

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1716 PRIVATE

H. A. SLATER

39TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 22

Peace Perfect Peace

Harold Albert SLATER

Harold Albert Slater was born in 1896 in Skipton, Victoria to parents John Howison Slater & Emily Emma Slater (nee Shuttlewood).

Harold Albert Slater was a 19 year old, single, Labourer from Beaufort, Victoria when he enlisted on 17th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1716 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. H. Slater, of Lawrence Street, Beaufort, Victoria. Harold Slater stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 3 years with Cadets – 71st Battalion.

Private Harold Albert Slater was posted to 14th Depot Battalion at Ballarat from 25th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Reinforcements of 39th Battalion on 10th May, 1916.

Private Harold Albert Slater embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 27th May, 1916 with the 39th Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcements.

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.

Private Harold Albert Slater was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 3rd August, 1916 with Influenza.

Private Harold Albert Slater was taken on strength of 10th Training Battalion 16th August, 1916.

Private Harold Albert Slater was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 6th September, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was transferred from Fargo Military Hospital on 18th November, 1916 to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire, with Mumps. Pte Slater was discharged from Fovant Military Hospital on 2nd December, 1916.

Private Harold Albert Slater was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion, Camp No. 11 at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Hospital on 2nd December, 1916. He was marched out to 10th Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 13th February, 1917.

Private Harold Albert Slater proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 28th June, 1917 from No. 12 Camp, Durrington, Wiltshire. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 29th June, 1917. Pte Slater was marched out from 3rd A.D.B.D. to his Unit on 4th July, 1917 & was taken on strength of 39th Battalion on 6th July, 1917 in the field.

Private Harold Albert Slater was sent sick to Hospital on 5th January, 1918. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance on 5th January, 1918 with Bronchitis. Pte Slater was transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 21st January, 1918 & transferred on 23rd January, 1918 to Ambulance Train 23. He was admitted to 56th General Hospital on 23rd January, 1918 with Bronchitis. Pte Slater was transferred to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples, France on 31st January, 1918 then transferred to No. 5 Convalescent Depot at Cayeau on 4th February, 1918. He was discharged to Base Depot on 22nd March, 1918.

Private Harold Albert Slater was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Rouelles from Hospital on 23rd March, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 8th April, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 10th April, 1918.

Private Harold Albert Slater was sent to Hospital sick on 15th April, 1918. He was admitted to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 15th April, 1918 – P.O.U. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) then transferred to Ambulance Train 20 on 18th April, 1918. Private Slater was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th April, 1918 with P.O.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was invalided to England on 27th June, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick*.

39th Battalion

The 39th Battalion was formed on 21 February 1916 at the Ballarat Showgrounds in Victoria and drew most of its recruits from the state's Western District. It became part of the 10th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. Sailing from Melbourne on 27 May, the battalion arrived in Britain on 18 July and commenced four months of training. It

crossed to France in late November and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 9 December, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Harold Albert Slater was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England on 28th June, 1918 with Broncho Pneumonia – dangerously ill.



Private Harold Albert Slater died at 7 am on 27th October, 1918 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from Broncho Pneumonia (Tubercle of Lung).

A death for Harold A. Slater, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Blofield, Norfolk, England.

Private Harold Albert Slater was buried on 1st November, 1918 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Plot number 54. 708 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Private Harold Albert Slater - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths sent by:- Comrades of the War Hospital Norwich, Mrs N. H. Coker of the White House, Thorpe and Mrs Devaval Astley, Plumsted Hall, Brundell. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. J. I. Mumford conducted the burial service. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives or Friends present at the Funeral – 2575 Sgt. W. Creaser, 10th Battalion & 5420 Pte A. McLean, 45th Battalion.

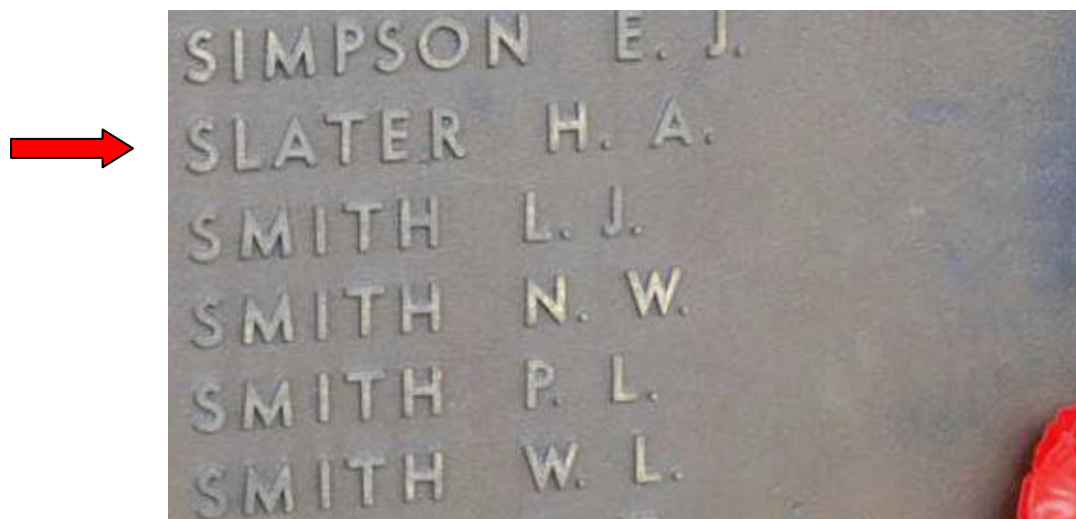
Private Harold Albert Slater was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Slater's mother – Mrs E. E. Slater, as the closest next-of-kin. John Howison Slater, father of the late Private Harold Albert Slater, died on 24th April, 1919 at Beaufort, Victoria. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harold Albert Slater – service number 1716, aged 22, of 39th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Emily Emma Slater, and the late John Howison Slater, of 22 Mary St., Richmond, Victoria, Australia.

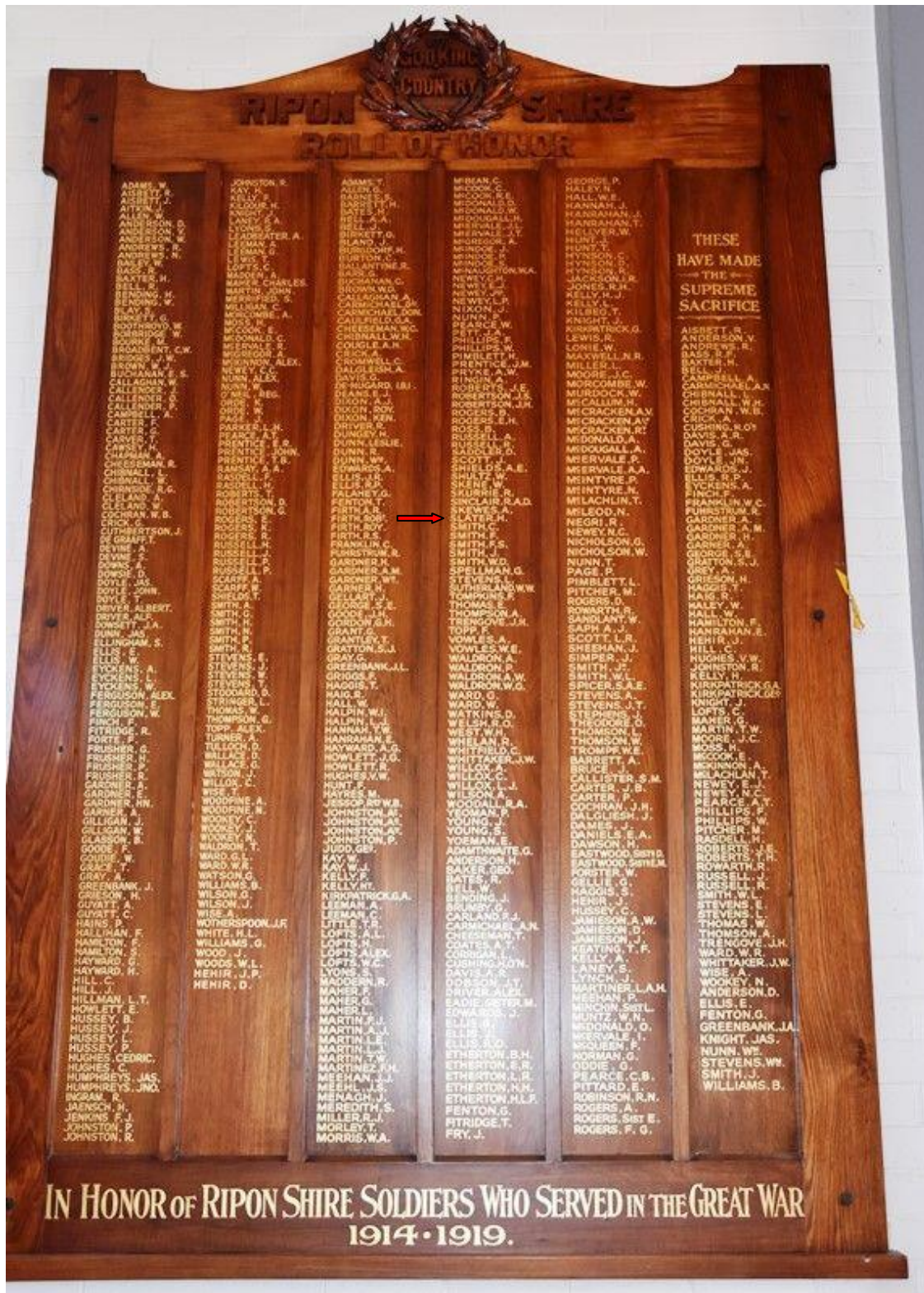
Private H. A. Slater is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 131.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



H. Slater is remembered on the Ripon Shire Roll of Honour, located in Beaufort Town Hall, Lawrence & Willoby Streets, Beaufort, Victoria.



Ripon Shire Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

(58 pages of Pte Harold Albert Slater'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

VICTORIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 408

SERIOUSLY ILL

H. A. Slater, Beaufort

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 June, 1918)

PERSONAL

Gn. C. J. Hughes, of Beaufort, has been wounded, and Pte Harold Slater (of that place) has been reported ill.

(Ararat Chronicle and Willaura and Lake Bolac Districts Recorder, Victoria – 18 June, 1918)

FOR THE EMPIRE

In the course of a recent letter to his parents (Mr and Mrs John Slater), Signaller Harold Slater, of Beaufort, informs them that he is likely to be invalided to Australia. Signaller Slater who is suffering from chronic bronchitis, was on active service in France for a lengthy period and was invalided to England owing to an attack of trench fever. He left Australia over two years ago with Beaufort's second unit.

(Riponshire Advocate, Victoria – 31 August, 1918) & (The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 3 September, 1918)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT MEN

SIGNALLER H. SLATER

Signaller Harold Slater, son of Mr and Mrs Jno. Slater, of Beaufort, is likely to be invalided to Australia, as he is suffering from chronic bronchitis. Whilst serving in France he had an attack of trench fever, and was invalided to England. The young soldier left Australia over two years ago as a member of the township's second unit.

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 2 September, 1918)

FOR THE EMPIRE

Mr and Mrs J. Slater, of Beaufort, have received advice that their soldier son, Signaller Harold Slater, is returning to Australia and will land next month. He served for a lengthy period in France, being gassed and invalided to England, and left Australia 2 ½ years ago with Beaufort's second unit.

(Riponshire Advocate, Victoria – 19 October, 1918) & (The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 21 October, 1918)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT MEN

SIGNALLER H. SLATER

Our Beaufort correspondent writes:- Through Rev. W. C. Wood, the local Anglican clergyman, Mr and Mrs J. Slater, of Beaufort, have received the sad tidings of the death on 27th October, at Norwich Hospital, England, of their youngest son, Sig. Harold Slater. Death resulted from bronchial pneumonia, deceased having suffered from acute bronchitis since he was gassed in France some months ago. He was shortly to have been invalided to Australia, but suffered a relapse. Sig. Slater, who was well known and respected here, left Australia about two years and a half ago with the township's second unit. Much sympathy is felt for the relatives.

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 6 November, 1918)

DEATH

SLATER – On October 27, at Norwich Hospital, England, from bronchial pneumonia, Signaller Harold Slater, son of Mr and Mrs John Slater, of Beaufort, and brother of Mr J. and G. Slater, of Mt Widderin, Skipton, and Mrs George Morris, Lismore; aged 22 years.

Weary of earth and laden with sin
I look to Heaven and long to enter in:
For there no evil thing shall find a home,
But yet I heard a voice which bids me come.
It is the voice of Jesus that I hear,
His arms stretched out to draw me enar,
And His the blood that shall for all atone,
And place ME spotless there before His Throne.

When the outlook is dark, keep looing upward. Be brave and endure.

Composed by the late soldier when lying ill in hospital in France.

(Lismore, Derrinallum and Cressy Advertiser, Victoria – 13 November, 1918)

THE 448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private H. A. Slater, Beaufort.

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 4 December, 1918)

RIPONSHIRE COUNCIL

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The president regretted having to again refer to two district soldiers Signaller H. Slater and Gunner T. Roberts, M.M. – who had made the supreme sacrifice, and moved that a letter of sympathy be sent to the relatives. Seconded by Cr. Roddis and carried.....

(Riponshire Advocate, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)

COUNTRY NEWS

BEAUFORT

A SOLDIER'S BURIAL

From Lieut. A. Cheyne, of the 5th Gordon Highlanders, Mr and Mrs J. Slater, of Beaufort, have received an account of the funeral on 1st November last of their son, Signaller Harold Slater, a member of Beaufort's second unit, who died in England from illness some months ago after being gassed in France. The late soldier was buried in Norwich Cemetery with full military honors. A firing party of 12 men, six pall-bearers, and the band of the 51st Gordon Highlanders, were in attendance.

(The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 13 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 H. A. Slater does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Peace Perfect Peace

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

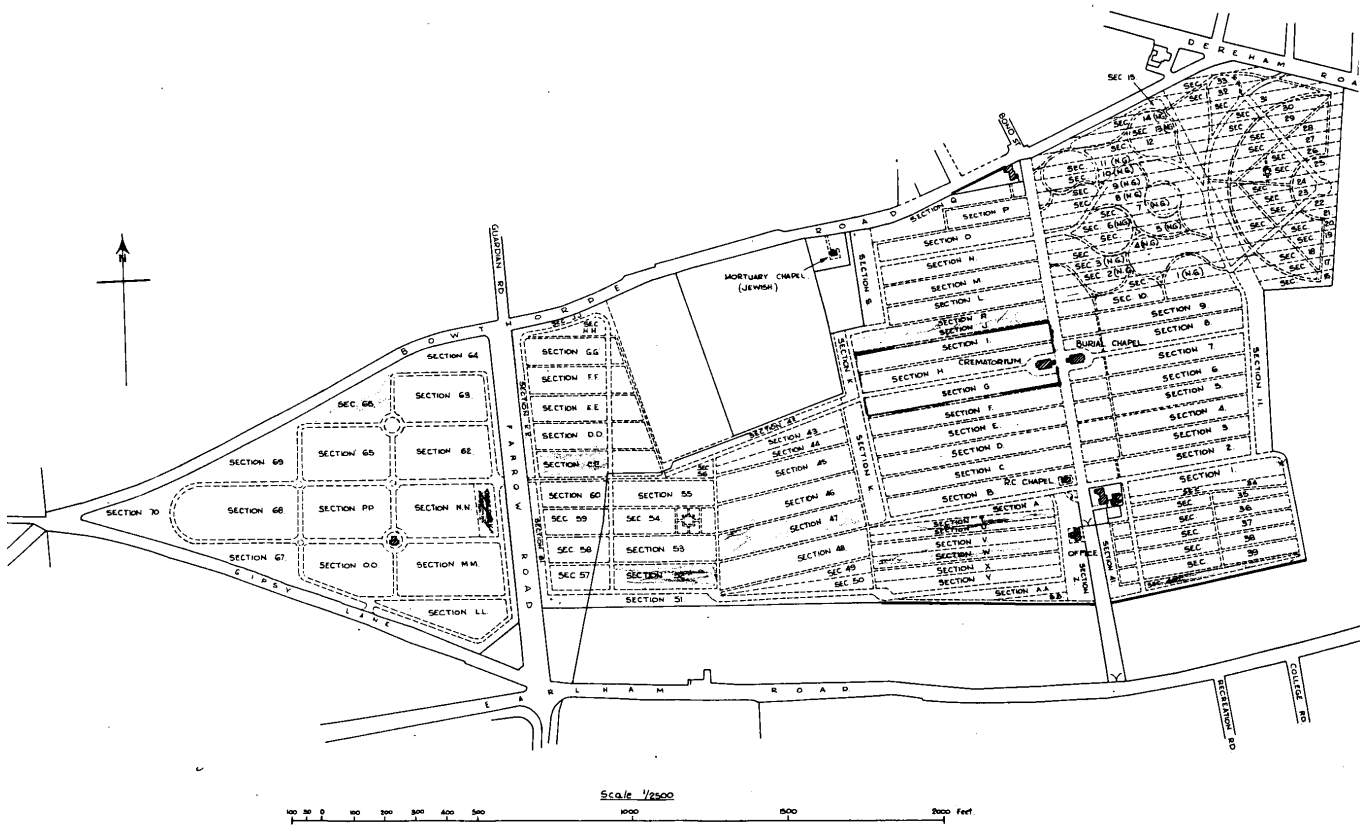
(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private H. A. Slater's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

