

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



60725 PRIVATE

**A. R. MATTHEWS**

7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

20TH OCTOBER, 1918 AGE 21

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. R. Matthews is located in  
Grave Plot # 3. F. 3. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Alick Raymond MATTHEWS

Alick Raymond Matthews was born on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1896 at Nhill, Victoria to parents John & Wilhelmina (Minnie) Matthews (nee Holtzman). He was a 21 year old, single, Motor Mechanic from 10 Henrietta Street, Glenferrie, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1918 with the 8<sup>th</sup> (V) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 60725 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – J. Matthews of 10 Henrietta Street, Glenferrie, Victoria. Alick stated that he had previously been rejected as unfit for Service due to his chest measurement.

Private Alick Raymond Matthews was encamped at Broadmeadows.

Private Alick Raymond Matthews embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Marathon* (A74) on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1918 & disembarked at London on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 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 Matthews was marched in to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 & allotted to Reinforcements of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire.

Private Alick Raymond Matthews was admitted to the Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 with Influenza & Pneumonia then transferred to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 seriously ill.

Private Alick Raymond Matthews died at 4.30 a.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Aleck R. Matthews, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Alick Raymond Matthews was buried at 2.30 p.m. on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 3. From the burial report of Pte Matthews - *Coffin was good polished 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 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased's comrades supported the Pall. The funeral was attended by 3 Officers and about 80 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Unit. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Alick Raymond Matthews requested in his Will dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Mrs Minnie Matthews.

Pte Alick Raymond Matthews 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 Matthews' father – Mr J. Matthews (sent July, 1921 & November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Alick Raymond Matthews, 60725, of 7th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. He was the son of John and Minnie Matthews of 10 Henrietta St, Glenferrie, Victoria.

Private A. R. Matthews is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 51.



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

The Glenferrie Primary School World War One Memorial which is located in Glenferrie Primary School, 78-98 Manningtree Road, Hawthorn, Victoria, does not contain individual names.



**The Glenferrie Primary School World War One Memorial** (Photos courtesy of Jeanette Riordan-Withy)

(51 pages of Pte Alick Raymond Matthews' 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.*



## Newspaper Reports

### DIED ON SERVICE

MATTHEWS – On the 20<sup>th</sup> October at Sutton Veny Military Hospital England, while on active service with A.I.F., Private A. R. Matthews, of influenza and pneumonia, loving brother of Mrs J. W. Leats (?), of Hamilton.

*(Hamilton Spectator, Vic – Saturday 2 December, 1918)*

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### THE 448<sup>th</sup> and 449<sup>th</sup> CASUALTY LISTS

#### VICTORIAN NAMES

Died of Illness

Private A. R. Matthews, Glenferrie

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Vic – Wednesday 4 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)*

Pte Alick Raymond Matthews does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



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



Photo of Pte A. R. Matthew's 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)*