

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**23068 GUNNER**

**H. LEWIS**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**22ND NOVEMBER, 1918**

*CWGC Headstone for Gunner H. Lewis is located in  
Grave Plot # 34. H. 9. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Henry LEWIS

Henry Lewis was born at Morphett Vale, South Australia in 1892. He was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from Toowoomba, Queensland when he enlisted at Toowoomba, Queensland on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 23068 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr J. Lewis, Waikery, Murray River, South Australia.

Gunner Henry Lewis embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 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.

Gunner Lewis was written up for an Offence on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 while in Boyton, Wiltshire - "When an active service AWL from 8.30 a.m. 26.9.16 to 10.30 p.m. 26.9.16". He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment & forfeited a total of 8 days pay.

Gunner Lewis was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire with V.D. on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. He was discharged from Hospital on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1916.

Gunner Lewis was marched in from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 & medically classified as Class A – fit for active service.

Gunner Lewis was marched in to Camp 21 at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Gunner Lewis proceeded overseas to France from Folkestone on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1917. He was marched in at Etaples on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1917. Gunner Lewis was transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Division Artillery at Etaples on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 & taken on strength in France on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Gunner Lewis was sent to hospital sick on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 & admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Field Ambulance with Appendicitis. He was transferred to 56<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station & discharged to duty on 2nd July, 1917. Gunner Lewis rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1917.

Gunner Lewis was detached to St. Omer on Picquet Duty (In military terminology, a picquet refers to soldiers or troops placed on a line forward of a position to warn against an enemy advance) on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1917.

Gunner Lewis was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade at Belgium on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He was taken on strength & posted to 6<sup>th</sup> Battery on same day.

Gunner Lewis was on leave to England on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1918.

Gunner Lewis was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Field Ambulance on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1918 – he had been wounded in action as a result of a gas Shell. He was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on same day then transferred to 15<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1918. Gunner Henry Lewis' brother - John Lewis of Murray River, South Australia was notified by telegram on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1918 that his brother had been admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station with Gas Poisoning - Severe. The telegram was undeliverable as the addressee was unknown.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1918, Gunner Lewis was admitted to 7<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at St. Omer & on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 he was marked for transfer to England. Gunner Lewis was admitted to 6 (USA) General Hospital in France on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 suffering from "Gas Shell 'W' & Broncho pneumonia". He embarked for England on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle*.

Gunner Lewis was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital at Norwich on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1918. He was transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1918. Gunner Lewis was discharged to No. 3 Command Depot at Harefield on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1918. Gunner Lewis was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 as medically classified as B1 A3 – fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks.

Gunner Lewis was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 then marched in to Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1918.

Gunner Henry Lewis was sent sick then admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 with Influenza Pneumonia, seriously ill.

Gunner Henry Lewis died at 23.15 hrs on 22nd November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza Pneumonia.

A death for Henry Lewis, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner Henry Lewis was buried at 2.30 p.m. on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 34. From the burial report of Gunner Lewis - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage. Firing Party and Pall Bearers from the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery were in attendance. The “Last Post” was sounded and three volleys fired over the grave. One Officer and about 40 N.C.O.’s and Men of the Depot attended the funeral. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Gunner H. Lewis is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 12.



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

Gunner Henry Lewis was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were supposed to be sent to Gunner Henry Lewis's next-of-kin – his brother John Lewis but enquiries were made by the Australian Military Forces & no claim had been made for the War Gratuity so the relatives were unable to be traced. An advertisement was to be placed in the newspapers for N.O.K. to communicate in August 1921 (previously advertisements were placed for next-of kin in April, 1918 (Gunner Lewis wounded) & again in December, 1918 (Gunner Lewis died). Gunner Lewis' medals, Memorial Scroll & Plaque were sent to "Untraceables".

The CWGC lists Gunner Henry Lewis, 23068, of 2nd Bde., Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

(90 pages of Gunner Henry Lewis' 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.*



**Original Headstone marker for Gunner Henry Lewis.**

(His next-of-kin was not able to be located so the photos were placed in his Service Record file.)

## Newspaper Reports

### **NEXT OF KIN WANTED**

The Military authorities desire the next of kin of No. 23068, Gunner Henry Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, to communicate with the A.A.G., Victoria Barracks, Brisbane.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Friday 20 December, 1918)*

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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)*

The next-of-kin for Gunner Henry Lewis was not able to be located. Gunner Henry Lewis does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



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

Photo of Gunner H. Lewis' CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



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