

**Bellevue Road (New) Cemetery,
Wivenhoe, Essex**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



ENGINEER LIEUTENANT

R. C. COLLINS

H.M.S. "QUADRILLE"

26TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 28

Reginald Charles COLLINS

Reginald Charles Collins was born in 1889 in the district of Burwood, NSW to parents Charles P. & Florence Agnes Collins (nee Ferguson).

Reginald Charles Collins joined the British Royal Naval Reserve.

British Royal Naval Reserve

The Royal Naval Reserve (R.N.R.) is the volunteer reserve force of the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom. The present R.N.R. was formed by merging the original Royal Naval Reserve, created in 1859, and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (R.N.V.R.), created 1903.

On mobilisation in 1914, the R.N.R. consisted of 30,000 officers and men. Officers of the permanent R.N.R. on general service quickly took up seagoing appointments in the fleet, many in command, in destroyers, submarines, auxiliary cruisers and Q-ships. Others served in larger units of the battle fleet including a large number with the West Indies Squadron who became casualties at the Battle of Coronel and later at Jutland. Fishermen of the R.N.R.(T) section served with distinction on board trawlers fitted out as minesweepers for mine clearance operations at home and abroad throughout the war where they suffered heavy casualties and losses.

(Information on R.N.R. from Wikipedia)

Reginald Charles Collins was listed in Royal Naval Reserve Officers' Service Records as Engineer Sub-Lieutenant (Temporary) on 18th April, 1916 on H.M.S. *Kempton* (Paddle Mine Sweeper)

H.M.S. *Kempton* was sunk on 24th June, 1917 in a minefield in the Dover Strait laid by German U-boat "UC1" with 3 casualties.



H.M.S. *Kempton*

Engineer Sub-Lieutenant (Temporary) Reginald Charles Collins was transferred to H.M.S. *Southdown* on 6th February, 1917; H.M.S. *Muskerry* on 19th April, 1917 & H.M.S. *Gunner* on 25th May, 1917.

From the Service Record file: "23.10.17 New Comm issued to replace original lost in *Kempton* N.L212609/17 . For his excellent behaviour on the occasion of the mining of H.M. P.M.S. *Kempton* on 24.6.17. Men Gazette 2.11.17."

From the Supplement to the London Gazette – 2 November, 1917:

The following officers and men have been mentioned in Despatches:

Engr. Sub-Lieut. Reginald Charles Collins, R.N.R.

Engineer Sub-Lieutenant (Temporary) Reginald Charles Collins was transferred to H.M.S. *Pirouette* on 16th February, 1918.

Engineer Sub-Lieutenant (Temporary) Reginald Charles Collins was issued a temporary command as Engineer Lieutenant (Temporary) on 16th February, 1918.

Engineer Lieutenant (Temporary) Reginald Charles Collins was transferred to H.M.S. *Quadrille* on 1st October, 1918.

Reginald Charles Collins married Sybil Alice Barr in November, 1918. Their marriage was registered in the district of Islington, London, England in the December quarter, 1918.

Engineer Lieutenant Reginald Charles Collins died on 26th November, 1918 at 5th London General Hospital (St. Thomas'), London, England from Pneumonia following Influenza.

A death for Reginald C. Collins, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, London, England.

Engineer Lieutenant Reginald Charles Collins was buried on 30th November, 1918 in Bellevue Road (New) Cemetery, Wivenhoe, Essex, England, – Plot number C.258/259 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper Item– *Chelmsford Chronicle* – 6 December, 1918 & *Essex Newsman* – 7 December, 1918:

DEATH TEN DAYS AFTER MARRIAGE

The funeral of Engineer-Lieut. Collins, commander of H. M. minesweeper Quadrille, took place with naval honours at Wivenhoe on Saturday. This young officer was married only ten days before his death, and was taken ill while leaving the church. He was conveyed at once to hospital, where, after a brief illness, he succumbed to pneumonia following influenza.

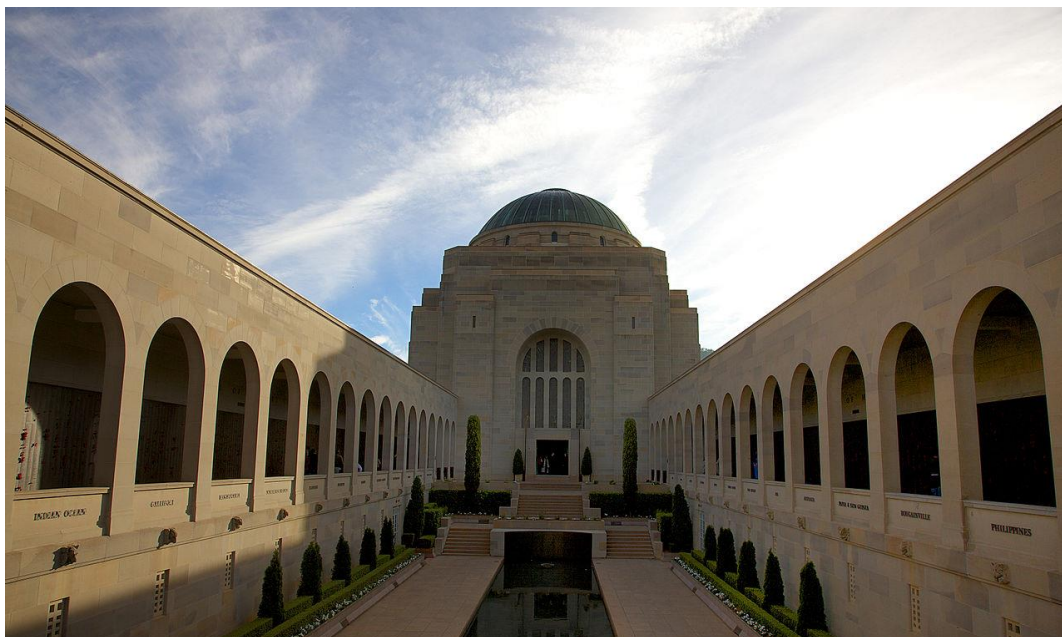
Probate details:

COLLINS, Reginald Charles of Rowhedge, Essex, Engineer Lieutenant R.N.R., died 26 November, 1918 at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. Administration Ipswich 18 January to Sibil Alice Collins Widow. Effects £448.

A son – Reginald Charles Barr Collins was born in 1919. His birth was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Fulham, London, England.

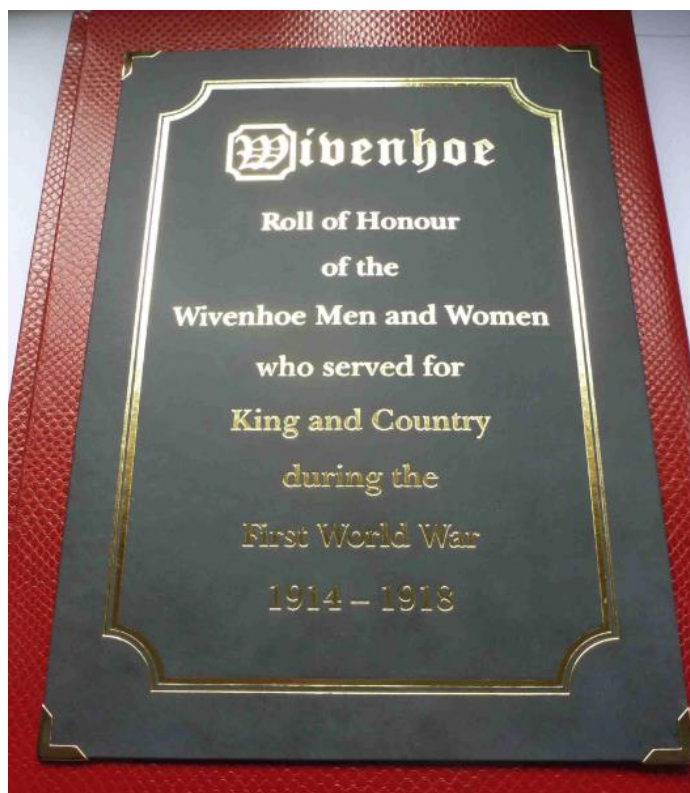
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Engineer Lieutenant Reginald Charles Collins, aged 28, of H.M.S. "Quadrille", Royal Naval Reserve. Mentioned in Despatches. He was the son of Florence Agnes Collins; husband of Sybil Alice Collins, of 9 Rectory Road, Wivenhoe. Born at Sydney, Australia.

Engineer Lieutenant Reginald Charles Collins is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

Reginald Charles Collins is remembered in the Wivenhoe Roll of Honour Book which was compiled by Ian Valentine in 2016. 46 names were inscribed on the original Wivenhoe War Memorial but another 24 names have been included that were not named on the War Memorial – including Reginald Charles Collins.



Wivenhoe Roll of Honour Book (*Photo from Wivenhoe's History*)

Newspaper Notices

NAVAL CASUALTIES

The Secretary of the Admiralty announces that the following have died on various dates:-

..... Engr.-Lt. R. C. Collins, R.N.R.;

(Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England – 6 December, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COLLINS – November 26, 1918, at Wivenhoe, Essex, England, Engineer Lieutenant Reginald Charles Collins, R.N.R., dearly beloved and only son of Mrs F. A. Collins, 145 Macquarie-street, Sydney, on active service since outbreak of war, aged 29 years.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 January, 1919)

Bellevue Road (New) Cemetery, Wivenhoe, Essex, England

Bellevue Road (New) Cemetery, Wivenhoe contains 6 Commonwealth War Graves – 4 from World War 1 & 2 from World War 2.

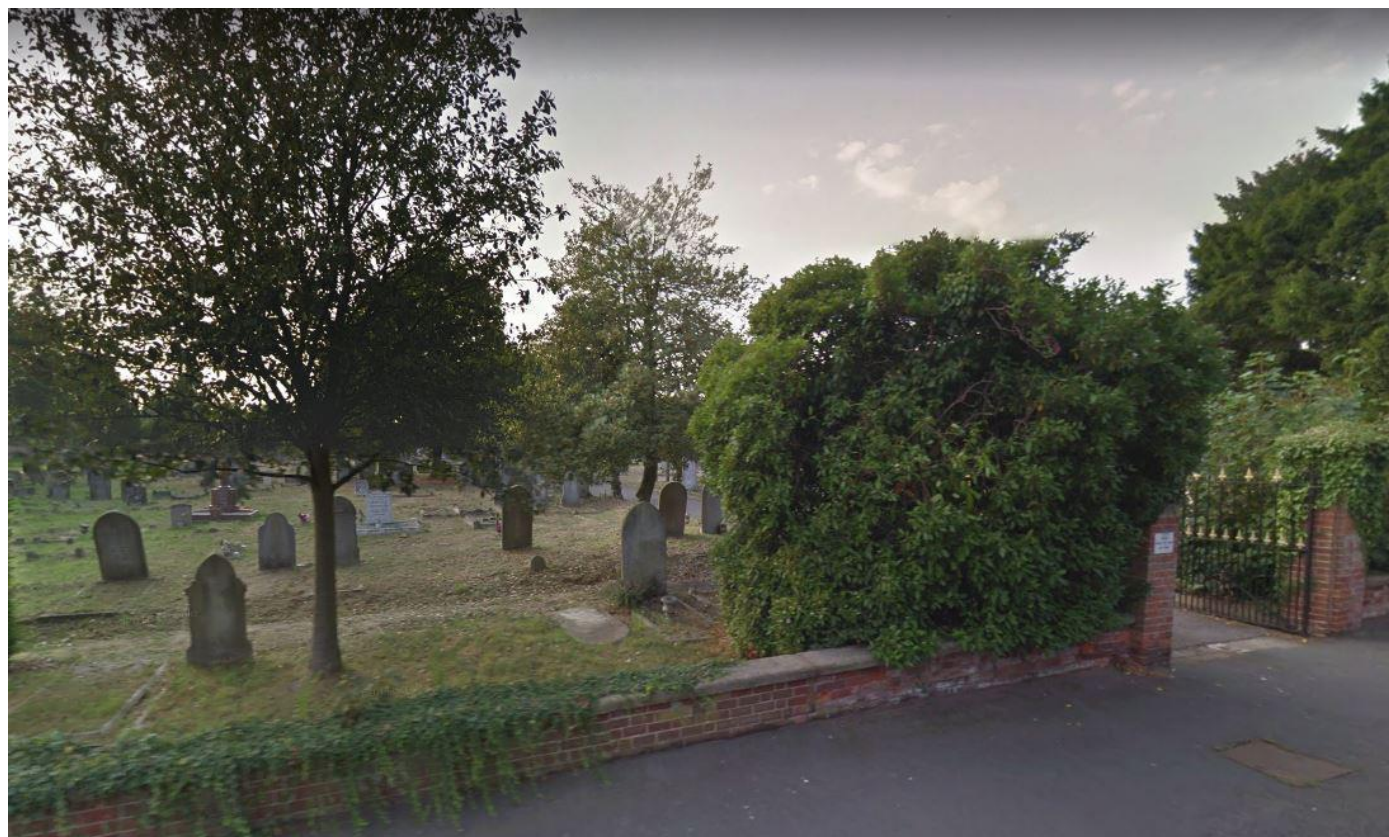


Photo of Engineer Lieutenant R. C. Collins' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bellevue Road (New) Cemetery, Wivenhoe, Essex, England.



(Photo by Scottsheat – Find a Grave)