

## Cecil George EATHER

**Service number:** 1544  
**Rank on enlistment:** Private  
**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion  
**Date enlisted and age:** 24 November 1914, aged 22 years  
**Occupation on enlisting:** Painter  
**Embarkation details:** HMAT *Seang Choon* A49, 11 February 1915, Sydney  
**Date and place of death:** 8 May 1915, at sea (HMT *Lutzow*), aged 22 years  
**Cause of death:** Died of wounds  
**Cemetery/Memorial details:** Lone Pine Memorial, Panel 20  
**Medals:** 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914-20, Victory Medal  
**Rolls of Honour:** Australian War Memorial ACT, Panel 36  
Windsor Memorial Park Gates  
St Matthews Anglican Church Roll of Honour  
Parramatta & District Great War Roll of Honour, Parramatta  
Town Hall  
**Date of birth:** 26 April 1893, Windsor  
**Parents:** George William Eather and Maria Eather nee Holland  
**Address on enlistment:** Church Hill, Windsor  
**Note:** He was known as “Curly” because of his hair.

### *The Cumberland and Fruit Growers Advocate*

#### **Wednesday 2 June 1915**

Rev. Norman Jenkyn received the following wire from the defence Department on Friday: –  
“Officially reported that No. 1544, Private C. Eather, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, died of wounds on the 17th May [sic]. Please inform Mrs M. Eather, Church Hill, Windsor, and convey deep regret and sympathy of their Majesties the King and Queen, as well as Commonwealth Government, in loss that she and the army have sustained by the death of the soldier.” The young soldier is a son of Mrs C. Eather, who resides near St. Matthew’s Church, Windsor, and the sad news was conveyed to her by Mr Jenkyn.



*Pte C.G. Eather*

#### **Saturday 5 June 1915**

Another Parramatta lad to die for Empire and the cause of justice, humanity and freedom in the wide world was Cecil Geo. Eather, of Station Street, Harris Park. Private Eather was a native of Windsor, and was 22 years of age. He went to the front in the 3<sup>rd</sup> reinforcements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. He was employed at Ford Sherrington Ltd, leather and metal goods manufacturers, Sydney.

He, with his brother, lived at Mrs Carr’s, Station Street. He left Liverpool for the front on 11th of February. He wrote every week letters to Parramatta. In a photo taken not long ago before he left, Private C.G. Eather is one of a group which includes Sergeant L. Readett and others well known at Parramatta and some of whom have not yet gone off to the service of the conflict in Europe. The young hero’s mother resides at Windsor.

### **Saturday 12 June 1915**

The late Cecil Eather was a popular member of the Cumberland Band, by whom a letter of sympathy was forwarded to his parents at Richmond. Three other bandsmen are at the front, viz., Messrs Carr, Bernie and Briggs.

### **Saturday 24 July 1915**

Mrs Eather, of Parramatta, (whose son was killed in action) has received the following nice letter: –  
“H.M.S. London, May 10

Dear Madam – You will have heard before you receive this of the death of your son, C.G. Eather here in the Dardanelles. You will perhaps like to know that he was buried at sea, some three miles north of Gallipoli Peninsula, together with several other brave men who had given their lives for their country. We read the burial service over them, and the scene was as reverent and peaceful, I think, as you could have wished. You will, I am afraid, be feeling his loss very keenly; but I hope it will be some consolation to you that he died doing his duty, and there are few men who will not envy him the manner of his death. We are all full of admiration for the work being done by the Australian troops, and if the price paid is heavy, the honor is correspondingly great. With much sympathy, – yours very truly, Alfred W. Rose, Chaplain R.N.”

### **Saturday 23 October 1915**

How “Curley” Eather Died

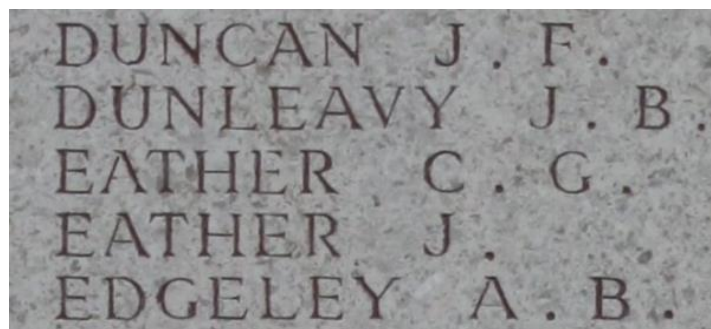
Private Jago was close to where “Curly” Eather met his fate. Jago had just warned Eather – who had landed only a few days before – to rely upon the periscope, to get a look at the enemy, and not to expose himself. Eather, new to “the game” (that’s what the soldiers call it) said, “Oh, they’ll not get me. I’ll chance it!” Jago went on with his work, watching out for any movement in the enemy trenches. A little later he heard a dull thud; and his friend lay there wounded in the head. Eather died a little later on the hospital ship. He was called “Curly” because of his hair. Had he had his hair cropped closer it might have been better with him; he would have had more chance said the doctor.

### ***Windsor and Richmond Gazette***

#### **Friday 22 October 1915**

Corporal Eather’s Message

A letter has been received by Mr Vol Moleswoth, Flemington, N.S.W. from a wounded soldier in South Wales, which describes the death of Corporal Eather, whose mother resides in Windsor. It says “There is one thing I would like you to do. You might have heard of Corporal Eather, of Parramatta-Windsor. Well, he was in a bayonet charge with me and got a bullet through the head. I stopped to put a bandage on him, but it was all up, and he said a few words to me and muttered, ‘Good-bye, mother, all, all.’ He also mentioned his girl’s name, but I have forgotten it. He asked me to write to his parents, but I have been unable to do so, not knowing their address.”



*Photo courtesy of Spirits of Gallipoli*

Private Eather's story is one of many featured in *The Soldiers' Memorial, Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta*, written by Enid Turbit and published in 2016 by the Parramatta and District Historical Society.

Eather and his fellow soldiers are also commemorated in the 1920 publication *Parramatta and District Soldiers who fought in the Great War 1914-1919*, available online at the National Library of Australia via Trove: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-81881832>.