

**Wembdon Road Cemetery,  
Bridgwater, Somerset**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2355 PRIVATE**

**H. MORGAN**

**AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS**

**8TH MAY, 1918    Age 25**

*What Greater Love ?*

*He Gave His Life*

*That We Might Live*

## Henry MORGAN

Henry Morgan was born at Bridgwater, Somerset, England in 1893 to parents Charles and Ellen Morgan (nee Brewer). He was baptised on 24th December, 1893 in the Parish Church at Wrington, Somerset, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Henry Morgan as an 8 year old, living with his family at 2 Hampton Terrace, Bridgwater, Somerset, England. His parents were listed as Charles Morgan (Manager of Collar Works, aged 42) & Ellen Morgan (aged 36). Also listed was Henry's younger brother - Herbert (aged 6) & a Domestic Servant – Florence Dymont (aged 21).

Henry Morgan was educated at Collegiate.

The 1911 England Census recorded Henry Morgan as an 18 year old, learning Farming, living with his family at Haygrove, Bridgwater, Somerset in a 10 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Charles Morgan (Manager of Collar Works, aged 52) & Ellen Morgan (aged 46). Charles & Ellen Morgan had been married for 21 years & had 4 children, 2 having since died. Also listed was Henry's younger brother - Herbert (Learning Collar Making, aged 16).

Charles Morgan, father of Henry Morgan, died on 19th October, 1912 at Bridgwater, Somerset, England.

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Henry Morgan came to Australia when he was 20 years old.

Henry Morgan was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Hillgrove, NSW when he enlisted at Armidale, NSW on 18th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2355 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Ellen Morgan, Cranleigh Gardens, Bridgewater, Somerset, England.

Private Henry Morgan was posted to Armidale Depot Battalion on 18th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was posted to 5th Reinforcements of 33rd Battalion at Rutherford, NSW on 25th August, 1916 then transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 33rd Battalion at Rutherford on 2nd September, 1916.

Private Henry Morgan embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 17th October, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 33rd Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

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 Henry Morgan was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire, England on 12th January, 1917.

Private Henry Morgan proceeded overseas via Folkestone on 13th March, 1917 from 9th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 14th March, 1917 then marched out to his Unit on 17th March, 1917. Private Morgan was taken on strength of 33rd Battalion in the Field on 19th March, 1917 from Reinforcements.

### 33rd Battalion

The 33rd Battalion was formed in January 1916 at a camp established at the Armidale showground in New South Wales. The bulk of the battalion's recruits were drawn from the New England region and thus it was dubbed "New England's Own". The Battalion's first, and only, commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Morshead, who would become famous as the commander of the 9th Australian Division during the Second World War.

..... The Battalion had to wait until the emphasis of British and Dominion operations switched to the Ypres Sector of Belgium in mid-1917 to take part in its first major battle; this was the battle of Messines, launched on 7 June. The battalion held the ground captured during the battle for several days afterwards and was subjected to intense artillery bombardment. One soldier wrote that holding the line at Messines was far worse than taking it. The battalion's next major battle was around Passchendaele on 12 October. *(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Henry Morgan was transferred to 9th Machine Gun Company on 8th October, 1917 & was taken on strength of 9th Machine Gun Company the same day.

Private Henry Morgan was on Leave to England from 31st January, 1918 & rejoined from Leave on 16th February, 1918.

Private Henry Morgan was wounded in action – Gassed on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 55th Field Ambulance on 17th April, 1918 suffering effects of “*Gassed wd shell*” then transferred the same day to 41st Casualty Clearing Station. Private Morgan was transferred & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 21st April, 1918. He was invalided to England on 21st April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

Private Henry Morgan was admitted to V.A.D. Hospital at Cheltenham, England on 22nd April, 1918 & was reported as dangerously ill. (Hospital Admissions form records “New Court, Cheltenham”). He developed broncho-pneumonia.

Private Henry Morgan died at 2.30 am on 8th May, 1918 at 2nd Southern General Hospital, Cheltenham, England from wounds received in action – Gassed (Note: being gassed was also classed as wounds received in action.)

A death for Henry Morgan, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Henry Morgan was buried on 10th May, 1918 in Wembdon Road Cemetery, Bridgwater, Somerset, England – Plot number Chapel Portion. A. 26. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Henry Morgan - *Coffin was polished oak. The deceased soldier was buried privately. The coffin draped with the Union Jack, was conveyed by Hearse to Wemdon Road Cemetery. After a short service in the Chapel, the burial took place at 4 o'clock. Some fine wreaths were sent by the following :- Cheltenham Branch of Victoria League, Mrs Pitman, Commandant and staff of New Court Hospital Cheltenham, Australian patients from New Court Hospital, also uncles and cousin of Deceased. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives & Friends present at the Funeral – Mother – Mrs Ellen Morgan, 3 Taunton Road, Bridgewater. Uncles – Mr H. Counsell, Bristol, Mr H. B. Dight, Bridgewater. Cousins – Mr G. Collins, Wrington, Mr S. Drew, Mr C. Gower, Bridgewater, Mr W. Gibbins, Bridgewater. (Spelling of Bridgewater as per Burial Report).

Newspaper item – Gloucestershire Echo, England – 11 May, 1918:

### **AUSTRALIAN'S FUNERAL IN CHELTENHAM**

*The remains of Pte H. Morgan, of the Australian M.G.C., who died at New Court Hospital on Wednesday, were conveyed from that hospital to the Midland Station on Friday morning for interment at Bridgwater. Following the coffin through the grounds of the hospital were Miss King (Commandant), the sisters and staff, and Mr J. H. W. Fulton (hon. sec.), also a number of the patients under Sergt Giles. The procession passed in front of the hospital between two ranks of men unable to walk. From the hospital to the station the procession consisted of a carriage containing wounded Australian soldiers, followed again by the patients under Sergt. Giles. Covering the coffin was the Union Jack, and the Australian flag was draped behind it. Beautiful wreaths were sent by the hospital staff, his fellow patients, Australian Patients at New Court, the Victoria League, and Mrs Waterfield.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Henry Morgan contains a letter from Silwood, The Park, Cheltenham which reads: “*I regret to say that another death has occurred among the Australians who arrived \_\_\_\_\_ on the 22nd April. Pte H. Morgan, 2355 of the 9th M.G.C. died at New Court yesterday. He is to be buried in Somerset where some of his family are living.*”

Private Henry Morgan was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Morgan's mother – Mrs E. Morgan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Morgan – service number 2355, aged 25, of 3rd Bn., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of Charles and Ellen Morgan, of 2 Hampton Terrace, Bridgwater, Somerset, England.

Private H. Morgan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 176.



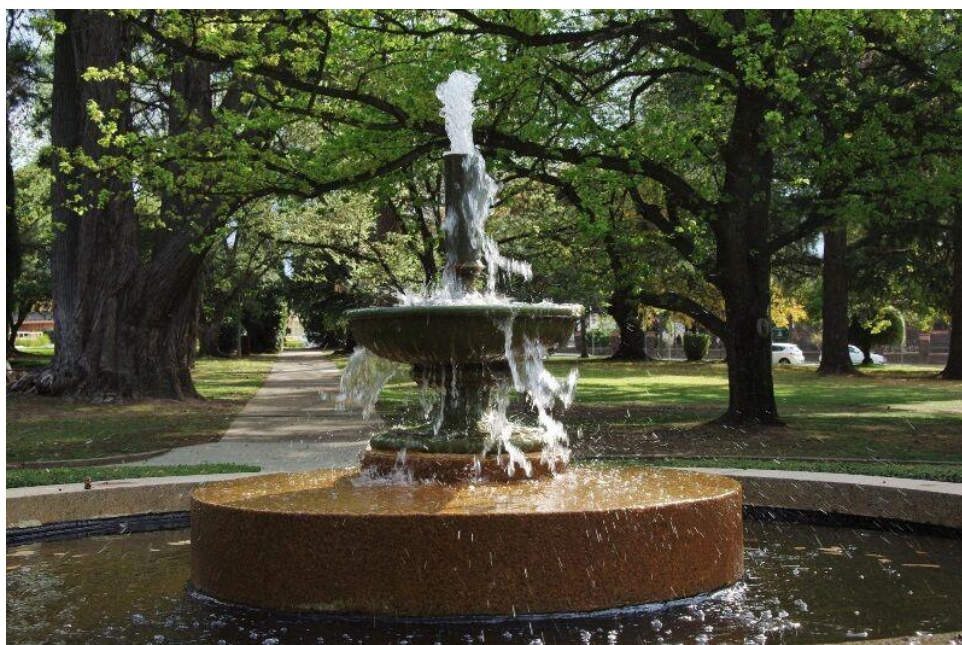
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

The Hillgrove War Memorial, located at Bracken & Wood Streets, Hillgrove, NSW does not list individual names.



**Hillgrove War Memorial** (Photo from Monument Australia – Tom Bird)

H. Morgan is remembered on the Armidale Memorial Fountain, located in Central Park, Barney Street, Armidale, NSW.



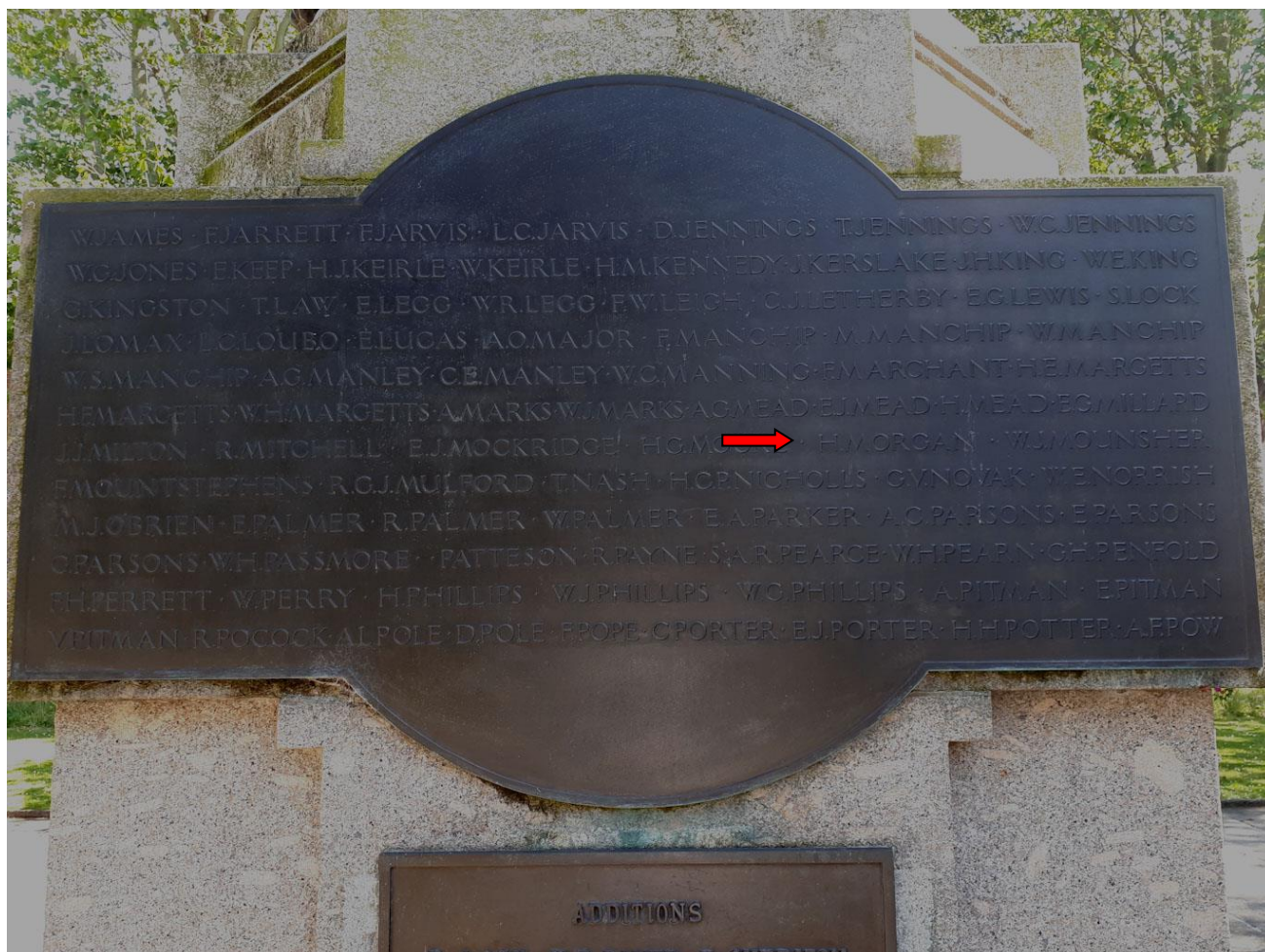
Armidale Memorial Fountain (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW)



H. Morgan is remembered on the Bridgwater War Memorial, located in King Square, Bridgwater, Somerset, England.



**Bridgwater War Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials Online)



(56 pages of Private Henry Morgan'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**

### **LOCAL WAR NOTES**

#### **ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN DEAD**

The death occurred at New Court Hospital on Wednesday morning of another of those gallant Australian soldiers who were brought to Cheltenham on the 22nd April suffering from gas poisoning, the victim being Pte H. Morgan, of the Machine Gun Corps. This makes the seventh death among the patients of that convoy. Pte Morgan was 26 years of age. His mother lives at Bridgwater, and his remains will be removed to that town for burial.

*(Gloucestershire Echo, England – 8 May, 1918)*

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### **CASUALTY LIST**

#### **LARGE NUMBER GASSED**

The 405th casualty list of the A.I.F. was issued to-day....

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

H. MORGAN, England (gas, prev. rep. wounded)

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 30 May, 1918)*

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#### **HILLGROVE SOLDIERS' FUNERAL**

A Bridgwater (England) paper gives an account of the funeral of the late Pte. Henry Morgan, of a machine-gun corps with the Australian Infantry, who died in England from the effects of gas, received in France. Deceased was a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. William Morgan, Hillgrove, and enlisted from that town. He was 25 years of age, and has another brother fighting in France. He came out to Australia about six years ago, and went to England with a contingent a year ago last Christmas. The interment was made in the grave of deceased's late father. The funeral was a private one, but the Union Jack, with which the coffin was enwrapped, was a symbol that there was being borne to his last resting place one who had fought and died for his country. Many beautiful wreaths surmounted the coffin.

*(The Armidale Chronicle, NSW, Australia – 20 July, 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. 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 H. Morgan does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*What Greater Love ?*

*He Gave His Life That We Might Live*

### **Wembdon Road Cemetery, Bridgwater, Somerset, England**

There are two sections to this cemetery, the Chapel Portion and the St. Mary's Church Portion.

There are 35 Commonwealth War Grave Commission burials – 28 from World War 1 & 7 from World War 2.



**Wembdon Road Cemetery, Bridgwater** *(Photo by Ken Grainger – 2009)*





*(Photo by Janice Dennis – Find a Grave)*

Photo of Private H. Morgan's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wembdon Road Cemetery, Bridgwater, Somerset, England. (see new headstone below)



*(Photo by Janice Dennis – Find a Grave)*

Photo of Private H. Morgan's New Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wembdon Road Cemetery, Bridgwater, Somerset, England.





*(Photo from Find a Grave – Notes – Dec 2021)*