

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



280 PRIVATE

A. J. BRADDISH

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

4TH JULY, 1919 Age 32

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. J. Braddish is located in
Grave Plot # 90. M. 3. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Albert James BRADDISH

Albert James Braddish was born on 4th February, 1887 in Brisbane, Queensland to parents James Archibald & Elizabeth Barbara Braddish (nee Holland). He was a 29 year old, single, Plate-layer on Railways from 11 Staff Street, Footscray, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 3rd April, 1916 with the 2nd Machine Gun Company, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 280 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Braddish of 11 Staff Street, Footscray, Victoria.

Pte Albert James Braddish embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 4th May, 1916. He was taken on strength with 1st Division Depot at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt on 5th July, 1916.

Pte Braddish embarked from Alexandria for Overseas on HMS *Arcadia* on 29th July, 1916.

Pte Braddish was written up for an offence on 8th August, 1916 when “on train between Marseilles & Havre when ordered to re-enter Railway carriage while at a station using language prejudicial to Military discipline.” He was awarded a total forfeiture of 28 days’ pay.

Pte Braddish was written up for an offence on 10th August, 1916 at Salisbury for “Insolence to Sgt. in charge of Hut”. He was awarded 14 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks).

Pte Braddish was written up for an offence at Belton Park, England on 5th October, 1916 for “neglecting to obey a lawful order of an N.C.O.” He was awarded 14days C.B. (Confined to Barracks).

Pte Braddish was written up for an offence while at Grantham in October, 1916 – “absent without leave from 06.45 on 7.10.16 to 06.45 on 16.10.16.” He was awarded a total forfeiture of 25 days’ pay.

Pte Braddish proceeded to join British Expeditionary Force Overseas in France on 14th November, 1916 at Folkestone & disembarked at Boulogne, France on 15th November, 1916 from *Princess Henrietta*. He was taken on strength with 2nd Australian Machine Gun Company in France on 25th November, 1916.

Pte Braddish was admitted to 1st Australian R.R.S. on 11th January, 1917 & discharged to duty from 51st General Hospital at Etaples on 29th January, 1917.

Pte Braddish rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 11th May, 1917.

Pte Braddish was sent to Hospital in France on 12th July, 1917 with vertigo. He was sent again to hospital from Machine Gun Base Depot at Camiers on 5th August, 1917. He was invalided to England from 20th General Hospital, Camiers & admitted to Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England on 17th August, 1917 with right knee bursitis. He was in Hospital for 56 days then transferred on 10th October, 1917 to No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford & discharged on 15th October, 1917. Pte Braddish was then admitted to Hospital at Weymouth on 30th October, 1917 with Bursitis (2 incisions had been made in his knee). His disability was reported as B1A2 (fit for overseas traing camp in three to four weeks).

Pte Bradish was admitted to Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 4th November, 1917 – ‘states he is unable to bend knee completely’.

Pte Braddish was admitted to Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 13th November, 1917 due to his eyesight. He was sent to Weymouth with “defective vision” & glasses were ordered on 17th November, 1917.

Pte Braddish was written up for an offence at Sandhill – “Absent without leave from midnight on 5.3.18 until reporting back at 10 p.m. on 6.6.18”. This was admonished by Captain Chumleigh on 7th March, 1918 & Pte Braddish forfeited 1 days’ pay.

Pte Braddish was marched in to Hurdcott Camp, Wiltshire on 2nd July, 1918 & marched out on 12th July, 1918 to Overseas Training Battalion at Deverill. He was marched out to M.G. T. Depot at Parkhouse on 26th July, 1918.

Pte Braddish proceeded overseas to France on 21st August, 1918. He was marched in to Machine Gun B.D. in France on 22nd August, 1918. Pte Braddish rejoined his Unit on 27th August, 1918.

Pte Braddish was written up for an offence – “absent from leave from tattoo till 4 p.m. on 4/9/18”. He was awarded 7 days C.B. & forfeited a total of 8 days’ pay.

Pte Braddish was sick to 1st A. F. Amb.Hospital & admitted with Diarrhoea on 28th September, 1918. He rejoined his Unit – 1st Machine Gun Battalion in France on 3rd October, 1918.

Pte Braddish was sent to Hospital sick on 17th October, 1918 & admitted to Ophthalmic with defective vision. He rejoined his Battalion on 19th October, 1918.

Pte Braddish was absent without leave from 09.30 on 9th February until 21.30 on 10th February, 1919. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 7 days’ pay.

Pte Braddish was granted leave in UK from 13th March until 27th March, 1919. He rejoined his Battalion on 3rd April, 1919.

Pte Braddish was marched out to B/D Quota 32 on 10th April, 1919 & proceeded to England from Havre on 17th April, 1919. He was marched in from France to No. 1 Group in England on 18th April, 1919.

Private Albert James Braddish was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 11th June, 1919.

Private Albert James Braddish died at 8.30 p.m. on 4th July, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Cerebral Haemorrhage.

A death for Albert J. Braddish, aged 32, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte Albert James Braddish contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of his relatives to obtain the fullest possible details of the illness, death & burial of their son – Pte Braddish. A reply was made by Sister A. L. Bennett for Matron of No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, which reads:

“In reply to your letter concerning the illness, death and burial of 280 Pte A. J. Braddish 1st M.G. Battn. A.I.F. He was admitted to Hospital 11.6.19 with a temperature (rather obscure) for observation. On 23.6.19 he had a Cerebral Haemorrhage and was placed on the Dangerously Ill List, his people being notified by a cable from H. Qrs, also a letter written by Miss Gray, Matron, was forwarded. His condition was serious and gradually became worse, daily, resulting in his death 4.7.19. A second letter was dispatched 3.7.19, also a third 5.7.19 to his Mother. These letters will have reached Australia by now. He was interred in the Graveyard of St. John the Evangelist Church, Sutton Veny, with full Military honours.”

Private Albert James Braddish was buried on 9th July, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 90. From the burial report of Pte Braddish - *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. 2 Australian Group, Sutton Veny. Six of the deceased’s late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The “Last Post” was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A large number of Australians followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also attending the funeral were friends – Mrs Atack and Miss Molly Atack of 49 Horsemarket, Northampton.*

Pte Albert James Braddish requested in his Will, dated 15th June, 1916 at “Tebel-Kebir”, that all his property and effects (including all monies) be left to his mother – Elizabeth Braddish.

Pte Albert James Braddish was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Braddish’s father – Mr J. Braddish, Footscray, Victoria (sent February, 1922 & March, 1923).

The CWGC lists Private Albert James Braddish, 280, of 1st Battalion, Australian Machine Gun Corps., as the son of James and Elizabeth Barbara Braddish. Born at Brisbane, Queensland.

Private A. J. Braddish is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(82 pages of Pte Albert James Braddish'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) & National Archives.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P07359.001

Pte Albert James Braddish – Studio portrait 6 March 1918

Newspaper Reports

SOLDIERS' DEATHS REPORTED

The following Victorian soldiers are officially reported to have died of illness –

Pte A. J. Braddish, Footscray. 4.7.19

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Vic. – Tuesday 29 July, 1919)

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

The death of Private A. J. Braddish of Footscray has been official reported. He died on 4th July.

(*Independent*, Footscray, Vic. – Saturday 2 August, 1919)

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 Albert James Braddish does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Photo of Pte A. J. Braddish's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*