

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



Lest We Forget

World War 1



182 SERJEANT

E. J. ORR

7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH NOVEMBER, 1915 Age 21

Rest In Peace Amen

Ernest James ORR

Ernest James Orr was born at North Melbourne, Victoria in 1894 to parents James and Elizabeth Orr (nee Slater).

Ernest James Orr attended St. Paul's Roman Catholic School, Coburg, Victoria.

Elizabeth Orr, mother of Ernest James Orr, died 1st May, 1907.

Ernest James Orr was a 20 year old, single, Baker from 14 Park Street, Coburg, Victoria when he enlisted at Carlton, Victoria on 15th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 182 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Orr, of 14 Park Street, Coburg, Victoria. Ernest Orr state don his Attestation Papers that he had been an Apprentice for 3 years & 11 months & that he had served for 3 years with Voluntary Cadets, 1 year Senior Cadets & 2 years with 60th Infantry.

According to information provided for the Roll of Honour by his father – Ernest James Orr had served with Coburg Naval Brigade & Citizen Forces.

Ernest James Orr was posted with 7th Battalion on 17th August, 1914 for recruit training & had the rank of Corporal. Corporal Orr was promoted to Lance Sergeant on 23rd September, 1914.

Lance Sergeant Ernest James Orr embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 19th October, 1914 with the 7th Infantry Battalion "A" Company.

Lance Sergeant Ernest James Orr was wounded at Gallipoli Peninsula on 25th April, 1915. He was transferred to H. M. N. Z. Goslar at Dardanelles on 26th April, 1915 with a graze to left temple and wound in back. Lance Sergeant Orr was transferred to Hospital Ship A13 on 29th April, 1915.

7th Battalion

The 7th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised by Lieutenant Colonel H. E. "Pompey" Elliott within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 7th Battalion

Anzac 25th April, 1915:

3.30 am – *Reveille*

4.0 am – *Anchored off Kaba Tepe*

5.30 am – *Towed ashore & made an attack*

men & units of the Battn. soon became mixed with units of other Battns.

Casualties:- 18 Officers (2 K, 16 W)

? Other Ranks -----see 22.5.1915 for Casualty List: the approximate casualties for 25.4.15

was 400 killed, wounded & missing.

.....

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Sergeant Ernest James Orr was admitted to Deaconesses' Hospital at Alexandria on 3rd May, 1915 with "bullet wound left temple, entrance left shoulder; exit lumbar region." Reported as seriously wounded on 8th May, 1915. Lance Sergeant Orr was reported on 31st July, 1915 as "Still seriously ill but awaiting hospital ship for England. Fracture of Spine."

Mr James Orr, 14 Park Street, Coburg, was advised by Base Records on 13th May, 1915 "Regret reported son Lance Sergeant E. J. Orr seriously wounded. Will advise upon receipt further particulars."

Mrs M. M. MacGilvray from Collie, Western Australia wrote to Minister for Defence, Victoria on 8th July, 1915 stating "My nephew Lance Sergeant E. J. Orr, No. 182 A Coy, 7th Battalion 2 Inf. Brigade, 1st A.I.F. was dangerously wounded and is at present lying in Deaconess Greatness Hospital Alexandria. I write you to ask if I can leave him in Collie instead of him going to his sister in Coburg. I am more able to look after him & being his mother's sister feel it my duty. Will you kindly give me any instructions to assist me and I do not mind any expense. Trusting a satisfactory reply at your earliest."

Base Records replied to Mrs M. M. MacGilvray, Commonwealth Hotel, Collie, Western Australia, on 26th July, 1915 stating "I beg to inform you that it is not known whether No. 182 Lance-Sergeant E. J. Orr, 7th Battalion is returning to Australia. In the event of his being returned, he would be landed at Melbourne, where his next-of-kin resides. The last report received concerning him, dated 1/6/15, was to the effect that he was dangerously ill, and no particulars are yet available, but upon receipt of any later information his next-of-kin will be immediately notified."

Lance Sergeant Ernest James Orr was transferred to Sick Convoy to England on 2nd August, 1915 from Deaconesses' Hospital.

Lance Sergeant Ernest James Orr was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 15th August, 1915.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01040

A letter to The Secretary, Department of Defence, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia dated 24th November, 1915 reads " ...I have to report that on the morning of the 14th November, 1915, as advised by the Registrar of the 3rd London General Hospital, No. 182, Lance-Sergeant James Orr, 7th Battalion, died at the Brooklands Convalescent Home, Weybridge, as the result of a gun shot wound in the spine.

The interment took place at 2.30 pm on the 18th November at Wandsworth Cemetery, and the number of the grave is F131.

Lieutenant Colonel H. W. Lee, A.I.F., was in attendance at the funeral as representing the High Commissioner, and the clergy who officiated at the graveside were – The Revd: J. W. Molloy, 96, North Side, Wandsworth Common, and The Revd: G. Howard, the rites of the Catholic Church being observed.

Prior to death, The Revd: Father Molloy administered the Last Sacrament to Lance-Sergeant Orr.

The R.A.M.C. furnished pall-bearers and mourners and there were also present at the funeral – Dr Abraham Cohen (a visitor to Sergeant Orr while sick), Major C. C. Mason, commanding the Company in which Sergeant Orr served, Sergeant Major Bowden of the 7th Battalion, and the deceased's aunt and cousins.

Wreaths were sent by the following:-

V. B. Till and J. T. Barton.

Brookland Military Hospital.

A Friend

Auntie, Annie and Aggie."

A similar letter (as above) was sent to Mr James Orr, 14 Park Street, Coburg, father of the late Sergeant Ernest James Orr.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Orr, 14 Park Street, Coburg, Victoria, on 17th April, 1920, in regards to his son the late No. 182 Sergeant E. J. Orr, 7th Battalion, to advise that advice had been received "which shows that his remains have been exhumed from Grave No. 131, Wandsworth Cemetery, and re-interred in grave No.10 Australian Section, Wandsworth Cemetery, Wandsworth, London. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."

A War Pension was granted to Nellie Orr, 14 Park Street, Coburg, Victoria – sister of the late Sergeant Ernest James Orr, in the sum of 10/- per fortnight from 3rd February, 1916. The War Pension granted to Nellie Orr was cancelled as from 17th January, 1918 – now Nellie Heneberry (late Nellie Orr) 23 Holroyd Street, Coburg.

Sergeant Ernest James Orr was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Orr's father – Mr J. Orr, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).



Memorial Plaque or "Death Penny" (Photo by Katrina P – Find a Grave)

Helen N. Heneberry, Coburg, Victoria, wrote to Central Army Records Office in 1967 to apply for the Anzac Medal as her brother – No. 182 Sergeant Ernest James Orr, A. Company, 7th Battalion had died of wounds received in the landing at Gallipoli Peninsula. She stated she *“was the allottee & banked his money as my mother died when we were young...”* On the application form Helen Heneberry had stated that she was the Beneficiary under the Will & mother & father were both dead. She stated *“I have 2 brothers. Wound not deprive me of the medal.”*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Ernest James Orr – service number 182, aged 21, of 7th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James and Elizabeth Orr, of 14 Park St., Coburg, Victoria, Australia.

E. Orr is remembered on the Ferntree Gully Primary School War Memorial, which was relocated on 11th November, 1988 to Tim Neville Arboretum, Dorset Road, Ferntree Gully, Victoria.



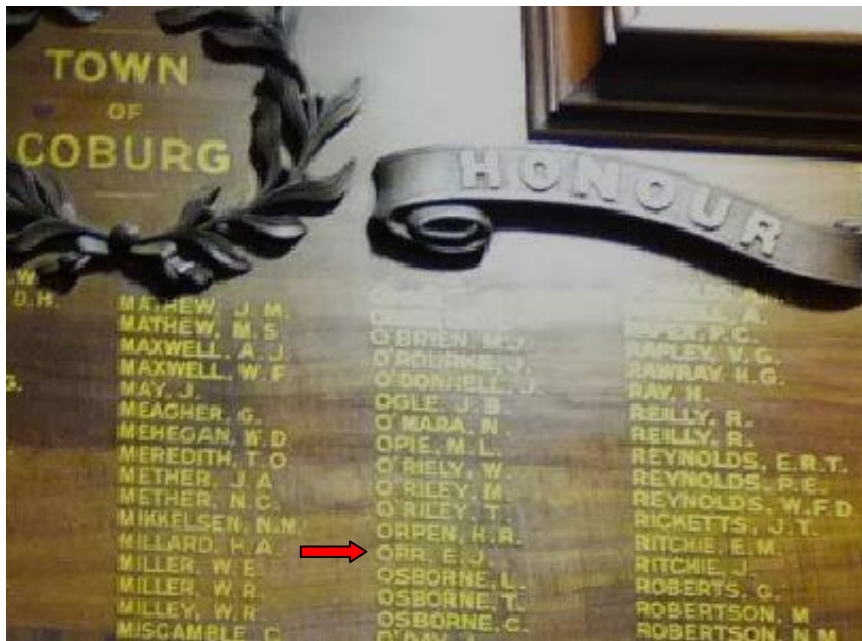
Ferntree Gully Primary School War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



E. J. Orr is remembered on the Town of Coburg Roll of Honour, located at City Hall, 90 Bell Street, Coburg, Victoria,



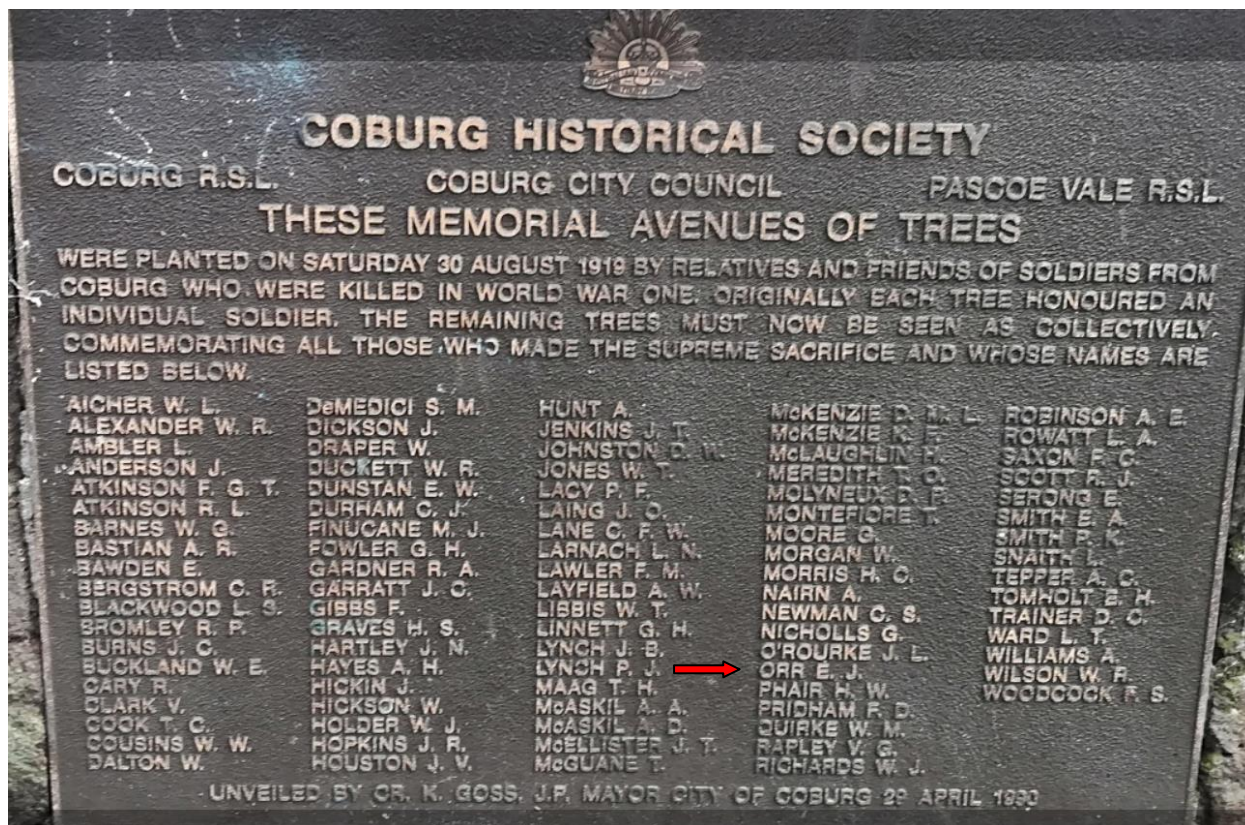
Town of Coburg Roll of Honour (photo by Kevin Cameron)



E. J. Orr is remembered on the Avenue of Honour, located at Coburg Lake Reserve, Gaffney Street, Coburg, Victoria. Tree 98 – E. J. Orr.



Avenue of Honour (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Mark Chilcott)



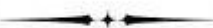
Sergeant E. J. Orr is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 51.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

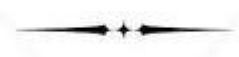
(71 pages of Sergeant Ernest James Orr's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives





Ernest James Orr (*Photo - Coburg State Schools Soldiers' Record Book*)



Newspaper Notices

Australians in Action

Further Casualty Lists

The Minister for Defence issued the 15th casualty list at noon to-day....

WOUNDED

All in Seventh Battalion

Lance Sergt. E. J. Orr, Coburg (serious)

(The Mildura Telegraph and Darling and Lower Murray Advocate, Victoria – 18 May, 1915)

AUSTRALIANS IN DARDANELLES

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

THIRTY-SEVENTH CASUALTY LIST

STILL DANGEROUSLY ILL

Lance-Sergeant E. J. Orr, 7th, Coburg

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 16 June, 1915)

CAREERS OF THE FALLEN

Sergeant E. J. Orr

(wounded) was formerly the crack shot of the 60th Infantry, where he held the rank of corporal. He was wounded in the first day's fighting, and has been in hospital ever since. His wound was troublesome at first, but he is now progressing favourably, and hopes to be able to get out of bed soon.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 July, 1915)

CAREERS OF THE FALLEN

Lance-Sergeant E. J. Orr

who is reported seriously wounded, joined the Coburg Naval Brigade when a boy, and worked himself up to an officer's rank. He enlisted for the present war as a private, and went through all ranks until he was made lance-sergeant in Egypt. He is a son of Mr James Orr, of the Penal department, and was born at North Melbourne. His education was received at St. Paul's Catholic school, Coburg.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 May, 1915) & (The Brunswick and Coburg Leader, Victoria – 4 June, 1915)

& (Advocate, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 June, 1915)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

118th CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

Sgt. E. J. ORR, Coburg

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 2 December, 1915)

DEATHS

On Active Service

ORR – In loving memory of Sergeant Ernest J. Orr, died in England, 14th November, from wounds received in the Dardanelles, loved eldest son of James and the late Elizabeth Orr, aged 21 years.

Loved by all.

-Inserted by his friends, Mr and Mrs Mateer and family.

ORR – A tribute to the memory of our dear friend, Sergeant Ernest J. Orr (Ernie), died in England, 14th November, from wounds received in the Dardanelles, aged 21 years.

Sorrow that is never spoken is the hardest grief to bear.

-Inserted by N. H. and V. M., Parkville.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 December, 1915)

DEATHS

ORR – In sad remembrance of Sergeant E. Orr, who was wounded 25th April, died 14th November, 1915. May his soul rest in peace.

-Inserted by his loving cousin, W. Austin.

(Advocate, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 December, 1915)

IN MEMORIAM

ORR – In loving remembrance of Sgt. Ernest James Orr, dearly loved son of James and the late Elizabeth Orr, and dearest brother of Nellie, Jack and Phillip; also our dear mother, who died suddenly on the 1st May, 1907. R.I.P.

May their dear souls rest in peace.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 November, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

ORR – In affectionate remembrance of Sergeant Ernest James Orr, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 14th November, 1915.

A friend, a pal, a man.

-(Inserted by F. W. Shore)

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

ORR – In loving memory of our dear son, Sergeant E. J. Orr, A. Co., 7th Battalion, died on 14th November, 1915, result of wounds received at Landing of Dardanelles. R.I.P.

A loving son and true.

So dearly loved and sadly missed.

-Inserted by his father and brothers, Jas. Orr.

ORR – In loving memory of our dear brother, who died on 14th November, 1915, result of wounds received at Dardanelles. R.I.P.

Sweet remembrance lasts for ever.

Inserted by his sister and brother, N. and D. Heneberry.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 November, 1917)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 27th July, 1921, to Mr J. Orr, 14 Park Street, Coburg, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 182 Sergeant E. J. Orr, 7th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Sergeant Ernest James Orr does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Rest In Peace Amen

Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16917

A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London (taken 15 April, 1931)



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(Photos from CWGC)*





Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Serjeant E. J. Orr's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)