

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2784 CORPORAL

D. W. BURGESS

49TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 25

With The Morn

Thy Face Which I Have Loved

And Lost Awhile

Will See

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Cpl. D. W. Burgess is located in
Grave Plot # 54. C. 21. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

David William BURGESS

David William Burgess was born in Brisbane, Queensland on 1st March, 1894 to James & Catherine Louisa Burgess (nee Thomas). He was a 21 year old, single, Carpenter when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 9th August, 1915 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2784 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Catherine Louisa Burgess of P.O. Store, Wilston, Brisbane, Queensland.

Pte David William Burgess embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ayrshire* (A33) on 1st September, 1915.

Pte Burgess was taken on strength with Reinforcements Unit at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt on 19th January, 1916. He was transferred to 49th Battalion at Habeita on 25th February, 1916.

Pte Burgess proceeded to join British Expeditionary Force at Alexandria on 5th June, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles on 12th June, 1916.

Pte Burgess was on leave to England on 18th January, 1917 & returned from leave on 8th February, 1917.

Pte Burgess was sent to School of Instruction. from 21st April, 1917 until 7th May, 1917.

Pte Burgess was wounded in action on 7th June, 1917 with a gunshot wound to face. He was admitted to 8th General Hospital at Rouen on 9th June, 1917 & transferred to 2nd Convalescent Depot on 12th June, 1917. Pte Burgess was transferred to 11th Convalescent Depot at Buchy on 16th June, 1917.

Pte Burgess was transferred to Base at Harvre on 13th July, 1917 & proceeded to join his Unit on 12th August, 1917. He rejoined his Unit in the Field on 14th August, 1917 after being wounded.

Pte Burgess was appointed Lance Corporal in the field on 29th October, 1917. He was sent to School of Instruction from 4th November, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 11th November, 1917.

L/Cpl. Burgess was on leave to England on 31st December, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 18th January, 1918.

L/Cpl/ Burgess detached to 4th Division Wireless School of Instruction on 4th March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 15th March, 1918.

L/Cpl. Burgess was promoted to the rank of Corporal on 1st May, 1918.

Corporal Burgess was detached to 3rd Training Brigade on 1st September, 1918. He disembarked at Folkestone, England from France on 2nd September, 1918. He was marched in to Codford, Wiltshire on 3rd September, 1918 with 12th Training Battalion & appointed Acting Sergeant at Codford on 5th 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.)

Acting Sergeant David William Burgess was On Command at Brigade Musketry Course at Codford on 9th September, 1918 until 13th September, 1918.

On 25th September, 1918 Acting Sgt. Burgess was attached to 24th Rifle Course at Tidworth, Wiltshire until 26th October, 1918 & qualified as 1st Class.

Acting Sgt. Burgess was marched in from 12th Training Battalion at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire. He was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 1st February, 1919 where his rank reverted to Corporal.

Corporal David William Burgess was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 8th February, 1919 with Broncho pneumonia.

Corporal David William Burgess died on 13th February, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho pneumonia.

A death for W. D. Burgess, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sgt. D. W. Burgess contains the following letter to the Red Cross from O.C. 1st Australian General Hospital:

“Died of Illness – 13/2/19 – Re 2784 Sgt. D. W. Burgess, 49 Aust. Inf. O.T.B., The a/m deceased was admitted to this Hospital in the 8th Feb. 19, suffering from Influenza, from the Overseas Training Battalion of this area. On the 12, he was reported dangerously ill having contracted Broncho pneumonia, and eventually died at 6.35 p.m. on the 13th Feb. The late Sgt. Burgess was buried on the 17th Feb., in St. John the Evangelist Church Yard, Sutton Veny, Wilts.”

Corporal David William Burgess was buried on 17th February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 54. From the burial report of Cpl. Burgess - *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. 1 Australian Command Depot Sutton Veny. The Pall was supported by six of deceased’s late Unit comrades. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also attending the funeral were (Uncles) Messrs J. Brown, R. F. Ford (address 108 Fish Ponds, Bristol) and Wm. Thomas (address 20 Queensdown Avenue Porthcawl).”*

Corporal D. W. Burgess is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 147.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Corporal David William Burgess was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Cpl. Burgess’s mother – Mrs C. L. Burgess (sent September, 1921 & November, 1922)

The CWGC lists Corporal David William Burgess, 2784, of 49th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of James and Catherine Louisa Burgess, of Post Office Store, Wilston, Brisbane, Queensland.

(69 pages of Corporal David William Burgess' 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.



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

List No. 461

Died from Other Causes

Corporal D. W. Burgess (Wilston)
(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Qld – Wednesday 19 March, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BURGESS – On the 13th February, 1919, at 1st A.G.H., Sutton Veney, of broncho-pneumonia, Sgt. D. (Willia) Burgess, son of Mrs Burgess and the late Mr James Burgess, Wilston. Buried at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veney.

No chance had brought this ill to me,
'Tis God's sweet will, so let it be;
He seeth what I cannot see.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother, sisters and brothers.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Qld – Saturday 14 February, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BURGESS – In loving memory of D. W. Burgess, late A.I.F., who died in England, 13th February, 1919.

Inserted by his friends at "Millport", Clara-street, Wynnum South.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Qld – Monday 13 February, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BURGESS – In loving memory of my dear son Sergeant D. W. (Will) Burgess, 49th Battalion, died at 1st A.G.H., Sutton Veney.

Till the day dawns.

(Mother)

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Qld – Wednesday 14 February, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BURGESS - A tribute of love to my dear son, Sgt. D. W. Burgess, 49th Batt., who died at Sutton Veney, England, 1919.

Loved, remembered, longed for always.

"Wilston," Mother.

BURGESS - In loving memory of Sgt. D. W. Burgess, who died, in England, 13th February, 1919.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by his friends at "Millport," Clara-street, Wynnum South.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Qld – Wednesday 13 February, 1924)

BURGESS – In memory Sgt. D. (Will) Burgess, 49th Batt.

Loved, remembered, longed for always.

Mother, Wilston.

BURGESS - In memory of Sgt. D. W. Burgess, 49th Battalion, A.I.F., who died, in England, 13th February, 1919.

Ever remembered by his friends at "Millport," Clara-street, Wynnum South.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Qld – Friday 13 February, 1925)

BURGESS - In memory of Sergeant D. W. Burgess, who died on 13th February, 1919.

Inserted by his friends at "Millport".

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Qld – Saturday 13 February, 1926)

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 Veney. 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 dated 4th July, 1921 was sent to Mr J. Burgess of Wilston, Brisbane reminding the late Cpl. Burgess' father that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Corporal Burgess at Sutton Veney had not been answered. The letter advised that non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would be accepted as no further action was to be taken.

A reply was sent by Mrs Cath. L. Burgess, mother of late Cpl. Burgess, dated 21st July, 1921, stating that her husband was dead & she wished to know she "can have the privilege of choosing the headstone over his [her son's] resting place. Have you any photos of the Cross or Star of David that I could see to guide me." Mrs Burgess was advised that the Star of David was the emblem of the Jewish faith, whereas the Cross was the symbol of Christianity.

Corporal David William Burgess does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

With The Morn Thy Face Which I Have Loved And Lost Awhile Will See

Photo of Corporal D. W. Burgess'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)*

