

**Belfast City Cemetery,
Belfast, Northern Ireland**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

R. L. MACLEAN

19TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 34

Thy Will Be Done

Reginald Leopold MacLEAN

Reginald Leopold MacLean was born 18th May, 1885 in Newcastle, NSW to parents John and Sarah Anne MacLean.

Reginald Leopold MacLean was employed (on probation) as a School Teacher at Islington Public from 2nd March, 1902. He was transferred to Merewether Public School on 18th March, 1902 then transferred to Newcastle Public School on 18th April, 1902. Reginald MacLean was promoted to Class III from 1st April, 1903 then transferred to Newcastle South Public School from 17th April, 1904. He was promoted to Class II from 1st April, 1904 & Class I from 1st April, 1905. Reginald MacLean gained "A" Scholarship at an exam for admission to Training School in September, 1905.

Reginald Leopold MacLean married Ettie Jean Harrison on 11th December, 1907 at Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW. Their marriage was registered in the district of Redfern, Sydney, NSW.

Reginald Leopold MacLean was given temporary attendance at Cook's Hill from 23rd January, 1908. (School information from NSW Teacher's Rolls 1900-1908).

Births were registered in Newcastle, NSW for the following children of Ettie & Reginald Maclean: Heather B. Maclean (1908) & Leillma J. Maclean (1912).

Reginald Leopold MacLean was a 31 year old, married, School Teacher from East Maitland, NSW when he enlisted at Newcastle, NSW on 17th August, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Ettie Jean MacLean, Victoria Street, East Maitland, NSW. Reginald Maclean stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously attended Cadet Training for 6 years, held a Commission & then resigned.

Private Reginald Leopold MacLean was posted to "B" Company, Newcastle Infantry Battalion on 21st August, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "C" Company, 36th Battalion at Rutherford on 26th August, 1916. Private MacLean was transferred to 2nd Battalion at Liverpool, NSW on 19th November, 1916 then transferred on 20th November, 1916 to 34th Battalion at Liverpool.

New South Wales Police Gazette – 27 December, 1916:

Deserters from the Military Forces of the Commonwealth

From the Military Camp, Liverpool

Maclean, Reginald Leopold, private, 31 years of age, 5 feet 9 ½ inches, medium complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, vaccination marks on left arm; a school teacher, a native of N.S.W. Deserted 25th ultimo.

Private Reginald Leopold MacLean was transferred to A Company of Infantry Depot Battalion on 14th February, 1917 as Acting Sergeant.

New South Wales Police Gazette – 25 April, 1917:

The military warrants issued for the arrest ofReginald Leopold McLean....., charged with desertion, have been cancelled.

Acting Sergeant Reginald Leopold MacLean was promoted to Second Lieutenant on 23rd July, 1917.

From the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette – 2 August, 1917:

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

To be 2nd Lieutenants

Sergeant REGINALD LEOPOLD MACLEAN, Australian Imperial Force.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean was transferred to ___ Battalion at Liverpool on 17th September, 1917. He was transferred to "E" Company, 1st Infantry Battalion on 22nd September, 1917. Second Lieutenant MacLean was transferred to "C" Company, 1st Infantry Battalion on 15th February, 1918. On 25th February, 1918 he was transferred to 21st Reinforcements of 19th Battalion.

Reginald Leopold MacLean applied for a Commission in the Australian Imperial Forces on 13th February, 1918. He stated his educational qualifications as 15 years a Teacher with NSW Education Department. Trained 1906 – 1907. His Military Qualifications were listed as 6 years with A.M. Forces – Lieutenant & resigned in 1914. He had attended No. 5 Duntroon Officer Training School from 23rd October to 20th December, 1916.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor (A71)* on 28th February, 1918 with the 19th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 20th April, 1918.

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.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean was marched in to 5th Training Battalion in England on 20th April, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 15th May, 1918 with Broncho Pneumonia. He was discharged to duty on 20th May, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean proceeded Overseas to France via Folkestone on 23rd July, 1918. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France from England on 26th July, 1918. Second Lieutenant MacLean was marched out from A.I.B.D. on 28th July, 1918 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 19th Battalion in France on 28th July, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean was sent to 4th Army School from 9th August, 1918 & returned to 19th Battalion on 1st September, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean was wounded in action in France on 3rd October, 1918. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 3rd October, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to head then transferred the same day to 58th Casualty Clearing Station. Second Lieutenant Maclean was transferred to Ambulance Train on 4th October, 1918 & admitted to 2nd Red Cross Hospital at Rouen, France on 5th October, 1918. He was invalided to England on 7th October, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

19th Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.....

The spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive that the 19th Battalion helped to stop. ..With this last desperate offensive defeated, the 19th 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 Beaurevoir Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle. The casualties of 1918, combined with long-term leave for 1914 enlistees, and dwindling new enlistments had sapped the strength of the AIF. On 10 October 1918 the 19th Battalion was disbanded to reinforce other battalions in the brigade.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 19th Battalion

ESTREES 3rd October, 1918:

3 am – Bn H.Q. moved from Nauroy to dugout in trench astride main Estrees road, shared with 20th Bn. Companies reported all in position on tape line 5.30 am.

6.50 Am – Zero hour. Creeping artillery barrage from 400 yards ahead of J.O. line, working towards objective trench system and areas beyond. Left companies (D and C) made good progress, the enemy's artillery reply being scattered and were reported on objective shortly after 7 am. The right companies (A and B), however, encountered determined opposition from enemy machine-guns in the Beaurevoir Line and house used as a machine-gun nest on the NE outskirts of Estrees. These companies were also held up by a thick belt of wire in front of the trench system, which, owing to the 'ditching' of two tanks in the Hindenburg Line and putting out of action of two others, was quite intact. While held up by this wire, the enemy continually used his machine guns and flung hand grenades ("Potato mashers") at the attackers, causing considerable losses in wounded. "A" and "B" accordingly fell back to sunken road B26a H3a.

10.30 am – Our artillery concentrate don trenches each side of main road 33x and house at B27c 8.8. This was effective and A and B, together with 17th on right, advanced and mopped up the trench system proceeding through narrow gaps in the wire. The enemy, whose demoralisation was completed by the second artillery shoot offered no resistance. A and B Companies subsequently took up a line on the slope of MA MOTTE CALLEY (see Dispositions). Weather fine.

Prisoners taken in this operation numbered 280; machine guns 19; Minenwerfers 4; Bicycles 2; Flash signalling apparatus complete 1; Flare pistols 9. For other details and times of various phases, see Appendix.

Our losses were: Killed 8 o/r; Wounded 8 Off; 102 o/r

Total strength, 27 Off, 449 o/r. Line strength, 12 off. 169 o/r.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth on 8th October, 1918 with G.S.W. head - severe. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "Wounded in France 3.10.18. abscess opened below mastoid.". He was discharged to leave on 25th October, 1918.

A Medical Report had been completed on Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean in October, 1918 regarding his injury of G.S.W. of Head which had occurred on 3rd October, 1918 at the Somme, France. Due to the injury Second Lieutenant MacLean had occasional headaches. The result of the Medical Report was that Lieutenant MacLean was not fit for General Service for 4 months & not fit for Home Service for 2 months.

An entry on War Gratuity Schedule for Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean records he was transferred to 18th Battalion from 19th Battalion on 10th October, 1918.

Mrs E. J. MacLean, of Victoria Street, East Maitland, NSW, wife of Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean, was advised by Base Records on 14th October, 1918 that her husband was suffering from gunshot wound to head, severe. A follow-up letter on 28th October, 1918 advised that 2/Lieutenant R. L. MacLean was reported as convalescent.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean was admitted to Military Hospital at Belfast on 28th October, 1918 while on leave from 3rd London General Hospital. He was reported as dangerously ill with double Pneumonia.

Second Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean had been promoted to Lieutenant on 1st November, 1918.

Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean died on 2nd November, 1918 at Kilwaughter Castle, Larne, Ireland from Double Pneumonia.

Kilwaughter Castle

Kilwaughter Caste is situated in the hills, about 3 miles southwest of Larne, County Atrim, Northern Ireland. During World War 1, wounded American Officers were among those who found comfort at Kilwaughter Castle, then the home of a fellow American, Mrs Elizabeth Galt Smith. Her family leased and refurbished the castle for over 30 years until 1922. After World War 2 the castle became uninhabited and as a result has fallen into disrepair.



Kilwaughter Castle (Photo by Kenneth Allen)

Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean was buried on 6th November, 1918 in Belfast City Cemetery, Belfast, Northern Ireland – Plot number J. 133 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean - *Coffin was polished oak. The deceased was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler, Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by wreaths sent from Col., Mrs & Miss McNeill. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. Pollock, conducted the burial service. 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.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral – Lieutenant P. W. Harrison, 41st Battalion, (Brother-in-law).

Newspaper item – *The Inverell Times*, NSW – 12 November, 1918:

ROLL OF HONOUR

LIEUT. R. L. MACLEAN

The sad news was received in town yesterday that Lieut. Reg. L. MacLean had died in Ireland on 2nd November, double pneumonia being the cause. Although no details are to hand, it is presumed that the Lieutenant was convalescing in Ireland at the time of contracting the deadly malady, for it was only a few weeks ago that he was reported to have been wounded in the head by a bullet. The deceased officer enlisted about two and a half years ago, but was for some time on the Instructional staff at Duntroon, and was later engaged in similar duties in France. Some few months ago he moved into the front line trenches, and took part in the memorable assault against the Hindenburg line, in which he received rather a severe wound in the head. In civil life the late Lieutenant was a school teacher, and assistant at the Ross Hill school. During his residence in Inverell he became very popular, and his company was much sought after. He was a born organiser, and invariably made a success of any undertaking he took in hand, his best work being performed whilst acting as secretary to the local Caledonian Society. As a writer he was versatile to a degree, and readers of this Journal will doubtless remember the splendid series of articles he wrote at the time he accompanied 'The Wallabies' route march as the official correspondent of the Inverell 'Times.' Like the majority of men, he had his faults, but they were only trivial affairs, and the true goodness that was in him far outweighed everything else. As an officer he was deservedly popular, for he not only knew his work, but he knew his men, and acted accordingly. A wife and two children survive.

Reginald Leopold MacLean requested in his Will dated 24th January, 1907, that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Ettie Jean MacLean, of Victoria St, East Maitland & whom he also appointed as Executrix.

Communications in 1919 addressed to Mrs Ettie Jean MacLean, widow of the late Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean, at Shadforth St, Mosman & Victoria St., East Maitland were returned to Base Records. The 2nd Military District were contacted for the address & they replied their records showed the address for Mrs Ettie Jean MacLean as c/- The Commercial Banking Coy of Sydney, Exchange Branch.

Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lieutenant MacLean's widow – Mrs E. J. MacLean, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean, aged 34, of 19th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Sarah Anne MacLean; husband of Ettie Jean MacLean, of 177 Bourke St., Goulburn, New South Wales.

R. L. Maclean is remembered on the Public School Teachers of New South Wales Honour Roll for World War 1, which is located at Department of Education Building, 16-20 Loftus Street, Sydney, NSW.



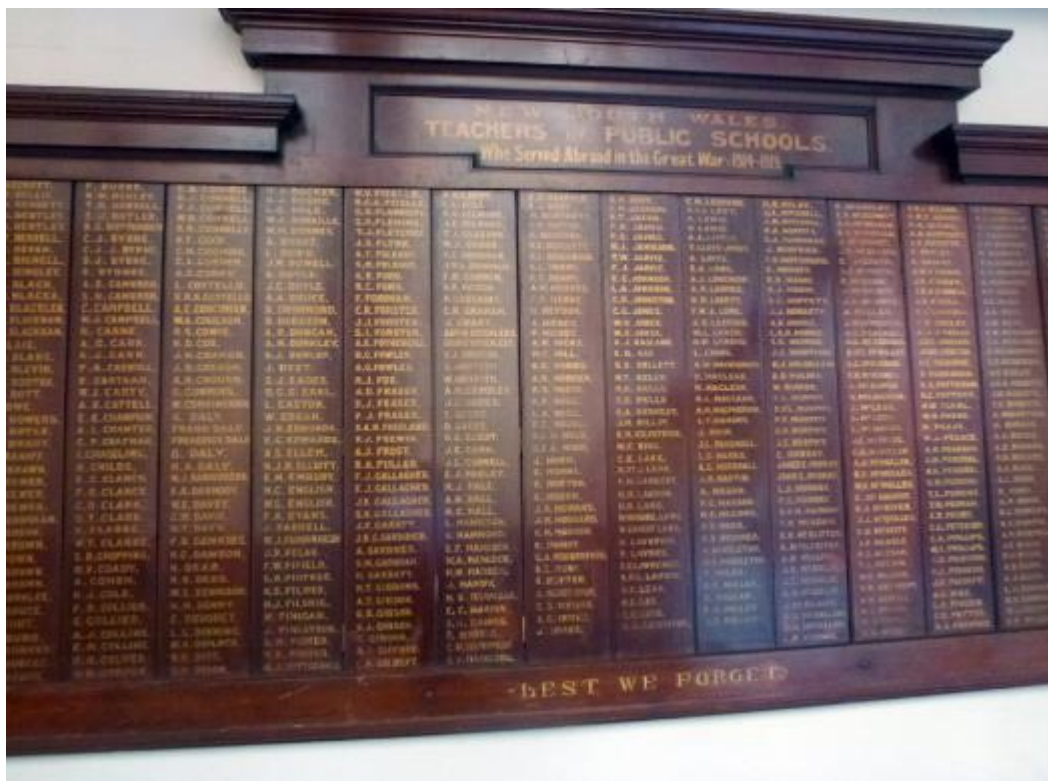
Public School Teachers of New South Wales Honour Roll (Photo from NSW War Memorials Register – David Roden)

R. McLean is remembered on Ross Hill Public School Honor Roll, located at Ross Hill Public School, Andrew Street, Inverell, NSW.



Ross Hill Public School Honor Roll (Photo from War Memorial Register of NSW)

R. L. Maclean is remembered on the Public School Teachers Who Served Abroad in World War 1 Honour Roll, located in the Department of Education Building, Bridge Street, Sydney, NSW.



Public School Teachers Who Served Abroad in WW1 Honour Roll

(Photo from NSW War Memorials Register – David Roden)



R. L. Maclean is remembered on The Junction Soldiers' Monument located at Kenrick Street & Glebe Road, The Junction, NSW.



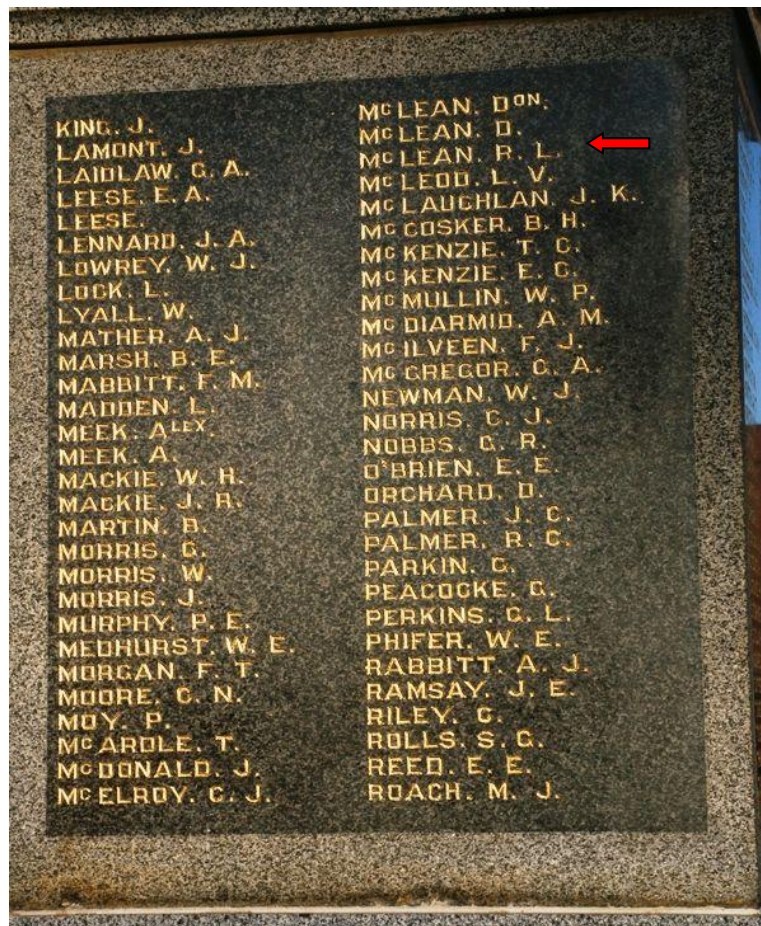
The Junction Soldiers' Monument (Photos from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson)



R. L. McLean is remembered on the Inverell War Memorial, located at Evans & Lawrence Streets, Inverell, NSW.



Inverell War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)



R. L. McLean is remembered on the Inverell Roll of Honour, located at Inverell R.S.L. Museum, Inverell Pioneer Village, Tingha Road, Inverell, NSW.



Inverell Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

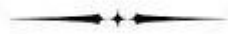
Lieutenant R. L. MacLean is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel .



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(96 pages of Lieutenant Reginald Leopold MacLean'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

DISTRICT CASUALTIES

DIED OF WOUNDS

SERGEANT AND LIEUTENANT MACLEAN

Mrs. MacLean, Kenrick-street, Junction, has been advised that her youngest son, Sergeant Les MacLean, of the 13th Battalion, died at Randwick Hospital on October 26, the result of wounds received in action. Sergeant MacLean was one of the original Anzacs. Also, that her second youngest son, Lieutenant Reg. L. MacLean, died at the residence of Mrs. Ganet Smith, Kelewater, Castle, Larne, Ireland, on November 2, of double pneumonia following a severe gunshot wound in the head.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 16 November, 1918)

Roll of Honour

MACLEAN – On November 2, 1918, at the home of Mrs Ganet Smith, Kiewater Castle, Lorne, Ireland, of double pneumonia, following severe gunshot wound in the head, Lieut. Reg. L. MacLean, second youngest son of the late John MacLean and Mrs MacLean, of Kenrick-street, Junction, Newcastle.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 16 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

MACLEAN – Lieut. Reg. L. MacLean, of 19th Battalion, died of double pneumonia, following severe gunshot wounds in the head, at Kilwater Castle, Larne, Ireland, Nov. 2nd, 1918.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 23 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

MACLEAN – Died of double pneumonia, following severe gunshot wound in the head, Lieut. Reg. L. MacLean, 19th Battalion, late of Moonthalie, King-William-street, Greenwich and Newcastle.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 23 November, 1918)

ABOUT PEOPLE

Referring to the death of Lieut. R. L. MacLean, formerly of Inverell, the 'Bulletin' says: — A cheerful spirit passed out when Lieut. Reg. MacLean, of the 19th Batt., died of double pneumonia on November 8, while on convalescent leave in Ireland. He recruited hard for the New South Wales 'Sportsmen's Battalion,' and got away to the other side early this year. A wound on October 8 sent him to Blighty, and less than a month later came the cable announcing his death. He leaves a widow and two fine kiddles to mourn for him.

(The Inverell Times, NSW – 29 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

MACLEAN – November 2, 1918, of double pneumonia, at Kilwater Castle, Larne, Ireland, Lieutenant Reg. L. MacLean, 19th Batt. (late Newcastle), beloved husband of E. J. MacLean, Moonthalie, King William-street, Greenwich.

MACLEAN - November 2, 1918, of double pneumonia, at Kilwater Castle, Larne, Ireland, Lieutenant Reg. L. MacLean, 19th Batt., brother-in-law of Will and Beth Meyer, Greenwich, and of Fred., Albert, Percy and Arthur Harrison (O.A.S.)

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

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)

Lieutenant R. L. MacLean does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Thy Will Be Done

Belfast City Cemetery, Belfast, Northern Ireland

The cemetery has commemorations from both world wars and a Cross of Sacrifice is erected within the site. There are now 296 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 274 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated here. Of the 1939-1945 burials 5 are unidentified. There are also 3 Norwegian Foreign Nationals and 7 non world war burials here. Those of the 1914-1918 war whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a Screen Wall memorial in Plot H.

(Information from CWGC)



Belfast City Cemetery *(Photo above by Martin – Find a Grave; below from CWGC)*





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)

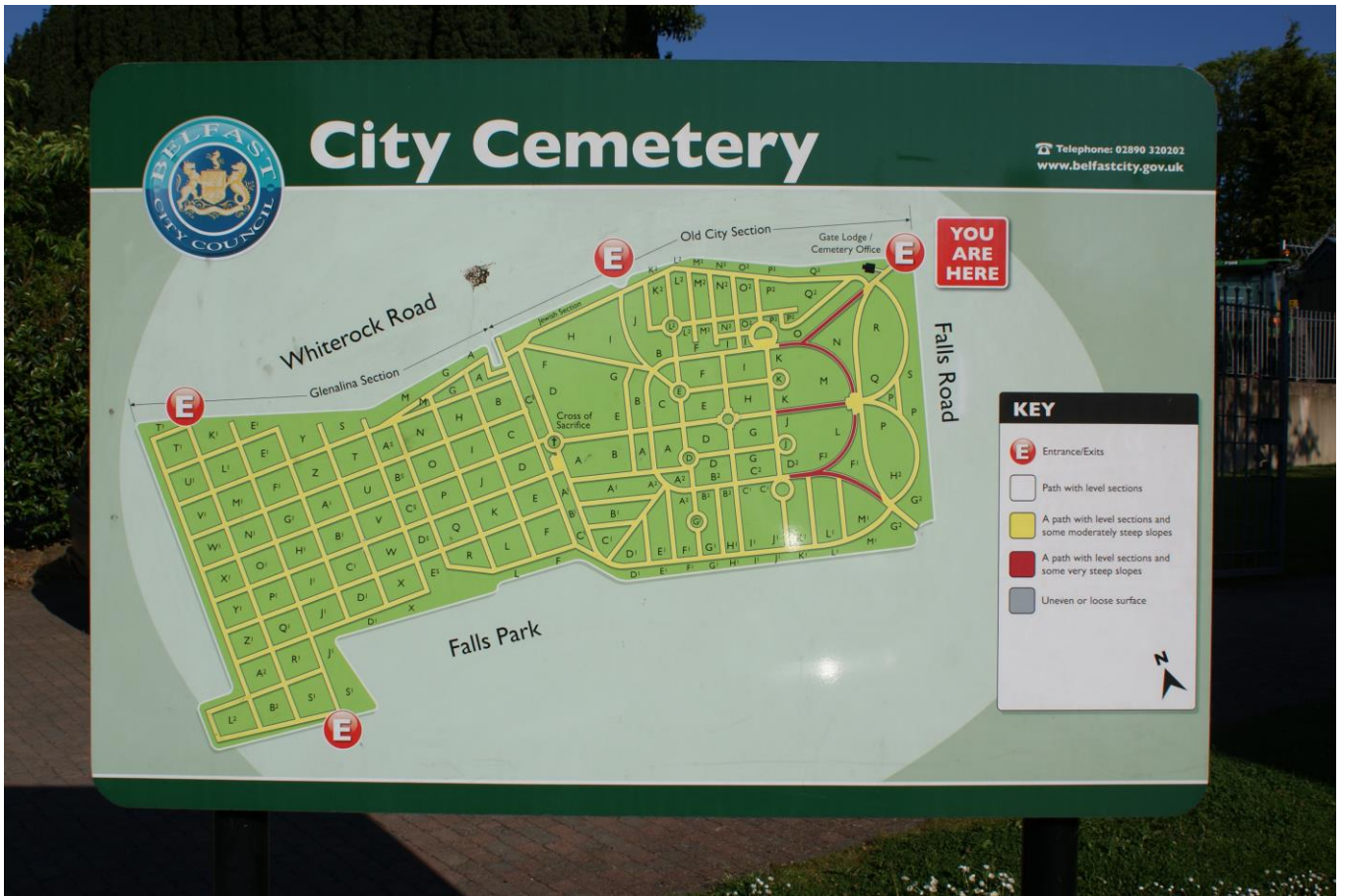


Belfast City Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Lieutenant R. L. MacLean's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Belfast City Cemetery, Belfast, Northern Ireland.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



(Photo by JFH – Find a Grave)