

CHARLES MARK  
CLEMENT **RUDKIN**  
DSO CdG MOVVM MiD<sup>x2</sup>

Charles Rudkin is one of the most exciting 'finds' of this research. He was born in 1872 and went on to become a Brigadier-General in the British army. Charles was also a barrister, farmer and politician. It appears that he was born into a military family, with his father being a Major in the British forces.

Rudkin arrived in Australia with the rest of his family in 1883, settling in Nowra. His father was determined that his family would have the 'bush experience'. After graduating from Ipswich Grammar, Charles became a dentist in his local town and in Sydney.

His career as a soldier began with the Boer War, where he went on to command an Artillery brigade between the years 1899 and 1902. While serving, he was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with four clasps and the King's South Africa Medal with two clasps.

An interesting side-note is that in 1911, he also commanded the Royal Artillery Reserve at King George V's coronation, earning himself a Coronation Medal for his actions. He was also awarded the 'Freedom of the

City of London' in honour of his military efforts. During WW1 he served in France, Belgium and Italy. During these battles he was twice injured, and was twice Mentioned in Despatches. In 1918, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Due to his efforts on the Asiago Plateau in Italy, the country conferred on him the Medaglia al Valore. His leadership was instrumental in the success of

the defence of the Piave River in 1917. Rudkin would also be awarded the Croce di Guerra for his wartime efforts.

After the war, it would appear that he moved to Italy to live for some time where in an interesting turn of events, it would appear that he became a personal friend of Mussolini's - who of course went on to become the Fascist leader of Italy during WW2!

Date of Birth:	12 November 1872
Student Number:	667
Enrolment:	16 April 1888
Age Entered IGS:	16 years
Final Day at IGS:	- - -

Unit:	UK Royal Field Artillery
Regimental Number:	Major
Enlistment:	October 1914
Age at Enlistment:	42 years
Final Day of Service:	November 1918