

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



61868 PRIVATE

D. C. HIGGINS

22ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH FEBRUARY, 1919 AGE 26

In Loving Memory

*Private Headstone for Pte D. C. Higgins is located in
Grave Plot # 62. J. 2. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Donald Cameron HIGGINS

Donald Cameron Higgins was born at Ballarat, Victoria on 27th May, 1895 to parents William & Clara Higgins. He was a 23 year old, single, Driver from Keysborough, Victoria when he enlisted at Dandenong, Victoria on 25th June, 1918 with the 13th (V) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 61868 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Higgins of Maryborough, Victoria.

Private Donald Cameron Higgins embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 5th December, 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.

Private Donald Cameron Higgins was marched in to 5th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire from Australia on 5th December, 1918 & allotted to Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion.

Pte Higgins was sent sick to No. 2 Group Hospital at Fovant on 16th December, 1918 & admitted to No.3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire the same day with Synovitis Knee. Private Donald Cameron Higgins was transferred to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 17th January, 1919 with Synovitis Knee.

Pte Higgins was marched in to 5th Training Battalion from Hospital on 21st January, 1919.

Pte Higgins was sent sick to No. 4 Group Clearing Hospital at Codford on 26th January, 1919. He was transferred to 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny on 27th January, 1919 dangerously ill with Influenza.

Private Donald Cameron Higgins died at 5.30 a.m. on 7th February, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Donald C. Higgins, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Donald Cameron Higgins was buried on 10th February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 62. From the burial report of Pte Higgins - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from No. 1 Australian Command Depot, Sutton Veny. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A number of Australians followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Donald Cameron Higgins requested in his Will dated 23rd August, 1918 that all his property & effects be left to his mother – Mrs Clara Higgins of Railway Crescent, Maryborough, Victoria.

Pte Donald Cameron Higgins 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 Higgins's father – Mr W. Higgins.

The CWGC lists Private D. C. Higgins, 61868, of 22nd Battalion, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Private D. C. Higgins is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 96.



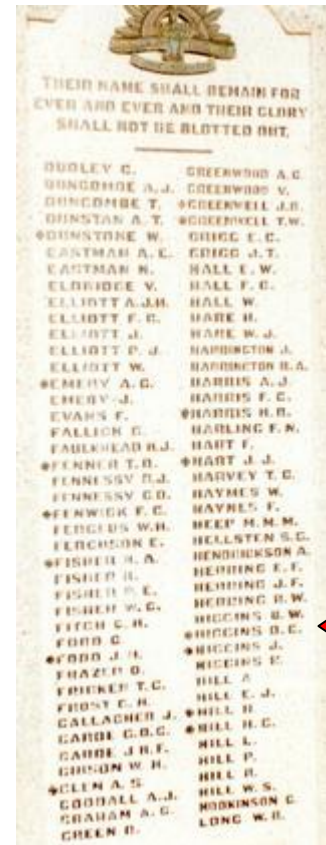
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

D. C. Higgins is also remembered on the Maryborough War Memorial.



Maryborough War Memorial (Photos courtesy of [Carol's Headstone Photographs](#))

D. C. Higgins is also remembered on the Maryborough Memorial Gates located at Prince's Park, Park Road, Maryborough, Victoria.



Prince's Park Memorial Gates, Maryborough (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

(50 pages of Pte Donald Cameron Higgins' 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

VICTORIA'S ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST 460

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Higgins, D. C. Maryborough

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 6 March, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HIGGINS – In loving memory of Pte D. C. Higgins (Don), who died at Sutton veny Hospital, England, February 7, 1919.

Time changes many things
But memories of a dear friend,
Like ivy, ever clings.

(Inserted by his loving friend, Lillie Richards, Keysborough).

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – Saturday 7 February, 1920)



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private D. C. Higgins' Private headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)