

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



**2135 SERJEANT**

**J. PAGE M M.**

**34TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**11TH NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 30**

*In Proud*

*And Ever Loving Memory Of*

*My Dear Husband*

*CWGC Headstone for Serjt. J. Page is located in  
Grave Plot # 22. I. 1. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## John PAGE

John Page was born in 1887 at Blackbilles, Quirindi, NSW to parents Peter John & Esther Page (nee Stockdale). He was a 28 year old, single Contractor from Glengarry, Walgett, NSW when he enlisted at West Maitland, NSW on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2135 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Peter John Page of Glengarry, Walgett, NSW. (Esther Page, mother of John page, had died in 1894).

Private John (Jack) Page embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 24th August, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.

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.

Pte Page was taken on strength with 9th Training Battalion on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 in England.

Pte Page proceeded overseas to France from Southampton on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1916.

Pte Page was appointed Lance Corporal on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 in France.

Lance Corporal Page was detached to W. Party in the Field on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Lance Corporal Page was evacuated to Hospital on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1917, wounded in action. Lance Corporal Page was transferred to 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Casualty Clearing Station & then on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 he was admitted to 30<sup>th</sup> General Hospital. He was discharged to Base Details at Calais on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1917.

Lance Corporal Page was marched in from Hospital to 3 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Base on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 in Belgium.

Pte Page was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 in Belgium (vice Cpl McIntyre evacuated wounded).

Temporary Corporal Page was wounded in Action (2<sup>nd</sup> occasion) on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1917. He was admitted to 11<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 with a gunshot wound to neck. He was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 & admitted to 4<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Camiers, France on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1917. His rank reverted back to Lance Corporal as he was evacuated wounded on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1917. Lance Corporal Page was marked for transfer to England on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1917 & embarked from France on the Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle* on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 from 4<sup>th</sup> General Hospital. He was admitted to Richmond Military Hospital in England on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 with a gunshot wound to neck & transferred on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 to No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford where he was discharged on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.

Lance Corporal Page was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot from No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 still recovering from his wound.

Lance Corporal Page was marched out to No. 4 Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1917.

Lance Corporal Page was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1917.

Lance Corporal Page proceeded overseas to France from Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire via Southampton on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.

Lance Corporal Page was marched in from England at Havre on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the field from being wounded on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.

Lance Corporal Page was promoted to Corporal on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 (vice Cpl. Quinn promoted) & then promoted to Temporary Sergeant (vice Sgt. Williams evacuated wounded) the same day. Temporary Sergeant Page was promoted to Sergeant on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1917 (vice Sgt. Berman Commissioned).

Sergeant Page was sent to Brigade School on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1918.

Sergeant Page was awarded the Military Medal on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1918.

Promulgated in the Sixth Supplement No. 30652 to the *London Gazette* dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1918.

Action for which commended:

*"For devoted service on night of 4-5 March 1918 during raid on enemy trenches in vicinity of WARNETON. With his party he was temporarily held up by superior numbers of the enemy in the trench leading to his final objective but by his personal courage and determined fighting he eventually cleared the way for the advance. His gallant efforts were of the highest value and relieved a critical situation for his party."*

J. Monash Major-General, Commanding 3<sup>rd</sup> Aust. Division.

Notification of the Military Medal awarded to Sergeant John Page was sent to Mr P. J. Page, father of Sergeant Page from Base Records which read:

*"HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Military Medal for bravery in the field to the undermentioned non-commissioned officer – No. 2135 Sergeant J. Page."* (Listed in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette – 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1918).



***Military Medal showing both sides***

Sergeant Page was detached for P.T. & B.F. School on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1918.

Sergeant Page was wounded in action (third occasion) on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1918 in France. He was taken to 9<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance then transferred to 53<sup>rd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station. Sergeant Page was admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital at Havre, France on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1918. Sergeant Page embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Panama* on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1918 and admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Birmingham War Hospital, Rednall on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1918 with a bullet wound to right arm. Sergeant Page was transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1918. Sergeant Page was discharged to Littlemoor Camp at Weymouth, Dorset on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

On each occasion of being wounded, notification was sent to Mr Peter J. Page, father of Sergeant Page at Glengarry, Walgett, NSW.

Sergeant Page was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

John Page, aged 30, married Elsie Beatrice Hawkins, aged 20, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1918 at the Parish Church, Harefield, Middlesex. Their marriage was registered in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex in the December quarter, 1918.

Sergeant Page was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. He was medically classified as B1 A1 (fit for light duty only 4 weeks).

Sergeant John Page was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny with Influenza on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 & transferred to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1918 seriously ill with Influenza Pneumonia.

Sergeant John Page died at 20.30 hrs on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza Pneumonia.

A death for John Page, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Sergeant John Page was buried at 11 a.m. on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 22. From the burial report of Sgt. Page - *Coffin was polished Elm with Brass Furnishings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from No. 1 Australian Command Depot. Six Sergeants of deceased's late company supported the Pall. Wreaths from Wife and Mrs Bishop were placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral were: Elsie Page (wife), 3 Park Lane Harefield; Pte S. A. Madden, 3082 (cousin) 2<sup>nd</sup> M.G.C. AIF; Mrs Bishop (friend) 6 High Street, Harefield.*

Sergeant John Page was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sgt. Page's widow – Mrs E. B. Page (both sent November, 1922).

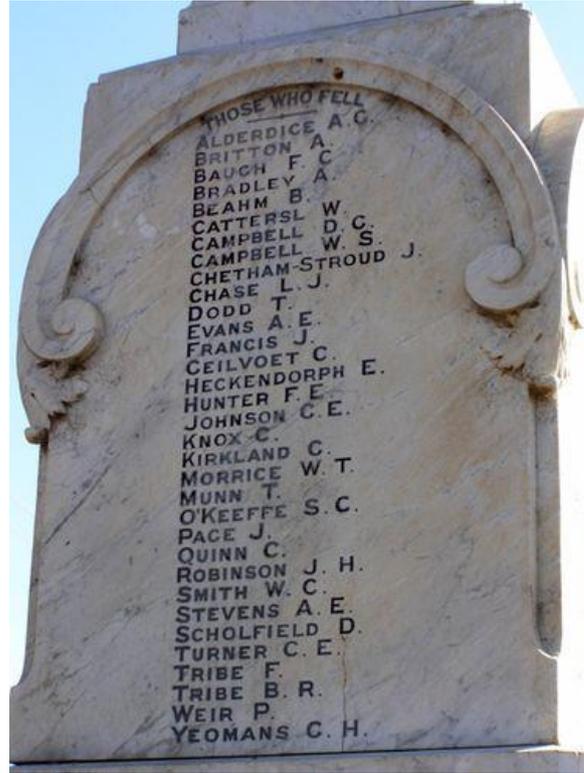
The CWGC lists Sergeant John Page, 2135, of 34th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Peter John Page; husband of Elsie B. Page of 20 Winterbrook Rd, Herne Hill, London, England. Born at Walgett, New South Wales. Awarded – MM.

Sergeant J. Page is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 124.



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

J. Page is also remembered on the Walgett Soldiers' War Memorial located at Castlereagh Highway & Wee Waa Street, Walgett.



**Walgett Soldiers' War Memorial**

*(Photos from Monument Australia – Diane Watson/ Glen Yeomans/ Sandra Brown/ Fred Brunings)*

(71 pages of Pte Sergeant John Page'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) & National Archives.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **450<sup>th</sup> CASUALTY LIST**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

##### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Sgt. J. Page, M.M. Walgett.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 7 December, 1918)*

## 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 John Page does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Proud And Ever Loving Memory Of My Dear Husband*



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



Photo of Serjeant J. Page's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*