

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**7450 PRIVATE**

**H. BAYLEY**

**6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**25TH AUGUST, 1917**

## Henry (Harry) BAYLEY

Henry Bayley was born at Brighton, Sussex, England around 1869 to parents Martin & Mary Jane Bayley (nee Miles).

The 1871 England Census recorded Harry Bayley as a 2 year old, living with his parents at 17 Upper North Street, Brighton, Sussex, England. His parents were listed as Martin Bayley (Shopman, Shoe Warehouse, aged 31, born Westminster, Middlesex) & Mary J. Bailey (aged 28, born Westbury, Wiltshire). Also listed was a Boarder – Amelia Howie (Saleswoman, aged 27) & a Visitor – Frances Hergret (Waistcoat Maker, aged 25).

The 1881 England Census recorded Henry Bayley as a 13 year old Errand Boy, living with his family at 15 Bath Place, St Pancras, Islington, London, England. His parents were listed as Martin Bayley (Salesman, Boot Shop, aged 42) & Mary Bayley (Boot Machinist, aged 39). Also listed were 2 nephews of Martin Bayley – Henry Miles (Brass Finisher, aged 18) & John Miles (Brass Finisher, aged 20).

According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – Henry Bayley came to Australia when he was “*about 20 years.*”

Henry Bayley married Esther Mary Reid in Victoria, Australia on 4th June, 1902.

Births were registered in Victoria for the following children of Henry & Esther Bayley: Albert Henry (1903); Marguerite Inez (1904, died 1909); Harry (1906); Robert Arthur (1907); Sylvia Maud (1910); Lila Nellie (1912); Walter Stanley Thomas (1914); Norman Alfred (1915) & Raymond (1917).

The 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Moe, recorded Henry Bayley, Labourer & his wife Esther Mary Bayley, Home Duties, of Narracan East.

According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – Henry Bayley “*served in the South African War. Went with 2nd Contingent returned & enlisted for the second time but did not sail & was discharged as medically unfit.*”

The Australian War Memorial records Private Henry Bayley, 173, of 2nd Victorian Mounted Rifles - attached to Pioneer Corps 21st April, 1900 who served in South African Boer War (1899 – 1902).

Henry Bayley stated he was a 44 year old, married, Farmer from West Gippsland, Victoria when he enlisted at Sale, Victoria on 25th June, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7450 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. M. Bayley, Narracan East, West Gippsland, Victoria.

Private Henry Bayley was posted to Recruit Depot at Broadmeadows on 26th June, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Depot Battalion at Broadmeadows on 17th July, 1917 then transferred on 25th July, 1917 to 25th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion.

Private Henry Bayley embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 4th August, 1917 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 25th Reinforcements.

### 6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Henry Bayley was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 17th August, 1917 suffering with Pleurisy. He was reported missing from Hospital at 12.30 am.

Private Henry Bayley disappeared from HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) while at Sea on 25th August, 1917 – believed to have been drowned.

A Court of Enquiry was held at Sea on board HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 25th August, 1917 by order of Colonel G. H. Dean, V.D., Officer Commanding Troops, A 32 for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon the circumstances appertaining to the disappearance of No. 7450 Private H. Bayley, 25th Reinforcements, 6th Battalion, A.I.F.

EVIDENCE OF WITNESSES.

FIRST WITNESS being duly sworn states:-

My name William B. Ryan, Major, A.A.M.C. I am S.M.O. H.M.A.T. A.32 Pte. Bayley was a patient in hospital with pleurisy for several days, he was recovering, and seemed to be quiet, and glad he was getting better. There was nothing in his condition to lead me to suspect him of any suicidal tendencies. At about 12.30 a.m. Sgt. Birch reported to me that Bayley had disappeared from his bed in the hospital. I caused a thorough search to be made of the hospital and the ship, and reported the matter to the Ship's Officer of the Watch, and the O.C. Troops.

QUESTIONED BY COURT.

- Q. 1. Was Bayley strong enough to be allowed to get out of bed?  
A. 1. He had been ordered to remain in bed.
- Q. 2. Do you consider that the Orderlies were negligent in allowing Bayley to leave the hospital.  
A. 2. No, if he moved quickly he could have got out under almost any circumstances.
- Q. 3. Was there an adequate staff on duty in the hospital?  
A. 3. Yes quite.
- Q. 4. Had you any serious cases in hospital?  
A. 4. Yes two.
- Q. 5. Who was looking after them?  
A. 5. Sister Keirman, and an Orderly were detailed for night duty for these two cases, and instructions were given that either the sister or the Orderly had to be with them.
- Q. 6. Was anyone specially detailed to look after Pte. Bayley?  
A. 6. No, it is my usual rule to tell off Special attendants for serious cases, but Pte. Bayley did not come under that heading.

(Sgd) W. B. Ryan, Major.  
A.A.M.C.

SECOND WITNESS being duly sworn states:-

My name is Irene Kiernan, I was a Staff Nurse of the A.A.H.S. I was on duty in the hospital on board A.32 from 7 p.m. 24.8.17, until 7 a.m. 25.8.17. At about 12.30 a.m. that day Saturday, I went and looked at Pte. Bayley who was a patient in the hospital. He appeared to be sleeping. About ten minutes later Sergt. Birch reported to me that Bayley had disappeared from the hospital. I reported the fact to the S.M.O. Major. Ryan.

QUESTIONED BY THE COURT

- Q. Did you have any reasons for suspecting Pte. Bayley having any suicidal tendencies?  
A. No, He did say a week ago that if he were strong enough he would get over the side. But as he was in pain I did not take any notice of the threat, which is not an unusual one.
- Q. Was the Staff on duty last night adequate for carrying out the work of looking after the patients?  
A. In my opinion quite adequate.
- Q. Were there any cases of serious illness in the hospital?  
A. Yes, two.
- Q. Who was looking after them?



(SECOND WITNESS continued).

A. I was, with an Orderly. There was an attendant always with them, either the orderly or myself.

(Sgd) Irene Kiernan.

THIRD WITNESS being duly sworn states:-

My name is Albert Alexander Birch, I am a Sergeant of No.1. Sea Transport Staff A.A.M.C. At about half past twelve this morning Pte. Brown wakened me and reported that Pte. Bayley had left his bed and was not in the hospital. I instructed Brown to search all the lavatories and troop decks, and then reported the disappearance to Major Ryan, who went me with a note to the Ship's Officer of the Watch, and to warn the Sergeant of the Guard to instruct his sentries to arrest any man wandering about the ship, answering the name and description of Bayley.

QUESTIONED BY THE BOARD.

Q. How many orderlies were on night duty last night in that part of hospital where Bayley was ?

A. Three, the same number which had been on night duty for the whole previous week.

Q. Were three orderlies enough for the work on night duty?

A. Yes ample, there was practically no nursing to be done in that part of the hospital.

Q. What are the hours of the orderlies on night duty?

A. From 7 p.m. until 7 a.m.

Q. Where do they take their meals, while on duty?

A. In a curtained off part of the ward in the hospital.

(Sgd) Albert A. Birch Sergt.

FOURTH WITNESS being duly sworn states:-

My name is Horace John Neil Browne, I am a private of A.M.C. I was on night duty in the hospital on the Themistocles last night. At about twenty minutes past twelve, Pte. Bayley was coughing and I went to his bed and got a sputum cup for him, which he used. He spoke to me. I felt his pulse, and arranged his pillow. I went to the table in the ward where the other orderlies were taking their meal, and commenced to write a letter. Pte. Mc. Nally one of the orderlies asked me if the old man, meaning Bayley was allowed to get out of bed, because he had just gone past. I got up and went out of the hospital to the lavatory to find him, because I had been instructed that he was not to leave his bed. I could not find him there, and on my way back Pte. Snashall told me that he had gone the other way on to the deck. I followed the direction shown me but did not see him. I then switched on the deck and hospital lights and reported the disappearance to Sergt. Birch.

Questioned by the Court.

Q. Are you overworked on night duty?

A. No. there are plenty of orderlies to do the work.

Q. Are the orderlies allowed to sleep while on night duty?

A. No.

Q. Were the orderlies on duty all awake and in the hospital when Bayley disappeared. ?

A. Yes.

(Sgd) H. J. V. Browne.



FIFTH WITNESS being duly sworn states:-

My name is Thomas Perkins, I am a Private of A.M.C. and also was on night duty in the ship's hospital last night. At about 12.20 last night I was taking my midnight meal in the hospital. I saw Pte. Bayley pass out of the ward, and then pass the window on the deck in rear of the hospital. He went towards the Starboard promenade deck. I followed immediately after he passed the window, but could not find any trace of Bayley. It was dark and I heard no cry or splash. I assisted the other orderlies to make a thorough search of the whole ship, but failed to find Bayley.

Questioned by the Court.

Q. were you very hard worked on night duty.

A. No.

(Sgd) Thos. Perkins.

SIXTH WITNESS duly sworn states:-

My name is Edgar Arthur Snashall, I am a Private of A.M.C. last night I was an orderly on night duty in the ship's hospital. While I was having my midnight meal, one of the orderlies asked if Bayley were allowed to be out of bed. Just then I saw Bayley on the deck in rear of the hospital, pass a window going in the direction of the Starboard promenade deck. I followed at once. There are only two ways on the Ship that he could go from there. One past the beds on the promenade deck, and the other down on to the aft. well deck. To go the first way he would have to pass a patient in the first bed. That patient was awake and told me that nobody had passed. There was a guard on the well deck who told me that noone had come down there. I assisted to search the ship but could not find Bayley.

Questioned by the Court.

Q. Are you overworked as an orderly on night duty?

A. No.

Q. Did you know Bayley?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you suspect that he might commit suicide. ?

A. No.

(Sgd) E.C. Snashall.

SEVENTH WITNESS being duly sworn states:-

My name is Percy Collins, I am a Master Mariner, was of R.M.A.T. A32 Thewistocles. At about 12.45 a.m. to-day it was reported to me that a man had disappeared from the ship. The message came to me from the S.M.O. I at once went to the S.M.O. and found that so much time had elapsed since the man had disappeared that it was quite useless to try and rescue the man.

(Sgd) P.J. Collins.  
Master.

EIGHT WITNESS being duly sworn states:-

My name is Leslie K. Mc. Nally, I am a Private of A.M.C. I was on night duty as an orderly in the Ship's Hospital last night. At about 12.20 a.m. I was having supper in the hospital, and saw Bayley go out of the ward. I knew that he had been very ill and asked if the "Old man" meaning Bayley were allowed up, and at once joined the other orderlies in a search for him. It was dark, but the lights were then switched on and I searched the hospital and ship



( EIGHT WITNESS continued )

but failed to find him.

Questioned by the Court,

Q. have you too much work to do on night duty?

A. No.

Q. Have you more patients to look after than you can properly attend to?

A. No.

(Sgd) L.J.Mc. Nally.

NINTH WITNESS. being duly sworn states:-

My name is Duncan Arnold. I am a Second Lieutenant in the A.I.F. and O.C. 25/6th.Battalion to which unit Pte. Bayley belonged. While Bayley was in hospital, I visited him daily, sometimes more than once. He was always more or less depressed about his condition of health and complained of pain. On one occasion he told me that he would not live long, and yesterday when trying to cheer him up, I told him that the Doctor said that he was getting better, he said that the doctor ought to know, but that he felt very ill and was in pain. He appeared to me to be in a very depressed mental condition.

Board asked no questions.

(Sgd) D. Arnold. Lieut

REPORT OF THE COURT.

The evidence brought before the Court discloses that No. 7450 Pte. Bayley H. 25th.Reinf. 6th.Battn. disappeared from H.M.A.T. A. 32 at about 12.30 a.m. on August 25th. 1917 under circumstances which in the opinion of the Court make it certain that he jumped overboard. There is no evidence of mental depression probably due to illness. There is no evidence of negligence on the part of the Medical and Hospital Staff of the ship.

(Sgd) H.Retchford. Capt.  
PRESIDENT.

(Sgd) A.G. Cameron. Lieut. (Sgd) D. Arnold. 2 Lieut.  
MEMBERS.

Finding confirmed.

(Sgd) C.H.Dean Col.,  
O.C.Troops, A.32.

25.8.17.

## Report of Board of Inquiry

*"The evidence brought before the Board discloses that No. 7450 Pte Bayley H. 25th Reinf. 6th Battalion, disappeared from H.M.A.T. A32 at about 12.30 am on August 25th 1917 under circumstances which in the opinion of the Board make it certain that he jumped overboard. There is evidence of mental depression probably due to illness. There is no evidence of negligence on the part of the Medical and Hospital Staff of the Ship."*

Private Henry Bayley was classed as buried at Sea on 25th August, 1917. 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.

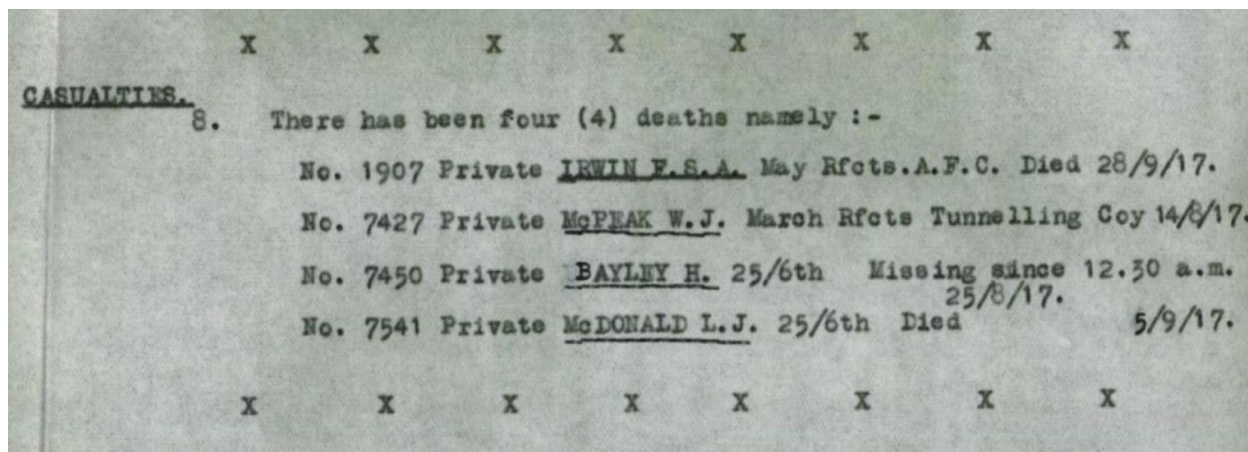
The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Henry Bayley contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Melbourne to obtain details of the circumstances under which Private H. Bayley disappeared at sea.

Informant Private E. V. Hillgood, 7505, 6th Battalion, D Company, XV Platoon, provided the following: *"Bayley was in hospital on board the Themistocles coming from Melbourne. He had been very depressed for sometime and appeared to have something on his mind. On the morning of Aug. 25/17 he was discovered to be missing and no trace of him could be found, so must have either jumped or fallen overboard and got drowned."*

Informant Private Thomas Buckley, 7593, 6th Battalion, D Company, XV Platoon, provided the following: *"I was on the same ship with Bayley the Sheinestesles? Bayley was in hospital sick on Aug. 25 917 his berth was empty, a man who was on guard on board tried to stop him but Bayley rushed past him and jumped overboard, he had often talked of committing suicide."*

## Voyage Report

H.M.A.T. A 32 THEMISTOCLES – At Sea, 1917



Private Henry Bayley requested in his Will, dated 24th July, 1917, that in the event of his death the whole of his property and effects be given to his wife Esther Mary Bayley of Narracan East, Victoria.

A War Pension was granted to Esther Mary Bayley, of Narracan East, Gippsland, widow of the late Private Henry Bayley, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 13th November, 1917. Pensions were also granted to the children – Albert Henry (20/- per fortnight); Harry (15/- per fortnight); Arthur (10/- per fortnight); Raymond (10/- per fortnight); Sylvia Maud (10/- per fortnight); Lila (10/- per fortnight); Walter (10/- per fortnight); Norman (10/- per fortnight).

Private Henry Bayley 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 Bayley's widow – Mrs E. M. Bayley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Bayley – service number 7450, of 6th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private H. Bayley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 45.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

H. Bayley is remembered on the Narracan War Memorial, located at McDonalds Track, Narracan, Victoria.



**Narracan War Memorial** (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride)



(54 pages of Private Henry Bayley'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DEATHS**

#### **On Active Service**

BAYLEY – Officially reported on 16th September to have died at sea (cause and date not stated), Private H. Bayley (served in the Boer war), late of Narracan, Gippsland, dearly loved husband of E. M. Bayley, loving father of Bert, Harry, Bob, Sylvie, Lila, Stan., Norman and Ray, and loved son-in-law of Mr and Mrs H. G. Reid, "Vermont," Narracan.

Deeply mourned

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 September, 1917)

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#### **Breavement Notice**

Mrs E. M. BAILEY & FAMILY sincerely thank their many kind friends for letters and cards of sympathy, also visits, received during their recent sad bereavement, in the loss of their dear husband and father, Pte H. Bayley, reported on the 15th September to have died at sea.

(*Trafalgar and Yarragon Times*, Victoria – 5 October, 1917)

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### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte H. Bayley, Narracan

(*Gippsland Mercury*, Sale, Victoria – 9 October, 1917)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

BAYLEY – In loving memory of my dear husband, Pte Harry Bayley, who died on the 25th August, 1917, at sea, of pneumonia, loved and loving father of Bert, the late Reta, Harry, Bob, Sylvia, Lila, Stan., Norman and little Ray.

Oh, how I miss you, Harry dear,  
    'Tis God alone can tell;  
I spend many a lonely hour  
    And shed bitter tears as well.  
But rest in peace, dear daddy,

Since God ordained it so;  
In haste He called you from us;  
Of course you had to go,  
At the sacred call of duty.

-Inserted by his loving wife and children, Narracan, Gippsland.

BAYLEY – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother-in-law and uncle, Private Harry Bayley, who passed away at sea on 25th August, 1917 (served in South African war). Twice a hero.

When we visit your home, dear Harry, we sadly miss you there. Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his loving sister-in-law, brother-in-law (on active service in France), Nell and Tom, and nephews and nieces, "Fairview," Wandin.

BAYLEY – In loving memory of my dear father, of the 25/6 Reinforcements, who died at sea on the 25th August, 1917. Late of Narracan, Gippsland.

He answered his country's call,  
While the shirkers stayed at home.

- Bert, Whittlesea.

BAYLEY – In loving memory of our dear son-in-law, Pte Harry Bayley, died at sea of pneumonia on the 25th August, 1917, dear brother-in-law of Mrs T. E. Hunter (Wandin), Hal, Mardie, Bob and Cliff. Served in the Boer war. Duty nobly done.

He answered his country's call  
For sons to guard her shore;  
In honor's cause he gave his all,  
And man can do no more.  
We pictured his safe returning,  
And longed to clasp his hand.

-Inserted by Mr and Mrs H. G. Reid, Narracan, Gippsland.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 August, 1918)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

BAYLEY – A tribute of love to the memory of my dear brother-in-law, Harry, who passed away on board the troopship Themistocles on the 25th August, 1917. Served in the South African war.

Time changes many things,  
But memory, like the ivy, clings.

-Inserted by Mardie, Wandin Yallock.

BAYLEY – In loving memory of our dear brother-in-law and uncle, Private Harry Bayley, who passed away at sea on the 25th August, 1917.

Ever to be remembered.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs T. Hunter, nieces and nephew, Wandin.



BAYLEY – In loving memory of our dear son-in-law, Private Harry Bayley, who passed away at sea on the 25th August, 1917, dearly loved brother-in-law of Mrs T. Hunter (Wandin), Hal, Mardie, Bob and Cliff; also a tribute to the memory of our dear nephews, Corp. Percy Hadley, Corp. Chas, Heyne, Private Harold Hawkes, Roy Thomas and Bob Price.

He has crossed the great horizon,  
Eternity's great span,  
And carried the eternal glory  
Of a soldier and a man.

-Inserted by Mr and Mrs H. G. Reid, Narracan, Gippsland.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 August, 1919)

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### 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)*

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**Cross of Sacrifice**



**Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice**



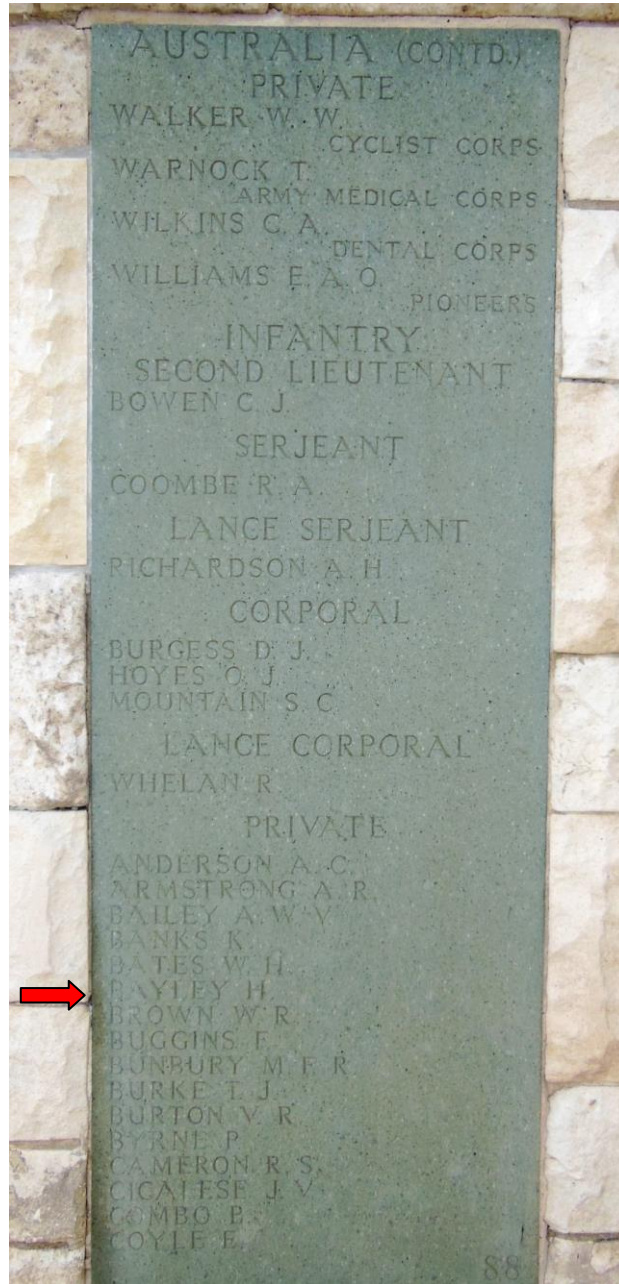


**CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial**

*(Photo from CWGC)*



Photo of Private H. Bayley's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

