

**St. Mary & St. Margaret Churchyard,
Castle Bromwich, West Midlands**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



941 CORPORAL

C. N. RYDER

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

10TH APRIL, 1917 Age 24

Son Of

Alfred And Eliza Ryder

Of N.S.W. And

Newton Abbott, Devon, England

Clifford Newton RYDER

Clifford Newton Ryder was born at Double Bay, Sydney, New South Wales in 1892 to parents Alfred James & Eliza Clements Ryder (nee Lamble).

Eliza Clements Ryder, mother of Clifford Newton Ryder, died on 11th May, 1897 at Woollahra, Sydney, NSW.

Clifford Newton Ryder attended Fort Street High School, Sydney, NSW.

Clifford Newton Ryder completed a 3 year apprenticeship with Bennett Wood Ltd.

Charles Septimus Ryder, younger brother of Clifford Newton Ryder, died on 15th August, 1916 at Dubbo, NSW.

Clifford Newton Ryder was a 24 year old, single, Fitter & Turner (listed on the information sheet for the Roll of Honour by his father as a Motor Mechanic & an Engineers apprentice) when he enlisted at Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 16th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 941 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Alfred James Ryder, of Hill Street, Freshwater, Manly, NSW.

Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Omrah* (A5) on 17th January, 1917 with the Australian Flying Corps, No. 4 Squadron, Headquarters Flight. Corporal Ryder was admitted to Ship's Hospital from 13th February to 16th February, 1917 with Influenza. He disembarked at Plymouth, England on 27th March, 1917.

Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder was marched in from Australia to A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 27th March, 1917.

Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder was transferred to No. 71 Squadron, A.F.C. at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, England on 2nd April, 1917 from A.F.C. Depot at Perham Downs.

War Diary – No. 4 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps

Perham Downs, England:

2 April, 1917 – Squadron with a strength of 24 Officers and 221 other ranks and 21 reinforcements (O/R) proceeded by rail to Castle Bromwich near Birmingham, and became attached to 25th Wing, R.F.C. for training during its stay in England.

Castle Bromwich, England:

4 April, 1917 – Command of Squadron taken over by Capt. W. Sheldon who arrived from NO. 67 Squadron, A.F.C. Egypt.

13 April, 1917 – 21 Officers posted to various C.F.S. Training Squadrons for instruction in aviation. 90 other ranks proceeded to C.F.S. Upavon for course in rigging, fitting, etc.

16 April, 1917 – Wireless personnel to number of 33 left for course of instruction at South Farnborough.

17 April, 1917 – 2/Lt. R. R. B. Bennett A.E. reported for duty as Recording Officer from Details at Perham Downs.

19 April, 1917 – Lieut. P. A. McBain proceeded to No. 41 R.S. Doncaster, for instruction.

20th April, 1917 – Capt W. Sheldon promoted to Major.

22 April, 1917 – Cpl. Cliff Ryder killed near Rugby in aeroplane accident.

NOTE – Nothing to note on other dates of this month.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Australian Flying Corps

The Australian Flying Corps (AFC) was the branch of the Australian Army responsible for operating aircraft during World War I, and the forerunner of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). The AFC was established in 1912, though it was not until 1914 that it began flight training.

In 1911, at the Imperial Conference held in London, it was decided that aviation should be developed by the various national armed forces of the British Empire. Australia became the first member of the Empire to follow this policy. By the end of 1911, the Army was advertising for pilots and mechanics. During 1912, pilots and mechanics were appointed, aircraft were ordered, the site of a flying school was chosen and the first squadron was officially raised. On 7 March 1913, the government officially announced formation of the Central Flying School (CFS) and an "Australian Aviation Corps", although that name was never widely used.

AFC units were formed for service overseas with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during World War I. They operated initially in the Mesopotamian Campaign. The AFC later saw action in Palestine and France. A training wing was established in the United Kingdom. The corps remained part of the Australian Army until it was disbanded in 1919, after which it was temporarily replaced by the Australian Air Corps. In 1921, that formation was re-established as the independent RAAF.

(Information from Wikipedia)

On 10th April, 1917 Sopwith 1½ Strutter Registration A1113 departed from RFC Castle Bromwich, Warwickshire with 2 crew members – Lieutenant John Alexander Williamson, Pilot, aged 20, on attachment from 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent) Regiment & Corporal Clifford Newton Ryde, Observer, aged 24, of No. 4 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. The destination was RFC Lilbourne, Daventry, Northamptonshire. The plane crashed en route at Ullesthorpe, near Market Harborough, Leicestershire (10 miles north of Rugby).

Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder died at 6 pm on 10th April, 1917 at Ellesthorpe Hospital, Rugby, England from the result of an aeroplane accident. Lieutenant John Alexander Williamson, pilot, also died in the crash. (Lieutenant Williamson was buried in St. Mary's Old Churchyard, Walmer, Kent, England.) (Note: the aircraft accident card in the RAF Museum Archives gives the location of the accident as "Gosport, Hampshire" (for Lieut. Williamson) and "Ellesthorpe, Rugby, Warwickshire" (for Corporal Ryder). A report in "Flight" magazine (April 19 1917 – see above) confirms the crash location as "Leicestershire".)

A death for Clifford N. Ryder, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Lutterworth, Leicestershire, England.

Item from *Flight* magazine – 19 April, 1917:

Fatal Accidents

Two aviators, one of whom was Lieut. J. A. Williamson, were killed in Leicestershire on April 10th. A machine was travelling very fast and high, when it suddenly started spiralling and descended rapidly. Something was observed to fall from the machine, which proved to be a passenger. The machine, with the pilot strapped to the seat, crashed into a field about 100 yards from where the passenger fell.

Newspaper article – *Leicester Journal*, Leicestershire, England – 20 April, 1917:

FLYING TRAGEDY

AIRMEN KILLED IN LEICESTERSHIRE

Shortly after 6 o'clock on Tuesday last week, two airmen, Lieut. John Alexander Williamson, East Kent Yeomanry (attached to the R.F.C.) and Cpl. Clifford M. Ryder, of the Australian Flying Corps, whilst travelling at a great height over Leicestershire were killed through their machine falling to the ground.

The inquest was held at Ullesthorpe last Thursday morning by Mr G. E. Bouskell (coroner for the district), An officer of the R.F.C. identified the bodies, and said the machine left the flying ground on Tuesday afternoon to fly to a certain place some distance away. When they started the weather was moderately windy. The machine was examined before leaving the ground. It was then all right. Witness, in fact, had flown the same machine that morning. Lieut. Williamson was an instructor. Both men appeared to be in good health. They got to their destination and delivered a message, and were returning when the mishap occurred. He had examined the wreck of the machine, but could find nothing to explain the accident. He did not think the snow had much to do with it. A good pilot could always avoid a snowstorm, but having got into one by accident, the risks would be greater. – A local doctor gave evidence to the effect that death was instantaneous in each case. There were no traces, on the bodies, of an explosion. – A local police constable said he saw the aeroplane, at 5.50 pm on Tuesday, flying at a great height. He could hear the hum of the engine all the time it was in sight. He lost sight of the aeroplane when it got into a now cloud. Snow was falling – but not very heavily. It was blowing hard and the machine was meeting the wind and snow. Suddenly he heard a crash, as if a gun was fired, and directly afterwards saw the machine nose diving to the ground. Before it reached the ground one of the airmen fell from the machine. The machine, with the officer in it, fell in another field about 100 yards away from the Corporal's body. – A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned, and the Foreman said the jury desired to express their sympathy with the relatives and friends of the deceased men. – The Coroner joined in the jury's expression of sympathy.

A Court of Inquiry was held on 15th April, 1917 with the outcome recorded as "*Flying accident. Error of judgement. It is the opinion of the Court of Inquiry that the accident was due to an error of judgement on the part of the pilot.*"

Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder was buried at 3 pm on 13th April, 1917 in St. Mary and St. Margaret Churchyard, Castle Bromwich, West Midlands, England and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00874

**Pallbearers carrying the coffin of Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder, A.F.C. from
St. Mary & St. Margaret Church to the Churchyard at Castle Bromwich**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00873

**Wreaths being laid at the funeral of Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder, A.F.C.
in St. Mary and Margaret Churchyard, Castle Bromwich**

Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder 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 Corporal Ryder's father – Mr A. J. Ryder, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1922 & Plaque sent January, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder, aged 24, of 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Alfred James and Eliza Clements Ryder, of Freshwater, Manly, Sydney, New South Wales.

Corporal C. N. Ryder is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187. According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Clifford Newton Ryder was *“well known & liked in Dubbo, NSW as a successful mechanic and popular in cycle racing.”*

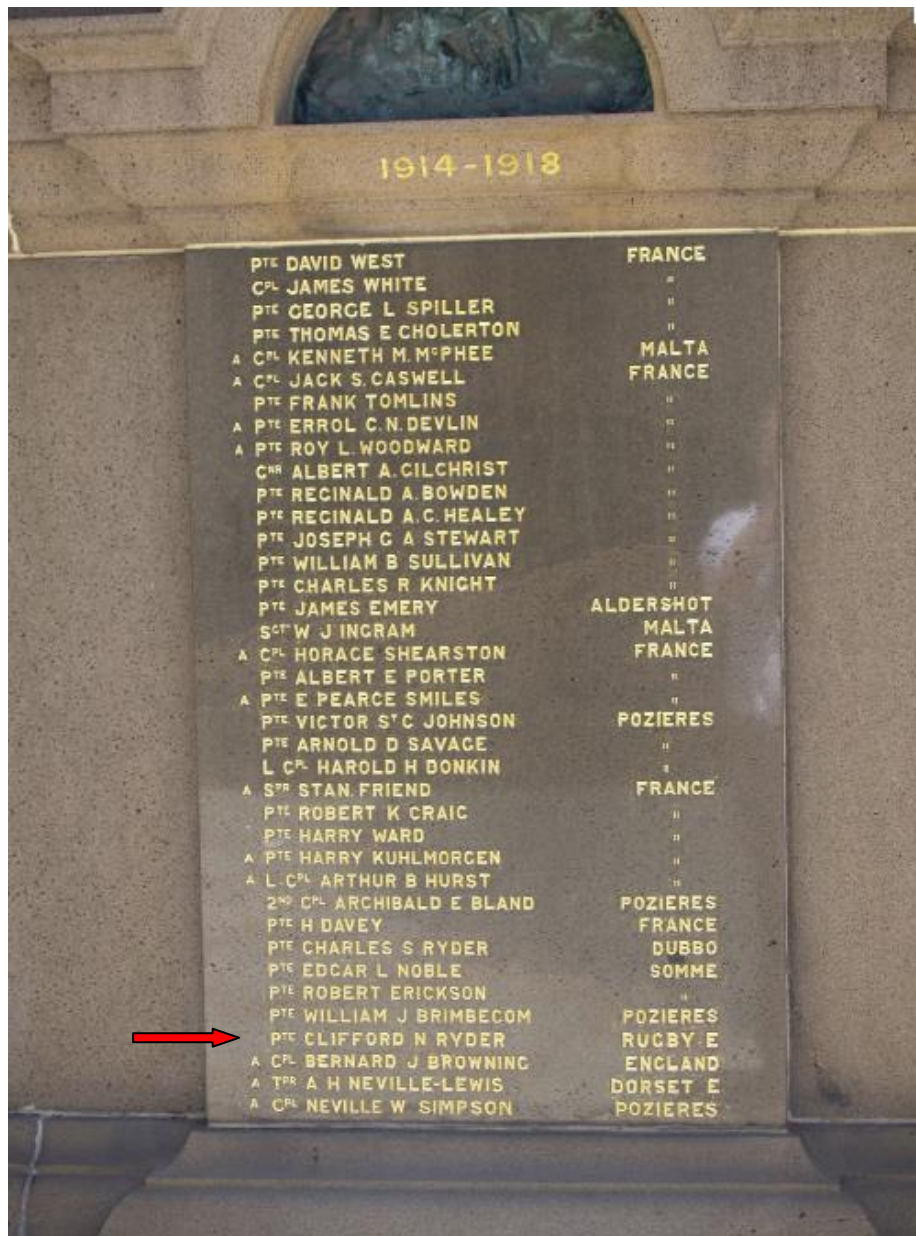


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

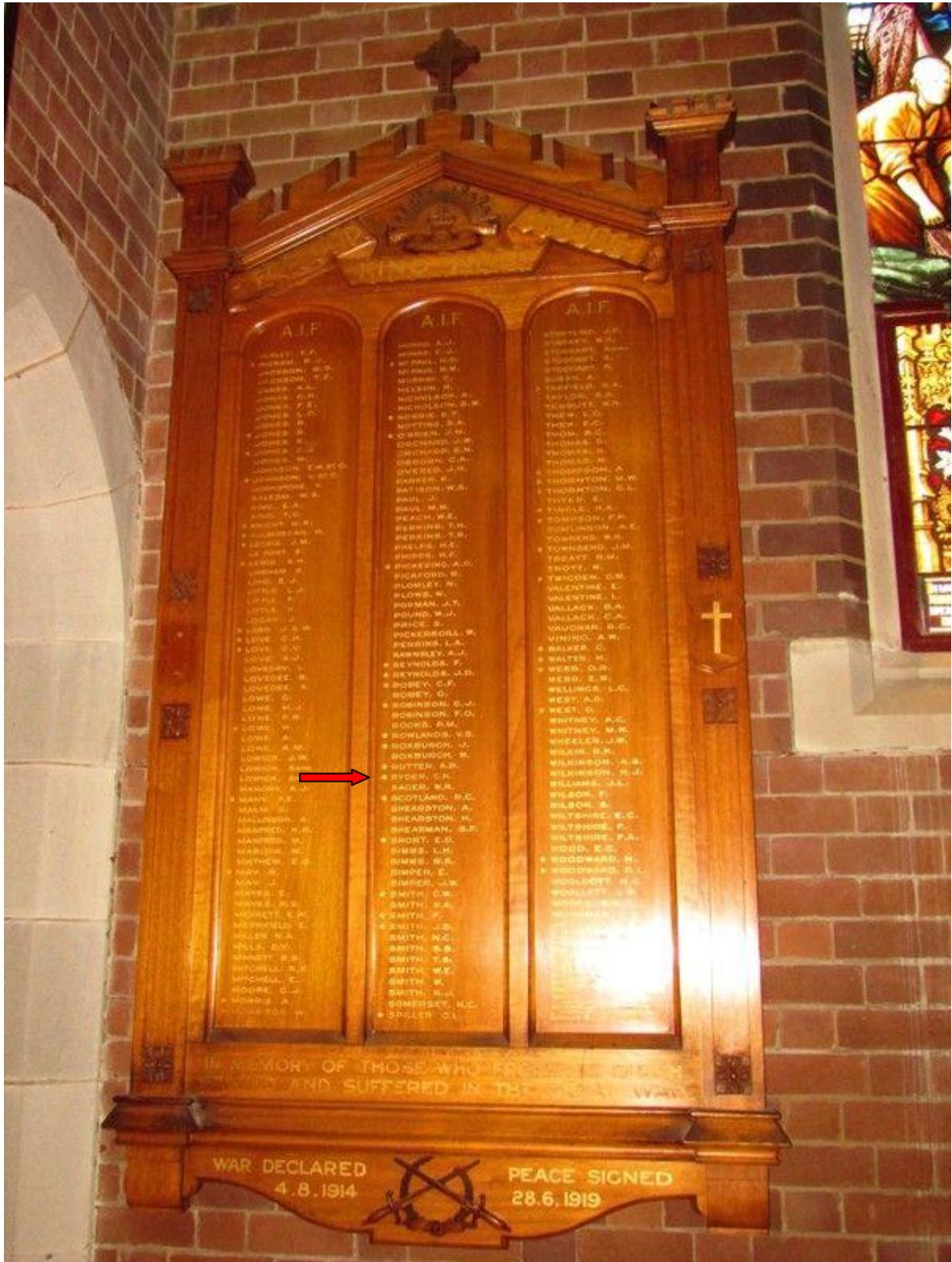
Clifford N. Ryder is remembered on the Manly Anzac War Memorial, located at corner of The Corso & Belgrave Street, Manly, NSW.



Manly War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW)



C. N. Ryder is remembered on the St. Matthew's Church Roll of Honour, located inside St. Matthews Anglican Church, The Corso & Darley Road, Manly, NSW.



St. Matthew's Church Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Sansra Brown)

C. W. Ryder, Aviator's Mechanic, is remembered in *The Fortian* (School Magazine of Fort Street Boys' High School, Petersham) June, 1919 edition.



(43 pages of Corporal Clifford Newton Ryder'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

POLICE COURT

Clifford Newton Ryder, was charged with riding a motor cycle in the public street without having a license. Accused pleaded guilty and was fined 5/- and 6/- costs.

(*Dubbo Dispatch and Wellington Independent*, NSW – 22 October, 1912)

DUBBO POLICE COURT

At Dubbo Police Court this morning Clifford Ryder was fined 10/ for riding a motor cycle at an excessive speed.

(*Dubbo Dispatch and Wellington Independent*, NSW – 30 April, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

RYDER – April 10, 1917, Clifford Ryder, fifth son of Alfred J. Ryder, Corporal A.F.C., at Ellesthorpe Hospital, Rugby, result of aeroplane accident, age 24.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 21 April, 1917)

WAR CASUALTIES

DEATH OF AN AVIATOR

Information has been received that Corporal C. N. Ryder, of the Australian Flying Corps, died on 10th April, at Ellesthorpe Hospital, Rugby, England, from injuries received in an aeroplane accident. He was the fifth son of Mr A. J. Ryder, of Hill-street, Freshwater, Manly, who is secretary of the Carrington Convalescent Hospital at Camden.

He was born at Double Bay 24 years ago, and was educated at Fort-street. He was employed as a motor mechanic when he enlisted.

His brother, Private Fred. Ryder, is also a member of the Australian Flying Corps.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 April, 1917)

TELEGRAMS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney, April 21

Information has been received that Corporal C. N. Ryder, of the Australian Flying Corps, died on 10th April, at Ellesthorpe Hospital, Rugby, England, from injuries received in an aeroplane accident.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 21 April, 1917) & (The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 23 April, 1917) &

(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 27 April, 1917)

CASUALTIES

290th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died (Other Causes)

Pte C. N. Ryder, Freshwater (result of accident).

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 3 May, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

RYDER – In remembrance of our dear friend, Corporal Cliff. Ryder, of the A.F.C., who was killed in England, 10th April, 1917.

Far away from all who loved him,

In a hero's grave he lies;

And though his body resteth,

His memory never dies.

Inserted by Mr and d Mrs A. Ison and family,

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – 9 April, 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. 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.

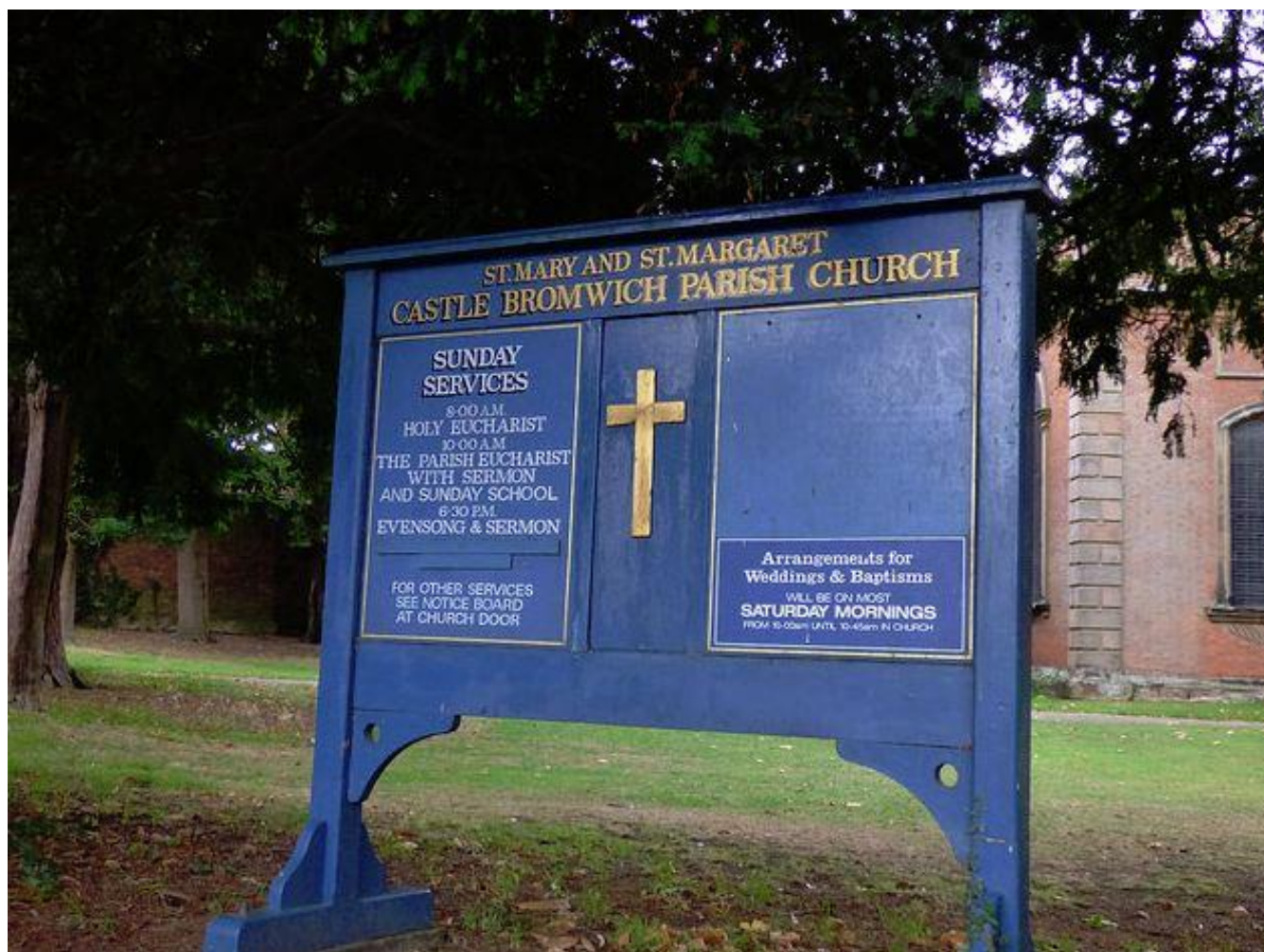
(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Corporal C. N. Ryder does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Son Of Alfred And Eliza Ryder Of N.S.W. And Newton Abbott, Devon, England

St. Mary and St. Margaret Churchyard, Castle Bromwich, West Midlands, England

St. Mary and St. Margaret Churchyard, Castle Bromwich contains 17 Commonwealth War Graves – 10 for World War 1 & 7 from World War 2.



(Photo by Ell Brown)



View of Church from old Graveyard (Photo from *A History of Birmingham Churches*)



View of Church from new Graveyard (Photo from *A History of Birmingham Churches*)



View of Graveyard from the Church (Photo from *A History of Birmingham Churches*)



Corporal C. N. Ryder's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone (marked with red arrow)

Photo of Corporal C. N. Ryder's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary and St. Margaret Churchyard, Castle Bromwich, West Midlands, England.



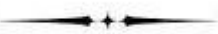
(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)

A Plaque for Clifford Ryder is placed on his brother's headstone, located in Dubbo Old Cemetery, NSW.



(Photo by John – Find a Grave)

In
Remembrance
of
Pte CHARLES S. RYDER
Died At Dubbo 15th Aug, 1916
Aged 21 Years
Whilst A Member Of The A.I.F.
Erected As A Mark Of Esteem By His Comrades
Of M. Company



Greater Love Hath No Man Than This That
He Lay Down His Life For His Friends.

Also, In Memory Of
His Brother CLIFFORD (Corporal A.F.C.)
Killed While On Active Service At Rugby England
10TH April 1917, Age 24
Sons Of Alfred J. Ryder – Sydney, N.S.W.
Erected As A Mark Of Esteem By His Comrades
Of The Dubbo Depot Battalion.

