

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



A. J. ANDERSON SERVED AS

2683 PRIVATE

J. HEGARTY

48TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 19

In Proud And Loving Memory

Of My Dear And Only Son

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. J. Anderson (served as Hegarty) is located in
Grave Plot # 285. C. 10. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Albert James ANDERSON

Albert James Anderson was born at Balmain, New South Wales in 1900 to parents James Duncan & Elizabeth Anderson (nee Hegarty).

Albert James Anderson enlisted with the 15th Reinforcements, 16th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force on 22nd December, 1915. He was a 15 year old Labourer, whose religion was listed as Presbyterian. He was given the service number of 4748. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr James Duncan Anderson – 39th Depot, A.I.F., Blackboy, Western Australia. A note included in Pte Anderson's file states "The bearer, Albert James Anderson, can be enlisted as a bugler, if medically fit. (unsure of signature)". A consent form (for person's under 21 years of age) was signed by James Duncan Anderson – father of Albert.

Pte Albert James Anderson was absent without leave from 5th February, 1916 until "revallee" on 7th February, 1916. He was to be forfeited 2 days pay but this was admonished. Pte Albert James Anderson was discharged on 21st March, 1916 for being "under age 18 years".

Albert James Anderson re-enlisted under the name of James Hegarty in 1916. He stated he was a 19 year old Labourer, born at Rosehill, N.S.W., when he enlisted at Belmont, Western Australia on 18th May, 1916 with the 48th Battalion of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2683 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his uncle – James Weston of Rosehill, NSW. A consent form (for person's under 21 years of age) was signed by a Mrs Thomas.

Pte James Hegarty was admitted to Camp Hospital at Belmont for 4 days with Influenza from 14th to 17th August, 1918. He was again admitted to Camp Hospital at Belmont for 4 days with Diarrhoea from 25th to 28th July, 1916.

Pte James Hegarty embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Port Melbourne* (A16) on 30th October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 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.

Private James Hegarty was marched in to 12th Training Battalion from Australia on 28th December, 1916.

Private James Hegarty was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital at Codford with Br. Catarrh (Bronchial catarrh) on 18th January, 1917. He was marched in to 12th Training Battalion, No. 14 Camp at Codford, Wiltshire from Hospital on 23rd January, 1917.

Private James Hegarty was sent sick to Sutton Veny Hospital on 10th February, 1917 – cause not yet determined.

Private James Hegarty of 6th Reinforcements, 48th Battalion, A.I.F., 12th Training Battalion, died on 22nd February, 1917 at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Acute Bronchitis.

A death for James Hegarty, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire. According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by Mr J. D. Anderson, father of Albert James Anderson, Albert was aged 16 years & 4 months at the time of his death.

Private James Hegarty was buried on 26th February, 1917 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 285.

The property of Pte James Hegarty was shipped back to Australia aboard the *Marathon* to his uncle – Mr James Weston of Rosehill, NSW.

A letter was written on 10th December, 1917 by James Duncan Anderson (Father of late Albert James Anderson – served as James Hegarty) to Major Osborne in which he explained his son enlisting under his mother's maiden name & that the next-of-kin who was listed as James Weston had been Mr James Duncan Anderson's name before his marriage & Weston was his stepfather's name. A Statutory Declaration was made by James Duncan Anderson, dated 6th July, 1918, which reads:

"I, James Duncan Anderson of 13 Moir Street, Perth do solemnly and sincerely declare that my son (now deceased) enlisted on the 18th day of May, 1916, under the name of James Hegarty, which name I declare to be incorrect. The name contained in the accompanying Certificate of Birth I now declare to be his true name. Being under the prescribed age for enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force he enlisted under his mother's maiden name and his next-of-kin, Mr James Weston, is myself. He gave this name as his next-of-kin in order to avoid detection."

In a letter written to Officer in Charge, Base Records dated 12 November, 1931, Elizabeth Anderson, mother of Albert James Anderson, from Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW, writes:

"Would you please forward me the Regimental Numbers, also number of Battalion of Albert James Anderson, who after been withdrawn by me, enlisted again under the name of Private James Hegarty. Last heard of was in 39 Depot, Black Boy Hill Camp, Western Australia under his original name Albert James Anderson, And also could you inform me who is drawing the pension for same as I am his mother and would like to find all particulars as it is a matter of importance." A reply was written on 23rd November, 1931 to Mrs Elizabeth Anderson, confirming the details of her son enlisting as Albert James Anderson & being discharged due to being under age then re-enlisting as Pte James Hegarty. The letter also included details of his death & that his next of kin had been recorded as his father – Mr James Duncan Anderson (late A.I.F).

Private A. J. Anderson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 145.



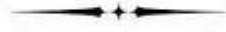
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Albert James Anderson was entitled to British War Medal as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Anderson's father – Mr J. D. Anderson (sent April, 1922 & January, 1923)

The CWGC lists Private Albert James Anderson, (served as Hegarty), 2683, of 48th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of James Duncan Anderson & Elizabeth Anderson of Jenkins St. Fremantle. Born at Balmain, New South Wales.

(66 pages of Pte James Hegarty's (alias – Albert James Anderson) 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)

Pte Albert James Anderson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Proud And Loving Memory Of My Dear And Only Son



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



Photo of Pte A. J. Anderson's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)