

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



57603 CORPORAL

**W. J. GRIFFITHS**

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 25

*The Lord Gave*

*And The Lord Hath Taken Away*

*Blessed Be His Name*

CWGC Headstone for Cpl. W. J. Griffiths is located in  
Grave Plot # 26. I. 5. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny

## Wyndham Jones GRIFFITHS

Wyndham Jones Griffiths was born in Perth, Western Australia on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1893 to parents David William & Rose Aileen Griffiths (nee Fogg). He was a 24 year old, single, Grazier from Billabong, Deeford, Queensland when he enlisted at Rockhampton, Queensland on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1918 with the 4<sup>th</sup> (Q) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 57603 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr D. W. Griffiths of Moora, Western Australia.

Private Wyndham Jones Griffiths embarked from Sydney on RMS *Orontes* on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. Pte Griffiths was appointed Provisional Sergeant on 5th June, 1918 while at sea.

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.

Prov. Sergeant Wyndham Jones Griffiths was marched in to 5<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. He was allotted to Reinforcements of 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 & marched out the same day to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire where his rank reverted back to Private.

Private Wyndham Jones Griffiths was appointed Acting Corporal on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1918.

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 with Influenza.

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 with Influenza.

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths died at 6.15 p.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Wyndham Griffiths, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded and Missing File for Cpl. W. J. Griffiths contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death and burial. A reply from the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny reads:

*“Re 57603, A/Cpl. W. J. Griffiths, 9<sup>th</sup> Battn. A.I.F. The above named N.C.O. was admitted to this Hospital suffering from Influenza and later developed pneumonia, from which complication he died at 6.15 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. He was ministered to by the C. of E. Chaplain previous to passing away, and was buried in Sutton Veny Churchyard on November 15<sup>th</sup> 1918.”*

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths was buried at 2 p.m. on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny – Grave no. 26. From the burial report of A/Cpl. Griffiths - *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 preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased's Unit Comrades acted as Pall bearers. 4 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Unit attended as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Acting Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths 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 A/Cpl. Griffiths's father – Mr D. W. Griffiths (sent April, 1922 & November, 1922). The Memorial Scroll had been incorrectly inscribed & a new scroll had to be issued pending receipt of blank scrolls.

The CWGC lists Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths, 57603, of 9th Battalion, A.I.F., as the son of David William and Rose Eileen Griffiths, or Moora, Western Australia. Born at Perth.

W. J. Griffiths is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 56.



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

(43 pages of Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths' 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**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

GRIFFITHS – Sergeant Wyndham Jones Griffiths (late of Billabong, Deeford), died in hospital, Sutton, England, influenza, on November the 10<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Gone but not forgotten.

(Inserted by his Partner, J. Campbell)

GRIFFITHS – In fond and loving memory of our dear friend, Sergeant W. J. Griffiths (Wyn), died in hospital in England, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

*Oh Lord to Thee I yield the gift.*

Deeply mourned

(Inserted by his true and loving friends Vi, May and Daphne)

*(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Qld - Thursday 28 November, 1918 & The Capricornian – Saturday 7 December, 1918)*

## Thanks

Mr and Mrs D. W. Griffiths and family thank all those kind friends who sent cards and letters, and for personal expressions of sympathy in the death on active service of their eldest son and brother, Wyn.

*(The Midlands Advertiser, Moora, W.A. – Friday 6 December, 1918)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

GRIFFITHS – A tribute of love to the memory of my dear friend, Sergeant W. J. Griffiths (Wyn), died in hospital in England, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Your life, with all its love and

Manliness, will never pass away.

(Inserted by his true and loving Friend, Vi. Carnell)

*(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Qld - Monday 10 November, 1919)*

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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 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)*

Corporal Wyndham Jones Griffiths does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away Blessed Be His Name*





Photo of Corporal W. J. Griffiths' 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)*