

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



3758 PRIVATE

G. C. GARDNER

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

8TH APRIL, 1919 AGE 28

*CWGC Headstone for Pte G. C. Gardner is located in
Grave Plot # 82. L. 2. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Gordon Christopher GARDNER

Gordon Christopher Gardner was born in 1890 at West Manilla, NSW to John & Susannah Gardner (nee Beynon). He was a 26 year old, single Farmer from Borah Crossing, Manilla, NSW when he enlisted at Sydney on 6th July, 1917 with the 53rd Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3758 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sussana Gardner of Borah Crossing, Manilla, NSW (father deceased – 13th July, 1902). Gordon Gardner had previously been rejected for serving due to Rheumatism.

Private Gordon Christopher Gardner embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Miltiades (A28)* on 2nd August, 1917 & disembarked at Glasgow on 2nd October, 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.

Private Gordon Christopher Gardner was marched in from Australia to 14th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 3rd October, 1917.

Pte Gardner proceeded overseas to France to Reinforcements of 36th Battalion from Codford, Wiltshire via Southampton on 23rd January, 1918. He was marched in from England at Rouelles on 24th January, 1918 & marched out to the Front on 26th January, 1918.

Pte Gardner was taken on strength with 36th Battalion in Belgium on 28th January, 1918.

Pte Gardner was wounded in action in France on 4th April, 1918. He was admitted to Casualty Clearing Station on 5th April, 1918 with a gunshot wound to the chest & transferred to 2nd General Hospital on 6th April, 1918.

Pte Gardner embarked for England on 9th April, 1918. He was admitted to Southwark Military Hospital, Dulwich Grove, London on 10th April, 1918 with Gunshot wound to right chest – severe.

Pte Gardner was sent on furlo from 11th June to 25th June, 1918 where he was to report to No.1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Pte Gardner was absent without leave from 10.30 a.m. on 25th June, 1918 till 9 p.m. on 25th June, 1918. This was admonished by Major C. H. Howard on 26th June, 1918 but he still forfeited 1 days pay. Pte Gardner was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot from Headquarters London on 26th June, 1918.

Pte Gardner was written up for being absent form Dental Parade on 1st July, 1918 after being duly warned. He was awarded 6 days CC (Confined to Camp) on 4th July, 1918.

Pte Gardner was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire with V.D on 6th July, 1918 & discharged on 8th July, 1918 where he was admitted to C. T. Depot at Parkhouse on 8th July, 1918. Pte Gardner was marched in from Parkhouse, England on 22nd August, 1918.

Pte Gardner was written up for being absent without leave from midnight on 20th September to 5.45 a.m. on 21st September, 1918 while at Sutton Veny. This was dismissed on 24th September, 1918.

Pte Gardner was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade on 25th September, 1918 & transferred to Reinforcements of 34th Battalion.

Pte Gardner was transferred to Machine Gun Corps Details on 14th October, 1918 at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire & marched out to Machine Gun Training Depot at Parkhouse the same day.

Pte Gardner was sent sick to Group Hospital on 31st October, 1918. He was admitted with V.D. to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford on 4th November, 1918 & admitted to the Military Hospital at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 22nd November, 1918 seriously ill – N.Y.D (Not yet determined).

Pte Gardner was transferred to 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny on 25th January, 1919 with Nephritis.

A Medical Report on an Invalid was completed on 26th February, 1919 at 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny stating that Pte Gardner was suffering from Nephritis & was classified as C3 (Permanently unfit for Service).

Private Gordon Christopher Gardner died at 11.10 a.m. on 8th April, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Acute Nephritis.

A death for Gordon C. Gardner, aged 28, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Gordon Christopher Gardner was buried on 11th April, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 82. From the burial report of Pte Gardner - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceeded by a Firing Party from the 1st Australian Training Brigade, Sutton Veny. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A number of N.C.O.'s and men 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 – Mr and Mrs Russell of 51 Douglas Road, Bishopston, Bristol.*

Pte Gordon Christopher Gardner requested in his Will dated 30th July, 1917 that all his real & Personal Property be left to his Mother – Susannah Gardner & his brother – Cyril Thomas Gardner in equal shares.

Pte Gordon Christopher Gardner was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Gardner's mother – Mrs S. Gardner (August, 1921 & November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Gordon Christopher Gardner, 3758, of Australian Machine Gun Corps, A.I.F., as the son of Susannah Gardner, of West Manilla, New South Wales, and the late John Gardner.

Private G. C. Gardner is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 180.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. C. Gardner is also remembered on the Manilla and District Soldiers Memorial Hall located at 193 Manilla Street, Manilla, NSW.



Manilla and District Soldiers Memorial Hall (Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Des Stark)

(61 pages of Pte Gordon Christopher Gardner 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.



** [Connected to Private Gordon Christopher Gardner – brother](#)

[Pte Cyril Thomas Gardner, 1831, 33rd Battalion severely wounded at Armentieres sector on 24th March, 1917, returned to Australia & discharged 27th October, 1917.](#)



Newspaper Reports

ENLISTMENTS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 19

Following were the enlistments at Tamworth for the week ending July 19:- G. C. Gardner.

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – Saturday 21 July, 1917)

SOLDIERS OF THE NORTH

Private Gordon Gardner, of Manilla, has died in a hospital in London.

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – Wednesday 16 April, 1919)

SOLDIERS OF THE NORTH

Rev. T. May, of Gunnedah, conducted a memorial service at Milliwindi church on Sunday in memory of Corporal Bob Thorne and Private Gordon Gardner.

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – Wednesday 30 April, 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 Gordon Christopher Gardner does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Photo of original crosses placed on the graves – Pte G. C. Gardner (left)

(Photo from Australian War Memorial)

Photo of Private G. C. Gardner'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)*

