

**London Road Cemetery,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2919 PRIVATE**

**G. S. W. McCUDDEN**

**33RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**14TH JULY, 1918 Age 21**

*Sweet Jesus Have Mercy*

## George Sylvester Ward McCUDDEN

George Sylvester Ward McCudden was born at John's River, Manning River, New South Wales on 9th May, 1897 to parents Randolph James Ward McCudden & Mary McCudden (nee Ryan). His birth was registered in the district of Taree, New South Wales in 1897.

Mary McCudden, mother of George Sylvester Ward McCudden, died on 1st July, 1906 at John's River, New South Wales.

George McCudden was an 18 ½ year old, single, Postal employee when he enlisted on 6th October, 1915 at Holdsworthy, Sydney, NSW (should be Holsworthy) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2360 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Randolph J. W. McCudden, Beechwood Hotel, Beechwood, NSW. George McCudden stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Militia for 6 months.

Trooper George McCudden was posted to Australian Light Horse on 5th October, 1915 for recruit training.

Trooper George McCudden was written up for an Offence on 5th February, 1916 while posted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW – Late on early morning Parade. He was awarded a fine of 5/-.

Trooper George McCudden was posted to 16th Reinforcements, 6th Regiment, Australian Light Horse on 29th March, 1916 at Menangle, NSW.

Signaller George McCudden was written up for an Offence on 5th April, 1916 while posted at Menangle, NSW – Absenting himself without leave on 5th April, 1916. He was awarded 10/- fine.

Trooper George McCudden was transferred to Milsons Island Isolation Camp from 16th June, 1916 then transferred back to Australian Light Horse at Menangle, NSW from 17th July, 1916. Trooper McCudden was transferred to Staff Officer for Invalids on 23rd July, 1916 from Light Horse Depot Regiment.

A Medical Report was completed of Signaller G.S.W. McCudden on 20th September, 1916 at Earrison Hospital, Sydney, NSW. His disability was listed as Rheumatism which had first occurred at Menangle Park Camp in May, 1916. *"After a wetting had pains in the feet & swelling & was better in 7 days got a 2nd attack at end of July the ankles knees & left shoulder & finger of left hand were swollen & painful was sent into Earrison Hospital kept there 8 days & sent to Moree"*. The cause of his disability was listed as *"repeated wettings."* The Medical Officer in Charge of the Case recommended that Signaller McCudden be discharged as permanently unfit.

Trooper George McCudden was discharged medically unfit – not due to misconduct on 22nd September, 1916 by Lieutenant, Administrative Officer, Invalids Section, A.I.F. (Note: the Statement of Service form recorded that Trooper McCudden was medically discharged on 23rd July, 1916.)

George McCudden was a 19 ½ year old, single, Postal employee from Thirroul, NSW (as listed on Embarkation Roll, however the "Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force" form recorded George McCudden's postal address as Post Office Paddington, Sydney, NSW with the word "residing" next to this) when he re-enlisted on 24th November, 1916 at Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2919 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Randolph J. W. McCudden, Royal Hotel, Beechwood, NSW (Mother deceased). George McCudden stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 3 months with C.M.F & with 42nd Infantry Brigade at Orange, NSW. He had also served for 12 months with 6th L. H., A.I.F. but was discharged as medically unfit.

A certified copy of consent via Telegram was received from Mr R. McCudden, Beechwood, who consented to his son enlisting in the A.I.F. for active service abroad. (Consent of the parents was required for Soldiers to enlist under the age of 21.)

Private George McCudden was posted to Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 35th Battalion on 23rd November, 1916.

Private George McCudden embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 25th November, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 35th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th January, 1917.

### **35th Battalion**

The 35th Battalion was formed in December 1915 in Newcastle, New South Wales. The bulk of the battalion's recruits were drawn from the Newcastle region and thus it was dubbed "Newcastle's Own". Reflecting the demographics of the area, there were a high proportion of miners among the battalion's original members.

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

Private George McCudden was marched in the Details Camp at Fovant from Australia on 30th January, 1917.

Private George McCudden was admitted to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 16th February, 1917 with Myalgia. He was discharged on 23rd February, 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 George McCudden was marched in to Camp Details at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire on 24th February, 1917 from Hospital.

Private George McCudden was marched out to Larkhill from Sutton Mandeville on 6th March, 1917 & posted to 9th Training Battalion, Durrington, Wiltshire on the same day.

Newspaper item – *The Northern Champion*, Taree, NSW – 25 July, 1917:

### **Soldier's Letter**

*Signaller George McCudden writes to his father - Mr. 'Dolf' McCudden, of Beechwood: —*

*Have just arrived back to camp after spending four days in London. Had a room for three nights at the A.I.F. War Chest Club. It is absolutely the finest accommodation house for soldiers in London All the oversea's troops, including New Zealanders and "Tommies" have meals and engage beds there. By the time we got fixed up properly it was bed time, and after enjoying a nice hot meal we started off in a party to St. James' Park underground railway, caught the tube railway to Charing Cross then took the bus to the Colliseum Theatre, where we enjoyed a splendid vaudeville entertainment. On the second day I booked a seat in a large 'bus that carries oversea soldiers around, and explains the different sights of London.*

*In the morning we first visited St. Paul's Cathedral. After having a rest we looked through St Paul's, visited the zoo and museum, and drove through the heart of the city, via Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square, Oxford Circus and the Strand via Fleet and Victoria streets to the War Chest Club, where we had dinner.*

*At 2 p.m. we started off again for Buckingham Palace. The King and Queen were at Windsor Castle, their winter residence. We saw the beautiful Royal carriages and harness and some fine horses. We then visited the Tower Bridge lastly, "which I shall never forget," the Tower of London. I saw the gallows and the courtyard, also the axe and block where people in the early days were executed. I saw the impression quite distinctly, the axe made in the block! Well that ends the trip around the principal sights of London. I had the pleasure of purchasing some clothing at Whiteleys, Ltd, recognised to be the largest shop in the world. It does not look as nice as Hordern's in Sydney. I was in Westminster Abbey, (also the Houses of Parliament, they are simply magnificent, and are situated on the bank of the Thames, not far from Westminster Bridge.*

*The House of Lords is also a fine building, which is guarded at the entrance by two moured soldiers; they are the biggest men I ever saw and dressed beautifully. The hotels are splendid, the Hotel Cecil being one of the finest.*

*George McInnes is a sergeant- major and Matt King is a sergeant in headquarters, at Horseferry road. The day before we left London there was a zeppelin raid in one of the suburbs. All the special police were called out. I saw two monoplanes, and two observation balloons go up over Euston railway station, also whilst on our way to London we passed a flying school. I think it was at a city called Woking, and saw no less than 10 aeroplanes ascend in all directions: one in particular travelled very fast — I suppose at the rate of 60 miles an hour over our train; it was a pretty sight.*

*I think it will be the end of the Germans on the Western front now that they have evacuated the Ancre section. We heard today that America is joining in. We are going to Lark Hill on Tuesday or Wednesday next, so our O.C. stated. I posted a lot of views, of London home while on leave.*

*I forgot to mention the Anzac Buffet. It is a credit, to the Australian and New Zealand Governments, which run it free of cost. Any Australian or New Zealander can get a meal there. Frank Currie received a Manning River paper. I was sorry to see that Les Tiedemann is among the missing.*

Private George McCudden was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 9th October, 1917 with Influenza. He was discharged to Training Depot on 20th October, 1917 & marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire the same day.

Private George McCudden was On Command at Group Signalling School at Fovant, Wiltshire on 20th October, 1917.

Private George McCudden proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 6th November, 1917 from 9th Training Battalion, Fovant.

Private George McCudden was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 7th November, 1917. He was marched out to the Front on 10th November, 1917.

Private George McCudden was transferred to 33rd Battalion from 35th Battalion on 17th November, 1917. He was taken on strength of 33rd Battalion in the Field on 17th November, 1917.

Private George McCudden was written up for an Offence on 11th January, 1918 – *“Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline in that he absented himself from a place of Parade appointed by his C.O. from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm on 11th January, 1918.”* He was awarded 6 days Confined to Barracks.

Private George McCudden was wounded in action – Gassed on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 55th Field Ambulance on 17th April, 1918 – Gassed Shell then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station. Private McCudden was admitted to 10th General Hospital, Rouen, France on 19th April, 1918. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *West Australia* on 21st April, 1918.

### **33rd Battalion**

The 33rd Battalion was formed in January 1916 at a camp established at the Armidale showground in New South Wales. The bulk of the battalion's recruits were drawn from the New England region and thus it was dubbed "New England's Own".

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The battalion's next major battle was around Passchendaele on 12 October. The battlefield, though, had been deluged with rain, and thick mud tugged at the advancing troops and fouled their weapons. The battle ended in a disastrous defeat.

For the next five months the 33rd alternated between periods of rest, training, labouring, and service in the line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the Battalion was part of the force deployed to defend the approaches to Amiens around Villers-Bretonneux. It took part in a counter-attack at Hangard Wood on 30 March, and helped to defeat a major drive on Villers-Bretonneux on 4 April.

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

### War Diary – 33rd Battalion

#### *Villers Bretonneux*

*17th April, 1918 – Dull day – Visibility poor. The enemy commenced a very heavy bombardment of gas shells of all calibres up to 5.9s at 4 pm paying most attention to the forward portion of the town. Direct hits were obtained on A. Cos. billets, penetrating into the cellars where the men were asleep, and gassing a number before respirators could be adjusted. The bombardment lasted the whole day but was most intense between 4 am and 1 pm, No gas detected in the region of the Posts until late in the afternoon when a number of shells fell short of the village. These*

*ceased at 6 pm and the enemy gave his attention to dropping shells at intervals in different parts of the town. The enemy did not discontinue his usual shelling with H.E. although it was not so pronounced as previously. Our casualties through gas were heavy being 13 Officers, 26 N.C.O.'s and 268 men. The gas used seemed to be a mixture as men were affected in the eyes, chest and stomach.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George McCudden was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, England on 22nd April, 1918 with Gas Poisoning.

Mr R. J. McCudden, Royal Hotel, Beechwood, NSW, father of Private George McCudden, was advised by Base Records on 4th May, 1918 that Private G. S. McCudden had been "*gassed – classed as wounded.*" Mr R. J. McCudden was advised again on 10th May, 1918 that Private G. S. McCudden had been admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, England on 22nd April, 1918 having been gassed.

Private George McCudden was transferred to No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, England on 28th May, 1918. He was discharged to furlo from 30th May, 1918 to 13th June, 1918 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot.

Private George McCudden was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England on 13th June, 1918 from furlo.

Private George McCudden was sent sick to Group Hospital, No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott on 26th June, 1918 with left Basal Pneumonia. He was transferred & admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 2nd July, 1918.

Private (Signaller) George McCudden died at 3.30 pm on 14th July, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Influenza. The Hospital Admission form reported "*...This man's lungs gradually became more "clogged up" & the patient more cyanosed until he died at 3.30 pm 14 July 1918. This man's congestion of lungs was apparently greatly aggravated, if not caused by his Gas Poisoning.*"

A death for George McCudden, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private George McCudden was buried on 17th July, 1918 in London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England – Plot number R. 16 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private George S. W. McCudden - *Coffin was good, polished Elm, Brass mountings. Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin was conveyed to the graveside on a Gun-carriage, and preceded by a Firing Party and a band of the No. 4 Australian Command Depot Six of deceased's comrades acted as pallbearers and the members of his company attended as mourners. Wreaths from the Officers N.C.O.'s and Men from No. 4 Command Depot, Nursing Staff and Patients of A.4. Ward, Fovant Hospital and Mrs M. Brady, were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded. Deceased's friend Mrs M. Brady, 31 Aigmurth Mansions, Chapel Street, Brixton, London, was chief mourner. The late Private McCudden was very popular with all ranks of the Depot and his loss is very keenly felt.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private George Sylvester Ward McCudden contains a letter on behalf of The Matron, Military Hospital, Fovant, to the Red Cross in reply to their letter. "*I am directed to inform you that 2919 Pte G.S.W. McCudden 33rd Battalion, A.I.F., died in this Hospital at 3.30 pm 14.7.18 from Influenza, and was buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Salisbury.*"

Private George Sylvester W. McCudden requested in his Will dated 7th August, 1917 that he bequeathed all his real estate & personal estate to his father – Randolph James Ward McCudden, of Beechwood, NSW.

The Deputy Postmaster General, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 6th August, 1918 stating "*I have to intimate it was reported in the 420th Casualty List that "Private George S. W. McCudden, Beechwood" has died – cause not stated. I shall be glad if you will kindly advise me whether this refers to No, 2919, Signaller George*



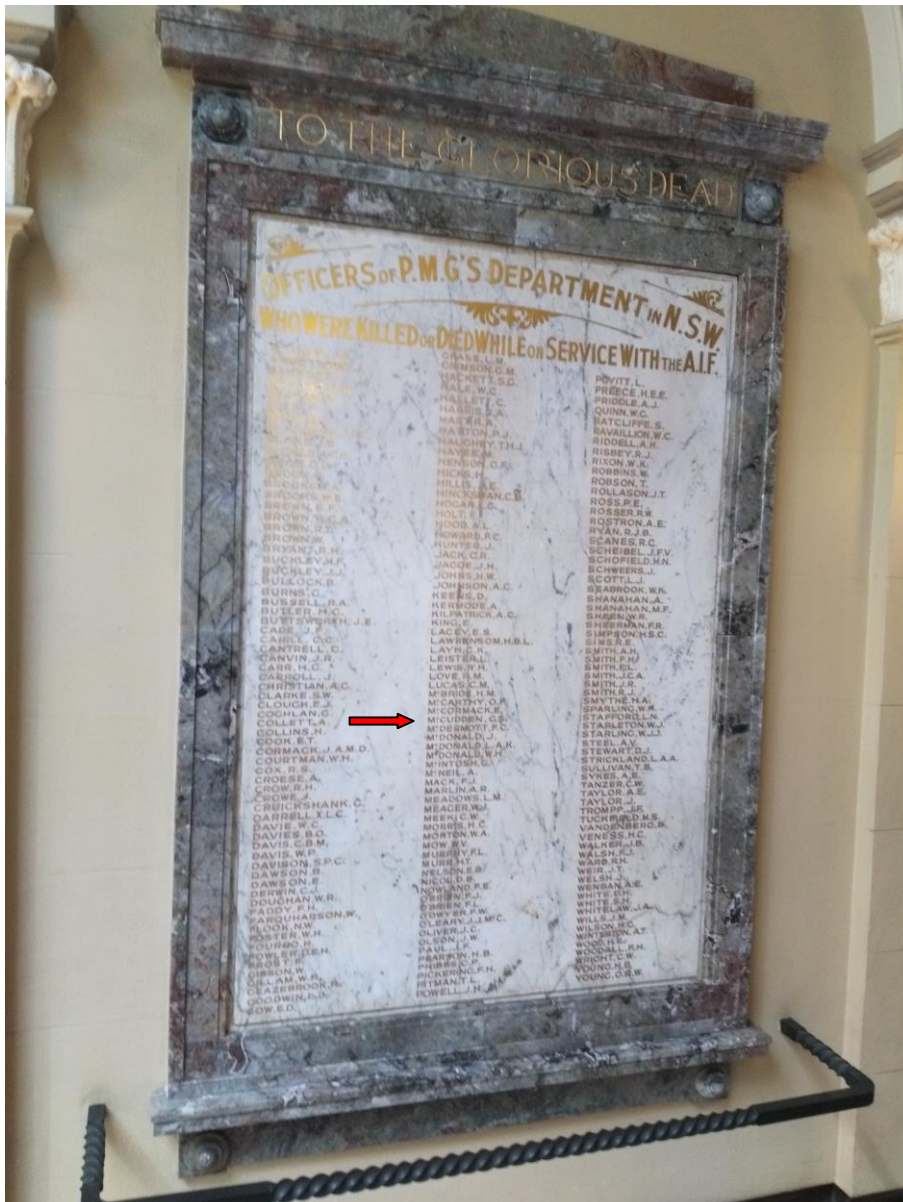
Sylvester McCudden, 6th Reinforcements, 35th Battalion, who was previously a Telegraph Messenger, joined the A.I.F. in November, 1916, and embarked on active service in January, 1917. If so, please state the date of his death and name and address of next-of-kin.”

Base Records replied to The Deputy Postmaster-General, Sydney, NSW on 12th August, 1918 advising that “the soldier whose name appeared in Casualty List No. 420, as having died at Fovant Military Hospital, on the 14th July, 1918, of influenza, is No. 2919, Pte G. S. W. McCudden, 33rd Btn., and is identical with the subject of your enquiry. Next-of-kin is shown as:- Father – Randolph James Ward McCudden, Royal Hotel, Beechwood, NSW.”

Private George S. W. McCudden was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal (despatched as Pte G.S.W. McCudden). A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private McCudden’s father – Mr R. J. W. McCudden, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1922 (despatched as “George McCudden” & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George McCudden – service number 2919, aged 21, of 33rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Randolph and Mary McCudden, of Beechwood, New South Wales.

G. S. McCudden is remembered on the NSW Officers of the Post Master General’s Department Honour Roll, located in the former Sydney G.P.O. (now Westin Hotel), corner Martin Place & George Street, Sydney, NSW.



(Photo by Kevin Sedgwick)

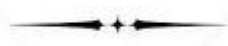
Private G. S. W. McCudden is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 122.



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

(87 pages of Private George Sylvester Ward McCudden'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**

### **Personal**

Mr G. S. McCudden, relieving assistant of the Registry branch of the Government Post Office, and who has been assisting at the local post office for the past six months, leaves Orange to-morrow to enlist for the front. He is a son of Mr R. McCudden, of the Royal Hotel, Beechwood, and while in Orange made many friends. He will be succeeded by Assistant Gentles, of Mount David, who arrived in Orange last night.

*(Leader, Orange, NSW – 14 July, 1915)*

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### **District News**

#### **JOHN'S RIVER**

Signaller George McCudden sailed for the front lately. He was prevented from going before by a severe attack of rheumatism.

*(The Northern Champion, Taree, NSW – 13 December, 1916)*

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## CASUALTY LIST

The 402nd casualty list contains the following:

Wounded: Pte G. McCudden (Beechwood)

(*Daily Examiner*, Grafton, NSW – 23 May, 1918)

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## 420th CASUALTY LIST

### NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Pte GEO. S. W. McCUDDEN, Beechwood

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 3 August, 1918)

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George S. McCudden is remembered on a headstone, along with his mother, at Holey Creek (Moorland) Cemetery, Lot 104 Pacific Hwy, Moorland, NSW.







*(Photos from BillionGraves)*



*Inserted to*

*the memory of*

*No. 2919*

*Sig. GEORGE S. McCUDDEN*

*35th Batt., A.I.F.*

*Died From The Effects Of \_\_\_\_\_*

*14th July, 1918*

*Aged 21 Years.*



## 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 25th July, 1921, to Mr R. J. W. McCudden, Beechwood Hotel, Beechwood, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Private G. S. W. McCudden, 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 G. S. W. McCudden does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Sweet Jesus Have Mercy*

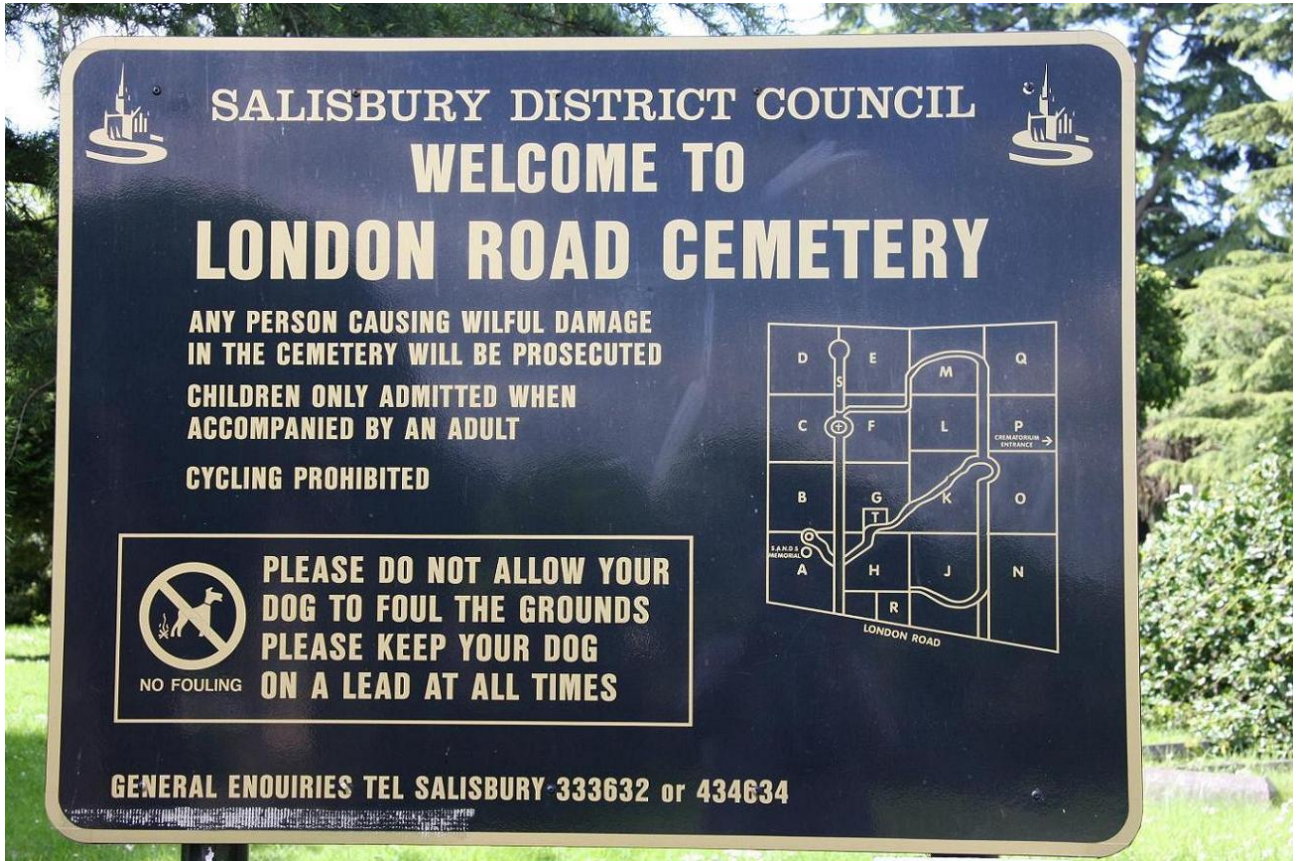
## **London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England**

London Road Cemetery, Salisbury contains 52 World War 1 burials & 52 World War 2 burials. There are 9 Australian WW1 War Graves & 1 WW2 Australian War Grave in this Cemetery.



*(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*





(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private G. S. W. McCudden's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)*





**Photo of Private G. S. W. McCudden's headstone in the background (red arrow)**

Taken on the same day as the previous photo.

The headstone (in the previous photo) had been cleaned as part of the CWGC project "Eyes On, Hands On" volunteers.

*(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)*





*(Photo from CWGC)*



*(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)*