

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**59584 PRIVATE**

**H. RYAN**

**AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT**

**6TH FEBRUARY, 1919 AGE 23**

*CWGC Headstone for Pte H. Ryan is located in  
Grave Plot # 68. J. 8. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Herbert RYAN

Herbert Ryan was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 1895 at Bailey Park, St. Marys, NSW to parents John Napoleon Ryan and Mary Hills Ryan (nee Morphett). He was a 22 year old, single, Labourer (Fencing Contractor) from St. Marys, NSW when he enlisted at Sydney, NSW on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 with the 13<sup>th</sup> (N) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 59584 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Napoleon Ryan of Bayley Park, St. Marys, NSW.

Private Herbert Ryan embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. Pte Ryan was written up for an Offence while at Sea – smoking below deck on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. Punishment was admonished by Brig. Gen. F. G. Hughes on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. Pte Ryan was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1918 with Mumps. He disembarked In England on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 & was transferred to a U.K. Hospital.

Pte Ryan was admitted to Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham with Mumps on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918. He was discharged on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 & was to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

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 Herbert Ryan was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1915.

Pte Ryan was marched out to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1918 & marched in from 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1919.

Private Herbert Ryan sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1919 dangerously ill with Influenza & was then transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Private Herbert Ryan died at 6.30 pm on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Herbert Ryan, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Herbert Ryan was buried on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 68. From the burial report of Pte Ryan - *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 No. 1 Australian Command Depot. The Pall was supported by six members of deceased's late Unit. The funeral was attended by 2 Officers and about 80 N.C.O.'s and Men who followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in U.K. were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Herbert Ryan requested in his Will dated 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 that the whole of his Property & Effects be left to his mother – Mary Hills Ryan.

Pte Herbert Ryan 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 Ryan's father – Mr J. N. Ryan (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Herbert Ryan, 59584, of 13th Australian Reinforcement, A.I.F., as the son of John Napoleon Ryan and Mary Hills Ryan of Barley Park, Luddenham Rd, St. Marys, New South Wales.

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

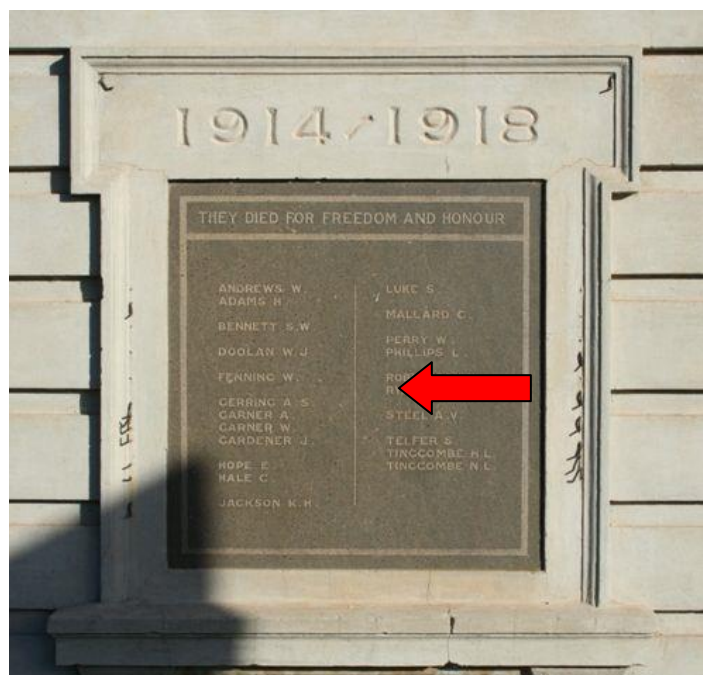


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

H. Ryan is remembered on the St. Marys War Memorial located in Victoria Park, Great Western Highway, St. Marys, NSW.



**St. Marys War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Stephen Woods)



(63 pages of Pte Herbert Ryan'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.*



**Pte Herbert Ryan**

## **Newspaper Reports**

### **ST. MARYS**

Mr. Herbert Ryan, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Ryan, of Bailey Park, St. Marys, died of illness on the 6th Feb. at the 1st Australian Hospital, England, the cause of death being influenza. He was admitted to the hospital on January 30th, their being at the time some 400 men from his battalion ill with the same complaint. This young soldier left Australia on the 18th July last; he was ill on the voyage over, and was sent to the hospital directly he arrived in England. He was 23 years of age, and the deepest sympathy is felt for the bereaved relatives. Some three years ago this unfortunate family was burnt out at Bailey Park, losing practically everything.

*(Nepean Times, Penrith, NSW – Saturday 28 June, 1919)*

## THE LATE PTE H. RYAN

Mrs. J. N. Ryan, of Bailey Park, St. Marys, has received the following communication from Base Records Office, Melbourne, under date June 7: — With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 59584, Private H. Ryan, General Service Reinforcements, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he was admitted to 1st Australian general hospital, Sutton Veny, England, on 29th January. 1919, suffering with influenza (dangerously ill), where he died on the 6th February, 1919, from broncho pneumonia. He was buried on the 11th ideam in St. John the Evangelist church-yard, Sutton Veny, England, separate single grave in virgin soil, consecrated ground, Chaplain the Rev. T. McKeown (Church of England) officiating. The deceased soldier was buried with full military honors, the coffin (elm with brass mounts) draped with the Australian flag, being borne to the graveside on a gun-carriage, preceded by a firing party from No. 1 Australian command depot. The pall was supported by six members of deceased's late unit. The funeral was attended by two officers and about eighty non-commissioned officers and men who followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. The utmost care and attention is being devoted where possible to the graves of our soldiers. It is understood that photographs are being taken as soon as is possible, and these will be transmitted to next-of-kin when available. These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the department to forward all information received in connection with deaths of the Australian Imperial Force.

*(Nepean Times, Penrith, NSW – Saturday 28 June, 1919)*

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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 Herbert Ryan does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Photo of Private H. Ryan'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)*