

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



56173 PRIVATE

BEDWELL WILLIAM SURMAN

10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

20TH OCTOBER, 1918 AGE 25

Hearts May Ache

Tears May Fall

For Freedom's Cause

He Gave His All

*CWGC Headstone for Pte B. W. Surman is located in
Grave Plot # 368A. E. 21. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Bedwell William SURMAN

Bedwell William Surman was born at Plumstead, near North Woolwich, London, England on 22nd October, 1893 to parents Charles James and Doris Elizabeth Mary Surman.

Doris Surman & her 2 sons – William & Albert Victor departed the port of Liverpool, England on 12th September, 1908 bound for Sydney, Australia aboard the *Suffolk*.

Bedwell William Surman was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Jamestown, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 3rd June, 1918 with the 3rd (S) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 56173 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mrs C. J. Surman of Turton Road, Georgetown, Waratah, NSW. He enlisted under the name William Surman.

Private William Surman embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 23rd July, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 27th September, 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 Surman was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 27th September, 1918 & allotted to Reinforcements on 10th Battalion.

Private William Surman was sent sick with Influenza to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 14th October, 1918. He was transferred to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 15th October, 1918 seriously ill.

Private (Bedwell) William Surman died at 6.20 am on 20th October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for William Surman, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Bedwell William Surman was buried at 1.30 pm on 23rd October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 368A. From the burial report of Pte Surman- *Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mounts – 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 1st Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pall Bearers. 2 Officers and about fifty N.C.O.'s and Men attended as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte William Surman requested in his Will, dated 10th June, 1918, that all his property be left to his mother – Doris Surman of Waratah, NSW.

Pte Bedwell William Surman 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 Surman's father – Mr C. J. Surman (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Bedwell William Surman, 56173, of 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Charles James and Doris Elizabeth Mary Surman of Robert Street, Jesmond, NSW. Born at Plumstead, London, England.

Private B. W. Surman is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 60.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. Surman is also remembered on the 1914-1919 Soldiers Memorial (Waratah Park Memorial Gates) which are located at the main road entrance to Waratah Park, corner Station & Platt Streets, Waratah, NSW.



Waratah Park Memorial Gates (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)

W. Surman is remembered on the National War Memorial in Adelaide which commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(42 pages of Pte Bedwell William Surman'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.



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

448th AND 449th CASUALTY LISTS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - DIED OF ILLNESS

Private W. Surman, Waratah, New South Wales, October 20.

(*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW – Saturday 30 November, 1918)

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 Bedwell William Surman does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Hearts May Ache Tears May Fall For Freedom's Cause He Gave His All

Photo of Private Bedwell William Surman'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*)

