

AS WAR CLOUDS GATHER

1914

DROMANA VERSUS HASTINGS

(Ref: 2018/12)



Source: DFNC archives

BOMBARDIER GEORGE MCLEAR

A.I.F SERVICE NO: 49

36TH HEAVY ARTILLERY BRIGADE

GEORGE MCLEAR SERVED IN WORLD WARS I & II

The following match review was published in the '**Mornington Standard**' in **June 1914**; and reports on the match between **Dromana** and **Hastings** which was played on June 20th that season.



The original '**Mornington Standard**' column banner- June 1914.

The name of the reporter or club scribe is unknown but it is an excellent pen-picture of the game and its highlights. From reading the article, it is fair to say that the writer had a keen sense of humour, enjoyed local football and had a good knowledge of the personalities involved in the match.

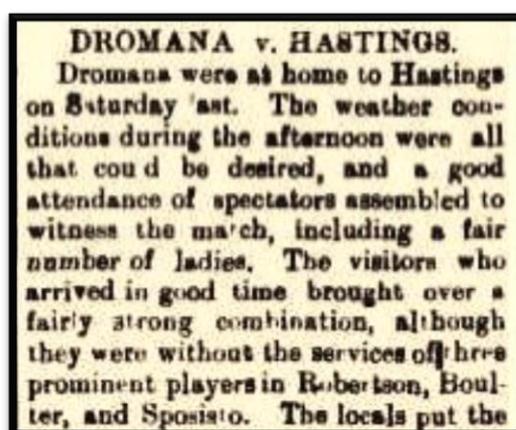
Some of the family names of Dromana players mentioned in the article are prominent the club's history; and their descendants still have connections with the DFNC.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The article has been transcribed, from the original text, in good faith and my apologies for any incorrect spelling of families' names. The original copy was very difficult to decipher in several paragraphs. I have also taken the liberty to incorporate new headings, various font sizes and aspects of presentation (e.g. bullet points, capital letters and bold print) to enhance the article for the club's website.

'MORNINGTON STANDARD' JUNE 1914

DROMANA v HASTINGS



The original newspaper report- June 1914

• PRE-MATCH COMMENT

Dromana were at home to Hastings on Saturday last. The weather conditions during the afternoon were all that could be desired, and a good attendance of spectators assembled to witness the match, including a fair number of ladies.

The visitors who arrived in good time brought over a fairly strong combination, although they were without the services of three prominent players in Robertson, Boulter, and Esposito. The locals

(Dromana) put the best eighteen available into the field, and considering that a good number of the team are composed of young and inexperienced players, who neither practice or train from one match to another, they must be credited with putting up a very fair showing against a team which is undoubtedly one of the strongest in the competition.

• **UMPIRE WHITE**

The match was played throughout in a friendly spirit, no intentionally rough or spiteful play being exhibited by players of either team. **Umpire White** had charge of the game, and although he appeared to be doing his best, he still has much to learn before he could be classed as efficient.

• **THE FIRST HALF**

On the bounce the locals were the first to get a move on. **Jim McLear** collared and punted the oval well forward. It was rushed along and soon the locals had the visitors back division busy defending. Hastings, for a time kept off the attack, but the locals were not to be denied and breaking through their opponents defence **Cisaro** raised a cheer from their supporters by kicking first 'sixer' for Dromana.

Away again and Hastings carried the play into their opponents territory and scored a single. Skipper **Clydesdale** streaked away and the play was transferred to the other end, **Knight, Stirling,** and **Rudduck** putting in some dashing play which resulted in **R. Clydesdale** kicking the second goal for the locals.

Hastings, playing well together, through the ball forward within scoring distance but **Williams** dashed out and using good judgment got the ball well away on the wing. It was quickly returned, Slattery, Floyd, Carmichael and Francis putting in some brilliant play. Wooley marked and scored first sixer for the visitors, which was quickly followed by another from the boot of H. Carmichael.

After some up and down play the locals got the leather well forward, where **R. Dyson** had an easy scoring chance but only managed to register a single. The first quarter was very evenly contested, each side scoring—2 goals 1 behind.

In the second term the visitors showed superior football to the locals, kicking 2 goals 3 behinds to 8 behinds.

The goal kickers in this quarter for Hastings were: H. Carmichael and Lobb. The card at half-time read:- Hastings: 4-4 Dromana: 2- 4.

• **THE SECOND HALF**

In the third term the scoring was again very even, the visitors adding 1 goal 2 behinds to the locals 1 goal 1 behind. H. Carmichael scoring for Hastings and **Jim McLear**, who took an excellent mark, doing likewise for the locals, who were tiring, chiefly on the defensive.

After the visitors had registered a brace of singles, Dromana rallied and carried the play to the other end, a kick from a scrum sent the ball straight for the goal. Amendola who was defending for Hastings caused some amusement as he dashed out and smote the ball a blow which would have done credit to Jack Johnson, and sent it spinning to the outer bounds, 'Nick' may have lost some of his old time dash, but he still evidently retains his punch. The leather was quickly carried away, and Slattery who was playing fast and attractive football sent it well forward.

McDonald marked, and another sixer was scored for the blue and whites. Lobb was the next to have a scoring chance, but he had the misfortune to 'lobb' it on the goal post.

The locals made their final attack a few minutes before time, and some exciting play took place around the visitor's goal. **Edmonds** marked in front, and punted a nice goal for the locals just on the tinkle of the bell.

The scores in the last quarter were: Hastings 1 goal 6 behinds, to 1 goal.

THE FINAL SCORES:

HASTINGS: 6-12 (48 POINTS) - DROMANA: 4-5 (29 POINTS).

GOALKICKERS FOR DROMANA :

Cisaro McLear R. Clydesdale Edmonds

BEST PLAYERS FOR DROMANA:

A. Knight put in a lot of useful work **Stirling**, **Cisaro**, **Williams**, and **Allison** (from Sorrento) , were hard grafters for the locals. **W. Clydesdale** was in good form and marked well. **Jim McLear** played a useful game and should be amongst the top notchers next season. **J. Rudduck** made trojanic efforts in the ruck. Others who

were in the limelight at times were: **R. Clydesdale, Dyson, Counsel, McLear, Griffith** and **Edmonds**.

For the winners, Slattery was always conspicuous and played brilliantly throughout. H. Carmichael was of great assistance to his side. Others who caught the reporter's eye were Floyd, Lobb, Francis, Lothian, and the veteran P. Gomm who was applauded for After the match the visitors were entertained at tea, at the **Hotel Dromana**, by members of the local club.

Note: Both **J. Rudduck** and **W. Clydesdale** died in action during World War: 1 (see the footnotes below).

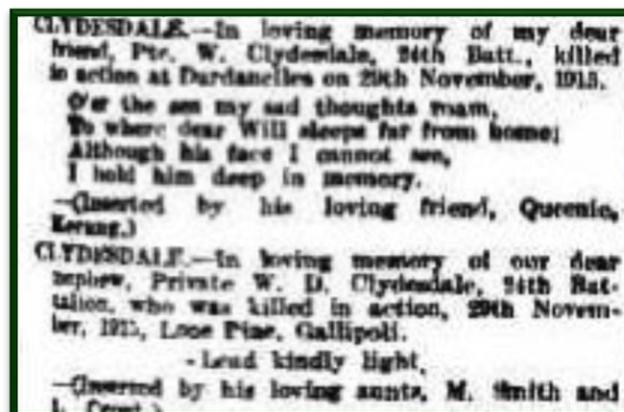
FOOTNOTES ON THE 1914 SEASON.

1. The primary source of the article was: the National Library of Australia.
2. The name Cisaro, as shown above, may actually refer to footballer named **Italo Cesari** who played on the Mornington Peninsula in that era. Further, there are two references to a certain footballer named '**Cesari**' playing for Geelong.
3. It is known that **Italo Cesari** was a **VFL umpire**; and the name also appears in the history of the South Melbourne FC as a trainer on the club's medical staff.
4. The unusual word 'trojanic'...The reporter is probably referring to the Trojan warriors of Greek mythology.
5. Younger readers may be interested to know that **World War: I** broke out on the 28th July 1914 following the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo. By April 1915, soldiers from Australia (**including some seven hundred young men from the Mornington Peninsula**) were crossing the ocean to fight in foreign lands.
6. World War: I affected every aspect of life in Australia; and sport, particularly football, was a major casualty as hundreds of footballers from cities and towns enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).
7. The opening round of the **1915 VFL season** was, coincidentally, played on the same day as the landing(s) of Australian troops at **ANZAC Cove**.
8. Country football leagues were severely weakened by the enlistment of young men into the armed forces; and, in the period 1916-1918, the **Peninsula Football Association** was suspended. There were no competitive games of football on the Southern Peninsula for the duration of the war and the league resumed again in 1919.



Source: National Archives of Australia

Christopher Henry McLear played four games with Dromana. Above- Christopher's enlistment details as dated: 1st March 1915. Christopher was one of the original ANZACs; and died in action in July 1916.



Source: 'The Argus November' 19th 1918.

Memorial Notices

Pte. William Clydesdale –Former Dromana footballer who died in action at Gallipoli on November 29th 1915.

9. **Dromana** gave up many of its best and fittest young men to serve in the AIF; and it is known that the following local identities enlisted for active duty in that period: **William Adams, Frederick Chilton, William Clydesdale, William Dyson, Christopher McLear, G. Sheehan, B. Williams, William Brown, Harold Clydesdale, James Counsel, Albert Gibson, W. White, George McLear, Ernest Ruddock, Charles Trewin, James McLear, Ernest Cairns, Will**

Hinds, Robert Clydesdale, Rupert Debney, John Peatey and Jack Ruddock .



Source: Dromana & District Historical Society
Pte John Peatey- Former Dromana footballer and member of the 21st Infantry Battalion. John died in action in 1917 in France.

A CLOSING TRIBUTE ERN RUDDOCK – A GIANT OF HIS ERA

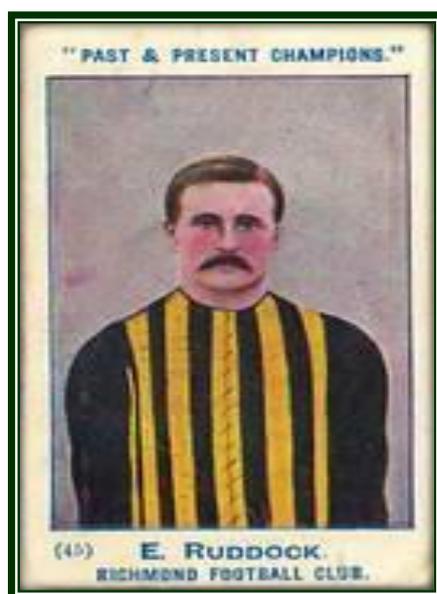
Ernest Rudduck was the son of Nelson and Jane Sophia Rudduck. In time, he made a name for himself as a local shopkeeper; and was an active and respected gentlemen in the affairs of the Dromana township. Furthermore, Ern was a dynamo of the Dromana Football Club as a player and in later years as an administrator.

E. RUDDUCK, Jetty Store, Dromana
Grocer, Baker, Draper, etc.
—————
Most Complete Stock in the District.
—————
TIMBER at Melbourne Prices.
Licensed to sell Poisons and Explosives.

QUALITY AND PRICES RIGHT.

Ern was one of the first Dromana footballers to break into League ranks and he played 14 games with Collingwood in 1907. However, it is often overlooked

that he was also a star with Richmond FC when the club was associated with the VFA. **Note:** Richmond affiliated with the VFL in 1908.



Source: Boyles Football Photos.

ERN RUDDUCK AT RICHMOND VFA

According to the available documentation, Ern played on the half back flank in Richmond's premiership team of 1905...

"Tough, hard-hitting and resourceful, defender Ern Rudduck was a key player for Richmond toward the end of that club's VFA phase. In the 1905 Challenge Final against North Melbourne, which Richmond won 9.7 (61) to 5.6 (36), he made a sterling contribution from a half back flank." Source: John Devaney - Australian Football.



Source: Richmond FC History archives
1905 RICHMOND PREMIERSHIP SQUAD

Ern Crossed to Collingwood in 1907 and must have made an impact on the officials of Collingwood. It is recorded that CFC knowing Ern's difficulties in travelling to the city, to play VFL football, presented him with a motor bike...

“ Ern Rudduck, of Dromana ,played a splendid game in the ruck for Collingwood in their match against South Melbourne on Saturday. This popular player is thought, very highly of by the Collingwood Club, and they have provided him with a motor bike to enable him to be with the team every match.” Source: ‘Mornington Standard’ July 13th 1907 Page: 2.

Ern made his VFL debut for **Collingwood** against Essendon in Round:5 in 1907. The game was played at East Melbourne and Collingwood won by 9 points. There are several interesting aspects to Ern's first VFL game:

- (i) There was no coach listed for Collingwood on the team sheet.
- (ii) A young 18 year old named **Dick Lee** was named in the Magpies line-up that day.
- (iii) **Jock McHale** was playing his 72nd game for Collingwood; and no one, at that stage, could have imagined what the future held for Jock, Collingwood and the national game.

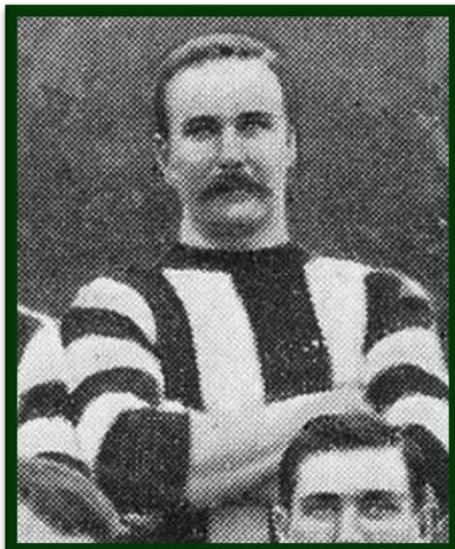


Source: DFNC Archives

Ern Rudduck (centre) in action against Carlton in 1907.

Ernie's last game for Collingwood was against **South Melbourne** in the Semi- Final that season. Ern was 23 years and 177 days of age when he left the 'centre stage' of VFL football. His farewell VFL game was in the Semi-Final against **South Melbourne** which the Bloods won by 34 points. South's star full-forward, of that era, **Len Mortimer** booted four goals that day.

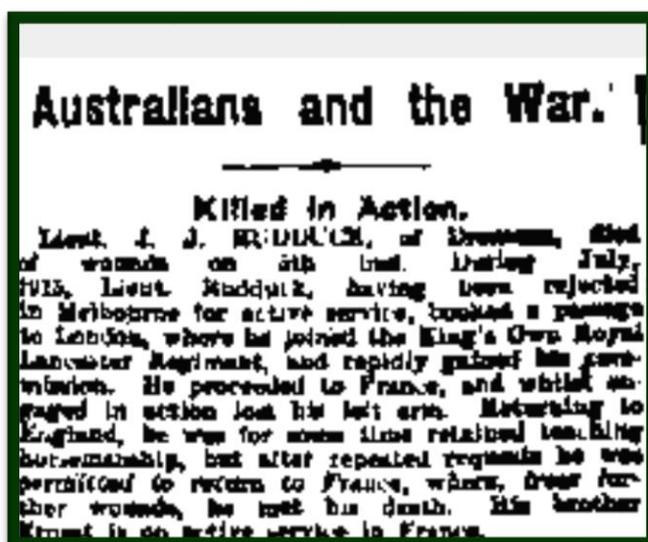
While there is quite a deal of available historical information about Ern Rudduck's years as a footballer, most local people would be flabbergasted to know that Ern enlisted in **both** World Wars.



Source: Collingwood FIC History archives
ERN RUDDUCK AT COLLINGWOOD FC IN 1907.

During World War I Ern (Service No: 3236) served with the **57th Infantry Battalion** and experienced the horrors of the battlefields of France. The 57th Battalion was composed mainly of young men from the suburbs of Melbourne; and the history of Ernie's battalion is well worth reading as it gives rare insight into Ernie's character and strength of resolve. In her book 'Harder than Football', noted AFL football historian, Barb Cullen wrote...

"..After enlisting in June 1916, Rudduck was concussed by a shell and wounded in the shoulder in France in 1917 he was discharged as medically unfit in 1919."



Source: 'The Age' June 15th 1918 Page: 17.
Lieutenant Jack Rudduck died on the
battlefields of France in World War: 1

Ern had probably 'done more than enough' in the Great War; and it will surprise readers to learn that he enlisted in the Army at the age of 58 years during **World War: 2**. Ern served with the **10th Battalion Volunteer Defence Force** until June 1945.

Ern Rudduck cast a mighty shadow throughout his life; and when he died in Dromana, in 1972 at 88 years of age, the township was much poorer, in so many ways, for his demise.



Source: Australian Cemeteries

ERN RUDDUCK'S HEADSTONE AT THE DROMANA CEMETERY.

CAN YOU HELP OUR CLUB'S HISTORY FILE?

The above list of young men from Dromana, who served in the armed forces during World War: I , may not be an exhaustive list.

Any readers who are aware of further names that should be added to the above are kindly asked to contact DFNC History committee members (Roger Spaul, Vicki Holt or Graham Stelling). Thank you.

Any assistance regarding this very important aspect of our club's history will be valued.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: DFNC Records –Tiger Talk- DFNC Handbook-Personal files.

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