

**Ford Park Cemetery,
Plymouth, Devon
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



J/36937 BOY TELEGRAPHIST

J. GRIFFIN

ROYAL NAVY

ON LOAN TO H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE, R.A.N.

10TH APRIL, 1917 Age 17

John GRIFFIN

John Griffin was born on 31st May, 1899 at Callan, Kilkenny, Ireland to parents Patrick and Annie Griffin (nee Kelly).

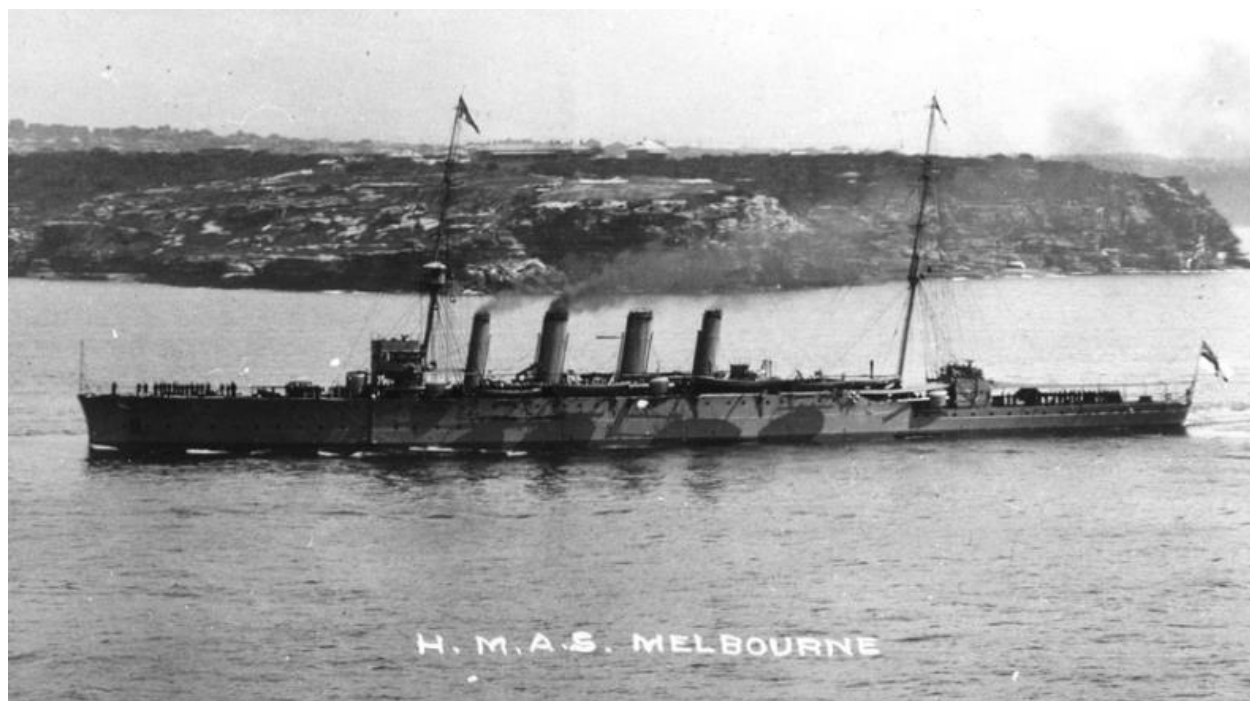
The 1901 Ireland Census recorded John Griffin as a 2 year old, living with his family at Green Street, Callan, Kilkenny, Ireland. His parents were listed as Patrick Griffin (aged 27) & Annie Griffin (aged 28). John was one of three children listed on this Census – Mary Griffin (aged 3) then John & Thomas Griffin (no age listed). Three others were also listed – Anne Kelly (Mother-in-law of Patrick Griffin, aged 68) & two visitors Kate Griffin (aged 29) & Mary Griffin (aged 12).

The 1911 Ireland Census recorded John Griffin as an 11 year old living with his family at Green Street, Callan, Kilkenny, Ireland. His father was listed as Patrick Griffin (aged 37). John was one of seven children listed on this Census – Mary Griffin (aged 13), then John, Thomas Griffin (aged 10), Joseph Griffin (aged 8), Ann Griffin (aged 5), Kathleen Griffin (aged 3) & William Griffin (aged 2). Also listed was John Griffin (father of Patrick Griffin, aged 72). The family were listed as Roman Catholic.

John Griffin was an 18 year old, Railway Parcel Porter when he joined the Royal Navy on 31st May, 1917 for a period of 12 years. He was given a service number of J/36937 (Portsmouth). He was 5ft 5 ½ inches, with brown hair, brown eyes & a fresh complexion. He had a small scar on the side of his right eye.

John Griffin was posted to H.M.S. *Impregnable* (a Training ship docked at Devonport, England) as Boy II from 11th April, 1915 to 23rd April, 1915. He was transferred to *Victory I* on 24th April, 1915 to 8th July, 1915. Boy II John Griffin was transferred back to H.M.S. *Impregnable* on 9th July, 1915. He was promoted to Boy I on 10th July, 1915. Boy I John Griffin was transferred to *Victory I* on 29th October, 1915.

Boy Telegraphist John Griffin was on loan from Royal Navy to Royal Australian Navy & was attached to H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* from 8th January, 1916 until 31st December, 1916.



H.M.A.S. Melbourne

H.M.A.S. Melbourne was commissioned at Birkenhead, England, on 18th January, 1913. She completed her delivery voyage from England to Australia, arriving at Fremantle on 10th March, 1913.

Following the outbreak of war in August 1914 H.M.A.S. Melbourne spent a brief period in Pacific waters as a unit of the Australian Squadron operating as a counter to the German Pacific Squadron

From January, 1915 to 28th August, 1916, H.M.A.S. Melbourne was part of a unit of the North America and West Indies Squadron maintaining a series of patrols in the West Indies with Jamaica as the centre point, and off Long Island and the entrance to New York Harbour with Halifax as the base. Squadron Headquarters were at Bermuda. Melbourne operated north to Halifax and south to the Para River, Brazil, taking in the Gulf of Mexico.

At the close of August, 1916 H.M.A.S. Melbourne was detached from the North America and West Indies Stations and proceeded for Devonport, England where she arrived on 7th September, 1916. Following a month in port she departed for Scapa Flow, to become a unit of the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron and part of the Grand Fleet.

A brief period of routine North Sea patrols ended in January, 1917 when serious engine trouble forced her into dock at Birkenhead. She remained in dockyard hands until the end of June, 1917.

(Extract of information from Navy.gov.au)

Boy Telegraphist John Griffin was attached to London Depot from 1st January, 1917 & was invalided from 3rd January, 1917.

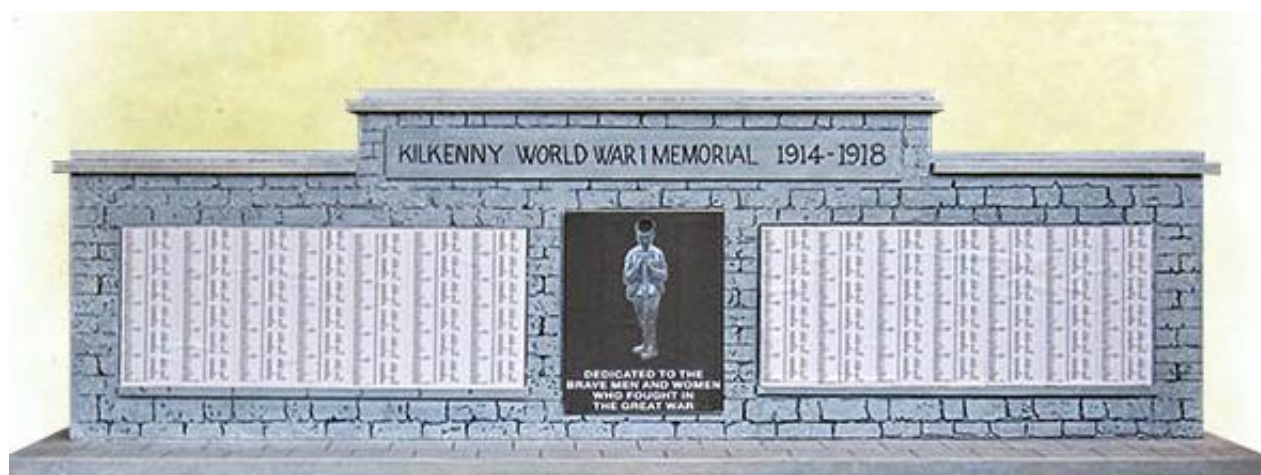
Boy Telegraphist John Griffin died on 10th April, 1917 at Plymouth Hospital, Devon, England from Tubercle of Lungs.

A death for John Griffin, aged 17, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of East Stonehouse, Devon, England.

Boy Telegraphist John Griffin was buried in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number General L. 2. 0. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Boy Telegraphist John Griffin – service number J/36937, aged 17, of Royal Navy – H.M.A.S. “Melbourne” on loan to Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of Patrick and Annie Griffin. Native of Callan, Kilkenny, Ireland.

Boy Telegraphist John Griffin will be remembered on the proposed Kilkenny Great War Memorial, Ireland to be located at Noonan’s Folly (just off Michael St Kilkenny) on the banks of the River Nore.



Model of proposed Memorial design (Image from Kilkenny Great War Memorial)

Boy Telegraphist John Griffin is remembered on the Callan World War 1 Memorial plaque, Kilkenny, Ireland.



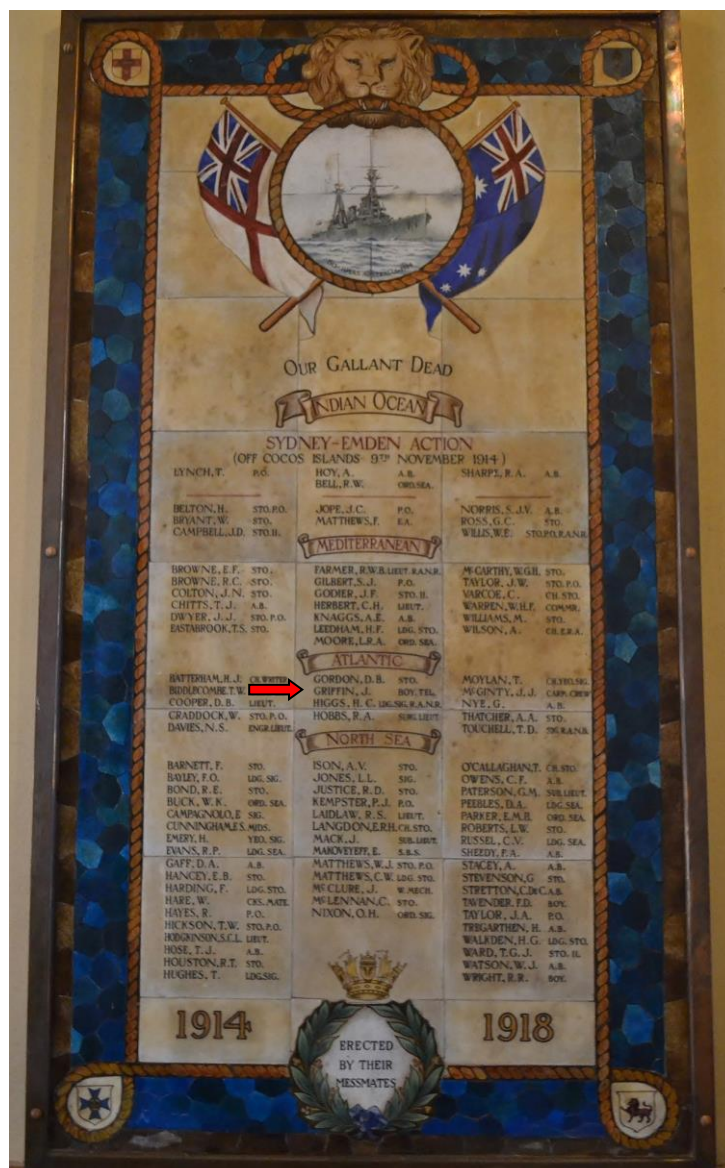
Callan World War 1 Memorial plaque

NAME	NO.	RANK	UNIT	NAME	NO.	RANK	UNIT
Alexander John				Dunphy John	451213	Pte	C.E.F.
Berry D	7352	Col	R.A.M.C.	Durney Benjamin		Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Bergin Andrew	11383	Pte	Conn. Rang.	Durney Daniel		Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Bergin James	9454	Sgt	M.G.C.	Durney James	5779	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Bergin John	3443	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Durney Matthew		Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Bergin Michael	2093	Cpl	R. Irish Regt.	Durney Patrick	5251	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Bergin Patrick	4519	Sgt	R. Irish Regt.	Dwyer Thomas	219500	AB	R.N.
Bergin William	6545	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Fanning Patrick	17032	L/Cpl	R. Irish Regt.
Bor Thomas			Leins	Fitzgerald John	88179	WO C/2	R.A.
Brennan John			R.N.	Fleming Patrick	163392	Boy 2	R.N.
Brien John	8116	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Fleming Michael	4134	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Brophy John	4 / 5465	Sgt	R. Irish Regt.	Freaney Peter	14003	Pte	N.L.I.
Bryan Thomas	K / 25943	Sgt	R. Irish Regt.	Grace John	514/256483	Pte	A.S.C.
Buckley Patrick	4 / 4085	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Gregg Michael Joseph	3147	Pte	A.I.F.
Burke William	6 / 2116	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Gregg Peter	10179	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Butler William			2 / K.E.H.	Gregory Charles Levison		Brig. Gen.	19th Bngl. Lenc.
Byrne Patrick	6533	Maj	Leins	Gregory Henry		Lt/Cdr	R.N.
Byrne James	6246	Pte	Leins	Gregory William		Lt	R.N.
Cleary Matthew	27856	Pte	R. Ir. R.	Griffin John	J / 36937	Boy/Tel	R.N.
Coffey Michael	9426	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Guilliole Denis	7216	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Coffey Michael			R. Irish Regt.	Guillon Patrick	31180	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Cordon Patrick	4974	Cpl	R. Irish Regt.	Hackett James	21104	Sgt	Berks. Regt.
Connell Martin	7172	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Hanley John	7350	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Conovan William	322	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Hayes Walter	2967	Sgt	R.O.F.
Coogan Jack			R. Irish Regt.	Hegarty George	5385	Pte	Ir. Gds.
Corcoran Augustine	4417	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Hennessey William	1989	Pte	R.E.
Corcoran James	2051	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Hoban Andrew	11898	Pte	Ir. Gds.
Corcoran Michael	4 / 4563	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Hogan Michael	11882	Pte	Ir. Gds.
Corcoran Nicholas	10181	L / Cpl	R. Irish Regt.	Hogan Martin	6999	L/Sgt	E. Lanc.
Corcoran Patrick	8915	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Hogan Michael	1473	Pte	S.I.H.
Corcoran Richard	7857	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Holmes Patrick	8781	Sgt	Conn. Rang.
Corr David	20188	Pte	Leins	Holmes William	8264	Pte	M.G.C.
Corrigan James	3102	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Horan Patrick	5196	L/Cpl	Ir. Gds.
Crabb Frederick	28356	Ovr	R.A.	Jordan Michael	5539	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Cuddihy Martin	35740	Pte	Hamps. Regt.	Kavanagh John	9265	L/Cpl	Leins
Cullinan Joseph	5 / 1449	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Kearney John	29734	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Cummins William	369	L / Sgt	R. Ir. F.	Kearney William		Sub/Lt	C.E.F.
Cummins William	20475	Pte	R.M.F.	Kearney William	525013	Pte	R.N.R.
Dalton Patrick	54025	Pte	Hamps. Regt.	Keating Patrick	3655	Pte	Loncl. R.
Daly Patrick			R. Irish Regt.	Keating Patrick		Pte	28th K.R.I. Hvy
Dargan Patrick	5206	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Kelly James	T / 33557	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Delahunty James	646	SS	A.S.C.	Kelly Richard	4138	Sgt	A.S.C.
Dermody Martin	6232	Pte	Leins	Kelly Thomas	2055	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
De Montmorency Mervyn			R. Irish Regt.	Kenny Edward		Pte	R. Irish Regt.
De Montmorency John			R.N.	Kenny John	7491	Pte	R.M.F.
Donovan John			A.E.F.	Kenny Patrick	5505	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Donovan Patrick	1753	Pte	A.I.F.	Kenny Stephen	9309	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Dooley Martin	4218	Pte	R. Irish Regt.	Kenny William	4120	Pte	R. Irish Regt.
Dooley Martin	1485	Pte	R.A.M.C.	Kidd Charles		Capt.	R.A.M.C.
Dwyer Michael	36918	Sdr	R.G.A.	Knee Alfred	8385	Pte	R. Ir. F.
Dwyer Michael	9449	Sgt	E. Lanc.				
Duggan William	48238	Pte	R.M.F.				

Boy Telegraphist J. Griffin is remembered on Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, located at HMAS *Cerberus* Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Nelson Road, Crib Point, Victoria.



HMAS *Cerberus* Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria (Photos courtesy of Karen Standen)



Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area.

Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth.

Ford Park Cemetery (formerly known as Pennycomequick or Plymouth Old Cemetery) contains 769 burials of the First World War, more than 200 of them in a naval plot, the rest scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 198 Second World War burials are scattered, 1 of which is an unidentified airman of the Royal Air Force. There are a further 4 Foreign National and 1 non world war service burials here.

(Information from CWGC)



Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth (Photo above from *julia&keld*, below from CWGC)



Photo of Boy Telegraph John Griffin's shared Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)

WILLIAM CLARK
PETTY OFFICER H.M.S. POWERFUL
DIED 29TH MARCH 1917
AGED 56 YEARS

JOHN GRIFFIN
BOY TELEGRAPHIST H.M.S. MELBOURNE
DIED 10TH APRIL 1917
AGED 17 YEARS

DONALD J. M^cFARLANE
DECKHAND H.M.S. VIVID
DIED 30TH APRIL 1917
AGED 22 YEARS
