

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



**CAPTAIN**

**H. SOUTH**

**AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS**

**9TH SEPTEMBER, 1919    AGE 44**

*In Loving Memory*

*CWGC Headstone for Captain H. South is located in  
Grave Plot # 95. N. 2. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Harold SOUTH

Harold South was born at Tapanui, New Zealand on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 1875 to parents George Frederick and Catherine Baylis South.

Harold South married Emily Christiana Hartley at Rockhampton, Queensland on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1906. Births were registered in: 1907 – Harold Hartley South; 1909 - Philip Charles South; 1912 – Emily Verney Hartley South & 1916 – Arthur South.

The 1908, 1913 & 1919 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Moreton, subdivision Boonah, Queensland listed Harold South, Medical Practitioner & Emily Christiana South, Home Duties, living at Boonah.

Harold South was a 43 year old, married, Medical Practitioner from Kangaroo Point, Queensland when he enlisted on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1918 with the General Reinforcements, Australian Medical Corp of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. C. South of Boonah, Queensland. Harold South had been serving with the Australian Army Medical Corp Reserve since 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Captain Harold South embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

Captain Harold South was attached to 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent for duty on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

A medical report was completed on Captain H. South on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 stating that he had suffered from Influenza from 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. Another medical report was completed on Captain H. South on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1918 – it was noted that he suffered from Influenza on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. His present condition was noted as “in good health”.

Captain Harold South was marched out of 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1919.

Captain Harold South was marched in to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire for duty on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1919.

Captain Harold South was reported dangerously ill on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny – cause not yet determined.

Captain Harold South died at on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Post Operation - Gallstones.

A death for Harold South, aged 44, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Captain Harold South was buried on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. . From the burial report of Capt. South - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – The deceased was buried with Military Honours. An Officers' firing party consisting of one officer and 33 other ranks from No. 2 Group. The Last Post was sounded by 3 buglers. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag and the Union Jack. About 250 members of the A.I.F. and members of the A.A.N.S. and V.A.D. attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> A.G.H. were present. Also in attendance at the funeral was Miss South (Sister) of 471 Fulham Palace Road, London.*

Captain Harold South was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Capt. South's widow – Mrs E. C. South (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922). Mrs E. C. South advised Base Records in March, 1920 that her address had changed from Boonah, Queensland to 30 Pleasant Street, Geelong, Victoria.

Captain H. South is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Dr. H. South is remembered on the Boonah War Memorial located in Boonah Memorial Park, Park & Yeates Streets, Boonah, Queensland.



Boonah War Memorial (Photos from Queensland War Memorial Register – Shirley & Trevor Mclvor)

The CWGC lists Captain Harold South, Australian Army Medical Corps, A.I.F., as the son of George Frederick and Catherine Baylis South; husband of E. Chrissie South, of Boonah, Queensland. Born at Tapanui, New Zealand.

(92 pages of Captain Harold South'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.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **DEATH OF DR. H. SOUTH**

The residents of Boonah were deeply grieved when word was received yesterday morning that Dr. H. South had died in England. It would appear that Dr. South succumbed, whilst undergoing an operation, on Tuesday last. Immediately the sad news was received flags were flown at half-mast, and there was almost complete cessation of business. The school committee dismissed the children for the remainder of the day. Dr. South was one of Boonah's most progressive townsmen, and he was held in the highest esteem by all sections of the community. His skill as a surgeon was recognised far and wide. For something like 14 years he had resided in Boonah, during which time he played no small part in movements which aimed at pushing the district forward. Some 12 months ago he left to undertake war service, and was subsequently appointed in charge of a military hospital on Salisbury Plains. The late Dr. South had been an active member of the Boonah Rifle Club, was a member of the Church of England committee, and was associated in various ways with the public life of the town and district. Prior to his leaving Boonah the residents manifested their appreciation of his many sterling qualities by joining whole-heartedly in a valedictory function. Mrs South has taken a very active part in all patriotic movements, and is the president of the Boonah branch of the Red Cross Society. Mrs South and her four children at present reside in Boonah, and to them has been accorded the heartfelt sympathy of the whole of the district.

*(Queensland Times (Ipswich) Queensland – Saturday 13 September, 1919)*

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### **LATE DR. H. SOUTH**

#### **A BRILLIANT CAREER**

#### **BOONAH'S TRIBUTE OF RESPECT**

The news of the death of Capt (Doctor) Harold South, formerly medical superintendent of the Boonah General Hospital, was received through a private source on Friday of last week, the official confirmation being received on the following day. The sad intelligence was received with the deepest sorrow throughout the whole of the district. As a mark of respect, flags were flown at half-mast, and the Boonah State School was closed for the remainder of the afternoon. Information was later received that the deceased had succumbed, whilst undergoing an operation on the 9th instant, at the Warminster (Salisbury) Australian Military Hospital.

Dr. South, who had been a resident of Boonah for nearly 13 years, was a son of the late Rev. G. F. South (Melbourne diocese), and was born at Tapanui, South Island, New Zealand, in 1875, he was educated at Bendigo and the Melbourne University, took his degree, with honours, in all subjects, in 1897, and was appointed to the staff of the Melbourne Hospital. Later, he held the position of resident surgeon at the Brisbane Children's

Hospital, where he remained for about two years, and then left to enter into partnership with Dr. Stewart, in practice at Rockhampton, continuing thereat until 1905. In that year the late Doctor South acted as locum tenens for Dr. Berry at Southport, and in 1906, succeeded Dr. Waugh as medical superintendent of the Boonah Hospital. On 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1918, he left on the "Borda" for active service with the A.I.F., and was subsequently appointed to the staff of the military hospital at Dartford, in Kent. Prior to his death, he had been on leave preparatory to returning to Australia. In the year 1906, Dr. South married Miss Hartley, daughter of Mr. Stewart Hartley (managing director of the Rockhampton "Record"), and leaves a family of four children--three boys and one girl--the youngest being about three, and the eldest twelve years of age. The deceased doctor's only brother, Dr. Arthur South (of Geelong, Victoria), is at present in Boonah, while his mother and sister reside in London. As a mark of respect the "Dead March" was played in the local Presbyterian Church on Sunday night last, by Mr W. H. Ewing.

(*Queensland Times (Ipswich)* Queensland – Saturday 20 September, 1919)

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## DEATHS

SOUTH – On the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1923, at Geelong, Emily Christiana, widow of the late Dr Harold South, of 28 Pleasant Street, Newtown, and formerly of Boonah, Queensland.

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria – Wednesday 28 February, 1923)

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A letter had been written to The Official Secretary (Military) Australia House, London from Base Records on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1925 which reads: "*It has been represented to this Office that on the occasion of a recent visit to the grave of the late Captain H. South, A.A.M.C. in the Cemetery at Sutton Veny the temporary cross was found to be in a state of disrepair and that while apparently every care had been taken to maintain the remaining Australian graves, in the abovenamed Cemetery, no similar provisions had been made in the case of this Officer's final resting place.*

*In the circumstances I should be glad to be furnished with a report outlining the Commission's intentions in this particular respect as a means of allaying the anxiety felt by the deceased's relatives."*

A letter to Miss L. K. South of Newtown, Geelong, Victoria from Base Records dated 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1925 reads: "*With further reference to your enquiry of 11<sup>th</sup> March last, respecting the grave of your brother, the late Capt. H. South, A.A.M.C., I am now in receipt of a reply from the Imperial War Graves Commission intimating that in consequence of have received advice that the late officer's friends at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, were erecting a private memorial no action was previously taken to provide a headstone of the uniform type. Subsequently it was ascertained that the grave in question had not been attended to and steps were immediately taken to rectify the omission. The headstone was ordered on the 8<sup>th</sup> January last, and when writing under date 6/5/25 the Commission advises that it has already been engraved and should be in position in the course of the next few days.*

*Trusting this report will serve to relieve your mind of further anxiety in the matter."*

### 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*)

Captain Harold South does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory*

Photo of Captain H. South'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)

