

**Hollybrook Memorial,
Southampton, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4578 PRIVATE

P. G. RYAN

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH JUNE, 1916

Preston Gilmore/Gillmore RYAN

[Note: There are different spellings of the middle name Gilmore/Gillmore:

The Register of Births in Stanley, Tasmania has the middle name recorded as Gilmore as does the Field Service record along with the information form for the Roll of Honour completed by his father. The Attestation Papers, the Embarkation Roll & letter giving permission to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force have the middle name listed as "Gillmore"]

Preston Gilmore Ryan was born at Smithton, Tasmania on 6th February, 1898 to parents Terrence & Frances Maud Louisa Ryan (nee Evans). His birth was registered in Stanley, Tasmania,

Preston Gilmore Ryan attended State High School, Tasmania.

Preston Gilmore Ryan stated he was aged 18 years & 1 month*, single & Shop Assistant from Smithton, Tasmania when he enlisted on 19th October, 1915 at Claremont, Tasmania with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr T. Ryan, Smithton, Tasmania. Preston Ryan stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 12 months with Senior Cadets Launceston 92 & 2 years Exempt Area. (Note:* He was 17 years old when he enlisted).

As Preston Ryan was under the age of 21 his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. T Ryan & Frances Ryan signed their names to the following letter: "I hereby give my son Preston Gillmore Ryan permission to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force."

Private Preston Gilmore Ryan was posted to A Company at Claremont, Tasmania on 19th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was posted to 14th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion on 14th December, 1915.

Private Preston Gilmore Ryan, Service number 4578, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Warilda* (A69) on 8th February, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 8th March, 1916.** (Note: His middle name is listed as "Gillmore" on the Embarkation Roll.)

[**This is the last entry on the Casualty Form – Active Service for Private Ryan before his death was recorded.]

12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

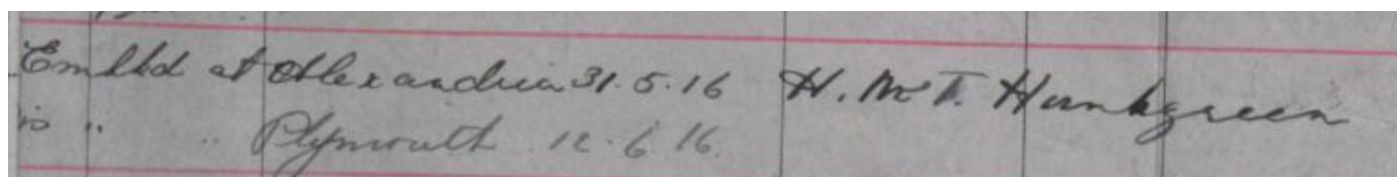
After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 12th Battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

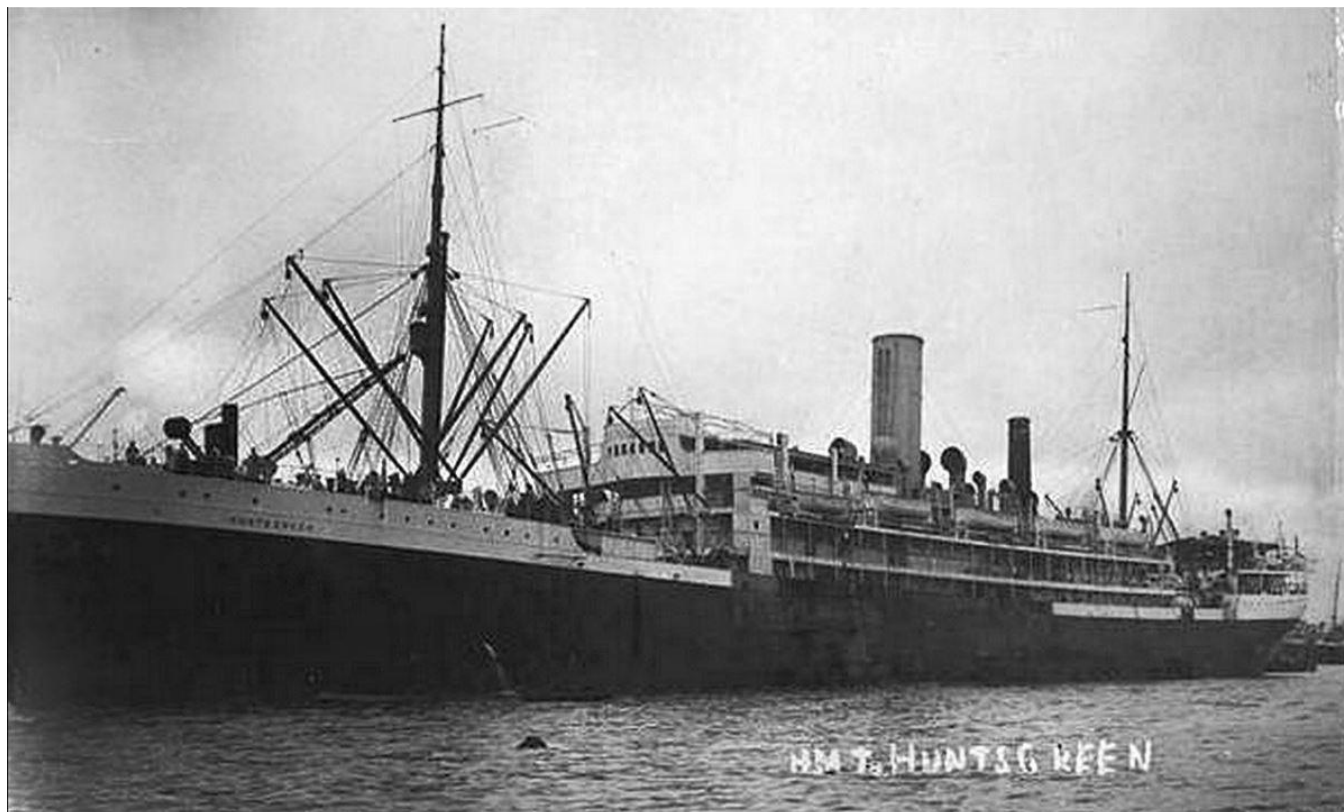
Private Preston Gilmore Ryan died on 4th June, 1916 at Sea on board H.M.A.T. *Huntsgreen* from Meningitis.

[*According to Casualty Form Active Service (see below) for Private Ernest Campbell Post, Service number 5440, with 8th Battalion – he embarked from Alexandria on 31st May, 1916 on H.M.T. *Huntsgreen* & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 12th June, 1916 for further training before being sent to the Front.

Private Preston Gilmore Ryan would have been on the same Transport & would have most likely been returned to England due to illness or being wounded. He was later awarded the Victory Medal which indicates that he had entered a Theatre of War.]



Casualty Form for Private Ernest Campbell Post, Service number 5440



The *Derfflinger* was seized at Port Said in August, 1914 & requisitioned by the British Admiralty. She was used as a Hospital ship during the Gallipoli campaign & later renamed *Huntsgreen*.

Private Preston Gilmore Ryan was buried at Sea on 4th June, 1916 from H.M.A.T. *Huntsgreen* in the Mediterranean (according to AWM). He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The U.A.O.D., Grand Lodge of Tasmania, Launceston, wrote to Base Records on 21st August, 1916 requesting Certificates of Death & Embarkation Forms for 5 Soldiers: William James Turner, Lilydale, Tasmania; John Henry Cleary, Hobart, Tasmania, Preston Gilmour Ryan, Smithton; William Aaron Sampson, Queenstown & H. R. Bellchambers, No. 4927, Chudleigh. (Note: the original letter & reply from Base Records are filed in No. 1045 Lance Sergeant W. J. Turner's Service Record file)

Base Records replied to The General Secretary of Grand Lodge of Tasmania on 7th September, 1916 enclosing certificates of reports of death for No. 4578 Private P. G. Ryan & No. 1093 Private W. A. Sampson. Certificates of Embarkation were included for No. 1045 Lance Sergeant W. J. Turner; No. 2361 Sapper J. H. Cleary; No. 4578 Private P. G. Ryan & No. 1093 Private W. A. Sampson.

Private Preston Gilmore Ryan was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Ryan's father – Mr J. Ryan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Preston Gilmore Ryan – service number 4578, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Shields, Heritage, Stackhouse & Martin, Solicitors & Notaries, Launceston, Tasmania, wrote to Officer in Charge of Records, Army Headquarters, Melbourne, on 22nd January, 1952 requesting "evidence of the death" of 4578 Private Preston Gilmour Ryan "... in connection with a transaction in this State and should be pleased if you would supply us with a certificate or other evidence of his death."

Base Records replied to Shields, Heritage, Stackhouse & Martin, Solicitors & Notaries, Launceston, Tasmania, on 1st February, 1952 enclosing a Certificate of report of Death of No. 4578 Private Preston Gillmore Ryan & advised the cost of preparing the certificate was 2/6.

P. G. Ryan is remembered on the Circular Municipality Roll of Honour, located in Smithton RSL Club, 123 Nelson Street, Smithton, Tasmania.



Circular Municipality Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

Preston Gilmore Ryan is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

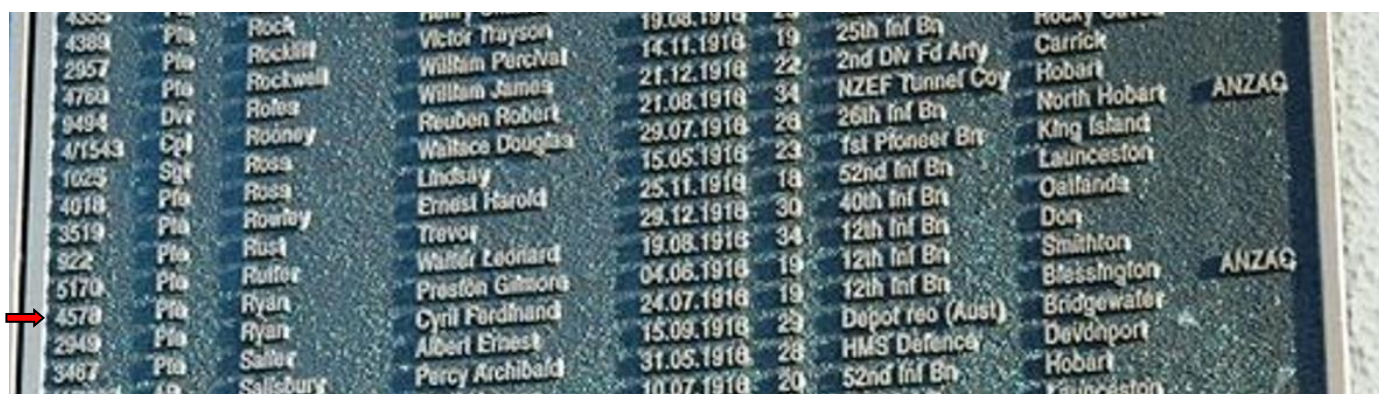
Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Private P. G. 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 67.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(26 pages of Private Preston Gilmore 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



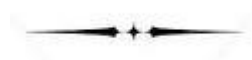


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA13631

(Photo c 24 January, 1916)

Studio portrait of 4578 Private (Pte) Preston Gilmore Ryan, 14th Reinforcements, 12th Battalion, of Smithton, Tas. Pte Ryan enlisted on 10 October 1915 and embarked aboard HMAT *Warilda* on 8 February 1916. On 4 June 1916 he died of Meningitis and was buried at sea in the Mediterranean. His death is commemorated at the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton.



Newspaper Notices



(*The Weekly Courier*, Tasmania – 15 June, 1916)

Roll of Honour

Rev J. Middleton-MacDonald, of Smithton, received the following telegram from the Army headquarters, Hobart, on Friday:- "Officially reported Private P. G. Ryan, No. 4578, died on June 4 of meningitis, ex Huntsgreen. Buried at sea. Please convey to next-of-kin (Mr T, Ryan, Smithton) the deepest regret and sympathy of their Majesties the King and Queens, and of the Commonwealth Government, as all as of the District Commandant, in the loss sustained to them and the army."

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 19 June, 1916)

SMITHTON AND DISTRICT

Soldier's Sad Death – The vicar of Smithton has received the following telegram from Army Headquarters : "Hobart, June 16th, 1916. Officially reported Private P. G. Ryan, No. 4578, died on 4th June of meningitis, ex Huntsgreen ; buried at sea. Please convey to next of kin, Mr T. Ryan, Smithton, the deepest regret and sympathy of Their Majesties The King and Queen, and of the Commonwealth Government, as well as of the District Commandant in the loss sustained by them and the Army." This sad message was received in Smithton on Friday, and cast quite a gloom over the place. Flags were flying half-mast as a token of sympathy. The deceased was the son of Mr and Mrs Terence Ryan, and was a well behaved and respected lad not yet 19 years of age. He was a bass player in the band. The heartfelt sympathy of all goes out to the parents in their sad bereavement.

(Circular Head Chronicle, Stanley, Tasmania – 21 June, 1916)

Roll of Honour

The 180th Casualty List

TASMANIA

Died of Illness – Pte P. G. Ryan (Smithton)

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 27 June, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

RYAN – On the 4th June, Preston Ryan, dearly loved son of Terence and Frances Ryan, aged 19 years.

No mother was there to soothe his brow,

 No father to say good-bye;

No brother to take him by the hand

 When death was drawing nigh.

He never shunned his country's call,

 But gladly gave his life, his all;

He died the helpless to defend,

 An Australian soldier's noble end.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, and brothers and sisters.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 8 June, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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.

Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

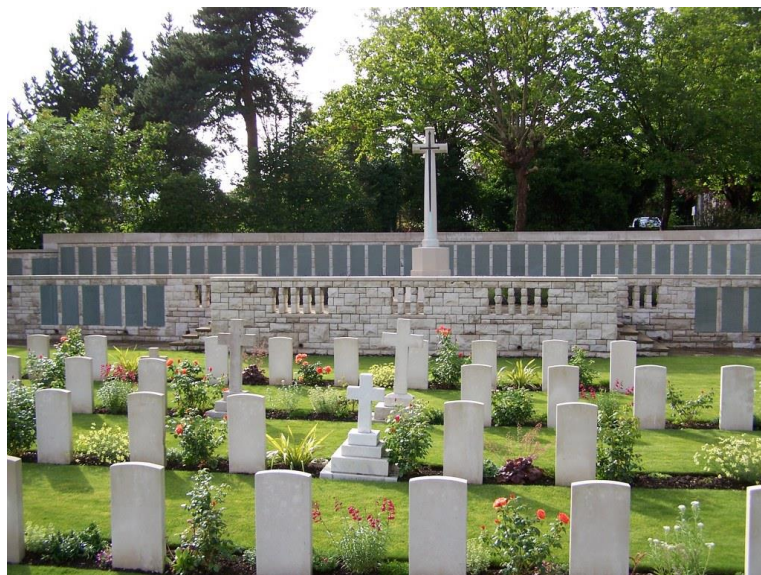
(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice

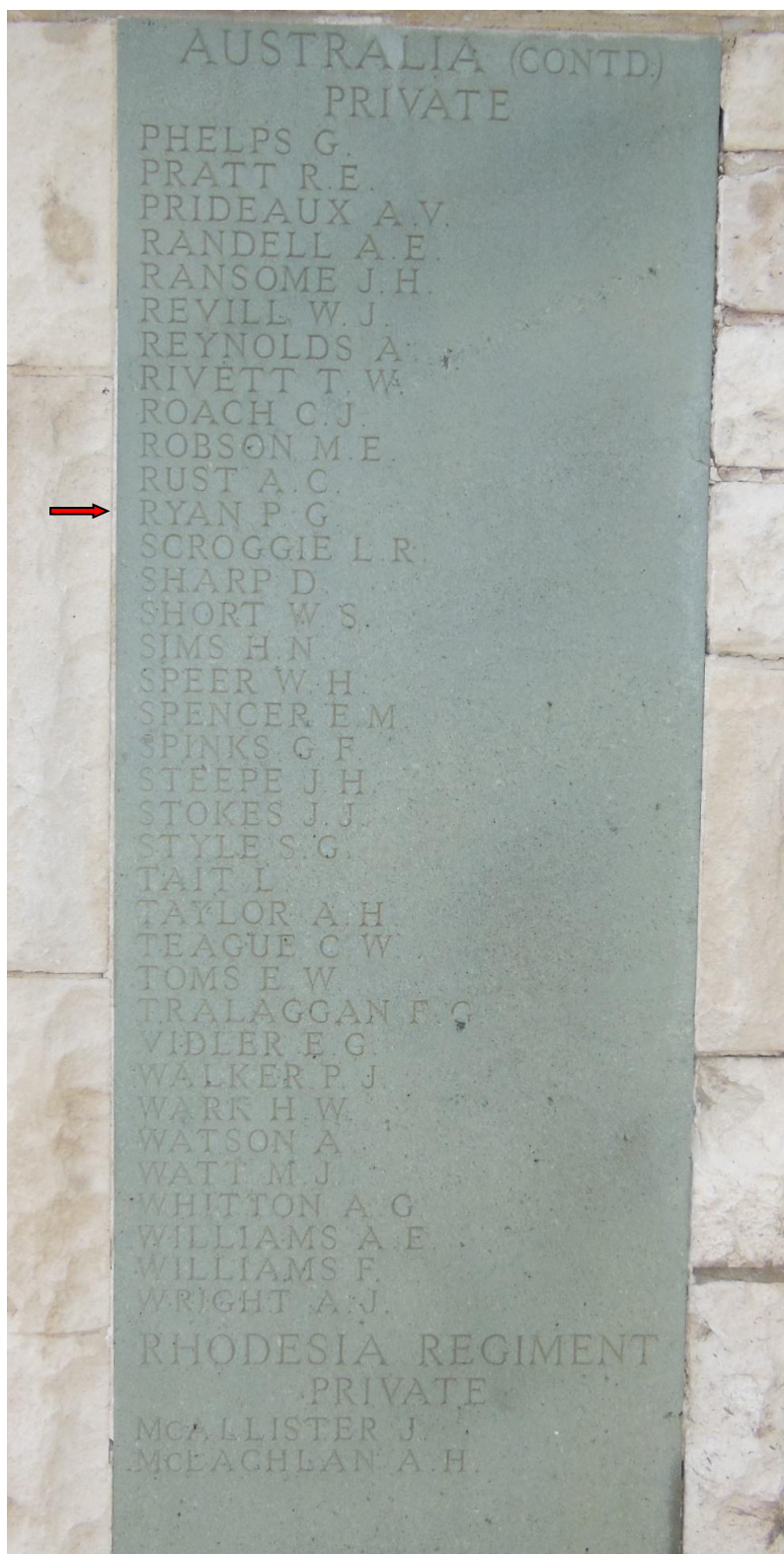


Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)



CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private P. G. Ryan's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

