John Patrick Ryan

**Service Number:** 2412

**Rank:** Sergeant

**Unit:** 31st Australian Infantry Battalion

**Service:** Australian Army

**Conflict / Operation:** First World War, 1914-1918

**Conflict eligibility date:**  First World War, 1914-1921

The official commencement and cut-off dates for inclusion in the Roll of Honour and the Commemorative Roll.

[Read more](https://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/roll_of_honour/introduction/)

**Date of death:** 10 October 1917

**Place of death:** Belgium

**Age at death:** 23

**Place of association:** Singleton, New South Wales, Australia

**Cemetery or memorial details:** Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

**Source:** AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War, Army

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Regimental number | 2412 |
| Place of birth | Singleton New South Wales |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Occupation | Grocer |
| Address | Singleton, New South Wales |
| Marital status | Single |
| Age at embarkation | 21 |
| Next of kin | Father, J.W. Ryan, Church Street, Singleton, New South Wales |
| Previous military service | 14th Infantry |
| Enlistment date | 3 September 1915 |
| Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll | 20 September 1915 |
| Rank on enlistment | Private |
| Unit name | [31st Battalion, 4th Reinforcement](https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showUnit?unitCode=INF31REIN4) |
| AWM Embarkation Roll number | 23/48/3 |
| Embarkation details | Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A68 *Anchises* on 14 March 1916 |
| Rank from Nominal Roll | Sergeant |
| Unit from Nominal Roll | 31st Battalion |
| Recommendations (Medals and Awards) | Military Medal  Recommendation date: 2 October 1917 |
| Fate | Killed in Action 26 September 1917 |
| Date of death | 10 October 1917 |
| Age at death from cemetery records | 23 |
| Place of burial | No known grave |
| Commemoration details | The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 23), Belgium  The Menin Gate Memorial (so named because the road led to the town of Menin) was constructed on the site of a gateway in the eastern walls of the old Flemish town of Ypres, Belgium, where hundreds of thousands of allied troops passed on their way to the front, the Ypres salient, the site from April 1915 to the end of the war of some of the fiercest fighting of the war.  The Memorial was conceived as a monument to the 350,000 men of the British Empire who fought in the campaign. Inside the arch, on tablets of Portland stone, are inscribed the names of 56,000 men, including 6,178 Australians, who served in the Ypres campaign and who have no known grave.  The opening of the Menin Gate Memorial on 24 July 1927 so moved the Australian artist Will Longstaff that he painted 'The Menin Gate at Midnight', which portrays a ghostly army of the dead marching past the Menin Gate. The painting now hangs in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, at the entrance of which are two medieval stone lions presented to the Memorial by the City of Ypres in 1936.  Since the 1930s, with the brief interval of the German occupation in the Second World War, the City of Ypres has conducted a ceremony at the Memorial at dusk each evening to commemorate those who died in the Ypres campaign. |
| Panel number, Roll of Honour,   Australian War Memorial | 117 |
| Miscellaneous information from   cemetery records | Parents: John and Kate RYAN, 'Iona', Singleton, New South Wales |
| Medals | Military Medal  'At POLYGON WOOD on 26/28th September 1917, the excellent dash, judgment and initiative displayed by this N.C.O. were remarkable. On one occasion when a counter attack was commencing and no Lewis Gunners were available to work the gun, L/Sergeant Ryan seized a gun that was lying in the trench and kept in action until the enemy had been dispersed. Nothing was too dangerous for him to undertake and his personal bravery inspired the men to an enormous extent.' |
| Family/military connections | Brother: 6829 Pte Kevin RYAN, 1st Bn, returned to Australia, 9 December 1918. |
| Other details | War service: Western Front  Medals: Military Medal, British War Medal, Victory Medal |