

**Molesey Cemetery,
Surrey, England
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2907 LANCE CORPORAL

G. H. RUDDOCK

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 31

George Henry RUDDOCK

George Henry Ruddock was born at Chertsey, Surrey England (according to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour she stated that he was born at Byfleet, Surrey, England) on 8th January, 1886 to parents George & Mary Ann Ruddock (nee Mitchell). George Henry Ruddock was baptised at Byfleet, Surrey, England on 14th February, 1886. The Baptism Register recorded that the family lived at Byfleet & George Ruddock was a Gardener.

The 1891 England Census recorded George H. Ruddock as a 6 year old (born Byfleet, Surrey), living with his family at Priory Cottage, West Battersea, London, England. His parents were listed as George Ruddock (Caretaker, aged 40, born Mellis, Suffolk) & Mary A. Ruddock (aged 40, born Wonersh, Surrey). George Henry Ruddock was one of five children listed on this Census – Louisa A. Ruddock (aged 14, born Cobham, Surrey), Caroline M. Ruddock (aged 11, born Byfleet, Surrey), Mary E. Ruddock (aged 8, born Byfleet, Surrey), then George & John Ruddock (aged 1, born Byfleet, Surrey).

George Henry Ruddock attended Boarding School at Shamley Green, Surrey, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded George H. Ruddock as a 15 year old "Boy in Gardens", living with his family at Stroud Lane, Wonersh, Surrey. His parents were listed as George Ruddock (Gardener, aged 50) & Mary Ann Ruddock (aged 50). George Henry Ruddock was the eldest of four children listed on this Census – George Henry then John Ruddock (aged 10), Harry Ruddock (aged 7, born Belvedere, Kent) & Florence Ruddock (aged 4, born Shamley Green, Surrey).

George Henry Ruddock married Annetta Mary Annie Moss in the district of Paddington, Middlesex, England in the December quarter, 1909.

A birth was registered in the district of Kingston, Surrey, England in the June quarter, 1910 for Annetta Mary Ruddock. She was born on 14th March, 1910 to parents George Henry & Annette Mary Annie Ruddock (nee Moss).

According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – George Henry Ruddock came to Australia in 1915.

George Henry Ruddock was a 29 year old, single, Valet when he enlisted on 15th June, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2907 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. Ruddock, Shamley Green, near Guildford, Surrey, England.

Private George Henry Ruddock was posted to 9th Reinforcements of 2nd Battalion on 1st September, 1916.

Private George Henry Ruddock embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 30th September, 1915 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements.

Private George Henry Ruddock joined 2nd Battalion on 5th February, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir from Reinforcements.

Private George Henry Ruddock embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 on Troop Ship *Invernia* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private George Henry Ruddock was appointed Lance Corporal on 16th May, 1916 while in France.

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was on leave to United Kingdom from 21st November, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion in France from leave on 7th December, 1916.

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was sent sick to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 21st January, 1917. He was admitted with Bronchitis & discharged to duty on 24th January, 1917 & rejoined 2nd Battalion the same day.

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was On Command at Signalling School in France from 2nd February, 1917. He rejoined his Battalion on 9th February, 1917.

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was Acting Sergeant (without pay) from 2nd February, 1917 & reverted to Lance Corporal on 9th February, 1917.

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was sent sick to Field Ambulance on 16th April, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Amiens on 16th April, 1917 with an Abscess. He was discharged to duty on 19th April, 1917 & rejoined 2nd Battalion the same day.

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was transferred to 1st Anzac Corps School on 5th May, 1917 & was taken on strength of 1st Anzac Corps School the same day from the 2nd Battalion.

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was sent to Hospital on 5th August, 1917. He was admitted to 9th Casualty Clearing Station on 6th August, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train 20 on 8th August, 1917 – cause P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin).

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 9th August, 1917. He was diagnosed with a Duodenal Ulcer & embarked for England on 14th August, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Kalyan*.

2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

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After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.

In early 1917 the German Army withdrew to the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line. As the 2nd Battalion advanced towards these defences in April 1917, Private T. J. Kenny attacked several enemy machine gun positions with grenades, earning the 2nd Battalion's only Victoria Cross. The battalion spent much of the rest of 1917 fighting in increasingly horrendous conditions around Ypres.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England on 16th August, 1917 with a Duodenal Ulcer.

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock died at 1.30 am on 5th October, 1917 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England from Carcinoma of Liver.

A death for George H. Ruddock, aged 31, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Kings Norton, Worcestershire, England.

The body of the late Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was sent to his wife's address at 280 Walton Road, Molesey, Surrey England. He was buried at 3.30 pm on 10th October, 1917 in Molesey Cemetery, Surrey, England – Plot number C. 90 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Burial Register for St Peter's Church, West Molesey, Surrey (where the service was held) recorded that Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock lived at 280 Walton Road, West Molesey. He was the last burial for 1917. From the burial report of Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler being supplied by Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. The remains were conveyed to the Churchyard on a Hearse, the coffin being draped with the "Union Jack". The service was conducted at the graveside by the Rev. Walters, West Molesey Church, assisted by Chaplain Richard, Administrative Headquarters, London. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. A number of floral tributes were placed on the grave by relatives.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral – (Wife) Mrs A. M. Ruddock, 280 Walton Road, West Molesey, Surrey. (Father and Mother) Mr & Mrs Ruddock, Stroud Lane, Shamley Green, near Guildford. (Brother-in-law) Cpl E. D. Colton, 48 Bensham Grove, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain any particulars regarding Lance Corporal Ruddock. A letter was written by a Hospital Visitor which reads “*Died 5-10-17 of cancer of liver, having been ill sometime. His wife was with him at the last and through his illness.*”

George Henry Ruddock requested in his Will, dated 17th July, 1917, that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Mrs A. M. Ruddock of 280 Walton Rd, West Molesey, Surrey, England.

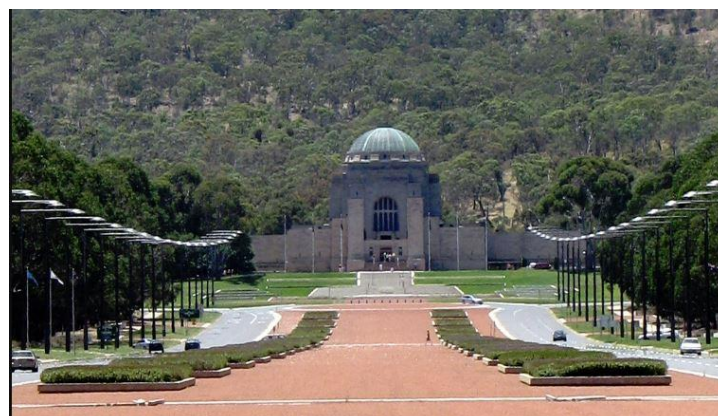
Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Ruddock’s widow – Mrs A. M. Ruddock, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal G. H. Ruddock – service number 2907, aged 31, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Lance Corporal G. H. Ruddock is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 34.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



G. Ruddock is remembered on the Shamley Green War Memorial, located in grounds of Christ Church, Church Hill, Shamley Green, Waverley, Surrey, England.



Shamley Green War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online – David Larkin)



(32 pages of Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock'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

FOR AUSTRALIA

NEW CASUALTY LIST

Casualty list No. 340 was issued to-day.....

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

L.-Cpl. GEO. HENRY RUDDOCK, England (seriously)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 4 October, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SURREY CASUALTIES

DIED IN HOSPITAL

RUDDOCK, Sergt. G., Australian Contingent (Shamley Green).

(Surrey Advertiser, Surrey, England – 13 October, 1917)

SHAMLEY GREEN

A SOLDIER'S DEATH

Sergt. G. Ruddock, Australian Contingent and eldest son of Mrs Ruddock, has just died in an English hospital. He suffered from an internal complaint, which it is thought was aggravated by exposure in the trenches. He was a native of Shamley Green, but went to Australia some years ago, when he got married. His widow and two children are in Australia. He enlisted in Australia soon after the war commenced.

(Surrey Advertiser, Surrey, England – 13 October, 1917)

SHAMLEY GREEN

DEATH OF SERGT. RUDDOCK

Sergt. G. H. Ruddock, Signalling Section, Australian Imperial Forces, who died in the 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, from illness arising from hardships endured in the eastern and western theatres of war, was a native of Shamley Green, where his parents, Mr and Mrs G. Ruddock, still reside in Stroud-lane. He leaves a widow and two children, his widow being the eldest daughter of the late Mr Chas. Moss, 280, Walton-road, West Molesey, where they now reside.

The funeral took place with military honours on Wednesday afternoon, the interment at Molesey Cemetery being preceded by service at West Molesey Parish Church, conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Richard, Assisted by the Rev. C. Water, vicar. The firing party and pall bearers were from the Australian Imperial Forces, Warrant Officer Yeomans being in command. The mourners were Mrs A. M. Ruddock (widow), Mr and Mrs G. Ruddock (father and mother), Mr and Mrs Blanche (brother-in-law and sister), Mrs Hockham and Mrs Ede (sisters), May (niece), Pauline and Edith and Mrs Moss (sisters-in-law), Ernest (brother-in-law), Mrs Ealing and Corpl. Townsend.

(Surrey Advertiser, Surrey, England – 20 October, 1917)

CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

L.-Cpl. GEO. HENRY RUDDOCK, England, 5/10/17 (p. r. seriously ill)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Australia – 17 November, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock has a Private Headstone.

Molesey Cemetery, Surrey, England

Molesey Cemetery contains 21 Commonwealth War Graves – 10 from World War 1 & 11 from World War 2.



Molesey Cemetery (Photos by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



Photo of Lance Corporal George Henry Ruddock's Private Headstone in Molesey Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



In
Loving Memory
Of
GEORGE HENRY
The Beloved Husband Of
ANNETTA RUDDOCK
SERGT. 2ND BATT. A.I.F.
Died Oct. 5TH 1917
Aged 31.