

**Fort Pitt Military Cemetery,
Rochester, Kent
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3427 PRIVATE

C. H. PRICE M.M.

13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 24

"Noddie"

Though Absent From Among Us

You Are Ever In Our Thoughts

Cecil Horace PRICE

Cecil Horace Price was born in Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria on 9th June, 1893 to parents Charles Henry & Louisa Eliza Price (nee Rowland).

Cecil Horace Price attended Mona Vale Public School, NSW & Greenwoods, North Sydney, NSW.

Cecil Horace Price was a 22 year old, single, Labourer from North Sydney when he enlisted at Warwick Farm, Sydney on 23rd August, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 13th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3427 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr C. H. Price, of 124 Falcon Street, North Sydney, NSW.

Private Cecil Horace Price embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 13th October, 1915.

Private Cecil Horace Price was allotted to & proceeded to join 13th Battalion from 45th Battalion on 6th March, 1916. He was taken on strength with 13th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 10th March, 1916.

Private Cecil Horace Price proceeded from Alexandria on 1st June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles on 8th June, 1916.

Private Cecil Horace Price was sent to Hospital sick while in the field on 13th September, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 13th September, 1916 with Rheumatism then transferred to 13th Australian Field Ambulance. He was discharged to duty on 3rd October, 1916 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 4th October, 1916.

Private Cecil Horace Price was sent to Hospital sick on 31st January, 1917. He was admitted to 4th D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 2nd February, 1917 with Influenza. Pte Price rejoined his Battalion from Hospital on 10th February, 1917.

Private Cecil Horace Price was wounded in action on 11th April, 1917. He was taken to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 11th April, 1917 with a fractured skull. Pte Price was transferred to 36th Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to eye & skull. Pte Price was transferred & admitted too 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 23rd April, 1917 with shell wounds & a fractured skull. He embarked from Boulogne on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* for England on 30th April, 1917 with Hernia, Cerebral & Compound Fractured Skull.

Private Cecil Horace Price was admitted to Central Military Hospital at Chatham, England on 30th April, 1917 with a Compound fractured skull. The Hospital Report reads: "*Wounded April. 11, 17. Operation fracture of frontal bone (R1) excised. Arrived in England with large Cerebral hernia. Xray shows irregular hole in R frontal bone with several fragments of ban in lower margin. Rt. Plois.*

Has cleaned up & hernia has almost disappeared with Bipp dressing. Slight Papillitis L. side. Has practically no symptoms now exe for very occasional headache.

When on point of transfer to Australian Depot developed a large cerebral abscess & L. Hemiplegia. Abscess drained. V. nearly died. Has now recovered completely wd almost healed. Hernia which became very large has now subsided again. Walks about & can do practically anything. At operation for drainage of abscess, an attempt was made to remove the pieces of bone at lower margin of original wound. These were found firmly united to the edge of frontal bone & therefore left."

Private Cecil Horace Price was awarded the Military Medal by orders of Lieut. General W. R. Birdwood on 15th May, 1917. Published in *London Gazette* on 18th June, 1917 & the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on 4th October, 1917.

According to the recommendation "In the fighting near BULLECOURT on the 11th April, 1917, these two men showed conspicuous bravery as regimental stretcher bearers. The other two men of their squad were both hit by a shell whilst carrying a wounded man, and Privates Price and [3533 J H] Campbell were badly shaken, but they stuck to their work, returning again and again to the enemy's wire although under fire from snipers and machine guns. They continued at this work until both were severely wounded and then refusing help, dragged themselves to the Dressing Station. These men have done consistently good work in all our operations in FRANCE."



The Military Medal (front & back)

13th Battalion

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While in Egypt the AIF was expanded and was reorganised. The 13th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 45th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916, the 13th sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August. In February 1917, Captain W. H. Murray, who had transferred to the 13th from the 16th Battalion, earned the Victoria Cross for his actions during an attack near Gueudecourt. He became one of the most highly decorated officers in the AIF. The 13th Battalion, along with most of the 4th Brigade, suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. The battalion spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium advancing to the Hindenburg Line.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 13th Battalion – 11th April, 1917:

Attack on HINDENBURG LINE

At 3.35 a.m. the Battalion was in the Railway cutting ready to move out, and I had a final conference with the officers.

At 4.45 a.m. punctually "A" and "B" Companies moved out, followed later by "C" and "D" Companies at distances of 200 yds.

As soon as they left the shelter of the cutting losses deo, shell fire commenced. When about 600 yards from the 1st objective the battalion came under heavy machine gun fire, which became more intense at the first wire and officers and men fell fast. The 16th Battalion had then taken the 1st objective but were seen to be in very great difficulties with the 2nd objective, the wire in front of which was uncut, and it was only too evident that the 16th Battalion had suffered enormous losses from machine gun fire in taking the 1st objective. The Tanks had then not reached the first trench; there was a Tank in the wire, and a German Machine gun only 10 yards from it, firing heavily ion our man. This gun was put out of action by our leading Company (A). The 13th Battalion pressed on and with the 16th, took the 2nd objective, mainly by bombing to the right and left. They soon established touch with the 14th Battalion on their left; and by bombing extended their right flank to U 30 B 0.6 and U 30 A 9.4.

The machine gun fire rendered visual signalling impossible and the open ground swept by machine gun fire was almost certain death to runners, so that no messages were coming in to Battalion Headquarters, but at 7.15 a.m. Captain Murray wrote an account of the situation, which I received at 9 a.m. and transmitted to Brigade Headquarters by runner.

About 7.20 a.m. a large amount of enemy movement was seen around REINCOURT. Captain Murray sent up S.O.S. flares for an artillery barrage but none was forthcoming.

At about 7.30 a.m. the Germans counter-attacked by bombing down a communication trench from REINCOURT. This was beaten off and a combined party of 13th and 16th bombers beat the enemy back this trench to within 100 yards of REINCOURT putting in a block. At the same time the enemy counter-attacked our right in the 2nd objective with bombs but were beaten back suffering heavy loss.

At 9 a.m. a battalion of the enemy in close formation moving from QUEANT to the N. of REINCOURT was dispersed by our machine gun fire, suffering heavy loss.

Captain Murray went along the whole position and reports that the 4th Brigade held 900 yards of the Hindenburg line. He commenced the organization of the whole brigade position. At 10.45 a.m. heavy bomb attacks by the Germans were started the right and left of both objectives, also down the communication trench from REINCOURT and a communication trench running N and S on the W. of REINCOURT, six attacks in all.

These attacks were very severe and our bombs were quickly exhausted, and our men pressed back to the centre of our position from all sides. The Germans hand machine guns trained on the parapet which frustrated every endeavour on the part of our men to go along the top and attack the bombers with the bayonet.

Attempts to call up an Artillery barrage by power buzzer and S.O.S. flares failed, the buzzer being jammed by the Germans and the flares apparently not being observed.

Except where parties were cut off the men tried to get back over the open under a fearful machine gun and rifle fire; the losses being very heavy.

Shortly aft noon the position was entirely evacuated.

As nightfall, the remnants of the Battalion, under cover of the outposts of the 52 Battalion, withdrew to FOREUIL and thence to FAVREUIL.

The failure of the Tanks was the primary cause of our failure to carry out our original plan. They were knocked out by an anti-tank gun situated on the W. side of REINCOURT, at a range of about 600 yards. This gun was right in the open shooting over open sights. No tank reached the second objective, and only one (perhaps two) crossed the first objective. Our men put the anti-tank gun out of action with Machine gun fire from the second objective, but by the time it was too late to save the tanks. The fact that our artillery were slow in putting a barrage on REINCOURT resulted in the bombing attacks being pressed with great vigour; also the gap between the 4th and 12th Brigades gave the Germans a great advantage. We did not have enough hand grenades or rifle grenades, but the role allotted to the 13th Battalion was an above-ground one, hence we took more S.A.A. and fewer bombs. Ground flares were lit at 8 am I cannot understand why the R.F.C. thought we were in REINCOURT.

Our losses are as follows:-

	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Wounded</i>	<i>Missing</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Officers</i>	6	6	9	21
<i>Other Ranks</i>	19	112	358	489
	25	118	367	510

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Cecil Horace Price died at 3.35 am on 24th September, 1917 at Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham, England from wounds received in action in France – Gunshot wounds to Head, Fractured Skull and Cerebral Abscess.

A death for Cecil H. Price, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Medway, Kent, England.

Private Cecil Horace Price was buried at 2 pm on 26th September, 1917 in Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent, England – Plot number 1472 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial

report of Pte Price - Coffin was good polished Elm with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. Drum and Fife Band, Firing Party and party of bearers were supplied by the Middlesex Regiment stationed at Chatham. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by 6 Buglers of the Middlesex Regiment. Church of England service was conducted at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. C. D. Paterson. Owing to his having been listed to sail for Australia on the day of the funeral, deceased's brother, No. 539 Pte Frederick Price, 36th Batt. A.I.F. was unable to be present.

An additional report was noted regarding the burial of Private Cecil Horace Price which reads: "The arrangements made by those responsible were lacking in some essentials. Apparently no provision had been made for the attendance of a Chaplain, as the funeral procession was kept waiting in the street, outside the Cemetery gates for 65 minutes. Had it not been for the action of the Officer Commanding the Funeral Party in personally taking the matter in hand, the humiliating spectacle of returning the procession from the Cemetery through the street to the Hospital would have been witnessed, necessitating a postponement of the funeral. Again, there was no inscription on the coffin. The Undertaker, with whom I remonstrated, complained that he had only been advised of the death the previous day, (Pte Price died at 3.35 on Monday morning) and the coffin plate had not been received from London where it was being engraved. He was hopeful that the plate would arrive at Chatham in time to be affixed before the grave was filled in, but the grave digger protested that the filling-in must be done before sunset. In the circumstances I had to accept the assurance of the grave digger that, if the plate did not arrive in time to be affixed to the coffin before the grave was filled in, it would be buried some distance down in the grave – all of which was most unsatisfactory. Fortunately no relatives were present.

The miscarriage of the important details in connection with this funeral has been brought to the notice of the Officer Commanding the Fort Pitt Military Hospital, with a request that measures be taken to prevent a recurrence."

According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by his brother Ernest A Price, Private Cecil Horace Price won a life saving certificate and won a stretcher bearer competition in France around New Year 1916. He was one of three mates who enlisted together & were stretcher bearers and all three won military medals.

Pte Cecil Horace Price requested in his Will dated 10th April, 1917 that in the event of his death all monies due to him & personal belongings to be given to his mother – Mrs L. E. Price, of Mona Vale, NSW.

A letter was sent to Mr C. H. Price, father of late Private Cecil Horace Price, from Base Records on 1st November, 1917 which reads:

Dear Sir

I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from the Fourth Supplement No. 30135 to the London Gazette dated 15th June, 1917, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, the late No. 3427 Private C. H. Price, 13th Battalion.

X X X X

AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL

"HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the Field to the undermentioned soldier:-

No. 3427 Private CECEIL HORACE PRICE"

X X X X

The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 169 of 4th October, 1917.

Pte Cecil Horace Price was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Price's father – Mr C. H. Price, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Cecil Horace Price – service number 3427, aged 24, of 13th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was awarded the Military Medal (MM). He was the son of Charles Harry and Louisa Emily Price. Native of Victoria, Australia.

Private C. H. Price is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 70.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. H. Price & his brother F. Price are remembered on the Mona Vale – Bay View – School Roll of Honour which is located in the Assembly Hall of Mona Vale Public School, Waratah Street, Mona Vale, NSW.



Mona Vale Public School Roll of Honour (Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW)

C. H. Price & his brother F. Price are remembered on the Mona Vale War Memorial located at Mona Vale Junction, corner of Barrenjoey and Pittwater Roads, Mona Vale, NSW.



Mona Vale War Memorial (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)

Cecil H. Price is also remembered on the Manly ANZAC War Memorial located on the corner of The Corso & Belgrave Street, Manly, NSW.



Manly ANZAC War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia Peter F. Williams/ Malcom Fisher/John Huth)

C. H. Price is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial located at the top of Walker Street, in St. Leonards Park, North Sydney, NSW.



North Sydney War Memorial (Photos from War Memorial Register NSW – David Roden and Andrew Howell)



(42 pages of Pte Cecil Horace Price'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 Private Cecil Horace Price:](#)

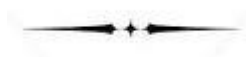
Younger Brother - Pte Frederick Price, 538, 36th Battalion. Enlisted 6th January, 1916, aged 18 years. Wounded in Action in Belgium on 7th June, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to head, neck & skull. Returned to Australia 27th September, 1917. Medically discharged. Entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09185.001

Private Cecil Horace Price



Newspaper Notices

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

341st LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte CECIL HORACE PRICE, North Sydney, 24/9/17 (Prev. rep. sev. wounded).

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 13 October, 1917)

MILITARY MEDAL

Mr and Mrs C. H. Price, of West and Falcon streets, North Sydney, have received the Military Medal which was awarded to their son, Stretcher-bearer C. H. Price, who was recently killed in France.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 April, 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)

Pte C. H. Price does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

“Noddie” Though Absent From Among Us You Are Ever In Our Thoughts

Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent, England

Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent contains 289 identified Commonwealth War Graves.

During both wars there were naval and military establishments in the neighbourhood of Rochester, and some fishing and shipping at the port.

Fort Pitt Military Cemetery contains a plot of 266 First World War graves. The 25 Second World War graves (two of them unidentified) are north of the plot. All save two of them are together in a group.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Photo of Pte C. H. Price's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent, England.



Private Cecil Horace Price, M.M. is also remembered on his mother's headstone located in Macquarie Park Cemetery, North Ryde, Sydney, NSW. Anglican Section G Row 7 Grave 0054. Louisa Eliza Price died on 22nd March, 1923 & Charles Henry Price died on 14th May, 1937. Both were buried in the above grave.



(Photos courtesy of Macquarie Park Cemetery)

In Loving Memory of
OUR DEAR MOTHER
LOUISA ELIZA PRICE,
DIED 22ND MARCH 1923, AGED 67 YEARS.

"OUR BEST PAL"

ERECTED BY HER LOVING SONS & DAUGHTER.

ALSO OUR DEAR BROTHER

PTE. CECIL HORACE PRICE, M.I.

DIED OF WOUNDS, GATHAM, ENGLAND,

24TH SEPT. 1917.

"HIS DUTY DONE"

Also
My dear Husband & Our dear Dad
ERNEST ALFRED PRICE
DIED 30TH NOV. 1932, AGED 43 YEARS.
Inserted by his loving wife & children.
SOMEONE WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER,
DAD DEAR THAT SOMEONE IS YOU.

In Loving Memory Of

Our Dear Mother

LOUISA ELIZA PRICE

Died 22ND March 1923. Aged 67 Years.

“OUR BEST PAL”

Erected By Her Loving Sons & Daughter.

Also Our Dear Brother

Pte CECIL HORACE PRICE, M.M.

Died Of Wounds, Chatham, England

24TH Sept. 1917

“HIS DUTY DONE”