Newbattle (Old) Cemetery, Newbattle, Midlothian, Scotland War Grave

Lest We Forget

World War 1

4527   PRIVATE

A. T. RUTHERFORD

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

12TH DECEMBER, 1918   Age 41

Farewell, But Not For Ever

Alexander Thomas RUTHERFORD

Alexander Thomas Rutherford was born around 1878 at Edinburgh, Scotland to parents Alexander & Margaret Rutherford.

The 1881 Scotland Census recorded Alexander T. Rutherford as a 3 year old, living with his parents at 17 Albert Street, St. Andrew, Midlothian, Scotland. His parents were listed as Alexander Rutherford (Contractor, aged 34, born Cranston, Haddintonsh) & Margaret Rutherford (aged 37, born Kelso, Roxburghshire).

The 1891 Scotland Census recorded Alexander T. Rutherford as a 13 year old Scholar, living at Bridgend, Midlothian, Scotland. His father was listed as Alexander Rutherford (Stableman (unemployed), aged 45). Also listed was Jane Davidson - Sister-in-law to Alexander Rutherford Snr (Dairymaid, aged 48, born Kelso, Roxburghshire).

An "Alexander Rutherford", date of birth listed as 18th December, 1880 was listed as a Labourer with the Western Australian Railways. He commenced work on the 16th January, 1912, becoming permanent on 1st February, 1913 & resigning on 16th January, 1915.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Perth, subdivision of West Perth, Western Australia listed Alexander Thomas Rutherford, signal fitter, of 30 Colin Crescent.

The 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, subdivision of West Perth, Western Australia listed Alexander Thomas Rutherford, Labourer, of 36 Parry Street.

Alexander Thomas Rutherford was a 38 year old, single, Labourer from 36 Parry Street, East Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 8th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4527 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs M. McLeod, care of Miss M. Rutherford, Torwoodlie, Galisteek, Scotland.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was posted to 46 Depot on 24th January, 1916 for recruit training. His rankw as changed to Sapper (no date).

Sapper Alexander Thomas Rutherford embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Warilda (A69)* on 1st June, 1916 with the No. 6 Tunnelling Company.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was posted to 3rd Pioneer Battalion (no date).

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was transferred to A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) on 26th August, 1916 in England.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 2nd July, 1917 from A.M.C. Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 3rd July, 1917. Pte Rutherford was marched out to 1st Div. A.M.C. from Rouelles on 5th July, 1917.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was taken on strength from Reinforcements & posted to 3rd Field Ambulance from 21st July, 1917.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was admitted to Hospital sick on 30th September, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Arques on 1st October, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). His disease was reported as "non classified" & due to debility, Pte Rutherford was transferred to Ambulance Train on 4th October, 1917 then admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital. Pte Rutherford was admitted to 1st Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 11th October, 1917.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was written up for a Crime on 16th October, 1917 while at No. 1 Convalescent Camp at Boulogne, France – "When on Active Service – disobedience of Depot Standing Orders:- Smoking in a tent on 15th October, 1917. He was awarded a forfeiture of 7 days' pay.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was transferred from No. 1 Convalescent Depot to No. 10 Convalescent Depot on 18th October, 1917 – cause – N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Pte Rutherford's disease was diagnosed as debility on 26th October, 1917. He was transferred to 3rd Rest Camp on 7th December, 1917.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France on 13th December, 1917.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was posted to 1st Australian General Hospital, Rouen, France on 21st February, 1918 from Base Depot.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was on leave to UK from 1st Australian General Hospital, Rouen from 31st March, 1918. He was recalled from leave on 30th March, 1918.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was admitted to Hospital sick on 18th April, 1918 – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was discharged to duty & rejoined on 29th April, 1918.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was admitted to Hospital sick on 7th May, 1918 – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was invalided to England on 12th May, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle*.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England on 14th May, 1918. The Hospital Admissions form records his disease as P.U.O. then Gastritis. He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 8th August, 1918. Pte Rutherford was discharged to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 17th August, 1918.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford on 14th August, 1918 while at No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield regarding his disability of Neurasthenia. The facts regarding the disability were listed as follows: "*This man gives a history of nervous breakdown prior to emigrating to Australia. Whilst working with North British Railway as a signal fitter, Attack of neurosis prevented him from going up heights & the apparent ___ cause of this was a fall. In Australia signal fitter in WA but unable to do outside work as nerves had gone, Family history good. July 1917 left 3rd F. Amb with Neurasthenia, finally attached to No. 1 A.G.H. where he states he collapsed when an aeroplane came over at night, Evacuated with P.U.O.*" Pte Rutherford's condition occurred prior to enlistment but was aggravated by Active Service. The Medical Board recommended that Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was unfit for General Service permanently & unfit for Home Service for 6 months.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 17th August, 1918 & medically classified as C2 – Unfit for overseas service, temporarily unfit for Home Service.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was sent sick to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 18th October, 1918. He was admitted the same day with Nuerasthenia & Colitis.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was reported as seriously ill on 9th December, 1918 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford died at 19.00 hrs on 12th December, 1918 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, Middlesex, England from Uraemic Coma. His next-of-kin was listed as his cousin – Miss Margaret Rutherford, 148 High Street, Dalkeith, Scotland. (Note – the Hospital Admissions form records the cause of death after a Post Mortem as Sarcoma of Pancreas.)

Administrative Headquarters received confirmation via telephone conversation that the relatives of the late Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford were requesting that the burial take place in Scotland.

A death for Alexander T. Rutherford, aged 40, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

DEATHS

RUTHERFORD – At First Australian Aux. Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, on 12th inst., Pte 4527 ALEXANDER T. RUTHERFORD, A.A.M.C., only son of the late Alexander Rutherford, Loanhead, Ford; deeply regretted. Funeral today (Wednesday), at 1.30 P.M., from 184 High Street, Dalkeith to Newbattle Churchyard. Friends please accept this (the only) intimation and invitation. (Australian papers please copy).

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was buried on 18th December, 1918 in Newbattle Old Cemetery, Newbattle, Midlothian, Scotland – Plot number 7. 52. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Alexander Thomas Rutherford - *Coffin was Elm. The deceased soldier was buried privately by relatives residing in Dalkeith, Scotland. A representative from the A.I.F. Headquarters, A.I.F. London attended.*

Names of Relatives & friends present at the funeral – James Rutherford, Bog Muir Cottage, Feetercairn; Laurence Kirk, Kincardine; John Young, 5 Muir Park, Eskbank, Dalkeith; Miss M. Rutherford, 184 High Street, Dalkeith; Wm. Young, Dearfoot, West Linton, Peebleshire; John Rutherford, Sauchenside Farm, Ford, Midlothian; Ales. Young, 11/5 Officers Quarters, Berlinnie, Glasgow.

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford requested in his Will, dated 18th July, 1917 that "in the event of my death I give £20 to my uncle, Wm. Murray, Beaufort, West Linton, Peeblesshire, Scotland. I give £10 to Mrs Hugh Fairley, Engine Knowe Cottage, Bathgate, Scotland and the remaining part of my property to Margaret Rutherford, Torwoodlee, Galashiels, Scotland."

Private Alexander Thomas Rutherford was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Rutherford's cousin - Miss M. Rutherford, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).
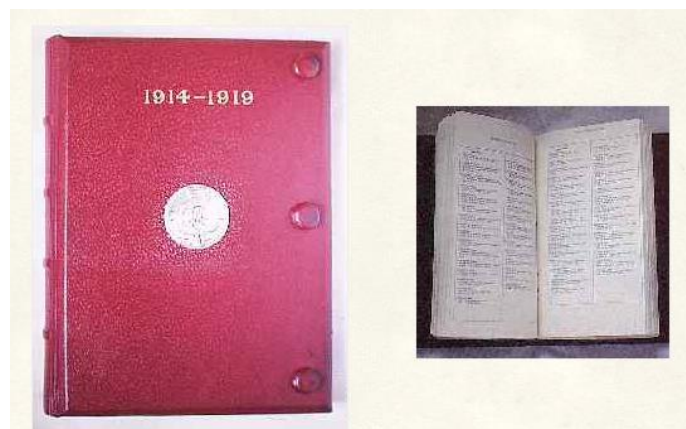
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Alexander Thomas Rutherford – service number 4527, aged 41, of 1st Australian General Hospital, Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of Alexander and Margaret Dippie Rutherford. Born at Edinburgh.

Alexander Thomas Rutherford is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.

The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)

Pte Alexander T. Rutherford is remembered on the Memorial Tablet inside the Lodge Torphichen Kilwinning, Masonic Temple, Jarvey Street, Bathgate, West Lothian, Scotland.

Newspaper article - *Linlithgowshire Gazette*, West Lothian, Scotland - 15 December, 1922:

FALLEN FREEMASONS

UNVEILING OF BATHGATE WAR MEMORIAL

On Sunday afternoon, within the Masonic Temple, Bathgate, a beautiful mural memorial tablet was unveiled and dedicated to the memory of the eleven members of "Torphichen Kilwinning" Lodge, No. 13, who fell in the Great War. Bro. W. F. Davidson, Worthy Master, presided over a very large attendance of the brethren, and Bro. Rev. John Lindsay, M.A., T.D., Past Grand Chaplain, conducted the service and performed the ceremony, with Bro. James Hill at the organ, and ro. John Kerr as leader of praise.

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The unveiling and dedication ceremonies were carried through by Bro. Rev. John Lindsay in a most impressive and sympathetic manner, in the course of which he referred in eloquent terms to the priceless service conferred on humanity by the noble sacrifice made by the men who fell and by all associated with them in their great struggle for the advancement of the brotherhood of man.

The memorial consists of a marble slab mounted on an over-mantel of carved fumed workmanship, which harmonises beautifully oak, and is of simple and artistic design and with the fireplace at the north end of the hall, above which it is placed. The carved work includes a scroll, surmounted b the emblem of the craft, with the inscription:-

To the Brethren of this Lodge

Who Fell in the Great War.

The marble tablet bears the following names:

Sgt. David Chapman, R.S.

Lt-Col. Michael W, Henderson, R.S.

Capt. John T. Johnston, R.S.

Lt. A. D. Campbell King, 18th Hrs.

L.Cpl. William A. Ledingham, G.H.

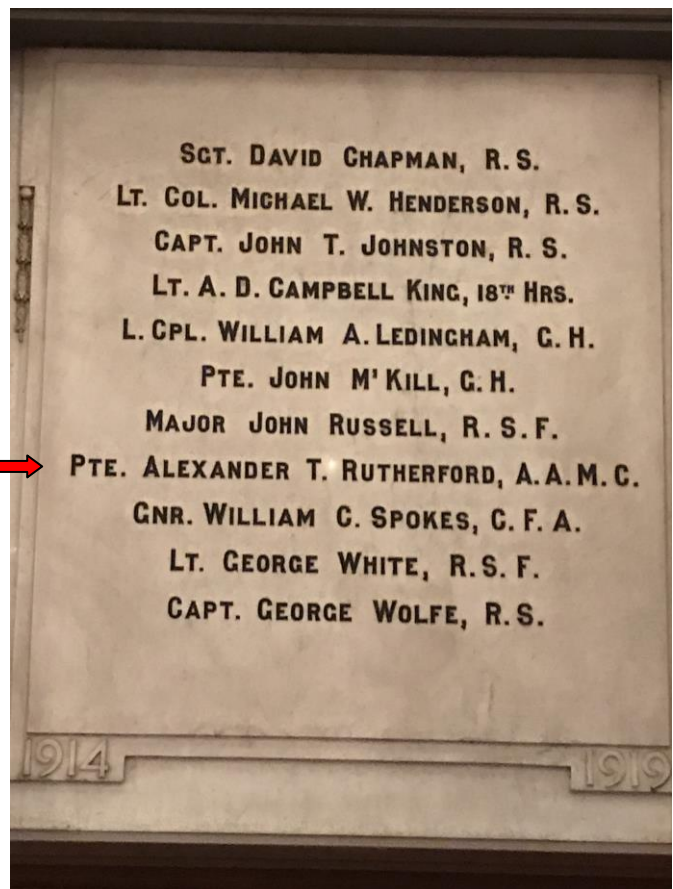*Pte John McKill, G.H.*

Major John Russell, R.S.F.

Pte Alexander T. Rutherford, A.A.M.C.

Gnr. William Spokes, C.F.A.

Lt. George White, R.S.F.

Capt. George Wolfe, R.S.

The memorial was erected by Mr Andrew Roberts, to the design of Bro. Theodore K. Irvine, Architect of the Lodge.

Memorial Tablet - The Lodge of Torphichen Kilwinning Nr. 13
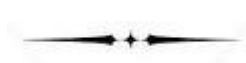
(Photos courtesy of Brian Gilchrist, Past Master)

Private A. T. Rutherford is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(72 pages of Pte Alexander Thomas Rutherford'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

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Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

456th CASUALTY LIST

DIED (OTHER CAUSES)

Pte Rutherford, Alex. Thos. (Scotland), 12/12/18, illness

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 30 January, 1919)

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)

Private A. T. Rutherford does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Farewell, But Not For Ever

Newbattle Old Cemetery, Newbattle, Midlothian, Scotland

Newbattle Old Cemetery contains 8 Commonwealth War Graves – all from World War 1.

Newbattle Old Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private A. T. Rutherford's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Newbattle Old Cemetery, Newbattle, Midlothian, Scotland.

(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)