

**Hollybrook Memorial,  
Southampton, Hampshire, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**5099 PRIVATE**

**E. G. VIDLER**

**22ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**27TH JULY, 1916**

## Edward Gerald VIDLER

Edward Gerald Vidler was born at Euroa, Victoria in 1894 to parents George & Mary Ann Vidler (nee Sutherland).

Edward Gerald Vidler was a 21 year old, single, Engine Cleaner with Victorian Railways from Anderson Street, East Euroa, Victoria when he enlisted at Wangaratta, Victoria on 1st March, 1916 (as per Embarkation Roll, however his Attestation Papers have the date of 19th February, 1916. Dental Treatment required was listed on the Attestation Papers) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5099 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr George Vidler, Euroa, Victoria. Edward Vidler stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 3 years with 16th Light Horse – Quota 1894.

Private Edward Gerald Vidler was posted to "D" Company, 37th Battalion on 8th March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to No. 2 Company, 4th Depot Battalion on 5th April, 1916 then transferred on 15th April, 1916 to 13th Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion. Private Vidler was transferred to Broadmeadows on 4th May, 1916.

Private Edward Gerald Vidler was admitted to Clearing Hospital at Broadmeadows on 15th May, 1916 with Influenza. He was discharged to duty on 21st May, 1916.

Private Edward Gerald Vidler embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ayrshire* (A33) on 3rd July, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 22nd Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 13th July, 1916 while at Sea – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0167

### HMAT *Ayrshire* (A33) – 3 July, 1916 at Port Melbourne

*Troops on board HMAT Ayrshire (A33) prior to departure, with well-wishers on the wharf holding paper streamers connecting them to the men on the ship.*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0163

### **HMAT *Ayrshire* (A33) – 3 July, 1916 at Port Melbourne**

*The departure of troopship HMAT Ayrshire (A33) as it is towed from the wharf.*

#### **22nd Battalion**

The 22nd Battalion AIF was formed on 26 March 1915 at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria. The battalion became part of the 6th Brigade of the 2nd Division.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Edward Gerald Vidler died on 27th July, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Ayrshire* (A33) from Pneumonia.

Private Edward Gerald Vidler was buried at Sea from HMAT *Ayrshire* (A33) on 27th July, 1916. He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

A War Pension was granted to Mary A. Vidler, Anderson Street, East Euroa, Victoria, mother of the late Private Edward Gerald Vidler, in the sum of 30/- per fortnight from 30th September, 1916.

Mrs M. Vidler, Anderson St East Euroa, wrote to Base Records on 10th October, 1916: "*If Pte E. G. Vidlers personal Belongings have come to hand please forward them to his Mother Mrs M Vidler also Deferred Pay of Pte 5099.*" The letter was stamped "*Formal Ackmt Sent 16/10/16*" but there is no copy in the Service Record file of the late Private Edward Gerald Vidler.

Florence Walton, 59 Delbridge St, Nth Fitzroy, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 10th December, 1916 requesting the address of the nearest of kin to Private Ernest Gerald Vidler, No 5099, who died of pneumonia on board H.M.T. *Ayrshire*. "*The reason I am asking for the address is this: I have copies of the "Ayrshire Furphy", the original I*

received from my brother (5774 Pte A. J. E. Walton 18th/7th) & it contains an article & poem In Memory of & paying tribute to the soldier, Pte Viddler; and I would like to send a copy to his people....." Base Records replied on 20th December, 1916 stating that the next-of-kin of the late Private E. G. Vidler was recorded as George Vidler (Father), Euroa, Victoria.

[see transcript below of Newspaper item regarding the article & poem in "Ayrshire Furphy"]

M. Vidler, Anderson St East Euroa, wrote to Base Records on 28th June, 1917: "I would like to know if Pte E. G. Vidler No 5099 Deceased if any of his Belongings have come if not please make enquiries about them the soldier is now dead 11 months & I, his mother would like to get his belongings trusting to hear soon."

Mrs M. Vidler, Anderson St East Euroa, wrote to Department of Defence on 13th September, 1917: "If personal effects of No 5099 Pte E. G. Vidler 22 Battalion are not to hand yet please make enquiries to same as I would like to receive them my son is now dead over 12 months please do what you can in the matter."

Base Records replied on 19th September, 1917 stating "no personal effects belonging to your son, the late No. 5099 Private E. G. Vidler, 22nd Battalion, have yet been returned to this Office, but any coming to hand will be promptly transmitted wither to next-of-kin (shown as father) or in accordance with other testamentary instructions."

Mrs M. Vidler, Fairview, Euroa, wrote to Base Records on 21st February, 1918: "Would you kindly make enquiries about my sons belongings the late No 5099 Private E. G. Vidler 13 of 22 Battalion it is now one year & seven months since his death I would like to get his personal effects."

Base Records replied on 26th February, 1918 stating "there is no record to date, of any personal effects having been received in this instance, and in view of the length of time that has now elapsed, it is probable none were recovered. However, should any come to hand they will be promptly despatched either to next-of-kin, or in accordance with other testamentary instructions."

Private Edward Gerald Vidler 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 Private Vidler's father – Mr G. Vidler, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent May, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edward Gerald Vidler – service number 5099, of 22nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private E. G. Vidler is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 98.

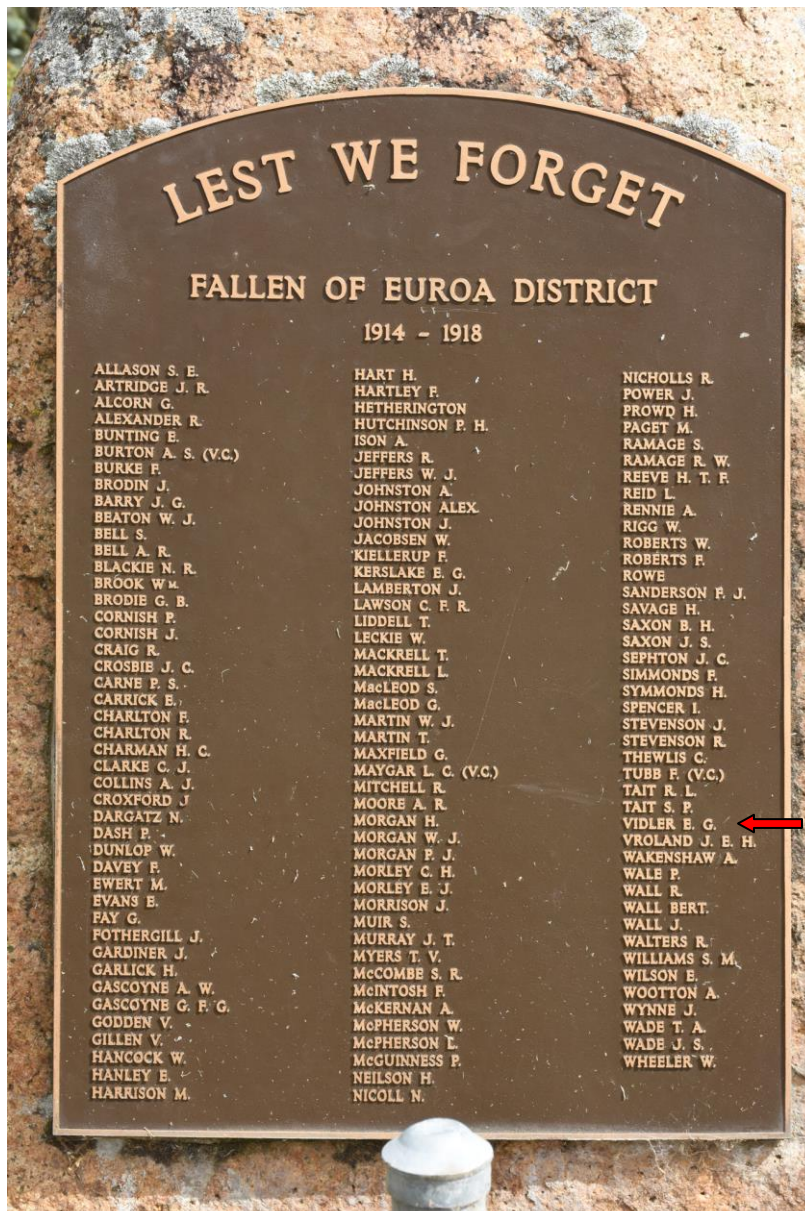


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. G. Vidler is remembered on the Euroa War Memorial, located in Lions Park, Clifton Street, Euroa, Victoria.



Euroa War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Edward G. Vidler is remembered on the Honour Boards at Telegraph Park, Brock Street, Euroa, Victoria. Five honour boards in the park area list the 1,165 names of those from the Euroa District who served in World War 1.



Honour Boards at Telegraph Park, Euroa (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



E. G. Vidler is remembered on the Euroa Avenue of Honour, located at Clifton Streets & Hemley Avenue, Euroa, Victoria.



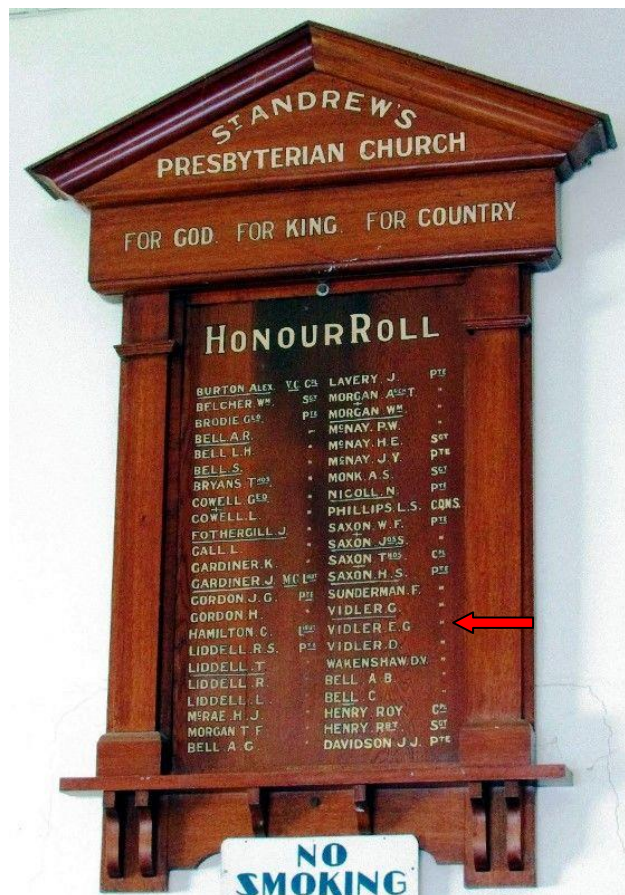
**Euroa Avenue of Honour** (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)





Some of the original Plaques at Farmers Arms Museum (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

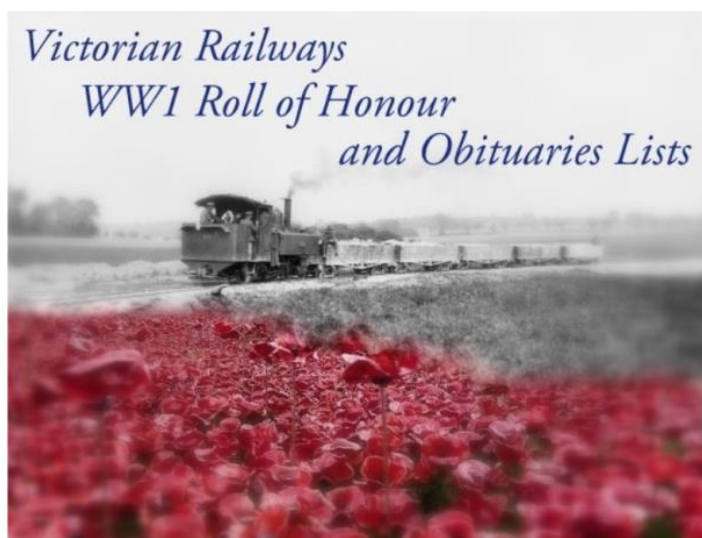
E. G. Vidler is remembered on the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Honour Roll, located in St. Andrew's Uniting Church, 7 Kirkland Avenue, Euroa, Victoria.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)



Edward Gerald Vidler is remembered on the Victorian WW1 Roll of Honour and Obituaries Lists.



### Edward Gerald VIDLER

V.R Employee no: Rolling Stock Branch - Engine cleaner  
Date of Entry into Railways:

Served in the 22nd Battalion, 13th Reinforcement  
Regimental number: 5099  
Enlistment date: 1 March 1916 [Railway Enlistment list - 1916](#)  
Rank on enlistment: Private  
Fate: Died at sea - illness pneumonia 27 July 1916  
Place of death: At Sea  
Age at death: 21  
Place of burial: At Sea  
Commemoration details: Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, England  
[Name 1st appears on the Railway Obituary Lists - 1916 Vidler E. G.](#)



(43 pages of Private Edward Gerald Vidler'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*

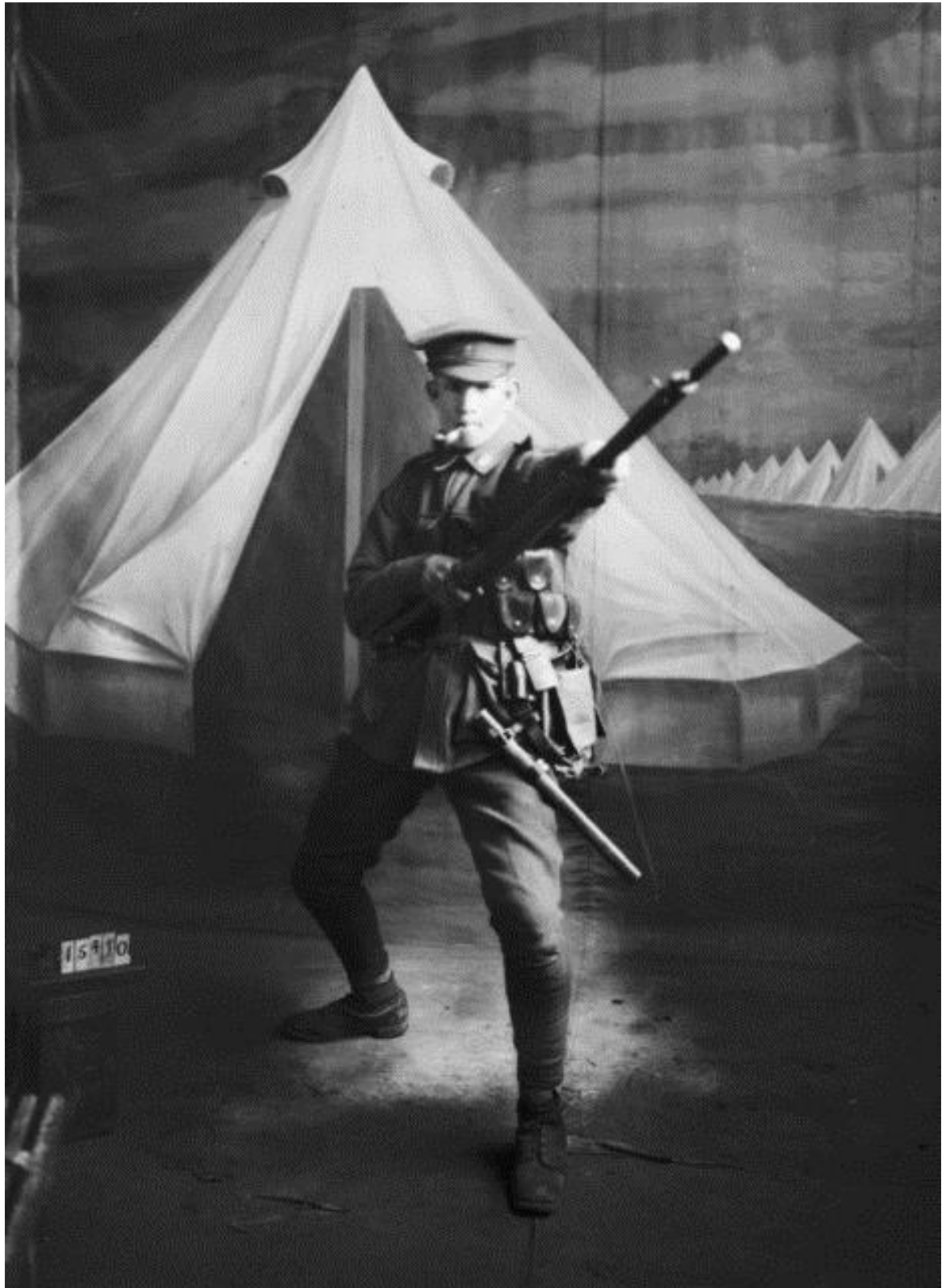




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA15875

**Private Edward Gerald Vidler**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA15410

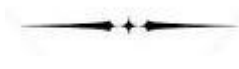
**Private Edward Gerald Vidler**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA15400

**Private Edward Gerald Vidler**



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **“At Their Country’s Call”**

#### **DISTRICT HONOR ROLL**

The following are the names of district residents who have volunteered for the war.....

.....

Vidler, Dougald,

Vidler, E. G.

Vidler, G.A.

.....

(*Euroa Gazette*, Victoria – 27 June, 1916)

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#### **Casualties at Sea**

On Saturday last, a cable from the Defence Department, reached Mr and Mrs J. Vidler, of Euroa, intimating that their son, Geoffrey, had died of pneumonia, on the boat, en route for the front. It is only a few weeks since he was in Euroa on final leave. He was a great favorite with the residents of Molka and Euroa, where he spent the most of his life-time. His life was given for his country, and us, just as much as though he were shot in the trenches, and much sympathy is felt for his family and relatives in their great sorrow. Two of his brothers are in the firing line.

A coincidence occurred, in that, the same evening, Dr Bill received word that the son of his brother, of Comra, N. S. Wales, had died of meningitis on board ship, en-route for the front. Mr George Bill was a brilliant student, and much sympathy is felt for the relatives.

(*Euroa Gazette*, Victoria – 1 August, 1916)

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#### **OUR HEROES**

##### **Pte Geoffrey Vidler**

On Saturday last, a telegram from the Defence Department, was received by Mr. and Mrs. J. Vidler, of Euroa, intimating that their son, Geoffrey, had died of pneumonia, on the transport on route for the front. It is only a few weeks since he was in Euroa on final leave. He was a great favorite with the residents of Molka and Euroa, where he spent most of his life-time. Two of his brothers are in the firing line.

(*Shepparton Advertiser*, Victoria – 3 August, 1916)

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#### **AUSTRALIANS IN WAR**

##### **191st CASUALTY LIST**

###### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte E. G. VIDLER, Euroa

(*Hamilton Spectator*, Victoria – 10 August, 1916)

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## DEATH AT SEA

From a newspaper published on board a troopship, we cull the following touching obituary notice on the passing away of Pte. E. G. -Vidler, of Euroa.

VIDLER.-Private Ernest Gerald, No 5099, 15-22nd Reinforcement, on Wednesday. July 26th, 1916 on board H.M S \_\_\_\_\_ of pneumonia.

### "At Rest"

The week has been saddened by the death of a comrade, Pte. Vidler, who passed away at 8 30 a.m., on Wednesday. The news of his death came as shock to all on board, for it was the first casualty of the voyage and the ship had been a happy home to us all, Vidler was sincerely liked by all who, knew him, both officers and men alike and no one could have been missed more than he. Death, however, makes his choice without consulting us, and plucks his spoil alike from transport and cruiser, soldier and peaceful artisan. One feels inclined to adopt fatalistic principles, and to say, with all due reverence, "It is written," for there are those of us who have come through many a bloody battle unscathed, while others fall without firing a single shot. Private Vidler has given his life for his King, and the honor of Australia, just as much as if he died bayonet wounded on the field of battle and in a manner far harder, for it is easier to meet one's death in the stress and excitement of the fight, where the end more often than not is sharp and sudden, than the stillness of the Hospital ward after days of illness. The funeral took place with, full military honors on the day of his death. The troops were formed up on the after deck on three side of a hollow square, the flag draped bier making a little patch of bright colour near the rail on the fourth side. The soft drone of subdued talking was punctuated by the tolling of the ship's bell, and then was hushed to silence as the Chaplain took his place by the bier. The beautiful words of the service for burial at sea floated through the air over the bowed heads of the assembly, and then the sea received the earthly remains of him who had gone to place his case before the Greatest General of All. Then the silence was shattered by three volleys, as the firing party paid the honors due to a departed comrade, and the ringing notes of the "Last Post" swelled and died away. The service was ended and we departed to perform our varied duties with a feeling that somehow or other the ship did not feel the same.

### "Somewhere at Sea"

Somewhere at Sea, " Just somewhere on the waste  
Of wild unharnessed billows and white foam  
A wide expanse of green wave, interlaced  
With threads of silver, 'neath an azure dome.  
'Somewhere at Sea' and striving hard to keep  
Our whereabouts a secret from the world  
Yet death, with stealthy footsteps trod the deep  
And with sure hand his fatal dart he hurled.  
'Somewhere at Sea' a form lies still and cold  
That just a few short hours ago had throbbed  
With all the hopes and joy, that youth could hold  
The Casket shattered and the Temple robbed.  
'Somewhere at Sea" a message wings its way  
Speeding the tidings to the distant shore,  
Somewhere at home the beauty of day  
Has deepened into twilight evermore.  
"Somewhere at Sea' a soul has burst its bond  
And mounted to glories we shall never know  
Until we, too, explore the great beyond:  
God grant we be as ready when we go.

LIEUT. F. E. ALLEN.

(*Euroa Advertiser*, Victoria – 17 November, 1916) & (*Shepparton Advertiser*, Victoria – 23 November, 1916)

## Thanks

Mr and Mrs G. Vidler and family desire to thank their many kind friends for their sympathy, visits and letters and particularly Rev Mr Garde for his kindness in their sad bereavement.

*(Euroa Gazette, Victoria – 15 August, 1917)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

VIDLER – In memory of the late Pte E. G. Vidler, who died 27th July, 1916, at sea.

Inserted by his parents, brothers and sisters.

*(Euroa Advertiser, Victoria – 27 July, 1917)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

VIDLER – In sad and loving memory of our son and brother, Private Edward Gerald Vidler, who died at sea on July 27th, 1916.

Inserted by parents, brothers and sisters.

*(Euroa Gazette, Victoria – 31 July, 1917)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

SUTHERLAND - VIDLER.- In loving memory of our dear brother, Dugald, who died at Bendigo on 3rd November, 1918.

This day brings back sad memories

Of our dear brother who was called to rest;

And those who think of him to-day

Are those who love him best.

Inserted by his sorrowing sisters and brother, G.J.S., M.V., A.W., G.B., and J.W.

Also in loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte. Edward Gerald ("Ged "), 22nd Batt., who died at sea, July 27th, 1916.

No one knows the silent heartache,

Only those can tell;

Who have lost their loved ones

Without a last farewell.

Inserted by their sorrowing parents G. and M.V., W.G., J.J., G.A., D.C., E.G. E.M.M., and C.E.E.

*(Euroa Advertiser, Victoria – 31 October, 1919)*

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## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

### **Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England**

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces\* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (\*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*





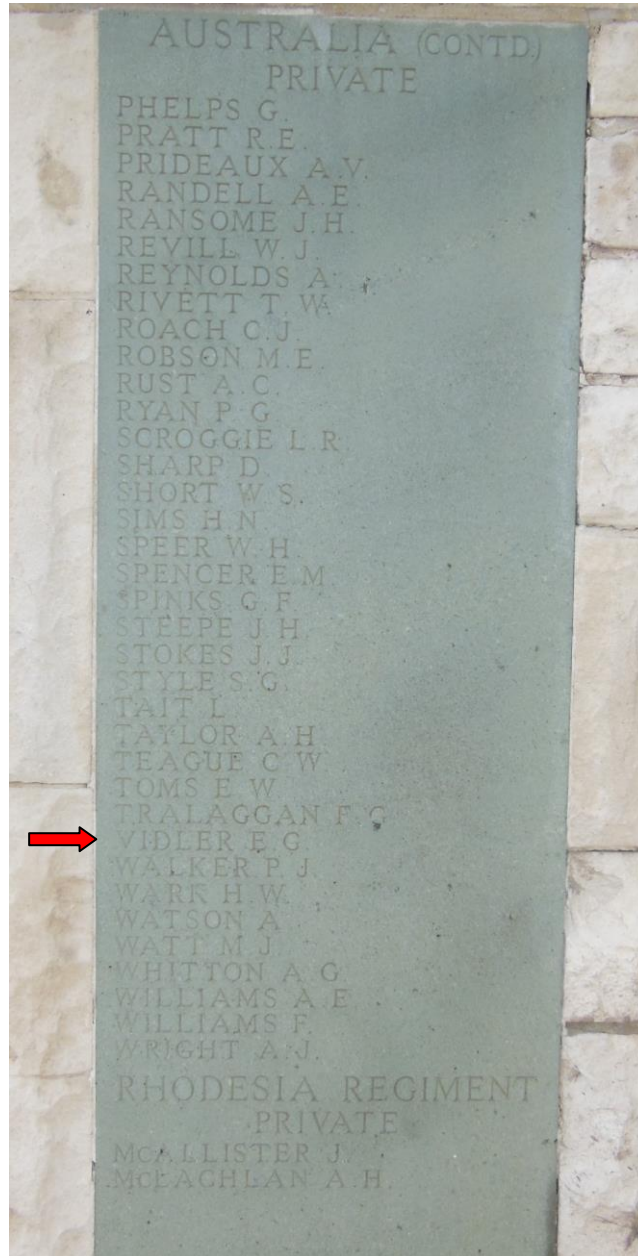


**Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton** *(Photos from CWGC)*



**CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial**

Photo of Private E. G. Vidler's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

