

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



61992 PRIVATE

A. McKELVIE

AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT

4TH FEBRUARY, 1919 AGE 21

Blessed Is He

Whose Transgression

Is Forgiven

Whose Sin is Covered

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. McKelvie is located in
Grave Plot # 49. D. 22. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Archibald McKELVIE

Archibald McKelvie was born at East Brighton, Victoria on 6th January, 1898 to parents Alexander & Martha McKelvie (nee Brown). He was a 20 year old, Single, Market Gardener from Centre Road, Clarinda, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 28th May, 1918 with the 13th (V) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 61992 & his religion was P. B. (Plymouth Brethren). His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. McKelvie of Centre Road, Clarinda, Victoria. Archibald had served 3 years with Senior Cadets.

The State Recruiting Committee of Victoria sent a form to Alexander McKelvie, (father of Archibald), dated 31st May, 1918 which stated that Archibald McKelvie had presented himself for enlistment & asking if there was any objection to him enlisting. The form was completed & signed by Alexander & Martha McKelvie stating that they did object – “Not until he is twenty one”.

Private Archibald McKelvie was a Camp at Broadmeadows, Victoria before he embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918. He had been admitted to Ship's Hospital with Influenza on 27th November, 1918 while at sea & was admitted to Military Hospital at Chatham on arrival in England on 5th December, 1918.

Pte McKelvie was discharged from Hospital on 12th December, 1918 & granted leave. He reported to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 13th December, 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 Archibald McKelvie was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 28th January, 1919 with Broncho Pneumonia, dangerously ill.

Private Archibald McKelvie died at 10 a.m. on 4th February, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho Pneumonia.

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

Private Archibald McKelvie was buried on 8th February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 49. From the burial report of Pte McKelvie - *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 preceded by a Firing Party from the No. 1 Australian Command Depot Sutton Veny. Six of deceased's Unit comrades supported the Pall. The funeral was attended by 2 Officers and about 50 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 Archibald McKelvie requested in his Will dated 9th August, 1918 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Mrs Martha McKelvie of Clarinda, Victoria.

Pte Archibald McKelvie 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 McKelvie's father – Mr A. McKelvie (sent July, 1921 & October, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Archibald McKelvie, 61992, of 13th Australian Reinforcement, A.I.F., as the son of Alexander and Martha McKelvie of Centre Rd, Clarinda, Victoria.

Private A. McKelvie is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

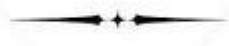
A. McKelvie is also remembered on the Clarinda Primary School Roll of Honour.



Clarinda Primary School Roll of Honour

(47 pages of Pte Archibald McKelvie'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.





Private Archibald McKelvie



Newspaper Reports

DIED ON SERVICE

McKELVIE – On the 4th February, 1919, at the First Aus. Hospital, Rouen, France, from pneumonia, Private Archie McKelvie, dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs A. McKelvie, Centre Road, Clarinda.

Deeply mourned.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – Friday 14 December, 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*)

Pte Archibald McKelvie does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Blessed Is He Whose Transgression Is Forgiven Whose Sin Is Covered

Photo of Private A. McKelvie'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)*

