

# Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



*Lest We Forget*

## World War 1



2101 CORPORAL

**A. G. ALDERDICE**

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH AUGUST, 1916

*In Memory  
Of My Dear Husband  
One of Australia's  
Brave Soldiers*

## Arthur Gladstone ALDERDICE

Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was born at Beechworth, Victoria on 4th September, 1881 to parents Alexander & Fanny Blacklock Alderdice (nee Young).

Arthur Gladstone Alderdice attended Beechworth Grammar School, Victoria.

Arthur Gladstone Alderdice married Ethel Crawford Watt in Sydney, NSW on 17th March, 1909 at St. Phillip's Church, Sydney. They had three children Maxwell Gladstone Alderdice (born 22nd August, 1910 at Bondi; birth registered at Waverley, Sydney, NSW), Alexander Arthur Alderdice (b. 23rd September, 1912; birth registered in district of Walgett, NSW) & Colin Boyd Alderdice (b. 9th June, 1914; birth registered in district of Walgett, NSW)

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Namoi, subdivision of Walgett, New South Wales recorded Arthur Gladstone Alderdice, Wool-scourer & his wife Ethel Crawford Alderdice, domestic duties, from Walgett.

Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was a 33 year old, married, Wool Scourer from Neredah Street, Chatswood, New South Wales when he enlisted on 6th April, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. C. Alderdice, of Neredah Street, Chatswood, New South Wales. (He was medically examined on 6th April, 1915 but took Oath to enlist on 23rd April, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW.)

Private Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was posted to 6th Reinforcements of 2nd Battalion on 6th April, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Arthur Gladstone Alderdice, Service number 2101, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Karoola* (A63) on 16th June, 1915 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private Arthur Gladstone Alderdice joined his Unit with 2nd Battalion at Gallipoli on 6th August, 1915. (Some forms recorded he was Lance Corporal when he joined 2nd Battalion for duty on 6th August, 1915 & reverted to ranks (Private) from that date).

Private Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was appointed Lance Corporal from 17th November, 1915 while posted at Gallipoli.

Lance Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was sent to Field Ambulance on 28th November, 1915 sick. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Casualty Clearing Station on 28th November, 1915 then transferred to Hospital Ship *Karapara* on 30th November, 1915. Lance Corporal Alderdice disembarked at Malta on 4th December, 1915 & was admitted the same day to Imtarfa Military Hospital with Diptheria. (A Cable dated 4th January, 1916 stated "Diptheria,. Progressing favourably at Imtafa.) Lance Corporal Alderdice was transferred to Ghain Tuffieha Camp (St Peter's Hospital) on 12th January, 1916. He was transferred on H.T. *Simla* for Lines of Communication on 13th February, 1916 having been classified as fit for active service & disembarked at Alexandria on 18th February, 1916.

Base Records advised Mrs E. C. Alderdice, Neredah Street, Chatswood, NSW on 15th December, 1915 advising that her husband Lance Corporal Arthur G. Alderdice had disembarked at Malta from Hospital Ship *Karapara* on 4th December sick.

Base Records advised Mrs E. C. Alderdice, Neredah Street, Chatswood, NSW on 7th February, 1916 that No. 2101 Lance Corporal A. G. Alderdice, 2nd Battalion had landed at Malta on 4th December, 1915 from Hospital Ship *Karapara* was suffering from Diptheria.

Lance Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was marched in to Australia Overseas Base at Ghezirah on 19th February, 1916. He was transferred from Australian Overseas Base on 5th March, 1916 & rejoined his Unit with 2nd Battalion at Serapeum on 6th March, 1916.

Lance Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 on Troopship *Ivernia* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916. He was promoted to Corporal on 24th March, 1916 while at Sea, vice Corporal Cook promoted.

Base Records advised Mrs E. C. Alderdice, Neredah Street, Chatswood, NSW on 28th March, 1916 that No. 2101 Lance Corporal A. G. Alderdice, 2nd Battalion who had embarked at Malta for Egypt on Hospital Transport "Simla" on 13th February, 1916 was now fit for active service.

Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was wounded in action in France on 25th July, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Field Ambulance on 25th July, 1916 with shell wounds to Head, Hand & Arm. Corporal Alderdice was transferred on 25th July, 1916 to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station. He was transferred to No. 30 Ambulance Train & admitted to No. 3 Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 27th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to Head, Arm & Leg. Corporal Alderdice was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 29th July, 1916.

## **2nd Battalion**

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

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On 6 August, the 1st Brigade led the charge at Lone Pine (Gallipoli). Among the dead was the commander of the 2nd Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel R. Scobie, killed during a Turkish counter-attack. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December 1915.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 2nd Battalion

*25th July, 1916 - Trenches:*

*Bombardment continued throughout the night heavily, many men were buried and had a good number of casualties. Capt COTTON M.J. was killed by shell Capt COLLINGWOOD JJ wounded by shell Lt TROTT WA was wounded shell shock also 2/Lt BALDOCK WJ 2/Lt DE WINTON CP wounded with shrapnel in the arm.*

*1600 – As Enemys artillery bombardment so intense it was impossible for A & D Coys to remain in their trenches so were withdrawn and placed in a cellar underneath a house. These men were thoroughly worn out.*

*Trenches Pozieres*

*1530 – During the afternoon an attack on the enemys Trenches was made by 8th Bn AIF, who gained their objective and consolidated.*

*2300 – The Bn was relieved by the 7th Bn A.I.F. and proceeded to TARA HILL, ALBERT and bivouaced there. The total casualties reported being 3 Off killed CAPT COTTON MJ, Lt HOST WJ (died of wounds) 2/Lt SHORTER CL (died of wounds).*

*Wounded CAPT COLLINGWOOD JJ, CAPT GILDER AEB, LT TROTT WA, 2LT BALDOCK WJ, 2LT DE WINTON CP, 2/LT BIGGS A (& duty) 2/LT MILLAR CK. 507 OR Killed wounded & missing.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

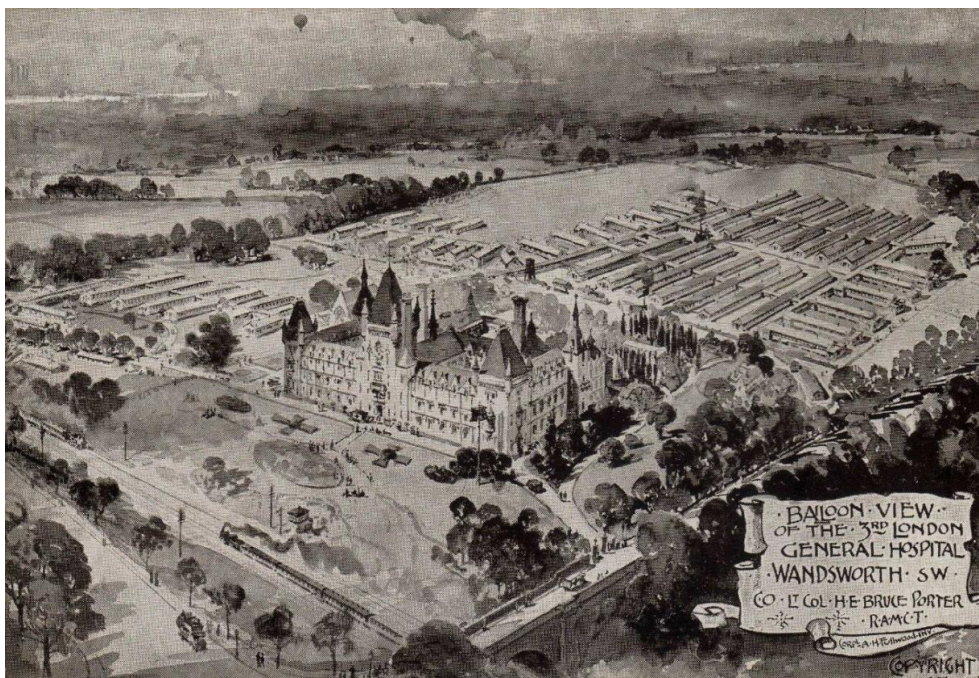
Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England on 30th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Left Arm.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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### 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth



Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice died on 15th August, 1916 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to Arms & Legs.

A death for Arthur G. Alderdice, aged 35, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was buried in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Block 19 Grave No. 29

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. C. Alderdice, Johnson Street, Chatswood, NSW, on 17th April, 1920 with the following letter: *"With reference to my communication of 26th April, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your husband, the late No. 2101 Corporal A. G. Alderdice, 2nd Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave No. 29, Australian Section, Wandsworth Cemetery, Wandsworth, London. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photographs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin."*

This is now recorded by CWGC as Plot number - Aust. 29 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records advised Mrs E. C. Alderdice, Neredah Street, Chatswood, NSW on 24th August, 1916 that her husband Corporal Arthur G. Alderdice had been wounded.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice contains four reports from various persons:

- Report from Corporal D. C. Elliot, 5091, 2nd Battalion, A.I.F., Red Cross Information Bureau, 115 Pitt Street – *"Alderdice came from Goodooga where he was managing for a wool-scouring firm. About the middle of August the Battalion was in the front line at Flers near Bapaume. Informant was near Alderdice in our trenches and saw him hit by shrapnel. He was taken away on a stretcher. Alderdice was fair, about 35 years of age, of medium height and build."*
- Report from Private F. J. Guttridge, No. 3529, 2nd Battalion, No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick – *"On the 25th July in our trenches near Pozieres, Informant and Alderdice were both hit by the same shell. Alderdice was very severely wounded, and was taken away. Informant who was also wounded did not see Alderdice again. Alderdice was medium height, stout build, apparently about 30 years of age."*
- Report from Sister – *"Died of tetanus – quite unconscious at time of death – two cousins visited him daily and went to funeral. He was buried at Wandsworth Cemetery on 19-8-16"*
- Report from J. Shepherd, 1418, 2nd Battalion, D. Company, No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick – *"I saw 2101 (I knew his number) Alderdice, who was a Corporal in D. Co. 13th Platoon which was my platoon. He was in the Wandsworth 3rd London General Hospital in August 1916. He died there and I attended his funeral as far as the gate of the Hospital, not being well enough to go further. I saw him the day before he died. He was a very good fellow, well liked by everyone. I thought a great lot of him. I would be pleased to communicate with his people who live at Narrabri."*

A War Pension was granted to Ethel Crawford Alderdice, Neredah St., Chatswood, widow of the late Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice, in the sum of £2:12:3d per fortnight from 26th October, 1916. Pensions were also granted to the following children of the late Corporal A. G. Alderdice – Maxwell Gladstone Alderdice - £1; Alexander Arthur Alderdice – 15/- & Colin Boyd Alderdice – 10/- - all per fortnight from 26th October, 1916.

Mr R. J. Yeoman, 14 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 29th September, 1916 advising he had *"received instructions from the Executor to apply for Probate of the Will of No. 2101 Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice, 2nd Battalion ..... I shall be obliged if you will furnish me with the official certificate of death..."*

Base Records replied to Mr Yeoman on 12th October, 1916 advising *"... the necessary official confirming documents covering report of death of No. 2101, Cpl A. G. Alderdice, 2nd Battalion, have not yet been received by this Department. Your request, however, has been noted for compliance at the earliest possible date."*

Mr R. J. Yeoman, 14 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records again on 1st December, 1916 stating he had requested on 29th September the official death certificate of Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice No. 2101, 2nd Battalion.

Base Records replied on 7th December, 1916 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 2101 Corporal A. G. Alderdice, 2nd Battalion.

Base Records sent Mrs E. C. Alderdice, Rosedell, Arden Street, North Randwick, New South Wales a letter on 10th January, 1920 containing two photographs of the grave of her husband the late No. 2101 Corporal A. G. Alderdice.

Mrs Ethel C. Alderdice, Rosedell, Arden Street, North Randwick, New South Wales, replied to Base Records on 24th March, 1918 (date as listed on the letter) thanking them for the two photographs.

Communications sent from Base Records to Mrs E. C. Alderdice, Neridah Street, Chatswood, NSW & also to Rosedell, Arden Street, North Randwick, NSW in 1920 were returned "Unclaimed."

A memo regarding a letter that was sent from Base Records on 23rd February, 1920 to A.A.G., 2nd M.D. regarding the latest address of next-of-kin of the late No. 2101 Corporal A. G. Alderdice, 2nd Battalion was included in the Service Record file.

Lieutenant-Colonel, A.A.G., 2nd Military District, Sydney, NSW replied to Base Records on 5th March, 1920 advising "...the Pay Office state their records shew the address of Mrs E. C. Alderdice as "Cottesloe", Johnson Street, Chatswood."

The Deputy Federal Commissioner of Taxation (Estate Duty), Hamilton Street, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 26th June, 1917 with the following: "*I have to request that you be so good as to verify the date and place of death of No. 2101 Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice, 2nd Battalion, A.I.F., who is stated to have died from wounds received while on Active Service.*"

Base Records replied to Deputy Commission of Taxation on 30th June, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 2101, Corporal A. G. Alderdice, 2nd Battalion.

Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Alderdice's widow – Mrs E. C. Alderdice, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

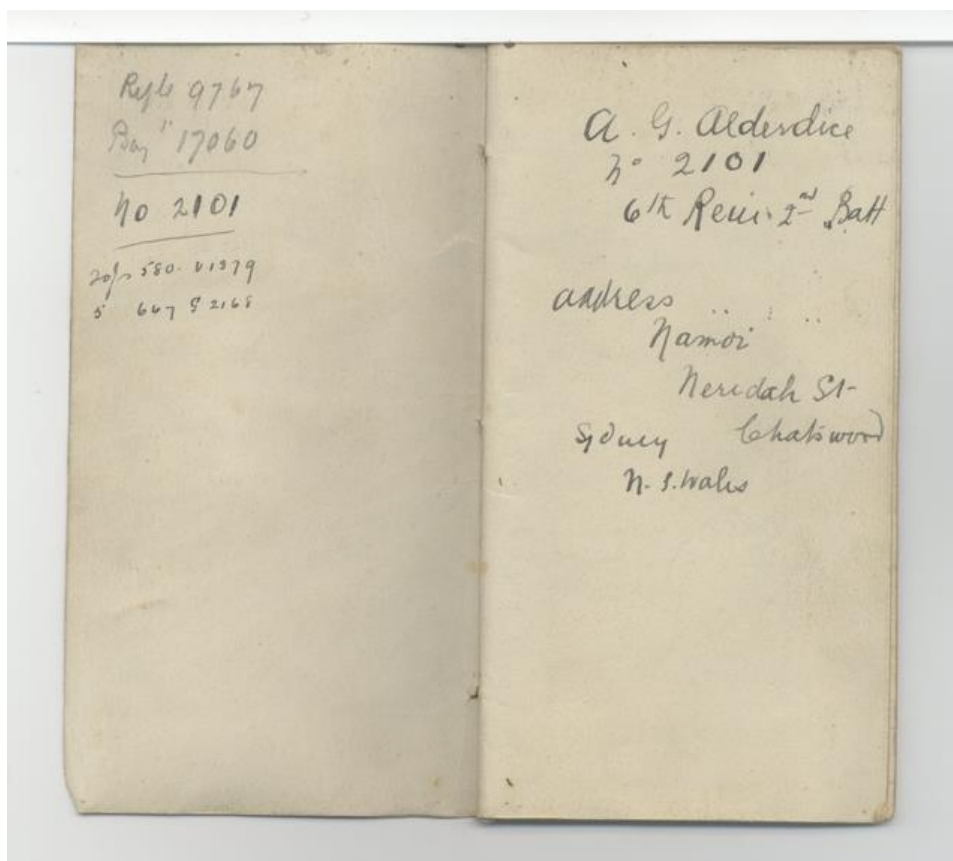
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice – service number 2101, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Fanny & the late Alexander Alderdice; husband of Ethel C. Alderdice, of "Cottesloe." Johnson St., Chatswood New South Wales.

Corporal A. G. Alderdice is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 31.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Australian War Memorial holds in its collection a notebook with diary entries for the period 23rd April, 1915 to 30th July, 1916 belonging to Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice. They also have two small brown leather purses with three coins belonging to Corporal Alderdice.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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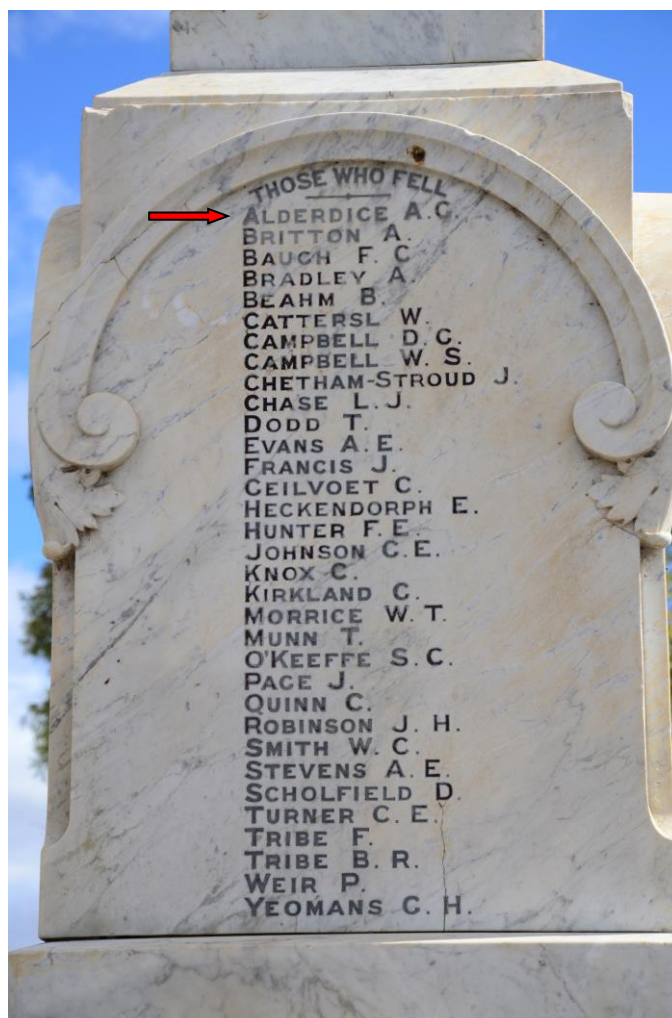
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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A. G. Alderdice is remembered on the Walgett War Memorial, located on Castlereagh Highway & Wee Waa Street, Walgett, NSW.



**Walgett War Memorial** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)





A. Alderdice is remembered on the Christ Church Honour Roll, located in Christ Church, Church & Ford Streets, Beechworth, Victoria.



Christ Church Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



A. Alderdice is remembered on the Beechworth Shire Roll of Honour, located in Town Hall, Ford Street, Beechworth, Victoria.



Beechworth Shire Roll of Honour (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



A. G. Alderdice is remembered on the Beechworth War Memorial, located at Town Hall Gardens, Williams & Ford Streets, Beechworth, Victoria.



**Beechworth War Memorial** (Photos from Carol's Headstones)



(66 pages of Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **LOCAL JOTTINGS**

At St. Phillip's Church, Sydney, on 17th ult., the marriage was celebrated of Mr Arthur Gladstone Alderdice, second son of Mr Alexander Alderdice, Beechworth, Victoria, and Miss Ethel Crawford Watt, daughter of the late Rev. Thomas Boyd Watt, Bellingen River. Mr Alderdice was formerly a book-keeper and Miss Watt Governess at Messrs Taylor Bros. Goonoo station.

*(Wellington Times, NSW – 5 April, 1909)*

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### **N.S.W. CASUALTIES**

#### **143RD LIST**

##### **Where Patients Are**

AT MALTA

L.-Cpl A. ALDERDICE, 2nd (Chatswood)

*(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 19 February, 1916)*

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### **Australian Casualties**

#### **List No. 161**

New South Wales

Returned to Duty

L.-Cpl A. G. ALDERDICE (Chatswood)

*(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 12 April, 1916)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOR**

ALDERDICE – Died of wounds received in France, August 15th, 1916, Corporal Arthur Gladstone Alderdice, dearly beloved husband of E. C. Alderdice, Chatswood, aged 35 years.

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 29 August, 1916) & (The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 August, 1916)*

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## WAR CASUALTIES

### DIED OF WOUNDS

#### CORPORAL A. G. ALDERDICE

Corporal A. G. Alderdice, who died of wounds, was the second son of the late Mr Alex. Alderdice and Mrs Alderdice, of Beechworth, Victoria, and a partner in the firm of Hayes Bros., woollscourers, of Walgett, Brewarrina and Goodooga. He took part in the Lone Pine engagement. He was 35 years of age, and has left a widow and three young sons.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 30 August, 1916)*

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### Australian Casualties

#### Lists Nos. 206, 207 and 208

Died of Wounds

Cpl A. G. ALDERDICE (Chatswood), 15/8/16

*(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 13 September, 1916)*

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### 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. 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)*

Corporal A. G. Alderdice does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of My Dear Husband*

*One of Australia's Brave Soldiers*

## Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.

*(Information from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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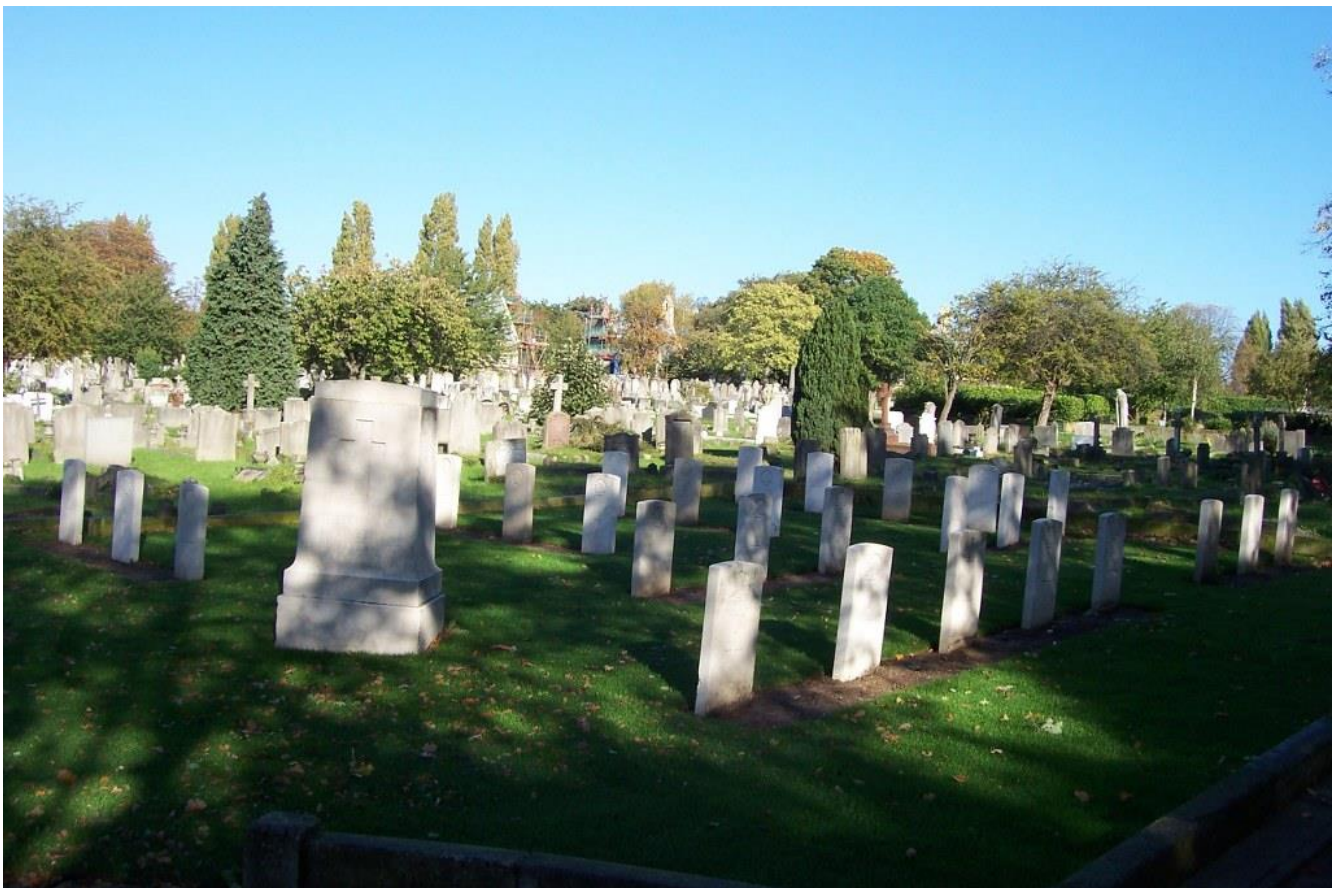
**A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London** *(taken 15 April, 1931)*



*(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)*



**The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London** *(Photos from CWGC)*





**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Corporal A. G. Alderdice's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



*(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)*