

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



56181 PRIVATE

D. A. LOUDEN

43RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 29

In Loving Memory

Father, Mother And Sisters

David Andrew LOUDEN

David Andrew Louden was born at Ballarat, Victoria on 28th October, 1888 to parents John & Charlotte Louden (nee Weeks). (David Louden stated on his Attestation Papers that his date of birth was 28th October, 1886).

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Gaffney's Creek, Victoria listed David Andrew Louden, Labourer, of Gaffney's Creek.

David Andrew Louden stated he was a 32 year old, single, Miner from Ballarat, Victoria when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 30th April, 1918 with the 4th (S.) Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 56181 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Louden, of 17 Gilles Street, Alfredton, Ballarat, Victoria.

(Note – several pages of Pte Kenneth Gordon Sharpe, 2440, 3rd Pioneer Battalion, records are included in Pte Louden's Service Record file. Pte Sharpe died the same day as Pte Louden).

Private David Andrew Louden was posted to "B" Company of 1st May, 1918 for recruit training. He was transferred to "A" Company on 22nd May, 1918 then transferred to 4th S. Reinforcements on 3rd July, 1918.

Private David Andrew Louden embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on SS *Gaika* on 6th August, 1918. Pte Louden failed to re-embark on *Gaika* at Cape Town on 4th September, 1918. Pte Louden was reported as A.W.L. (absent without leave) on 4th September, 1918. He re-embarked on the *Willochra* at Cape Town on 6th September, 1918. Pte Louden disembarked at London, England on 13th October, 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.

Private David Andrew Louden was marched in from Australia to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 13th October, 1918 & allotted to Reinforcements of 43rd Battalion whilst at 9th Training Battalion.

Private David Andrew Louden was sent sick to Hurdcott Hospital, Wiltshire on 29th October, 1918. He was transferred & admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire with Influenza the same day.

Private David Andrew Louden died at 03.50 hrs on 8th November, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Influenza & Broncho-pneumonia.

A death for David Louden, aged 33, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private David Andrew Louden was buried at 3 pm on 12th November, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England, – Plot number I. B. 5. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte D. A. Louden - *Coffin was polished 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 preceded by a Firing Party and Band from 9th Australian Training Battalion. Six of deceased's Unit comrades supported the Pall. 3 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Wreaths from Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of the 4th G.S. Reinforcement were placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private David Andrew Louden requested in his Will, dated 1st May, 1918, that all his property be given to his mother – Charlotte Louden of 17 Gillies Street, Alfredton, Ballarat, Victor. He also appointed his mother as sole executrix.

Private David Andrew Louden 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 Pte Louden's father - Mr J. Louden, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private David Andrew Louden – service number 56181, aged 29, of 43rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Charlotte Louden, of 41 Godfrey Avenue East, St. Kilda, Victoria. Born at Ballarat.

Private D. A. Louden is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 137.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

D. A. Louden is remembered on the Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda located at Sturt Street and Learmonth Avenue, Ballarat, Victoria.



Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda (Photo from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

David A. Louden is also remembered on the Ballarat Avenue of Honour (1917-1919) where almost 4,000 trees were planted to represent the number of men and women from the Ballarat district who served in World War 1. The trees were planted at intervals of 12 metres along 22 kms of the Ballarat-Burrembeet Road. The Ballarat Avenue of Honour is famous for being the first avenue of its kind in Australia. Tree number 3619 was planted by Cr. W. Richards in honour of Private David A. Louden.



The Arch of Victory was built as an entrance to the Avenue of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia)



Ballarat Avenue of Honour (Photo from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

(46 pages of Pte David Andrew Louden's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

GONE INTO CAMP

Monday

D. A. LOUDEN, miner

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 May, 1918)

AUSTRALIA'S HEROES

CASUALTY LIST No. 450

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte D. A. Louden, Ballarat

(The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)

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. 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 D. A. Louden does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Loving Memory

Father, Mother And Sisters

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

(Photo c 1919)





St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front & rear (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)



Photo of Private D. A. Louden's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)