

**Cam Cemetery,
Cam, County Roscommon,
Republic of Ireland War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



191 PRIVATE

J. M. DOYLE

17TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH MARCH, 1916 Age 31

Compassionate Lord Jesus

Grant Him Eternal Rest

John Michael DOYLE

John Michael Doyle was born at St. Peters, Athlone, County Westmeath, Ireland on 12th May, 1885 to parents James & Maria Josephine Doyle.

John Michael Doyle attended Marist Brother's College, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Republic of Ireland.

John Michael Doyle was apprenticed to T. Casey Grocers, Ballana, Ireland.

The 1901 Ireland Census recorded John M. Doyle as a 20 year old Farmer, living with his Sister & widowed mother at Connaught Street, Athlone, Westmeath, Ireland. His sister was listed as Augusta A. Doyle (Publican & Shopkeeper, aged 21) & his mother as Maria J. Doyle (Farmer, aged 52). Also listed were 4 Boarders – Nellie Russell (Actress, aged 25), Neto Cloide (?) (Actress, aged 23), Edward Grimes (Professional Actor, aged 40) & Rose Grimes (Actress, aged 38).

[The 1911 Ireland Census recorded Maria Jos. Doyle, aged 67, Retired Grocer, living at O'Connell Street, Athlone, Westmeath, Ireland. Also living with Maria Doyle were 2 of her children – Berth Val Doyle (Male) (R. Officer & R. Collector, aged 325) & Agusta Mary Doyle (Hotel Keeper, aged 30). Also living with the family were 4 boarders – Abbybale Greagham (Post Office Clerk, aged 30), Kate Dunning (Shop Assistant, aged 19), Michael Rodgers (Cycle Mechanic, aged 19) & Edward O'Connor (P.O. Lineman, aged 18).]

According to information proved by his cousin for the Roll of Honour – John Michael Doyle was aged 26 when he came to Australia.

John Michael Doyle was a 29 year old, single, Assistant Butcher (listed as Commercial Traveller on Report of Death of Soldier Army form B. 2090) from 46 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 28th January, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 191 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Maria Doyle, 19 O'Connell Street, Athlone, Ireland.

While camped at Liverpool, NSW for recruit training, Private John Michael Doyle was fined 5/- one days' pay & 2 days confined to Barracks for overstaying leave from 12 pm on 16th March, 1915 to 6 am on 18th March, 1915 – 30 hours. He was fined again – 2 days' pay for being absent without leave from Liverpool Camp from 1 pm on 27th March, 1915 until 6 am on 29th March, 1915.

Private John Michael Doyle embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 12th May, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 17th Infantry Battalion "A" Company.

Private John Michael Doyle proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on Gallipoli Peninsula on 16th August, 1915.

Private John Michael Doyle was transferred to Hospital on 18th September, 1915 at Gallipoli Peninsula. He was admitted to 1st Casualty Clearing Station with Dysentery then transferred to Hospital Ship *Maheno* on 18th September, 1915. Pte Doyle was admitted to St. Patricks Hospital, Malta on 23rd September, 1915. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle* on 13th October, 1915.

Private John Michael Doyle was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London on 19th October, 1915 with Dysentery & discharged on 23rd December, 1915.

17th Battalion

The 17th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 20 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. For a short period part of the 17th garrisoned Pope's Hill, but for most of its time on the peninsular the Battalion was responsible for the defence of Quinn's Post, one of the most contested positions along the entire ANZAC front. The Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915.

(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private John Michael Doyle died on 5th March, 1916 at Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, London, England from Asthma & Capillary Bronchitis.

A death for John M. Doyle, aged 31, was registered in the March quarter, 1916 in the district of Woolwich, London, England.

The body of the late Private John Michael Doyle was taken to Athlone, Ireland at the request of relatives. Private John Michael Doyle was buried on 9th March, 1916 in Cam Cemetery, Cam, County Roscommon, Republic of Ireland – Plot (south of ruins) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper Article - *Westmeath Independent*, Republic of Ireland April 1917:

Late Private John Doyle.

At the meeting of the Athlone No 2 Council on Saturday, the War Office was granted permission by the Council to erect a memorial over the grave of the late Private John Doyle of the Australian Forces, in Cam graveyard.

Private John Michael Doyle requested in his Will, dated 9th June, 1915, that all his money, property & effects to be left to his mother Mrs Maria J. Doyle, of 19 O'Connell Street, Athlone, Ireland & in the event of his mother dying before then all money, property & effects to be left to his brother Thomas J. Doyle, Baylough, Athlone, Ireland.

A War Pension was granted to Maria Josephine Doyle, of 19 O'Connell Street, Athlone, Ireland, mother of the late Private John Michael Doyle, in the sum of 70/- per fortnight from 4th September, 1917.

Private John Michael Doyle was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Doyle's widowed mother – Mrs M. Doyle, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent April, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. M. Doyle – service number 191, of 17th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. M. Doyle 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.

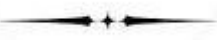


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

John Michael Doyle is remembered on the National Roll of Honour, Ireland 1914 -1921.

(55 pages of Private John Michael Doyle'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



Newspaper Notices

Died from Wounds

Intelligence was received in Athlone yesterday of the death of Private John M. Doyle, of the Australian Imperial Forces, from wounds received in Gallipoli. Private Doyle, who died in a London hospital, was formerly attached to the staff of the Westmouth Independent.

(Irish Times, Dublin, Republic of Ireland – 7 March, 1916)

Memorial Notices

Private John M Doyle

of the Australian Imperial Forces.

At the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, the death occurred on Sunday evening last of Private John M Doyle, of the Australian Imperial Forces, from an acute attack of pneumonia. When the news reached Athlone on Monday morning it caused considerable regret locally, as "Johnnie Doyle," as he was affectionately called, was a general favourite, and belonged to a highly-respected and popular Athlone family. He was the son of the late Mrs Doyle, O'Connell Street, and was formerly attached to the commercial staff of the "Westmeath Independent." He had been very successful in business in Australia where he spent seven years. At the outbreak of war he, with a number of other Irishmen, volunteered for active service. After a short training he was transferred to Egypt, where he completed his training. Subsequently he left with the Australian Expeditionary Force for the Gallipoli Peninsula, where he took part in many engagements. After being a considerable time in the firing line he got badly wounded with shrapnel and got one bayonet thrust. He also contracted enteric fever. He was treated in Malta hospital for a month, when he was sufficiently recovered to enable him to make the journey to England. In the English hospital he fully recovered from his wounds, but was in a very weak condition. He was allowed home at Xmas and remained for nearly two months, and during that time his health wonderfully improved. Little did his friends think the end was so near. He left for the headquarters of his regiment in London in the best of spirits a month ago and was able to do duty for some time. Unfortunately, acute pneumonia set in, and his condition, which was not able to bear the strain and he peacefully passed away on Sunday evening fully consoled by the rites of the Catholic Church. His brother, Mr B. V. Doyle, when he heard of his serious illness, immediately went over to the Woolwich hospital and was with deceased to the last. The greatest sympathy is felt for Mrs Doyle and her family in their great loss.

The remains, enclosed in a massive oak coffin, arrived by the mid-day train at Athlone on Thursday. They were met at the station by a guard of the general public. They were placed on a gun carriage drawn by six horses and guarded by two mounted men. A firing party of 12 preceded the remains and a company of 25, under the command of a lieutenant, followed the gun carriage.

As the sad procession proceeded through Castle Street, Barrack Street, King Street, and Connaught Street the shops were closely shuttered and business was suspended. In private houses the blinds were closely drawn. He was interred in the family burial ground, Cam, with full military honours.

The Chief mourners were: Mrs Doyle (mother), B. V. Doyle (brother), Mrs Martin, Mrs Drury, Mrs Healion (sisters), Rev. Father Morris, C.C., St. Peter's, officiated at the graveside.

(Westmeath Independent, Ireland - March, 1916)

Late Private J. M. Doyle, Athlone

Athlone Sympathy

At the meeting of the Athlone Board of Guardians on Saturday, Mr Larkin proposed—"That we adjourn the Board as a mark of respect to his memory and to his family. His brother, Mr Doyle, is our respected relieving officer here. The late Mr Doyle was well known in the country and in the town and he is a young man who gave his services and his life for his King and country. It shows how loyal Irishmen are when the cause of freedom is fought for. Chairman—I am sure every member of the Board regrets very much the very sudden death of poor young Doyle. As Mr Hughes says, he was as well known in the country as in Athlone. There is one consolation his people have and it is in knowing that he died in a good cause. The motion was passed in silence.

(Westmeath Independent, Ireland - March, 1916)

Public Sympathy

Honour the Brave

At the Athlone Urban Council on Wednesday, the Chairman, Mr J. J. Coen, J. P., said;- gentlemen, there are two matters I regret to bring before the Council. I refer to two deaths which have occurred recently, one in the town and one in England. The death in England was that of a son of one of Athlone's oldest and most respected inhabitants, Mrs Doyle of O'Connell Street. Her son John Doyle, who came back from Australia to enlist and do everything he could to help his country died in England. We had another very sad death in the town, the death of Lieutenant Jennings, whose family reside in New Zealand. His brother was killed at Mons, and he died here as a result of wounds received at Mons. I, therefore, beg to propose a vote of sympathy with Mrs Doyle on the death of her son, and with the relatives of Lieutenant Jennings, on behalf of the people of the town in which this young gentleman died. Mr O'Moran— We ought also join in that vote the name of Mr Murphy, of Baylough, whose son was killed in Mesopotamia. Chairman - Certainly. I did not hear of his death. Mr M. J. Hughes, J.P., -.I beg to second the motion. Mr M. J. Lennon, J.P. - I wish to endorse the motion. Mr Doyle enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces when the call came. It only proves that Irishmen are doing their duty in this war when you have such men as Mr Doyle, known in the army as Private John Doyle, and Mr Jennings, whose name proclaims him an Irishman coming from bounds of the earth to serve their country. It only proves that the Kaiser is up against a greater problem than he thought when he entered on this war. Since the war broke out a large number of Athlone men have made the great sacrifice by laying down their lives for their country. The last time I was in Dublin I met an Athlone man who took me to Stephen's Green, where on the Roll of Honour of the Dublin Fusiliers, is the name one Athlone man in the person of Mr Walker, a brother of Mr H. Walker. I hope when the war is over we may have such a monument to the men of Athlone who died in this war (hear, hear).The motion was passed.

(Westmeath Independent, Ireland - March, 1916)

Military Funeral in Athlone

The remains of the late Private John M. Doyle, of the Australian Imperial Forces, whose death occurred at Woolwich Hospital on Sunday, arrived in Athlone yesterday for interment. A firing party and guard of honour of the R.F.A. attended the funeral. Private Doyle was a member of a respected Athlone family.

(Irish Times, Dublin, Republic of Ireland – 10 March, 1916)

Athlone and the Army

The Athlone Board of Guardians on Saturday adjourned their meeting as a mark of respect to the memory of Private John Doyle, "who died for his King and county." Private Doyle was an Athlone man with the Australian Force. The Athlone Town Council passed a vote of sympathy with Private Doyle's family, and also with the relatives of Lieutenant Jennings.

(Irish Times, Dublin, Republic of Ireland – 13 March, 1916)

Honouring the Brave at Athlone

The Athlone Town Council, on the motion of the Chairman, have passed a resolution of sympathy with Mrs Doyle on the death of her son, Private John N. Doyle, Colonial Expeditionary Force. They also decided to send to the family in New Zealand of Lieut. Jennings, of the Royal Artillery, who died from his wounds in Athlone, an expression of their deep regret, and also tendered sympathy to Mr Murphy, Baylough, on the death of his son in Mesopotamia.

(Weekly Freeman's Journal, Dublin, Republic of Ireland – 18 March, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES LIST NO. 155

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Seventeenth Battalion: Private J. M. Doyle (Ireland)

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 21 March, 1916)

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 J. M. Doyle does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Compassionate Lord Jesus

Grant Him Eternal Rest

Cam Cemetery, Cam, County Roscommon, Republic of Ireland

Cam Cemetery contains only 1 Commonwealth War Grave.



Cam Cemetery, Cam, County Roscommon (Photos courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)



Photo of Private J. M. Doyle's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cam Cemetery, Cam, County Roscommon, Republic of Ireland.



(Photo by Malcolm Ross – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)



(Photo by Malcolm Ross – 2020)