

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



**32149 DRIVER**

**E. C. HENRY**

**AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY**

**22ND JANUARY, 1918 AGE 34**

*In Memory Of*

*The Dear Son Of*

*Mrs Henry*

*Of Poowong, Victoria*

*CWGC Headstone for Driver E. C. Henry is located in  
Grave Plot # 318. D. 8. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Ernest Charles HENRY

Ernest Charles Henry was born at Poowong, Victoria on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1883 to parents George & Florence Henry (nee Hayward).

Ernest Charles Henry was a 32 year old, single Grocer from Lockhart, NSW when he enlisted at Royal Agricultural Showgrounds, Moore Park, Sydney, NSW on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with the 5<sup>th</sup> Divisional Ammunition Column, 10<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 32149 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs F. Henry of Poowong, Gippsland, Victoria (father deceased – 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1903).

Driver Ernest Charles Henry embarked from Sydney on RMS *Osterley* on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

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.

Driver Ernest Charles Henry was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire from Australia on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Driver Henry was sent sick to Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 1917 with Bronchitis. Driver Henry was discharged to Training Depot on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1918.

Driver Ernest Charles Henry was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 with Influenza, severe.

Driver Ernest Charles Henry died on 3.20 p.m. on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of (1) Tuberculosis of Meningitis of Brain & (2) Tuberculosis of Bladder.

A death for Ernest C. Henry, aged 34, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Driver E. C. Henry has a request from the Red Cross into the details of his death. A reply from the Assistant Matron, Military Hospital, Sutton Veny reads:  
*“Re the death of Pte Henry. he had a very peaceful death, and was unconscious for 36 hours before he died. His death was due to Tubercular meningitis. He was been buried at Sutton Veny Churchyard on the 25.1.1918 in grave No. 318.”*

Driver Ernest Charles Henry was buried on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 318. From the burial report of Driver Henry- *The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, the coffin being of polished pine with brass mounts. The unit will erect a cross suitably inscribed.*

*Chaplain W. G. Bradley, who conducted the service reports:- “ I visited Dvr Henry a number os times when he was unconscious in the above Hospital. Once he remembered his sister Annie at Geelong, but was only conscious (while I attended him) for about a minute. He did not seem to remember anyone else. Not having been attached to his Unit, I did not previously know him. I am told that he passed away quietly and up to the last was unconscious. I have every reason to believe that he received every attention possible from those in the Hospital. His body was interred with full Military Honors by an escort from his own Unit consisting of one Officer and thirty other Ranks and Band.”*

Driver Ernest Charles Henry requested in his Will dated 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 that all of his Estate be left to his mother – Mrs F, Henry of Poowong, Victoria. Mrs Henry was also appointed sole Executrix.

Driver Ernest Charles Henry 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 Driver Henry’s mother – Mrs F. Henry (sent November, 1921 & October, 1922).

Driver E. C. Henry is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

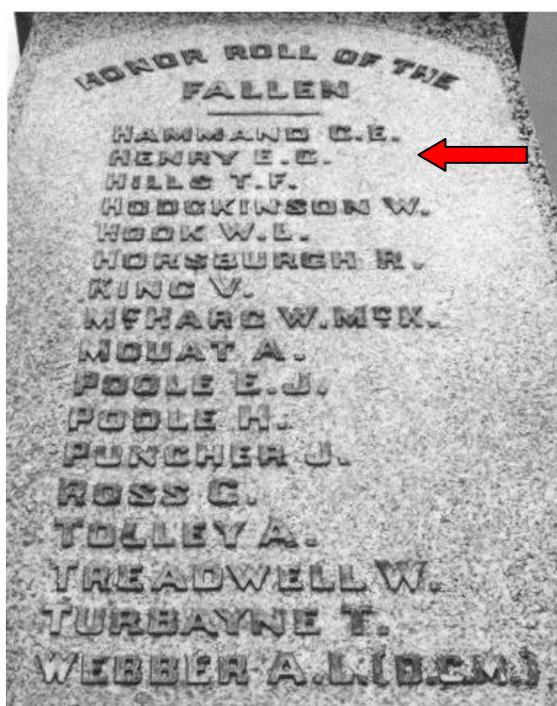
E. C. Henry is also remembered on the Lockhart and District War Memorial located on corner of Hebden & Day Streets, Lockhart, NSW.



**Lockhart and District War Memorial** (Photos from War Memorial Register NSW – Peter Levarre- Waters)



E. C. Henry is also remembered on the Poowong War Memorial located on Nyora Road, Poowong, South Gippsland Shire, Victoria.



**Poowong War Memorial** (Photos from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

The CWGC lists Driver Ernest Charles Henry, 32149, of 5th Division Ammunition Column, Australian Field Artillery, A.I.F., as the son of George and Florence Henry, of Poowong, Victoria.

(116 pages of Driver Ernest Charles Henry'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.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **PERSONAL**

Mr E. C. Henry left Lockhart on Thursday to enlist. Beside the church presentations, Mr Hodgson presented him with a cheque and a safety razor, and the staff of the Hall of Commerce presented him with a handsome gold-mounted fountain pen.

*(The Lockhart review and Oaklands Advertiser, NSW – Wednesday 12 July, 1916)*

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### **PERSONAL**

We regret to learn that Private E. C. Henry, formerly employed by Mr J. J. Hodgson, Lockhart, died from illness whilst in camp in England, having been suffering from a bad cold. The news was received with great regret amongst a wide circle of friends with who, the deceased soldier was very popular. He was an active

worker in connection with St. John's Presbyterian Church, Lockhart, and was for some years the Superintendent of the Sunday School and also an active member of the choir. Writing to Miss Webb from Poowong, Victoria, where his mother and family reside, his sister said:- "Just a line as I know you will feel for us in our trouble. We had word saying our dear Ern had died in Sutton Vimy Military Hospital, England, cause not stated, but they are investigating. We think it was from the effects of a bad cold which he had when he last wrote after he returned from Scotland. We do not know whether he has even been to France or not but there is a mail in to-morrow."

*(The Lockhart review and Oaklands Advertiser, NSW – Wednesday 6 February, 1918)*

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## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

### 382nd CASUALTY LIST

#### DIED FROM ILLNESS

Dvr. E. C. Henry, Poowong

*(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – Saturday 9 February, 1918)*

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#### DIED ON SERVICE

HENRY – Died of illness on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1918, at Sutton Veney Military Hospital, England, Driver Ernest C. Henry, No. 2 Battery, R.B.A.A., youngest dearly loved son of Florence and the late George Henry, of "The Pines" Poowong.

He heard the call for King and country,

But the King of Kings called him to greater service.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Vic – Saturday 9 February, 1918 & The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – Saturday 16 February, 1918)*

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#### 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)*

From letters in Driver Henry's Service record file - the following information was found in a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1924 to District Finance Officer, Melbourne from Base Records :- "..... prior to the original issue of Memorial Forms "A" from this office, a communication was addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, by Mrs Henry on 9/9/19, submitting a verse for engraving on the permanent headstone. Formal acknowledgement was sent to writer on 20/9/19 wherein she was informed that "very shortly the Department will send out to next-of-kin a form of application upon which can be set out the private inscription to be placed on headstones over war graves overseas."

*A form was duly issued on 8/12/19 and on completion was returned to the Base Records Office for transmission to London. Whatever inscription was embodied thereon was of course accepted as finally*

*indicating applicant's wishes in the matter, this notwithstanding any previous choice, and the fullest opportunity was afforded Mrs Henry at the time of re-submitting her original verse or epitaph if so desired. This however, she neglected to do, and on the contrary agreed to pay the cost of inscribing the following words, viz:- " In Memory Of The Dear Son Of Mrs Henry Of Poowong, Victoria."*

*the cost of which is now claimed by the Commission. I may add that Mrs Henry's original selection somewhat approximates that stated to have been furnished the Curator of Sutton Veny Churchyard, but it is not clear what jurisdiction that official would have in the matter."*

In a letter from District Finance Officer to Department of Defence, dated 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1924 reads: "... Mrs Henry states that the inscription she authorised to be placed on the headstone is totally different to the inscription she is being charged with, and there refuses to pay pending further information. "The verse I sent to the Curator of Sutton Veny Cemetery to be added to his present inscription was:

*"He heard the call for King and Country  
but the King of Kings desired him for a higher purpose."*

Driver Ernest Charles Henry does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of The Dear Son Of Mrs Henry Of Poowong, Victoria*



Photo of Driver E. C. Henry'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)

Ernest Charles Henry is also remembered with a small plaque located with his parents' headstone in Poowong Cemetery, Victoria.



(Photo courtesy of [Carol's Headstone Photographs](#))

*And of their dear Son*

*Dvr Ernest*

*Charles Henry*

*5<sup>th</sup> D.A.C. A.I.F.*

*Who Died in England*

*22<sup>nd</sup> January 1919,*

*Aged 34 Years*