

RUDDER, Charles Henry



C.H. Rudder, one of the soldiers photographed in *The Queenslander Pictorial*, supplement to *The Queenslander*, 1917. (2014). John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Rank: Private

Service Number: 3431

Unit: 4th Pioneer Battalion;

Place of Birth: Birmingham, England

Date of Birth: c1891.

Enlisted at: Brisbane, Qld, on 31 October 1916, aged 25 years 8 months.

Next-of-kin was father, Henry Tudor Rudder (snr), Nagoorin, Boyne Valley Line, near Gladstone, Queensland.

On enlistment he was 5 feet 11.5 inches and weighed 150 lbs. His chest measurement was 33.5-35 inches. His occupation was stockman. Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A72 *Beltana* on 25 November 1916. Disembarked Devonport, England 29 January 1917. Debited one shilling for loss of kit on A72 *Beltana*. Proceeded overseas 3 May 1917. Wounded in action 8 September 1917. Transferred to England 4th South General Hospital 22 October 1917 Gunshot wound thigh. Rejoined battalion in France 9 March 1918. Injured accidentally, bruised left eye, 9 October 1918.

Transferred to hospital 10 October 1918. Returned to France. Defective hearing. Returned to Australia 9 December 1918. Date of death: 24 May 1946, aged 55 years. Buried Gladstone Cemetery, Gladstone, Queensland.

June 1948: *Gladstone Observer*: "The Imperial War Graves Commission asked the council if it would maintain the grave of Pte Charles Henry Rudder. The council is maintaining, free of cost, the graves of several deceased servicemen located in the Gladstone cemetery."

LATE MR CHARLES H. RUDDER

Members of the Gladstone Welcome Home Committee, including ladies, attended the funeral of Mr Charles Henry Rudder on Saturday last. Rev. Lavender conducted an impressive service at the funeral parlour and read the burial service at the graveside. Esteem in which deceased was held by all sections of the community was reflected by the number present and the numerous wreaths and messages of sympathy from all parts of the town and district. Four members of the RSSAILA—Messrs C. King, C. D. Patrick, T. Brunton and F. G. Axelson—were the pallbearers. The bandmaster (Mr Selby) played the Last Post. Striking tribute was the dropping of poppies in the grave as a mark of respect by each fellow Digger.

The late Mr Rudder, who was 58 years of age, took up a property in the Boyne Valley after his return from the Great War and stayed at Ubobo for many years. His wife, who predeceased him, came from England. There are two sons, one having recently returned from active service. Both

turned from active service. Both daughters were nurses, one being married early this year.

An untiring worker for returned men and allied committees, deceased was probably the best organiser of functions in Gladstone. Many merchant seamen in port, visiting service personnel and distressed cases can thank the late Mr Rudder for his energy and kindly thought. Ever ready to give a helping hand, he never failed his comrades in need. He was a great advocate of establishing some worthwhile building or rest centre in Gladstone from patriotic funds.

Service record: [View digital copy \(naa.gov.au\)](https://naa.gov.au)

Paulette Flint, 2024