

**St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery,
Kensal Green, London, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2138 PRIVATE

A. J. COLQUHOUN

13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH SEPTEMBER, 1915

*In Answer To
His Coutry's Call
Gave His Best
His Life, His All*

Alfred John COLQUHOUN

Alfred John Colquhoun was born at Richmond, New South Wales on 12th May, 1897 to parents Charles James & Julia Colquhoun (nee Ryan).

Alfred John Colquhoun was apprenticed to McKenzie Bros for 5 years but had only served 3 years at the time of enlisting.

Alfred John Colquhoun was an 18 year old, single, Engineer from Lily Street, Hurstville, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, NSW on 21st May, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs J. Colquhoun, Lily Street, Hurstville, NSW. Alfred Colquhoun stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 4 years in Compulsory Service.

As Alfred Colquhoun was under the age of 21, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad. The following letter was written & signed by Charles J. Colquhoun, father & Julia Colquhoun, mother: *“My son Alfred John Colquhoun is desirous of enlisting for the war he was 18 years of age 12/5/15 he is apprenticed to Engineer tr___ & would like to join the Engineer Corps & he being under age my sanction has to be given which I am quite willing to give. He has been under compulsory seniors Cadets & has been drafted Militia Engineer.”*

Private Alfred John Colquhoun, Service number 2138, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Wandilla* (A62) on 14th June, 1915 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private Alfred John Colquhoun was wounded – period ended 23rd August, 1915 at Gallipoli Peninsula. He was transferred to Hospital Ship Franconia on 23rd August, 1915 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to upper & lower extremities.

13th Battalion

The 13th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. The battalion was recruited in New South Wales, and with the 14th, 15th and 16th Battalions formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

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The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC Cove late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915. From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the ANZAC front line. In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost, although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. The 13th also suffered casualties during the attack on Hill 60 on 27 August. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Alfred John Colquhoun was admitted to King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England on 9th September, 1915 wounded – severe.

Private Alfred John Colquhoun died at 1.20 pm on 10th September, 1915 at King George's Hospital, London, England from wounds received in action at Gallipoli.

A death for A. J. Colquhoun, aged 18, was registered in the September quarter, 1915 in the district of Lambeth, London, England.

Secretary of Defence advised Mrs J. Colquhoun, Lily Street, Hurstville, NSW, on 11th September, 1915 *“regret son Private A. J. Colquhoun wounded between 16th and 23rd August not reported seriously no other particulars available will immediately advise anything further received.”*

Private Alfred John Colquhoun was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Harrow Road, College Park, N.W., London, England – Grave number 3.

Base Records wrote to Mrs J. Colquhoun, Lily Street, Hurstville, NSW on 20th April, 1920 with the following letter: *"With reference to my communication of the 19th December, 1915, regarding the regrettable loss of your son the late No. 2138 Private A. J. Colquhoun, 13th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from the former site, and re-interred in grave No. 5, St. Mary's (R.C.) Cemetery, Kensal Green. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

This is now recorded by CWGC as St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England – Plot number Australian 2159 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Alfred John Colquhoun contains two reports regarding Private Colquhoun:

- Report from Private W. J. Harris (Cook's mate), 13th A.I.F. C Company, Tel-el-Kebir: *"Witness says he knew Colquhoun, who was wounded on 21/8/15 at Harring's Post about 3.30 pm. He was wounded in the leg and arm by a machine gun, and, judging by the wounds, witness thinks the bullets must have been explosive. Both wounds were very bad. His leg was broken, the flesh and muscles blown away, and the bone (above the knee) sticking out. He was conscious. Witness bandaged him up and left him as he had to go on."*
- H. C. Smart reported the following: *"With reference to the Schedule Cairo Enquiry Block to London, dated the 17th February, 1916, respecting No. 2138 Pte A. J. Colquhoun (of the 3rd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force (not 13th Battalion), I have to state that this member died of his wounds, at the King George Hospital, Stamford Street, Waterloo, London, S.E., at 1.20 pm, on the 10th September, 1915, and was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, No. 3 Grave, Harrow Road, College Park, London, N.W."*

Mr C. J. Colquhoun, Lily Street, Hurstville, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 15th December, 1915 requesting : *"...would you kindly forward me certificate of death of my late son who died in London A. J. Colquhoun No. 2137 6th Reinf., 13th Batt."*

Base Records replied to Mr C. J. Colquhoun on 8th January, 1916 enclosing *"...as requested, certificate of report of death of your son the late No. 2137, Private A.J. Colquhoun, 13th Battalion."*

Private Alfred John Colquhoun was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Colquhoun's father – Mr C. J. Colquhoun, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Public Trust Office, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 4th April, 1930 requesting a *"Military Certificate of Death of Alfred John Colquhoun, who died at King George's Hospital, London, on 10th September, 1915, as a result of war wounds received at Gallipoli while serving with the A.I.F."* This was in regards to the Estate of Charles James Colquhoun – his father.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred John Colquhoun – service number 2138, of 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles James & Julia Colquhoun, of "Everton", Lilly St., Hurstville, New South Wales.

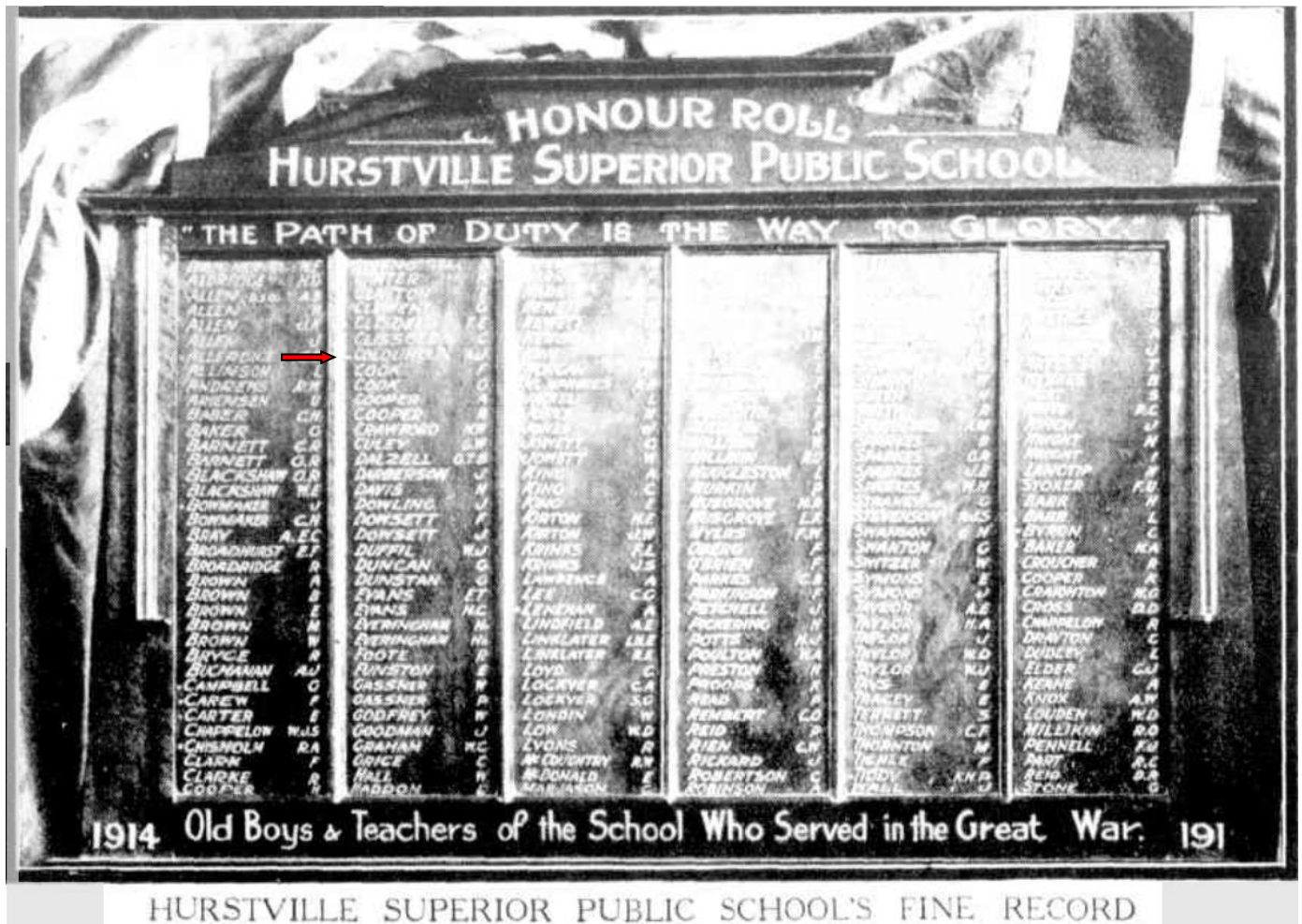
A. J. Colquhoun is remembered on the Hurstville War Memorial, located at Memorial Square, Forrest Road, Hurstville, New South Wales.



Hurstville War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)



A. J. Colquhoun was remembered on the Hurstville Superior Public School Honour Roll.



This honour board, of Queensland maple (presented by Mr. H. Woodley, patron of the Hurstville Parents and Citizens Association) was unveiled by the Minister for Education. Mr. W. J. Cunningham is principal of the school. The board contains the names of 261 soldiers, 18 of whom have been killed— C. S. Allerdice, J. Bowmaker, G. Campbell, F. Carew, E. Carter, A. J. Colquhoun, A. Lenehan, L. Majason, W. Millikin, W. Switzer. C. N. Thornton, K. H. P. Tiddy, O. Tollefson, T. Watts, B. Weekes, P. C. White, C. Byron, R. Chisholm.

(Article from Sydney Mail, NSW – 14 November, 1917)

Private A. J. Colquhoun is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 68.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(42 pages of Private Alfred John Colquhoun's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives Australia



(1) Private A. J. Colquhoun

(Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 2 October, 1915)



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOR

80th CASUALTY LIST

N.S.W. Killed and wounded

The 80th casualty list is as follows:

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wounded:.....A. J. Colquhoun (Hurstville)

(*The Tamworth Daily Observer*, NSW – 21 September, 1915)

CASUALTIES

EIGHTY-THIRD LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte A. J. COLQUHOUN, 13B., 6 R., Hurstville.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 28 September, 1915)

FOR THE EMPIRE

This week's casualty lists contain the following names of local soldiers:-

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private A. J. Colquhoun, Hurstville

(*The Propeller*, Hurstville, NSW – 1 October, 1915)



(1) Private A. J. Colquhoun (Hurstville), died of wounds; (2) Private C. Fuller (Galston), died of wounds; (3) Private W. T. Thrower (Lithgow), killed; (4) Private M. O. Phillips (Humula), killed).

(*Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 2 October, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COLQUHOUN – In loving memory of Private Alf. Colquhoun, killed in action at Gallipoli Sept. 10, 1915. Inserted by his comrade, Bugler W. Jowett (on active service).

COLQUHOUN – In loving memory of Private A. J. Colquhoun, died September 10, 1915, from wounds received at Lone Pine.

He rose responsive to his country's call,
And gave her his best, his life, his all.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters, and brothers, Lily-street, Hurstville.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 9 September, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COLQUHOUN – In loving memory of Private A. J. Colquhoun, died of wounds received at Lone Pine, September 10, 1915. Inserted by his old friend, Ron. Heuschkel, Lily-street, Hurstville.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 12 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

COLQUHOUN – In loving memory of Private A. J. Colquhoun, died September 10, 1915, from wounds received at Lone Pine.

He rose responsive to his country's call,
And gave her his best, his life, his all.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters, and brothers, Lily-street, Hurstville.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 10 September, 1917)

On Active Service

COLQUHOUN – In loving memory of Private A. J. Colquhoun, died September 10, 1915, from wounds received at Lone Pine.

He rose responsive to his country's call,
And gave her his best, his life, his all.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters, and brothers, Lily-street, Hurstville.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 10 September, 1918)

On Active Service

COLQUHOUN – In loving memory of Private A. J. Colquhoun, died September 10, 1915, from wounds received at Lone Pine.

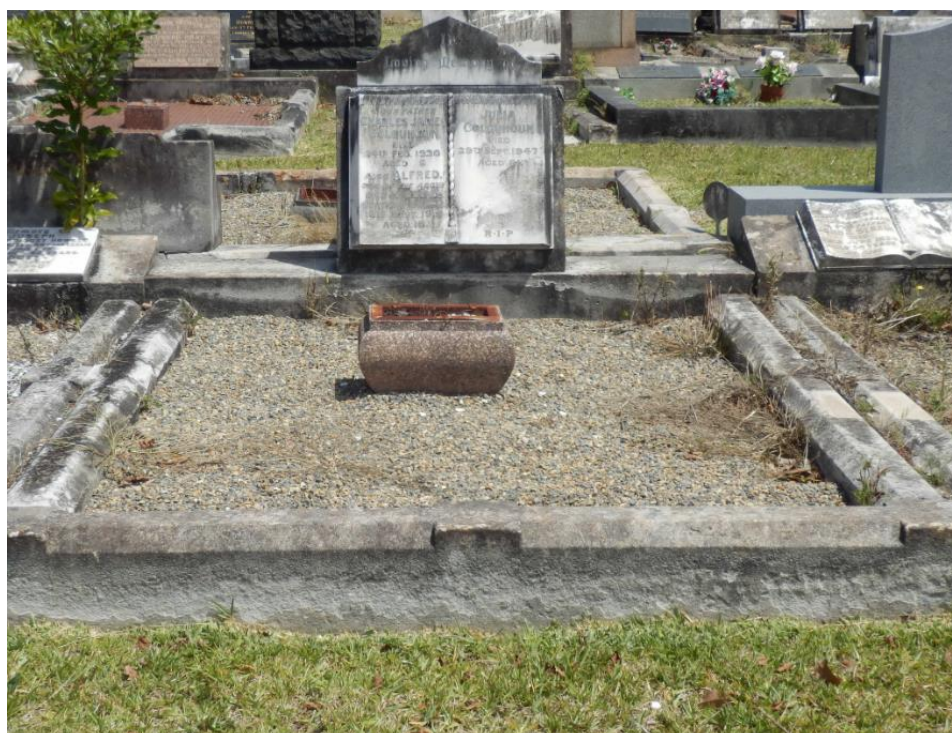
He rose responsive to his country's call,
And gave her his best, his life, his all.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters, and brothers, Lily-street, Hurstville.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 10 September, 1919)

** Notices were also placed in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1926

Alfred Colquhoun is remembered on his parents' headstone in Woronora Cemetery, Sutherland, New South Wales.



Colquhoun Plot in Woronora Cemetery



Also ALFRED

Son of the Above

Died of Wounds

Received at Gallipoli

10TH Sept. 1915

Aged 18.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private A. J. Colquhoun has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

In Answer to His Coutry's Call

Gave His Best His Life His All

(*Note: The spelling error in "country")

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England

Kensal Green (St Mary's) Roman Catholic Cemetery contains burials of both wars. Some of the 208 First World War burials are grouped together. The largest, known as the War Plot, contains graves of United Kingdom forces and there are smaller groups of Canadian and Australian graves. The rest of the First World War graves, and all of the 107 Second World War graves, are scattered elsewhere in the cemetery. A Screen Wall and a low kerb bear the names of casualties of both wars whose graves could not be marked individually. In addition to the Commonwealth war graves, the cemetery contains a number of war graves of other nationalities, including a substantial Belgian plot from the First World War.

(Information from CWGC)





St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery (Photo above from Find a Grave – Len)



Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from Find a Grave – Mike Ganley)



Australian Plot in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green
(Photo from Find a Grave – Lighthouseman)

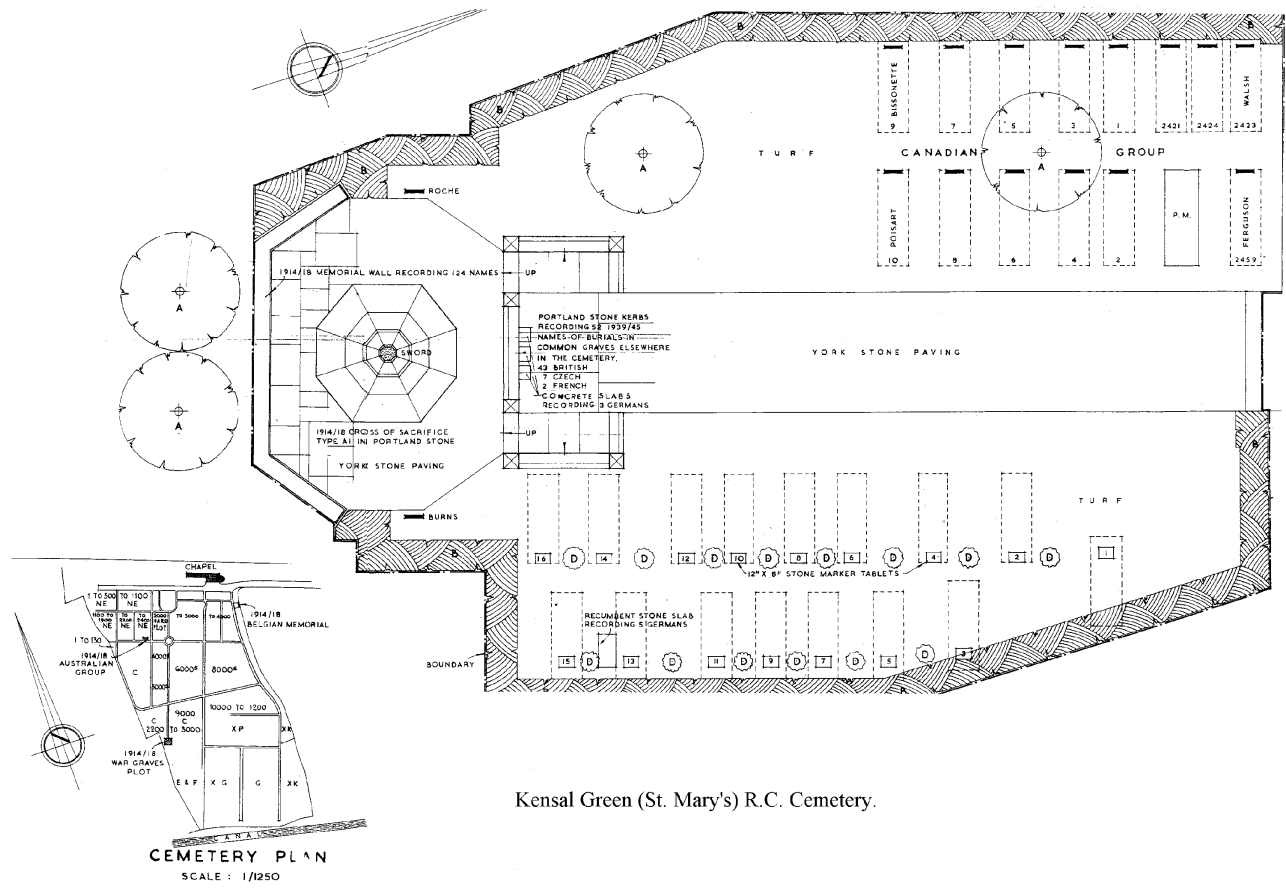


Photo of Private A. J. Colquhoun's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England.

(Note: CWGC were advised at the time of researching of a spelling error in Inscription for "country's" – engraved as "coutry's")



(Photo from Find a Grave – Len)



Kensal Green (St. Mary's) R.C. Cemetery.