

**Milton Cemetery,
Portsmouth, Hampshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1912 CORPORAL

J. H. D. CRAIG

17TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 22

His Duty Done

God Called Him Home

John Henry Dickie CRAIG

John Henry Dickie Craig was born at Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland in 1896 to parents Andrew Craig and Margaret Clelland Craig.

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour, John Henry Dickie Craig came to Australia when he was 16 years old.

John Henry Dickie Craig was a 19 year old, single, Lamplighter from Broadway, Killingworth, via Newcastle, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 11th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1912 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. Craig, of Broadway, Killingworth, via Newcastle, NSW. John Craig stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 6th months with Senior Cadets & 2 years with Citizen Forces.

Private John Henry Dickie Craig was posted to 3rd Reinforcements, 17th Battalion in 1st July, 1915 for recruit training.

Private John Henry Dickie Craig embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 9th August, 1915 with the 3rd Reinforcements, 17th Battalion.

Private John H. D. Craig proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 4th October, 1915 & was taken on ration strength at Gallipoli Peninsula on 12th October, 1915 with 17th Battalion & posted with "B" Company.

Private John H. D. Craig was admitted to Hospital Ship *Dongola* on 1st December, 1915 with Dysentery. He was admitted to Hospital on 3rd December, 1915 then admitted to Greek Hospital at Alexandria on 5th December, 1915. Pte Craig was discharged from Greek Hospital on 12th December, 1915 & readmitted on 17th December, 1915. He returned to duty on 19th January, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private John H. D. Craig embarked from Alexandria to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 17th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd March, 1916.

(**Note – nothing was reported between 23rd March, 1916 & 29th January, 1917)

Private John Henry Dickie Craig was appointed Lance Corporal to complete establishment in the field on 30th January, 1917.

Lance Corporal John H. D. Craig was sent to Hospital sick on 14th March, 1917 while in France. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance with Trench Feet. He rejoined his Battalion from Hospital on 28th March, 1917.

Lance Corporal John H. D. Craig was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 19th April, 1917 vice Young promoted.

Temporary Corporal John H. D. Craig was promoted to Corporal on 26th July, 1917 vice Young promoted.

Corporal John H. D. Craig was sent to Supply Station & proceeded from France on 1st September, 1917 to 5th Training Battalion in England.

Corporal John H. D. Craig was marched in to 5th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire from France on 6th September, 1917. He was attached to Permanent Cadre of 5th Training Battalion. (Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.)

Corporal John H. D. Craig attended a Course of Instruction at No. 1 Area Gas School at Chiseldon, England from 20th November, 1917 until 27th November, 1917 & qualified as Assistant Instructor.

Corporal John H. D. Craig proceeded overseas to France from Fovant, Wiltshire, via Southampton on 1st March, 1918. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 2nd March, 1918 & rejoined 17th Battalion from detachment with 5th Training Battalion in England on 8th March, 1918.

Corporal John H. D. Craig was sent sick to Hospital in France on 8th April, 1918. He was admitted to 20th Casualty Clearing Station with Trench Feet then transferred to Ambulance Train. Corporal Craig was admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 9th April, 1918 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. David* on 18th April, 1918.

Corporal Craig was admitted to 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham, England on 19th April, 1918 with Trench Fever. Corporal Craig was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 26th April, 1918 & discharged to No. 3 Command Depot on 11th May, 1918.

Corporal John H. D. Craig was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital on 11th May, 1918.

Corporal John H. D. Craig was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot from No. 3 Command Depot on 1st June, 1918 & was medically classified as B1 A1 (Fit for Light Duty only – 4 weeks).

Corporal John H. D. Craig was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 8th July, 1918.

Corporal John H. D. Craig proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 3rd August, 1918.

Corporal John H. D. Craig was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France from England on 5th August, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 7th August, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 10th August, 1918.

Corporal John Henry Dickie Craig was wounded in action on 3rd October, 1918. He was admitted to 58th Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to thigh, chest, left arm & left hand. Corporal Craig was transferred to Ambulance Train on 5th October, 1918 then admitted to 47th General Hospital at Le Treport on 5th October, 1918. Corporal Craig was invalided to England on 26th October, 1918.

War Diary – 17th Battalion

Oct 3rd, 1918 – Joncourt & Wiancourt

The Battalion attacked at 6.50 am. The C.O. was Lt. Col. R. M. Sadler MC, O.C. "B" Coy Captain H. Ronald D.S.O., O.C. "C" Coy Capt J. L. Wright MC, O.C. "D" Coy Capt. K. W. McKenzie MC.....

During the day the mustard gas which takes some time to have effect resulted in the evacuation of the following officers – The C.O. Lt. Col. R. M. Sadler MC, Capt. K. W. McKenzie MC, Lieut. W. R. Haigh MC A/adjutant, Lieut. G. R. McPhee, Lieut. C. Blackford Sig O., Lieut. E. W. Dark, Lieut. R. E. Masterson, Lieut. H. E. Harries, Lieut. H. R. Booth, Lieut. R. W. Pettit, Lieut. W. Moore, Lieut. C. R. Nicholson also Captain H. T. Allan MC who was attached to the Brigade on the right as Liason officer. The following officers were wounded – Capt. H. Ronald D.S.O., Lieut. T. L. Adam, Lieut. R. T. Phelps, Lieut. W. H. Robertson.

The remaining casualties were 102 O.R. evacuated gassed

18 O.R. K.I.A.

85 O.R. wounded

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

17th Battalion

The 17th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. The Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915.

After further training in Egypt, the 17th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 22 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August. The Battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time, although in a reserve role, between 18 and 28 August. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in

Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 17th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the quagmire the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.

After another winter of trench duty, 17th Battalion helped to thwart the German Spring Offensive of 1918. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the Allied armies turned to the offensive and the 17th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaulieu Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Notification was sent to Corporal Craig's father – Mr Andrew Craig on 12th October, 1918 that his son was dangerously wounded. Later notification was sent on 7th November, 1918 that Corporal John Craig's condition was improving.

Corporal John Henry Dickie Craig was admitted to 5th Southern General Hospital at Portsmouth, Hampshire England on 28th October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to thigh & a compound fracture femur (severe).

Corporal John Henry Dickie Craig died at 4.15 am on 17th November, 1918 at 5th Southern General Hospital, Fawcett Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action – shrapnel wounds to right thigh & fractured femur & Haemorrhage.

A death for John H. Craig, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

Corporal John Henry Dickie Craig was buried on 21st November, 1918 in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England – Plot number Grave No. 464, Section J and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal John Henry Dickie Craig - *The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside where the "Last Post" was sounded. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. Gilmour Neil of Portsmouth. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

A letter was sent from Base Records on 20th April, 1920 to Mr A. Craig, father, of the late Corporal J. H. D. Craig, advising that his son's remains had been exhumed from Grave No. 464, Section J, Milton Cemetery & had been re-interred in Plot H. Row 19. Grave No. 11 in the same cemetery. It was explained that "*this work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain*".

John Henry Dickie Craig requested in his Will, dated 9th January, 1918, that all his real estate & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Margaret Craig, Broadway, Killingworth, Newcastle, NSW.

Corporal John Henry Dickie Craig was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Craig's father - Mr Andrew Craig, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal John Henry Dickie Craig – service number 1912, aged 22, of 17th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Andrew Craig and Margaret Clelland Craig, of Killingworth, New South Wales. Born in Scotland.

Corporal J. H. D. Craig is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 82.



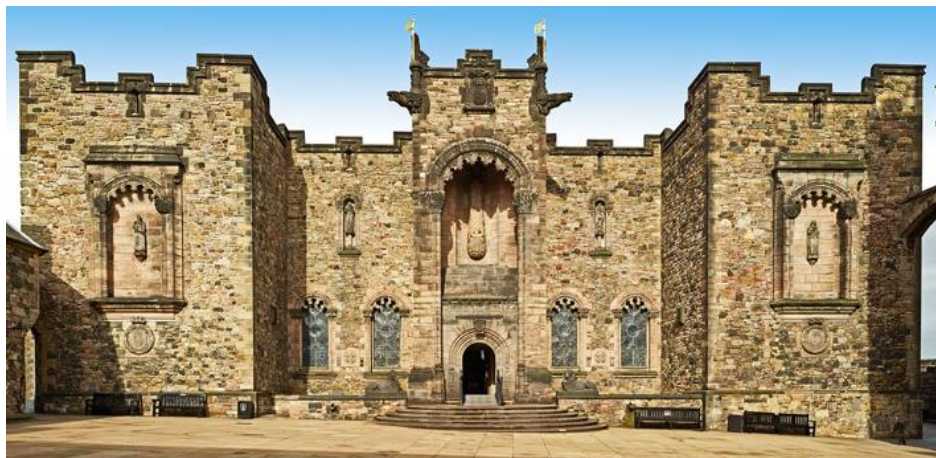
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Craig is remembered on the Killingworth War Memorial, located at the corner of The Broadway & Brooks Street, Killingworth, NSW.



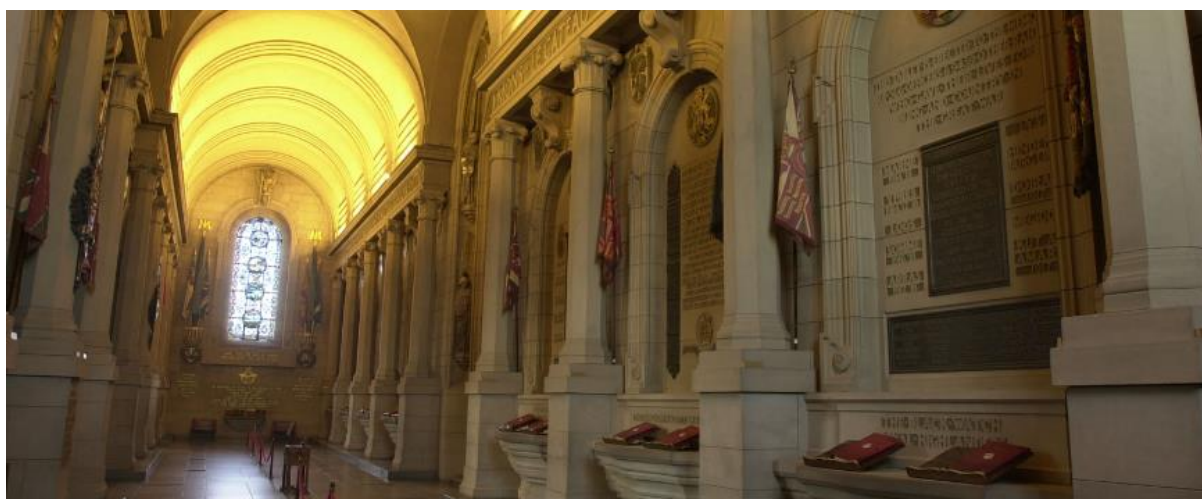
Killingworth War Memorial (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Mr Robert McLardy)

Corporal John Henry Dickie Craig is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



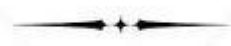
The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(74 pages of Corporal John Henry Dickie Craig'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



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 400

WOUNDED

Corporal J. H. D. Craig (Newcastle)

(The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 25 May, 1918)

DISTRICT CASUALTIES

DIED OF WOUNDS

CORPORAL CRAIG – Mr and Mrs A. Craig, of Killingworth, have received word that their son, Corporal John Craig, died of wounds on the 17th inst. He left Australia with the 17th Battalion in 1915.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 28 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CRAIG – Died of wounds in England, November 17, 1918, Corp. John Henry Dickie, 17th Batt., dearly loved brother of Andrew and Agnes Craig, Mary-street, Thirroul.

A hero he lived, a hero he fell,
Though only a lad, he did his part well;
He gave his life for a cause that is true,
Fighting for country, for home, and for you.

(Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 November, 1918)

450th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Cpl. JOHN HY. D. CRAIG, Killingworth

(Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 December, 1918)

On Active Service

CRAIG – In loving memory of Corporal John H. D. Craig, 17th Batt., died of wounds, November 17, 1918, dearly loved brother of Andrew and Agnes Craig, Thirroul.

Hail and farewell; all honour give
To those who, nobly striving, nobly fell,
That we might live.

(Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 November, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CRAIG – In loving memory of our dear brother, Corporal Jack Craig, 17th Batt., who died of wounds Portsmouth Hospital November 16, 1918. – Ever remembered by his loving brother and sister, Alex. and Maggie

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 16 November, 1922)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 7th July, 1921, to Mr A. Craig, Broadway, Killingworth, Newcastle, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone his son, of the late Corporal J. H. D. Craig, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Corporal J. H. D. Craig does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

His Duty Done God Called Him Home

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth contains 426 Commonwealth War Graves – 192 relating to World War 1 & 234 relating to World War 2. There are 12 Australian War Graves from World War 1 in this cemetery.

It was opened in 1911, and contains war graves of both World Wars. The 1914-1918 burials are mainly in Plot 1. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on the northern side of the chapel in honour of all the servicemen buried in the cemetery. The 1939-1945 War burials are widely spread throughout the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Australian War Graves in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by Mr Peter Bennett)*

Photo of Corporal J. H. D. Craig's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers)



Cemetery Chapel at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by Basher Eyre)*