

**Hollybrook Memorial,
Southampton, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5650 PRIVATE

A. R. ARMSTRONG

4TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND JULY, 1916

Arthur Rex ARMSTRONG

Arthur Rex Armstrong was born at Lane Cove, Sydney, NSW (according to details provided for the Roll of Honour, however he listed his place of birth as Willoughby, NSW on his Attestation Papers) on 17th May, 1897 to parents Alexander Boswell Armstrong & Mary Sophia Armstrong (nee Stevens).

Arthur Rex Armstrong attended North Sydney Public School, Sydney, NSW.

Arthur Rex Armstrong was an 18 year old, single, Bank Clerk from 189 Lane Cove Road, North Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 19th January, 1916 (as per Embarkation Roll, however the Attestation Papers were signed on 9th February, 1916) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5650 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. B. Armstrong, of 189 Lane Cove Road, North Sydney, NSW. Arthur's brother Alexander Boswell Armstrong, Clerk, aged 28 years, also enlisted the same day & was given a service number of 5649. Arthur Armstrong stated on his Attestation Papers that he served with Senior Cadets as Corporal. He also stated he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to under chest measurement last June & since then he was up to standard.

As Arthur Rex Armstrong was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad.

Private Arthur Rex Armstrong was posted to "A" Company, 4th Battalion on 9th February, 1916 for recruit training.

Private Arthur Rex Armstrong & his older brother Private Alexander Boswell Armstrong both embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on 3rd June, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P07178.002

HMAT *Kyarra* (A55)

Private Arthur Rex Armstrong was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 2nd July, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

Private Arthur Rex Armstrong died on 2nd July, 1916 on board Troopship HMAT *Kyarra*. (Note: None of the forms in the Service Record file of Private Armstrong that would normally record the cause of death have the cause of death listed ie: Casualty Form – Active Service; Field Service form; Statement of Service form & Purport form). Correspondence from Major C. A. Edwards, A.M.C. recorded the following dated 2nd July, 1916 At Sea, H.M.A. Transport A. 55: *"I hereby certify that I attended Armstrong Arthur Rex, No. 5650 Private, 18th Reinforcement, 4th Battalion. Aged 18 years. And that I last saw him on 2nd July 1916. And that he died on 2nd July 1916. Cause of death. Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. (23 Hours)."*

According to British Armed Forces and Overseas Deaths and Burials - Deaths at Sea 1891 – 1972 – Private Arthur Rex Armstrong died on Board *Kyarra* at Lat. 30° S, Long. 29° 35' W.

A death for Arthur Keen Armstrong, aged 18, was registered on 16th August, 1916 (Entry No. R 166 B) at Cape Town, South Africa (Colony of the Cape of Good Hope).

Private Arthur Rex Armstrong was buried at Sea near Durban, South Africa, from Troopship HMAT *Kyarra* on 2nd July, 1916. He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private Arthur Rex Armstrong was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Armstrong's father - Mr A. B. Armstrong, as the closest next-of-kin. (Plaque sent December, 1922 & Scroll sent April, 1922 to Private Armstrong's mother as his father was deceased).

Kathleen Armstrong, of "Grantholme" Park Road, Greenwich signed a Statutory Declaration on 3rd February, 1922 stating:

- *"I. That my father Alexander Boswell Armstrong, the person entitled to Memorial Plaque No. 303015, died on the 12 April, 1921.*
- *II That the signature attached to the notice to receive the Plaque is my mothers.*
- *III That she has authorised me to receive the said Plaque issued on account of my late brother No. 5650 Pte Arthur Rex Armstrong.*
- *Mary Sophia Armstrong is the mother of the above named soldier."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Rex Armstrong – service number 5650, of 4th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

A. R. Armstrong is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial located at the top of Walker Street, in St. Leonards Park, North Sydney, NSW.



North Sydney War Memorial (Photo from War Memorial Register NSW – David Roden and Andrew Howell)



Arthur Rex Armstrong is remembered on the North Sydney Technical High School Roll of Honour, located at Killara High School, Koola Avenue, West Killara, Sydney, NSW.



North Sydney Technical High School Roll of Honour (Photo from War Memorial Register NSW – David Roden)

A. R. Armstrong is remembered on the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, World War 1 Honour Roll, located at 343 George Street, Sydney, NSW.



Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, World War 1 Honour Roll

(Photos from War Memorials Register of NSW)



Private A. R. Armstrong is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 39.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(29 pages of Private Arthur Rex Armstrong's 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) & National Archives



[Connected to Private Arthur Rex Armstrong:](#)

Older brother – Alexander Boswell Armstrong – Enlisted 19th January, 1916 with a Service No. 5649. He embarked with 4th Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements on 3rd June, 1916.

Private Alexander Boswell Armstrong was killed in action near Lagnicourt on 15th April, 1917. Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France as he has no known grave.



Newspaper Notices

WAR CASUALTIES

PRIVATE REX ARMSTRONG

Mr A. B. Armstrong, of Tenterden, Lane Cove-road, North Sydney, has received a cable message from Colonel Luscombe, at Durban, stating that his son, Private Rex Armstrong, of the 4th Battalion, A.I.F., died at sea on the 2nd instant on his way to the front. He was employed by the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, and was 18 years of age.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 8 July, 1916)

PERSONAL

Mr A. B. Armstrong, of "Tenterden," Lane Cove Road, North Sydney, has received a cable message from Colonel Luscombe, at Durban, stating that his son, Private Rex Armstrong, of the 4th Battalion, A.I.F., died at sea on July 2, on board a transport, on his way to the war. By his death the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney loses the services of an officer who, although only 19 years of age, had given promise of a successful career.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 8 July, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

ARMSTRONG – Died at sea on Transport A55, on his way to the front to answer the call of duty, Private Rex Armstrong, 4th Battalion, A.I.F., youngest son of A. B. Armstrong, "Tenterden," Lane Cove Road, North Sydney. Fondly and unforgettably loved.

"His sun went down while it was yet day."

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 8 July, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

184th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte A. R. ARMSTRONG, Sydney

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 14 July, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

ARMSTRONG – In memory of my friend, Private Rex Armstrong, died July 2, 1916. A true soldier and a white man.

And he is not.

For God took him.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 2 July, 1917)

Rex Armstrong is remembered on his brother's headstone – Stanley Dare Armstrong – in Macquarie Park Cemetery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (see red arrow below).

Details of Grave – Stanley & Winifred Armstrong are buried in MPC Church of England Section F Row 13 Graves 27 & 28. Rex, Alex & Constance are also named on the headstone.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Tania Hackett)



(Photo courtesy of Noelene Paul, Genealogy Research Officer, Northern Cemeteries)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England

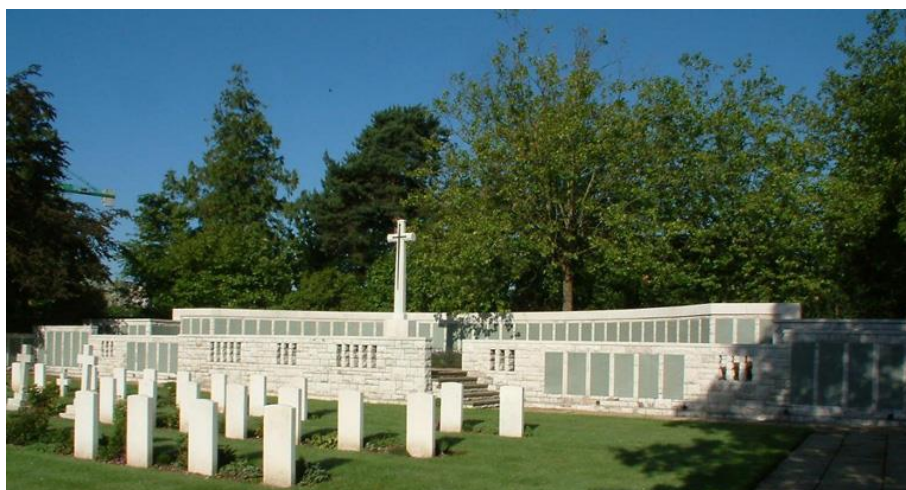
The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



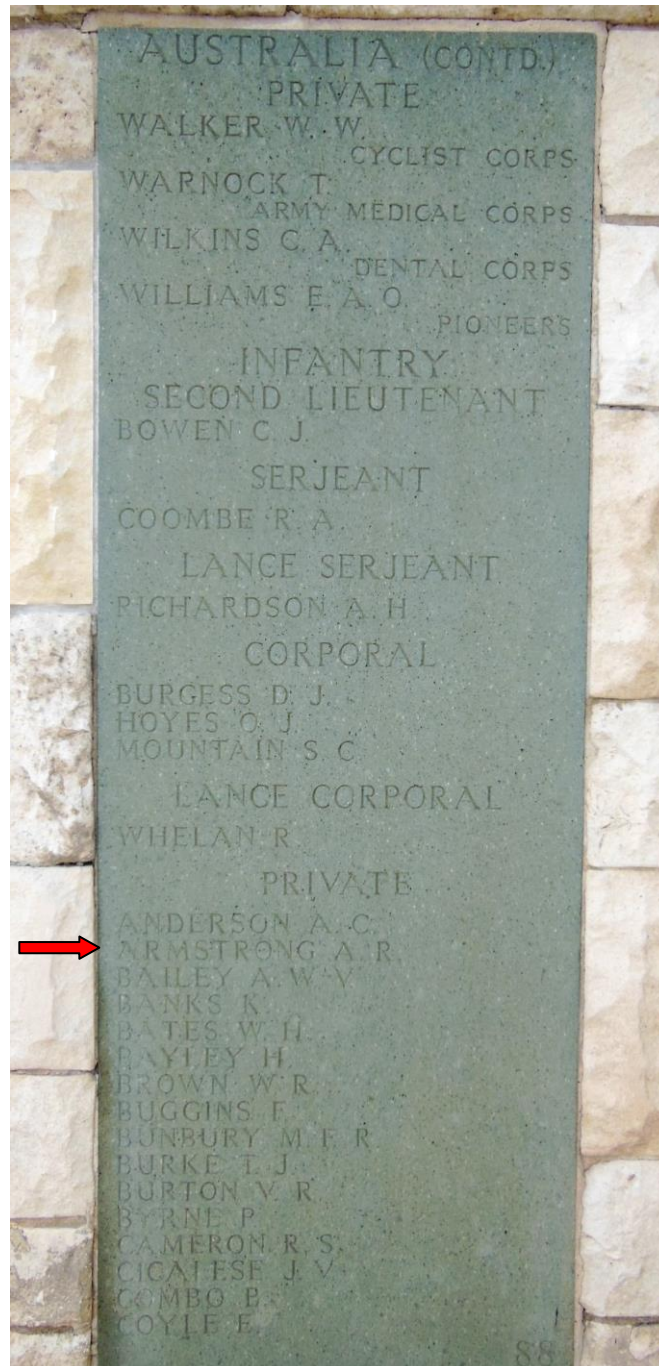


Cross of Sacrifice

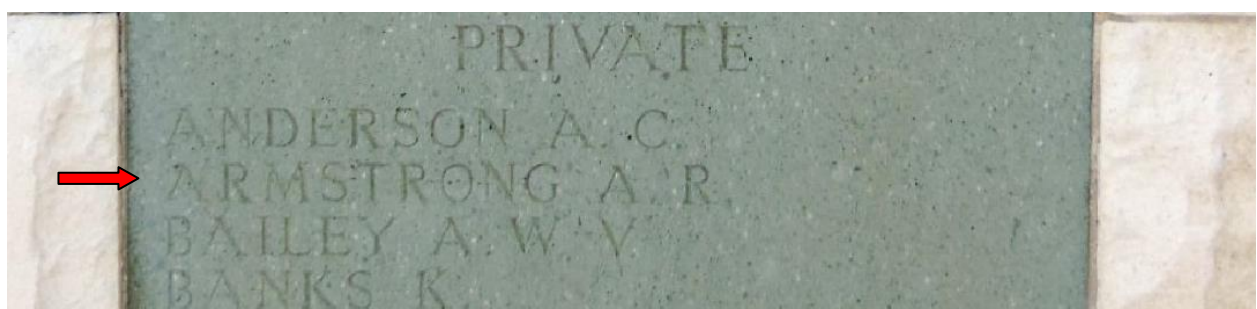


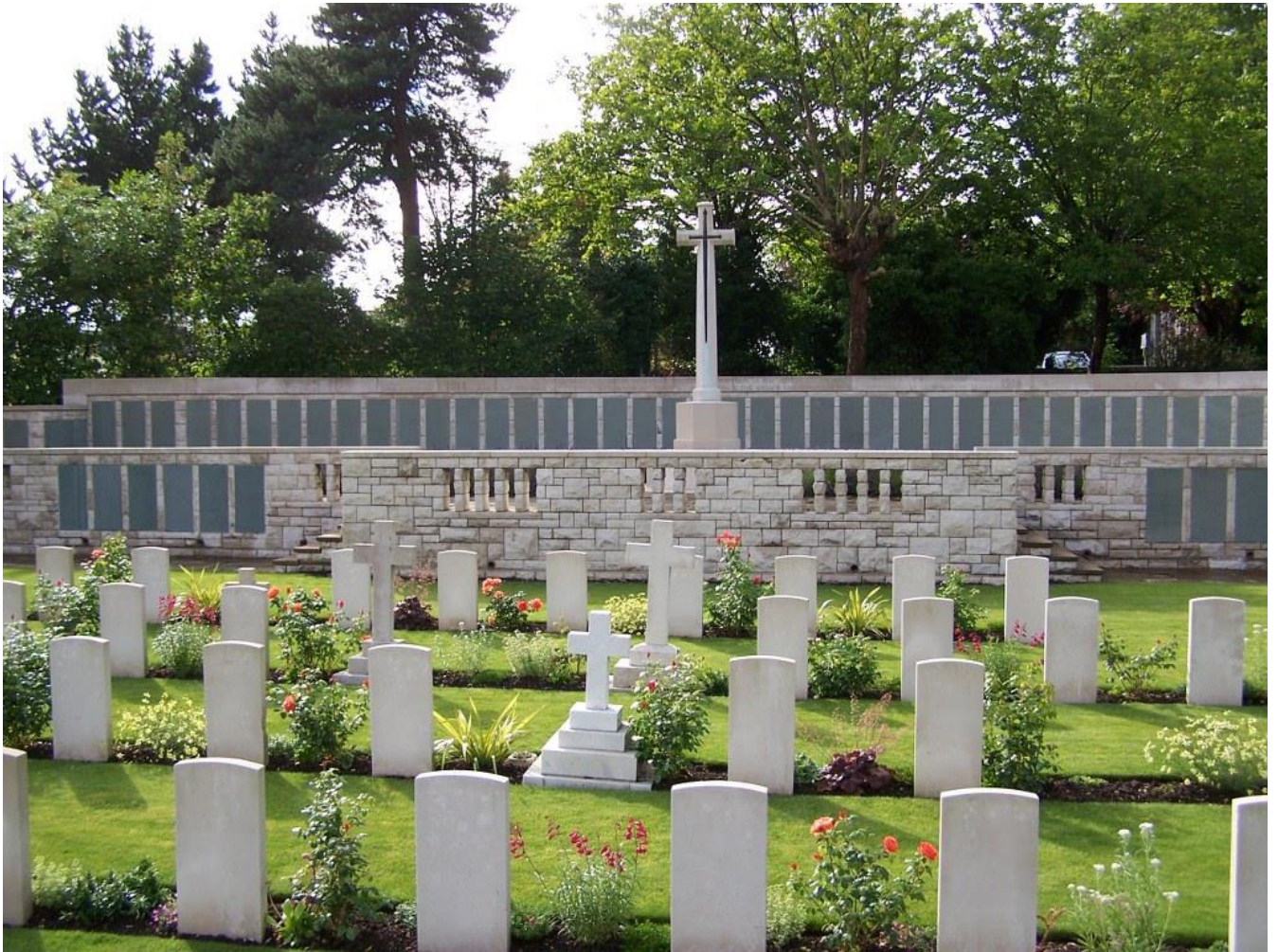
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice

Photo of Private A. R. Armstrong's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial

(Photo from CWGC)