

**Danygraig Cemetery,
Swansea, Glamorganshire, Wales**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



32 L. CPL

G. R. INGLIS

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH JANUARY, 1916 Age 22

Gordon Rankin INGLIS

Gordon Rankin Inglis was born in 1891 at Williamstown, Victoria to parents David Gordon Inglis and Lydahlia Inglis (nee McLean).

David Gordon Inglis, father of Gordon Rankin Inglis, died on 15th January, 1910 at Williamstown, Victoria.

The 1914 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Melbourne Ports, subdivision of Williamstown, Victoria recorded Gordon Rankin Inglis, Clerk from 44 Railway Cres, Williamstown. Evelyn Victoria Inglis, Saleswoman & Lydia Inglis, Home Duties were also listed at the same address.

Newspaper item – *Williamstown Chronicle*, Victoria – 10 January, 1914:

A Bagpipe Champion

GREAT SUCCESS IN SYDNEY

Mr. Gordon Inglis, of Railway crescent, and piper to the local Thistle Society, met with extraordinary success at the New Year's Day Highland Gathering in Sydney, winning the Dewar Trophy, which is gained by coming first in pibroch playing, marches, and strathspeys and reels. The Dewar trophy is valued at 60 guineas, and has to be won twice, carrying with it the title of amateur champion of Australia. There were competitors from three States - in all, twelve competing. The prize for gaining this coveted honor once is 10 guineas and a gold medal. Mr. Inglis was also successful in winning the first prize for quick-steps, open to all comers, value three guineas and gold medal.

Gordon Rankin Inglis was a 22 year old, single, Clerk from 44 Railway Crescent, Williamstown, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 17th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 32 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs L. Inglis, 44 Railway Crescent, Williamstown, Victoria.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Gordon Inglis had previously served with Scotch Regiment, Victoria for 5 years.

Gordon Rankin Inglis was posted to 5th Infantry Battalion on 17th August, 1914 for recruit training & was appointed to the rank of Corporal.

Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orvieto* (A3) on 21st October, 1914 with the 5th Infantry Battalion "A" Company.

Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis was confirmed with the rank of Corporal on 22nd December, 1914.

Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis embarked from Alexandria on 5th April, 1915 on Troopship *Novian* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at the Gallipoli Campaign.

Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis was reduced to the rank of Lance Corporal on 10th April, 1915 while he was on board Troopship A12 *Novian* for being Absent from Parade (Divine service) at Mena on 4th April, 1915.

Lance Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis was wounded at Dardanelles on 26th April, 1915 with wounds to left Lung & arm (severe). He was admitted to 17th General Hospital at Alexandria on 30th April, 1915.

5th Battalion

The 5th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd 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. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. It was led by Lieutenant Colonel

D. S. Wanliss, the officer who had raised the battalion. 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. The Victorian battalions forming the 2nd Brigade returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Secretary Defence contacted Mrs M. Inglis, 44 Railway Crescent, Williamstown, Victoria, on 14th May, 1915 to advise that Corporal G. R. Inglis was dangerously ill. She was advised again on 26th May, 1915 that Corporal G. R. Inglis was making fair progress.

Mrs M. Inglis was advised by Secretary Defence on 2nd June, 1915 that Corporal G. R. Inglis was still improving.

Mrs M. Inglis was advised by Secretary Defence on 11th July, 1915 that Corporal G. R. Inglis had been admitted to 17th General Hospital, Alexandria with gunshot wound to left lung severe.

Newspaper item – *Footscray Chronicle*, Victoria – 31 July, 1915:

CORPORAL GORDON INGLIS

Corporal Gordon Inglis writes on June 3 to his mother from No. 17 General Hospital, in the Mediterranean:— “At last I am able to write a few lines myself. I have just enough, strength to sit in a chair, propped up with pillows. Oh, if you only saw me as I am at the present moment! I weigh about seven stone, and my arms and legs are no thicker than a broom handle; but, thank God, I am on the mend now. I was wounded the day we landed (Sunday, April 25), about 2.30 p.m., and was taken aboard a ship on which they put 850 aboard, with only one doctor, without any instruments, and a couple of army medical chaps. My condition was pretty bad, and I owe my life to Hughie Blair, who had a slight scalp wound, and saw me on the beach in a dying condition. However, he cared for me and got me aboard and made me comfortable — going without himself. He nursed me night and day, never leaving me. My lieutenant, who was aboard, wounded in three places, used to come down and see me, and the doctor always followed his visit. I expect he sent him. I got very bad on the Wednesday night, so they decided to take me away from where I was below up on deck, where so many were taken only to be buried. But, no. Hughie would not let them touch me. He would have killed them had they touched me. Well, we arrived here on Thursday night, and I still lived, so the following morning I was carried ashore by Hughie, and put in an ambulance waggon and brought to this hospital on April 30. I have had three operations up to date, but my bullet is still inside. Don't get a fright when I tell you that it is in the region of the heart. I have been X-rayed five times to see if it alters its position; but the doctors have no fear of it, and I have less. I have a couple of ribs to mend yet, and a fractured clavicle, but for all that I am getting on like a house on fire, slowly getting my strength back. I laid on my back for four weeks without a move, and had to be fed. Then, after the last operation, I had to lie on my right side only for nearly a fortnight. The result was I became paralysed right down that side. But this letter will prove that it is nearly better, though it has taken me hours to write this much. I receive the best of attention by all and sundry, and am the father of the ward now. All the others have either gone to England or to the convalescent camp — or died. But their places are always quickly filled by new cases. My diet consists of chicken, fish, milk and a hundred other things, and I am beginning to eat like a horse now. Well, I could write a hundred pages of news, but I am getting weary, and will write again soon. I may be sent either to England or Australia any day. No more fighting for me, says the doctor.”

Lance Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis was transferred from Alexandria on 23rd September, 1915 for England on Hospital Ship *Karoola*.

Lance Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis was admitted to 3rd Western General Hospital, Cardiff, Wales on 5th October, 1915. His condition was listed as “*sick severe*.”

Mrs M. Inglis, 44 Railway Street, Williamstown, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 18th October, 1915 that Corporal G. R. Inglis was in Hospital at Cardiff, Wales.

Lance Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis died at 6 pm on 24th January, 1916 at the General and Eye Red Cross Hospital, Swansea, England after an operation to remove a bullet from his left Lung. The Report of Death of a Soldier (Army Form B. 2090) recorded that Corporal Inglis, Accountant, died at Swansea General Hospital from a bullet wound to left lung, received in action at Gallipoli & Tubercle supervening.

A death for Gordon Inglis, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1916 in the district of Swansea, Glamorganshire.

Lance Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis was buried on 27th January, 1916 in Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea, Glamorganshire, United Kingdom – Plot number I. 594 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – Williamstown Chronicle, Victoria – 18 March, 1916:

A SOLDIER'S FUNERAL

CORPORAL GORDON R. INGLIS

DYING WISH GRATIFIED

The Swansea "Leader" (England) refers to the death of Corporal G. R. Inglis, of Williamstown, as follows :-

"His last fond wish has now been gratified, and the scene over the flower-bedecked grave of Corporal Inglis, of far off Australia, was touching and pathetic, for though he lies beneath the green sward in Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea, and his mother mourns him in her home at the Antipodes he was not without friends and admirers here, as was proved on Tuesday.

The scene I refer to was the gathering of a group of wounded soldiers and of civilians and women, who stood on Tuesday afternoon around the little mound, covered with beautiful wreaths, marking the last resting place of Corporal Inglis, listening to the strains of 'The Flowers of the Forest,' played on the Scotch bagpipes by the genial giant, Donald Fraser, as a last token of respect to the Australian soldier who died in a Swansea hospital from wounds sustained in the war, and who was buried last Tuesday in one of the most charming spots of the cemetery at Danygraig.

A DYING WISH.

Last Christmas Piper Fraser was at Swansea, and learning that a young man who was one year the champion piper of Australia was lying in the Y.M.C.A. Hospital dangerously wounded in the breast, he promptly decided to see his compatriot. The two had a brief conversation, difficult for the dying man because of his critical condition, and yet sufficient to create a warm friendship on both sides.

Fraser was in his tartan plaid, and played a skirl or two for the wounded soldiers and for others, and the favorites, 'Lord Lovat's Lament' and 'The Flowers of the Forest,' cheered the heart and brightened the eyes of the suffering patient, who asked the visitor if he had "a bonnet," meaning the feathered bonnet worn afterwards by Sergeant Fraser when he came again on Tuesday to make the quiet hillside echo with the sound of that same pibroch.

Inglis did not then know that he was dying, but when, later on, he felt himself becoming weaker, he asked that, if he should die, the pipes should be played over his grave.

FLOWER-BEDECKED GRAVE.

There was no piper in Swansea at the time, and on the day of the funeral the dying soldier's wish seemed to be impossible to fulfil. But the ground was literally covered with wreaths and crosses of flowers, and by Tuesday Donald Fraser, the friend of the Christmas visit, had heard of the incident and volunteered to come from Barry, where he was at the time, to Swansea to comply with the dying desire of his friend. He had, when on that visit, offered to let the medical staff put him on the slab and take a pint of blood from his veins to transfuse into those of his young comrade if that would do any good, but the doctors considered it would be of no avail.

So big Donald Fraser came to Swansea again on Tuesday, and, accompanied by a number of wounded soldiers, went to the cemetery and paid their tribute of respect to poor Inglis."

Mrs Inglis was advised by Base Records on 11th April, 1916 the following details:

"I have to report that at 6 pm on the 24th January, 1916, No. 32 Corporal G. R. Inglis died at the General and Eye Red Cross Hospital, Swansea, after an operation for removal of bullet from the left lung.

The deceased was interred on the 27th January at the Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea, in grave No. 1594, the officiating clergyman at the burial being the Revd. Cannon Watkin-Jones, Chaplain of the Swansea Garrison. At the funeral, which was a military one, Captain Soars represented the High Commissioner.

In a later communication, the High Commissioner's Office states:-

"I have to state that the Members of the Swansea Chamber of Commerce intend having a suitable headstone erected on the grave of the late No. 32 Corporal G. R. Inglis, 5th Battalion."

The effects of the late Corporal G. R. Inglis was listed on 10th March, 1916 as Package No. 7344 a "set of bag pipes complete and Mittens".

A War Pension was granted to Lydahlia Inglis, 44 Railway Crescent, Williamstown, mother of the late "L. Sgt." Gordon Rankin Inglis, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 30th March, 1916.

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. Inglis, 44 Railway Crescent, Williamstown, Victoria, on 7th July, 1917 to advise that No. 32 Corporal G. R. Inglis "was buried in Danygraig Cemetery, Wales, on 27/1/1916, in Grave No. 1. 594. A wooden cross was erected on the grave by a few members of the Chamber of Commerce, with the following inscription, "In memory of Corporal Gordon Inglis, Fifth Regiment, Australian Imperial Forces. Died at Swansea, 24th January, 1916, from wounds received at Gallipoli, 'Advanced' ". It is intended to erect a permanent Memorial after the War. The grave is being turfed, and flowers planted, and when the flowers are in bloom it is intended to have a photograph taken of the Grave, and same will be forwarded to you. Fresh cut flowers are frequently placed upon the grave...."

Mrs L. Inglis, wrote to Base Records on 14th September, 1919 to acknowledge receipt of the photograph & description of the locality of the grave of her late son Gordon R. Inglis, No. 32, 5th Battalion.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Inglis, 44 Railway Crescent, Williamstown, Victoria, on 21st April, 1920 stating it was noted that she was registered on the records of the late Corporal G. R. Inglis as next of kin but in order that their file be brought up to date, they desired to learn of there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive.

Lydahlia Inglis replied to Base Records on 29th April, 1920 stating that the late No. 32 Corporal G. R. Inglis was her "only son & his father is dead so there is no nearer blood relation than myself. I am his next of kin...." She also advised Base Records that there was "a mistake in the initial, I would be much obliged if you would have it corrected on the records it is Mrs L. Inglis not M. Inglis."

Mrs L. Harrison Lewis, Fraser Street, Clunes, Victoria, wrote to Base Records in June, 1920 with the following: "I would be grateful for any information of the relatives of an Australian soldier, who was buried in the Dany-y-graig Cemetery nr Swansea, Sth Wales, whose name & number is as follows:- L/Cpl Gordon Rankin Inglis No 32 5th Battn A.I.F. While staying in Swansea we visited the grave & had a flower form it, also a picture cutting showing the grave, which I would like to give to relatives."

Base Records replied to Mrs L. Harrison Lewis on 16th June, 1920 to advise that the next-of-kin of the late Corporal G. R. Inglis was his mother – Mrs L. Inglis, 44 Railway Crescent, Williamstown, Victoria.

Lance Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Inglis' mother – Mrs L, Inglis, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis – service number 32, aged 22, of 5th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of David Gordon Inglis and Lydahlia Inglis, of 44 Railway Crescent, Williamstown, Victoria, Australia.

G. R. Inglis is included on the Williamstown Pictorial Honour Board, located in the Williamstown Town Hall Ballroom Foyer, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown, Victoria.



Williamstown Pictorial Honour Board (Photo from Sons of Williamstown)

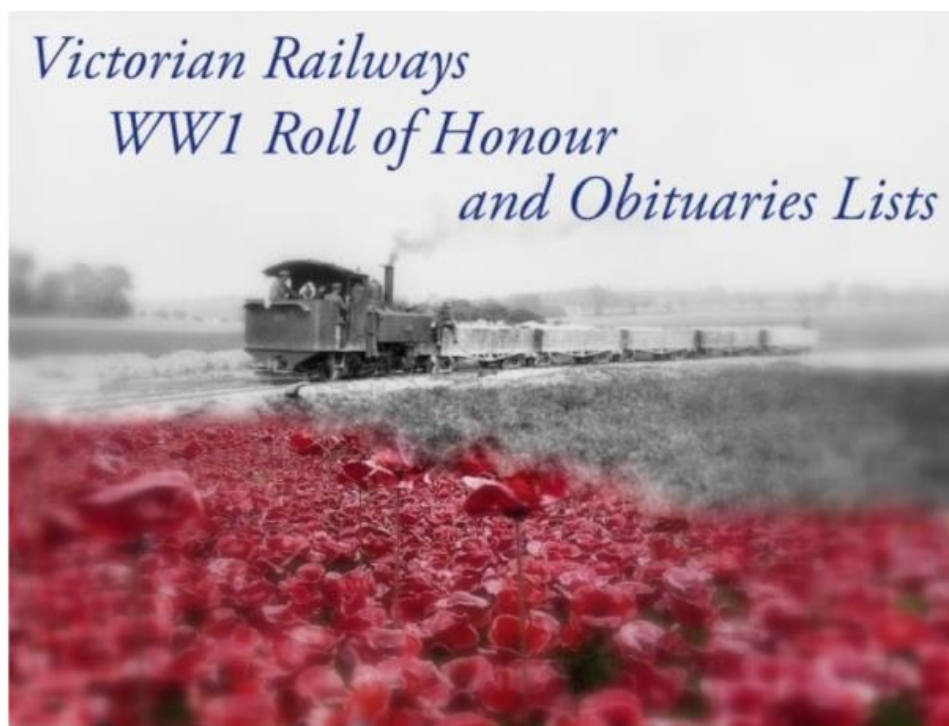


G. R. Inglis is remembered on the Williamstown Cenotaph, located at Roundabout – Ferguson Street & Nelson Place, Williamstown, Victoria.



Williamstown Cenotaph (Photo from Monument Australia)

Gordon Rankin Inglis is remembered on the Victorian WW1 Roll of Honour and Obituaries Lists.





Gordon Rankin INGLIS



V.R Employee no: Rolling Stock Branch - Clerk

Date of Entry into Railways:

Served in the 5th Battalion, A Company

Regimental number: 32

Enlistment date: 17 August 1914 [Railway Enlistment list - 1916](#)

Rank on enlistment: Corporal

Fate: Wounded in action, 26 April 1915 (gun shound, left lung and arm); transferred to Alexandria and then to United Kingdom, to 3rd Western General Hospital, Cardiff, Wales, 5 October 1915 (wounds severe)

Died in Red Cross Hospital, Swansea, 24 January 1916, following an operation to remove bullet in left lung.

Place of death: Swansea Wales

Age at death: 24

Place of burial: Swansea (DanyCraig) Cemetery (Row I, Grave No. 594), Wales

Commemoration details: Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial 44

Name 1st appears on the [Railway Obituary Lists - 1916](#) [Inglis G. R](#)

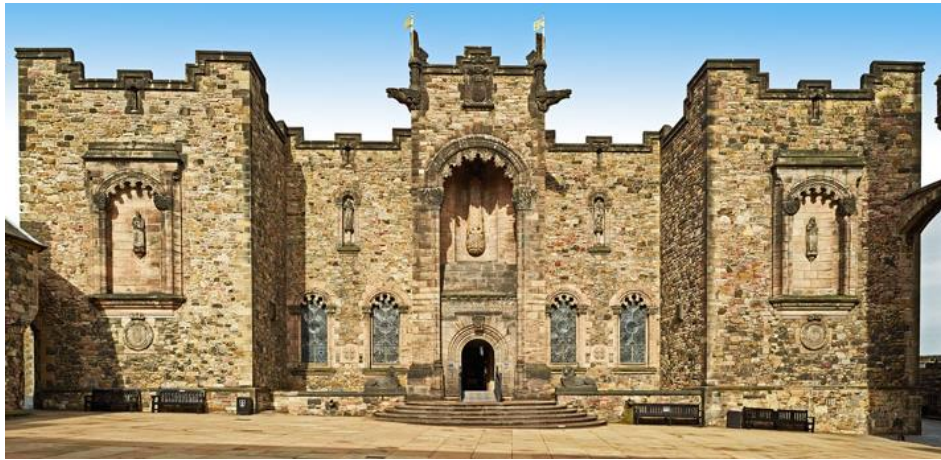
Victorian WW1 Roll of Honour and Obituaries Lists

Lance Corporal G. R. Inglis is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 44.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Gordon Rankin Inglis is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.

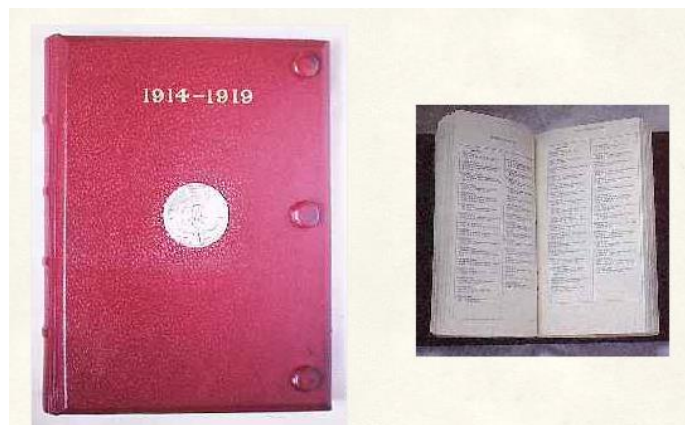


The Scottish National War Memorial



The Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(61 pages of Lance Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

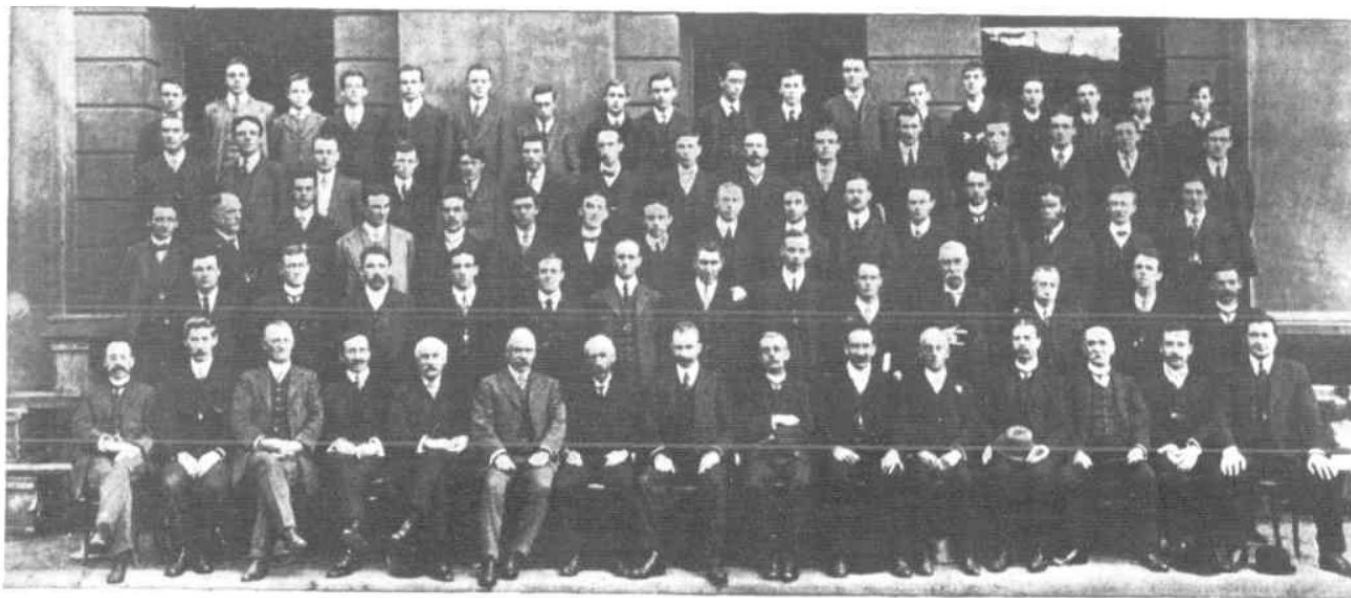
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



CPL. G. R. INGLIS,
5th Battalion. Died of wounds.

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 4 June, 1916)

Newspaper Notices



VICTORIAN RAILWAYS.—ROLLING STOCK BRANCH.

Front Row.—Messrs. S. A. Rosier, W. A. Ryan (Staff Clerk), W. Meekison (R.S. Inspector), A. E. Smith (Engineer), Geo. Lorimer (Supt. of Loco. Supplies), C. J. Harris (Chief Clerk), P. Alexander (Workshops Manager), W. M. Shannon (Asst. to C.M. Engineer), T. Burgess (Supt. of Loco. Running), W. J. Bestell (Clerk in Charge of Accounts), E. V. Sioen (Chief Draftsman), S. McCann, J. H. B. Lindsay (Running Clerk), E. L. A. Leggett, L. F. Callius. Second Row.—Messrs. D. Abercrombie, W. Mackenzie, W. Cumming, H. E. Broxton, E. J. Cameron, H. L. Dickinson, W. J. McGivern, W. A. H. Ahern, J. V. H. O'Loughlin, T. R. Bloomfield, G. Denny, J. S. Morecombe, W. F. Eddley. Third Row.—Messrs. Ivor Lewis, H. Woods, R. A. Burrell, V. L. Hyndman, B. T. Downey, P. Turton, F. X. Hassett, J. H. Bennett, W. H. Deasey, H. G. Smith, A. R. Stamp, W. A. Hotchin, J. W. Gilbert, C. Oaten, C. J. Haffen, S. M. Hoys. Fourth Row.—Messrs. G. R. Inglis, A. S. Marshall, E. L. Montgomery, A. W. Doberry, T. J. Ryan, B. J. Murphy, A. H. Mills, H. Ransom, J. Lane, J. Fowler, J. G. Gough, P. D. Doyle, W. J. McPherson, Aloysius J. Barrett, F. J. Shea. Fifth Row.—Messrs. Geo. Stevens, A. G. Brown, A. P. Milner, F. S. Kent, E. Small, E. J. Suhr, A. L. Thompson, R. Fitzpatrick, F. Moylan, F. L. Bloomfield, E. Watson-Powell, T. A. Hunter, G. L. Rayment, Geo. Grant, E. H. Carpenter, L. G. David, N. Ironsides, C. J. Felton.

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS – ROLLING STOCK BRANCH

.... Fourth Row – Messrs G. R. Inglis.....

(*Punch*, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 June, 1912)

AUSTRALIA'S ROLL OF HONOR

17th Casualty List

DANGEROUSLY WOUNDED

Corpl. G. R. Inglis, Williamstown

(*Rainbow Argus*, Victoria – 21 May, 1915)

OUR ROLL OF HONOR

WOUNDED AT DARDANELLES

CORPORAL G. R. INGLIS

Much sympathy is felt for Mrs Inglis, who is a widow, news having arrived this week that her son, Corporal Gordon R. Inglis, was among the dangerously wounded. He is 24 years of age. He was a member of the old Scottish regiment, and was a champion piper and well known at the local Scottish concerts. His late father, Warrant Officer D. Inglis, for many years was identified with the Victorian Naval Forces. Like the Nicols, he is a Williamstown native.

(*Williamstown Chronicle*, Victoria – 22 May, 1915)

CORPORAL INGLIS RECOVERING

Mrs L. Inglis, of Williamstown, has received information from the Military authorities that Corporal G. R. Inglis, her son, well-known as a Highland piper of the Port and South Melbourne Thistle Clubs, is making fair progress towards recovery. He had been reported dangerously wounded at the Dardanelles.

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 May, 1915)

CAREERS OF THE FALLEN

Corporal G. R. Inglis

In a letter to his mother from No. 17 General Hospital, dated 5th May, Corporal G. R. Inglis, who was wounded in action, states:- "I have been unfortunate in being rather seriously injured through the lung. Don't worry about me – keep hopeful. You will hear again before long. All comfortable and well looked after here."

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1915)

ANZAC SUCCUMBS AT SWANSEA

The death has occurred at Swansea Hospital of Private J. C. Inglis, of the Australian Forces, who was wounded at Anzac. This is the first death of a Colonial soldier at Swansea. He will be buried with military honours on Thursday.

(Llais Llafur, Wales – 29 January, 1916)

THE SOLDIERS LAST WISH

Piper's Offer to Play Over Grave at Swansea

Before Private J. H. Inglis died at the Swansea Y.M.C.A. Red Cross Hospital he expressed the wish that a piper should play over his grave, he having himself been the champion piper of Melbourne. Unfortunately there was no piper available at the time of the funeral, but the "Last Post" was sounded.

It is, however, not unusual for the piper to play over a grave a few days after the funeral, and this may yet take place. The following letter, sent to the hospital, has been handed to the "Cambria Daily Leader":

"No doubt you will remember me, Piper Donald Fraser, who played and gave my services on Christmas Day at you Y.M.C.A. Hospital. If I am of any service to play "The Flowers of the Forest" over J. H. Inglis' grave, I will only be too pleased to gratify his wish. I don't want anything for it, only my railway fare."

When Piper Fraser was at the hospital he had a long chat with the now dead soldier and sat on his bed for a long time. Before he left he remarked, "If you want a pint of blood for this lad you can have it from me."

The fare is being sent to Piper Fraser.

(Cambria Daily Leader, England – 29 January, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

INGLIS – On the 21st January, at the Y.M.C.A. Red Cross Hospital, Swansea, England, Corporal Gordon Rankin, dearly loved only son of the late D. G. and Mrs L. Inglis, Railway-crescent, Williamstown, and brother of Rubie and Mrs C. Mitchell, aged 21 years. Wounded at Gallipoli on 25th April, 1915.

He gave his best, his life, his all.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 February, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

INGLIS – On the 24th January, 1916, at Swansea, England, Corporal Gordon R. Inglis, 5th Batt., aged 24 years, of wounds received at Gallipoli, 25th April, 1915.

A true friend.

-(Inserted by W.D.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 February, 1916)

The Piper's "Last Lament" at Danygraig



(*Cambria Daily Leader*, England – 3 February, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

INGLIS – On the 24th January, 1916, at Y.M.C.A. Red Cross Hospital, Swansea, England, Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis, 5th Battalion, late Victorian Railways, wounded at Gallipoli on the 5th April, 1914.

-Inserted by his fellow clerks of rolling stock accounts office.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 3 February, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

INGLIS – On the 24th January, 1916, at Y.M.C.A. Red Cross Hospital, Swansea, England, Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis, 5th Battalion, late Victorian Railways, wounded at Gallipoli on the 25th April, 1914 (Inserted by his fellow clerks of rolling stock accounts office).

INGLIS – On the 24th January, 1916, at Y.M.C.A. Red Cross Hospital, Swansea, England, Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis, aged 24 years, wounded at Gallipoli on the 25th April, 1914 (Inserted by his friend, Norman and Hazel Helgeson).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 3 February, 1916)

WANTED A BAGPIPE SKIRL

LAST REQUEST OF DYING ANZAC

In connection with the death of Corporal Inglis, one of the wounded Colonials at Swansea Y.M.C.A. Hospital, Mr Dawson (H.M. Customs) relates a last pathetic request. Inglis was a Scotchman and a pipe-major, and in the latter capacity was one of the best players on the bagpipes in Australia. When he responded to the call of King and country he took his beloved pipes with him to Gallipoli, but the authorities would not allow them to be landed, and he never saw them again. Many times to Mr Dawson, the deceased young fellow, thinking probably of his old home and the happy times he had had with them, expressed his wonder as to where his bagpipes had gone to.

And just before his death he said that if he died in hospital there was one thing he hoped for and that was that a skirl of bagpipes would be played over his grave.

On Wednesday Mr Dawson got into communication with members of the local Caledonian Society in the hope that someone could be found who would be able to gratify the Colonial's dying wish.

Some Recognition Wanted

It may be added that the deceased was a fine young fellow, and that Mrs Francis Cook, lady superintendent of the Y.M.C.A. Hospital has communicated with his distracted mother in Melbourne, informing her of her only son's death.

Meantime one wonders if the grave of a Colonial some twelve thousand miles from home and friends is to go unmarked by even a cross bearing his name, and recording the fact that he laid down his life for his country?

(*South Wales Weekly Post*, UK – 5 February, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

139th LIST

VICTORIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

Corpl. G. R. Inglis, Williamstown

(*The Colac Herald*, Victoria – 9 February, 1916)

Williamstown Soldier's Grave

PALM SUNDAY INCIDENT

PIPER GORDON INGLIS' GRAVE

Pinned to a lengthy letter is a pictorial cutting of a Swansea churchyard scene, forwarded by Private W. Dick, of Williamstown. It recalls one of several sad incidents that have come to pass in the closing lives of those gallant local lads who have made the "supreme sacrifice." It is a picture of the grave of Piper Gordon Inglis a former resident of Railway-crescent. Beside a mound, at the head of which stands a cross, two nurses are seen — one in a kneeling position ; the other standing. Both have flowers in their hands. The kneeler is apparently about to deposit her nosegay upon some portion of the heaped turf. Above the presentment appears the lettering, "Palm Sunday"; beneath it intimates, "Nurses tending the grave of an Australian soldier, who died at a hospital amid the Welsh hills."

Describing his visit, the writer goes, on to say : -- "I went out to try and find the Y.M.C.A. hospital, where Gordon was, as I thought I might possibly see some of the sisters who nursed him. I was successful in finding three of his nurses. The grave shows signs of being well attended to. Before leaving, I planted a shrub at the foot of the cross erected over it. I learned that Gordon was the only Australian buried there. His was the only fatality at this hospital since the beginning of the war.

"While having tea at a cafe in Swansea at one of the tables, a gentleman came over and entered into conversation. Apparently, Australians are not frequently seen over there, as he asked me if I had people resident there. He was a Scotchman, attached to the Home Office. I told him the reason for my visit. So soon as I mentioned Gordon, he remarked, "I know all about him". He turned out to be a friend of Mr. Chapman, the photographer, who had taken photos of the funeral, copies of which Mrs. Inglis has had sent out to her. My friend suggested that he should take me over to Mr. Chapman's place. Putting his proposal into practice, it was not long before I was introduced. Mr. Chapman seemed very much interested to meet anyone who knew Gordon. He mentioned that three of his sisters were nurses at the Y.M.C.A. hospital. One is commandant there. He mentioned that on the previous Palm Sunday, a week or two before, these ladies had gone to the cemetery to decorate Gordon's grave, as is the custom, seemingly, on this date. Mr. Chapman had taken a snapshot of them on the occasion, and had sent it to the 'Daily Mirror.' This paper had reproduced it the week previous."

(*Williamstown Chronicle*, Victoria – 7 July, 1917)

NAMES OF FALLEN LOCAL SOLDIERS

Cr. Henderson, who has been most assiduous in compiling the record of local soldiers who lost their lives in the war, has supplied us with their names, as follow:-

....

G. R. Inglis

.....

(*Williamstown Chronicle*, Victoria – 12 April, 1919)

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)

Lance Corporal Gordon Rankin Inglis has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but has no inscription.

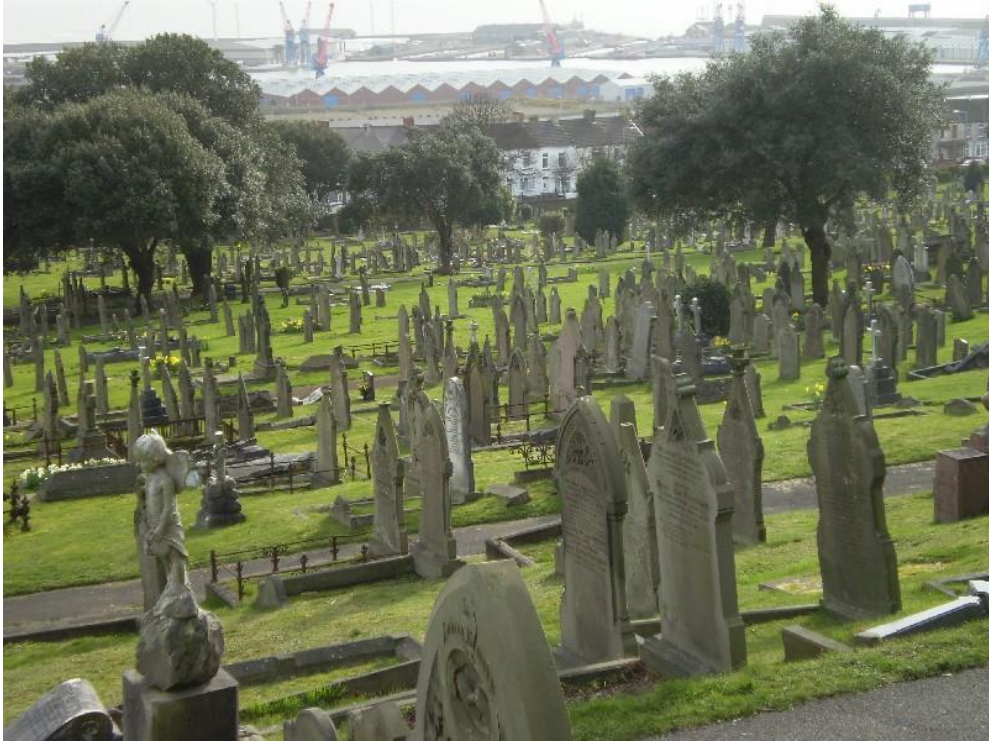
Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea, Glamorganshire, United Kingdom

There are over 80, 1914-1918 and more than 40, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. There are also French and Norwegian Foreign National casualties buried here.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Steve Flynn)



(Photo from CWGC)



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

Photo of Lance Corporal G. R. Inglis' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Danygraig Cemetery, Swansea, Glamorganshire, Wales, United Kingdom.



(Photo courtesy of Gertrude Perkins)



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)



(Photo from Find a Grave – David Wilson-Pinkey)