

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



6930 PRIVATE

W. J. LANE

49TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH OCTOBER, 1918

*CWGC Headstone for Pte W. J. Lane is located in
Grave Plot # 358. E. 10. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

William James LANE

William James Lane's birth was registered in the September quarter, 1899 in the district of Oundle, Northamptonshire, England to parents William James & Sarah Lane (nee Gilbert). William stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born near Peterborough which is about 16 miles from Thurning.

The 1901 England Census recorded William Lane as a 1 year old (born Thurning, Hunts) living with his family at Village End, Thurning, Northamptonshire. His parents were listed as William Lane (Grazier, aged 41, born Thurning, Northants) & Sarah Lane (aged 37, born Luddington, Northants). William had one older sister – Hilda (aged 4, born Thurning, Hunts).

The 1911 England Census recorded William James Lane as an 11 year old, at school, living with his parents at Thurning, Oundle, Northamptonshire in a 7 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as William James Lane (Grazier, aged 52) & Sarah Lane (aged 48). William's parents had been married for 15 years & had 2 children only. William's older sister - Hilda Lane, aged 14, was listed as a Housemaid for Mr Rowland Wood & his family at Clapton, Thrapston, Northamptonshire, which was a 10 roomed dwelling.

William James Lane along with his parents & sister – Hilda M. Lane departed from Liverpool, England on 30th March, 1912 & arrived at the port of Brisbane, Australia on the *Ayrshire*.

William James Lane was an 18 year old, single Farmer from Grafton, NSW when he enlisted at Lismore, NSW on 21st May, 1917 with the 25th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6930 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William James Lane of 113 Pound Street, Grafton, NSW. As William Lane was under the age of 21, both parents had to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad.

Private William James Lane embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 14th June, 1917 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 26th August, 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 William James Lane was marched in to Rollestone, Wiltshire to 7th Training Battalion on 27th August, 1917.

Pte Lane was admitted to Hospital at Parkhouse in 1st September, 1917 with Mumps. He was discharged on 21st September, 1917 to Training Battalion at Rollestone.

Pte Lane was marched in from 7th Training Battalion at Rollestone to 5th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 7th November, 1917.

Pte Lane was transferred to 49th Battalion Details at Codford on 3rd June, 1918.

Pte Lane was sent sick to Brigade Clearing Hospital & admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 4th June, 1918 with a Hernia in Leg. He was discharged on 16th July, 1918.

Pte Lane was marched in to 12th Training Battalion at Codford on 17th July, 1918.

Pte Lane was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 1st August, 1918 & had been medically classified as B.1 B – Observation.

Pte Lane was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 10th September, 1918.

Pte Lane was marched in to Overseas Training Battalion at Sutton Veny on 3rd October, 1918.

Private William James Lane was sent sick to Hospital & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 6th October, 1918 with Influenza & Pneumonia, dangerously ill.

Private William James Lane died at 3.30 p.m. on 9th October, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza Pneumonia.

A death for William J. Lane, aged 19, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private William James Lane was buried on 12th October, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 358. From the burial report of Pte Lane - *The late soldier was buried with full Military Honours. The Coffin of good polished Elm was draped with the Australian flag and conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage, preceded by a Firing Party and band of the Overseas Training Brigade. Six Australians from the 49th Battalion acted as Pallbearers and a number of comrades and personal friends of deceased's attended as mourners. A beautiful wreath from the Australians in Sutton Veny Hospital was placed on the gravel. Four Officers and about a hundred Non-commissioned Officers and men from the Overseas Training Brigade attended the funeral, and Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented.*

Pte William James Lane requested in his Will dated 11th June, 1917 that his whole property & personal effects be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Sarah Lane.

Private W. J. Lane is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 148.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Lane's parents notified Base Records of their change of address in July, 1918 to Etrick, NSW

Pte William James Lane 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 Pte Lane's father – Mr W. J. Lane (received January, 1923 & March, 1923)

The CWGC lists Private W. J. Lane, 6930, of 49th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

(71 pages of Pte William James Lane'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.



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)

A letter from Base Records to Mr W. J. Lane of Etrick, NSW, dated 20th July, 1921, advised that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on Pte W. J. Lane's Headstone in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

Pte William James Lane does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Photo of Private W. J. Lane'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)*