

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



2632 PRIVATE

A. T. JACOBS

1ST AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

23RD DECEMBER, 1918

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. T. Jacobs is located in
Grave Plot # 37. G. 8. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Arthur Thomas JACOBS

Arthur Thomas Jacobs was born at Waverley, NSW in 1890 to parents Harry & Mary Jacobs (nee Joils).

Arthur Thomas Jacobs was a 26 year old Single, Carpenter from 51 Spring Street, Waverley, NSW when he enlisted at Casula, NSW on 8th December, 1915 with the 17th Battalion, F Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Jacobs of 51 Spring Street, Waverley, NSW. A Medical report was completed at Casula on 17th December, 1915 on A. T. Jacobs. From the Medical report it was noted that Pte Jacobs had continuous headaches for about 3 weeks & violent headaches for about 2 years following a _____ 3 years ago at Bowen, Queensland. The Report stated that the cause of the headaches was probably a result of an old depressed fracture of skull & the Board recommended that he be discharged as medically unfit. Pte Arthur Thomas Jacobs was discharged on 28th December, 1915 – medically unfit (not due to misconduct).

Arthur Thomas Jacobs was a 26 year old Single, Carpenter from 51 Spring Street, Waverley, NSW when he re-enlisted at Sydney, NSW on 27th May, 1916 with the 1st Pioneer Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2632 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Jacobs of 51 Spring Street, Waverley, NSW (father deceased – 1907).

Private Arthur Thomas Jacobs embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 24th August, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 12th October, 1916. While at Sea, Pte Jacobs was admitted to the Ship's Hospital from 31st August to 8th September, 1916 with Bronchitis.

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 Arthur Thomas Jacobs was absent from 6th February, 1917 till he reported at Tattoo on 8th February, 1917. He was awarded 21 days confined to camp & forfeited a total of 12 days pay.

Pte Jacobs was written up for an offence at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 10th February, 1917 – for neglecting to obey RO on 11th August, 1916; breaking Camp & absent from Tattoo from 10th February, 1917 until apprehended 12.15 p.m. on 12th February, 1917. He was awarded 21 days detention & was in custody awaiting trial for 1 day. He was forfeited a total of 25 days pay at Larkhill on 14th February, 1917.

Private Arthur Thomas Jacobs proceeded overseas to France from Folkestone on 15th March, 1917. He joined 6th Div. Base at Etaples on 16th March, 1917 & proceeded to join his Unit from Etaples on 4th April, 1917. Pte Jacobs was admitted to 8th Field Ambulance with Tonsillitis on 4th April, 1917 then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then to No. 3 Canadian Stny. Hospital on 7th April, 1917. Pte Jacobs was discharged to duty on 24th April, 1917 & taken on strength with 1st Pioneer Battalion in the Field on 27th April, 1917.

Pte Jacobs was Absent without leave from Working Party from 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on 27th August, 1917. He was awarded 5 days Field Punishment on 19th August, 1917.

Pte Jacobs proceeded on leave to UK on 3rd March, 1918. He was admitted to Hospital while on leave on 19th March, 1918. Pte Jacobs was admitted to Military Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire from 16th April to 17th June, 1918 with V.D. He was then transferred to C. T. Depot at Parkhouse from 17th June to 11th July, 1918 with Syphilis. Pte Jacobs was then sent to No. 1 Con. Training Depot from 13th July, 1918 to 1st August, 1918. Pte Jacobs was medically classified at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire as B1 A3 – fit for overseas training camp in two or three weeks.

Pte Jacobs was absent without leave from 23.59 on 4th October, 1918 & returned at 08.00 on 10th October, 1918. He was awarded Field Punishment for 12 days & a total forfeiture of 18 days pay.

Private Arthur Thomas Jacobs was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 21st October, 1919.

Private Arthur Thomas Jacobs died at 6.05 p.m. on 23rd December, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Chronic Nephritis.

A death for Arthur T. Jacobs, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Thomas Jacobs was buried at 2.30 p.m. on 28th December, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 37. From the burial report of Pte Jacobs - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage. Firing Party was in attendance. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A 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 was (friend) Miss R. Gurd of 59 Park Street, Salisbury.*

Pte Arthur Thomas Jacobs requested in his Will dated 11th June, 191_ that all his Estate be left to his mother – Mary Jacobs.

Pte Arthur Thomas Jacobs was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Jacob's mother – Mrs M. Jacobs (both sent July, 1923).

Mrs Mary Jacobs, mother of late Pte Jacobs of 51 Spring St, Waverley, wrote a letter dated 6th January, 1923 stating that she had noticed in the Sydney Morning Herald on 1st January, 1923 a notice requesting the next of kin to contact Base Records. Information for the Roll of Honour for Pte Jacobs, which was usually completed by the next of kin was not completed. Base Records had previously tried to contact Mrs Jacobs on several occasions to find out if Pte Jacobs' father was deceased - if so she would be entitled to his medals & also to send forms for an inscription to be placed on her son's headstone. Several letters were not replied to by Mrs Jacobs.

The CWGC lists Private A. T. Jacobs, 2632, of 1st Australian Pioneers, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Private A. T. Jacobs is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 171.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. T. Jacobs is also remembered on Waverley Soldier's Memorial 1914 -1918 which is located in Waverley Park, Bondi Road, Bondi.

(OPC Note: In 1973, as a 12 year old School Captain of Bondi Wellington Street Public School, I was involved in the Remembrance Day Ceremony & was one of two representatives of the school to place a wreath on the World War 1 War Memorial. 41 years later I am researching one of those soldiers).



War Memorial in Waverley Park, Bondi

(90 pages of Pte Arthur Thomas Jacobs' 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

ROLL OF HONOUR

JACOBS – December 23, at Sutton Veney, England, Pte Arthur Thomas Jacobs, A.I.F., beloved son of Mary Jacobs and brother of Alfred and Albert Jacobs, aged 29 years, of 51 Spring Street, Waverley.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Tuesday 7 January, 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)

A letter from Base Records to Mrs Jacobs of 51 Spring St, Waverley, dated 15th July, 1921, advised that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on Pte A. T. Jacobs' Headstone in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

Pte Arthur Thomas Jacobs does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Photo of Private A. T. Jacobs' 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)*