



Anzac Day

1920



The following is a letter that was sent to the families of the 144 Australian Soldiers buried in Sutton Veny, Wiltshire from the Organiser of the Anzac Day Pilgrimage at Sutton Veny. A copy was located in the Service Record file of one of the Soldiers buried at Sutton Veny.

Immigration Department

Victoria House,

Melbourne Place,

Strand, W.C.2, London.

21st May, 1920.

Dear Friend

You will be pleased to know that on Anzac Day, 1920, the graves of the 144 Australian Soldiers buried at Sutton Veny, Wilts., were specially visited, and that on each was placed floral tributes, to which was attached a copy of the enclosed Memorial Card.

Throughout the United Kingdom, as in 1918 and 1919, great interest was taken in the Pilgrimage, and those who co-operated with me regarded it as a privilege to remember in this way the memory of the brave lads who gave their lives that we might live. At Sutton Veny, the Rector (Rev. Arthur Sewell), in his letter to me writes:-

“For Anzac Day I arranged that the school children decorated all the Australian graves in our Churchyard with flowers and left a Memorial Card on each. This was done. And in our Service special prayers were offered for all those whose bodies lie interred in our God’s Acre, and whose souls are now in God’s safe keeping.

We shall be pleased if the next-of-kin of our deceased brothers are informed that their dear ones were remembered by us.”

My official duties are so pressing that I was very diffident about again organizing the Pilgrimage. With Mrs Sharp's assistance, however, it was undertaken, with the result that the Pulpit, Press and People of the Old Land united in successfully carrying out the Remembrance.

Mrs Sharp and I hail from Victoria. We were and are, however, equally interested in the soldier lads from other States, and to-day our kindly thoughts go out to you and others oversea who have been bereaved through the War.

Yours faithfully,

A. T. Sharp

Organiser, Anzac Day Pilgrimage.

