

Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



4238 PRIVATE

W. R. SYLE

54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD SEPTEMBER, 1918 AGE 32

He Died For His Country

CWGC Headstone for Pte W. R. Syle is located in

Grave Plot # 356. E. 8. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny

William Robert SYLE

William Robert Syle was born at Richmond, Victoria on 8th January, 1886 to parents Leonard Robert Coulson Syle and Jane Leslie Syle (nee Gordon).

William Robert Syle married Ethel Mary Hume on 26th October, 1912 at Rockdale, NSW. They had 2 children – Marjorie Ada Syle (birth registered in 1913 at Rockdale, NSW) & Joyce Lilian Syle (birth registered in 1914 at Rockdale, NSW).

William Robert Syle was a 29 year old, married, Clerk from “Breton” Mitchell Street, Arncliffe, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Warwick Farm, NSW on 23rd August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4238 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. M. Syle of “Breton” Mitchell Street, Arncliffe, Sydney.

Private William Robert Syle embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 20th December, 1915 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements & disembarked at Egypt (date not recorded).

Private William Robert Syle was allotted to and proceeded to join 54th Battalion from Zeitoun on 16th February, 1916. He joined 54th Battalion on 21st February, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private William Robert Syle embarked on H.T. *Caledonian* from Alexandria to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private William Robert Syle was sent to Field Ambulance then transferred to 38th Casualty Clearing Station on 2nd November, 1916 with varicose veins. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Canadian General Hospital at Etaples on 16th November, 1916. From there he was transferred to 6th C.D. on 17th November, 1916. He was sent to Details & Classified P. on 18th November, 1916.

Private William Robert Syle was marched out to his Unit & rejoined his Unit on 7th December, 1916.

Private William Robert Syle was declared illegally absent by a court of enquiry from 2nd January, 1918. A Court Martial was held on 23rd May, 1918:

CHARGE – A.A. Sect. 12 (1a) When On Active Service deserting H.M. Forces, in that he, in the Field on the 2nd Day of Jan. 1918 absented himself from the 54th Bn. A.I.F. until apprehended in a small wood outside Harponville about 10 a.m. on the 28th March, 1918 by the Reg. M.P.

FINDING – Not guilty of desertion but guilty of A.W.L.

SENTENCE - 90 days F.P. No.1 (Field Punishment). Time Awaiting Trial – from 28/4/18 to 22/5/18 25 days. Total forfeiture 201 days' pay.

Mrs Ethel Syle received a letter from the Military on 21st May, 1918, advising her that her allotment would be stopped from next Monday on account of her husband Pte William Robert Syle being an absentee.

Private William Robert Syle was sent sick to Hospital from Detention on 17th August, 1918. He was taken to 11th Australian Field Ambulance with Debility then transferred to 61st Casualty Clearing Station & then transferred again on 19th August, 1918 to 10th General Hospital at Rouen with Diarrhoea. Private Syle was invalided to England from France on 24th August, 1918.

Private William Robert Syle was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 25th August, 1918 with Colitis (severe).

Private William Robert Syle died at 8.50 pm on 3rd September, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire of Tuberculosis generalised & Peritonitis generalised. Cause of death was verified by a Post Mortem.

A death for William R. Syle, aged 32, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private William Robert Syle was buried on 7th September, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 356. From the burial report of Private Syle - *Coffin was good polished Elm – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the gun carriage being preceded by a Firing Party and Band of the A.I.F. Overseas Training Brigade. Six Australians from the 54th Bn acted as pallbearers. About 100 Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men from the Overseas Training Bde attended as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private William Robert Syle was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Syle's widow – Mrs E. Syle (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Robert Syle, 4238, of 54th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Leonard Robert and Jane Syle; husband of E. M. Syle of 10 Beach St, Randwick, Sydney. Born at Richmond, Victoria. No family details are listed.

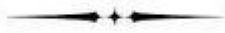
Private W. R. Syle is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 160.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(57 pages of Private William Robert Syle'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

ALLEGED FORGERY

CLERK COMMITTED FOR TRIAL

Yesterday at the Water Police Court Willie Alfred Sanderson Edmunds, a clerk, was before Mr Isaacs, S.M., on three charges of forging cheques purporting to be signed by L. C. Russell-Jones for payment of the sums of £54, £46, and £200.

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Robert Syle, Book-keeper at Petty's Hotel, stated that nobody of the name of Rawson stayed there in October of November last.

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(The Australian Star, Sydney, NSW – 7 February, 1906)

FOOTBALL

The Paddington Club (Australian rules) held its sixth annual meeting at the Grand View Hotel, Oxford-street, Mr T. Coleman being in the chair. The meeting was very well attended. The report submitted by the secretary, W. Robert Syle, expressed disappointment at the club finishing so low down in the premiership list....

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 3 March, 1909)

PADDINGTON CLUB

The Concordia Hall present a very bright appearance on Monday, when the Paddington Club held their first social evening of the year. Fully two hundred guests were there, and with the assistance of a bright string band dancing was indulged in.....

This is an indication of the numbers of supports Paddington have this year, and it must be very encouraging for their energetic secretary, Mr Robert Syle.

(The Star, Sydney, NSW – 28 April, 1909)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SYLE – Died on active service, September 3, 1918, Private W. R. (Bob), late of Petty's Hotel and Paddington Football Club. Inserted by his loving wife and children

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 12 October, 1918)

436th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Pte WM. ROBT. SYLE, Coogee (Illness)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Tuesday 22 October, 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)

Private William Robert Sytle does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Died For His Country



Photo of Private W. R. Syle's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photo from CWGC)