

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4444 PRIVATE**

**P. C. COLES**

**3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**3RD JUNE, 1917 Age 36**

*In Memory Of  
The Dearly Loved  
Husband & Father Of  
Olive & Clyde*

## Percival Clyde (Percy) COLES

Percival Clyde Coles was born at Dunedin, New Zealand around 1881 to parents George Richard Coles and Alice Lascardie (?) Coles (nee Stephenson).

Percival Clyde Coles attended "*Grammar & Public School.*" (as listed on information provided by his widow for the Roll of Honour)

Percival Clyde Coles married Olive Emma Hilton on 21st June, 1904 at Christ Church, North Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Percival was a 23 year old Salesman & Olive was aged 22. Both listed their place of residence as William St., North Sydney.

The Sydney & New South Wales, Australia Sands Street Index for 1915 recorded Percy C. Coles, "Hilton", Old South Head Road, Waverley.

Percival Clyde Coles was a 34 year old, married, Storeman from "Hilton", Old South Head Road, South Head, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 30th August, 1915 at "*Holdsworthy*", NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs O. E. Coles, "Hilton", Old South Head Road, South Head, Sydney, NSW.

Percival Clyde Coles was posted to 14th Reinforcements of 3rd Battalion.

Private Percival Clyde Coles, Service number 4444, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on RMS *Osterley* on 15th January, 1916 with the 14th Reinforcements of 3rd Battalion.

Private Percival Clyde Coles embarked from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 on Troopship *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916. Private Coles was posted to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 1st October, 1916. He was taken on strength of 3rd Battalion in Belgium on 3rd October, 1916. (The Statement of Service form recorded that he joined 3rd Battalion from Reinforcements on 29th September, 1916)

Private Percival Clyde Coles reported sick on 26th November, 1916 & was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance with Scabies. He was discharged to duty on 28th November, 1916 & rejoined his Unit the same day. (The Statement of Service form recorded that he rejoined his Unit on 24th November, 1916).

Private Percival Clyde Coles reported sick on 27th December, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 28th December, 1916.

Private Percival Clyde Coles was wounded in action in France on 31st December, 1916. He was admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 2nd January, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Face then transferred to Ambulance Train 16 on 3rd January, 1917. Private Coles was admitted to 1st General Hospital at Etretat, France on 8th January, 1917 then transferred the same day to 2nd General Hospital at \_\_\_\_\_ with "*? Dysentery*". He was admitted to 4th Convalescent Depot at \_\_\_\_\_ on 19th January, 1917. On 4th February, 1917 Private Coles was transferred & admitted to 2nd General Hospital with Onychia. He was transferred back to 4th Convalescent Depot on 8th February, 1917. (Note: There are only hand written copies of the Casualty Form – Active Service in the Service Record file. Normally a typed version would also be included which is why some of the words are illegible.)

### 3rd Battalion

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

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After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.

The battalion participated in a short period of mobile operations following the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line in early 1917, but spent much of that year fighting in increasingly difficult conditions around Ypres.....

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

### War Diary – 3rd Battalion

*31st December, 1916: Gueude-Court Front Line Trenches:*

*Day clear and fine, Enemy shelled FRITZ FOLLEY at 1000 – no damage or casualties. Counter battery retaliation was given by our artillery. Fatigues as for 30th were supplied. BULL'S RD in vicinity of BN. H.Q. was intermittently with 7.7mm. 1 OR Killed – Battalion was relieved by 4th Bn – relief complete at 1945. Advance parties arrived at 1000. 1 Off per Coy – 1 Off for H.Q. and one N.C.O. per platoon to take over trench stores. Battalion on reliefs marched to GAP & SWITCH TRS. and occupied dugouts.*

*2/Lt MACLACHLAN and mining platoon remained with 4th Bn to continue work in deep dugouts.*

*Strength – 23 Off 842 – 16 OR from Hosp – 1 OR K in A 1 OR w'ded – 5 O.R. to Hosp.*

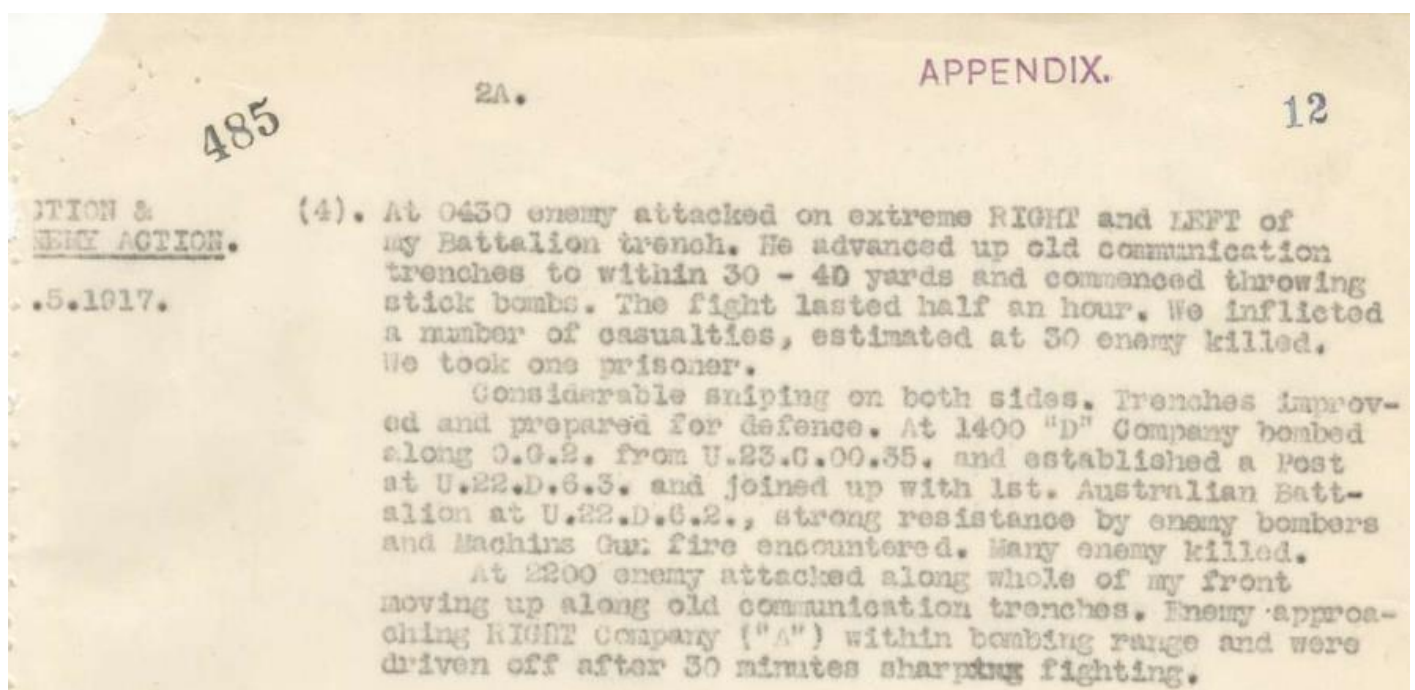
*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Base Records advised Mrs O. E. Coles, Hilton, Old South Head Road, Watsons Bay, NSW, on 31st May, 1917 that No.4444 Private P. C. Coles, 3rd Battalion, had been reported wounded.

Private Percival Clyde Coles was posted to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th March, 1917 from Hospital (Convalescent Depot). He was marched out from 1st A.D.B.D. on 18th April, 1917 & rejoined 3rd Battalion in France on 22nd April, 1917.

Private Percival Clyde Coles was wounded in action (2nd occasion) in France on 4th May, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds fractured left Knee & left Shoulder. Private Coles was transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 6th May, 1917. He was admitted to 47th General Hospital at Le Treport on 8th May, 1917. Private Coles embarked from Boulogne, France on 13th May, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Pieter de Conick* for England with G.S.W. Left Knee joint.

### War Diary – 3rd Battalion



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At same time our new Post at U.22.D.6.3. was heavily attacked and after 30 minutes fight ran out of bombs and were forced to retire to original line. It was found that enemy could advance under cover to within bombing range, so a Post was established at U.22.D.85.40. to cover approaches.

Enemy attack on centre of line did not get within 50 yards of our parapet.

Enemy shelled our trench heavily at 2130 to 2215; one shell cut H.P. Buzzer earth wires and our only communication to Brigade was by "Runner". H.P. Buzzer re-established at 2220.

Midnight 4th./5th. Situation normal.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Percival Clyde Coles was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, England on 13th May, 1917 with G.S.W. left Knee joint.

Base Records advised Mrs O. E. Coles, Hilton, Old South Head Road, Watsons Bay, NSW, on 31st May, 1917 that No.4444 Private P. C. Coles, 3rd Battalion, had been admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 13th May, 1917 suffering from gunshot wound to left knee joint – mild.

Private Percival Clyde Coles died 11.30 am on 3rd June, 1917 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. left Knee & Septicaemia.

A death for Percival C. Coles, aged 37, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Wandsworth. Greater London, England.

Private Percival Clyde Coles was buried on 8th June, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179, 376.

From the burial report of Private Percival Clyde Coles - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party comprising members attached to A.I.F. Headquarters were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Archdeacon Richard conducted the service at the graveside. Uncle and Aunt of deceased, Mr and Mrs Berry attended the funeral and expressed their appreciation of the splendid way in which the funeral was carried out. A.I.F. to erect cross.*

Base Records wrote to Mrs O. E. Coles, "Hilton". Old South Head Rd, Watson's Bay, NSW, on 23rd March, 1923 stating that the site of her son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row E Grave 9.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. E. 9. He now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Percival Clyde Coles contains three reports regarding his wounding & death:

- A letter from Havre on 23rd February, 1917 reports: "Admitted 2nd General Hospital Havre (Oncychia) on 4-2-17. Was discharged from No. 2 General hospital on 8-2-17 – as convalescent and sent to convalescent depot, Havre. He is still there and is making satisfactory progress."
- "Adm 3rd London Gen. Hpl Wandsworth 13-3-17 – G.S.W. left knee joint. Died on 3-6-17."

- A report from Hospital Visitor to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth dated 21st June, 1917: *“Died 3rd Lon. Gen. Hospl 3.6.17. Septicaemia. Shrapnel wounds thigh – blood poisoning set in – two Aunts were with him a lot.”*

A War Pension was granted to Olive Emma Coles, widow of the late Private Percival Clyde Coles, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 6th July(?) (or August), 1917. A War Pension was also granted to Clyde Hilton Coles, child of Olive & Private Percival Clyde Coles, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 6th July(?) (or August), 1917.

Olive E. Coles, 120 William St., North Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 16th June, 1917 requesting the death certificate for Private P. C. Coles, No. 4444, 3rd Battalion.

Base Records replied to Mrs O. E. Coles, 120 William Street, N. Sydney, NSW, on 6th August, 1917 enclosing the certificate of report of death of the late No. 4444 Private P. C. Coles, 3rd Battalion.

H. E. McIntosh, Solicitor, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 16th June, 1917 with the following letter: *“re No. 4444 Private P. C. Coles. 3rd Battalion. I am acting for the Executrix of the abovenamed deceased, and would be obliged if you would kindly forward to me as soon as possible, the usual Certificate of Death, which I require for Probate purposes. I also note that the said deceased died on the 3rd June 1917.”*

Mrs A. L. Coles, c/o Mrs S. Barlow, Glen-Eden, Guinea Street, West Kogarah, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 7th October, 1920: *“My dear and only (child) ony (Son), died in Wandsworth Hospital, England, from wounds received at Bullecourt, and buried in Brookwood Cemetery, June 8th/17, No. 4444, Private Percival, C, Coles. 3rd Battalion. He was married, the Military erect the head stone, and his Widow, wrote regarding the curbing, and she received word through your department, received from England, that the curbing of our dear ones Graves, also being attended to free. I his (Mother), wish to have the wording on the enclosed memo, on the curbing, would you be kind enough to let me know, if such could be attended to for one, of not free of cost, I am prepared to pay a reasonable amount. If I should have to write to London re it, will you please forward me the address.*

*To be engraved on the curbing. Marble Tablet in lead letters, inserted in curbing My Dear Boy. For ever in my memory. Your devoted Mother. In Australia.”*

Base Records replied to Mrs A. L. Coles, on 25th October, 1920 advising *“it will be necessary for you to obtain the sanction of the soldier’s widow in connection with the suggested alterations of the grave. Upon receipt of her request the matter will be forwarded to London and the responsible authorities asked to comply, if possible.”*

Mrs A. L. Coles replied to Base Records on 29th October, 1920 regarding the response of letter dated 25th October *“.....His (Widow) knew I wrote to you re such, on the (Head Stone) only room for her’s and the child’s wording, I have thought since I would like the enclosed inserted in the curbing, and she agreed with me. But you ask for her sanction, which you will find enclosed. His (Widow) re Head Stone, forwarded all particulars to London, some few months back. I hope being (his Mother) what I ask will be granted me.”*

Base Records forward an extract of the above letter to The Officer in Charge, Australian Graves Services, Australia House, Strand, London on 4th November, 1920. Mrs Coles was advised on the same day that her request had been forwarded on the Officer in Charge, Australian Graves Services, London.

The Australian Graves Services replied to Base Records on 6th January, 1921 advising *“... no records are held by this Office of any correspondence having been received from the wife or mother of the above named deceased soldier, as regards to either a memorial or curbing on the grave. As yet no permanent headstone has been erected, but it is the intention of the Imperial War Graves Commission to erect, at an early date, a permanent memorial on the graves of all late members of the Australian Imperial Force buried in the United Kingdom. The question of a curbing, however, has never been entertained, and in these circumstances it would be appreciated if the lady concerned my be informed, please.”*

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. L. Coles on 21st February, 1921 advising her of the response from the Australian Graves Services London.

Mrs A. L. Coles, c/o Mrs S. Barlow, Glen-Eden, Guinea Street, West Kogarah, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 29th November, 1920: *"Will you please be kind enough to forward me, a volume of the Brochure entitled, "Where the Australians Rest", My dear and only child my (Son), who died in Wandsworth Hospital England from wounds received at Bullecourt, France (Private) Percy C. Coles, No. 4444, 3rd Battalion. I have also lost some dear relatives, and friends, who have never been traced since the day when they fell in the cruel battle. The (War) is over, but (Mother's) will never get over the loss of there dear (Boy's). I myself for one, for I lost one of the best, So will fell greatly obliged for the above."*

Base Records replied to Mrs A. L. Coles on 1st December, 1920 advising *"...the book entitled "Where the Australians rest" is not yet available but will be forwarded as soon as possible to those entitled to receive same."*

Mrs A. L. Coles, "Shirley" 28 Bowmer St., Banksia, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 29th June, 1921 with the following letter: *"It is rather late asking you, but a friend told me this week if I write to you, you would be able to send me the following information, if so would feel very much obliged, by sending on the names, and addresses, of the three Soldiers, who were killed, by a bursting shell, my dear Boy, made the fourth to fall some time, he also, thought dead at the time, but my dear one, only lingered a few weeks, and died in 3rd London G Hospital, Wandsworth, England, June 3rd/17, the accident happened May 5th/17, at Bullecourt, his aunts in writing out to me, said while unconscious, was always raving about these three mates, she never thought to ask there names, I have a Photo he sent one taken with some mates, but I don't know if it would be them, my dear ones last letter to me, written just when admitted to Hospital, in it he said the shell that got them, killed his three mates, that he thanked God, his life was spared but poor Boy, he soon joined them, my dear ones name, No 4444 (Private) Percy Clyde Coles. 3rd Battalion. It is four years since he passed away, but my sonone none the less, a Mother's love for her Son, and a good one."*

Base Records replied to Mrs A. L. Coles on 5th July, 1921 advising *".. regret to state this branch is unable to furnish you with the names of the soldiers referred to."*

Private Percival Clyde Coles was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Coles' widow – Mrs O. E. Coles, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

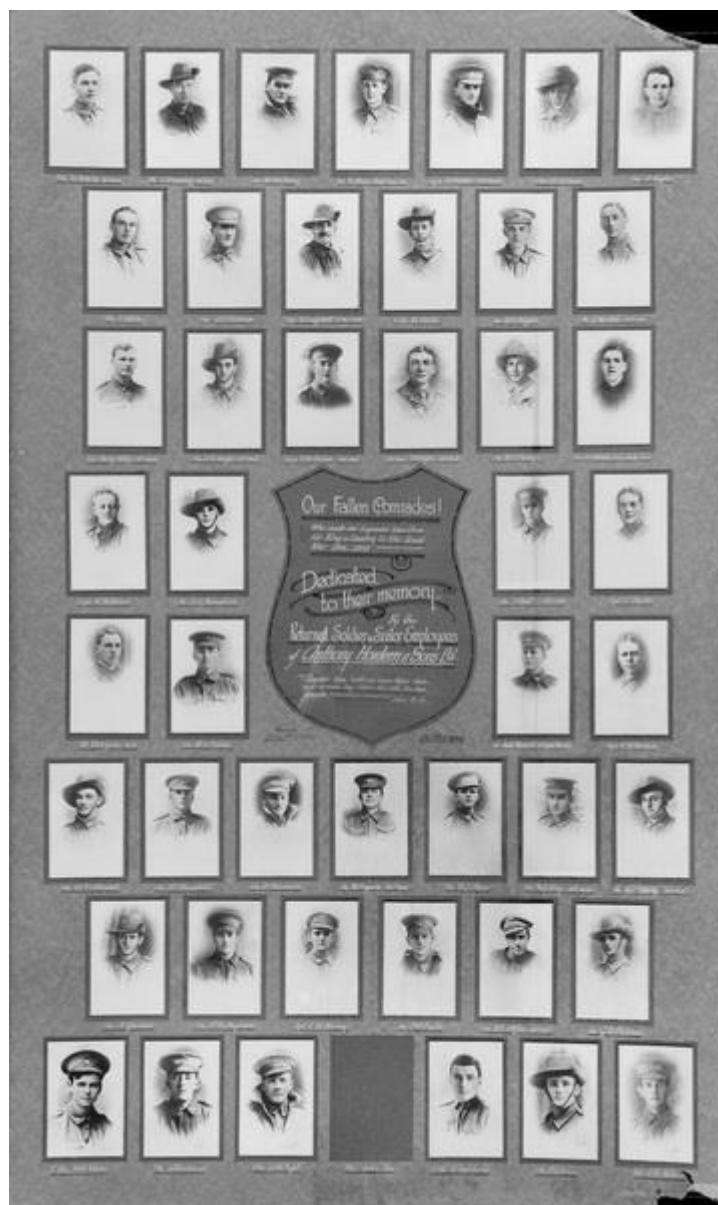
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Percival Clyde Coles – service number 4444, aged 36, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Alice L. Coles; husband of Olive E. Coles, of Neasdon, Greenhill, Narrabeen, New South Wales. Native of Dunedin, New Zealand.

Private P. C. Clyde is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 35.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

P. C. Coles is remembered on Anthony Hordern & Sons Pictorial Honour Roll,



**Anthony Hordern & Sons Pictorial Honour Roll** (Composite Photo from VWMA)

(81 pages of Private Percival Clyde Coles' 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

P02599.046

### **Private Percival Clyde Coles**

Studio portrait of 4444 Private (Pte) Percival Clyde Coles, 3rd Battalion, of Narrabeen, NSW (originally of Dunedin, New Zealand). Pte Coles worked at Anthony Hordern prior to his enlistment at Watson's Bay, NSW, on 27 September 1915. On 3 June 1917, aged 36 years, he died of wounds received at Bullecourt, France. His portrait is one of a number displayed on a photo montage Honour Board made for the department store Anthony Hordern and Sons Ltd, Sydney by the returned soldier and sailor employees of the company. It commemorated 46 of the company's 48 employees who died as a result of their service in the First World War.





## **Newspaper Notices**

### **Australian Casualties**

#### **List No. 270**

New South Wales

Wounded

Pte P. C. COLES (Watson's Bay)

*(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 7 February, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

COLES – Died of wounds received in France, in Third London General Hospital, June 3, 1917, Private Percy Clyde Coles, dearly-loved husband and father of Olive and Clyde Coles, late of Old South Head-road, Watson's Bay.

It's sad, but true, we wonder why,

The good are always the first to die.

COLES – Died of wounds received in France, in Third London General Hospital, England, June 3, 1917, Private Percy Clyde Coles, dearly-loved and only son of Mrs A. L. Coles, Old South Head-road, and Derby-street, South Head.

He did his duty. Loved by all.

COLES - Died of wounds, in Third London Hospital, England, June 3, 1917, Private Percival Clyde Coles, dearly beloved grandson of Mrs Stephenson, and nephew of Mrs Barlow and Mrs Byrne, Kogarah.

He did his duty. Beloved by all.

COLES – Died of wounds received in France, in Third A.G.H., London, June 3, 1917, Private Percy Clyde Coles, dearly-beloved brother-in-law, to Mr and Mrs Sidney Smith, and uncle to Carl (on active service), Rosie, and Marie.

COLES – Died of wounds received in France, in Third London General Hospital, June 3, 1917, Private Percy Clyde Coles, dearly-loved brother-in-law and son-in-law to James Hilton and Louie Hilton.

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

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### **FOR AUSTRALIA**

#### **311TH CASUALTY LIST**

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte PERCIVAL CLYDE COLES, Watson's Bay (sec. occ)

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 16 June, 1917)*

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## **FOR AUSTRALIA**

The 315th list of Australian casualties issued this morning.....

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Pte PERCIVAL CLYDE COLES, Watson's Bay (previously reported wounded, second occasion)

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 25 June, 1917)*

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## **RETURN THANKS**

Mrs Percy COLES and SON, late Hilton, Old South Head-rd, South Head, and 120 William-st, N. Sydney, desire to return sincere THANKS to friends and relatives, and to his fellow employees of S X department, A. Hordern and Sons, for letters and cards sent to her in her recent sad bereavement in the loss of her dear husband and his father, Private Percy Clyde Coles, died of wounds in England, June 3, 1917.

Mrs A. L. COLES, of Old South Head-road and Derby-street, South Head, wishes to return sincere THANKS to friends and relatives, Rev. H. G. Wiltson, Watson's Bay, and fellow employees S X department, A. Hordern and Sons, for letters and cards in her recent sad bereavement in the loss of her dear and only son, Private Percy Clyde Coles, died of wounds in England, June 3, 1917.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 June, 1917)*

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## **On Active Service**

COLES – In loving memory of Private Percy Clyde Coles, who died of wounds received in France, June 3, 1917, at the London General Hospital, England. Inserted by his loving wife and son, Olive and Clyde Coles.

COLES – In sad but loving memory of my dearly beloved and only son, Private Percy C. Coles, late 3rd Battalion, died in 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England, June 3, 1917, of wounds received in action at Bullecourt, May 5. Inserted by his sorrowing mother, Mrs A. L. Coles, Old South Head-road and Derby-street, South Head.

He died as he lived – honoured and loved by all.

COLES – In loving memory of our dearly beloved grandson and nephew, Private Percy C. Coles, died of wounds in 3rd London General Hospital, June 3, 1917. Inserted by his grandmother, Mrs Stephenson, and aunts, Mrs Barlow and Mrs Byrne, Kogarah. He bravely answered duty's call.

COLES – In loving memory of Private Percy Coles, died of wounds; Wandsworth Hospital, June 3, 1917, beloved brother-in-law of Mr and Mrs Hilton, Drummoyne.

COLES – June 3, 1917, in proud and loving memory of Private Percy C. Soles, who died at Wandsworth Hospital, England, of wounds received at Bullecourt, dearly loved cousin of M. and R. Ferreira and family, Drummoyne.

To know him was to love him.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 3 June, 1918)*

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## ROLL OF HONOR

COLES – We honor the memory of Private Percy C. Coles, 4444, A.I.F., dearly beloved and only son of our esteemed friend, Mrs A. L. Coles, Old South Head Road, who died from wounds received at Bullecourt, June 3rd, 1917, aged 36 years.

In the boom of his life, death claimed him.

In the pride of his manhood days,

None knew him but to love him.

None spoke his name but in praise.

His heart was always in his home;

He toiled, and did his best,

Until there came that sudden call,

And God called him to rest.

Inserted by old friends who mourn his loss. W. and A. Bradley, Five Dock.

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 3 June, 1918)*

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## ROLL OF HONOR

COLES – In loving memory of my dearly beloved and only son (No. 4444), Private Percy C. Coles, 3rd Battalion, died in 3rd General Hospital, Wandsworth, England, June 3rd, 1917, of wounds received in action at Bullecourt, May 5th, 1917.

God knows best, and gave his rest from pain and sorrow.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother, Mrs A. L. Coles, of South Head.

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 3 June, 1919)*

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## On Active Service

COLES – In loving memory of Private Percy Coles, who died on June 3, 1917, at the 3rd London General Hospital, from wounds received at Bullecourt. Inserted by his loving wife and son, Olive and Clyde Coles.

COLES – In loving memory of my dearly beloved and only son, No. 4444 Private Percy C. Coles, 3rd Batt., died in 3rd General Hospital, Wandsworth, England, June 3, 1917, of wounds received in action at Bullecourt, May 5, 1917. God knows best, and gave his rest from pain and sorrow. Inserted by his sorrowing mother, Mrs A. L. Coles, of South Head.

COLES – In loving memory of our highly-esteemed friend, Private Percy C. Coles, who died in Wandsworth Hospital, England, June 3, 1917, from wounds received at Bullecourt.

Greater love hath no man than this –

That he lay down his life for his friends.

Inserted by faithful friends, Walter and Addie.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 3 June, 1919)*

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\*\*Notices were also placed in Newspapers in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929

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Percy C. Coles is recorded on a headstone in Woronora Memorial Park, 121 Linden Street, Sutherland, New South Wales.



Woronora Memorial Park



*In Loving Memory of*  
*My Dear & Only Son*  
*Pte PERCY C. COLES No 4444 3rd Batt. A.I.F.*  
*Died in England 3rd June 1917*  
*From Wounds Received at Bullecourt 5th May 1917*  
*Aged 35 Years*  
*Dearly Loved By His Mother, Wife & Son*  
*Remembrance*

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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. C. Coles does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of The Dearly Loved*  
*Husband & Father of Olive & Clyde*

## Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

*A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)*

*Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918. Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.*



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photo from CWGC)



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)



**Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)







*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



**Australian War Graves** *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private P. C. Coles' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

