

**Bulford Church Cemetery,
Wiltshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2386 GUNNER

A. E. RYCEN

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

20TH JULY, 1916 AGE 19

Albert Edward RYCEN

Albert Edward Rycen was born at Muttaborra, Queensland on 22nd June, 1897 to parents John Victor and Mary Elizabeth Rycen (nee Bennett).

Mary Elizabeth Rycen, mother of Albert Edward Rycen, died on 5th October, 1899.

Albert Rycen was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from Muttaborra, Queensland when he enlisted at Rockhampton, Queensland on 26th November, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – John Victor Rycen, of Muttaborra, Queensland.

Private Albert Rycen was posted to No. 1 Depot Squad on 26th November, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 2nd Light Horse Regiment on 1st January, 1916.

Private Albert Rycen, Service number 2386, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 31st March, 1916 with the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, 16th Reinforcements.

Private Albert Rycen was taken on strength with 1st Light Horse Regiment on 5th May, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Albert Rycen was transferred to Artillery Details on 15th May, 1916. His rank was changed to Gunner.

Gunner Albert Rycen embarked at Alexandria, Egypt on H.M.T. *Corsican* & disembarked at Plymouth, England (no date recorded).

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Gunner Albert Rycen was admitted to Hospital at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 14th July, 1916 with Cerebro Spinal Fever. He was reported dangerously ill with Cerebro Spinal Fever on 15th July, 1916.

Gunner Albert Edward Rycen died at 6.20 p.m. on 20th July, 1916 at Lucknow Isolation Hospital, Tidworth* from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. (**Note – Some of the Army forms state place of death as Bulford Hospital, Bulford, however the Admissions to Hospital form states name of Hospital as Tidworth. The "Report of a Soldier" Army Form B. 2090 has place of death as Tidworth Hospital. The "Morning State of Sick – Army Form A. 27 has the place of death as Lucknow Isolation Hospital, Tidworth (Ward in Military Hospital Tidworth) & also has the incorrect date as 21st July, 1916.*)

A death for Albert E. Rycen, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Gunner Albert Edward Rycen was buried on 24th July, 1916 in Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire - Grave No. 6 Australian Reserve Section (CWGC Plot number 4.2.6.) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Gunner Albert Edward Rycen was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Rycen's father – Mr J. V. Rycen (Scroll sent December 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Albert Edward Rycen – service number 2386, as being 19 years old & served with Australian Field Artillery – Training Depot. He was the son of John Victor and Elizabeth Rycen.

In reply to a query from the NSW Government Railways and Tramways Chief Accountant's Office regarding the 190th Casualty List (Queensland Section) regarding Private A. E. Ryan – Died of Illness in August, 1916 - it was explained by Base Records that the "soldier's name was corrected on Casualty List 205 (*Vide Corrigendum*) it having

appeared in List 190 as Ryan instead of Rycen.” Gunner Albert Edward Rycen’s Casualty Notice in the newspapers appeared as Pte A. E. Ryan in error. (see notice below in Newspaper Notices).

Gunner A. E. Rycen is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 22.



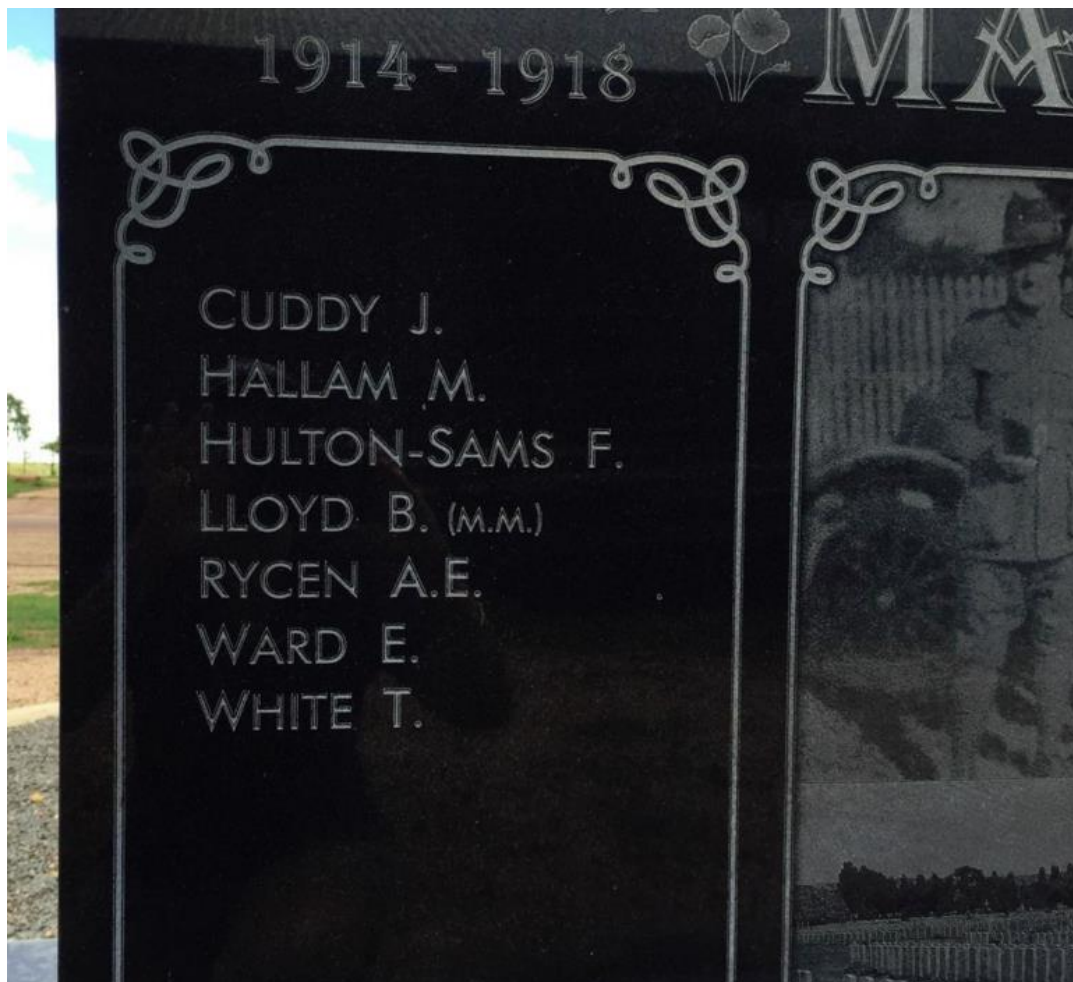
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Rycen is remembered on the Muttaborra Cenotaph, located at Bruford Street, Muttaborra, Queensland.



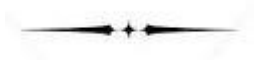


Muttaborra Cenotaph (Photos courtesy of Sue Wyton)



(37 pages of Gunner Albert Edward Rycen'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 Gunner Albert Edward Rycen:](#)**

Older brother – Driver John Henry Rycen, service number 1919, Royal Field Artillery. Embarked on 3rd January, 1916. Wounded in action & Gassed in France. Returned to Australia on 1st July, 1919. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 190

Died of Illness

Private A. E. Ryan (Muttaborra)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton – Saturday 5 August, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

RYCEN - In everlasting remembrance of our darling son and brother Bert, Gunner Albert Edward, died of illness, Tidworth, England, 21st July, 1916. Aged, 19 years.

The midnight stars are gleaming
On a grave I cannot see
Where sleeping without dreaming
Lies the one so dear to me.
We pictured you dear Bert returning,
We longed for a clasp of your hand,
But God has postponed our meeting -
We will meet in a better land.

Inserted by his loving father, sisters and brothers.

(The Western Champion and General Advertiser for the Central-Western Districts, Barcaldine, Qld – Saturday 20 July, 1918)

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 in Bulford Church 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)

Gunner A. E. Rycen does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Many of the 71 First World War burials in Bulford Church Cemetery were made from Bulford Camp, one of the military training grounds directly associated with Salisbury Plain. The cemetery also contains three Second World War burials.

(Information from CWGC)



Bulford Church Cemetery *(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)*



Bulford Church Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Gunner A. E. Rycen's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)



(Photo from CWGC)