

# Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England

## War Graves

### World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



18356 PRIVATE

**R. H. K. MURRAY**

**AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.**

**19TH JULY, 1919 AGE 23**

*A Beautiful Life*

*Nobly Ended*

*At Rest With The Lord*

CWGC Headstone for Private R. H. K. Murray is located in  
Grave Plot # 91. M. 4. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny

## Robert Hampden Keith MURRAY

Robert Hampden Keith Murray was born at Blackheath, New South Wales in early 1896 to parents Matthew & Ann Maria Murray (formerly Westerman, nee Venables).

Robert Hampden Keith Murray attended Public School at Blackheath, New South Wales.

Robert Hampden Murray was a 21 year old, single, Porter (Railway Employee) from Blackheath, NSW when he enlisted at Sydney, NSW on 3rd March, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr M. Murray of “Yarrim” Bundarra St, Blackheath, NSW. Robert Murray stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with 41st Infantry Militia for 4 years & was still serving.

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour – Robert Hampden Keith Murray had served as a Corporal in Militia in small arms Factory at Lithgow, NSW.

Private Robert Hampden Murray, Service number 18356, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales with the Army Medical Corps, July 1917 Reinforcements on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 31st October, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 26th December, 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 Robert Murray was marched in to A.A.M.C. (Australian Army Medical Corps) Training Depot on 27th December, 1917.

Private Robert Murray was written up for an Offence at Parkhouse. He was absent without leave from 22.00 on 6th February 1918 until 20.00 on 9th February, 1918. He was punished with 7 days Field Punishment & forfeited 4 days' pay.

Private Robert Murray proceeded Overseas to France from Parkhouse, via Southampton on 2nd April, 1918. He was marched in at Rouelles, France on 3 April, 1918. He was marched out to 2nd Dep. AAMC & taken on strength in the field with 7th Australian Field Ambulance “Supernumerary to Establishment” on 11th August, 1918. Pte Murray was taken on strength from Supp.to Establishment in 9th September, 1918.

Private Robert Murray was sent sick to Hospital on 28th December, 1918 & admitted with diarrhoea. He rejoined his Unit the same day.

Private Robert Murray was attached for duty with 5th Field Ambulance on 19th March, 1919 & attached for duty to 5/6/7 Field Ambulance on 24th March, 1919.

Private Robert Murray was marched out to England ready for return to Australia – Quota 33 on 13th April, 1919. He was admitted to 39th General Hospital on 16th April, 1919 with Scabies. Pte Murray was marched out to England on 24th April, 1919 & disembarked at Southampton on 25th April, 1919.

Private Robert Murray was marched in to No. 2 Group at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire the same day.

Private Robert Murray was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital on 29th April, 1919 with “I.C.T. Left Knee” He was discharged a month later, on 29th May, 1919 to Training Depot.

Private Robert Murray was marched out to A.A.M.C. Training Depot at Fovant, Wiltshire on 5th June, 1919. He was sent sick to hospital & admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital on 13th July, 1919 with a “swollen jaw”.

Private Robert Hampden Keith Murray died at 1 a.m. on 19th July, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of “Oedema of Face”.

A death for Robert H. K. Murray, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Robert Hampden Keith Murray was buried on 22nd July, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 91.

*From the burial report of Private Murray - Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried at ST. John the Evangelist Churchyard Sutton Veny. The coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Motor Ambulance preceded by a Firing Party from No. 2 Group, A.I.F., Sutton Veny. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral were – (Cousin) R. V. Murray, 61 Quota A.I.F. (Sutton Veny); (Friend) Mrs Deary, 5 Henille Rd, Bournemouth; (Friend) Miss Peggy Butler, 1 Stafford Road, Bournemouth.*

Private Robert Hampden Keith Murray requested in his Will dated 20th August, 1917 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Annie Maria Murray.

Private Robert Hampden Keith Murray was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Murray's father – Mr M. Murray (sent June, 1921 & November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Private Robert Hampden Murray, 18356, of 7th Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps, A.I.F., as the son of Matthew and Ann Maria Murray, of "Yarrum", Bundarra St, Blackheath, New South Wales.

Private R. H. K. Murray is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



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

R. H. K. Murray is also remembered on the Blackheath World War 1 Honour Roll which is located at Blackheath Library & Community Centre, cnr Great Western Highway & Gardiner Crescent, Blackheath, NSW.



**Blackheath World War 1 Honour Roll** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)





R. H. K. Murray is also remembered on the Blackheath War Memorial Arch which stands at the entrance to Memorial Park, Great Western Highway, Blackheath, NSW.



**Blackheath War Memorial Arch** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)





Robert Hampden Murray is remembered on the Blackheath Soldiers Memorial Park & Remembrance Walk.

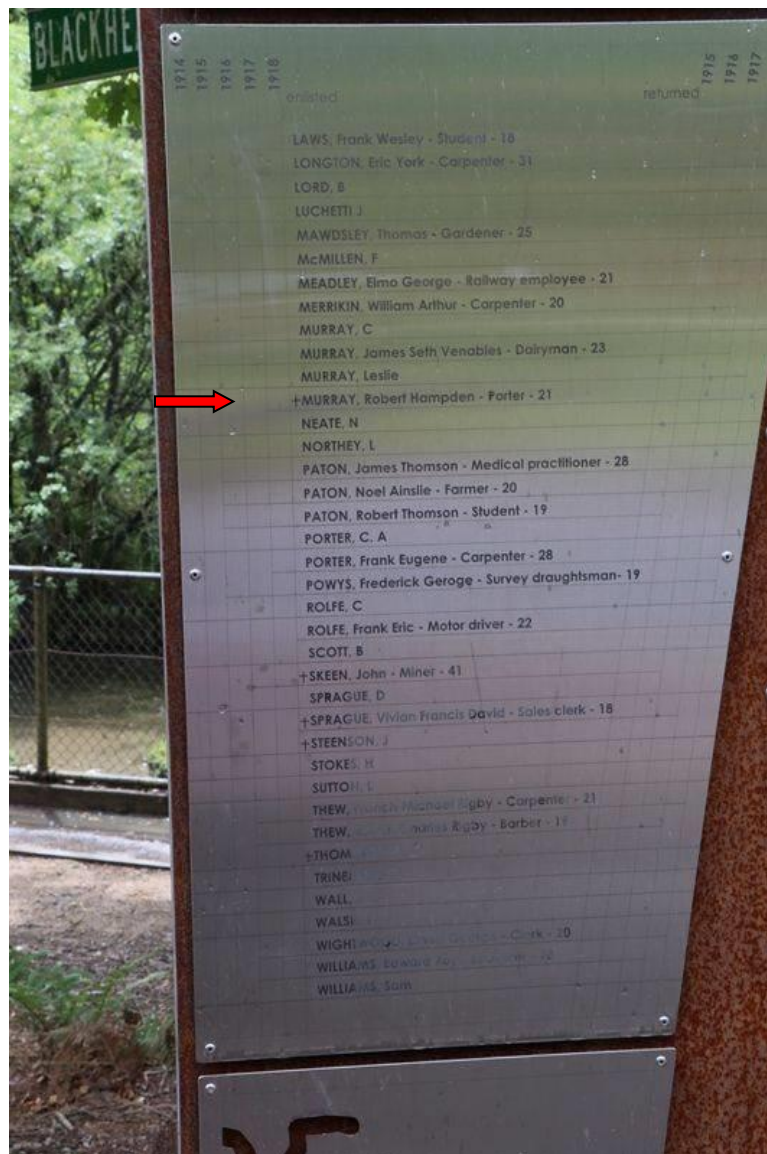
*Blackheath Soldiers Memorial Park was established to commemorate those who served in World War One. The park contains the Remembrance Walk which commemorates the 77 volunteers from Blackheath by the planting of rhododendrons in the park.*

*On the 25th April 2019, a Centenary Gate commemorating the centenary of World War One was unveiled at the Prince Edward Street entrance to the park. The gate lists the names of those who served.*

(Information from Monument Australia)



**Blackheath Centenary Gate**





R. H. K. Murray is also remembered on the Remembrance Walk in Blackheath Memorial Park, located at Park Avenue & Prince Edward Street, Blackheath, NSW.

*Blackheath Soldiers Memorial Park was established to commemorate those who served in World War One. The park contains the Remembrance Walk which commemorates the 77 volunteers from Blackheath by the planting of rhododendrons in the park. (Information from Monument Australia)*



**Blackheath Remembrance Walk** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)







R. H. K. Murray is remembered on the NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour, located at Country Trains Concourse, Eddy Avenue, Haymarket, Sydney, NSW.



**NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour**

*(Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)*







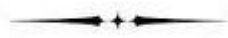
NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour

(Panel photo - Jennifer Edmonds)



(81 pages of Private Robert Hampden Murray'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing file) & National Archives.*



\*\*Connected to Private Robert Hampden Keith Murray:

(Brother) James Seth Venables Murray, 431, embarked on 18th October, 1914. Part of Gallipoli campaign 1915. Returned to Australia 24th November, 1918. Discharged 23rd January, 1919. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

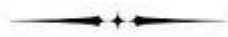
Newspaper Article

*Blackheath – The death occurred at Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, on Friday, of James Seth Venables Murray, after a severe illness. The body was brought back to Blackheath and interred in St. Alban's Cemetery on Saturday. Deceased was the first volunteer from Blackheath for the Great War, and saw four and a half years' service. Returned soldiers acted as pall-bearers, and 30 returned mates precede the cortege.*

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – May 26, 1931)*



(Brother) Randolph Leslie Murray, 2591, embarked 19th December, 1914. Wounded in 1915 at Anzac Cove. Returned to Australia 13th October, 1918. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



**Newspaper Reports**

**ROLL OF HONOUR**

MURRAY – July 19, at Sutton Veney, Military Hospital, England, Pte Robert Hampden Keith Murray, 7th A.F.A., dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs M. Murray, Yarrum, Blackheath, aged 23 years.

MURRAY – Died of illness at the Gen. Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, England, July 19, 1919, Pte R. H. K. Murray, 7th Fld. Amb., A.I.F., aged 23 years, son of Mr and Mrs M. Murray, Blackheath. Being dead, he liveth for evermore. By his friends, W. Stimson, Victor, and Hilda, Lewisham.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 2 August, 1919)*

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**ROLL OF HONOUR**

MURRAY – July 19, at Sutton Veny, Military Hospital, England, Pte R. H. K. Murray, 7th Field. Ambulance, A.I.F., dearly loved friend of Elsie Bagnall, Watersleigh. Deeply mourned.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 4 August, 1919)*

## THE 470TH CASUALTY LIST

### DEATHS

Pte R. H. K. Murray (Blackheath), died from illness

(*The Farmer and Settler*, Sydney, NSW – Tuesday 19 August, 1919)

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### ON ACTIVE SERVICE

MURRAY – In loving memory of my dear friend, Private R. H. K. Murray (Bob), died at Sutton Veny, July 19, 1919.  
Inserted by his friend Elsie Bagnall.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – Monday 19 July, 1920)

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Robert H. K. Murray is remembered on the family headstone in Blackheath Cemetery, Blue Mountains, New South Wales.



**Blackheath Cemetery**





**Murray Family Headstone** (Photo from Find a Grave – Jenlee86)

#### 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)*

A letter from Base Records to Mr M. Murray, father of late Pte R. H. K. Murray, dated 23rd July, 1921, advised that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on his son's Headstone in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

Private Robert Hampden Keith Murray does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*A Beautiful Life Nobly Ended At Rest With The Lord*

## 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





Photo of Private R. H. K. Murray's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*