



Grave of the Late Private John Ryan, V.C

31 October 1944 The Tumut And Adelong Times

The above is a photo of the grave of the late Private John Ryan, V.C., who was one of the 255 men to enlist in the 1914-18 Great War from this centre.

Ryan received the V.C. for driving back the enemy with bombs and bayonet after all his companions around him had fallen.

When the Australians were crashing through the Hindenburg Line, late in September, 1917, the 55th Battalion, to which Ryan belonged, was, together with other units, well in the attack.

Ryan was one of the first to rush into a German trench, which was taken, but he showed, perhaps, higher qualities later when he led three men against some bombers who were making his position untenable.

He put these men out of action and then was severely wounded.

The late E. J. Ryan was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ryan and was born at Tumut, where he was educated at the local Convent School.

He was serving in the local Post Office when he enlisted to serve in the 19 14-1918 Great War.

He battled for years against adversity.

For months he had tramped the streets of Melbourne looking for work.

On the day he began work he was taken to hospital and passed away in June, 1941, in want and practically a forgotten man.

The above photograph shows the tombstone erected over his grave by the Victorian Government as a tribute to the memory of a gallant soldier.