

**St. Andrew's Churchyard,
Rochford, Essex,
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

A. S. TALBOT

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

27TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 27

Gone But Not Forgotten

Arthur Sydney TALBOT

Arthur Sydney Talbot was born on 23rd December, 1889 in Sydney, New South Wales to parents Herbert Harry & Alice Broughton Talbot (nee Brothers).

Herbert Harry Talbot, father of Arthur Sydney Talbot, died on 20th February, 1896 in Wellington, New Zealand, aged 33 years. (see Newspaper articles below).

Alice Broughton Talbot, mother of Arthur Sydney Talbot, married Arthur Henry Coe in 1904 in New Zealand. Arthur Sydney Talbot became the stepson of Sergeant Major Arthur Henry Coe.

Alice Broughton Coe (formerly Talbot) died on 30th December, 1907 at Whanganui, Wellington, New Zealand, aged 37 years. Her death was registered in 1908.

Arthur Sydney Talbot enlisted with the Australian Naval Force on 9th July, 1908 on H.M.S. Pioneer. His date of birth was listed as 23rd December, 1889, in Sydney, NSW. His rank was Stoker 2nd Class & his Service number was 1056. Arthur Talbot signed on for a period of 5 years. He certified at Wellington, New Zealand that both his parents were dead & that he had no legal guardian. He was 5ft 9 inches with brown hair, grey eyes & a fresh complexion. Arthur Talbot was previously employed as a Railway Porter.

New Zealand Police Gazette – 20 July, 1910:

DESERTERS FROM HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

From H.M.S. "Pioneer"

.....

Arthur Sydney Talbot, aged twenty-one, height 5 ft. 9 in., stoker, native of New South Wales, brown hair, grey eyes, fresh complexion. Deserted at Auckland, 27th April last.

Deserted at Auckland: Warrants issued at Wellington.

A reward not exceeding £3 each will be paid for their apprehension.

New South Wales Police Gazette - 15th February, 1911:

Deserters from His Majesty's Service

From H.M.S. "Pioneer" at Auckland (NZ).

On 21st April, 1910

Arthur S. Talbot, stoker, born in Sydney, 21 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches high, brown hair, grey eyes, fresh complexion.

The 1911 England Census for the Royal Navy for H.M.S. *Penguin* posted in South Africa recorded Arthur Sydney Talbot, aged 21, as a Stoker 1st Class (Engine Room), born Sydney NSW, region - Church of England.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the district of King, subdistrict, Castlereagh Street listed Arthur Sydney Talbot, Fireman of 217 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW.

Arthur Sydney Talbot was a 24 year old, single, Motor Driver when he enlisted on 12th October, 1914 with the 301st (M.T. Mechanical Transport) A.S.C. (17th Divisional Ammunition Park) of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1551 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Miss Renie Talbot, care of Ferry, Tailor of Newtown, Sydney, NSW. Arthur Talbot stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 2 years with New Zealand Mounted Rifles & had left at his own request.

Corporal Arthur Sydney Talbot was posted to D.A.R., 8th A.S.C. (Army Service Corps) on 12th October, 1914.

Corporal Arthur Sydney Talbot embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 22nd December, 1914.

Driver Arthur Sydney Talbot embarked from Avonmouth on SS *Saba* on 12th July, 1915.

Driver Arthur Sydney Talbot embarked on Hospital Ship *Anglia* on 24th September, 1915 for England due to defective eyesight.

Driver Arthur Sydney Talbot was taken on strength of Burtpore Depot from Abbey Wood on 8th June, 1916 as part of 8th Army Service Corps.

Sergeant Arthur Sydney Talbot was discharged from Australian Imperial Force in England on 16th August, 1916 to take up a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps. He had served 1 year & 310 days with the Australian Imperial Force.

From the London Gazette 29th August, 1916:

The undermentioned to be temp. 2nd Lts for duty with R.F.C. 16th Aug. 1916

Serjt. Arthur Sydney Talbot, from Australian Imp. Force.

2nd Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot was transferred to Oxford Flying School on 17th August, 1916. He was to report to Royal Flying Corps, Christchurch College, Oxford for a course of preliminary instruction in aviation.

2nd Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot gained his Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificate No. 3812 on 12th November, 1916 in a Maurice Farman Biplane while at Military School Birmingham. His address was listed as 262 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, Australia.

2nd Lieutenant A. S. Talbot, of No. 28 Reserve Squadron, R.F.C., was flying a Sopwith No. 7801 on 18th January, 1917 when he was involved in a flying accident. The engine seized up at low height & he was forced to land in marsh & machine turned over. The accident was caused due to Engine failure. 2nd Lieutenant A. S. Talbot was wounded.

2nd Lieutenant A. S. Talbot, No. 40 Squadron, was involved in an incident on 25th March, 1917 in a Nieuport Scout No. A6779 when the plane failed to clear telegraph wires on takeoff from flight at Sains en Gohelle.

2nd Lieutenant A. S. Talbot, No. 40 Squadron, was injured on 30th March, 1917 when in a Nieuport Scout No. A6786 the plane stalled in crosswind on takeoff for line patrol.

2nd Lieutenant A. S. Talbot was admitted to St. John's Hospital, Etaples, France on 5th April, 1917 with an injury to his head (slight). He embarked from Calais, France on Hospital Ship Newhaven on 10th April, 1917. He was admitted to Hospital in England on 11th April, 1917 with wounds to face & scalp.

2nd Lieutenant A. S. Talbot was promoted to Lieutenant on 1st September, 1917.

Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot & Second Lieutenant G. C. Malcolm, of 198 Depot Squadron, were flying an Avro 504J B3111 on 27th September, 1917 from Rochford Aerodrome, Essex, England. Lieutenant Malcolm was under instruction with Lieutenant Talbot the pilot & instructor.

Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot died at 8.20 am on 27th September, 1917 at Rochford Aerodrome, Essex, England due to an aerial collision. Lieutenant Malcolm also died in the collision. The pilot of the other aeroplane - 2/Lt. J. F. Dick survived the crash with a broken thigh.

A Court of Inquiry was held – The Court having considered the evidence is of opinion that the accident was due either to an error of judgement on part of Lt. Talbot or by interference with controls by Lt. Malcolm & that no blame can be attached to 2/Lt. J. F. Dick.

A death for Arthur S. Talbot, aged 28, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Rochford, Essex, England.

Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot was buried in St. Andrew's Churchyard, Rochford, Essex, England and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Second Lieutenant Geoffrey Cooper Malcolm, Royal Flying Corps and King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who died on 27th September, 1917 was also buried St. Andrew's Churchyard, Rochford, Essex, England.

The National Probate Calender listed the following details: Arthur Sydney Talbot of Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW, Second Lieutenant R.F.C. died 27th September, 1917 at Rochford Aerodrome, Essex. Administration London 25th June, 1919 to Herbert William Talbot, Stoker Petty Officer. Effects £204 7s. 2d.

Newspaper Item – *The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 5 October, 1917:

TRAGEDY OF THE AIR

SYDNEY FLYER KILLED FALL FROM 10,000 FEET

After three years of war, during which he was nearly killed several times, was wounded twice, and had about twenty stitches in his head and face, Flight-Lieutenant Arthur S. Talbot, formerly of the headquarters station of the New South Wales Fire Brigade, lost his life last week, as the result of an accident in England.

With Lieutenant Malcolm, who was making only his second flight, he was essaying a spiral descent at an Essex aerodrome, when he collided with another aeroplane. Both occupants were dashed to the ground and killed.

Lieutenant Talbot, who was only 28 years old, was born at Darlinghurst, and after spending five years in the navy in Australian waters, joined the Fire Brigade. For about three years he was a fireman at the head-quarters of the brigade in Castlereagh-street, and during that time became a competent motor driver, and generally obtained a knowledge of mechanics, which stood him in good stead later on. Shortly before the outbreak of war he left the brigade and accepted a position as a chauffeur in Sydney: but soon, after the war gong had been sounded he went into camp.



Late Flight-Lieutenant Talbot

He left with the first motor transport In October, 1914, and on the trip over acted as a gun-layer on his troopship.

HIT WITH SHRAPNEL

After a spell in England, where he was made a corporal, he went to France early in 1915, and embarked on a career which was characterised by thrilling experiences and hairbreadth escapes. While carrying despatches near Loos a piece of shrapnel struck him over the right eye, and when he came to he was in hospital. He was travelling at about 35 miles an hour at the time, and when he was hit he went down hard and fractured his frontal bone. That little adventure was responsible for his being in hospital in England for two months.

For months after coming out of hospital he was in charge of the motors at Abbey Wood, where he was promoted to the rank of staff-sergeant. All the time he was itching to get back to the front, but it was a long while before his wish was gratified. In October, 1916, he was discharged from the Australian Forces, and given a commission in the Royal Flying Corps, and a couple of months later he was a first-class scout pilot.

PREVIOUS SMASH IN ENGLAND

Talbot met with his first aerial accident while on a hundred miles cross-country flight from Lincoln to Birmingham. It was very cold and thick up above, and he could not fly higher than 200ft. At Nottingham the air was so thick that he was forced down to 50ft., and after missing two chimneys and a church spire by a few feet, he noticed that his oil was disappearing, and consequently knew that his engine was freezing. He was looking round for a landing place, when the engine stopped. The machine got out of control, and, striking a tree, nose-dived to the ground. The aeroplane was wrecked, and Talbot had his jaw fractured and nine teeth knocked out.

The smash, however, did not affect his nerves or make him less keen on flying. He earned the reputation of being a daring airman and a good pilot, and in writing to a friend in the Fire Brigade he expressed the hope that he would be able to live up to the good things that were being said of him. "Flying is usually a case of man to man," he wrote, "and if I'm not better than a Hun, then my place ought to be under the ground."

BROUGHT DOWN BY "ARCHIES"

Talbot joined the air forces at the front early this year, and writing from hospital last May, he told a thrilling story of an extremely exciting adventure he had over the German lines. "I am now suffering from a bad scalp wound," he wrote. "I received it in a scrap over La Bassee. I was flying a French machine, and with five others went over the German lines in offensive patrol. When at 16, 000 ft., and well over the lines, I had engine trouble, and was forced to leave the formation, as I could not keep up with the other machines. I tried to get back to our lines, when two Huns attacked me.

"They didn't do any damage, however, for I put my machine into a spinning nose-dive, and out-maneuvred them. Then I got into trouble with the Archies (anti-aircraft guns), and one of my main control wires was shot away. That was at 10,000ft., and my machine was out of control. It turned over and I thought the end had come. As it was I nearly came out of my belt. When it had fallen about 200ft., however, the machine righted itself, and then nose-dived to the ground, landing on its left wing.

"When I came to I was in a clearing station hospital two miles inside our lines."

Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. The Medals along with a Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were to be sent to Lieutenant Talbot's closest next-of-kin.

Base Records contacted Erenie Alice Silvester, of "Emerton" Llewellyn Street. Rhodes, Sydney, NSW, sister of Arthur Sydney Talbot, in May, 1922 enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs Erenie Alice Silvester, sister of the late Arthur Sydney Talbot, replied to Base Records & advised that her father had died in February, 1896 & her mother had died about December, 1907. She stated there were three children "The eldest son Herbert William Talbot believed to be in England, my brother Sergeant Talbot who was killed and myself Erenie Alice..... I might state my brother did not get on well together. Herbert I believe secured all my deceased's brothers belongs, there being no will found, he did not share with me nor did he acquaint me of what was left by my brother."

Base Records contacted Mr H. W. Talbot, of Custom's House, London, brother of the late Arthur Sydney Talbot, to enquire if he had any objections to the 1914/15 Star being handed to his sister as she had been nominated as next-of-kin. No reply was received so the War Medals were awarded to Mrs Erenie A. Silvester, however the 1914/15 Star had been returned unclaimed & sent to Untraceables. Base Records attempted to locate a current address for the sister of Lieut. A. S. Talbot in 1924 but was unable to locate her address. Her last address was "Emerton" Llewellyn Street. Rhodes, Sydney, NSW.

Mrs Erenie A. Silvester of "Wanganui" Forbes St, Croydon, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 1st November, 1926 submitting her application for her brother's medals – Ex No. 1551 Lieut. A. S. Talbot. The 1914/15 Star was finally given to his sister – E.A. Silvester in November, 1926

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot, aged 27, of 48th Sqdn., Royal Flying Corps. He was the son of the late Herbert Talbot of Wanganui, New Zealand. Born at Sydney, New South Wales.

Arthur Sydney Talbot is remembered on the Auckland Museum, New Zealand Online Cenotaph.



Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

(47 pages of Arthur Sydney Talbot's Army 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

FATAL WRESTLING BOUT

WELLINGTON, February 20.

Herbert Talbot, aged 34, a compositor in a newspaper office, died in the hospital this afternoon, from the effect of injuries to his head, sustained in a wrestling boat in a hotel on Saturday night. He has left a widow and family.

(*Colonist*, New Zealand Volume XXXI, Issue 8488 – 21 February, 1896)

ACCIDENTS & FATALITIES

WELLINGTON, FEBRUARY 22

At the inquest on Herbert Talbot, who died from the effects of a fall sustained in a hotel last Saturday night, the evidence shewed that deceased was sober; that he started wrestling for fun with another man & that the two men slipped, and the other losing his hold Talbot fell on the floor, sustaining injuries to his head.

The Jury returned a verdict, That deceased sustained his injury in an accidental manner, and that no blame was attachable to anyone.

(*Marlborough Express*, New Zealand Volume XXXI, Issue 44 – 24 February, 1896)

DEATH

TALBOT – On the 20th February, 1896, at Wellington, Herbert, the eldest son of Edmund and Elizabeth Talbot, aged 33 years.

(Wanganui Chronicle, New Zealand Volume XXXVIII, Issue 12123 – 25 February, 1896)

DEATH

COE – On the 30th December, Alice Broughton, dearly beloved wife of Arthur Coe. Deeply regretted.

(Wanganui Herald, New Zealand Volume XXXXI, Issue 12357 – 30 December, 1907)

AEROPLANES IN COLLISION

TWO OFFICERS KILLED

An inquest was held last evening on Lt. Arthur Sydney Talbot, R.F.C., aged 27, belonging to New South Wales, and Lt. Geoffrey Malcolm, R.F.C. and King's Own Yorkshire L. I., aged 28, killed at an Essex aerodrome in the morning. Their machine was making a spiral descent, and when about 600 feet from the ground collided with another machine. Both crashed to the earth, and the officers were killed instantly. The pilot of the other machine sustained a broken thigh. Talbot was an experienced pilot; Malcolm was making his second flight. Verdict: "Accidental death."

(*Western Morning News*, Plymouth, Devon, England – 28 September, 1917)

AVIATORS KILLED

COLLISION WHILE FLYING

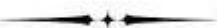
London, Friday

Lieutenant A. S. Talbot, of New South Wales, with Lieutenant Malcolm, was making a spiral descent at the Essex aerodrome, when the machine collided with another aeroplane. Both were killed. Talbot was an experienced aviator and this was Malcolm's second ascent.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland, Australia – 1 October, 1917)



Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot



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)

Lieutenant Arthur Sydney Talbot does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

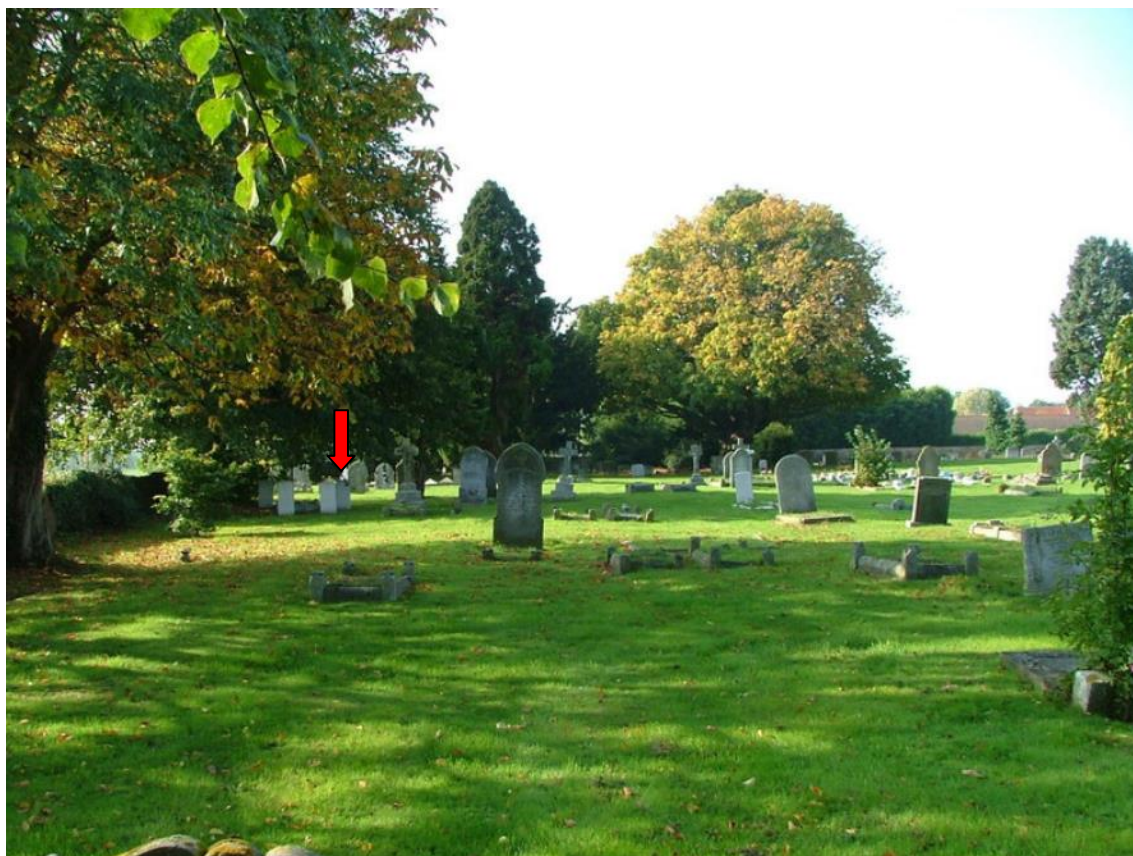
Gone But Not Forgotten

St. Andrew's Churchyard, Rochford, Essex, England

St. Andrew's Churchyard, Rochford, Essex contains 14 Commonwealth War Graves – 9 relate to World War 1 & 5 from World War 2.



(Photos courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)





(Photos courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)



Photo of Lieutenant A. S. Talbot's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Andrew's Churchyard, Rochford, Essex, England.



(Photos courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)

LIEUTENANT
A. S. TALBOT
ROYAL FLYING CORPS
27th SEPTEMBER 1917 AGE 27

