

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



37533 GUNNER

N. F. H. BEGGS

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

24TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 19

In Loving Memory

of

Gnr. Norman Francis Henry Beggs.

Aged 19 Years

Eldest Son Of

Hugh Norman And Mary C. R. Beggs

*A Private Headstone for Gunner N.F.H. Beggs is located in
Grave Plot # 319. D. 9. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Norman Francis Henry BEGGS

Norman Francis Henry Beggs was born at Ballarat, Victoria, on 2nd May, 1898 to parents Hugh Norman and Mary Catherine Reeves Beggs. He attended Greenvale School then was admitted as a boarder at Geelong Church of England Grammar School on 13th February, 1912. He was in the 2nd VIII, Corporal in the Cadets, Librarian and a prefect. Norman Beggs left school in September, 1916 to go into camp at Maribyrong.

Norman Beggs was an 18 year old, single, Jackaroo from Nareeb-Nareeb, Glen Thompson, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 2nd February, 1917 with the Field Artillery, 30th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 37533 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Hugh Norman Beggs of Nareeb-Nareeb, Glen Thompson, Victoria. Norman Beggs stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 4 years with Senior Cadets & was still serving with C. Forces for 6 months. Both of Norman Beggs' parents had signed on 5th March, 1917, to consent to their son to embark for active service overseas as he was under the age of 21 years.

Gunner Norman Francis Henry Beggs embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Port Sydney (A15)* on 9th November, 1917 & disembarked at Suez on 12th December, 1917. Gunner Beggs embarked from Alexandria aboard HMT *Karoo* on 18th December, 1917 & disembarked at Taranto on 22nd December, 1917 before finally disembarking at Southampton, England on 4th January, 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.

Gunner Beggs was marched in from Australia to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 4th January, 1918.

Gunner Norman Francis Henry Beggs was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 17th January, 1918 with Influenza.

Gunner Norman Francis Henry Beggs died on 24th January, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Bronchitis – acute purulent.

A death for Norman F. H. Beggs, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner Norman Francis Henry Beggs was buried on 29th January, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny – Grave no. 319. From the burial report of Gnr. Beggs – *Coffin was polished pine - Brass Mounted – He asked for and received the Holy Communion at the hands of the Hospital Chaplain, being very much quietened and satisfied thereby. The funeral was carried out with full ceremony. In addition to the Firing Party and Band, 40 personal friends from recent Reinforcements attended at their own request. A party of deceased's intimate friends have undertaken to erect a cross.*

Photographs & a description of the locality of the grave of their late son, Gunner N. F. H. Beggs, was forwarded to Mr H. M. Beggs at Glenhompson, Victoria on 17th February, 1919.

Gunner N. F. H. Beggs is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 22.



N. F. H. Beggs is also remembered on the Glenthompson War Memorial located on Glenelg Highway, Glenthompson, Victoria.



Glenthompson War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson / Graeme Saunders)

Norman Francis Henry Beggs is also remembered on a War Memorial Plaque located in the Cloisters at Geelong Grammar School (Corio Campus).



The Cloisters – Geelong Grammar School (Corio Campus)



Geelong Grammar School (Photo courtesy of Melissa Campbell – Archivist GGS)

Gunner Norman Francis Henry Beggs 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 Gnr. Beggs' father – Mr H. M. Beggs (sent June, 1921 & October, 1922)

The CWGC lists Gunner Norman Francis Henry Beggs, 37533, of Australian Field Artillery, as the son of Hugh Norman and Mary Catherine Reeves Beggs, of "Narub Varub", Glen Thompson, Victoria. Born at Ballarat.

(63 pages of Gunner Norman Francis Henry Beggs' 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.



Norman Francis Henry Begg

(Photo from Geelong Grammarians – Biographical Register – courtesy of Melissa Campbell- Archivist GGS)

Newspaper Reports

DIED ON SERVICE

BEGGS – On the 25th January, died in military Hospital in England, Gunner Norman F. H. Beggs Field Artillery, A.I.F., dearly loved eldest son of Hugh N. and Mary Beggs, Nareeb Nareeb, Glenthompson, aged 19 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – Monday 4 February, 1918)

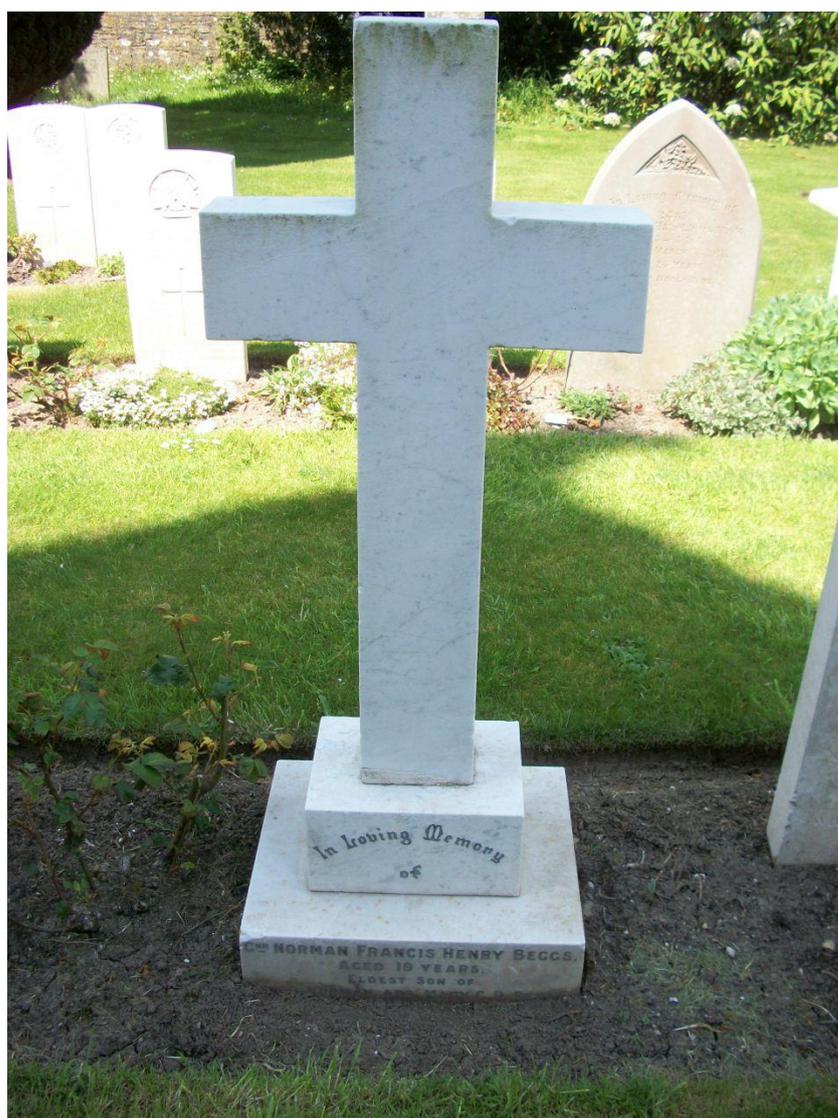
AUSTRALIA'S HEROES

In the 382nd Casualty list issued last night, are the following names:

Died, cause not stated – Gunner N.F.H. Beggs, Glenthompson

(*Hamilton Spectator*, Victoria – Saturday 9 February, 1918)

Photo of Gunner Norman Francis Henry Beggs' Private Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photos courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)

