

**Compton Chamberlayne
War Graves Cemetery,
Wiltshire, England**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1993A PRIVATE

S. ROSS

18TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31ST MAY, 1918 Age 28

*THERE'S A LINK
DEATH CANNOT SEVER
LOVING REMEMBRANCE
LASTS FOR EVER*

Sydney Ross

Sydney Ross was born in 1890 in Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW to parents James and Annie Ross (nee Ward).

Sydney Ross married Frances May Hyde in 1909 in the district of Paddington, Sydney. Sydney & Frances Ross had 3 children (Ernest J. Ross - born 1909, Victor J. Ross - born 1912 & Edwin Ross - born 1913).

Sydney Ross was a 25 year old, married, Labourer from 14 Sparkes St, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 13th May, 1915 at Liverpool, NSW with the 19th Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1993A & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Frances May Ross of 14 Sparkes St, Camperdown.

Private Sydney Ross embarked from Australia on 9th August, 1915 with 3rd Reinforcements of 19th Battalion.

Private Sydney Ross was taken on strength of "B" Company, 18th Battalion, at Gallipoli Peninsula on 29th September, 1915 from 19th Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements.

Private Sydney Ross was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance at the Gallipoli Peninsula on 14th October, 1915 & discharged on 15th October, 1915.

Victor J. Ross, son of Sydney & Frances Ross, died in December, 1915.

Funeral Notice:

ROSS – The Relatives and Friends of Private SYDNEY ROSS and Mrs ROSS are invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved SON, Victor James; to leave their residence, 14 Sparkes Street, Camperdown THIS (Monday) MORNING at 9.15, for C. Of E. Cemetery Rookwood via Mortuary Station.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 27th December, 1915)

Private Sydney Ross proceeded join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 18th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseille, France on 25th March, 1916.

A Field Court Martial was held at Cassell, France on 4th November, 1916. Private Sydney Ross was charged with wilfully injuring public property. He pleaded not guilty but was found guilty. His sentence was "*to be placed under stoppages of pay until he has made good the value of the damage done ie: ten francs.*"

Private Sydney Ross was admitted to Field Ambulance on 20th November, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to 38th Casualty Clearing Station with Diarrhoea on 21st November, 1916. Private Ross was transferred & admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 22nd November, 1916 suffering from vomiting & diarrhoea. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Aberdonian* on 16th December, 1916 & embarked for England suffering from Enteritis & debility.

Private Sydney Ross was admitted to 2nd London General Hospital, England on 17th December, 1916. He was discharged to duty on 29th January, 1917.

Private Sydney Ross was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 2nd March, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A.

Private Sydney Ross was transferred to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset, England on 9th March, 1917. He was marched out from No. 4 Command Depot on 14th March, 1917 & marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 14th March, 1917.

Private Sydney Ross was medically classified B1 A1 (Fit for light duty for 4 weeks).

Private Sydney Ross was written up for an Offence while at Hurdcott on 20th April, 1917 – A.W.L. (absent without leave) from noon on 18th April, 1917 until 10.15 pm on 18th April, 1917. He was awarded 5 days confined to Camp & forfeited a days' pay.

Private Sydney Ross was taken on strength of 66th Battalion at Windmill Hill on 28th April, 1917 from 18th Battalion.

Private Sydney Ross was transferred to 18th Battalion on 19th September, 1917 & marched out to 61st Draft Battalion.

Private Sydney Ross proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 24th October, 1917 from Longbridge Deverill.

Private Sydney Ross was marched in to 2 A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 25th October, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 29th October, 1917 & was taken on strength of 18th Battalion in the Field on 3rd November, 1917.

Private Sydney Ross was sent sick to Hospital in Belgium on 13th January, 1918. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance on 13th January, 1918 with Scabies & discharged to duty on 27th January, 1918. He rejoined his Unit in Belgium the same day.

Private Sydney Ross was sent to Hospital sick on 21st February, 1918. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 21st February, 1918 then discharged to New Zealand Stationary Hospital the same day with Pleurisy. Private Ross was transferred to Ambulance Train 42 on 3rd March, 1918 & admitted to 54th General Hospital at Boulogne, France with chronic Pleurisy. He embarked for England on 11th March, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*.

18th Battalion

The 18th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 22 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

The battalion had not been ashore a day when it was committed to the last operation of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' which lasted until 29 August and cost it 50 per cent casualties. For the rest of the campaign the 18th played a purely defensive role, being primarily responsible for holding Courtney's Post. The last members of the battalion left Gallipoli on 20 December.

After further training in Egypt, the 18th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 25 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August. The battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time in late August. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division including the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 18th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the quagmire that the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.

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.

After another winter of trench duty, the spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive that the 18th Battalion helped to repel. With this last desperate offensive turned back, the Allied armies turned to the offensive and the 18th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaulieu Line around Montbrehain on 3 October.

(Information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Sydney Ross was admitted to Middlesex War Hospital, Clacton-on-Sea, England on 11th March, 1918 suffering from chronic Pleurisy. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 8th April, 1918. Private Ross was granted furlough from 10th April until 24th April, 1918 & was then to report to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Sydney Ross was marched in from Australian Headquarters London on 24th April, 1918 from furlo.

Private Sydney Ross was sent sick to Brigade Hospital at Hurdcott on 30th May, 1918 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was transferred & admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 30th May, 1918.

Private Sydney Ross died at 2.20 a.m. on 31st May, 1918 at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire, England. A Post Mortem was conducted & the cause of death was reported as Haemorrhage of the brain.

A death for Sydney Ross, aged 28, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

From a letter from the Sister at the Military Hospital, Fovant, dated 23rd July, 1918 regarding Private Sydney Ross :
Re Pte Ross. Patient was brought into the Hospital on the night of the 30th May, 1918. He was completely unconscious and died a couple of hours later the morning of the 31st having neither recovered consciousness nor spoken during that time. He died from Haemorrhage of the brain. He was buried in Compton Chamberlayne a village near Fovant on the 3rd June, 1918. I have had letters about him from his friends who know his people and have promised, when Matron comes back and I have a chance to do so, to try and get a photo of his grave, its number, etc but in such a case of too sudden a death there is little particulars to give. His effects have all been forwarded to Officer i/c A.I.F. Kit Store, 110 Greyhound Rd, Hammersmith, London. Where I hear all the effects of Australians who die are sent. I am sorry I'm able to give you so few particulars. It has seemed to be a particularly sad case, but all that could be done for him was done, there was little that could be done in such a case.

Private Sydney Ross was buried on 3rd June, 1918 at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Back Row, Grave Plot #9. From the burial report of Private Ross – *Coffin was good, Polished Elm with Brass Mountings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a gun carriage which was preceded by a band, firing party, pallbearers and a half company of N.C.O.'s and men. Wreaths from Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of No. 3 Command Depot and Australians in Fovant Hospital were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded. Deceased was very popular with both Officers and Men and his loss is very keenly felt.*

Private Sydney Ross requested in his Will, dated 15th July, 1917, that "*my personal estate I bequeath to my wife Frances May Ross 14 Sparkes St Camperdown , Sydney, NSW, Australia.*"

Frances May Ross, widow of the late Private Sydney Ross, was awarded a War Pension in the sum of 40/- per fortnight. Pensions were also awarded to Private Sydney Ross' sons - Ernest John Ross the sum of 20/- per fortnight & Edwin Ross the sum of 15/- per fortnight. All 3 pensions were granted from 6th August, 1918.

Private Sydney Ross was entitled to 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll (sent September, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (sent November, 1922) were sent to Private S. Ross's widow – Mrs Frances May Ross of 4 Barkers Lane, Forest Lodge, NSW.

Private S. Ross is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 87.

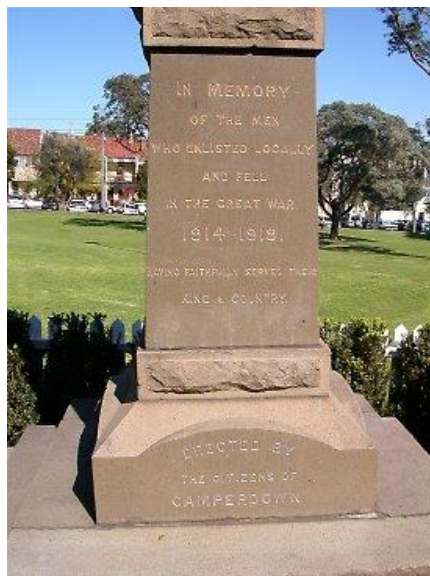


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

Private S. Ross is remembered on the Camperdown Park War Memorial located on Australia St, Camperdown (Newtown), Sydney, NSW. 65 names are recorded on the memorial.

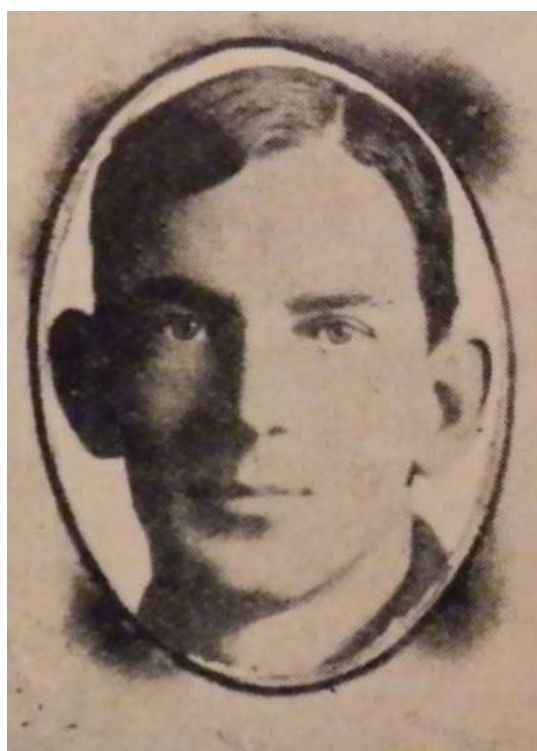
In memory of the men who enlisted locally and fell in the Great War 1914-1919. Having faithfully served their King and Country.



Camperdown Park War Memorial (Photo by Mr Rusty Priest AM, former RSL State President (NSW Branch))

(66 pages of Private S. Ross's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



Sydney Ross (Photo from VWMA – All Australia Memorial courtesy of Faithe Jones)

Newspaper Reports

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear son, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

The heart is a garden of love,
Remembrance its fairest flower.

Inserted by his loving parents, James and Annie Ross, and sister Bessie.

ROSS- In loving memory of my dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Too dearly loved to be forgotten.
Inserted by his loving brother, Jack Ross.

ROSS- In loving memory of my dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

May God grant eternal rest.
Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Don and Connie Ross.

ROSS- In fond memory of my dear brother, Pte S. Ross, who died May 31, 1918.

In our hearts your memory lingers.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Harry Mortimer, nieces and nephew, Beryl, Jean and Eric.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 31st May, 1926)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear dad, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

We cherish still with love sincere
Beautiful memories of one so dear.

Inserted by his fond sons, Jack and Ted.

ROSS – In fond memory of our dear son, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Time passes, shadows fall,
Parents' remembrance outlasts all.

Inserted by his loving parents, James and Annie Ross.

ROSS- In fond memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Dearer to us than words can tell,
Thoughts of a brother we loved so well.

Inserted by his fond brother and sister, Jack and Bess.

ROSS- In fond memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Divine thoughts, sacred memories,
Inserted by his fond sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Harry Mortimer, nieces and nephew, Beryl, Jean and Eric.

ROSS- In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Love's greatest gift - remembrance.
Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Don and Connie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Thursday 31st May, 1928)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear son, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

God's greatest gift - remembrance.

Inserted by his loving parents, James and Annie Ross.

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear father Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Loved in life, honoured in death.

Inserted by his loving sons, Jack and Ted.

ROSS- In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Always remembered.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister, Jack and Bessie.

ROSS- In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Sadly missed.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Don and Connie.

ROSS- In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Divine thoughts, sacred memories,

Inserted by his fond sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Harry Mortimer, nieces Beryl, Jean, nephew Eric.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 31st May, 1930)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Sweet is the word "Remembrance."

Inserted by his loving parents, James and Annie Ross, brother Jack, sister, Bessie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Wednesday 1st June, 1932)

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 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. 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 Ross does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves all from World War 1. Of these 28 are of Australian Soldiers.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



Compton Chamberlayne War Graves *(Photo from CWGC)*



Left & right of Cemetery with central Plinth (Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



Photo taken from back of Cemetery looking towards the Entrance (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Photo of Private S. Ross's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Compton Chamberlayne War Grave Locations
































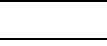
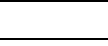

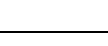




British Soldier



Irish Soldier



Australian Soldier

Front Row	Grave	Middle Row	Grave	Back Row	Grave
<i>Public</i>	1		Oliver	1	1
<i>Public</i>	2		Knowles	2	<i>Public</i>
	Haywood		Skipper	3	
	Gilbert		Wehrmann	4	
	Le Tisser		Park	5	
	Jones		Riley	6	
	Cook		Turnbull	7	
	Pairman		White	8	
			Howard	9	
	Norris		Tull	10	
	Lintott		Snell	11	
	Redman		Ferrow	12	
<i>Public</i>			<i>Public</i>		
<i>Public</i>			<i>Public</i>		
<i>Public</i>					
					Walsh
					Hooper
					Larkin



(Photo taken c March, 1919)

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Compton-Chamberlyne, each marked by a cross.

Back row, left to right: 55821 Private (Pte) Alfred Alwin Dreckow, 32nd Battalion (Bn), died 19 October 1918; 3712 Pte Thomas Cass, 10th Bn, died 17 August 1918; 3764 Pte William Joseph Arnold, 31st Bn, died 2 July 1918; Captain Roy Allan Sillar, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 30 June 1918; **1993A Pte Sydney Ross, 18th Bn, died 31 May 1918.**

Front row: 1666 Sergeant Percy Robert Knowles, 9th Australian Light TM Battery, died 30 January 1918; 1995 Pte Thomas James Skipper, 51st Bn, died Fovant Military Hospital 7 January 1918; 687 Pte John Thomas Wehrmann, 32nd Bn, died 3 November 1917; 3462 Pte William Joseph Park, 60th Bn, died 23rd September 1917; 1725 Pte William Ernest Riley, 60th Bn, died 22 May 1917.