

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



1993A PRIVATE

S. ROSS

18th BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31st MAY, 1918 Age 28

THERE'S A LINK

DEATH CANNOT SEVER

LOVING REMEMBRANCE

LASTS FOR EVER

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte S Ross is located in Back Row Grave
Plot # 9 of Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery*

Sydney Ross was born in 1890 in Surry Hills, Sydney to parents James and Annie Ross (nee Ward). He was a Labourer, married & aged 25 years & 3 months from 14 Sparkes St, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 13th May, 1915 at Liverpool, NSW with the 19th Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Army. His service number was 1993A & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Frances May Ross of 14 Sparkes St, Camperdown. Sydney Ross had married Frances May Hyde in 1909 in the district of Paddington, Sydney. From his Attestation papers, Sydney & Frances Ross had 3 children (Ernest J Ross born 1909, Victor J born after 1911 & Edwin Ross born after 1911) (From NSW Births Deaths & Marriages – 2 children died – Frank Ross died 1914 & Victor J Ross died 1915)

FUNERALS

ROSS – The Relatives and Friends of Private SYDNEY ROSS and Mrs ROSS are invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved SON, Victor James; to leave their residence, 14 Sparkes Street, Camperdown THIS (Monday) MORNING at 9.15, for C. Of E. Cemetery Rookwood via Mortuary Station.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 27th December, 1915)

Pte S Ross embarked from Australia on 9th August, 1915 & Taken on Strength by 18th Bn, “B” coy at Gallipoli Peninsula on 29th September, 1915. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance at the Gallipoli Peninsula on 14th October, & discharged after 2 days.

On 18th March, 1916, Pte Ross proceeded to Alexandria & disembarked at Marseille, France on 25th March, 1916.

Pte Ross was admitted to hospital several times from late November, 1916 until 16th December, 1916 when he embarked for England. Once in England he was again admitted to hospitals in the Salisbury Plain area of Wiltshire.

On 24th October, Pte Ross embarked from Southampton for Havre, France. In mid January, 1918, Pte Ross was again admitted to hospital in Belgium & discharged to duty 2 weeks later. At the end of February, Pte Ross was again admitted to hospital & in March was diagnosed with Pleurisy. He was transferred from Boulogne back to England. He was granted furlough from 10th April until 24th April, 1918.

Pte Sydney Ross was admitted to Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 24th April, 1918 suffering from Pleurisy.

Pte Sydney Ross died at 2.20 a.m. on 31st May, 1918 at the Military Hospital at Fovant. A Post Mortem was conducted & the cause of death was reported as Haemorrhage of the brain. A death for Sydney Ross, aged 28, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

From a letter from the Sister at the Military Hospital, Fovant, dated 23rd July, 1918 regarding Pte Sydney Ross 1993A –

Re Pte Ross. Patient was brought into the Hospital on the night of the 30th May, 1918. He was completely unconscious and died a couple of hours later the morning of the 31st having neither recovered consciousness nor spoken during that time. He died from Haemorrhage of the brain. He was buried in Compton Chamberlayne a village near Fovant on the 3rd June, 1918. I have had letters about him from his friends who know his people and have promised, when Matron comes back and I have a chance to do so, to try and get a photo of his grave, its number, etc but in such a case of too sudden a death there is little particulars to give. His effects have all been forwarded to Officer i/c A.I.F. Kit Store, 110 Greyhound Rd, Hammersmith, London. Where I hear all the effects of Australians who die are sent. I am sorry I'm able to give you so few particulars. It has seemed to be a particularly sad case, but all that could be done for him was done, there was little that could be done in such a case.

Pte Sydney Ross was buried on 3rd June, 1918 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. From the burial report of Pte Ross – Coffin was good, Polished Elm with Brass Mountings – *Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a gun carriage which was preceded by a band, firing party, pallbearers and a half company of N.C.O.'s and men. Wreaths from Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of No. 3 Command Depot and Australians in Fovant Hospital were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded. Deceased was very popular with both Officers and Men and his loss is very keenly felt.*

Pte Sydney Ross requested in his Will, dated 15th July, 1917, that "my personal estate I bequeath to my wife Frances May Ross 14 Sparkes St Camperdown , Sydney, NSW, Australia."

Private S Ross is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 87.



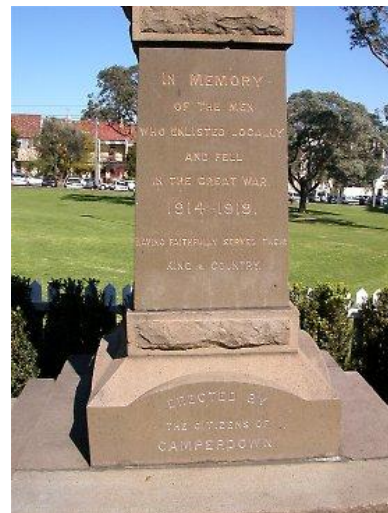
(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte S Ross is also remembered on the Camperdown Park War Memorial located on Australia St, Camperdown (Newtown), Sydney, NSW. 65 names are recorded on the memorial.

In memory of the men who enlisted locally and fell in the Great War 1914-1919. Having faithfully served their King and Country.



(Photo by Mr Rusty Priest AM, former RSL State President (NSW Branch))

Pte S Ross was entitled to 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll (September, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (November, 1922) were sent to Pte S Ross's widow – Mrs Frances May Ross of 4 Barkers Lane, Forest Lodge, NSW.

*** Frances May Ross, widow of deceased Pte Sydney Ross was awarded 40/- per fortnight for the War Pension. Ernest John Ross, son of Pte S Ross was awarded a War Pension of 20/- per fortnight & Edwin Ross, son of Pte S Ross was awarded a War Pension of 15/- per fortnight, all 3 pensions were granted from 6/8/18.

(66 pages of Pte S Ross's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

oooOOOooo

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear son, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

*The heart is a garden of love,
Remembrance its fairest flower.*

Inserted by his loving parents, James and Annie Ross, and sister Bessie.

ROSS- In loving memory of my dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

*Too dearly loved to be forgotten.
Inserted by his loving brother, Jack Ross.*

ROSS- In loving memory of my dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

*May God grant eternal rest.
Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Don and Connie Ross.*

ROSS- In fond memory of my dear brother, Pte S. Ross, who died May 31, 1918.

*In our hearts your memory lingers.
Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Harry Mortimer, nieces and nephew, Beryl, Jean and Eric.*

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 31st May, 1926)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear dad, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

*We cherish still with love sincere
Beautiful memories of one so dear.*

Inserted by his fond sons, Jack and Ted.

ROSS – In fond memory of our dear son, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

*Time passes, shadows fall,
Parents' remembrance outlasts all.*

Inserted by his loving parents, James and Annie Ross.

ROSS- In fond memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

*Dearer to us than words can tell,
Thoughts of a brother we loved so well.*

Inserted by his fond brother and sister, Jack and Bess.

ROSS- In fond memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Divine thoughts, sacred memories,

*Inserted by his fond sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Harry Mortimer, nieces and nephew,
Beryl, Jean and Eric.*

ROSS- In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Love's greatest gift - remembrance.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Don and Connie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Thursday 31st May, 1928)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear son, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

God's greatest gift - remembrance.

Inserted by his loving parents, James and Annie Ross.

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear father Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Loved in life, honoured in death.

Inserted by his loving sons, Jack and Ted.

ROSS- In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Always remembered.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister, Jack and Bessie.

ROSS- In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Sadly missed.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Don and Connie.

ROSS- In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Divine thoughts, sacred memories,

Inserted by his fond sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Harry Mortimer, nieces Beryl, Jean, nephew Eric.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 31st May, 1930)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte S. Ross, died May 31, 1918.

Sweet is the word “Remembrance.”

Inserted by his loving parents, James and Annie Ross, brother Jack, sister, Bessie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Wednesday 1st June, 1932)

oooOOOooo

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 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. 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)

Pte Ross does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte S Ross's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey