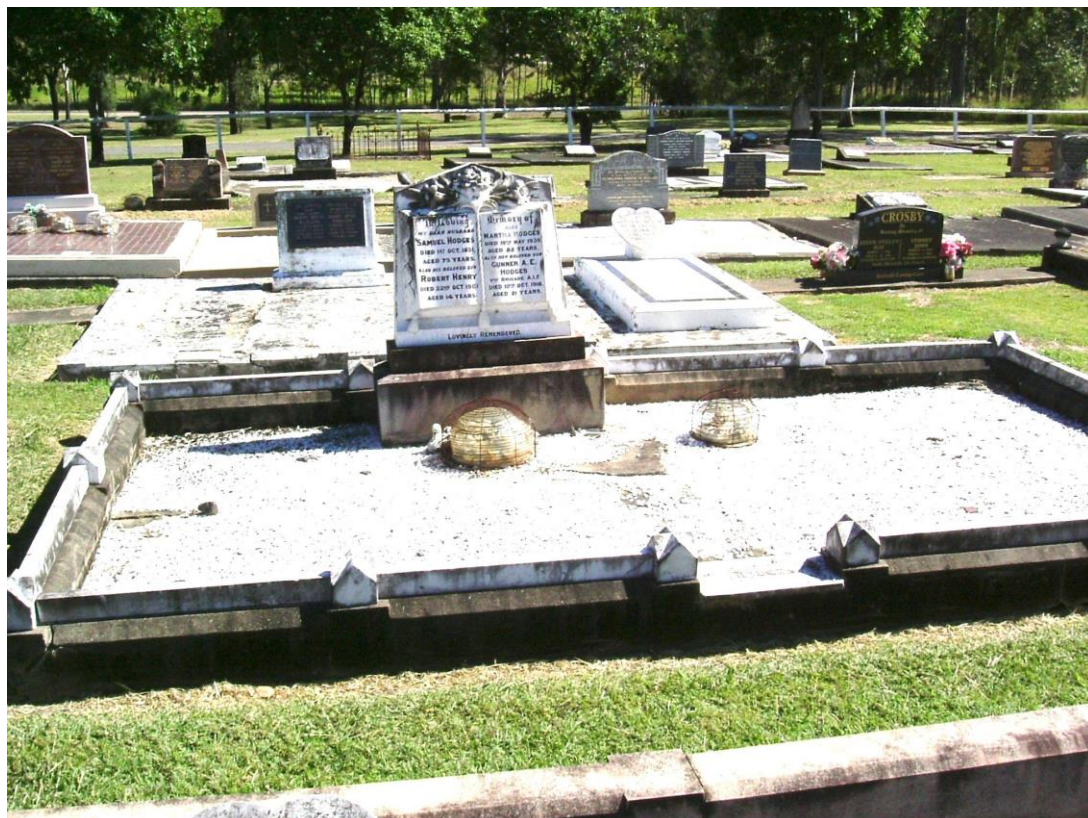
ROLL OF HONOUR

HODGES - In loving memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law, Gnr. A. E. Hodges, who died of illness in England, October 10, 1916.

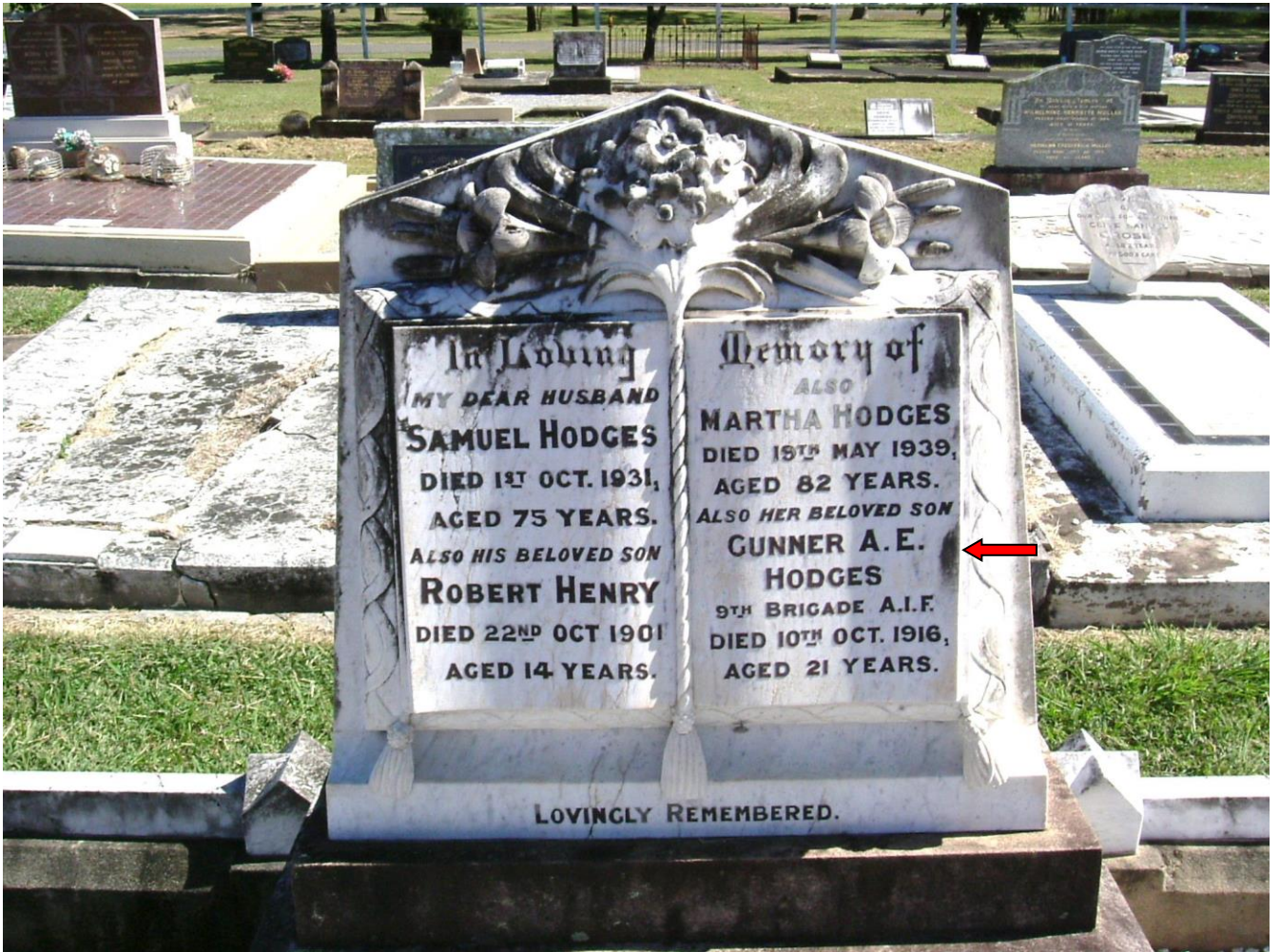
There is a tie death cannot sever,
Loving remembrance, they last for ever.

(*Queensland Times*, Ipswich, Qld – Friday 8 October, 1920)

Gunner A. E. Hodges is remembered on his parents' headstone in Laidley Cemetery, Queensland.



(Photos from Find a Grave)



Also Her Beloved Son

GUNNER A. E.

HODGES

9TH Brigade A.I.F.

Died 10TH OCT. 1916

Aged 21 Years

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 Albert Edward Hodges does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Loving Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of S. & M. Hodges Of Laidley

Unusually, Gunner Albert Ernest Hodges has 2 Headstones – a private headstone erected by his comrades in 1916 & a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone. In most cases if a soldier already had a private headstone then the CWGC would not usually erect a headstone. According to CWGC the private marble memorial that is 4' 2' high is at the head of the grave & the CWGC headstone is located at the foot of the grave.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376

Photo of Sutton Veny Churchyard – April 1919



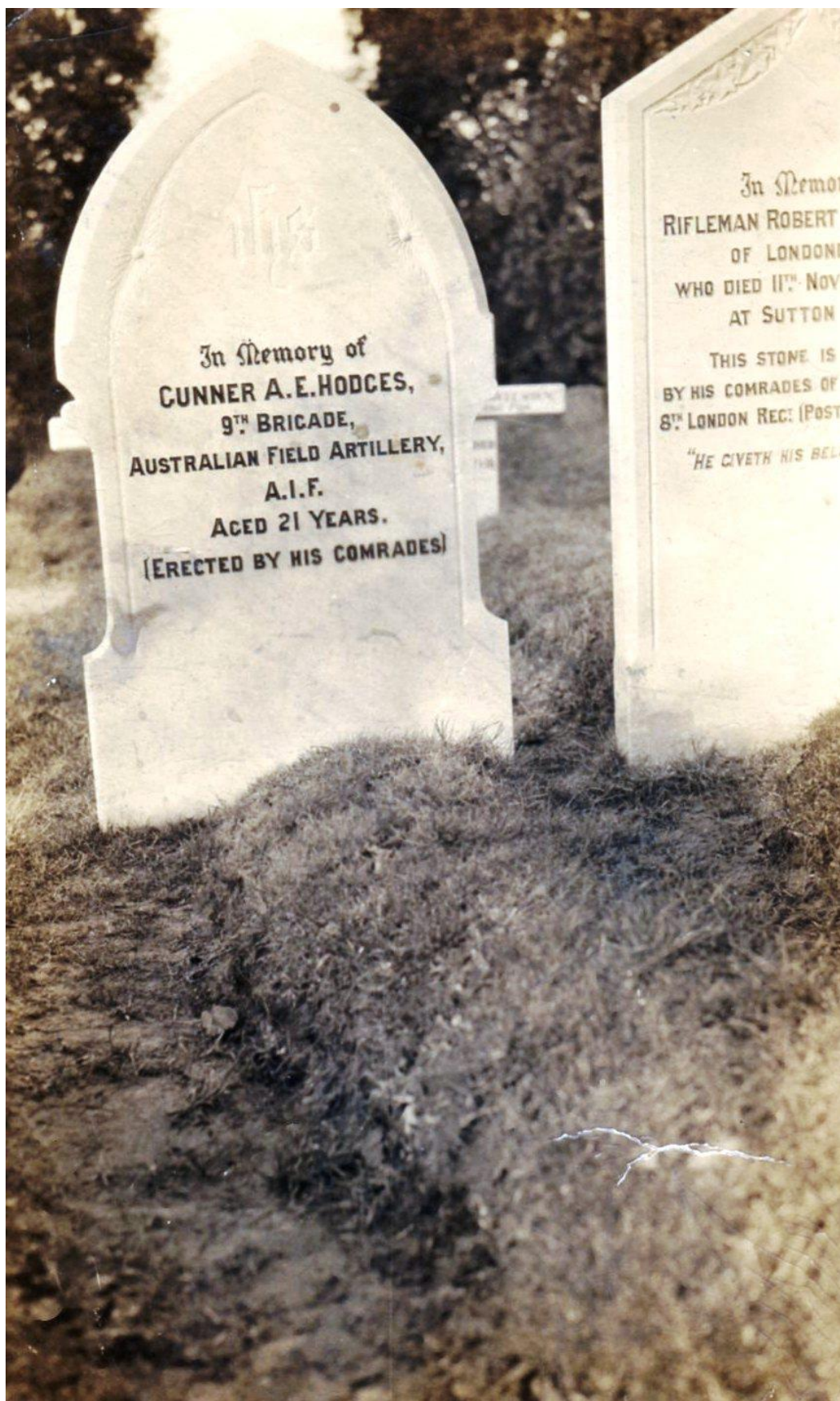
St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England

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)



Photo of Gunner A. E. Hodges's private headstone (erected by his Comrades) in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kling)





CWGC headstone for Gunner Hodges (Photos courtesy of David Milborrow)

Two photos below show Gunner A. E. Hodges' 2 headstones – CWGC at foot of grave & a portion of his private headstone at the head of his grave.

(Photos courtesy of Nicky Barnard 2015 - Anzac Co-Coordinator Sutton Veny School)





Gunner Hodges' 2 Headstones marked with star



(Photo from Find a Grave – Lady Linda Sep 2020)