

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,  
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2939 PRIVATE**

**R. LUBY**

**18TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**30TH SEPTEMBER, 1918**

## Reginald LUBY

Reginald Luby was born in Sydney, NSW around 1898.

Reginald Luby was aged 18 years & 4 months, single & a Labourer from Gladstone, Macleay River, NSW when he enlisted at R.A.S. (Royal Agricultural Show) Grounds, Sydney, NSW on 1st June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2939 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his friend – Patrick McCafferty, Belmore, via Macleay River, NSW. Reginald Luby stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been apprenticed with P. J. Bannon at “McLay River” for 4 years. He also stated he had been convicted by a Civil Power for Language.

As Reginald Luby was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad. Reginald Luby’s Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force form has for the question – Statement regarding Death of Absence of either of both parents – “*State Ward.*”

Private Reginald Luby was posted to “C” Company, 1st Battalion at Cootamundra, NSW on 6th June, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to “A” Company, 1st Battalion on 15th June, 1916. Private Luby was transferred to “B” Company, Depot Battalion at Goulburn, NSW on 7th July, 1916. He was transferred to “B” Company, 55th Battalion on 4th September, 1916 then transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 55th Battalion on 27th September, 1916.

Private Reginald Luby embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 25th October, 1916 with the 55th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements. He was written up for an Offence while at Sea on board *Ascanius* on 2nd November, 1916 – Disobedience of Orders & was awarded a forfeiture of 2 days’ pay.

Private Reginald Luby was admitted to Ship’s Hospital on 5th November, 1916 with Mumps & was discharged on 16th November, 1916.

Private Reginald Luby was written up for an Offence while at Sea on 23rd November, 1916 – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from Parade. He was awarded 170 hours detention by Lieutenant/Colonel Markwell & a forfeiture of 5 days’ pay.

Private Reginald Luby was written up for another Offence while at Sea on 16th December, 1916 – Sitting whilst on Guard. He was awarded 24 hours detention by Lieutenant/Colonel Markwell & a forfeiture of 1 days’ pay. Private Luby disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 1916.

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 Reginald Luby was written up for an Offence while posted at 14th Training Battalion, Hurdcott, Wiltshire – he was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from midnight on 12th January, 1917 until 8.30 pm on 25th January, 1917. He was awarded 12 days detention by Captain Lowe on 29th January, 1917 & was in custody awaiting trial for 3 days. Total forfeiture of pay – 28 days.

Private Reginald Luby proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on S.S. *Golden Eagle* on 28th February, 1917 from 14th Training Battalion.

Private Reginald Luby was marched in to 5th D.B.D. (Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 1st March, 1917. He was marched out on 21st March, 1917 & joined 18th Battalion from Reinforcements of 55th Battalion on 23rd March, 1917.

### 55th Battalion

The 55th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 12 February 1916 as part of the “doubling” of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 3rd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 3rd, the 55th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

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

Private Reginald Luby was written up on 10th April, 1917 while in France – Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in that he neglected to go on Parade when duly warned. He was awarded a forfeiture of 3 days' pay.

Private Reginald Luby was sent sick to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 19th April, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 28th April, 1917 then transferred & admitted then same day to 26th Casualty Clearing Station with S.T.A. Feet. Private Luby was transferred & admitted to 22nd General Hospital at Camiers on 7th May, 1917. He was transferred to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 10th May, 1917 then transferred & admitted to No. 5 Convalescent Depot at Cayeux on 15th May, 1917 with I.C.T. Feet. Private Luby was discharged to Base Depot on 11th June, 1917.

Private Reginald Luby was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 12th June, 1917. He rejoined his Battalion in France on 18th June, 1917.

Private Reginald Luby was written up for an Offence – A.W.L. from 8.45 am on 9th August, 1917 to 8 pm on 10th August, 1917. He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment No 2 by C.O. & forfeited a total of 9 days' pay.

Private Reginald Luby was sent sick to 1st New Zealand Field Ambulance on 4th October, 1917 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was transferred to 2/1 East Lancashire Field Ambulance on 6th October, 1917 then transferred to 3rd Field Ambulance on 8th October, 1917. Private Luby was transferred to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in Belgium on 8th October, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train 31 on 9th October, 1917. He was admitted to 16th General Hospital at Le Treport on 15th October, 1917 with Myalgia (muscle pain). Private Luby was transferred & admitted to No. 3 Convalescent Depot at Treport on 15th October, 1917 & discharged to Base Details on 17th October, 1917.

Private Reginald Luby was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 18th October, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit from 2nd A.D.B.D. on 24th October, 1917 & rejoined 18th Battalion in the Field on 26th October, 1917.

Private Reginald Luby was sent to 7th Australian Field Ambulance in Belgium on 20th December, 1917 with "Odema Feet". He was transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 20th December, 1917 & was discharged to duty on 11th January, 1918. Private Luby rejoined 18th Battalion in Belgium on 11th January, 1918.

Private Reginald Luby was admitted to 47th Casualty Clearing Station on 19th June, 1918 with Pleurisy. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 27th June, 1918. Private Luby was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Carisbrooke Castle* on 28th June, 1918 with T.B. Lungs.

## **18th Battalion**

The 18th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.....

In 1917 the 18th was involved in the follow-up of German forces during their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was involved in some particularly heavy fighting around Warlencourt in late February. The battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out: the second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France; and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

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

Private Reginald Luby was admitted to 4th London General Hospital, Denmark Hill, England on 29th June, 1918 with T.B. Lungs (severe). He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, England on 18th September, 1918.

Mr Patrick McCafferby, Belmore, via Macleay River, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 24th July, 1918 that Private R. Luby had been admitted to 4th London General Hospital, England on 29th June, 1918 suffering from Tuberculosis Lungs – severe.

Mr Patrick McCafferty, Belmore River, Macleay River, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 13th August, 1918 that Private Reginald Luby was dangerously ill on 1st August & a further progress report was expected.

Mr Patrick McCafferty, Belmore River, Macleay River, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 3rd September, 1918 that Private Reginald Luby's condition was stationary.

Private Reginald Luby died at 4.15 on 30th September, 1918 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from (primary) Syncope & (secondary) Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

A death for Reginald Luby, aged 20, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private Reginald Luby was buried on 2nd October, 1918 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number Aust. 68 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Reginald Luby - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, and Bugler being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack", and conveyed to the graveside, where the "Last Post" was sounded by a Bugler of the A.I.F. Captain C. S. Renwick acted as Office in Charge of funeral. A few of the patients and Staff Attended. A wreath was sent by My Billyard-Leake of Harefield. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.*

The personal effects of the late Private Reginald Luby were sent to Mr P. McCafferty in August, 1919.

Base Records contacted Mr P. McCafferty, Belmore, via Macleay River, NSW on 21st April, 1921 stating that he was registered on the records of the late No. 2939 Private R. Luby as next of kin but were enquiring if there were any blood relations & specifically asked if his father and mother were alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 2nd District Base on 25th November, 1922 stating that the nominated next-of-kin for the late Private Reginald Luby was nominated as his friend - Mr P. McCafferby, Belmore, via Macleay River, NSW, but communications sent to him requesting of the deceased's father or mother were alive had no been answered. Base Records asked 2nd District Base "*...I shall be obliged for any action you may be able to take in the matter.*"

The Officer i/c, A.I.F. Branch, Medals, 2nd District Base, replied to Base Records on 2nd December, 1922 stating "An application for gratuity claim (rejected) was made by Mrs P. J. Bannan of Belmore River, NSW, in which she states – "*that having no parents Luby was in the care of the State Relief Department until June 9th, 1911 when my husband and I took him and maintained him for 5 or 6 years. I was always known to him as Foster-Mother.*" The case is being submitted to Press."

This letter was marked by Base Records on 11th December, 1922 "*War Medals Etc to Untraceables.*"

Base Records wrote to Mr P. McCafferty, Belmore River, Macleay River, NSW again on 2nd October, 1923 as no reply had been received to their letter from 21st April, 1921. Base Records again requested to know if the late Private Reginald Luby had any blood relations.

Mr P. A. McCafferty replied to Base Records on 9th October, 1923 with the following "*....I wish to advise you that he had no blood relations living. He was a State School Boy – served his time with Mr P. J. Bannan of Belmore River. When he attained the age of 18 years he left Bannan set out on his own. After some weeks looking for work with no hope of getting a start he came and asked me for assistance which I gave him and a position on the farm as long as he cared to stay. He remained with me for about four months. He asked if I had any objections to him inlisting and I said no. I assisted him into camp and also on final leave he said he would come back to me after the war he allotted me as next-of-kin. Mrs P. J. Bannan who is my sister put in a Claim and received Private Luby's deferred pay which I am sure was much against the wishes of the Dead Soldier. I registered as next-of-kin. Wish to know what claim Mrs Bannan has on the Deceased soldier. I think that something false must have been sent in and I would like you to have the matter cleared up in justice to the Dead Soldier and myself. If there are any medals &c. due to me by the*

*Death of Private Luby I would be very pleased to receive them. P.S. I would like to know what gratuity Bond was due and who received same and also the amount due by the state on his attainment of 21 years. I have been asked at different times through your office if I would contribute to have Private Luby grave attended to. I have written to you asking re Private Luby Estate, with no satisfactory reply."*

Private Reginald Luby was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also usually sent to the soldier's next-of-kin. In Private Luby's case – the War Medals & Mementoes were sent to Untraceables – awaiting any blood relations to apply for them. (Scroll & Plaque sent to Untraceables in January, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private R. Luby – service number 2939, of 18th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Reg. Luby is remembered on Gladstone & District Roll of Honour, located in Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery, 5 Kinchela Street, Gladstone, NSW.



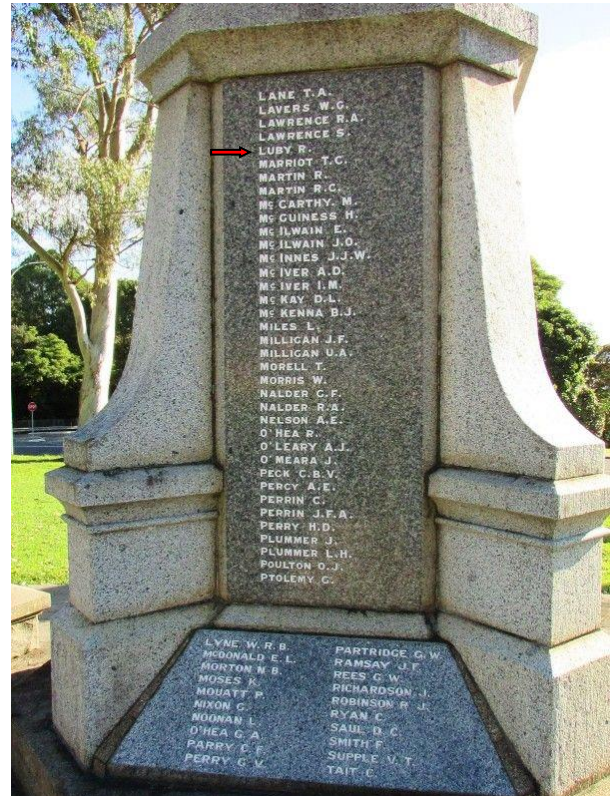
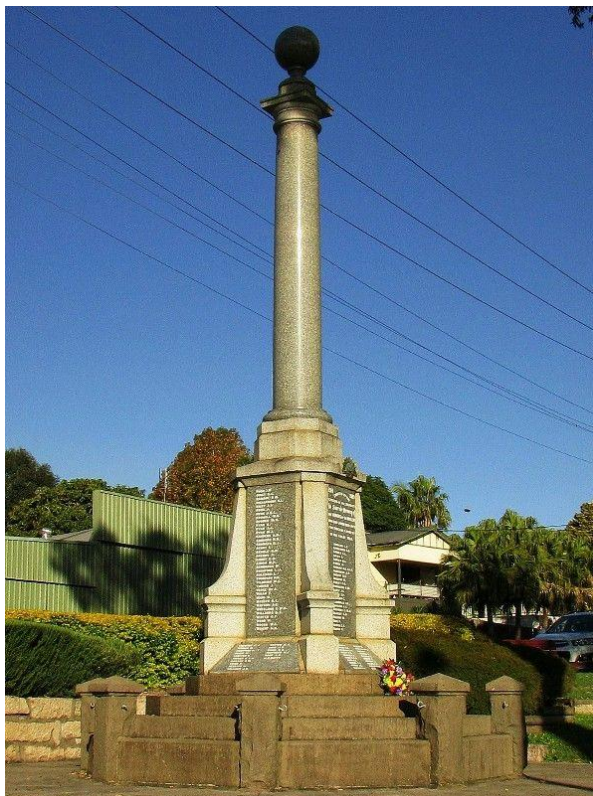
**Gladstone & District Roll of Honour** (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

R. Luby is remembered on the Gladstone War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Kinchela Street, Gladstone, NSW.



Gladstone War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

R. Luby is remembered on the Kempsey War Memorial, located at Rudder & Lord Streets, East Kempsey, NSW.

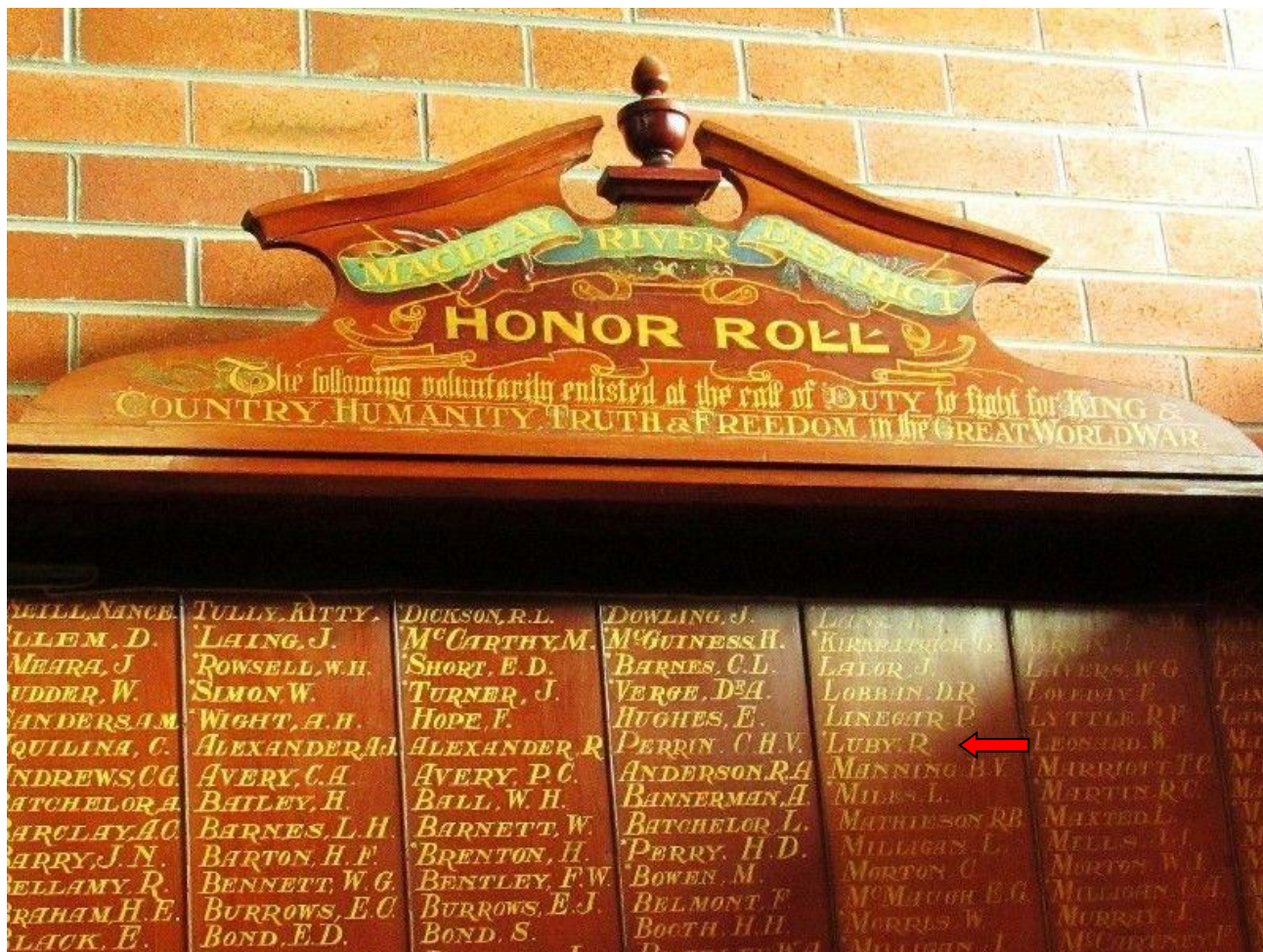


Kempsey War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia - Sandra Brown)

R. Luby is remembered on the Macleay River District Honour Roll, located in Kempsey Shire Council Offices, Tozer & Elbow Streets, West Kempsey, NSW.



**Macleay River District Honour Roll** (Photos from Monument Australia)



The Macleay River District Roll of Honour, located at Kempsey-Macleay RSL Memorial Hall, 1 York Lane, Kempsey, NSW is a framed paper honour roll commemorating those from the Macleay River District who served in World War 1.



**Macleay River District Roll of Honour** (Photo from Monument Australia)

Private R. Luby is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 86.



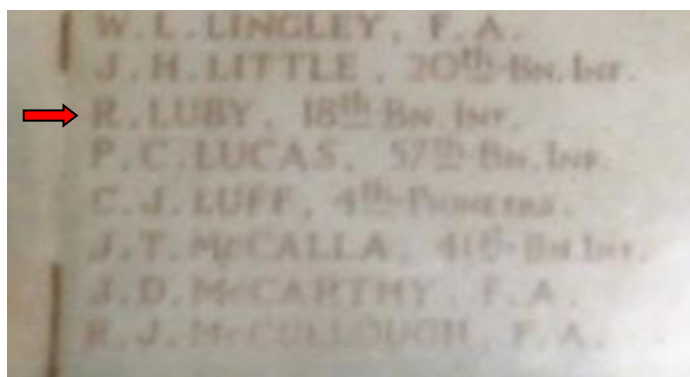
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*



R. Luby is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



**Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield** (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



(74 pages of Private Reginald Luby'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) & National Archives

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **FOR AUSTRALIA**

#### **CASUALTY LIST NO. 421**

ILL

R. LUBY, Belmore (ser).

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 5 August, 1918)*

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### **PERSONAL**

Mr P. A. McCafferty, of Belmore River, was advised by Colonel Stafford, of Victoria Barracks, that Private Reginald Luby, of the 18th Batt., No. 2939, had died on the 30/9/18 in a London hospital, the cause of death being tuberculosis. Private Luby enlisted about two years ago from Belmore River, where he was well known, having resided with Mr McCafferty.

*(Macleay Argus, Kempsey, NSW – 10 October, 1918)*

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### **Local and General**

Mr P. McCafferty, of Belmore River, has been informed that No. 2939, Private Reginald Luby, of the 18th Battalion, whom he formerly employed, died from tuberculosis of the lungs 30th September, 1918, in hospital in London. Deceased, aged about 21, had been away fighting over two years.

*(The Macleay Chronicle, Kempsey, NSW – 16 October, 1918)*

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### **PERSONAL**

Mr P. McCafferty, of Belmore River, has received the following letter: "Dear Sir, - In confirmation of my telegraphic advice it is with sincere regret I have to inform you that No. 29390, Pte Reginald Luby, 18th Batt., A.I.F., is officially reported to have died from the effects of 'tuberculosis lungs' at the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, on September 30th, 1918. I am directed to convey to you the deep regret and sympathy of their Majesties the King and Queen and the Commonwealth Government in the loss that you and the Army had sustained by the death of this soldier. – Wm Sherborn, Major."

*(Macleay Argus, Kempsey, NSW – 14 November, 1918)*

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### **Local and General**

Mr P. McCafferty, of Belmore River, is in receipt of a letter from Major Sherborn, conveying the deep sympathy of their Majesties the King and Queen, and the Commonwealth Government in the loss he and the Army have sustained by the loss, officially reported, of 2939A, Private Reginald Luby, 18th Batt., A.I.F., who died from the effects of tuberculosis of lungs at 1st Auxiliary Hospital, 30th September, 1918.

*(The Macleay Chronicle, Kempsey, NSW – 20 November, 1918)*

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## **N.S.W. War Casualties**

### **Lists Nos. 442 to 446**

#### Other Deaths

Pte LUBY, R. (Belmore), 30/9/18, illness

*(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 27 November, 1918)*

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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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 21st July, 1921, to Mr P. McCafferby, Belmore, via Macleay River, NSW advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Private R. Luby had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private R. Luby does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England**

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield**





St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



Photo of Private R. Luby's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*



**St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield** (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield** (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

