

**Hollybrook Memorial,  
Southampton, Hampshire, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1804 PRIVATE**

**E. COYLE**

**33RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**25TH SEPTEMBER, 1916**

## Ernie COYLE

Ernie Coyle was born at Grafton, New South Wales on 6th November, 1891 to parents Dominick & Charlotte Coyle (nee Smith).

Ernie Coyle attended Grafton Public School, New South Wales.

Ernie Coyle was a 24 year old, single, Barman from Imperial Hotel, Moree, NSW when he enlisted on 23rd March, 1916 at Narrabri, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1804 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Charlotte Coyle, Dorrigo, NSW. Ernie Coyle stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been reject as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to his eyesight 6 months ago.

Private Ernie Coyle was posted to Narrabri Depot Camp, NSW on 23rd March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Armidale Depot Camp, NSW on 29th March, 1916 then on 5th May, 1916 he was transferred to 2nd Reinforcements of 33rd Battalion at Rutherford, NSW.

Dr M. H. Harris, of Moree, NSW, supplied a Doctor's Certificate on 19th June, 1916 stating "*This is to certify that Private E. Coyle is suffering from Bronchitis and is unable to return to duty*". Another certificate was produced on 27th June, 1916 stating "*This is to certify that Private E. Coyle has been suffering from Bronchitis and has been unable to return to Camp.*"

Private Ernie Coyle was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 33rd Battalion at Rutherford on 14th July, 1916 then back to 2nd Reinforcements of 33rd Battalion at Rutherford on 28th August, 1916.

Private Ernie Coyle embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Port Sydney (A15)* on 4th September, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 33rd Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements.

### 33rd Battalion

The 33rd Battalion was formed in January 1916 at a camp established at the Armidale showground in New South Wales. The bulk of the battalion's recruits were drawn from the New England region and thus it was dubbed "New England's Own". The Battalion's first, and only, commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Morshead, who would become famous as the commander of the 9th Australian Division during the Second World War.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Ernie Coyle died on 25th September, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Port Sydney (A15)* from Heart Disease.

Private Ernie Coyle was buried at Sea on 26th September, 1916. He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H17014

**HMAT *Port Sydney* (previously *Star of England*)**





E. Coyle is remembered on the Dorrigo RSL Honour Roll, located in Dorrigo Memorial RSL & Golf Club, 2 Hickory Street, Dorrigo, NSW.



**Dorrigo RSL Honour Roll** (Photo from Monument Australia – Peter Williams)

E. Coyle is remembered on the Dorrigo War Memorial, located at Hickory & Cudgery Streets, Dorrigo, NSW.



**Dorrigo War Memorial** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Robert Denner)



E. Coyle is remembered on the Moree Boer War & World War One Honour Roll, located at Moree War Memorial Hall, 36 Balo Street, Moree, NSW.



**Moree Boer War & World War One Honour Roll** (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

Private E. Coyle is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 121.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(37 pages of Private Ernie Coyle'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) & National Archives*



## **LAST POST CEREMONY**

Private Ernie Coyle was remembered in the Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on 4th January, 2017.

Commencing at approximately 4.45 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

The ceremony begins with the Australian national anthem followed by the piper's lament. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. An individual's story is told, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

*(Information from The Australian War Memorial)*





## Speech transcript

Today we remember and pay tribute to Private Ernie Coyle.

Ernie Coyle was born in 1891 to Dominick and Charlotte Coyle. His father ran the hotel at Yamba for some years before the family moved to Dorrigo in New South Wales. He had a large number of siblings, but in 1896 his seven-year-old brother Patrick drowned in the Clarence River. In 1909 his only other brother, Joe, left Dorrigo for a job in Grafton. Ernie stayed in Dorrigo, and a year later narrowly avoided being in a house fire that left his mother badly burned. He was known in Dorrigo as “a steady, upright and smart young man”, and went on to work as a barman at the Imperial Hotel in Moree.

After the outbreak of war in August 1914 Coyle made a number of attempts to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force but was turned down as medically unfit because of his poor eyesight. Joe Coyle had also tried to enlist on a number of occasions, and was accepted in November 1915. In March 1916 Ernie Coyle was finally successful and went into camp.

In April 1916 Corporal Joe Coyle went on leave from his posting as a clerk at Liverpool Camp. On the train on his way back, he fell off the bogie he was sitting on and was crushed beneath the train. He died in hospital shortly afterwards, aged 32.

Private Ernie Coyle continued training at Rutherford Camp, interrupted by a serious bout of bronchitis. He left Sydney in September 1916 on board the troopship Port Sydney.

However, Coyle never made it to the battlefields of Europe. On 25 September he died at sea of a previously undiagnosed heart condition. He was buried at sea shortly afterwards.

The local newspaper lamented that “Mr and Mrs D. Coyle had only the two sons, and it is indeed sad that they should be robbed of both of them.” Both had been prepared to fight, but neither had reached the battlefield. Ernie Coyle was almost 24 years old.

Ernie Coyle’s name is listed on the Roll of Honour on my right, among more than 60,000 Australians who died while serving in the First World War.

This is but one of the many stories of service and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Private Ernie Coyle, who gave his life for us, for our freedoms, and in the hope of a better world.

Dr Meleah Hampton  
Historian, Military History Section

*(From The Australian War Memorial)*



### [Connected to Private Ernie Coyle:](#)

Older brother – Joseph Dominick Coyle (born 1884) – Enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force. He had the rank of Corporal but no service number had been issued when he was accidentally killed in a train accident in Sydney, NSW on 15th April, 1916.

Remembered on the Australian War Memorial’s Roll of Honour – Panel 88.

Buried in Rookwood Necropolis Cemetery, Rookwood, Sydney, NSW.

[Newspaper article – The Don Dorrigo Gazette and Guy Fawkes Advocate, NSW – 22 April, 1916:](#)

### **THE LATE CORPORAL COYLE**

*The Parramatta Coroner, Mr. H. Richardson Clark, held an enquiry at Liverpool Court, concerning the death of Corporal Joseph Dominic Coyle, of Dorrigo, who fell from a train, from Sydney to Liverpool, on April 12. Leslie William Wilson, a private in the A.I.F., stated he was standing on the car platform with several other soldiers. Corporal Coyle laid on the car platform, but afterwards sat up with his feet towards the couplings. A little later when*

*the train had passed Merrylands Station, it gave a jolt in rounding a curve and the man standing next to him said, "Oh ! My — he's gone !" Witness then noticed that Corporal Coyle had disappeared. "Soldiers were lying down in the passage ways of the cars, everywhere," added witness. "You can see that any night." A finding of accidental death was recorded.*



**Private Ernie Coyle & his father Mr Dominick Coyle**



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **RECRUITS**

The following men from Moree and district volunteered during the month of March:-

.....

ERNIE COYLE

....

*(Moree Gwydir Examiner and General Advertiser, NSW – 4 April, 1916)*

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### **PERSONAL**

Mrs E. Harps, Victoria Street, Grafton, has received a telegram from Mr E. Navin, Dorrigo, stating that Pte Ernie Coyle, son of Mr and Mrs Dominic Coyle, had died from heart failure at sea on September 24.

*(Daily Examiner, Grafton, NSW – 11 October, 1916) & (Coffs Harbour Advocate, NSW – 14 October, 1916)*

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### **PERSONAL**

Mr McMahon has received a cable stating that Private E. Coyle, a relative of his who was employed at the hotel, died at sea, on the 24th ult., from heart failure. The deceased soldier sailed on September 4 for the front. We tender our sincere sympathy to his relatives and friends.

*(Moree Gwydir Examiner and General Advertiser, NSW – 13 October, 1916)*

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### **DEATH OF PTE E. COYLE**

On Monday evening Mr. and Mrs. D. Coyle, of Dorrigo, received the sad intelligence by wire from the Defence authorities that their son, Pte. Ern. Coyie, had passed away. The death of the young soldier took place at sea on the 28th September from heart failure. When the news was made known everyone felt the deepest sympathy for the afflicted relatives, as it was only a few months ago that another son, and brother, Pte. Joe Coyle, met his death in Sydney under tragic circumstances. Mr. and Mrs D. Coyle had only the two sons, add it is indeed sad that they should be robbed of both of them. Pte. Ern. Coyle, who was 23 years and 10 months, embarked for France early last month, after having put in a number of months in a training camp. He enlisted from Moree at the time the special recruiting appeal was made. Prior to that, however, he offered his services on several occasions, but was not accepted owing to physical unfitness. He resided in Dorrigo for some years and was well-known to most of the people hereabouts as a steady, upright, and smart young man.

*(The Don Dorrigo Gazette and Guy Fawkes Advocate, NSW – 14 October, 1916)*

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### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **ROLL OF HONOR**

SYDNEY, Wednesday – The 236th casualty list shows the following.....

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Pte E. Coyle, Dorrigo

*(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 19 October, 1916)*

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## Latest Casualties

### 236th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

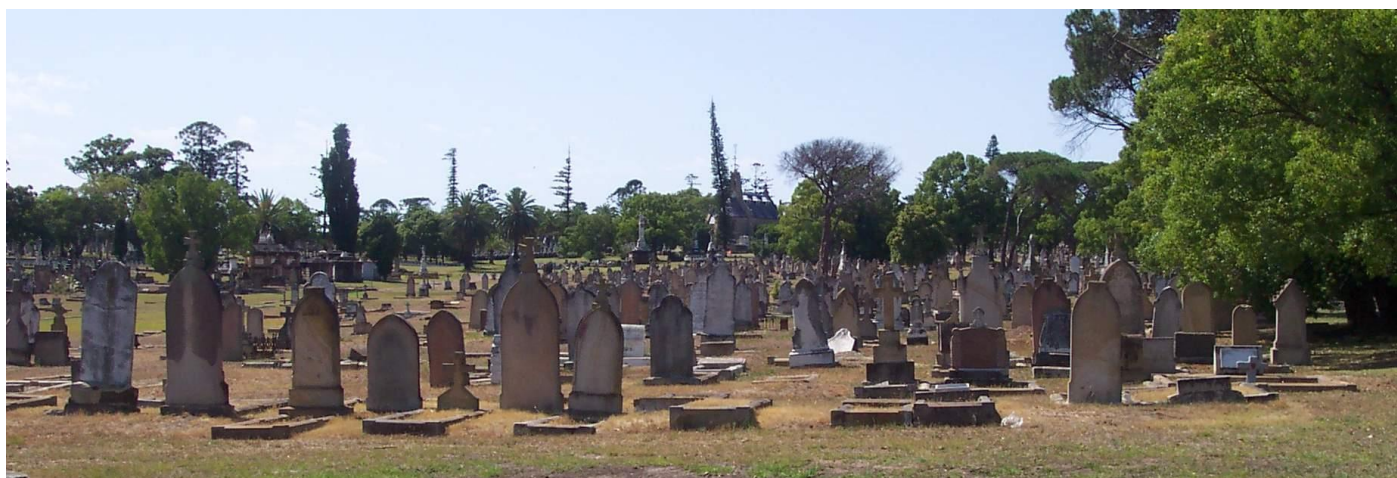
Died of Illness

Pte E. Coyle

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 20 October, 1916)

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Ernie Coyle & his brother Joseph D. Coyle are both remembered on a headstone in Rookwood Cemetery, Lidcombe, Sydney, NSW – Catholic Mortuary 2 & 3; Section N; Row 88.



**Old Roman Catholic Section of Rookwood Cemetery** (Photo by Robert Allan – Find a Grave)



**Catholic Cemetery section at Rookwood Necropolis** (Photo by Red – Find a Grave)





**Crossed Rifles** (Photos courtesy of Gary & Irmgard Heap)



OF YOUR COUNTRY PRAY FOR  
THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF  
JOSEPH D. COYLE  
19<sup>th</sup> BATTALION A.I.F.  
DIED 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1916 AGED 31 YEARS.  
ALSO ERNIE COYLE  
53<sup>rd</sup> BATTALION A.I.F.  
DIED 24<sup>th</sup> SEPT 1916 AGED 25 YEARS  
BURIED AT SEA.  
ON WHOSE SOULS SWEET JESUS  
HAVE MERCY.



*On Your Charity Pray For  
The Repose Of The Souls Of  
JOSEPH D. COYLE  
19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.E.F.  
Died 15<sup>th</sup> April 1916 Aged 31 Years*

*Also ERNIE COYLE  
33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, A.I.E.F.  
Died 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1916 Aged 25 Years*

*Buried At Sea*

*On Whose Souls Sweet Jesus*

*Have Mercy*



#### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

#### **Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England**

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces\* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (\*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at

sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

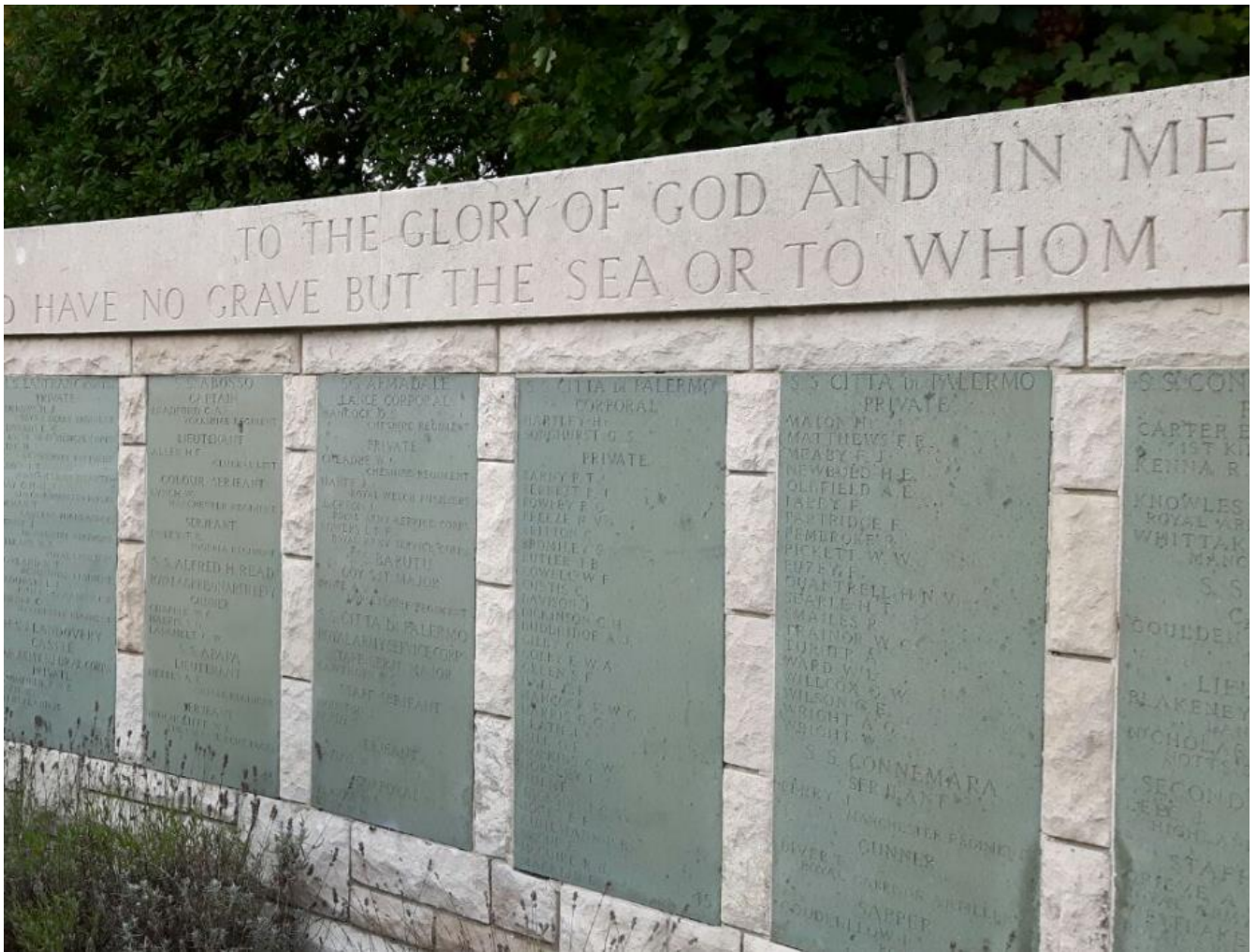
There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Cross of Sacrifice**





Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice

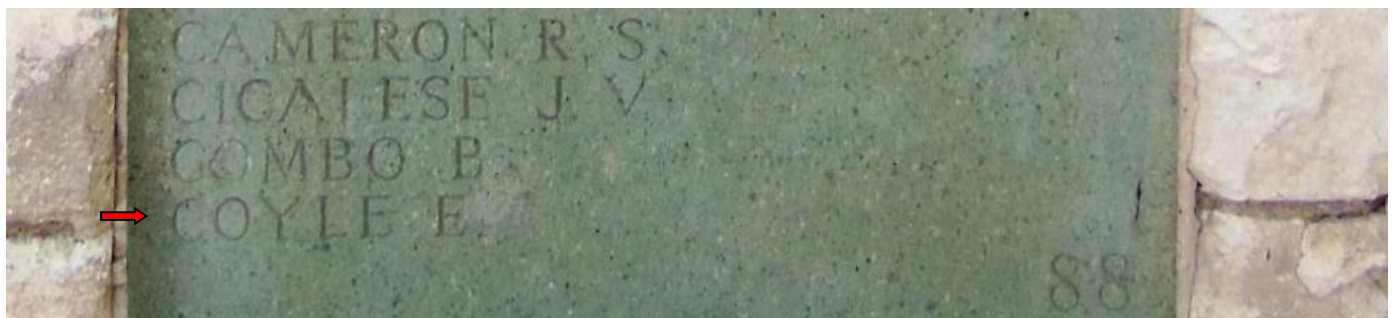




Photo of Private E. Coyle's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)







**CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial**

*(Photo from CWGC)*