

**Balgay Cemetery,  
Dundee, Scotland  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1472 PRIVATE**

**O. E. RUDDER**

**AUST. ARMY SERVICE CORPS**

**11TH DECEMBER, 1915 Age 33**

## Oswald Eugene RUDDER

Oswald Eugene Rudder was born at Coramba, near Coffs Harbour, NSW on 27th July, 1881 to parents Eugene Frederick and Annie Rudder (nee Thornton). (Oswald Eugene Rudder stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born at Kempsey, NSW).

Annie Rudder, mother of Oswald Eugene Rudder, died on 15th February, 1910.

The 1903-1904 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Raleigh, subdivision of Nana, NSW listed Oswald Eugene Rudder, Farmer, from Coramba, NSW.

Oswald Eugene Rudder was a 32 year old, single, Chainman (the information provided by his brother for the Roll of Honour has his occupation as Surveyor) from "Braeside" Cambridge Street, Stanmore, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 7th October, 1914 with the 301st (M.T.) A.S.C. (17th Divisional Ammunition Park) (8th A.S.C.) of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1472 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Eugene Frederick Rudder, Box 441, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Oswald Eugene Rudder was posted to 2nd A.I.F. at Rosehill on 8th October, 1914.

Private Oswald Eugene Rudder & his brother Gunner Peter Rudder both embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 22nd December, 1914.

Private Oswald Eugene Rudder was transferred to Ammunition Section (Egypt) as Gunner on 7th February, 1915. A handwritten note in the Service Record file states "1472 Gunner O. E. Rudder – This man was at the last moment transferred to the Ammunition Section and disembarked at Alexandria, Egypt."

Gunner Oswald Rudder embarked on the Troopship *Franconia* at Alexandria on 14th May, 1915 for Dardanelles.

Gunner Oswald Rudder was struck down with diarrhoea while at Gallipoli on 22nd August, 1915 & transferred to Fleetsweeper (A fleetsweeper was one of a number of smaller vessels used to evacuate the wounded & sick from Anzac Cove out to the Hospital Ships).

Gunner Oswald Rudder was admitted to 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell with Dysentery on 1st September, 1915 & discharged on 13th October, 1915.

Gunner Oswald Eugene Rudder died at 2.30 pm on 11th December, 1915 at Dundee War Hospital, Dundee from Appendicitis (Intestinal obstruction). (The Field Service – Army Form B. 2090A. has place of death of Private O. E. Rudder as 1st London General Hospital, London). (The Report of Death of a Soldier – Army Form B 2090 – place of death – Dundee War Hospital. After the cause of death is written "Not due to field operations or to fatigue, \_\_\_\_, or exposure while on Military duties".)

Private Oswald Eugene Rudder was buried in Balgay Cemetery, Dundee, Scotland – Plot number DD.4.114 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper report of the Funeral - *Dundee Courier*, Dundee, Angus, Scotland – 16 December, 1915:

### **AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER'S FUNERAL AT DUNDEE**

*Military honours were accorded the funeral of Driver O. E. Rudder, of the Australian Army Service Corps, which took place to Balgay Cemetery yesterday. The deceased soldier had no relatives in this country, and the funeral took place from the premises of Mr M'Lean, undertaker, 200 Hawkhill. A pipe and brass band attended, while a contingent from the R.F.A. constituted the firing party. Colonel the Rev. A. J. Campbell, Barry, conducted the service at the graveside. Three Australians who are at present home from the front on furlough acted as pall-bearers, along with Mr Mitchell, Broughty Ferry; Mr Russell (who is presently residing at St. Andrews from Australia on holiday); and Colonel the Rev. A. J. Campbell. Wreaths were sent from Mr Russell, Mr Mitchell and family, the nurses of the 1st London General Hospital, and the staff of the Dundee War Hospital. Deceased was wounded at Gallipoli, and on reaching Britain he contracted appendicitis. He was removed to Dundee on 26th November, where he died last Saturday morning.*

The personal effects of the late No. 1472 Pte O. E. Rudder were sent to his father Mr Eugene Rudder, c/o Messrs Oldfield & Pilkington, Shipping Agents, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

A War Pension claim was made by Eugene Frederick Rudder, father of the late Oswald Eugene Rudder, c/o "Braeside" Hospital, Cambridge St, Stanmore, Sydney, NSW, but was later withdrawn.

Gunner Oswald Eugene Rudder was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Gunner Rudder's father – Mr E. F. Rudder, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both sent August, 1922).

A Memorandum from Base Records to The Official Secretary, (Military) Australia House, London states that the Memorial Plaque & Scroll were apparently sent to Gunner Rudder's brother – Mr H. B. Rudder & that "*Mr Rudder, senior, is determined to enforce his claim through the official channels, and as his status as next-of-kin*".... *his prior right to the memorials is unquestionable. In the circumstance I should be glad if you will kindly take what steps you consider necessary to recover the Plaque and Scroll from Mr H. B. Rudder and forward same to this office for disposal*" (to Mr Rudder, senior).

The Memorial Scroll & Plaque were apparently sent to Mr H. B. Rudder, brother of the late Gunner Oswald Eugene Rudder. Mrs E. Rudder (stepmother) had written to Base Records in August, 1922 enquiring as to the location of her son's Memorial Plaque & Scroll. In a letter dated February, 1923, Mr H. B. Rudder stated he had made application for the Memorial Plaque as his father was in Africa & his father had lived with him for a considerable time & donated various family relics as an appreciative gift for what he had done for his father but apparently after leaving Mr Rudder senior, owing to differences, claimed everything back again. Mr H. B. Rudder stated "*to avoid correspondence I know you have no desire of entering into, please refer the applicant to me direct.*" (In other words – tell Mr Rudder senior – his father, to contact him directly rather than involving the Army). A letter was sent to The Secretary, Military Board, Army headquarters, Victoria Barracks in November, 1925 from Imperial General Staff stating that in reference to a memo dated 28th April, 1923 regarding the recovery of the Memorial plaque & scroll issued to Mr H. B. Rudder – no reply had been received from Mr H. B. Rudder requesting the return of the plaque for despatch to Mr Rudder, senior. No outcome was noted in the Service Record file.

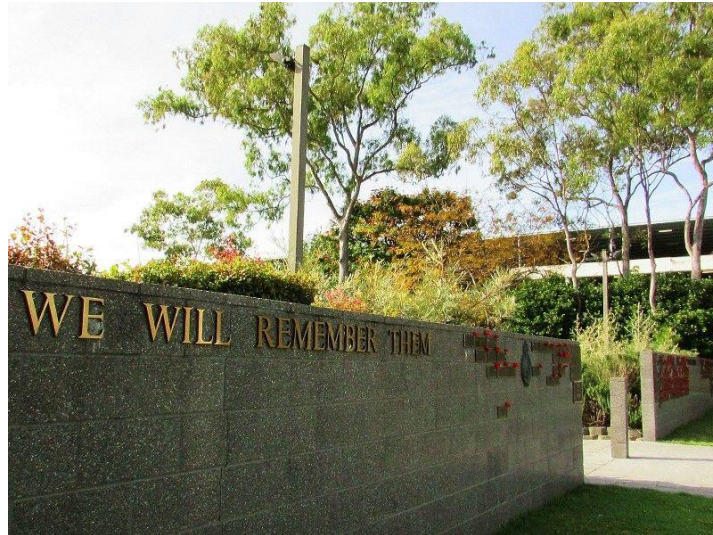
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Oswald Eugene Rudder – service number 1472, aged 33, of 8th Coy., Australian Army Service Corps. He was the son of Eugene Frederick and Ann Rudder. Born at Coramba, New South Wales.

Private O. E. Rudder is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 181.

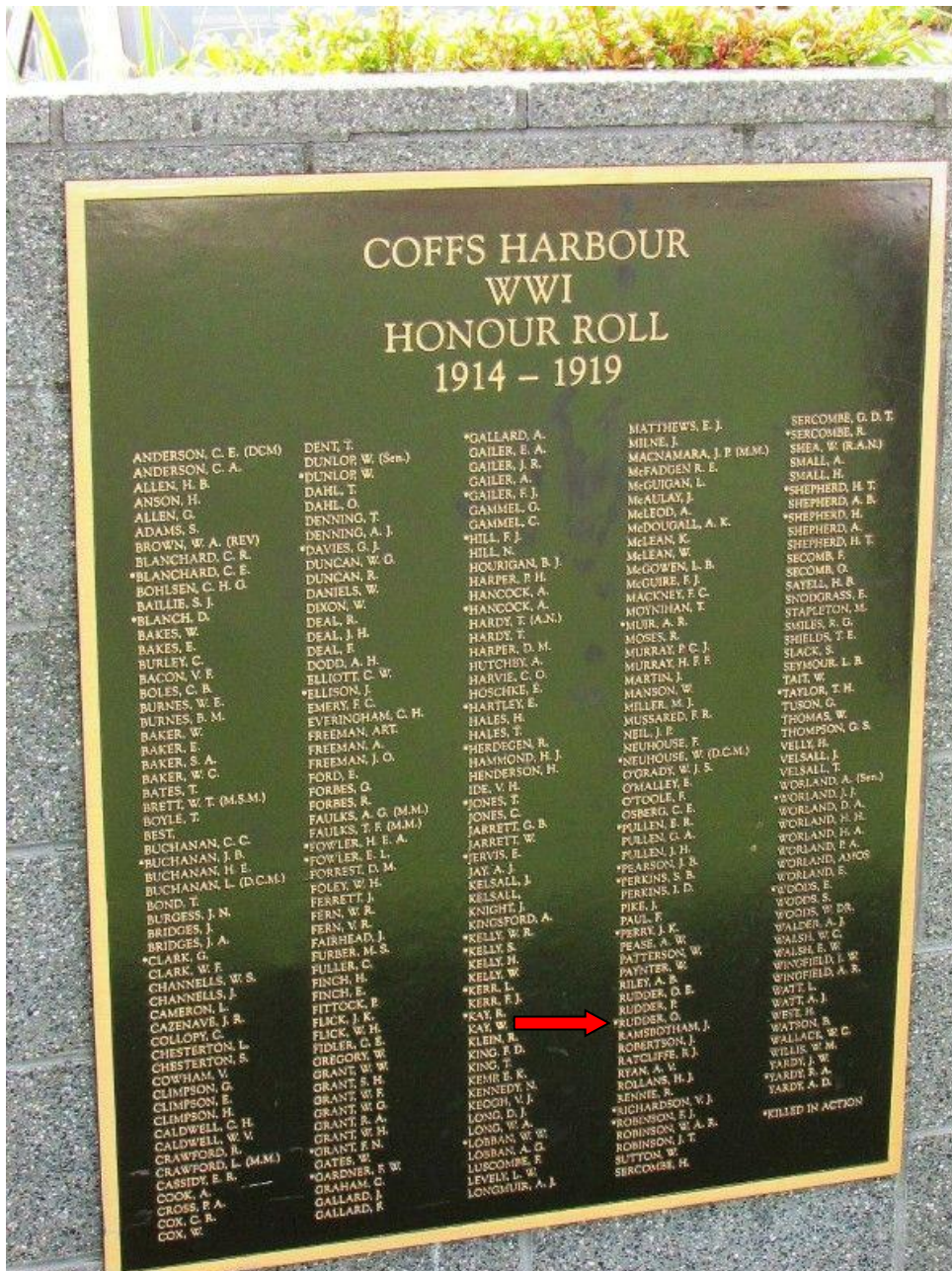


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

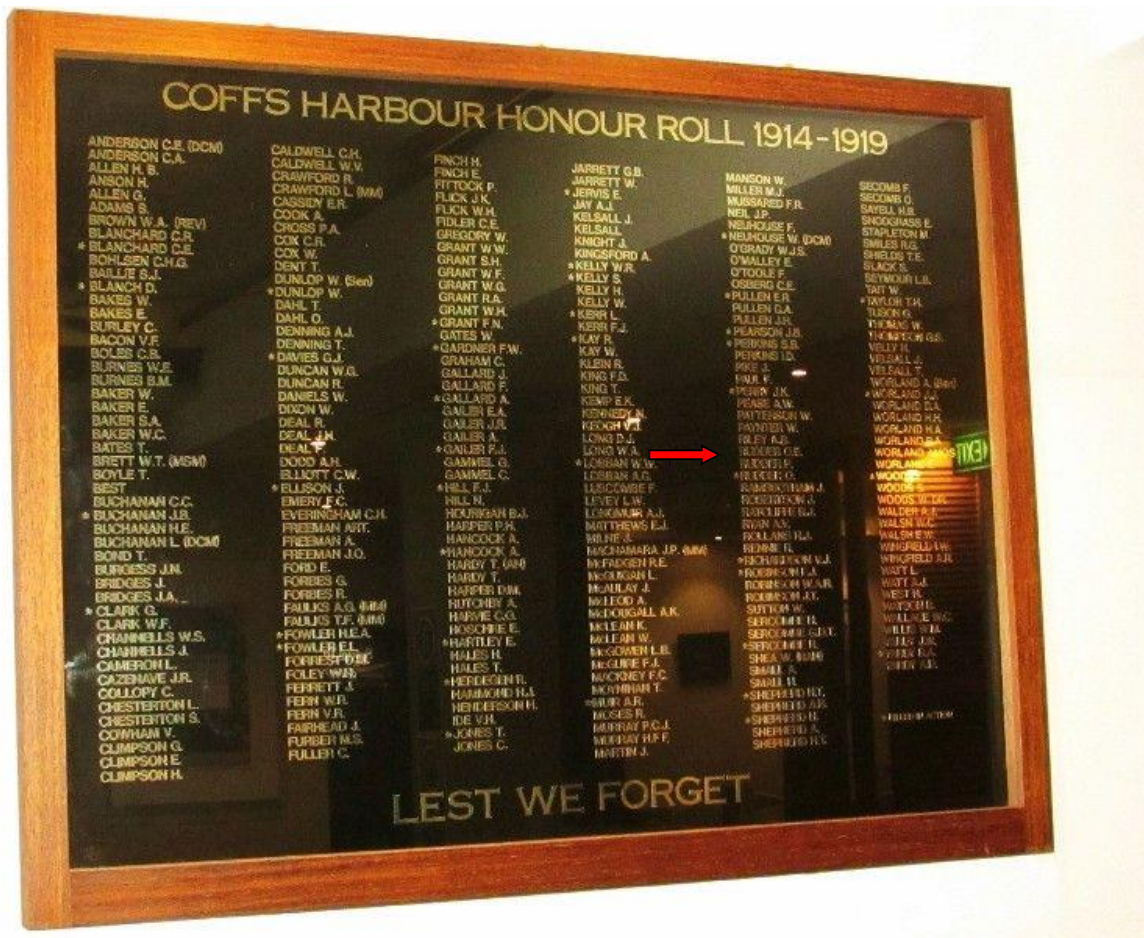
O. E. Rudder is remembered on the Coffs Harbour Memorial Wall located at ANZAC Park, Vernon Street, Coffs Harbour, NSW.



Coffs Harbour Memorial Wall (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)



O. E. Rudder is remembered on the Coffs Harbour Honour Roll 1914-1918 which is located at the Coffs Ex-Services Club (RSL), 1-3 Vernon Street, Coffs Harbour, NSW.



Coffs Harbour Honour Roll 1914-1918 (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

O. Rudder is remembered on the St. John's Anglican Church Honour Roll located in the Coffs Harbour Regional Museum, 215 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour, NSW.



St. John's Anglican Church Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

O. W. Rudder is also remembered on the William Thompson Masonic School War Memorial at Balcombe Heights Estate located at 92 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills, NSW. The William Thompson Masonic School War Memorial commemorates the masons of New South Wales who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. This memorial has no inscription except for the veterans names engraved into the glass plate panels. This memorial was built and installed in 2007.

An Avenue of Trees was planted in memory of Freemasons of NSW who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War 1914 – 1918. 364 Brush Box Trees were planted in along the avenue of the western boundary of the Masonic School. A list of their names is displayed on the memorial at the northern end of the avenue.

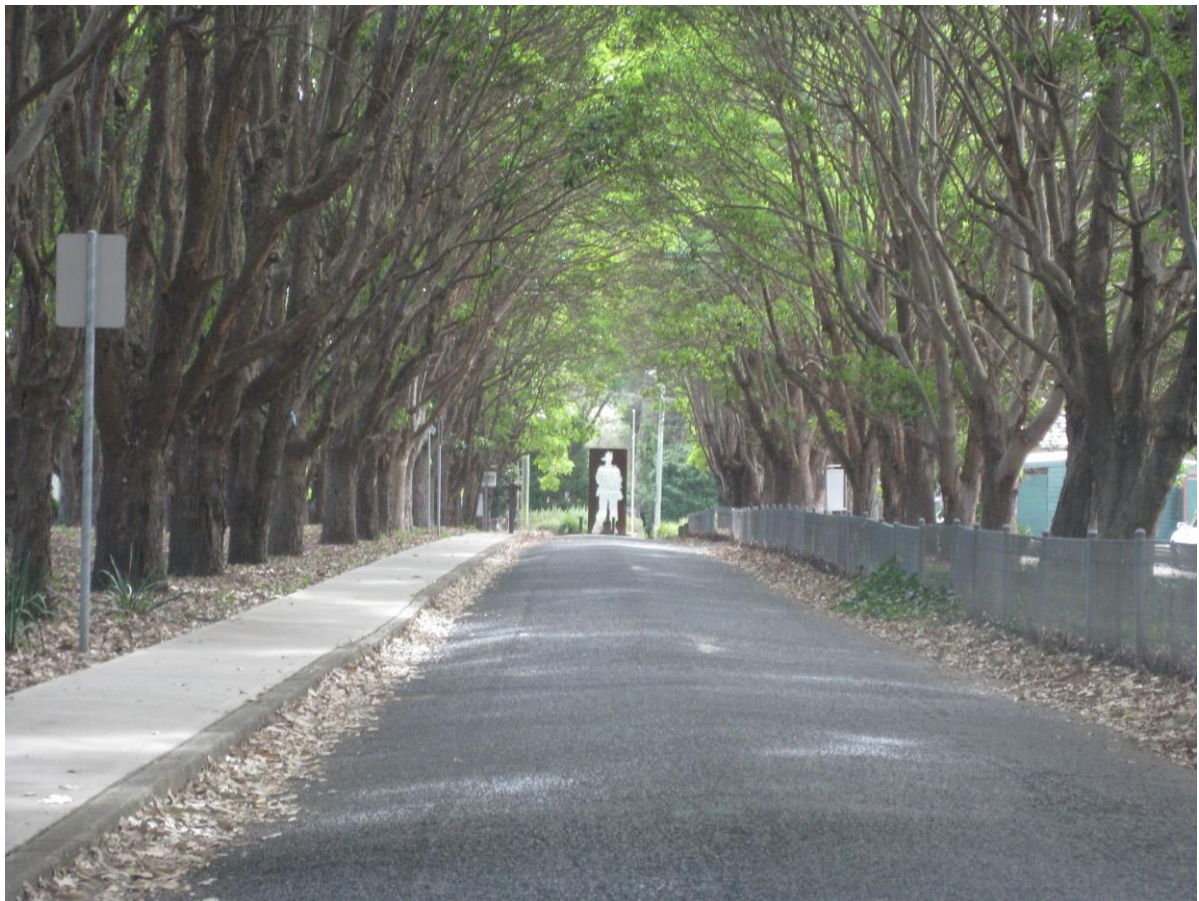


**William Thompson Masonic School War Memorial**  
(Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW – Ron McIntosh)





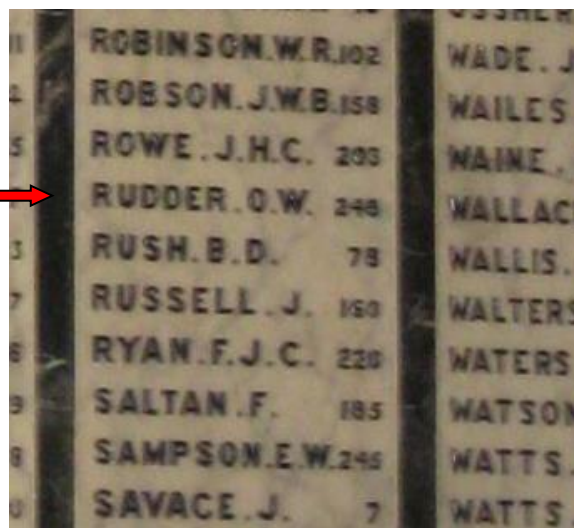
**The Avenue of Trees** (Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW – Ron McIntosh)



O. W. Rudder is remembered on the Grand Lodge of Sydney Honour Roll located inside the United Grand Lodge of Sydney, 279 Castlereagh Street (cnr Goulburn Street), Sydney, NSW.



Grand Lodge of Sydney Honour Roll (Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW – Ron McIntosh)





(81 pages of Private Oswald Eugene Rudder'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**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST**

The 84th Australian casualty list was released by the censor at 10 o'clock this morning. The Queensland list appeared in our first edition. Following are the southern lists:-

##### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

Gnr. O. E. Ridder, 8th A.S.C., Div. Amm. Park), ill in hospital London (prev. rep. W.)

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 30 September, 1915)*

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#### **AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER DIES IN DUNDEE HOSPITAL**

The death has occurred in Dundee War Hospital of an Australian patient, who had been brought from the Dardanelles. Deceased was Driver O. E. Rudder, and he was a member of the Australian Army Service Corps. The funeral is to take place this afternoon at two o'clock from the house of Mr John D, M'Lean, undertaker, Hawkhill. Balgay Cemetery will be the place of interment. As the deceased soldier has no relatives in these parts a special request is made for other Anzacs who may at present be in the city to attend the funeral.

*(Dundee Courier, Dundee, Angus, Scotland – 15 December, 1915)*

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#### **DUNDEE**

Driver O. E. Rudder, of the Australian Army Service Corps, has died in the Military Hospital, Dundee, to which he was recently admitted with a contingent of wounded from the Dardanelles.

*(The Scotsman, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland – 5 December, 1915)*

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#### **127th CASUALTY LIST**

##### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

Died of Illness – Gunner O. E. Rudder.

*(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 28 December, 1915)*

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## **THE LATE GUNNER RUDDER**

A short time ago we announced the death, in Dundee of Gunner Oswald E. Rudder, a brother of Mr Percy Rudder, of this city, and Mr Clyde Rudder, of Nana Glen, the Clarence. Further particulars have now reached the latter per medium of Mr W. B. Russell, a Melburnian, now settled in Dundee. Mr Russell writing on 16th December says:- "Private Rudder died in the Royal Infirmary, Dundee, on Saturday last, December 11th, from appendicitis. As you probably know, he was in three engagements in the Gallipoli Peninsula and contracted dysentery and came to this country to recuperate. He stayed with a Mr Mitchell, Broughty Ferry, and apparently was getting on in good shape when he contracted appendicitis and was removed to the Infirmary in Dundee. However, complications set in and he passed away as stated. I understand from the nurses and others that he passed away quite peacefully, and that his last words were: "I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the Bar," and you will also be glad to know that everyone who came in contact with him during the short period that he spent in this district spoke very highly of his many excellent qualities. You will also be interested to know that the authorities gave him a military funeral, and the coffin was made of black oak with very fine ornamentations, and was covered with the Union Jack and floral contributions from myself, and the doctors and nurses from the Infirmary, and some of the local Scottish soldiers. The procession to the cemetery was noticeable for the large crowds which gathered along the route, and who were very reverent, the men particularly taking off their caps, and the procession consisted of the firing party, the brass band, and pipe band of the Royal Scots, and two of the local Territorial chaplains followed immediately behind the hearse, with three other Australian soldiers and myself acting as bearers, and it may please you to know that he was lowered to his last resting place by the hands of Australians.

*(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 21 March, 1916)*

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## **A SOLDIER'S FUNERAL**

CLIFTON, March 25

Mr W. G. Rudder, grazier, Pilton, has received the following information in connection with the funeral of his late brother, Driver O. E. Rudder :- "Military honours were accorded the funeral of Driver O. E. Rudder, of the Australian Army Service Corps, which took place to Balgay Cemetery, Aberdeen. The deceased soldier had no relatives in this country, and the funeral took place from the premises of Mr M'Lean, undertaker, Hawkhill. A pipe and brass band attended, while a contingent from the R.F.A. constituted the firing party. Colonel the Rev. A. J. Campbell conducted the service at the graveside. Three Australians who are at present home from the Front on furlough acted as pall-bearers, along with Mr Mitchell, Broughty Ferry, Mr Russell, who is at present residing at St. Andrews from Australia, on holidays and Colonel the Rev. J. A. Campbell. Wreaths were sent from Mr Russell, Mr Mitchell and family, the nurses of the 1st London General Hospital, and the staff of the Dundee War Hospital. Deceased was wounded at Gallipoli, and on reaching Britain he contracted appendicitis. He was removed to Dundee on November 28, where he died on Saturday morning". The late Driver Rudder was a grandson of Captain Thornton, who won the V.C. at the Crimea.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 28 March, 1916)*

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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)*

Pte O. E. Rudder does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Balgay Cemetery, Dundee, Scotland**

Balgay Cemetery, Dundee, Scotland contains service plots of both wars. Most of the 1914-1918 burials are in a war plot in Section B. A Screen Wall memorial is erected by the Plot to name those whose graves are not marked by headstones. There is a Cross of Sacrifice in the Plot. The 1939-1945 burials are in various parts of the necropolis.

There are now nearly 150, 1914-1918 and nearly 130, 1939-1945 War casualties commemorated in this site. The Polish Group plot contains a special memorial, commemorating a Polish soldier buried elsewhere in the cemetery.

*(Information & photo from CWGC)*





**The Cross of Sacrifice at Balgay Cemetery, Dundee** *(Photo by Leslie) &*



**CWGC Headstones of the Three Australian Soldiers**

Photo of Private O. E. Rudder's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Balgay Cemetery, Dundee, Scotland.



*(Photo from Find a Grave – John G Duffus)*