

# Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England

## War Graves

### World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**51187 PRIVATE**

**J. J. STOOPS**

**2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**20TH OCTOBER, 1918**

*CWGC Headstone for Pte J. J. Stoops is located in  
Grave Plot # 2. F. 2. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*



Private John Jacob Stoops was buried on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 at 3pm in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 2. From the burial report of Private Stoops - *Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mounts – The deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag was conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased's comrades supported the Pall. The funeral was attended by 3 Officers and about 80 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Unit. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private John Jacob Stoops requested in his Will, dated 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1918, that he bequeath the whole of his Estate (both real & personal) to his mother – Mrs Sarah Stoops of Merewether.

Private John Jacob Stoops 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 Stoops' mother – Mrs S. Stoops (Scroll sent June, 1922 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. J. Stoops, 51187, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

J. Stoops is remembered on the Merewether Public School Roll of Honour, located in Merewether Public School, 6 Henry Street, Merewether, NSW.



Merewether Public School Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

J. J. Stoops is remembered on the Merewether Memorial Gates, located at the entrance to Mitchell Park, Mitchell & Robert Streets, Merewether, NSW.



**Merewether Memorial Gates** (Photos from Gary Mitchell)



Jacob Stoops is remembered on the Newcastle South Public School Great War Roll of Honour, located at The Junction Public School Hall, Union Street, The Junction, NSW.



**Newcastle South Public School Great War Roll of Honour** (Photo from War Memorials Register NSW)

Private J. J. Stoops is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 34.



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

(51 pages of Private John Jacob Stoops' 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**

### **MEREWETHER**

Mrs Stoops, of Morgan Street, Merewether, has been notified that her son, Private J. J. Stoops, has arrived in England.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, NSW – Saturday 28 September, 1918)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

STOOPS - In sad but loving memory of my dear son, Private John Jacob Stoops, died of illness in England October 20, 1918, aged 22 years 6 months.

Could only his mother have clasped his hand,  
The son we loved so well,  
Or kissed his brow when death was near,  
And whispered, my dear son, farewell.  
I seem to see his dear, kind face,  
As he bade me a last good-bye,  
His simple words, "Worry not."  
One year has passed, and none can tell  
The loss of one we loved so well,  
His heart was good, his spirit brave,  
His resting place a soldier's grave.  
To have, to love, and then to part,  
Is the saddest pain to a mother's heart.

Inserted by his loving mother and step-father, Mr and Mrs J. Sculthorpe, Adamstown.

STOOPS - In loving memory of my dear grandson, Private J. J. Stoops, who died at Sutton Venney October 20, 1918; aged 21 years.

When we see the boys returning,  
Our hearts do throb with pain,  
To think you are not there, dear Jake,  
And never will come home again.

Inserted by his loving grandmother, Mrs. S. Stoops, 82 Morgan-street, Merewether.

STOOPS - In loving memory of my dear brother, Private J. J. Stoops, who died at Sutton Venney October 20, 1918; aged 21 years.

Could I, his sister, have clasped his hand,  
The brother I loved so well,

Or kissed his brow when death was near,  
And whispered, my-brother, farewell.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother, E. and H. Lloyd, Merewether.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, NSW – Monday 20 October, 1919)*

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

STOOPS - In loving memory of our dear son, Private J. Stoops, died in England from illness October 20, 1918; aged 22 years.

A beautiful memory left behind  
Of a son, loving, true, and kind;  
We have lost, but heaven has gained  
One of the best this world contained.

Inserted by his loving mother and stepfather, Mrs. and Mr. Sculthorpe, Adamstown.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, NSW – Thursday 21 October, 1920)*

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

STOOPS - In loving memory of our dear son, Private J. J. Stoops, died with sickness in England on October 20, 1919: aged 24 years and 6 months.

No one he loved was by his side,  
Could witness his last faint sigh,  
Or whisper just one loving word  
Before he closed his eyes.

Inserted by his loving mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Sculthorpe, Adamstown. .

*(Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, NSW – Thursday 20 October, 1921)*

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

STOOPS - In loving memory of our darling son, Private J. J. Stoops, who died from illness October 20, 1917. While he lies in a peaceful sleep

His memory we will always keep.

Inserted by his loving mother and stepfather, M. and J. Sculthorpe and family, Adamstown.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, NSW – Saturday 21 October, 1922)*

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Gary Mitchell (World War 1 War Heroes Memorialised in Sandgate Cemetery, Newcastle, NSW) has erected a Memorial Cross with poppies on Private J. J. Stoop's father's unmarked grave in Sandgate Cemetery.



*(Photo by Gary Mitchell)*

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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)*

Private John Jacob Stoops 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

D00388

### Churchyard at Sutton Veny – April 1919

*A portion of the AIF Section of the parish church cemetery.*

*The crosses at the back, bearing elliptical tablets, mark the graves of German prisoners of war (POWs). The remainder of the graves shown in the photograph, with three exceptions where English soldiers are buried, are those of Australian soldiers. Identified, front row: 51187 Private John Jacob Stoops, 2nd Battalion, died 20 October 1918*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376

**St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny**





St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny



Photo of Private J. J. Stoops's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*