

**St. Cyrus Upper Parish Churchyard,
Aberdeenshire, Scotland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



14005 LANCE CPL.

A. D. TAYLOR

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

20TH MAY, 1919 Age 35

Son Of

Alexander & Eliza Taylor

St. Cyrus

Alexander Douglas TAYLOR

Alexander Douglas Taylor was born at Banchory, Cults, Aberdeenshire, Scotland to parents Alexander & Elizabeth Taylor.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Alexander Taylor came to Australia when he was 24 years old. An “*Alex. D. Taylor*”, Miner, aged 24 was a passenger on *Wakool* which had departed from the port of London, England on 14th September, 1909, bound for Sydney, Australia.

Alexander Douglas Taylor was a 31 year old, single, Carpenter, from 21 Isabella Street, Balmain, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney, New South Wales on 24th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 14005 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Taylor, St. Cyprus (as listed on Embarkation Roll), Montrose, Scotland.

Sapper Alexander Douglas Taylor was posted to 14th Field Company Engineers, 2nd Reinforcements for recruit training.

Driver Alexander Douglas Taylor embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 14th April, 1916 with the 14th Field Company Engineers, 2nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Port Said on 16th May, 1916. He joined Miscellaneous Reinforcements at Tel –el-Kebir on 16th May, 1916.

Australian Engineers in the First World War

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Driver Alexander Douglas Taylor embarked from Alexandria on 7th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 15th June, 1916.

Driver Alexander Douglas Taylor was taken on strength of 14th Field Company Engineers from Reinforcements on 8th August, 1916.

[Note: there are no entries in his Service Record file between 8th August, 1916 & 31st August, 1917.]

Miss B. Taylor, of 135 Magill Road, Mayland, sister of Driver Alexander Douglas Taylor, wrote to the Information Bureau, Australian Red Cross Society on 22nd September, 1916. The information noted on the Red Cross records: “*The above left Sydney with the A.I.F. about 1st May. A notification of an A. D. Taylor as prisoner of war appeared in a Sydney Newspaper on the 19th September.*” The instructions were “*Ascertain particulars whether prisoner of war same person.*” A reply was received on 29th September, 1916: “*The Soldier, whose name appeared as a Prisoner of War, is No. 4878. Private A. D. Taylor, 53rd Battalion, and his name appears in the 215th Casualty List, page 53.*”

Driver Alexander Douglas Taylor was reported to be with his Unit on 31st August, 1917.

Driver Alexander Douglas Taylor was on Leave to UK from 31st October, 1917. He rejoined from Leave on 20th November, 1917.

Driver Alexander Douglas Taylor was appointed Lance Corporal on 21st May, 1918.

Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor was on Leave to UK from 4th October, 1918 & rejoined from Leave on 23rd October, 1918.

Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor was promoted to Temporary 2nd Corporal on 28th January, 1919, vice 2nd Corporal J. Jackson promoted on 25th January, 1919.

Temporary 2nd Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 27th February, 1919 vice Sergeant Durkin sick from 9th December, 1918.

Temporary Sergeant Alexander Douglas Taylor was detached to Remount Depot at Calais, France from 30th March, 1919. He rejoined his Unit from Remount Depot on 5th April, 1919.

Temporary Sergeant Alexander Douglas Taylor proceeded to England for Non Military Employment from 30th April, 1919.

Temporary Sergeant Alexander Douglas Taylor was granted Leave from 5th May, 1919 to 5th September, 1919 with pay only. Reason - Joinery. Attending to – W. Withert, St. Cyprus, Montrose, Scotland & reverts to substantive rank of Lance Corporal from 5th May, 1919.

Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor disembarked at Southampton, England from France on 3rd May, 1919. He was marched in to No. 2 Group from France on 3rd May, 1919 & marched out to Headquarters A.I.F. London on 5th May, 1919.

Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor was admitted to Montrose Infirmary, Scotland on 17th May, 1919 from Leave with Pneumonia. He was reported as dangerously ill.

Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor died at 6.30 pm on 20th May, 1919 at Montrose Royal Infirmary, Scotland from Acute Lobar Pneumonia.

Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor was re-transferred to 14th Field Company Engineers on cancellation of his leave as from 20th May, 1919.

Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor was buried on 24th May, 1919 in St. Cyrus Upper Parish Churchyard, Aberdeenshire, Scotland – Plot number 2A. 3. 15 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor - *Coffin was good. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, and interred in a Private family grave in St. Cyrus Churchyard. The coffin was conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by many beautiful wreaths sent from: "Father & Mother, Sisters & Brothers". Capt & Mrs Grant, Mr & Mrs Shearer, Mrs Laing & Family, Miss B. Laing, Miss M. Gibson, Misses Petrie, Mrs Russell, Misses Hume & Thompson, Mrs Smart & family. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and Chap. Davidson of St Cyrus, officiated. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London, who were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives & Friends present at the Funeral – Father & Mr Hunter, Mr Hutchinson, Mr J. Taylor and four cousins.

Newspaper item - Montrose, Arbroath and Brechin Review; and Forfar and Kincardineshire Advertiser, Scotland – 23 May, 1919

DEATH OF ST CYRUS SERGEANT

Mr and Mrs Alex. Taylor, Coronella Cottage, St. Cyrus, are receiving much sympathy in the sad circumstance under which they have lost their oldest and only remaining son, Sergeant Alex. D. Taylor, 14th Field Company, Australian Engineers, who died of pneumonia in Montrose Royal Infirmary on Tuesday night. Sergeant Taylor has been in France and Belgium for the last 3 years, and only came home rather more than a week ago on a three months' leave prior to going back to Australia for demobilisation. He was gassed, but not considered badly about a year ago, and although not feeling altogether well on his arrival home nothing serious was apprehended till Saturday last when pneumonia set in and he was removed to the Infirmary.

Sergt. Taylor was 35 years of age, a joiner to trade, and emigrated to Australia some 9 years ago. He was employed as Manager of Government works in connection with shipment of war material at Sydney harbour for some time before enlisting in the Australian Engineers. His only brother, Pte Jas. P. Taylor. who had also enlisted in Australia, was killed in France on April 9th, 1917.

Alexander Douglas Taylor requested in his Will, dated 10th June, 1917, that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Elizabeth Taylor, Burnbank Cottage, St. Cyrus, Montrose, Scotland.

Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Taylor's mother – Mrs E. Taylor, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor – service number 14005, aged 35, of 14th Field Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of Alexander and Elizabeth Taylor, of Coronella, St. Cyrus, Montrose, Scotland.

Lance Corporal A. D. Taylor is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 25.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Taylor is remembered on the St. Cyrus War Memorial, located in St. Cyrus Churchyard, Beach Road, St. Cyrus, Scotland.





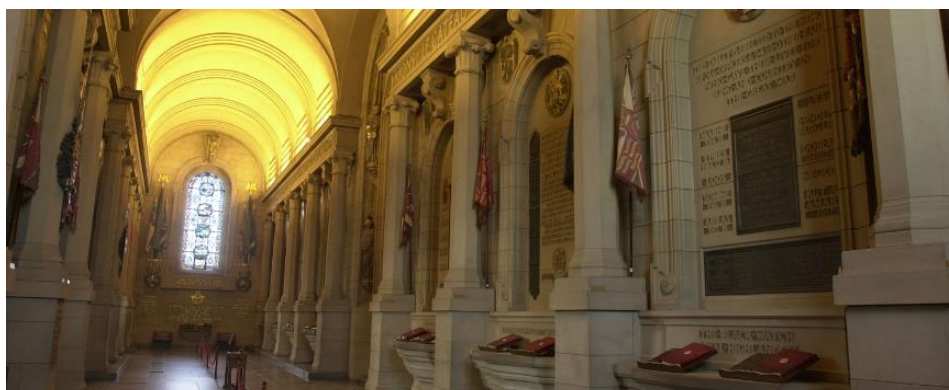
St. Cyrus War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online)

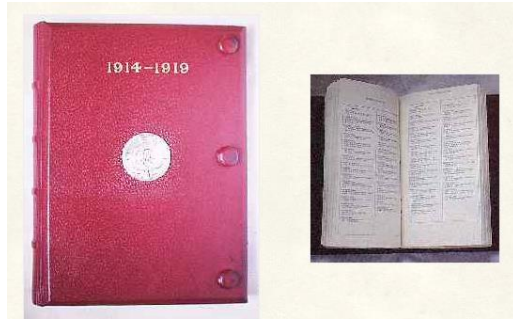
A. D. Taylor is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad 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.

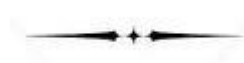
(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)





(37 pages of Lance Corporal Alexander Douglas Taylor'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

DEATHS

TAYLOR – At the Royal Infirmary, Montrose, on May 20, Sergt. A. D. Taylor, aged 35, Australian Engineers, of pneumonia, eldest son of Alexander Taylor, Coronella, St. Cyrus. Funeral from my house to the Upper Churchyard, St. Cyrus, on Saturday, the 24th, at one o'clock. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation.

(Montrose Standard, Scotland – 23 May, 1919)

Sergeant Alexander D. Taylor, Australian Engineers, who died of pneumonia while home on leave, was buried with military honours at St. Cyrus on Saturday.

(Dundee Courier, Scotland – 26 May, 1919)

MILITARY FUNERAL AT ST. CYRUS

Sergt. Alex. D. Taylor, Australian Engineers, who died of pneumonia while home on leave, was buried with military honours at St Cyrus on Saturday last. The funeral was largely attended. The coffin, covered with the Australian flag and flowers, was carried to the grave on the shoulders of a number of Australian and other soldiers, who formed the military party.

(Montrose, Arbroath and Brechin Review; and Forfar and Kincardineshire Advertiser, Scotland – 30 May, 1919)

466th CASUALTY LIST

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

L.-Cpl. ALEX. DOUGLAS TAYLOR, Scotland, 20/5/19, C.N.S.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 June, 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)

Lance Corporal A. D. Taylor does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Son Of Alexander & Eliza Taylor

St. Cyrus

St. Cyrus Upper Parish Churchyard, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

St. Cyrus Upper Parish Churchyard contains only 3 Commonwealth War Graves relating to World War 1.



St. Cyrus Upper Parish Churchyard *(Photo by GariochGraver)*

Photo of Lance Corporal A. D. Taylor's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Cyrus Upper Parish Churchyard, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.



(Photo by David McNay – The Scottish Military Research Group)



Arrow showing Lance Corporal Taylor's Headstone. (Photo from CWGC)