

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2774A PRIVATE

R. F. ANDERSON

39TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

30TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 24

Loved And Remembered

Deeply Regretted

Ronald Forestal (Ron) ANDERSON

Ronald Forestal Anderson was born at Bullarto, Victoria in 1894 to parents John Francis & Janet Anderson (nee Shearer).

Ronald Forestal Anderson attended State School at Bullarto, Victoria.

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll lists Ronald Forestal Anderson on 2 Electoral Rolls in Western Australia in 1916:

- Division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Yilgarn – Ronald Forestal Anderson, Loco. Fireman, Kurrawang
- Division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Dundas - Ronald Forestal Anderson, Trans. Railway Porter, 235 Mile.

Ronald Forestal Anderson was a 24 year old, single, Locomotive Fireman from Yarloop, Western Australia when he enlisted at Black Boy Hill, Western Australia on 28th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2774 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Anderson, of Yarloop, Western Australia.

Private Ronald F. Anderson was posted to 92 Depot on 2nd November, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 39th Battalion on 2nd December, 1916.

Private Ronald F. Anderson embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Persic (A34)* on 29th December, 1916 with the 39th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 3rd March, 1917.

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 Ronald F. Anderson was marched out from Australian Details at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire on 21st March, 1917 and marched in to 10th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 21st March, 1917.

Private Ronald F. Anderson was transferred to 67th Battalion on 28th April, 1917, from Perham Downs, Wiltshire from 10th Training Battalion. He was taken on strength of 67th Battalion at Windmill Hill the same day.

Private Ronald F. Anderson had an "A" added to his Regimental Number due to duplication by Administrative Headquarters, London on 29th June, 1917.

Private Ronald F. Anderson was transferred back to 39th Battalion.

Private Ronald F. Anderson proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 25th August, 1917 to reinforce the 39th Battalion. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 26th August, 1917. Pte Anderson was marched out to his Unit on 31st August, 1917 & was taken on strength of 39th Battalion in the field on 1st September, 1917.

Private Ronald F. Anderson was sent to Hospital on 25th January, 1918. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance on 25th January, 1918 with Scabies then transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Anderson was discharged to duty on 7th February, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 9th February, 1918.

Private Ronald F. Anderson was reported to be with his Unit on 18th July, 1918.

Private Ronald F. Anderson was wounded in action in France on 25th August, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 25th August, 1918 with gunshot wounds then transferred to 61st Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Anderson was transferred to Ambulance Train 35 & admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th August, 1918. He was invalided to England on 29th August, 1918 on the Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

War Diary – 39th Battalion

25th August, 1918 – Bray:

Weather remained fairly good. The batt. handed over the line to 38th batt. at midnight 24/25th and took up a position in front of Bray to jump off from. They were in position before ____; & the advance commenced at 2.30 am and was carried out w/out opposition other than artillery fire. All objectives were gained practically w/out casualties & after a protective barrage had ceased the line was ____ out in accordance written orders so that it was as follows:-

C Coy – Right Flank.....

A Coy – Centre.....

B Coy – Left -

D Coy in suppt ...

Batt Hqrs was successively at the Church in Bray at L. 16.d.50.20 and at L. 17d 40 50. Telephonic communications was established both Brigade & trench maintained ____

The operation was thoroughly very successful and 7 MG's captured together with some prisoners. The line was held during the day & towards evening further orders were received to a __ & take up positions G8a7030 to G8C9930. This advance was to be made in conjunction with a conforming to the movements of 11th HQ Bde. Time of advance 8 pm; orders received at 8.40 pm and B Coy moved off on flanks of 44th Bn at 9.20 pm. A & C Coys following a little later.

26th August, 1918 – Bray:

Batt Strength 35 Officers 84 NCOs 466 men

Lt Powell on strength

Lts Brown & August evacuated wounded

7 NCO's & 12 men evacuated wounded....

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

39th Battalion

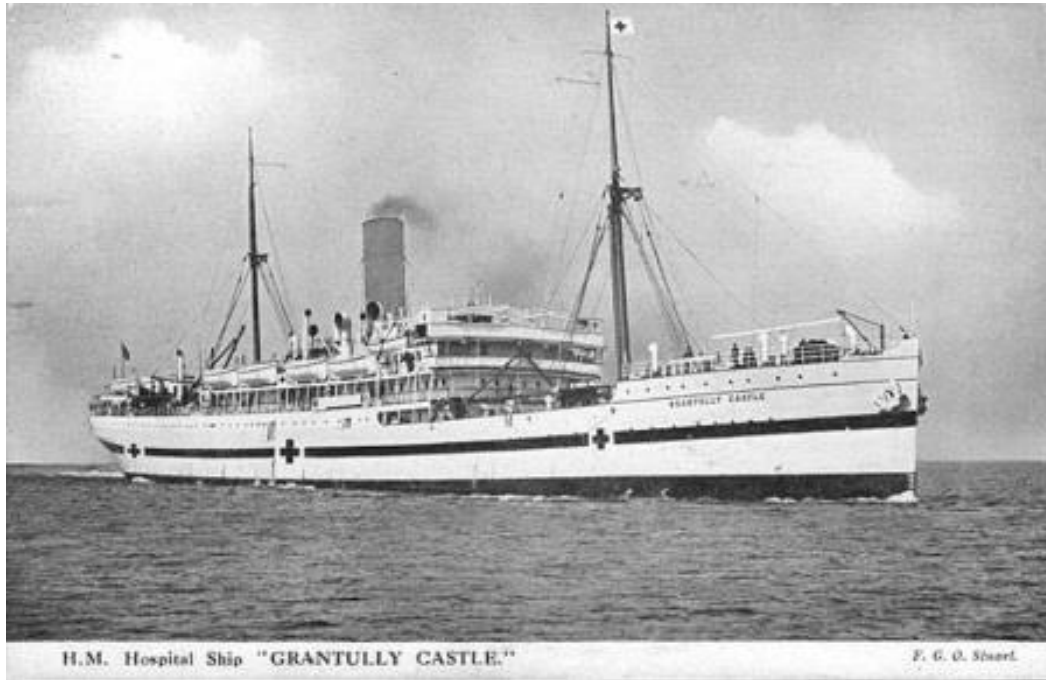
When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in turning the German drive aimed at the vital railway junction of Amiens.

The Allies launched their own offensive on 8 August 1918, but the 10th Brigade was the 3rd Division's reserve on this day so the 39th did not play an active role. It was involved, however, in an ill-conceived attack that failed to capture the village of Proyart on 10 August. Not daunted by this experience, the battalion continued to play an active role throughout August and early September in the 3rd Division's advance along the Somme Valley.

The 39th participated in its last major action of the war between 29 September and 2 October 1918 as part of the Australian-American operation that breached the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal. Along with much of the AIF, the 39th was resting out of the line when the war ended in November. It was disbanded in March 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Ronald Forestal Anderson died at 12.45 am on 30th August, 1918 at Sea, on board the Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*, from gunshot wounds to buttock.



H.M. Hospital Ship "GRANTULLY CASTLE."

F. G. O. ShearL.

Private Ronald Forestal Anderson was buried on 4th September, 1918 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number C. E. 1967 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte R. F. Anderson - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was buried with Full Military honours, Pallbearers and Bugler being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack", and the "Last Post" sounded at the graveside. The Rev: Caine C.F. officiated at the graveside. The grave will be turfed shortly and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. The Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Ronald Forre~~st~~al Anderson contains a letter from O.C. Troops, H.M.A.T. "Grantully Castle" which reads: "*Re No. 2774 Pte R. F. Anderson, 39th Battn. A.I.F. He was embarked on board this ship at Le Havre as a Stretcher case during the afternoon of the 29th August, 1918, suffering from the effects of a wound in his right buttock, there was nothing particular in his condition when examined by the M.O. i/c of his Ward, he took his meals well, and talked with the other patients during the evening. He died very suddenly at 12.45 A.M. on the 30th August 1918, and on arrival of the ship at Southampton his body was conveyed to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, who arranged the burial and will no doubt furnish the necessary particulars required.*"



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Private Ronald Forestal Anderson requested in his Will, dated 22nd August, 1917, that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Jannette Anderson, Yarloop, Western Australia.

Private Ronald Forestal Anderson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Anderson's father - Mr John Anderson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

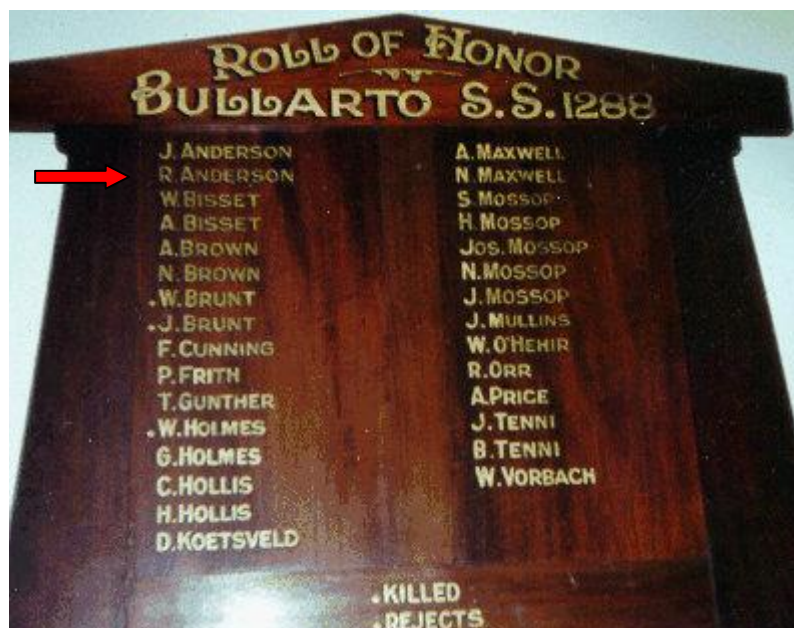
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ronald Forrestral Anderson – service number 2774A, aged 24, of 39th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John Francis and Janet Anderson, of 56 Victoria St., Ballarat East, Victoria, Australia.

Private R. F. Anderson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 130. (Listed on the Roll of Honour at A.W.M. as Ronald Forrestral Anderson).



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. Anderson is remembered on the Bullarto State School Roll of Honour, located in Bullarto Primary School, Bullarto, Victoria.



Bullarto State School Roll of Honour

R. Anderson is remembered on the Yarloop War Memorial, located on Railway Parade, Yarloop, Western Australia.



Yarloop War Memorial (Photo above by Gordon Stuart; below by Father Ted Doncaster)



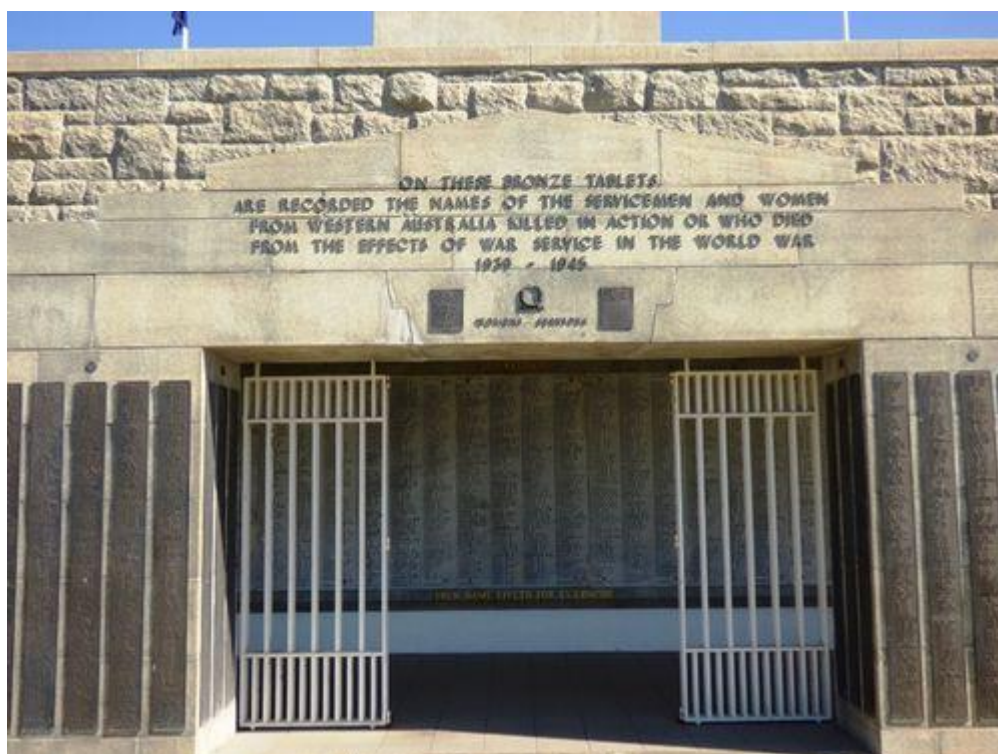
The Western Australia State War Memorial, located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia, was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



(46 pages of Private Ronald Forestal Anderson'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



Private Ronald Forestal Anderson

Newspaper Notices

KILLED IN ACTION

ANDERSON – A tribute to the memory of my dearest friend, Private Ronald F. Anderson, died of wounds, somewhere in France.

Inserted by his sorrowing fiancée, Vivienne Rutherford, Armadale.

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 20 September, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

ANDERSON – IN loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private R. F. Anderson, died of wounds on August 30, 1918.

At rest.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, sister and brother, Yarloop (late of Bullerto, Victoria)

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 26 September, 1918)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

LIST 434

DIED OF WOUNDS

Ronald Forestal Anderson

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 15 October, 1918)

£.S.D.

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

WHERE IT GOES

Letters of Administration with Will Annexed

Ronald Forestal Anderson, late of Kalgoorlie, to Janet Anderson, £308 15s 9d.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 31 January, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ANDERSON – A tribute of love to the memory of our youngest brother, Ronald Forestal, died of wound, August 30, 1918; aged 24 years, 8 weeks.

Although you have gone, dear Ron,
Treasured shall they memory be
Peacefully sleeping, resting at last
Your troubles and suffering past.
Sleep on, dear brother, and take thy rest.
They miss you most who loved you best.

Inserted by his brother Joseph and sister-in-law Frances, Yarloop.

ANDERSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Ron. who died of wounds August 1918.

In our home you are fondly remembered,
Sweet memories cling round your name,
True hearts that have always loved you
Will always be the same.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Alice, nieces and nephews, Greta, Lall, Edith, Patricia, Ro, Tom, Jack.

ANDERSON – In sad and loving memory of our dear brothers, Private R. F. Anderson (Ron.), 39th Battalion, died of wounds on August 30, 1918; also Sergeant A. D. Geddes, 51st Battalion, killed in action Mouquet Farm, September 3, 1916.

Loved in life, honoured in death, treasured in memory.

Inserted by their sister and brother Phoebe and Norman.; nephew Billy, nieces Tuppy and Little Rona.

ANDERSON – In memory of my dear friend, Pte Ronald Anderson, late 39th Battalion, died of wounds, August 30, 1918.

At rest, sweet rest.

Inserted by V. M. Rutherford, Armadale.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 30 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ANDERSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private R. F. Anderson, late of Bullarto, died of wounds on the 30th August, 1918, aged 24 years 8 months.

A faithful son, so true and kind,
Loved and respected by all around;
One year has passed, and none can tell,
The loss of our dear son we loved so well.
Time cannot heal our aching hearts,
Nor from our memory tear
The face, the form, we loved so well,
‘Twill dwell for ever there,
He followed the path of duty,
He answered his country’s call;
He died an Australian hero,
‘Tis the grandest death of all.

-Inserted by his sorrowing mother, father, sisters and brothers, Kew.

ANDERSON – In loving memory of my dear brother, Ron, died of wounds on the 30th August, 1918.

Sadly a sister is thinking
Of her soldier brother so brave,
Who fought for the cause of freedom,
Now lies in a hero’s grave.

-Inserted by his loving sister, Hannah.

ANDERSON - In loving memory of my dear brother, and uncle No. 2774, Pte R. F. Anderson, 39th Battalion, who died of wounds on the Grantully Castle, on the 30th August, 1918.

You are not forgotten, Ronald, dear,
Nor wilt thou ever be;

As long as life and memory last,

We will remember thee,

-Inserted by his loving sister, Janet (Mrs Orames), and nieces Jean, Eadie and Edna.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ANDERSON – A tribute of love to the memory of dear brother Ron, 39th Battalion, died of wounds, August 30, 1918.

He was just an Australian soldier,

One of God's bravest and best.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law Joseph and Frances, and little niece Daphne.

ANDERSON – In loving memory of Private R. F. Anderson, died of wounds, August 30, 1918.

Ever remembered

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law Norman and Phoebe, nieces Tuppy and Rona, and nephew Billy.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 30 August, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ANDERSON – In proud and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private R. F. Anderson, died of wounds 30th August, 1918 (late of Bullarto). Western Australian papers please copy.

Gone, but not forgotten.

-Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 August, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ANDERSON – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother and uncle, Private R. F. Anderson (Ron), died of wounds August 30, 1918.

Dead! Naught else can our sad hearts cry.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister, Norman and Phoebe, nieces and nephew, Yarloop.

ANDERSON – In fond memory of Private Ronald Anderson, died of wounds August 30, 1918. Ever Remembered.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs K. Rutherford and family.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 31 August, 1921)

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)

Private R. F. Anderson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Loved And Remembered

Deeply Regretted

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire



Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery



Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Private R. F. Anderson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)