

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**1701 PRIVATE**

**W. ROSS**

**43RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**17TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 35**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. Ross is located in Grave Plot # 156  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## William Rice ROSS

William Rice Ross was born in Edinburgh, Scotland around 1882 to parents Buck and Frances Carter Ross. He stated he was a 28 year old, single, Motor Mechanic from Franklin Street, Adelaide, South Australia when he enlisted on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1916 with the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 1701 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Martha Ross of Marion Street, Midland Junction, Western Australia. (Originally stated to be his sister-in-law)

Pte William Ross embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 & disembarked at Southampton, England on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1916. Pte Ross had been admitted sick to Ship's Hospital on the journey over to England on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 & again on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

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.

Pte William Ross was taken on strength with 11<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, Durrington, Wiltshire on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Pte William Ross was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 & again on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with fractured hand.

Pte William Ross was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> A. D. Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. He was transferred to Parkhouse & on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1916 transferred to Codford Camp No. 3, Wiltshire.

Pte William Ross was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 with Influenza & was reported to be seriously ill on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 with Pneumonia.

Private William Ross died at 4.15 a.m. on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for William Ross, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private William Ross was buried on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 156 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte William Ross 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 Pte Ross's widow – Mrs M. Ross (sent May, 1922 & July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Ross – service number 1701 as being 35 years old & served with 43rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Buck and Frances Carter Ross. Born at Edinburgh, Scotland.

Private W. R. Ross is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 137.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte W. Ross is also remembered on the South Australian National War Memorial, located on corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. (Panel 7, column 2)



**Adelaide War Memorial** (Photo by Bilby)

A War Pension was granted to Albert Ross, son (Ex Nuptial) of late Pte William Ross, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1917.

(51 pages of Pte William Ross' 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*

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## Newspaper Reports

### THE AUSTRALIANS

#### 261ST CASUALTY LIST

#### ILL

Pte W. Ross, Midland Junction, W.A.

*(The Register, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Saturday 6 January, 1917)*

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### THE AUSTRALIANS

#### 269TH CASUALTY LIST

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. Ross, Midland Junction, W.A.

*(The Register, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Tuesday 30 January, 1917)*

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### 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 Durrington War Graves 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 W. Ross does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte W. Ross's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)