

**Sutton Veny,
Wiltshire, England
War Graves
World War 1**



Lest We Forget



63313 PRIVATE

C. G. MATTHEWS

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

29TH JANUARY, 1919

*CWGC Headstone for Pte C. G. Matthews is located in
Grave Plot # 41. F. 8. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Charles George MATTHEWS

Charles George Matthews was born on 25th December, 1898 at Port Frederick, near Launceston, Tasmania to parents George Charles & Susan Matthews (nee Stevens).

From *Police Gazette*, Tasmania – 1 February, 1907:

WARRANTS ISSUED AND NOW IN THIS OFFICE

LAUNCESTON DISTRICT – George Charles Mathews is charged, on Warrant, issued on the 31st ultimo by R. W. Mackenzie, Esq., J.P., that he, on the 31st May, 1906, at Launceston, being a person of sufficient means, did, without lawful or reasonable excuse, desert his wife, Susan Mathews, and his three children by her. Description: Age 38 years, height 5 feet 6 inches, stout build, brown hair, hazel eyes; a labourer. Is known to Miss E. Dunton, Main -street, Zeehan, who saw him there, and from whom some information may be obtained as to his whereabouts.

Charles George Matthews was a 19 year old, single, Farmer from South Arm, Tasmania when he enlisted at Hobart, Tasmania on 4th July, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs S. Jones of 104 Bight Street, East Brunswick, Victoria.

A letter in the Service record file of Private Charles George Matthews was written to the recruiting Officer, Hobart from Charles F. Seager for Secretary Neglected Children Dept, dated 4th July, 1918 & reads:

“This is to certify that Charles George Matthews is a ward of the Department for Neglected Children and has my consent, as his guardian, to enlist for active service.”

Private Charles George Matthews, Service number 63313, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918 with the 3rd (T) (Tasmanian) Reinforcements & disembarked at London, England on 5th December, 1918. Private Matthews had been admitted to the Ship's Hospital while at Sea on 16th November, 1918 & was discharged on 28th November, 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 1st Training Battalion on 5th December, 1918 & allotted to Reinforcements of 12th Battalion.

Private Charles George Matthews was sent sick to 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 22nd January, 1919.

Private Charles George Matthews died at 6.30 a.m. on 29th January, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Acute Pneumonia (Broncho Pneumonia).

A death for C. G. Matthews, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Charles George Matthews was buried at 3 p.m. on 3rd February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England – Grave no. 41.

From the burial report of Private Matthews - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from No. 1 Command Depot. Six Australians supported the Pall. An Officer and 50 other Ranks followed the remains and were present at the graveside Ceremony. The “Last Post” was sounded and three volleys fired over the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Susan Jones, mother of late Private C. G. Matthews, of 104 Blythe St, Brunswick, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 16th January, 1919 advising that she had not heard from her son since he sailed from Melbourne on 5th October, 1918.

A reply was sent dated 28th January, 1919 advising Mrs Jones that the transport on which her son Private C. G. Matthews had arrived safely at its destination and as no further information was available regarding Private Matthews it was assumed that he was with his Unit.

Private Charles George Matthews requested in his Will dated 1st October, 1918 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Susan Jones of 104 Bligh St, East Brunswick, Victoria.

Private Charles George Matthews was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also produced in honour of soldiers who had died & were sent to the next-of-kin. Private Matthews' father was deceased so his next-of-kin was listed as his mother - Mrs Susan Jones who signed for receipt of the Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque in December, 1922. She had also signed for receipt of the personal effects of Private Matthews in August, 1919. Susan Jones' last contact address held by the Army was 88 Albert St, West Brunswick, Victoria.

Enquiries were made by the Army & in a letter dated 12th July, 1921 the following was written regarding the location of S. Jones of 26 Carnarvon St, Brunswick (last known address as advised by Mrs S. Jones in November, 1919 & the same address Mrs Jones was residing at when she received the War Gratuity payment): "*This person is not on the Electoral Rolls but ascertained moved to Roden St, Nth Melbourne. Following up enquiries at 154 Chapel St and 215 Abbotsford St, Nth Melbourne was informed by Mrs Black, butcher of 213 Abbotsford St that Mrs S. Jones from Brunswick lodged with her 3 years ago but sold up her home & went to NSW but locality there unknown.*" As a result of the enquiry, the War Medal entitled to Private Matthews was sent to the "Untraceables" section as the next-of-kin could not be located. A signed receipt by Mrs S. Jones dated 26th September, 1922 for British War Medal is included in Private Matthews Service Record file.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles George Matthews, 63313, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Private C. G. Matthews is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 66.

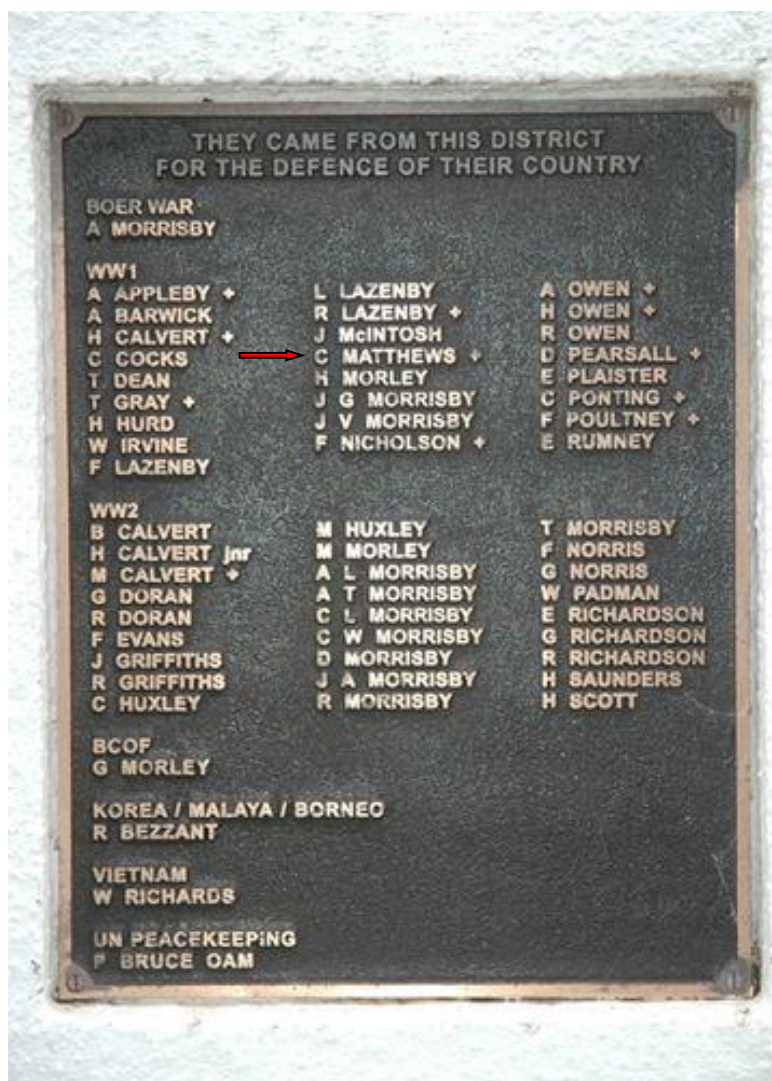


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Matthews is remembered on the South Arm War Memorial located at South Arm & Jetty Roads, South Arm, Tasmania.



South Arm War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)



Charles George Matthews is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

549	Pte	Devins	Robert Thomas	18.04.1919	32	28th Inf Bn	Garden Isle Cr	ANZAC
1240	L/Cpl	Dooling	John William	28.01.1919	19	12th Inf Bn	Westbury	
63369	Pte	Drake	Kenneth Grant	26.01.1919	22	26th Inf Bn	Devonport	ANZAC
1087	Pte	Fannon	Clyde	26.01.1919	24	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Oatlands	ANZAC
617	Trpr	Ferrar	Michael Edward	25.08.1919	24	52nd Inf Bn	Ross	ANZAC
2456	Pte	Fisher	Robert Charles	12.11.1919	24	40th Inf Bn	Sheffield	
5699	Pte	Fox	Charles Francis	23.09.1919	38	1 Div Arty HQ	Hobart	
38731	Gnr	Garrett	Francis Henry	23.03.1919	31	13th Fd Arty Bde	Waratah	
1530	Pte	Griffiths	David Edgar	23.01.1919	24	12th Inf Bn	Zeehan	
63287	Pte	Hall	Henry James W	03.02.1919	20	40th Inf Bn	Wynyard	
3140	Pte	Harman	Albert	04.09.1919	22	NZEF CIB	Deloraine	nk
8/2610	Pte	Hartnett	Philip John	17.03.1919	30	12th Inf Bn	Mathinna	
7999	Pte	Hay	Bertram	04.02.1919	24	HMAS Arawa	Launceston	
	Sig	Higge	Hugh Cordroy	03.04.1919	21	12th Inf Bn	Perth	ANZAC
235	Pte	Holman	Hedley George	28.08.1919	29	12th Inf Bn	Newtown	
6753	Pte	Jeschek	Frank	23.08.1919	32	2nd Div Sig Engrs	Cairick	
8911	Sapr	Jones	William Robert	07.06.1919	23	40th Inf Bn	Rokeby	
3342	Pte	Jordan	Alan Bertram	09.11.1919	26	Railway Coy	Campania	
2813	Sapr	Kelly	Perchal James	26.01.1919	31	40th Inf Bn	Tunnack	
1853	Pte	Kelly	Thomas William	16.11.1919	29	40th Inf Bn	Deloraine	
2353	Pte	Kelly	Walter Ernest John	23.11.1919	42	40th Inf Bn	St Helens	
	Capt	Kirwan MBE	Theodors James	11.06.1919	28	9th Inf Bde HQ	Hobart	
12	L/Cpl	Knight	William	01.03.1919	32	Ordinance Corps	Hobart	ANZAC
2255	Cpl	Leitch	William Douglas	04.05.1919	34	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Abbotsham	ANZAC
(511)	Lt	Lettis	Alfred Doran	03.09.1919	46	39th Inf Bn	Hobart	
1719	Pte	Lindsay	Alfred Arthur John	17.06.1919	36	2nd Tunnel Coy	Hobart	
6006	Sapr	Llewellyn	Robert	13.07.1919	46	52nd Inf Bn	Campbelltown	
2930	Pte	Lucas	William George	08.02.1919	31	12th Inf Bn	Woodbridge	ANZAC
2887	Sgt	Lucas	Roy Kenneth	16.01.1919	24	12th Inf Bn	South Arm	
63313	Pte	Matthews	Charles George	29.01.1919	20	47th Inf Bn	Port Arthur	ANZAC
2515	Pte	McArthur	George William	07.10.1919	26	7 Trng Sqn AFC	Hobart	
3261	AM II	McGuffie	Roy Nelson Victor	19.02.1919	31	1st Pioneer Bn	Launceston	
4141B	Dvr	McIntyre	Robert John	28.01.1919	36	4th Inf Div HQ	Hobart	
2744	Pte	McPherson	Percy Thomas	11.02.1919	28	12th Inf Bn	Granfont	ANZAC
466	Pte	Mears MM	Arthur Albert	07.03.1919	27	40th Inf Bn	Latrobe	
747	Pte	Mennie	Leonard Stanley	31.08.1919	19	5 Div Signal Coy	Launceston	
2848A	Sapr	Metcher	Claude Tasman	19.02.1919	25	1st Div HQ	Cyghet	
3322	L/Sgt	Mills	Charles Stuart	16.02.1919	27	1st Tunnel Coy	Claremont	
7471	Sapr	Moody	Joseph	13.02.1919	30			

(58 pages of Private Charles George 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

ROLL OF HONOUR

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte C. G. Matthews, Eats Brunswick, Vic., 29/1/19

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Wednesday 19 February, 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 Charles George Matthews does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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 *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of C. G. Matthews's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)