

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2668 PRIVATE

P. RYAN

4TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH DECEMBER, 1915

Patrick RYAN

Patrick Ryan was born in Melbourne, Victoria around 1877.

Patrick Ryan was a 38 year old, single, Labourer from Galong, NSW when he enlisted on 10th July, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his friend – Mrs Kennedy, of Galong, NSW.

Private Patrick Ryan was posted to 8th Reinforcements of 4th Battalion.

Private Patrick Ryan, Service number 2668, embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 9th August, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

Private Patrick Ryan embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 8th November, 1915 on H. T. *Royal George*.

Private Patrick Ryan was admitted to No. 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital at Mudros on 16th November, 1915 with Rheumatism. He was discharged on 23rd November, 1915 & was transferred to Hospital Ship *Aquitania* where he embarked for England on 25th November, 1915.

4th Battalion

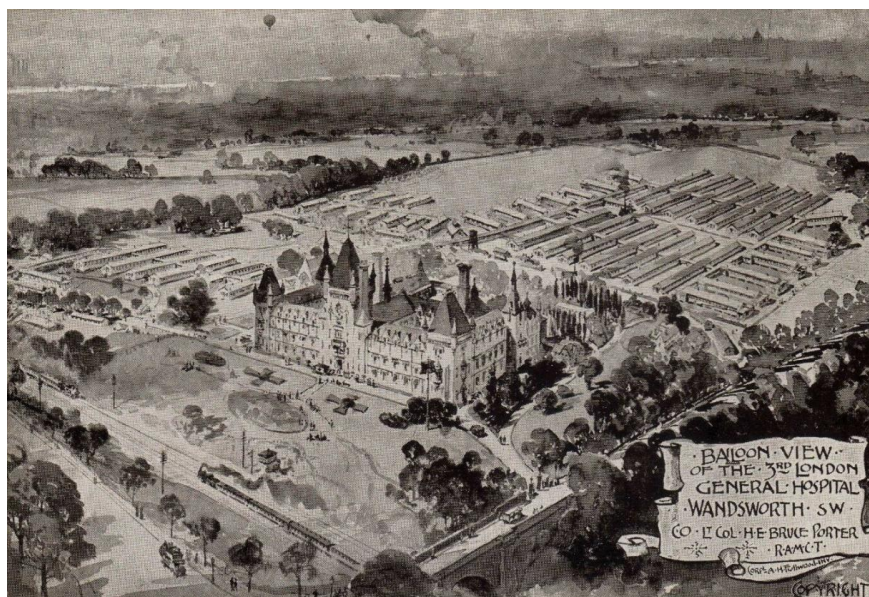
The 4th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these other battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised 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. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. The commander of the 4th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel A. J. O. Thompson, was killed the next day. At ANZAC, the battalion took part in the defence of the beachhead and in August, along with the rest of the 1st Brigade, led the charge at Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Patrick Ryan was admitted to County of London, War Hospital, Epsom, England on 4th December, 1915.

Private Patrick Ryan died at 9.30 am on 13th December, 1915 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from Peritonitis. A Coroner's Inquest was held on 17th December, 1915 into the cause of death.



A death for Patrick Ryan, aged 38, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Base Records advised Mrs J. Kennedy, Galong, NSW (listed as Friend/Next-of-Kin) on 17th December, 1915 that Private Patrick Ryan had been admitted to Hospital at Epsom, England with Rheumatism.

Private Patrick Ryan was buried on 18th December, 1915 in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Grave number 132, F. B. 18.

Private Patrick Ryan's burial place is now recorded by CWGC as Aust. 9. He now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Victoria Barracks, Sydney sent an urgent Telegram to Base Records & Department of Defence on 4th January, 1916 to advise that "police cannot trace Mrs J. Kennedy of Galong." (Mrs Kennedy of Galong was listed as Friend instead of Next -of-kin of the late Private Patrick Ryan.)

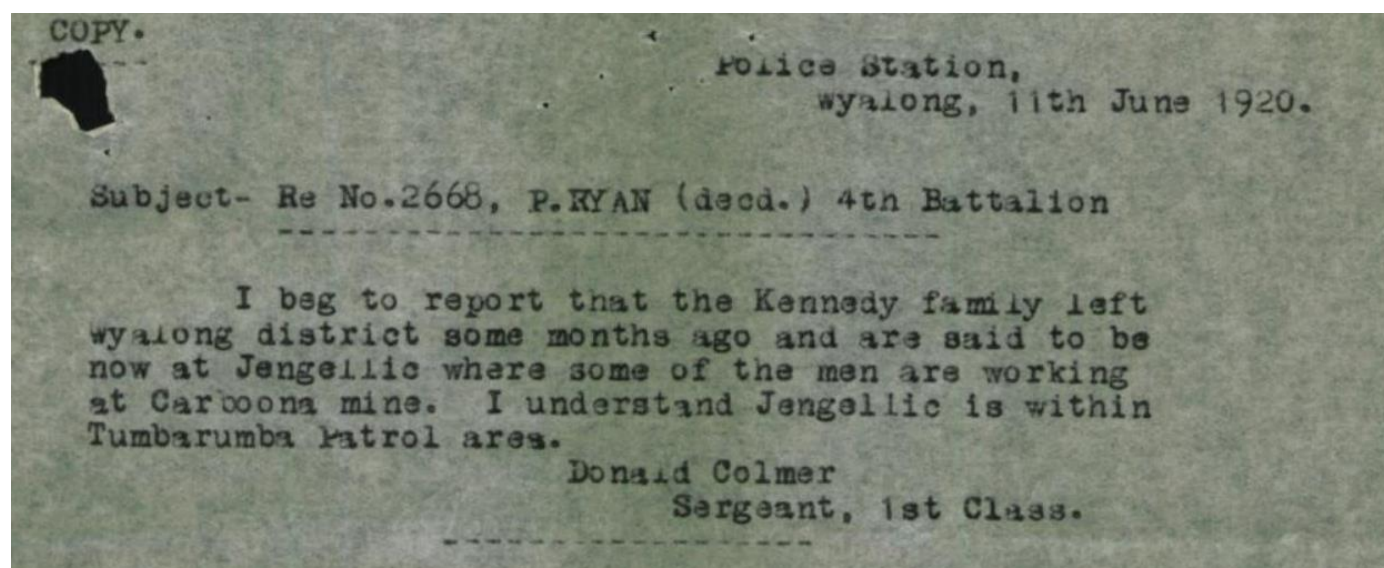
Base Records wrote to A.A.G., 2nd Military District on 19th June, 1917 with the following: "*The late No. 2668 Private P. Ryan. 4th Battalion, recorded as his next of kin – Mrs J. Kennedy, Galong, NSW, but communications so addressed have been returned unclaimed. As it is desired to get into touch with Mrs Kennedy, it is suggested, failing any later information in District records, that the press be asked to insert a notice requesting her to communicate with the Officer in Charge, Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, with as little delay as possible.*"

A communication sent to Mrs J. Kennedy, Galong, NSW but was redirected to Murrumburrah then redirected to 26 Moonbee St, Summer Hill. This communication was returned to Base Records in 1918.

Base Records wrote to D.F.O. (District Finance Officer), 2nd Military District on 27th September, 1920 requesting information on "*whom you finalized the account of the late No. 2668, Private P. Ryan, 4th Battalion. If finalized with the Public Trustee will you kindly ascertain from him with whom the account was settle. Your favour of early attention is requested, in order that the 1914/15 Star and other War Medals, etc, due on account of deceased's service may be properly disposed of.*"

The District Finance Officer, 2nd Military District replied to Base Records on 20th October, 1920 advising that "... a settlement of the estate of the abovenamed deceased soldier has bot been effected, as information regarding the relatives of the late soldier cannot be obtained. The soldier on embarkation nominated a friend – Mrs Kennedy – as next-of-kin, but the Police were unable to interview her as stated on the enclosed report."

Police Reports:



Police Station,
Tumbarumba, June 30th 1920.

I beg to report, having made inquiries at Jingellic re whereabouts of the Kennedy family inquired for, and was informed that they left Jungellic some two months ago, and are now said to be in or about Howlong, where they have a contract ploughing for some farmers. They have two teams of horses and the family includes the Father, Mother, Son and Daughters.

John O'Connor,
Sergeant 2/C.

Police Station, Howlong.
7th July 1920.

I beg to report that I interviewed Mr. Kennedy and he stated that his wife is now residing with her Daughter- Mrs. Gilbert McVean, at Corryong, Victoria.

Gordon H. Bartholomew,
Constable 1/No. 9189.

Corryong, 23/7/20.

I have to report that I have made enquiries in this case from Dr. Grunham, Mrs. Kennedy's Medical advisor, who states that Mrs. Kennedy is mentally unfit to be interviewed, and is about to be taken to the Receiving House at Royal Park or some other similar institution.

H. Moore.
563482.

Private Patrick Ryan was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private Ryan's next-of-kin. As no next-of-kin could be located Private Ryan's Medals & Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were sent to Untraceables.

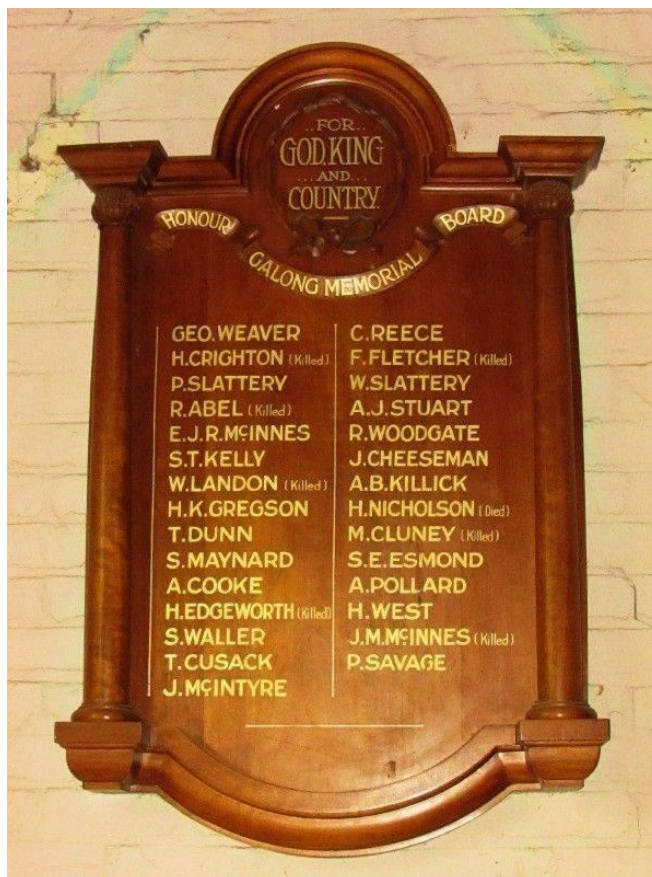
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Patrick Ryan – service number 2668, aged 38, of 4th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private P. Ryan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 42.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private P. Ryan is not remembered on the Galong Memorial Honour Board, located in Galong Memorial Hall, McMahon & High Streets, Galong, NSW.



Galong Memorial Honour Board (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

(68 pages of Private Patrick Ryan'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



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

27th LIST

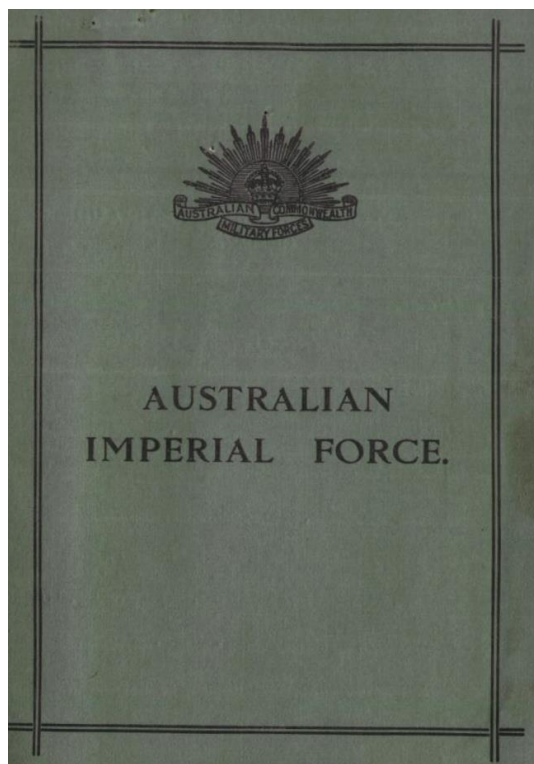
NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

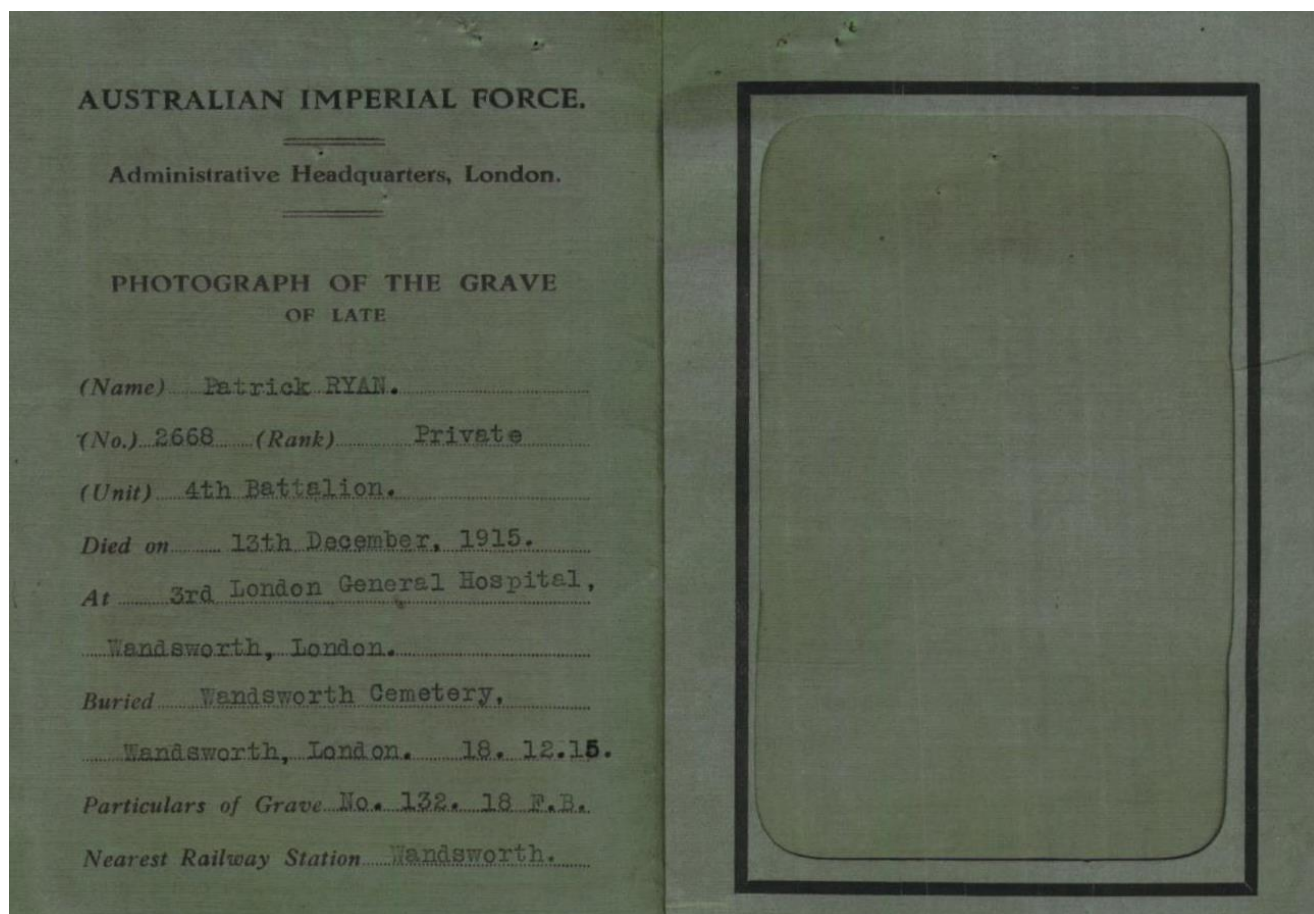
Pte P. RYAN, 4 B., 8 R., Galong

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 25 December, 1915)

The next-of-kin of deceased soldiers were sent 2 photographs of the graves of the deceased soldier. Base Records sent 2 photos to Mrs J. Kennedy on 26th February, 1918 – addressed to Galong, NSW & later addressed to Geelong, Victoria. These were returned unclaimed & as a result the photographs of the original grave marker for Private P. Ryan are located in his Service Record file.



Front Cover (above)



Name and Address of Correspondent
to whom Photograph sent.

(Name).....Mrs. J. Kennedy,.....
(Address).....Galong,.....
.....New South Wales.....

Communications respecting this Photograph or the
grave of the deceased soldier, should
be addressed to—

The Officer i/c Records,
Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,
130, Horseferry Road,
London, S.W. 1.

1000 8/17 6300

Two photographs were sent to Galong, NSW & another 2 were sent to Geelong, New South Wales
- All were returned unclaimed

Name and Address of Correspondent
to whom Photograph sent.

(Name) Mrs. J. Kennedy,.....
(Address) Geelong,.....
.....New South Wales.....

Communications respecting this Photograph or the
grave of the deceased soldier, should
be addressed to—

The Officer i/c Graves Registration in U.K. Branch,
Victoria Building,
Australia House,
Strand,
London, W.C. 2.

B 1000 8/19 5813



Original Grave Marker for Private P. Ryan (Photos located in his Service Record file as they could not be delivered)



Original Grave Marker for Private P. Ryan *(Photos located in his Service Record file as they could not be delivered)*



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 P. Ryan does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice *(Photos from CWGC)*



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)*

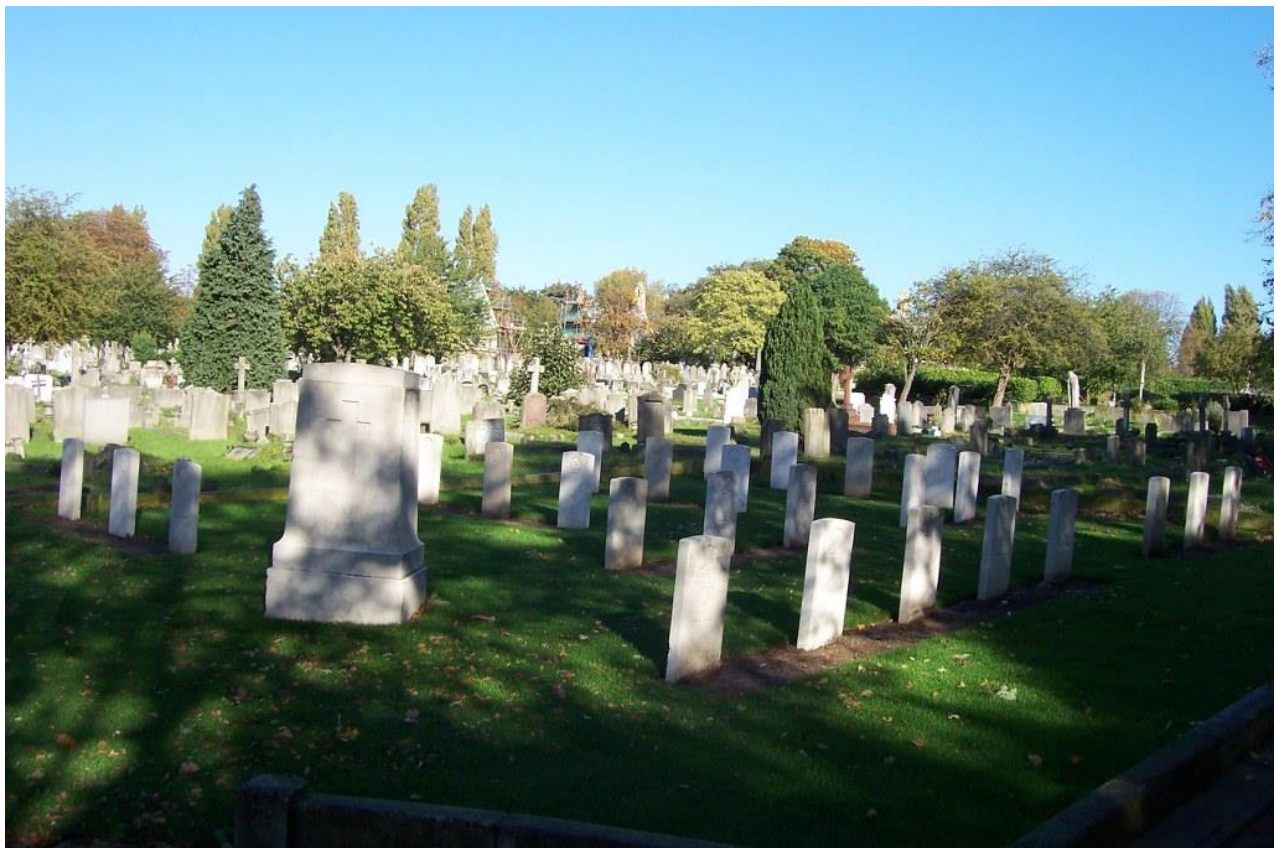


Photo of Private P. Ryan's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)