

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



733 SERJEANT

J. M. HAWLEY

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

18TH AUGUST, 1917

John Michael HAWLEY

John Michael Hawley was born at Burketown, Queensland on 20th January, 1889 to parents Thomas Francis & Mary Josephine Hawley (nee Drake).

John Michael Hawley attended Rockhampton Christian Brothers' School, Queensland.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Rockhampton, Queensland listed John Michael Hawley, Clerk, of West Street. Thomas Hawley was listed at 117 West Street.

Another 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Rockhampton North, Queensland listed John Michael Hawley, Clerk, of Nicholson Street. Mary Hawley was also listed at Nicholson Street.

John Michael Hawley was a 28 year old, single, Accountant from Stanwell, Queensland when he enlisted on 20th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 733 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Hawley, Nell Cool Siding, Rockhampton, Queensland. John Hawley stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served for 3 years with Central Queensland Light Horse.

Private John Michael Hawley was posted to Depot in Queensland on 26th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Depot Battalion, Enoggera, Queensland from 1st July, 1916 then transferred to Corporals School, Queensland from 7th August, 1916.

Private John Michael Hawley completed a Course of Instruction in Musketry at Enoggera on 3rd September, 1916 with the qualification of Good.

Private John Michael Hawley had passed an Examination for the Rank of Corporal at the Corporals School Rifle Range Camp at Enoggera on 23rd September, 1916 with the standard passed -Good.

Corporal John Michael Hawley attended Sergeants School in Queensland from 30th September, 1916.

Corporal John Michael Hawley had passed an Examination for the rank of Sergeant at Enoggera on 25th October, 1916 with the Standard passed – Fair.

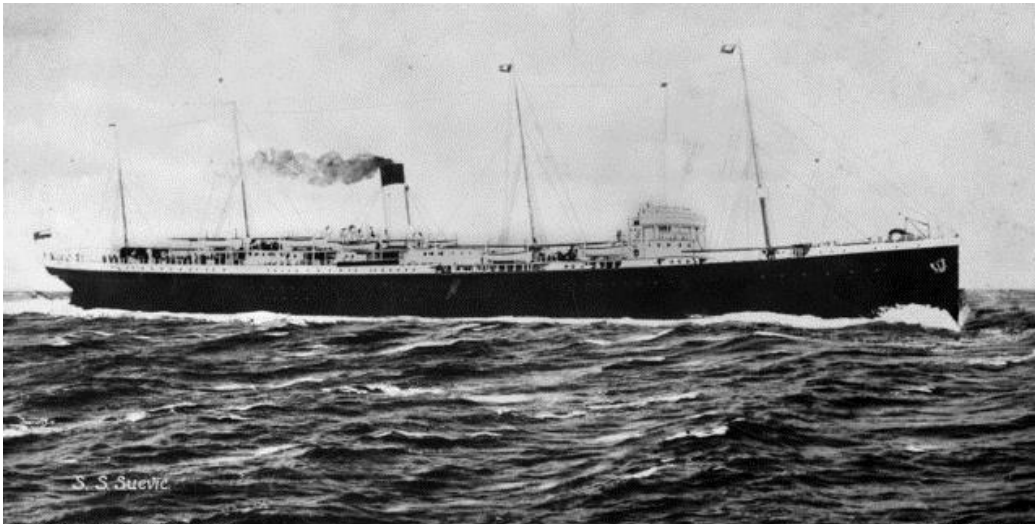
Sergeant John Michael Hawley was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 31st Battalion from 31st October, 1916 then transferred to 11th Depot Battalion, Queensland from 20th February, 1917. Sergeant Hawley was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 31st Depot Battalion, Queensland from 5th March, 1917 then transferred to Machine Gun Depot at Seymour, Victoria from 29th March, 1917.

Sergeant John Michael Hawley was admitted to Seymour Clearing Hospital, Victoria on 21st May, 1917 with Parotitis. He was transferred to Isolation Camp, Ascot Vale, Victoria on 22nd May, 1917 then transferred the same day & admitted to No. 5 Australian General Hospital with Impacted wisdom tooth with abscess. Sergeant Hawley was transferred to No. 14 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Macleod, Victoria on 5th June, 1917 then transferred to Macleod Rest Camp from 13th June, 1917 to 19th June, 1917.

Sergeant John Michael Hawley was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 3rd Machine Gun Company on 21st June, 1917 with the rank of Corporal.

The O.C. of No. 3 Machine Gun Company, Machine Gun Depot, Seymour, Victoria wrote the following Certificate:
"This is to certify that Sergeant Hawley, John Michael has at date of embarkation just returned from Hospital and his papers are still in the hands of the S.O.1. He has been reattested. He has received about 8 weeks training in this Depot and has ___ his Musketry course and also Part I of his Machine Gun Course. He is a good and reliable N.C.O."

Private (rank as per Embarkation Roll) John Michael Hawley embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 21st June, 1917 with the 3rd Machine Gun Company, 13th Reinforcements. He was promoted as Acting Voyage Only Sergeant on 21st June, 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04754.001

Troopship *Suevic*

Acting Voyage Only Sergeant John Michael Hawley was reported missing on 18th August, 1917 from HMAT *Suevic* (A29) while at Sea.

A Court of Enquiry was held at Sea on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 18th August, 1917 for the purpose of enquiring into and reporting on absence of 733 A/ V. O. Sergeant John Michael Hawley of 13th Reinforcements of 3rd Machine Gun Company.

1st. Witness.

Lieut. J.K.Rogers, 12th. M.G.Coy. A.I.F. having been duly sworn states :-

I am O.C. M.G.Coys. and Sgt. Hawley is a member of 13/3 M.G.Rfts. It was reported to me this morning that Sgt. Hawley was not present with his fatigue. I immediately instituted inquiries and searched the ship, but found Sgt. Hawley missing.

(Sgd) J.K.Rogers. Lieut.

Witness withdraws.

2nd. Witness

Lieut. G.V.Oxenham A.F.C. A.I.F. being duly sworn states :-

I was officer of the third relief of the ships guard that mounted on the morning of 17th. at 8 a.m. On the morning of 18th. roughly, at 4-30 a.m. I was sitting on a seat on Port Side of Promenade Deck and saw three or four men approaching me quickly. I challenged them and when asked if I was O.C. guard I said "Yes". Sgt. McPherson who was Sgt. of that relief was one of them. He told me that a sentry on the starboard side aft reported a man overboard. I ordered / run & him to/report to the bridge, meanwhile I ran aft& interviewed the sentry. I examined the sentry and brought him to the bridge to interview the officer on the bridge. We both ran to the bridge. The ships officer on the bridge was the Chief Officer, and the matter was at once reported to the Captain.

2/
(Sgd) G.V.Oxenham. Lieut.

Witness withdraws.

3rd. Witness

Sgt. H.D.Macpherson. 9/57 Bn. A.I.F. having been duly sworn states :-

Sometime between 4-20 and 4-30 a.m. on 18-8-17. Ptes. Rily and Byrne reported to me on "A" Troopdeck that Pte. Gray R.D. the sentry on the starboard side Isolation Hosp. aft. had told him that he thought a man had fallen overboard. I doubled along to the spot and saw Gray and he told me the same that he had told Byrne and Rily. From there I doubled towards the bridge, but on the way met the officer of the relief and reported same to him. He then ordered me to report to the officer on the bridge. When I was on the bridge the officer and the sentry reported there too. From there the officer and myself proceeded to the spot where the man was believed to have fallen overboard and we found a lifebelt, front and back pattern with the initial "H" on it. Rily and Byrne were on the 2-6 relief of the light picquet.

(Sgd) Hugh D. Macpherson. Sgt. 9/57th.

Witness withdraws.

4th. Witness

Pte. R.D.Gray. 9/57 Bn. A.I.F. having been duly sworn states :-

This morning I was on the third relief of the ships guard on the Isolation Hosp. starboard. I saw someone standing by the ships rail reaching about 5 or 6 yards from my post. I thought he was just sea-sick and then walked along my beat. Then I heard him vomit violently and came back to where I saw him first. On looking to the place where he had been standing I saw his legs disappearing over the rail. Then I went over to ascertain whether I was right

or not and found that he was not there. Afterwards I looked to see if he had fallen between the rail and the isolation ward. I called out "Is anyone there" and received no answer. I then came back to my post. Two of the light picquet came along and I told them to inform the sergeant of the guard. It would be about 8 minutes between the time I thought I saw the man fall overboard and the time I informed the light picquet. It was quite dark at the time, but the man appeared to be about 5'10" high - (The Court inspect the spot where the man was last seen by Gray) - I am of the opinion that a tall man, standing on the raised platform by the rail and leaning over could easily overbalance and fall overboard. As far as I could see the man was alone. My reason for not reporting at once was that I thought I could not leave my post except in case of fire. I found a lifebelt where the man had been.

(Sgd) Reginald Denis Gray. Private. 9/57.

Witness withdraws.

5th. Witness

Pte. Rily L.F. 9/57. Bn. A.I.F. having been duly sworn states :-

I was on light Piquet and myself and Pte. Byrne were on duty and we passed Pte. Gray's post and he asked if we were Sergeant of the guard. I said "No" I asked what was the matter. He said I think there is a man fallen overboard. I asked if he had reported it and he said "No" I reported at once to Sgt. Macpherson.

(Sgd) L.F.Rily. Pte. 9/57 Batt.

Witness withdraws.

6th. Witness Sgt. B.E.Armit. 12/7 M.G.C. A.I.F.

During the last couple of days Sgt. Hawley appeared to be very unwell and depressed. I believe he was suffering from sea-sickness. I recognise the life-belt produced as being Sgt. Hawley's. Hawley sleeps next to me and at reveille he was absent from his hammock.

(Sgd) B.E.Armit. A/Sgt. 12-7 M.G.Coy.

Witness withdraws.

7th. Witness Sgt. H.G.Herring, having been sworn states :-

Hawley's health has been very indifferent during the voyage especially during the last four days. He seemed to be very worried over something. He is generally very quiet in his habits.

(Sgd) H.G.Herring. Sgt.
13/7 M.G.Coy.

Witness withdraws.

4th. Witness Pte. Gray R.D. recalled states :-

When the officer of the guard took me to the bridge, I was not sure that a man actually had fallen overboard, but I am certain now that such was the case.

(Sgd) Reginald Denis. Gray.

Witness withdraws.

8th Witness H. Bowan Chief Officer. "Suevic" having been duly sworn states:-

At 4-47 a.m. an N.C.O. reported to me that he thought that a man had gone overboard. I asked if he was certain whether a man had gone overboard and he said he only thought such was the case. I had a lifebuoy got ready and sent for the Captain. I sent the man to make sure and find out where the man had fallen overboard. The captain and Lieut. Oxenham and the sentry then arrived on the bridge. The captain asked the sentry what he knew about the man: he said he'd seen him sick over the rail and when he turned

round again he fancied he saw his legs dis-appearing over the rail. The sentry was not certain that the man had fallen over. The sentry stated that he had not reported the matter because he thought he should not leave his post. In my opinion a man falling over from this place would undoubtedly be drawn into the propellers. The ship was not put back on account of the sentry not being sure of the facts and not having reported immediately;

(Sgd) H. Bowan. Chief Officer.

Witness withdraws.

The Court having maturely considered the foregoing evidence report that :-

- (1) No. 733 A/V.O. Sgt. Hawley J.M. 13th. Rfts. 3rd M.G.Coy. whilst standing on the wooden casing of the steam pipes and vomiting over the railings of the ship overbalanced and fell overboard, at about 4-30 a.m. on the 18th August 1917 on H.M.A.T. A.29 Suevic, at Sea.
- (2) The sentry on the Starboard Side Aft, Pte. Gray, through ignorance failed to report the occurrence as promptly as he should have done, but, at that time he was in doubt as to whether a man had actually fallen overboard.
- (3) Owing to the delay in reporting the occurrence, and the indefiniteness of the reports received by the ships officers, they were powerless to act.
- (4) Owing to the position at which the accident occurred, we consider it almost certain that Sgt. Hawley would be drawn under the propellers.

Signed at Sea on H.M.A.T. A.29 (Suevic) this 18th. day of August 1917.

(Sgd) W.P.Heslop. Lieut. A.F.C. A.I.F. PRESIDENT.

(Sgd) J.W.Axtens. Lieut. M.G.C. A.I.F.)

(Sgd) C.M.Griffiths. 2/Lt. 9th/57th.) MEMBERS.
A.I.F.)

I concur.

(Sgd) P.C.Raper. Major.

At Sea. 19th. Aug.1917. C.O.Troops. A.29.

C.O.Troops states ship was 5 days out from shore and there were no ships following.

Casualty to be reported as "Drowned at Sea".

(Sgd) J. Neale. Capt.
Officer i/c Records.

The Court of Enquiry found that Acting Voyage Only Sergeant John Michael Hawley had died at about 4.30 am on 18th August, 1917 having overbalanced & fallen overboard from *Suevic* whilst on the voyage from Sierra Leone to London, England. The ship was 5 days out from shore & there were no ships following. Acting Voyage Only Sergeant John Michael Hawley was found to have died as a result of having "drowned at sea" accidentally from HMAT *Suevic* (A29).

Official finding from The Court of Enquiry: "*The Court are of the opinion that Sgt Hawley overbalanced & fell overboard 18-8-17 & owing to the position at which the accident occurred, consider it almost certain that he must have been drawn under the propellers.*"

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – John Michael Hawley was a “Native of North Queensland, drowned after leaving Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone last place he saw land, first place he saw snow.”

Sergeant John Michael Hawley is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Sergeant John Michael Hawley was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Hawley’s father – Mr T. Hawley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant John Michael Hawley – service number 733, of 3rd Coy., Australian Machine Gun Corps. No family details are listed.

John Hawley is remembered on the Kabra 1914-1919 Honour Roll, which was located at the Kabra Railway Station but was rescued by the Publican & is now located in the dining room of the Kabra Hotel, Queensland.



Kabra 1914-1919 Honour Roll (Photo from Queensland War Memorials)

Sergeant J. M. Hawley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 178.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(47 pages of Sergeant John Michael Hawley'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



[Connected to Sergeant John Michael Hawley:](#)

Younger brother Patrick Francis Hawley – Enlisted 22nd July, 1915 as a 21 year old Farmer. Embarked on 5th November, 1915 from Melbourne, Victoria with 31st Battalion, 1st Reinforcements – Service number 1545. Sergeant Patrick Francis Hawley, 8th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery was killed in action at Polygon Wood, France on 27th September, 1917. Remembered on Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.



Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST No. 338

IN OTHER STATES

VICTORIA – Drowned: A.-Sgt. John Michael Hawley, Rockhampton, 18/8/17.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 17 September, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HAWLEY – Acting-sergeant J. M. Hawley, drowned at sea, 18th August, 1917.

HAWLEY – Sergeant P. F. Hawley, killed in action, 27th September, 1917

(Inserted by their sorrowing Mother, Sister and Brothers)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 29 November, 1917) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Q'land – 1 Dec, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HAWLEY – In loving memory of Sergeant J. M. Hawley, 3rd Machine Gun Company, drowned at sea, 18th August, 1917.

“Gone, but not forgotten.”

(Inserted by his Mother, Sister and Brothers).

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 17 August, 1918) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Q'land – 24 August, 1918)

PROBATE OF WILL

The Registrar of the Supreme Court, Mr J. R. Gair, has granted probate of the will of John Michael Hawley, formerly of Brisbane, clerk, but lately an acting-sergeant in the Australian Imperial Forces, to Ellen Margaret Hawley, of Mount Morgan, spinster, the sole executrix named in the will. Messrs. Hobler and Powell presented the executrix in the matter.

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 9 April, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HAWLEY – Sergeant John M. Hawley, drowned off troopship Suevic, 18th August, 1917.

HAWLEY – Sergeant P. F. Hawley, killed in action, Polygon Wood, 26th September, 1917.

All things that toward the heavens grow,

In the huge struggle earth maintains,

Are clutched by power that restrains

As waves but ocean's undertow,
Yet ever higher life remains,
Of forms decay or death makes moan;
We mark our way, our ideal reigns-
We live by sacrifice alone.

Inserted by their loving Mother, Sister, and Brothers.

(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 4 October, 1919)

DISPENSING WITH FILING AND PASSING ACCOUNTS

In the Supreme Court, in Chambers, yesterday morning, before His Honour My Justice Lukin, an application was made by executrix in the estate of the late John Michael Hawley, formerly of Brisbane, clerk, but latterly acting – sergeant in the Australian Imperial Forces, deceased, that the filing and passing of her account as such executrix be dispensed with until the youngest beneficiary attained the age of twenty-one years. His Honour made an order accordingly. Mr L. E. Hobler, Messrs Hobler and Powell, appeared in support of the application.

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 3 March, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HAWLEY – Sergeant John Michael Hawley, drowned off Troopship “Suevic”, 18th August, 1917.

Full waves, full tides, swing in from out the vast,
Lapping and dashing, breasting up the marge;
Yet ever gently turned, or backward cast
In sullen wrath. The steadfast shore comes large,
Here meet two infinities, equal, face to face,
In wage titanic for all time and space.

(Inserted by his loving mother, sister and brothers).

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 18 August, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HAWLEY – Sergeant John Michael Hawley, drowned off Troopship Suevic, 18th August, 1917.

(Inserted by his loving mother, sister and brothers).

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 18 August, 1921) & (The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Q'land – 20 August, 1921)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HAWLEY – In loving memory of Sergeant John Michael Hawley, drowned off the troopship “Suevic”, 18th August, 1917.

(Inserted by his loving mother, sister and brothers).

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 18 August, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HAWLEY – Sergeant John Michael Hawley, drowned off Troopship Suevic, 18th August, 1917.

Asleep in the deep.

(Inserted by his loving mother, sister and brothers).

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 25 August, 1923)

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



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

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Serjeant J. M. Hawley's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by Charlie – Find a Grave)