

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
CAPT ROY ALLEN SILLAR, A.A.M.
WHO DIED JUNE 30 -1918
AT FOVANT MILITARY HOSPITAL
FROM INJURIES ACCIDENTALLY RECEIVED,
AGED 23 YEARS.
LOVED SECOND SON OF
J.W. & A.I. SILLAR
DUBBO N.S.W. AUSTRALIA
"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS"**

*Headstone for Capt Roy Allen Sillar is located in Back Row
Grave Plot # 8 of Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery*

Roy Allen Sillar was born on 1st February, 1895 in Dubbo, NSW to parents John Walker Sillar & Annie Isabel Sillar. Roy Sillar graduated from the University of Sydney in 1917 with a Bachelor of Medicine (MB) & Master of Surgery (ChM).

DR Roy Allen Sillar was a Medical Practitioner, single & aged 23 from Dubbo, NSW when he enlisted on 29th January, 1918 with the Australian Army Medical Corp. Roy Sillar had served as a Lieutenant in the 26th Infantry Regiment -4 years in Militia. His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his father – John Walker Sillar, Bank of Australasia, Dubbo, NSW.

Captain Sillar embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 2nd March, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 13th May, 1918.

Capt Sillar was transferred to the Australian Army Medical Corp Training Depot on 14th May, 1918 & appointed Medical Officer at No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott located in the Salisbury Plain area in the county of Wiltshire.

Capt Roy Sillar was admitted to the Military Hospital at Fovant on the afternoon of 30th June, 1918 after falling from a horse.

Capt Roy Allen Sillar died at 6.45 p.m. on 30th June, 1918 at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire, from concussion of the brain. A death for Roy A Sillar, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

A Court of Inquiry was held at No 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott on 1st July, 1918 into the death of Capt Sillar, presided over by Major A. L. Prince. The finding was that Capt Sillar had died accidentally by a fall from a horse.*(See below)*

Capt Sillar was buried on 3rd July, 1918 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. From the burial report of Capt Sillar – Coffin was good. Polished Elm. Brass Mountings – *The late Captain Sillar was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a gun carriage, preceded by a firing party from the 2nd Australian Training Brigade and the Band of No 3 Command Depot. A. I. F.*

Six Captains from No 3 Command Depot acted as Pall bearers.

Deceased's brother Cadet J. W. Sillar 3rd Bn and cousin Lieut. V. G. Sanders P.S.L. were chief mourners. About 50 Officers and 1000 N.C.O.'s and Men of No 3 Command Depot also attended the funeral.

A beautiful floral wreath from the Officers of No 4 Command Depot Headquarters was placed on the grave after the Last Post had been sounded.

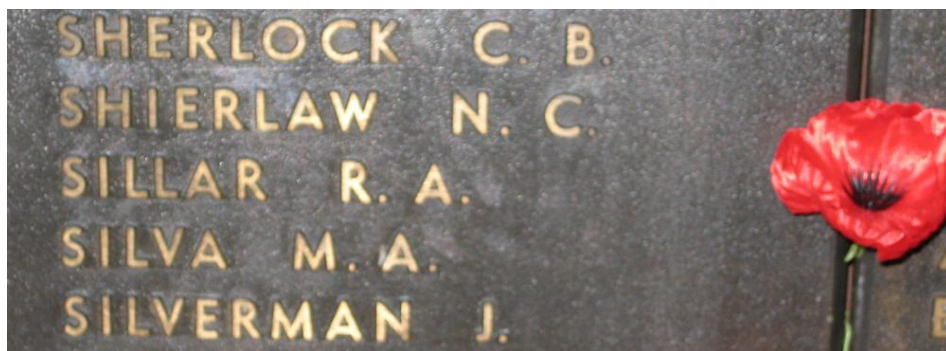
The late Capt Sillar was very popular with all ranks and his loss is very keenly felt.

Capt Roy Allen Sillar requested in his Will, dated 1st March, 1918, that all his estate he leaves to his father John Walker Sillar & appointed his father as sole Executor of the Will.

Capt Sillar's Service Record contains several letters between the A.I.F., Dept of Defence & Imperial War Graves Commission trying to ascertain who holds the title deeds / burial rights in

the grave of the late Captain R A Sillar. A letter to the Officer in Charge of Base Records, Melbourne from Mrs Sillars solicitors (A.J. Taylor, Sillar & Millet), dated 6th October, 1922, states that “Mrs Sillar does not hold any title deeds of the grave.....the burial was carried out by the Military Authorities at Fovant, England and that a monument was erected by the parents of the deceased soldier through H.A. Morgan & Sons, Monumental Masons, Frome, England.”

Captain R A Sillar is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Capt Roy Allen Sillar is also commemorated on the monument at the Dubbo Memorial Drive and Rose Garden, located at Victoria Park, Dubbo. The fenced stone obelisk borders a rose garden & contains the names of 105 soldiers of the Great War.



Photo from fffaij

Capt Roy Allen Sillar is also remembered at Sydney University War Memorial Carillon, located within the main entrance to The Quadrangle, University Place, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW.



Photo by Vaughan Williamson

Capt Roy Allen Sillar is also remembered in the University of Sydney Book Of Remembrance for First World War for New South Wales (page 15) & also the University Of Sydney Roll of Honour 1919.

Roy Allen Sillar, M.B., CH.M., Captain, A.M.C., A.I.F. – Died of injuries, England July, 1918

Capt Roy Allen Sillar was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll (July, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (December, 1922) were sent to Capt Sillar's mother (as his father had died in 1919) – Mrs Annie Sillar of 45 Reynolds St, Waterleigh, NSW

(80 pages of Capt Roy Allen Sillar'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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COURT OF ENQUIRY

Assembled at No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott on the 1st July, 1918

By Order of Lieut. Col. A. Jackson. Commandant

For the Purpose of enquiring into and reporting on the accident on the 30th June, 1918, which caused the death of Capt. Roy Allen Sillar, A.A.M.C. attached 3rd Command Depot, Hurdcott

President

Major A.L. Prince P.S.L.

Members

Major A.J. Simpson 56th Battalion

Capt E.W. Murray P.S.L.

In Attendance

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to take evidence:-

EVIDENCE

1st Witness Lieut. V.C. Sanders states:-

Capt Sillar and I were proceeding in the direction of Barford at about 3 p.m. yesterday, 30th June, on horse back.

We met Capt Shaw A.A.M.C. and both dismounted to speak to him. After the conversation, we started to mount again. As I was about to mount, I heard a clatter of hoofs and looked round and saw Capt Sillar half mounted and trying to get his right leg over the saddle. The horse was moving forward suddenly, and moved about 6 yards with Capt Sillar still in the same position trying to get his leg over. He then succeeded but appeared to miss the stirrup on the off side, lost his balance and fell over the off side. He struck the ground with the left side of his face and head. I rushed up and was just picking him up when Captain Shaw came up and assisted me to lift him up and we took him to a house, where I left him with Capt. Shaw, while I went for an ambulance.

(Sgd) V.G. Sanders

2nd Witness Capt. R.M. Shaw A.A.M.C. states:-

While walking from Barford on the 30th June at about 3 p.m. I met Capt Sillar and Lieut. Sanders on horseback coming towards me. They dismounted and talked to me for a short time and then commenced to mount again. Capt Sillar being a little further down the road (a few yards) with Lt. Sanders horse between me and him, while saying good bye to Lieut. Sanders I heard the noise of the other horse (Capt. Sillar's) moving quickly and next saw Capt. Sillar rolling on the road. I rushed over and assisted Lieut. Sanders to move him into a house near by and I remained and attended him till Lieut. Sanders returned with an Ambulance, which was about ¾ hour after the occurrence. I went with Capt. Sillar to Fovant Military Hospital, and handed him over to Capt. Huntley. He began to lose consciousness on being moved into the ambulance. Capt. Sillar was perfectly sober at the time I met him.

(Sgd) R.M. Shaw. Capt.
A.A.M.C.

3rd Witness Capt. E. Huntley R.A.M.C. states:-

Capt. Sillar was brought to Fovant Military Hospital in an ambulance and admitted about 4.30 p.m. 30th June 1918. He was perfectly unconscious. On the left side of his head there was a very considerable bruising and a few superficial abrasions. On the right side just above the right ear there was a laceration of the scalp, surrounded by bruising. None of these wounds lead down the bare bone. On the right hip also there was a very considerable bruise, and there were abrasions of the fingers of the right hand. He had no paralytic symptoms.

Capt. Sillar never regained consciousness and died about 7 p.m. on the same day. Cause of death was severe concussion of the brain. There were no signs of intoxication about Capt. Sillar.

(Sgd) E. Huntley. Capt.
R.A.M.C.

FINDING

The Court having duly considered the evidence finds:-

(1) That Capt. Sillar A.A.M.C. attached to No. 3 Command Depot Hurdcott, met his death on 30th June 1918, accidentally by a fall from a horse.

(2) That such accident was not caused by an neglect or misdemeanour on his part.

(Sgd) Mjr. A.L. Prince PRESIDENT

(Sgd) Major A.J. Simpson)MEMBERS

(Sgd) Capt. E.W. Murray)MEMBERS

I concur.

(Sgd) A. Jackson Lt. Col.,
Commanding No. 3 Command Depot. A.I.F.

2.7.18

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*** Ralph Sanders Barclay Sillar, a solicitor, (born 1894), older brother of Capt Roy Sillar enlisted in the A.I.F. on 3rd January, 1917. He was wounded in action – (gunshot wound to thigh) in France on 20th September, 1917 & rejoined his unit 3rd December, 1917. He was again wounded in action – (gunshot wounds to legs, left arm, abdomen, back & right forearm) on 3rd October, 1918 & gassed (severe). Pte Ralph Sillar (6667) was granted a discharge from A.I.F. on 13th December, 1918. He returned to Australia in March, 1919 & was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

John Walker Sillar, (born 1897), younger brother of Capt Roy Sillar, enlisted in the A.I.F. on 10th February, 1916, aged 18 years. He was appointed to 2nd Lt & completed his Service with the A.I.F. He returned to Australia in August, 1919 & was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

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DUBBO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

A special meeting of the Committee of the Dubbo Mechanics' Institute was held on Wednesday night to receive the annual report and balance-sheet for presentation at the annual meeting.

There were present: Mr J. W. Sillar (presiding in the absence of the President).....

"Scholarships – The Institute's scholarships were awarded to the following, and their names were enrolled on the Honor Board:- Roy Allen Sillar and May Cunningham, Dubbo District School;....."

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – Saturday 29th July, 1911)

MR ROY SILLAR

Mr Roy Sillar, son of Mr and Mrs J. W. Sillar, of Dubbo, is doing famously at the Sydney University, just as brother Ralph is in his top-speed to enter the legal profession. Roy, who is a student housed at St Paul's, an affiliated college, was successful in the second year's medicine exam. He is now home on holidays.

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – Tuesday 12th January, 1915)

PERSONAL NOTES

Mr and Mrs J. W. Sillar, of the Bank of Australasia, yesterday received a cable from their son, Captain (Dr) Roy Sillar, stating that he had arrived in England. Captain Sillar sailed from Sydney on 2nd March last.

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – Friday 17th May, 1918)

PERSONAL

Mr J. W. Sillar, manager of the Bank of Australasia (Dubbo), has received a cable message from England intimating that his second son, Dr Roy Allen Sillar, has been seriously injured whilst serving with the Australian Imperial Forces. Dr Sillar was for some five years a resident at St Andrew's College, within the Sydney University, and last year passed his final examinations for the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery. Dr Sillar afterwards passed through his hospital courses at St Vincent's Hospital and the Royal North Shore Sydney Hospital, and on March 3rd last he sailed from Sydney as a medical officer in charge of a unit for the front.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 3rd July, 1918)

DR ROY ALLEN SILLAR

Meets With Serious Accident

Mr J. W. Sillar, manager of the Bank of Australasia (Dubbo), has received a cable message from England intimating that his second son, Dr Roy Allen Sillar, has been seriously injured whilst serving with the Australian Imperial Forces. Dr Sillar was for some five years a resident at St Andrew's College, within the University, and last year passed his final examinations for the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery. Dr Sillar afterwards passed through his hospital courses at St Vincent's Hospital and the Royal North Shore Sydney Hospital, and on March 3rd last he sailed from Sydney as a medical officer in charge of a unit for the front – "S.M. Herald."

Dr Sillar is a Dubbo native, and to most of its townspeople is as well known as the town clock; and they have watched his career with a personal interest. As a scholar at the Dubbo Public School he first attracted attention by being the Dux of the school two years in succession. His name appears on the Honor Board at the Mechanics Institute. At the age of 14 he took the scholarship for the State after his first year of technical instruction in chemistry, under the tuition of Mr E. Campling, now Inspector of Schools at Wellington. This was an exceptionally fine record for a boy. The promise that he gave at the Public School was later fully realised in all other examinations leading up to his medical course. For the matriculation in his Senior Exam, before entering the University he received honours in his two Maths., and in his classics (English, Latin and French). His University course is referred to in the paragraph from the "Herald." Then came the call to serve the Empire, and he was prompt to respond. He had wanted badly to accompany his brothers, but all medical students were exempted, and he pushed through with his medical course. That much done, he left hot-footed for the front. And then the accident. Regarding this Mr J. W. Sillar informs us that he has not received any further information, and as the proverb has it, "No news is good news." Let us hope so.

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – Friday 5th July, 1918)

DEATH OF SURGEON - CAPTAIN SILLAR

A private cable message has been received from England reporting the death of Surgeon – Captain Roy Allen Sillar, M.B., Ch. M. (Syd). He was only 23 years of age, and after completing his medical course at the Sydney University volunteered for active service with the Australian Imperial Forces in France. He left Sydney in March last as chief medical officer of a transport, and on reaching London joined the Australian Medical Corps, and shortly afterwards proceeded to France.

He was the second son of Mr J. W Sillar, manager of the Bank of Australasia, Dubbo. Two of the late doctor's brothers are serving with the Australian Imperial Forced in Flanders – Mr Ralph

Sillar, a solicitor, of this state and Mr J. W. Sillar, jun., under articles to Messrs M'Manamy and Jelf, solicitors, of Dubbo.

As a student of Sydney University, the late Dr Sillar passed through a distinguished course, and was elected senior scholar of St Andrew's College, within the University. Immediately before his departure he was one of the house surgeons at the Royal North Sydney Hospital and of St Vincent's Hospital.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 8th July, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

SILLAR – Surgeon Captain Roy Allen Sillar, M.B., Ch.M. (Syd), A.M.C., second son of Mr and Mrs J. W. Sillar, Bank of Australasia, Dubbo, in his 23rd year. (By cable)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 8th July, 1918)

DEATH OF SURGEON - CAPTAIN ROY ALLEN SILLAR

RESULT OF FALL FROM A HORSE

Little did the "Liberal" anticipate in its last issue that the result of the accident which befell Dr Roy Allen Sillar in England would cut short this promising young life. His father, Mr John Walker Sillar, manager of the Bank of Australasia, received the following cable, dated July 5th, on Saturday from his son, Signaller Jack Sillar:- "Roy's injuries fatal. Attended funeral yesterday, Sillar".

And Mr Andrew McCallum received the following wire from Colonel Sandford, Base Records Office, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne :- Captain Roy Allen Sillar, Army Medical Corps, died from concussion of brain, result of accident, 30/6/18. Please inform his father, J. W. Sillar, Bank of Australasia, Dubbo.

The shock to his devoted parents of this terribly sudden close to what promised to be a brilliant career is beyond the feeble power of any pen or tongue to describe. Only those who have lost a loved member of a happy family circle can understand their deep grief, "sorrowing most of all that they should see his face no more," and sympathise with them....To the secret grief of the Sillar family we pay our own tribute. The citizens of Dubbo, who knew Roy and watched with a semi-paternal interest in the youth's mental development, and the sturdy manner in which he climbed, rung by rung, the ladder of learning, feel keenly the loss of one who appeared destined to go far and achieve much. Citizens of every shade of thought and creed expressed the profoundest regret at the death of this youth, and condoled with the afflicted parents, who are prostrated with their grief. Letters and telegrams of sympathy have poured in from friends throughout the Commonwealth. And not a little sympathy is manifested for the dead soldier's two soldier brothers, bearing their sorrow so far away from their parents and homeland. Were they here it would soften the blow to their family, but there is this compensation – Roy did not die entirely amongst strangers, and his brother Jack was present at the graveside.

The gallant young Surgeon-Captain did not die in the field of battle, but his feet were directed thence in the merciful work of saving, not slaying.....

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – Tuesday 9th July, 1918)

417th CASUALTY LIST

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Capt. ROY ALLEN SILLAR, Dubbo

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Tuesday 16th July, 1918)

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Capt Roy Sillar is the only one of the 34 soldiers buried in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery that does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. From a letter in Capt Sillar's Service Records it is stated that his headstone was paid for by his parents & was erected before 6th October, 1922 – date of letter mentioning this information.



Photo courtesy of Chris Munro - fffaiif

Photo of Capt Roy Allen Sillar's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery.



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey