

**Sutton Veny,
Wiltshire, England**

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



382 PRIVATE

S. D. KIRK

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

9TH NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 25

In Fond Memory Of

Our Dear Son & Brother

Safe In The Arms Of Jesus

Sidney Donald KIRK

Sidney Donald Kirk was born at Barcaldine, Central Queensland on 11th October, 1892 to parents James McKay Kirk & Ruth Kirk (nee Sweet).

Sidney Donald Kirk enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 29th March, 1916 at Brisbane, Queensland as a 23 year old, single, Grazier from Rathdonnell Street, Auchenflower, Brisbane, Queensland. His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs R. Kirk of Strath Dilla, Rathdonnell Street, Auchenflower, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk, Service number 382, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Commonwealth* (A73) on 19th September, 1916 with the 3rd Machine Gun Company, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th November, 1916.

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 Sidney Donald Kirk was marched in from Australia to Details No. 3 Camp at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 15th November, 1916 then marched out to Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham from Parkhouse Camp on 23rd November, 1916.

On 18th December, 1916, Private Sidney Kirk was written up for being absent without leave from Belton Park from 2 a.m. 18th December to 12 midnight 18th December, 1916. He was awarded 3 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 1 days pay.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk reported sick on 13th January, 1917. He was admitted to No. 1 Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 8th February, 1917 until 6th March, 1917. He was discharged to duty on 11th March, 1917 & was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot on 12th March, 1917. Private Kirk was re-admitted to Parkhouse Military Hospital on 15th March, 1917 with V.D. & was discharged to duty on 12th April, 1917. Private Kirk was marched in to Camp Headquarters at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 16th April, 1917.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk proceeded overseas to France from Grantham via Folkestone on 11th May, 1917 from Australian Machine Gun Training Depot. He was marched in at Camiers, France on 12th May, 1917 & marched out to 3rd Machine Gun Company on 23rd May, 1917 where he was taken on strength in the field.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was on Leave to England on 20th March, 1918 & rejoined from Leave on 23rd March, 1918.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was transferred to 1st Machine Gun Battalion on 1st April, 1918 - A.I.F. Order 1151 – "*Designation changed to 1st Machine Gun Battalion*".

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was granted Leave to UK on 16th June, 1918 & rejoined from Leave on 3rd July, 1918.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was wounded in action on 9th July, 1918. He was admitted to 3 Australian Field Ambulance with a shrapnel wound to right shoulder then transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Private Kirk was discharged to duty on 12th July, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 10th August, 1918. He was admitted to 15 Australian Field Ambulance with a shrapnel wound to left hand & then transferred to 55th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Kirk was admitted to 2nd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne on 12th August, 1918 & marked for transfer to England on 13th August, 1918. Private Kirk embarked for England on 14th August, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle*.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was admitted to 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham, England on 15th August, 1918 with a gun shot wound to left hand. He was transferred on 26th August, 1918 to Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford & discharged the next day for furlo.

On 10th September, 1918 Private Sidney Donald Kirk was to report to Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire at the completion of his furlo. He was absent without leave on 10th September, 1918. He was marched in from Australian Headquarters, London on 12th September, 1918 & medically classified as B1 A1 (fit for light duty only for 4 weeks). Private Kirk was written up for being absent without leave from 11 a.m. on 10th September to 11a.m. on 11th September, 1918. He forfeited a total of 3 days pay.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was marched out to No. 4 Command Depot at Weymouth on 17th September, 1918 & marched in to No. 2 Convalescent Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 17th September, 1918. Private Kirk was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill on 30th October, 1918.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital on 1st November, 1918 & then admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 2nd November, 1918 with Influenza. Notification was sent to Mrs Kirk advising that her son was in Hospital seriously ill with Influenza & Pneumonia.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk died at 8.10 am on 9th November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Sydney Kirk, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was buried at 3 p.m. on 15th November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 29. From the burial report of Private Kirk - *Coffin was Elm with brass furnishings – Deceased was accorded a full Military funeral, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from the A.I.F. Overseas Training Brigade. Six of deceased's Unit Comrades supported the Pall. 2 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Company attended as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral were: (Uncle) Mr & Mrs F. Little of 29 Perriams House, Butleigh via Glastonbury & (Friend) Mr & Mrs A. H. Pickles of 61 Boreham, Warminster.*

Private Sidney Donald Kirk was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Kirk's mother – Mrs R. Kirk (July, 1921 & November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sidney Donald Kirk, 382, of 1st Battalion, Australian Machine Gun Corps, A.I.F.. He was the son of James MacKay Kirk and Ruth Kirk of "Strathdilla", Rathdonnel St., Auchenflower, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private S. D. Kirk is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

S. D. Kirk is remembered on the Toowong War Memorial, located at Park Lane, Toowong, Queensland.



Toowong War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



(97 pages of Private Sidney Donald Kirk'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.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E01756

3rd Machine Gun Company at Bailleul France, 22nd February, 1918

Pte S. D. Kirk (back row 4th from left)

**** Connected to Private Sidney Donald Kirk:**

Private James McKay Kirk – father of Sidney Kirk, 4822, 9th Battalion A.I.F., wounded in 1917 in France & invalided home. Died in Brisbane on 2nd November, 1919 as a result of his wounds, aged 56. Buried in Brisbane General (Toowong) Cemetery, Queensland, Australia on 3rd November, 1919. (Ruth Kirk, wife of James Kirk buried 10th December, 1942, aged 89 years).

Newspaper Reports

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS

Private S.D. Kirk, another grandson of the late Mrs. Jane Kirk, Bow Street, Rockhampton and son of Private J. M. Kirk, Blackall, arrived from the west yesterday morning. He is on final leave. Private S. D. Kirk's enlistment brings the total contribution of the late Mrs. Kirk to the forces of the Empire to five sons and three grandsons.

Private S. D. Kirk will leave for Brisbane today. He will be accompanied by his Uncle, Private W. Kirk who recently returned from the front.

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland - Saturday 17 June, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

S. D. Kirk (Auchenflower)

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland - Saturday 10 August, 1918)

PERSONAL NOTES

Gunner S. D. Kirk, of Wandsworth selection, is reported wounded (second occasion), his first wound being received two months ago.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland - Saturday 7 September, 1918)

PERSONAL NOTES

The sad news has been received by Mr and Mrs J. M. Kirk, Rathdonnell Street, Auchenflower, that their youngest son, Private Sidney Donald Kirk, of a Machine Gun Battalion, died of pneumonia in England, on November 9, after two years' active service, during which he was twice wounded. Private S. D. Kirk was well known in Central Queensland, where he was engaged in sheep farming. Mrs Tichborne, of "Waddington", Sandgate and Mrs F. Adams, Moorooka, are sisters of the deceased soldier.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland - Tuesday 19 November, 1918)

THE 450th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OTHER CAUSES, QUEENSLAND

Pte S. D. Kirk (Auchenflower) p.r.w.

(*The Farmer and Settler*, Sydney, NSW - Friday 27 December, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

KIRK – In proud and loving memory of Gunner S. D. Kirk, 3rd Machine Gun Company, A.I.F., who, after being twice wounded, died at Sutton Veny, November 9, 1918.

We longed for his safe return,
We longed to grasp his hand,
But God has postponed the meeting,
'Twill be in that better land.

Inserted by sorrowing mother, brothers and sisters.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland - Saturday 8 November, 1919)

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 Sidney Donald Kirk does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Fond Memory Of Our Dear Son & Brother Safe In The Arms Of Jesus

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 Private S. D. Kirk's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)