

**Foulan Cemetery, St. Peter Port,
Guernsey, Channel Islands**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



CHIEF YEOMAN OF SIGNALS 7619

T. J. MOYLAN

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIAN"

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

16TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 36

Thomas Joseph MOYLAN

Thomas Joseph Moylan was born on 1st September, 1882 at Naas, Kildare, County Kildare, Ireland to parents Thomas Joseph Moylan (senior) & Mary Kelly Moylan. He was baptised on 12th September, 1882 at Naas, Kildare, Ireland.

205

Notetur Numerus.	Anno Domini 1882			Natus.		Ex parentibus legitimo Matrimonio junctis.	Habitatus in Domicilio.
	Baptisati Nomen.	Cognomen.	Die.	Mense.	Nomen Patris.		
	William	Stanton	31	August	Peter Stanton & Elizabeth Tracy		Stallins, Ros
	Thomas Joseph	Moylan	1	Sept	Thomas Moylan & Mary Kelly		Nav Row

205

Hic fuit Baptizatus.		A me Inscripto Parocho vel Vicario.	Patris adstantibus et a Sacro Fonte levantibus.	Circumstantis ex Rit. Rom. apponende, e. g. si fuerit adultus, recens conversus, sub conditione vel privatim Baptizatus, exponitus, &c.
Die.	Mense.	Nom Parochi vel alterius Baptizantis.	Nomen Patris.	
5	Sept.	J. Morrin	David Tracy & Catharine Duffy	
12	Sept.	J. Morrin	Lawrence McDermott & Margaret Moylan	

The 1891 Channel Islands Census recorded Thomas Moylan as an 8 year old Scholar living with his family at D'Auvergne House, 9 Aquila Rd, St, Helier, Jersey. Three families occupied the House with the Bailly Family (consisting of 2) inhabiting 1 room; the Moylan Family (consisting of 6) inhabiting 2 rooms & Mary Wales inhabiting 1 room as a Lodger. Thomas Moylan's parents were listed as Thomas Moylan (Draper's Porter, aged 40, born Kilkenny, Ireland) & Mary Moylan (aged 25, born Hants, England). Thomas was the eldest of four children listed on this Census then Ann M. Moylan (Scholar, aged 7, born Galway, Ireland), James Moylan (Scholar, age 4, born St. Helier, Jersey) & Edward Moylan (aged 11 months, born St. Helier, Jersey).

Thomas Moylan joined Royal Navy on 5th September, 1899. He stated he was born on 1st September, 1883 & his religion was Roman Catholic. Thomas Moylan listed his occupation as Errand Boy.

Boy 2nd Class Thomas Moylan was issued an Official Number of 206368 (Portsmouth).

On 1st September, 1901, having attained 18 years of age (his age was actually 19), Thomas Moylan signed on with the Royal Navy for a period of 12 years. He served on many different ships & worked his way up through the ratings & was Leading Signaller on HMA Glory on 1st July, 1906.

Thomas Joseph Moylan married Eva Caroline Davis. Their marriage was registered in June quarter, 1906 in the district of Ringwood, Hampshire, England.

A daughter – Kathleen Eva Moylan was born to Thomas & Eva Moylan in March quarter, 1907 in the registration district of Alverstoke, Hampshire, England.

A son – Albert Thomas Moylan was born to Thomas & Eva Moylan on 13th January, 1910 in the district of Gosport, Hampshire, England.

The 1911 England Census recorded Thomas Moylan as a 27 year old, married Leading Signaller (born Naas, Co. Kildare) as Crew on board Battleship 1st Class H.M.S. *St Vincent*. The Captain was Captain Douglas R. L. Nicholson & the ship was positioned at Portland Dorset at midnight on 2nd April, 1911 the night of the Census.

Leading Signaller Thomas Moylan was on loan to Royal Australian Navy from 26th January, 1913 for a period of 5 years. He was issued an Official Number of 7619.

Leading Signaller Thomas Moylan was listed at London Depot from 26th January, 1913 until 20th June, 1913.

Leading Signaller Thomas Moylan was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 21st June, 1914. He was advanced to Yeoman of Signals on 5th March, 1914.

H.M.A.S. *Australia*

The Australian Navy's first flagship, the battle cruiser HMAS *Australia* (I) was the centrepiece of the 'Fleet Unit', whose acquisition signalled the RAN's arrival as a credible ocean going force....

The Commonwealth Government decided upon the name *Australia*, and it proved a popular choice, carefully avoiding any suggestion of favouritism towards any one Australian State. The ship's badge maintained the national theme by featuring the Federation Star overlaid by a naval crown, while the motto 'Endeavour' reflected the ideal of the Australian spirit and recalled Lieutenant James Cook's ship of 1768-71 whose acquisition signalled the RAN's arrival as a credible ocean going force....

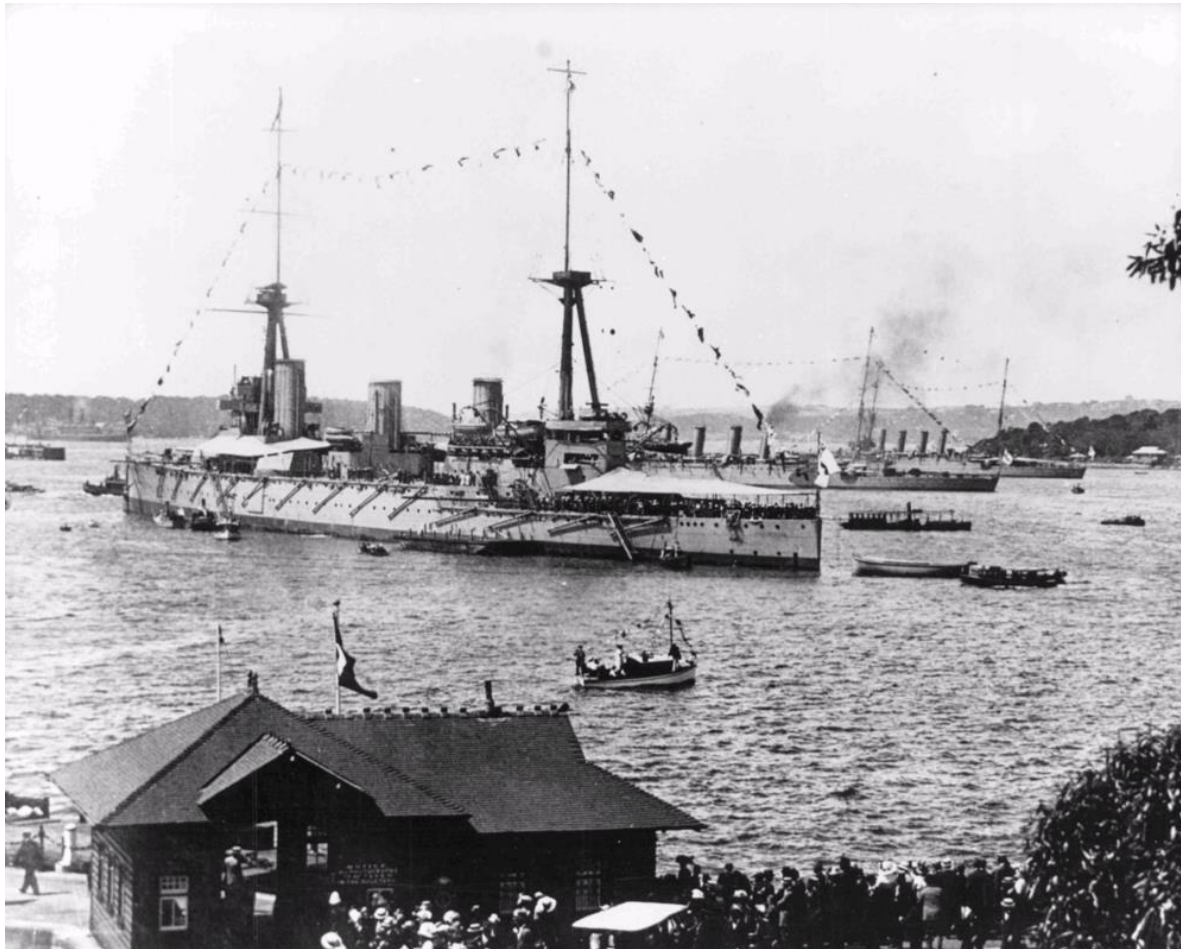
Following successful gun, torpedo and machinery trials she commissioned as an Australian unit at Portsmouth, England, on 21 June 1913 under the command of Captain Stephen H Radcliffe, RN. Two days later the ship hoisted the flag of Rear Admiral George Edwin Patey, MVO (later Vice Admiral Sir George Patey, KCMG, KCVO), who had been selected to command the Australian Fleet.

In company with the new light cruiser HMAS *Sydney* (I), *Australia* (I) sailed from Portsmouth on 21 July 1913, and their voyage home was seen as a further opportunity to stimulate public awareness and naval sentiment around the British Empire. The appearance of the Australian warships would, the *Sydney Morning Herald* remarked, provide a practical demonstration of the RAN as a "thoroughly competent, efficient, and considerable force". *Australia* (I) called in at Capetown where Patey and his officers were directed to extend every possible courtesy.....

On the morning of 4 October 1913, *Australia* (I), leading the remaining ships of the Fleet Unit (the cruisers *Melbourne* (I), *Sydney* (I) and *Encounter*, and the destroyers *Warrego* (I), *Parramatta* (I) and *Yarra* (I)), entered Sydney for the first time. Port Jackson was no stranger to imperial and foreign warships, but the battle cruiser, both majestic and forbidding at the same time, was something different. She was the embodiment of the Commonwealth's own sea power, and unquestionably superior to every other European warship in the Pacific. Already described as a "living sentient thing", *Australia* (I)'s entry at the head of the fleet evoked a nationalistic euphoria never before experienced. "The sight of the Fleet meant more to the Australian people than the visit of any foreign fleet. It was our expression of patriotism, ships of defence bought in love of country and empire..." wrote the *Sydney Mail*...

On the outbreak of World War I *Australia* (I) operated (with other ships of the Australian Fleet) as a counter to the German East Asian Cruiser Squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee. The battle cruiser's presence deterred von Spee from operating in local waters, and as Prime Minister WM 'Billy' Hughes later declared, "but for the *Australia* (I)...the great cities of Australia would have been reduced to ruins, oversea trade paralysed, coastal shipping sunk, and communications with the outside world cut off". *Australia* (I) meanwhile kept busy, taking part in a series of operations to seize German Pacific colonies and destroy the enemy's radio network. During these operations *Australia* (I) captured the German ship *Sumatra*.

In late December 1914 *Australia* (I) received orders to sail to England via the Pacific and reached Devonport on 28 January 1915. En route she captured and sank von Spee's supply ship *Eleonore Woermann* (5000 tons) off South America. From Devonport *Australia* (I) proceeded to Rosyth in Scotland, where in February 1915 she became flagship of the 2nd Battle Cruiser Squadron, flying the flag of Rear Admiral Sir William Pakenham, KCB, MVO. The squadron as initially formed comprised *Australia* (I) and her two sister ships, *HMS New Zealand* and *HMS Indefatigable*. From then until 22 April 1916, *Australia* (I) was based at Rosyth accompanying the Battle Cruiser Fleet on a succession of sweeps, patrols, and convoy escort tasks across the length and breadth of the North Sea. The enemy was rarely if ever seen, and a shot at a suspected submarine on 30 December 1917 marked the only occasion when she fired her armament in anger.



HMAS *Australia* entering Sydney Harbour for the first time on 4 October 1913.

On 22 April 1916 *Australia* (I) collided with *New Zealand* in heavy fog and the damage kept her in dockyard hands until 9 June 1916. She thus missed the Battle of Jutland, her place as flagship of the 2nd Battle Cruiser Squadron being taken by *New Zealand*. On her return to service in June 1916, *Australia* (I) continued North Sea patrols as a unit of the British Grand Fleet until 12 November 1917, when another collision, this time with *HMS Repulse*, caused her to be docked for three weeks. Repairs completed, she resumed her generally uneventful routine of patrol and fleet exercises in the North Sea.

The routine was briefly broken by a call in February 1918 for volunteers for special service. In April, one officer and ten ratings from *Australia* (I) found themselves among 1300 other volunteers taking part in a bold commando raid on the occupied Belgian ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge. The Australians acquitted themselves well, with six receiving awards for bravery.

The last year of the war also saw *Australia* (I) used for aircraft experiments, with the ship's echelon turrets being thought to offer better wind exposure and a safer take-off position than alternative warships. On 7 March 1918 *Australia* (I) successfully launched a Sopwith 1½ Strutter from a platform erected on one of her 12-inch gun turrets. This was the first ever launching of a two-seater aircraft from a battle cruiser. *Australia* (I) would go on to achieve the first take-off with a full load on 4 April 1918 and launch several more flights without difficulty, including one at anchor. By the end of the war nearly every British capital ship carried a Strutter for reconnaissance and a Sopwith Pup or Sopwith Camel as a fighter.

On 11 November 1918, the signing of the Armistice brought the fighting in Europe to an end. On 21 November, the Grand Fleet came out from the Firth-of-Forth in two divisions to meet the German High Seas Fleet steaming across the North Sea to be interned at Scapa Flow. *Australia* (I) had the honour of leading the port line at the head of her squadron. *Melbourne* (I) and *Sydney* (I) were also there, taking their place among the light cruisers. After anchoring, each enemy ship was allocated a guard-ship. *Australia* (I) was given charge of the latest German battle cruiser *Hindenburg*.....

(Extract of information from Royal Australian Navy)

A death was registered in the June quarter, 1914 in the district of Portsmouth, Hampshire, England for Kathleen E. Moylan, aged 7.

Mary Kelly Moylan, mother of Thomas Joseph Moylan, died in 1915 at 13 Les Camps, St. Martin, Guernsey.

Yeoman of Signals Thomas Moylan was awarded the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal on 1st September, 1916.

Newspaper item – Commonwealth of Australia Gazette – 16 November, 1916:

Department of the Navy

NAVAL FORCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

AWARD OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS FOR THE PERMANENT NAVAL FORCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

His Excellency the Governor-General, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, has been please to approve of the following being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for the Permanent Naval Forces of the Commonwealth:-

Name, Rating, Date of Award

THOMAS MOYLAN, Yeoman of Signals, 1st September, 1916.

.....

Chief Petty Officer Thomas Moylan was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with palm on 31st May, 1917. (*London Gazette* – 19 December, 1917 page 13220).

Newspaper item – *The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 May, 1918:

Australian Navy

WAR DECORATIONS AWARDED

The Acting Minister of the Navy (Mr Poynton) yesterday announced that the following honors for war serve had been conferred upon officers and men serving with the Royal Australian Navy:-

.....

*A. Chief Yeoman of Signals, T. MOYLAN
Croix de Guerre, with palm (French)*

.....

Croix de Guerre

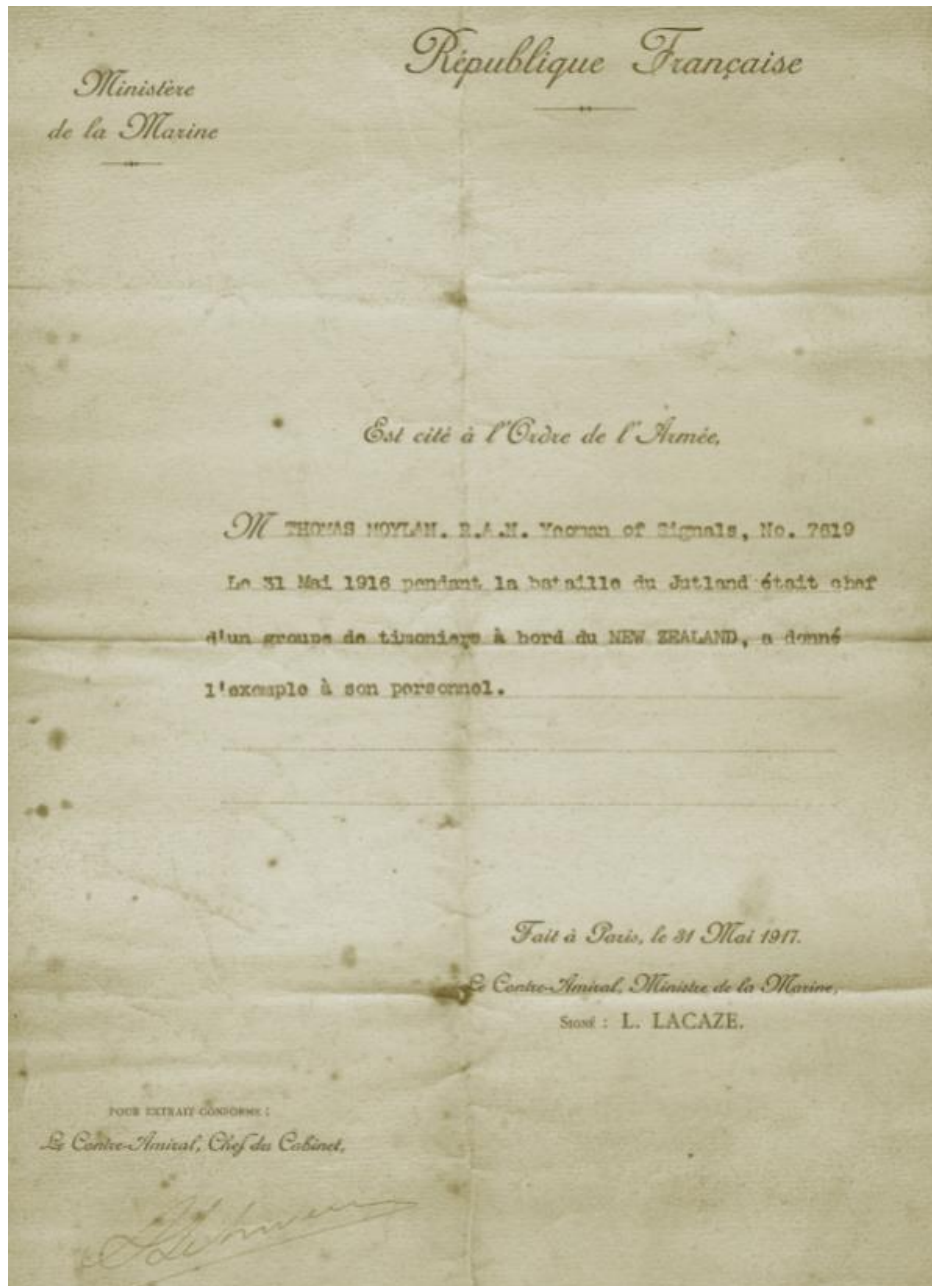
The Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) is a military decoration of France. It was first created in 1915 and consists of a square-cross medal on two crossed swords, hanging from a ribbon with various degree pins. The decoration was first awarded during World War I, again in World War II, and in other conflicts; the Croix de guerre des théâtres d'opérations extérieures ("Cross of War for external theatres of operations") was established in 1921 for these. The Croix de Guerre was also commonly bestowed on foreign military forces allied to France.

The Croix de Guerre may be awarded either as an individual award or as a unit award to those soldiers who distinguish themselves by acts of heroism involving combat with the enemy. The medal is awarded to those who have been "mentioned in dispatches", meaning a heroic deed or deeds were performed meriting a citation from an individual's headquarters unit. The unit award of the Croix de Guerre with palm was issued to military units whose members performed heroic deeds in combat and were subsequently recognized by headquarters.

(Wikipedia)



Croix de Guerre



Croix de Guerre Citation (Photo from *The Channel Islands and the Great War*)

Yeoman of Signals Thomas Moylan was Acting Chief Yeoman of Signals from 1st October, 1917. He was rated as Chief Yeoman of Signals from 1st October, 1918 while still serving in H.M.A.S. *Australia*.

Chief Yeoman of Signals Thomas Joseph Moylan died on 16th February, 1919 at Naval Sick Quarters, Guernsey, Channel Islands from Pneumonia.

Chief Yeoman of Signals Thomas Joseph Moylan was buried in Foulon Cemetery, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands – Plot number H. 22 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Probate details:

MOYLAN, Thomas of 63 Telephone-road, Southsea, Hampshire, died 16 February, 1919 at St. Martins, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Probate London 24 January to Eva Moylan, widow. Effects £ 95 16s. 7d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Chief Yeoman of Signals Thomas Joseph Moylan – service number 7619, aged 36, of H.M.A.S. “Australia”, Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of Thomas Moylan and his wife, Mary Kelly; husband of Eva Moylan, of Delhi House, 112 Manners Rd., Southsea, Hants, England.

Chief Yeoman of Signals T. J. Moylan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 1.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. Moylan is remembered on Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, located at HMAS *Cerberus* Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Nelson Road, Crib Point, Victoria.



HMAS *Cerberus* Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria (Photos courtesy of Karen Standen)



Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial – Crib Point


Thomas Moylan is remembered on the Bailiwick of Guernsey War Memorial, located at Smith Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.



Bailiwick of Guernsey War Memorial (Photo from War Memorials Online)

Chief Yeoman of Signals Thomas Joseph Moylan is remembered on the Portsmouth City Council's World War 1 Lest We Forget by Street/Road Names.

WORLD WAR I
1914-1918



LEST WE FORGET
100 YEARS

MANNERS ROAD

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THIS ROAD AND DIED SERVING
THEIR COUNTRY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

NAME	DIED	LIVED AT N ^o
→ CHIEF YEOMAN OF SIGNALS THOMAS JOSEPH MOYLAN	16 FEB 1919	112
CAPTAIN REGINALD CHARLES RUNDALL	3 MAY 1917	117
ENGINE ROOM ARTIFICER 3RD CLASS ALFRED WILKINS	30 DEC 1915	123
ENGINE ROOM ARTIFICER 3RD CLASS ARCHIBALD MONTROSE DUNNAWAY	31 MAY 1916	128

T. Moylan is remembered on the City of Portsmouth War Memorial, also referred to as the Guildhall Square War Memorial, commemorating the town's losses in First World War. The Memorial is located at Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



City of Portsmouth War Memorial (Photo above by Harry Mitchell; below from War Memorials Online)



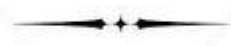


City of Portsmouth War Memorial - Navy Panels (Photo from War Memorials Online)



(2 pages Chief Yeoman of Signals Thomas Joseph Moylan 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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

Petty Officer T. Moylan

We regret to have to record the death from pneumonia of Petty Officer Thos. Moylan, of H.M.S. Australia, which occurred on Sunday evening.

Deceased came to the island on leave a week ago last Tuesday, previous to going back to Australia and contracted a cold on the voyage from Portsmouth, which developed into pneumonia, necessitating his removal to the Victoria Hospital. He was 36 years of age and the eldest son of Mr. Thos Moylan, of Jerbourg-road, St Martin's and was an "old boy" of the St. Joseph's R.C. Schools.

P.O. Moylan was in the Jutland Battle, and for his services was promoted and awarded the Croix de Guerre. He leaves a widow and two children to mourn his loss.

The funeral took place on Thursday at the Foulon Cemetery, with naval and military honours. The chief mourners were Mrs. T. Moylan (widow) the Misses Henriette, Cecilia and Kathleen Moylan (sisters) and Corpl. and Mrs. J. Moylan (brother and sister-in-law, Boy F. Moylan, Lancashire regiment, Mrs. Dallas and Mr. Matthews.

Lieutenant D. Barber, R.N., and Chief Officer F.J. Goodyear, R.N., represented the naval forces and the firing party was commanded by Sergt. W. Le Poidevin, D.C.M, and Bandmaster Small was in charge of the Band. The funeral rites of the Roman Catholic Church were conducted by the Rev. T. G. Hickey, D.D..

(newspaper source unknown – image of newspaper from The Channel Islands and the Great War)

1918-19 Influenza Pandemic – Spanish Flue

The battlecruiser HMAS Australia and the light cruisers HMA ships Melbourne and Sydney, then in English waters were also affected, but the death toll was lower as they had access to better medical facilities. Amongst the dead was 35 year old Chief Yeoman of Signals Thomas Moylan, from Australia, who died in the Naval Sick Quarters on the island of Guernsey, in the Channel Islands, on 16 February 1919.

(Voice Pipe (Magazine), Tingira Australia – November, 2020)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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.

Chief Yeoman of Signals Thomas Joseph Moylan has a Private Headstone.

Foulon Cemetery, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

The cemetery contains the graves of 28 members of His Majesty's Forces who either died while serving on the island or who were washed ashore on the coast, 1 of the naval burials is unidentified. There are also five 1914-1918 War graves.

During the years of the German occupation burials in this cemetery of members of the occupying forces, and of foreign workers whom they brought to the island, were numerous. After the war the States of Guernsey Board of Administration transferred to this large burial ground the graves of more than 40 foreign workers from the Foreign Workers Cemetery, Les Vauxbelets, so that the ground they occupied, which had been commandeered without payment, could be returned to the owner. They also transferred graves from the Jerbourg Road German Military Cemetery, St. Martins, the land for which had been similarly commandeered.

The graves of the Royal Naval casualties, crewmen of H.M.S. Charybdis, which was sunk by the enemy in the English Channel on 23rd October, 1943, and of one soldier, are in a small reserve plot. This is separated from the rest of the cemetery by a grey granite wall on the eastern side, a path on the northern and western sides and a low hedge on the southern side. The other British graves are elsewhere. There is also 1 French soldier buried here.

(Information & Cemetery photos from CWGC)





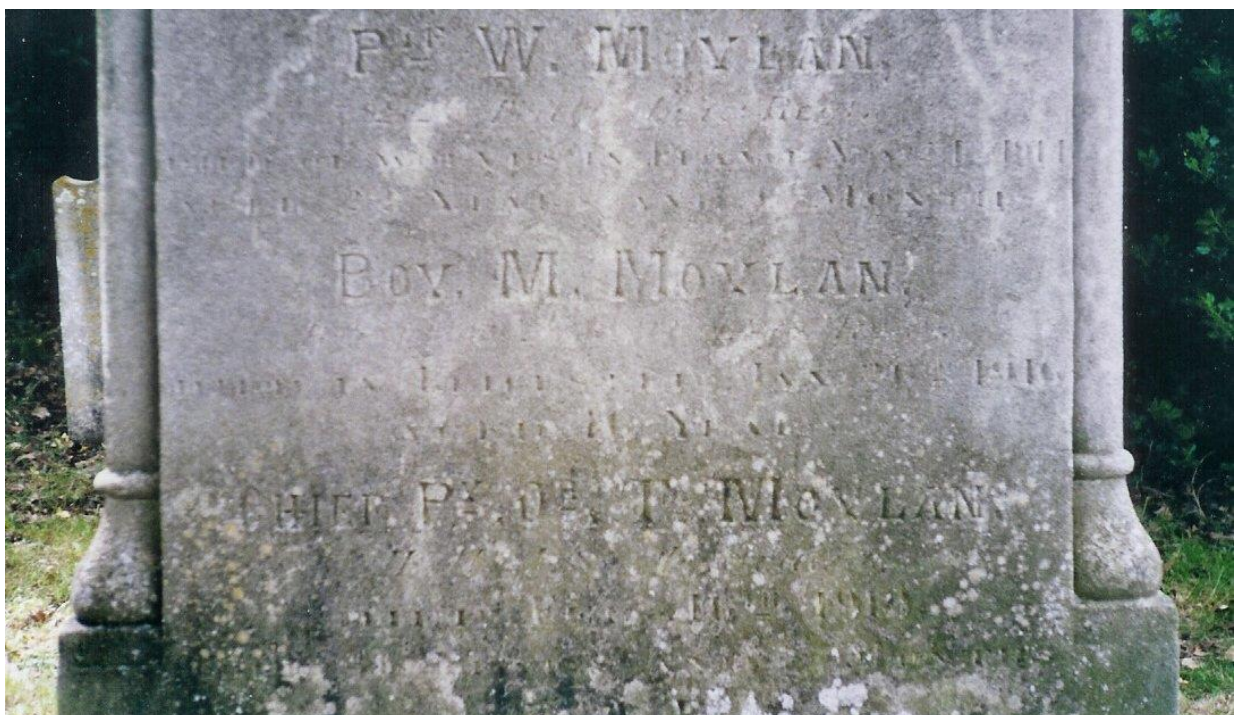
Photo of Chief Yeoman of Signals Thomas Joseph Moylan's Private Headstone in Foulon Cemetery, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.



Moylan Family Grave (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)

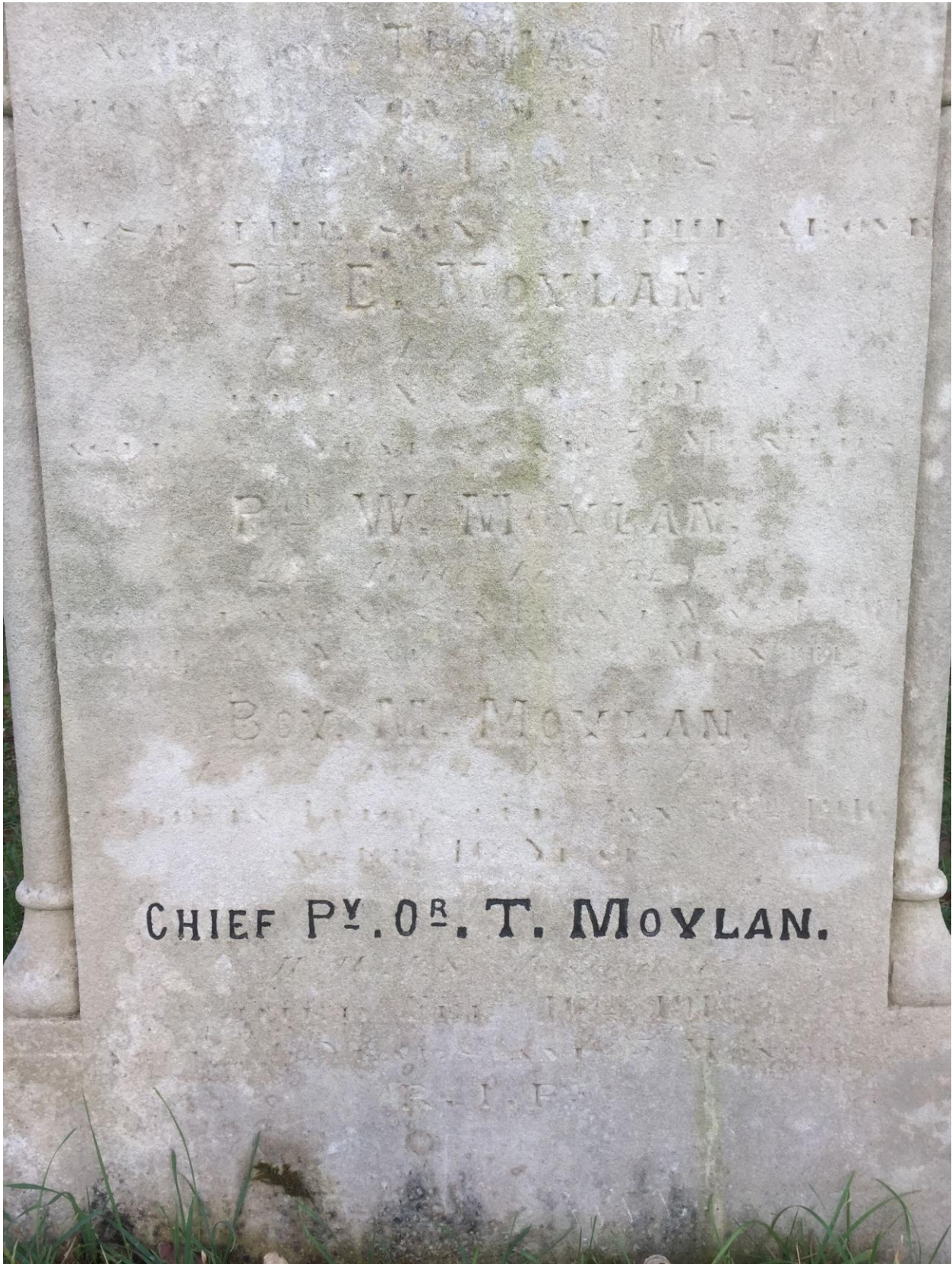


(Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)





(Photo from Find a Grave – Graeme in Guernsey – December 2020)



(Photo from Find a Grave – ken crosby – December 2020)