

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



54715 PRIVATE

E. R. MC ILRICK

35TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 22

*Nothing In My Hand I Bring
Simply To The Cross I Cling*

Eric Roy McILRICK

Eric Roy McIlrick was born at Manilla, NSW on 25th December, 1895 to parents Alexander Reuben and Clara Estella McIlrick (nee Wheeler). His birth was registered in 1896.

Eric Roy McIlrick attended Manilla Public School, New South Wales.

Eric Roy McIlrick was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Tarpolly, via Manilla, NSW when he enlisted at Tamworth, NSW on 2nd December, 1917 with the 8th (N.) Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 54715 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his Father – Mr A. R. McIlrick, of Brooklyn, Tarpolly, via Manilla, NSW.

Private Eric Roy McIlrick was posted to Royal Agricultural Showgrounds Sydney, NSW on 14th January, 1918 for recruit training. He was transferred to Recruit Depot at Liverpool, NSW on 18th January, 1918. Private Eric Roy McIlrick was transferred to "C" Company Technical Battalion at Liverpool on 18th February, 1918. He was transferred to "A" Company of Technical Battalion (no date) then transferred to "B" Company of Technical Battalion on 18th March, 1918.

Private Eric Roy McIlrick embarked from Sydney, NSW on SS *Field Marshal* on 19th June, 1918. He was appointed as Corporal for Voyage Only on 19th June, 1918. V.O. Cpl. McIlrick disembarked at London, England on 26th August, 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.

V.O. Cpl. Eric Roy McIlrick reverted to rank of Private on 26th August, 1918.

Private Eric Roy McIlrick was marched in to 9th Training Battalion, Fovant, Wiltshire from Australia on 26th August, 1918.

Private Eric Roy McIlrick was allotted to Reinforcements of 35th Battalion whilst at 9th Training Battalion on 26th August, 1918.

Private Eric Roy McIlrick was sent sick to Hurdcott Hospital (No. 3 Command Group Hospital), Wiltshire on 27th August, 1918 with Influenza. He was transferred to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 31st August, 1918 with Pneumonia.

Private Eric Roy McIlrick died at 6 am on 4th September, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Eric R. McIlrick, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Eric Roy McIlrick was buried on 6th September, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England, – Plot number I. A. 1. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte E. R. McIlrick - *Coffin was good, polished Elm with brass mountings. Deceased was buried with full Military honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pallbearers. The Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the deceased's late Company attended as mourners. The late Pte McIlrick was very popular with all ranks of the Unit and always proved himself a good comrade. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Mrs Clara E. McIlrick, mother of the late Private Eric Roy McIlrick, wrote to Base Records in June, 1920 to thank them for the photographs of her "poor boy's grave". She stated she noticed it had "Private" on the cross and understood that he was a Corporal. She hoped "the permanent headstone will have that rectified." Base Records advised Mrs McIlrick in July, 1920 that her son had been appointed Corporal for Voyage only & that he reverted to the rank of Private on arrival overseas.

Private Eric Roy McIlrick 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 Pte McIlrick's father – Mr A. R. McIlrick, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Eric Roy McIlrick – service number 54715, aged 22, of 35th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alexander Reuben and Clara Estella McIlrick, of Brooklyn, Manilla, New South Wales.

E. R. McIlrick is remembered on the Manilla and District Soldiers Roll of Honour, located at the Manilla and District Soldiers Memorial Hall, 193 Manilla Street, Manilla, NSW.



Manilla and District Soldiers Roll of Honour

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Des Stark, Manilla RSL Sub Branch)



Private E. R. McIlrick is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 125.



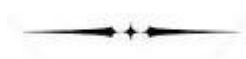
(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(60 pages of Pte Eric Roy McIlrick'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





Private Eric Roy McIlrick



Newspaper Notices

MANILLA SOLDIER KILLED

MANILLA, Tuesday

New has been received to-day that Private O. White, of Borah Crossing, was killed in action in October last.

Private E. McIlrick was given a send off this afternoon and presented with a wristlet watch and a parcel of comforts

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 6 March, 1918)

HONOR ROLL

The following are the names of the Manilla Boys and Recruits who gave their services in the great War of Life and Liberty

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E. McILRICK, Died of illness

(Manilla Express, NSW – 27 March, 1919)

On Active Service

McILRICK – In loving memory of our own dear son and brother, Corporal Eric McIlrick, died in England, of double pneumonia, September 4, 1918, aged 22 years.

A beautiful memory left to us.

A duty nobly done.

Inserted by his loving parents, A. and C. McIlrick, and brothers, Edgar, Jack and Cecil.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 September, 1919)

In Memoriam

McILRICK – In loving memory our dear son Cpl Eric Roy McIlrick, who died in Fovant Military Hospital England, on 4th September, 1918, aged 22 years (double pneumonia).

We pictured his safe returning

And longed to clasp his hand

But God has postponed the meeting

It will be in a better land.

Inserted by his loving Parents and Brothers

(Manilla Express, NSW – 4 September, 1919)

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 E. R. McIlrick does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Nothing In My Hand I Bring Simply To The Cross I Cling

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.
(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00 299

(Photo c 1919)





St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front & rear (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)



Photo of Private E. R. McIlrick's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)