

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2465 PRIVATE

RICHARD CHARLES G. RYAN

50TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 21

DEARLY BELOVED SECOND SON

OF MARGARET INA

& THE LATE RICHARD RYAN

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte Richard Charles G. Ryan is located in Main Middle Row (Right hand side)

Grave Plot # 29 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 44)

Richard Charles Gladstone Ryan was born at Bramfield, near Elliston, South Australia in 1895 to parents Richard & Margaret Ina Ryan (nee Brown). He was a 21 year old, single Farm Hand from Talia, West Coast, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide on 13th March, 1916 with the 50th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2465 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Margaret Ryan, Talia, West Coast, South Australia. Richard Ryan was still serving with the Elliston Rifle Club, for a period of 12 months, at the time he enlisted.

Pte Richard Charles Gladstone Ryan embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 21st September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th November, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Ryan was marched in to 13th Training Battalion at Codford, on 15th November, 1916.

Pte Ryan was admitted to New Zealand Hospital with Broncho-pneumonia on 11th December, 1916.

Pte Richard Charles Gladstone Ryan died at 9.30 p.m. on 16th December, 1916 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford of Broncho pneumonia.

A death for Richard C. O. Ryan, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte Richard Charles Gladstone Ryan – he was buried on 20th December, 1916 at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford, Grave No. 44.

Private R. C. G. Ryan is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 151.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private R. C. G. Ryan is also remembered on the South Australian National War Memorial located on the corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. (Panel 9, Column 3)



Private R. C. G. Ryan is also remembered on the Elliston War Memorial located in a park at the junction of Beach Terrace and Little Bay Road, Elliston, South Australia.



Pte Richard Charles Gladstone Ryan 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 Ryan's widowed mother – Mrs Margaret Ryan (August, 1921 & August, 1922).

(55 pages of Pte Richard Charles Gladstone Ryan'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) & National Archives

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** A War pension was granted to Margaret Ina Ryan, the widowed mother of the late Pte Richard Charles Gladstone Ryan in the sum of £2 fortnightly as from 23rd February, 1917.

2 other claims for a War Pension were made by Catherine May Ryan & Jessie Olive Lilian Ryan, both sisters of the late Pte Richard Charles Gladstone Ryan. Both these claims were rejected as the claimant's were not dependant on their late brother.

Newspaper Reports

MILITARY FOOTBALL

The soldiers training at Mitcham Camp seldom have an opportunity to display their talent in sporting events, but it is probable that athletic contests will become more numerous. A start was made on Saturday afternoon with a football match between teams representing the N.C.O.'s School and B Company (base infantry). Portion of the camp training area was used as a ground, but owing to the recent rains it was slippery and muddy, and in places under water. The players were as follow:- N.C.O.'s School.....B Company - R. C. G. Ryan,

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia, Monday 7th August, 1916)

THE AUSTRALIANS – 260th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte R. C. G. Ryan, Talia (Dec. 16)

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia, Tuesday 2nd January, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

“Faithful Unto Death.”

THE LATE PRIVATE R. C. G. RYAN

Mrs Ryan, of Talia, has been notified by the military of the death of her son, Private R. C. G. (Dick) Ryan, which took place in hospital, England from pneumonia. He spent his 21st birthday in camp, and until the time he enlisted was engaged in farming on the West Coast, where he was well liked and respected by a large circle of friends.



(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia, Friday 5th January, 1917)

DEATHS

RYAN. – Died of illness, England, December 16, 1916 Private Dick Ryan, of Talia, loving friend of Min, Olive, Mabel Thorne

He sleeps not in his native land,
But under foreign skies,
Far from those who loved him,
In a hero's grave.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia, Saturday 6th January, 1917)

THE AUSTRALIANS – Biographical

THE LATE PRIVATE R. C. G. RYAN

Pte R. C. G. Ryan, who died in a London hospital from pneumonia in December, was the son of the late Mr Richard Ryan, of the Commercial Boarding House, Talia, west coast, and has left a mother, one brother and six sisters. He was only 21 years of age, and his manly character, his attention to his duty, and his cheerful disposition made him a general favourite. Pte Ryan weighed 12st. Just before his illness. He and four intimate friends from the same district enlisted in the same week. Three of them have died from wounds in France and one from illness; and one has been wounded.



(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia, Wednesday 10th January, 1917)

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

RYAN.- On the 16th December, died from pneumonia in England, Pte Dick Ryan, loving son and brother of Mrs Ryan and family, of Talia, and Howard and Ina Ross of Rhynie.

A noble hero, true and brave,
Peacefully sleeps in a soldier's grave.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia, Thursday 11th January, 1917)

THE WAR

THE LATE PRIVATE R. C. G. RYAN

Mrs R. Ryan, of Talia, has received letters from Privates A. Penna and J. Anderson, giving particulars of the death in England from bronchial pneumonia of her son, Private R. C. G. Ryan. Both comrades wrote in terms of high appreciation of the manly qualities of Private Ryan.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia, Tuesday 27th February, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

RYAN.- In loving memory of our dear son and brother, 2465. Private R. E. G. (Dick) Ryan, died from illness at the New Zealand Hospital, Codford, England, December 16, 1916.

His smile and manly ways
Are pleasant to recall;
He always had a kindly word,
And died beloved by all.

– Inserted by loving mother and sisters, and brother, late of Talia, West Coast.

RYAN. – In loving memory of our dear nephew, Dick, who died on active service, December, 16, 1916

Calm on the bosom of God,
Young spirit, rest thee now.

– Inserted by his loving aunty and uncle, Allan and Minnie Fraser.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia, Monday 17th December, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

RYAN.- In loving memory of our dear brother, Private R. C. G. Ryan, died at Codford, England, December 16, 1916. Too dearly loved to be forgotten. – Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Ina and Howard Ross, Rhynie.

RYAN.- In loving memory of our dear son and brother, R. C. G. (Dick) Ryan, late 50th Battalion, who died from illness in Codford Military Hospital on December 16, 1916.– Inserted by his loving mother and sisters, Talia, West Coast.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia, Saturday 21st December, 1918)

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 Codford 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 Richard Charles G. Ryan does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte Richard Charles G. Ryan's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)