



## COLLINS

James Moylan

Service No: 4999





## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: James Moylan Collins

Service number: 4999

Date of enlistment: 7/2/1916

Age at Enlistment: 37 years 5 months

Civil Occupation: Farm Labourer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 10 inches

Weight: 142 pounds

Chest measurement: 38 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Grey and Yellow

Father: James

Mother: Mary

Siblings: Patrick b.1868, John b.1871, Mary b.1875, Michael Phillip. b.1878,  
Joseph b.1880, Francis b.1882, Margaret T. b.1885.

## Life Story

James Moylan Collins was born at Gundagai in 1873, to James and Mary Collins. His birth registration records his name as Milan Collins.

At some point, James, and his brother, Michael Phillip, travelled to Western Australia. Michael Phillip appears to have remained in the Goldfields, but James found his way to York and worked as a farm labourer at "Wooriegong," the property of N. P. Burges, at Burges Siding near York.

James enlisted in 1916, at Blackboy Hill. Michael Phillip had enlisted in the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion in 1915 after having his medical examination at Coolgardie. Both men appear to have lied about their ages and enlisted under different names. James called himself James Moylan, while Michael enlisted as Phillip Collins (Service Number 265).

James joined the 13<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion and sailed for England aboard the *Seang Bee*. He embarked for France from Folkestone, England, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1916 aboard the *SS Henrietta*, but a bout of bronchitis prevented him from joining his unit in the Field until May 1917.

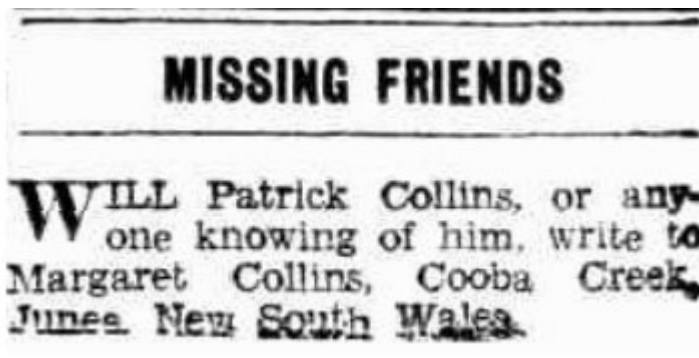
James was readmitted to hospital in August and remained out of the action until late October 1917.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1918, he returned to hospital suffering once again from bronchitis. After ten days in hospital, James returned to the Field, only to take two weeks' Leave in England on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 1918. He remained in the Field with his unit for the remainder of the War, serving as a Private then as a Driver.

James left France on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 1919 and returned to Australia on the *Ormonde*. Phillip arrived back in Western Australia that same month.

# RESIDENCY MUSEUM

It appears that, after the War, both brothers had little or no contact with family members in New South Wales. From 1921, there are letters in James' Service File from concerned family who were trying to locate them. James' sister, Margaret, and his nephew, Frank, were still searching for him as late as 1965.



Advertisement placed in the Kalgoorlie Miner (WA: 1895 - 1954), Wednesday 1 November 1950.

Michael Patrick eventually returned to N.S.W. and died in Sydney in 1952.

He was brought back to Gundagai by family members and laid to rest in the North Gundagai Cemetery.



Gravesite of James Collins in the York Cemetery  
Courtesy Cathy Clarke

His brother was not so fortunate. James had returned to York by 1923 and was preparing to start a contract for his old employer, N. P. Burges, when he died suddenly at the Imperial Hotel in York.

No family members could be traced at that time, so, James was laid to rest in the York Cemetery. The flag at the Town Hall was flown at half-mast in recognition of his War service, but there is no headstone to mark his resting place.

**Sudden Death in York.****POST MORTEM DISCLOSES  
NATURAL CAUSES.**

The sudden death of a returned soldier named James Moylan Collins, aged 44 years, occurred in a bedroom at the Imperial Hotel on Monday morning. The deceased had lodged at the hotel for about a month, and on the night prior to his death retired to bed apparently in good health. At about 8 o'clock on Monday morning one of the housemaids heard groaning emanating from the room occupied by Collins, and upon the yardman investigating he found deceased dressed in his pyjamas lying on the floor suffering great pain. He complained of suffering from cramps. Dr. Ward was summoned, and measures were adopted in the meanwhile to afford relief. Collins suddenly rolled over on his side and as he uttered the words "I am going," he breathed his last, prior to the arrival of the doctor.

The deceased was a single man, and was supposed to have had a married sister residing at Albany, but so far this has not been verified.

He had worked for Mr. N. P. Buiges, of "Wooregong," for a couple of years, and intended to return this week to re-enter his employment on an extensive clearing contract.

**The Post Mortem.**

Upon being apprised of the occurrence the Acting Coroner (Mr. G. E. Inkpen, J.P.), instructed a post-mortem which disclosed that death was due to natural causes—arterial disease.

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, the Rev. Father Griffen officiating at the R.C. Church and cemetery.

Funeral service officiating at the R.C. Church and cemetery.

The flag was half-masted at the Town Hall out of respect to one of our returned heroes.

The funeral was conducted by Messrs. J. L. Wansbrough & Son, undertakers.

Eastern Districts Chronicle  
Friday 9 March 1923

### Acknowledgements

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### References

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