

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3561 DRIVER

R. E. PATTEN

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

2ND NOVEMBER, 1915 Age 25

Ronald Easton PATTEN

Ronald Easton Patten was born at Redfern, Sydney, NSW in early 1890 to parents William and Mary Caroline Patten (nee Easton).

Ronald Easton Patten attended Fort Street School, Sydney.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Burwood, NSW listed Ronald Easton, Wool Classer from Liverpool Road. Also listed at Liverpool Road were Ronald's parents – William Patten, Clergyman & Mary Caroline, Domestic Duties & his sisters Dorothy Patten, Domestic duties & Marjorie Agnew Patten, Domestic Duties.

Ronald Easton Patten was a 24 year old, single, Wool Classer when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney on 2nd November, 1914 with the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3561 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Patten of Liverpool Road, Croydon, NSW.

Ronald Easton Patten was sent to Camp on 3rd November, 1914.

Driver Ronald Patten was attached to Brigade Ammunition Column on 23rd March, 1915.

Driver Ronald Patten joined M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 4th April, 1915.

Driver Ronald Patten was transferred to Intermediate Base at Cairo on 5th April, 1915.

Driver Ronald Patten was transferred to Base at Alexandria on 31st July, 1915 to be invalided to England.

Driver Ronald Easton Patten was admitted to 4th London General Hospital, Denmark Hill, London from 23rd to 25th August, 1915 suffering from Rheumatism. According to notes taken - Driver Patten had "*Rheumatic Fever 4 weeks ago. He was transferred to Australian Hospital at Harefield*".

Driver Ronald Easton Patten died at 7 am on 2nd November, 1915 at County of London War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, England from Pericarditis (Rheumatism). He died exactly 1 year to the day that he enlisted.

(Note – The Field Service Form 2090A has the date of death recorded as 4th November, 1915" but pencilled next to it is the date of "2-11-15." The Statement of Service Form also has the date of death as "4/11/15" with a notation below "Correct date of death 2/11/15 as per notification in B.R. file.")

A death for Ronald E. Patten, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Epsom, Surrey, England.

Driver Ronald Easton Patten was buried at 3.15 pm on 8th November, 1915 in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey – Screen Wall. K. 235. There are no headstones for this section of the Cemetery, however those buried have their names on a bronze plaque located on the Screen Wall which is directly in front of the lawned area of burials. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Driver Ronald Easton Patten was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Patten's father – Mr William Patten, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

Mr William Patten, father of the late Driver Ronald Patten, received a letter from Base Records, dated 6th May, 1925, advising him that the Chairman of the Epsom Urban District Council had advised that on the 17th May "*there will be unveiled and dedicated the Great War Cross erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission to the soldiers, sailors and airmen, who died in the service of their King and Country and who are buried in the Epsom Cemetery..... A similar notification is being forwarded to next-of-kin of all members of the Australian Imperial Force whose remains are interred in the abovenamed cemetery, as it is felt that the proposed ceremony will be of special interest to the relatives concerned, and an assurance that the work of perpetuating the memory of our fallen is being carried out with the reverent care and attention.*"

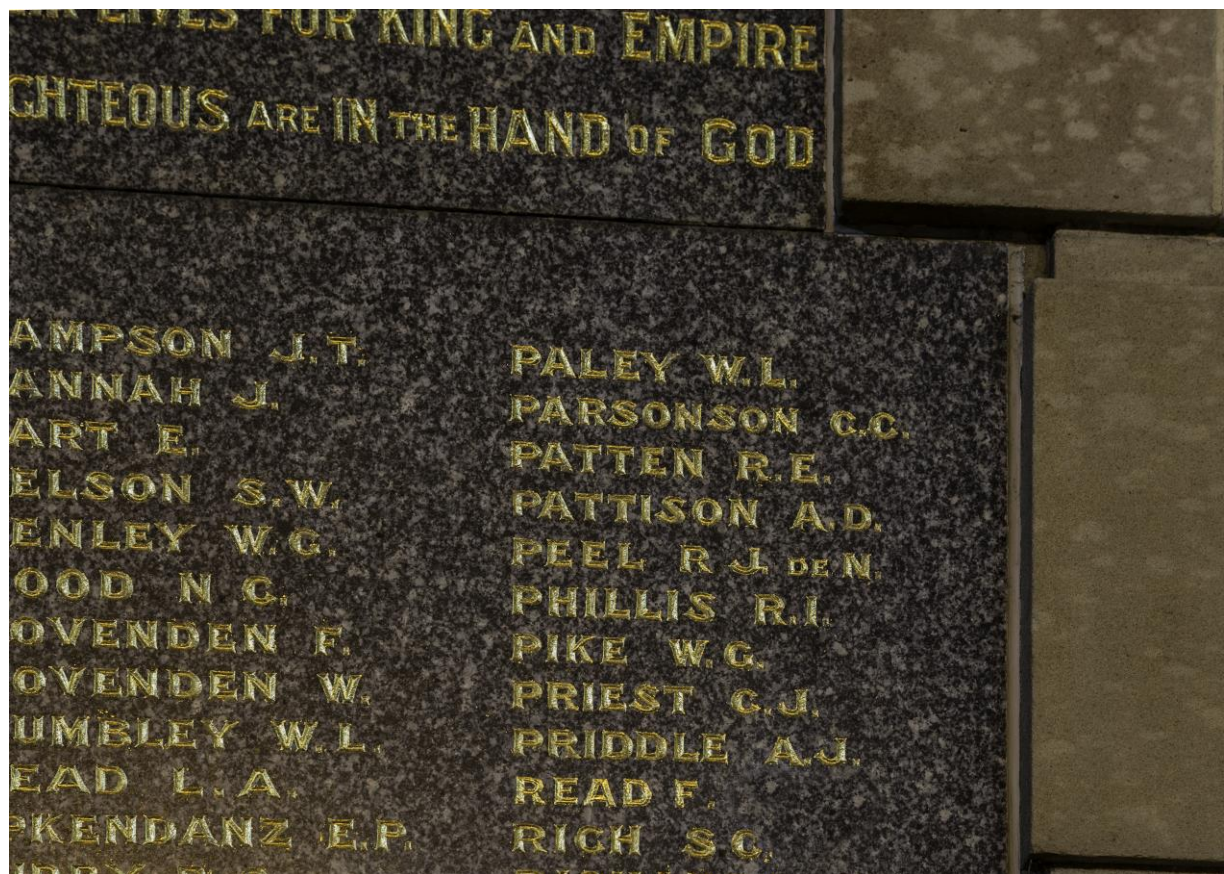
R. E. Patten is remembered on the Burwood War Memorial Arch, located at the entrance to Burwood Park, Burwood Road, Burwood, Sydney, NSW.



Burwood War Memorial Arch

(A special thank you to [Peter Miller](#) for the photos. © All rights reserved.)





Driver R. E. Patten is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.

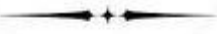


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Ronald Easton Patten – service number 3561, aged 25, of 1st Bde. Ammunition Col., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of William and Mary Caroline Patten, of “Tarawinaba”, Liverpool Rd., Croydon, New South Wales. Born at Redfern, Sydney.

(34 pages of Driver Ronald Easton Patten’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



Connected to Driver Ronald Easton Patten:

Younger Brother – Wilfred Francis De Corcy Patten, 3104. Enlisted July, 1915, embarked from Sydney on 6th September, 1915 with 13th Battalion, 10th Reinforcements. Wounded in action on 14th August, 1916. Corporal Wilfred Patten wounded in action on 11th April, 1917. Received Distinguished Conduct Medal for commended action at Bullecourt in April, 1917 – “Conspicuous gallantry & devotion to duty. He rallied his men under heavy fire & succeeded in driving enemy back. Later he personally converted the withdrawal of his men. He was twice severely wounded.”

Transferred to Australian Flying Corps. promoted to Acting Sergeant then Sergeant Cadet then & Flying Officer (Pilot) 2nd Lieutenant on 17th January, 1919. Involved in an aero accident in April, 1919 with a fractured base of skull. Returned to Australia –left England 30th October, 1919.

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal as well as Distinguished Conduct Medal



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

PATTEN – November 4, at the War Hospital, Epsom, London, Ronald Easton, beloved son of William and Mary Patten, Liverpool-road, Croydon, aged 25 years. Died of pericarditis rheumatism.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 13 November, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

PATTEN – November 4, at the War Hospital, Epsom, London, Ronald Easton Patten, 1st Brigade Ammunition Column, Australian Field Artillery, 1st Australian Division, the beloved son of William and Mary Patten, Tarawinaba, Liverpool-road, Croydon, aged 25 years, died of pericarditis rheumatism.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 November, 1915)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

116th Casualty List

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Driver R. E. Patten, Croydon, November 4; previously reported ill.

(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW – 27 November, 1915)



Dvr. R. E. Patten

Croydon

Died of illness

(*Sydney Mail*, NSW – 5 April, 1916)

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey, England

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey contains 231 War Burials. There are 182 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 49 of the 1939-1945 war here. 149 of the 1914-18 war burials are located in Plot K. These are commemorated at the North end of the plot on a Screen Wall, upon which are bronze panels bearing the names of those buried in the plot. The bronze panels were provided from a fund held by the Horton (County of London) War Hospital, the Horton Hospital, the Manor (County of London) War Hospital and the Woodcote Park Military Convalescent Hospital.

(*Information from CWGC*)

There are six soldiers buried in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1. These six soldiers are named on bronze panels on the Screen Wall, within Plot K of the Cemetery. The bronze panels on the Screen Wall have the name, service number, rank, date of death, age & plot number. The plot numbers on the bronze plaques correspond to plaques located in the lawn immediately in front of the Screen Wall. There are 110 plaques on the lawn which do not have individual headstones, unlike most other Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries.



Screen Wall with named bronze panels within Plot K of Epsom Cemetery, Surrey

(Photos courtesy of Kevin Loughnane - Great War Forum)

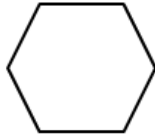


Example showing Pte Cummings in Plot 239 & the Numbered Lawn Plaques in front of Screen Wall

Arrow showing Driver Ronald Easton Patten's Plot number 235



Screen Wall



Cross of Sacrifice

665	690	737	225	90	91	236	746	701	654
664	691	736	226	89	92	237	745	702	653
663	692	735	227	88	93	238	744	703	652
662	693	734	228	87	94	239	743	704	651
661	694	733	229	86	95	240	742	705	690
660	695	732	230	85	96	241	741	706	649
659	696	731	231	84	97	242	740	707	648
658	697	730	232	83	98	243	739	708	647
657	698	729	233	82 *	99	244	738	709	646
656	699	728	234	82 *	100	245	737	710	645
655	700	727	235	82 *	101	246	736	711	644



Lawned plots

Not to scale



Aerial view of the Screen Wall burials

Photo of Driver R. E. Patten's name on the bronze panels on the Screen Wall in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey, England.

3561 DRIVER R. E. PATTEN
AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY
2. 11. 1915 AGE 25 233

G. F. MEDCALF SERVED AS
7698 CORPORAL G. F. LAWS
ROYAL FUSILIERS 16. 11. 1918 652
47898 CORPORAL H. MILLER MM.
CAN. LIGHT T. M. BATTERY
26. 6. 1918 AGE 26 702
33659 PRIVATE F. J. MURRAY
CAN. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
17. 8. 1915 747
4859 PRIVATE M. O'KEEFFE
LEINSTER REGIMENT
22. 9. 1918 AGE 26 651
77776 RIFLEMAN F. PAGE
THE RIFLE BRIGADE
19. 3. 1918 648
177185 PRIVATE J. H. PALMER
87 TH BN. CANADIAN INF
1. 12. 1918 AGE 22 89
3561 DRIVER R. E. PATTEN
AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY
2. 11. 1915 AGE 25 233
624948 CORPORAL W. PEARS
50 TH BN. CANADIAN INF
12. 1. 1919 AGE 36 88
147877 GUNNER S. PERRY
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY
6. 4. 1918 AGE 25 648
T4/107838 PTE J. H. W. PETERS
ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS
12. 11. 1917 645