

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4638 LANCE CORPORAL**

**P. R. WHELAN**

**29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**3RD JANUARY, 1917**

## Percival Reginald WHELAN

Percival Reginald Whelan was born at Essendon, Victoria in 1876 to parents Michael Luke & Elizabeth Julia Jane Whelan (nee Cox).

Percival Reginald Whelan attended school at Childers, Gippsland, Victoria.

Michael Luke Whelan, father of Percival Reginald Whelan, died on 7th January, 1906 at Murrindal, Victoria.

Percival Reginald Whelan married Margaret Ada Fuller in 1906 in Victoria.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Cunninghame, Victoria listed Percival Reginald Whelan, Storekeeper & his wife Margaret Ada Whelan, Home duties, from Swan Reach.

The 1912, 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Cunninghame, Victoria listed Percival Reginald Whelan, Farmer & his wife Margaret Ada Whelan, Home duties, from Swan Reach.

Percival Reginald Whelan was a 40 year old, married, Postal Employee (according to information supplied for the Roll of Honour he was a Telephone Linesman) when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 14th August, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Margaret Ada Whelan, 3 Evandale Road, Malvern, Victoria.

Private Percival Reginald Whelan was posted to Depot on 14th August, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion on 30th August, 1916 then transferred on 31st August, 1916 to 21st (Depot) Battalion, A.I.F. at Royal Park. Private Whelan was transferred on 11th October, 1916 to "B" Company, 24th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion at Domain Camp. On 25th October, 1916 he was transferred to No. 9 N.C.O.'s School at Geelong, Victoria. Private Whelan was transferred to "B" Company Reserve at Domain Camp on 3rd November, 1916. He was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 29th Battalion (no date recorded).

Private Percival Reginald Whelan was promoted to Lance Corporal on 13th December, 1916.

Private (rank as per Embarkation Roll) Percival Reginald Whelan, Service number 4638, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 16th December, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements.

### 29th Battalion

The 29th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria on 10 August 1915. Having enlisted as part of the recruitment drive that followed the landing at Gallipoli, and having seen the casualty lists, these were men who had offered themselves in full knowledge of their potential fate....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Lance Corporal Percival Reginald Whelan was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 29th December, 1916 with Pneumonia.

Lance Corporal Percival Reginald Whelan died at 5 am on 3rd January, 1917 at Sea on board HMAT *Medic* (A7) from Pneumonia.

Lance Corporal Percival Reginald Whelan was buried at Sea from HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 3rd January, 1917. 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.

A War Pension was granted to Margaret Ada Whelan, 3 Evandale Rd, Malvern, Victoria, widow of the late Lance Corporal Percival Reginald Whelan, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 10th March, 1917.

The National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Limited, Melbourne, Victoria wrote to The Secretary of Defence Department on 30th January, 1917 the confirmation of death of Percival Reginald Whelan – Policies Nos. 95175 & 308952 & details for identification purposes.

Base Records replied to The General Manage, National Mutual Life, Melbourne, Victoria on 14th February, 1917 enclosing a certificate of death of the late No, 4638 Lance Corporal P. R. Whelan, 29th Battalion, together with identification particulars.

Lance Corporal Percival Reginald Whelan was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Whelan's remarried widow – Mrs A. Wilkinson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent & Plaque sent July, 1922 but were returned & resent in May & June, 1923. Communications sent to Mrs M. A. Whelan to 3 Evandale Rd, Malvern, Victoria in July, 1922 from Base Records were returned as "Not Known").

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Percival Reginald Whelan – service number 4638, of 29th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Lance Corporal P. R. Whelan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 116.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*



P. Whelan is remembered on the Swan Reach State School Honour Roll, located in Swan Reach Primary School, School Road, Swan Reach, Gippsland Shire, Victoria.



**Swan Reach State School Honour Roll** (Photo from VHD Heritage Council, Victoria)

P. R. Whelan is remembered on the Malvern War Memorial, located at Central Park, Wattletree Road & Kingston Street, Malvern, Victoria.



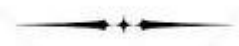




**Malvern War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)

(45 pages of Lance Corporal Percival Reginald Whelan'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



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DEATH**

#### **Died on Active Service**

WHELAN – Died on active service, (pneumonia), Corporal P. R. Whelan, of Swan Reach, aged 37 years.

*(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 18 January, 1917)*

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### **DIED ON SERVICE**

WHELAN – On the 3rd January, at sea, from pneumonia, Lance-Corporal P. R. Whelan, dearly beloved husband of Ada Whelan, 3 Evandale road, Malvern, and late of Swan Reach, Gippsland.

Thy purpose, Lord, we cannot see,  
But all is well that's done by Thee.

Died on service.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 January, 1917)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **266th AND 227th LISTS**

Details of Victorian losses are:-

Died of Illness

L.Cpl. P. R. WHELAN, Malvern

*(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 23 January, 1917)*

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### **DEATHS**

#### **Died on Active Service**

WHELAN -On the 3rd January, 1917, at sea, of pneumonia, Lance-Corporal Percy R., 6th beloved son of Mrs E. J. and the late M. Whelan, dear brother of Joe, Tom, Will, Mary (Mrs McDonald), Jack, Arthur, Kou (Mrs Weatherley), Eva (Mrs Liddle), Beat. (Mrs Flynn), Syd., Charl., and Rose.

For King and country.

Though here again we may not meet,  
Nor hold on earth communion sweet;  
We hope to meet on that blest shore  
Where parting shall be known no more.

*(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 1 February, 1917)*

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## DEATHS

WHELAN – On the 3rd January, 1917, at sea, of pneumonia, Lance Corporal P. R. Whelan, dearly loved husband of Ada Whelan, of Malvern, and loved uncle of Frank, Queenie, Essie, and Allen Fielding and Rita Fuller.

I long for household voices gone,  
For vanished smiles I long;  
But God has led my dear one on,  
And He can do no wrong.

*(Spectator and Methodist Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 March, 1917)*

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## BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

WHELAN – Mrs P. R. Whelan desires to thank all friends for kind expressions of sympathy, cards and letters in her recent sad bereavement, especially thanking Rev. Chas, Tregear, Methodist Chaplain, Dr Homabrooke, and comrades on board the “Medic”.

*(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 8 March, 1917)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

WHELAN – In loving memory of my dear husband, Lance-Corporal Percival R., who died at sea on board Medic, January 3, 1917.

Only “Good-night,” beloved – not “farewell!”  
A little while, and all His saints shall dwell  
In hallowed union, indivisible –  
Good-night.

-(Inserted by his loving wife, Ada Whelan, 3 Evandale road, Malvern.)

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 3 January, 1918)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

WHELAN – In loving memory of my dear husband, Lance-Corporal P. R. Whelan, who died at sea on January 3, 1916.

Peace, perfect peace.

-(Inserted by his loving wife, Ada Whelan)

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 3 January, 1919)*

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## 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**



**CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial**

*(Photo from CWGC)*



Photo of Lance Corporal R. Whelan's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

