

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



9824 2ND CORPORAL

W. G. BILL

9TH FIELD CO., AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

20TH JULY, 1916

William George BILL

Wilhelm George Bill was born at Bendigo, Victoria in 1894 to parents Wilhelm & Alice Bill (nee Reeve).

William George Bill educated in the Cowra District, NSW; Sydney Technical College & Sydney University, NSW.

William George Bill was a 22 year old, single, University Student (Engineering) from 38 Grafton Street, Woollahra, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Rosebery Park, Sydney, NSW on 20th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 9824 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William Bill, “Leumeah,” Cowra, NSW. William Bill stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets for 1 year & also with 33rd Fortress Company, Australian Engineers for 3 ½ years.

Sapper William George Bill was posted to 9th Field Company Engineers on 20th March, 1916 for recruit training.

Sapper William George Bill was appointed (Provisional) 2nd Corporal on 13th June, 1916.

Provisional 2nd Corporal William George Bill embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ajana* (A31) on 5th July, 1916 with the 9th Field Company Engineers.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0075

Australian Engineers in the First World War

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)

2nd Corporal William George Bill was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 17th July, 1916 with Influenza. He was moved into the Isolation Hospital on 18th July, 1916.

S.S. Ajana A. 31

COPY FROM OFFICIAL LOG

Noon	Lat.	Lon.
17/7/16	30.9S	104.47E

Corpl. Bill of 9th Field Engineers is suffering from influenza. He was taken into the hospital.

sgd T. Young
A.E. Cullen A.M.C.

9 a.m.	Lat.	Lon.
18/7/16	29.20S	100.5E

As Corporal Bill shows suspicious symptoms he was removed into the isolation hospital.

sgd T. Young

2nd Corporal William George Bill was reported to be suffering from Meningitis & was being treated with serum.

10 a.m.	Lat.	Lon.
19/7/16	29.11S	94.42

Corp. Bill is now reported to be suffering from meningitis. He is being treated with serum.

sgd. T. Young
A.E. Cullen A.M.C.

2 p.m.	Lat.	Lon.
20/7/16	29.12S	88.44E

Second Corporal William George Bill of the 9th Field Coy., Engineers died and was buried with military honours at 4 p.m.

sgd. T. Young
A.E. Cullen A.M.C.

Certified true and correct copy from the Official

2nd Corporal William George Bill died at 2 pm on 20th July, 1916 at Sea on Transport A 31 *Ajana* from Meningitis.

[Note: Private Harold Wallace Wark, 1986, 3rd Reinforcements of 58th Battalion, died at Sea on Transport A 31 *Ajana* from Meningitis on 25th July, 1916.]

2nd Corporal William George Bill was buried at Sea at 4 pm on 20th July, 1916 from Transport A 31 *Ajana* with Military Honours. 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.

2nd Corporal William George Bill 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 2nd Corporal Bill's father – Mr W. Bill, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists 2nd Corporal William George Bill – service number 9824, of 9th Field Coy., Australian Engineers. No family details are listed.

W. G. Bill is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at The University of Sydney, NSW.

BILL, William GEORGE

Eng. IV : Corporal, 9th Field Coy. Engineers, A.I.F. Served with 33rd Fortress Coy. Australian Engineers at South Head from the outbreak of War until released for service abroad in 1916. Enlisting 20th March and sailing 5th July as second corporal, served till death. Died of Illness and was buried at sea 20th July, 1916. Peter Nicol Russell Scholar. Early education at Cowra Public School. Later at Sydney Technical College—Diploma in Electrical Engineering (Honours).

William George Bill is also remembered on the Sydney University War Memorial Carillon Roll of Honour which commemorates the undergraduates, graduates and staff who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The entrance to the carillon contains various honour rolls including the University Roll of Honour which was unveiled on the 11th November 1931.





Sydney University War Memorial Carillon Roll of Honour

(Photos from Monument Australia – Peter Williams)

W. G. Bill is remembered at the Cowra First World War Memorial Grove, located at Evans Street, Cowra, NSW. Approximately 80 native trees in a grove on the heritage listed site of Cowra POW Camp #12 was planted by the families of the 100 military personnel who did not return from the First World War. The Dedication took place on 25th May, 2019.



Cowra First World War Memorial Grove *(Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Kate Alberry, Cowra Council)*

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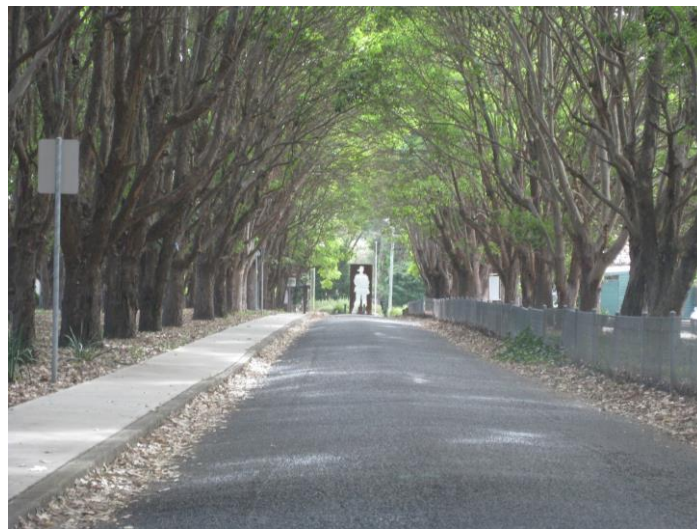
W. G. Bill is remembered on the Cowra and District Honour Roll, located at Brisbane Street, Cowra, NSW.



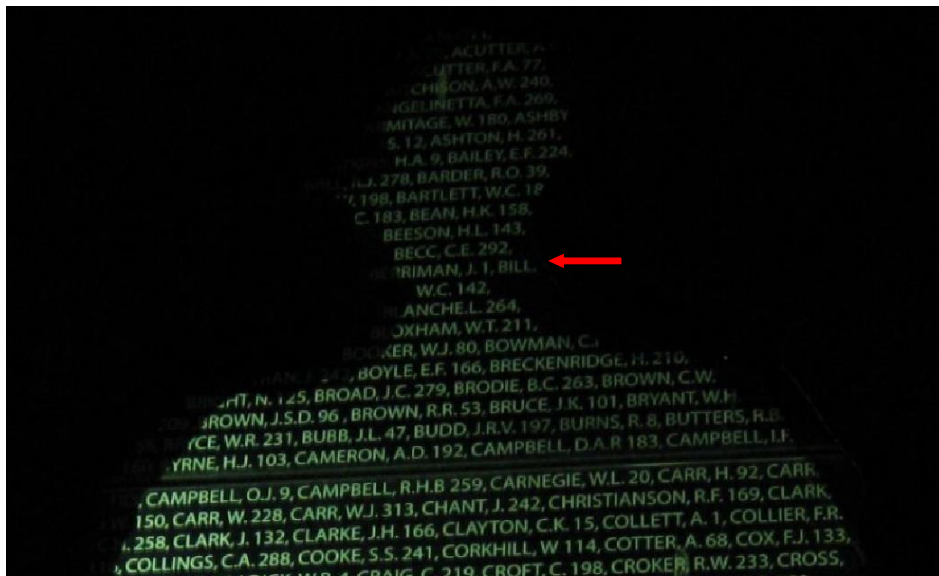
Cowra and District Honour Roll (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



W. G. Bill is remembered on the William Thompson Masonic Schools First World War Memorial, located in Balcombe Heights Estate, 92 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills, NSW.



William Thompson Masonic Schools First World War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW)



W. G. Bill is remembered on the Grand Lodge of Sydney Honour Roll, located in United Grand Lodge of Sydney, Sydney Masonic Centre, Castlereagh & Goulburn Streets, Sydney, NSW.



Grand Lodge of Sydney Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)

NAME	LODGE	NAME	LODGE	NAME	LODGE	NAME	LODGE	NAME	LODGE		
ABBOTT, F.A.	23	CORKHILL, W.	104	HODDER, H.	199	MATHER, A. J.	48	PEAT, C. R.	1	STEWART, A.	204
ACUTTER, A. E.	5	COTTER, A.	68	HOGAN, A. D.	22	MENZIES, C. W.	24	PERRY, J. A. K.	244	STEWART, W. K.	195
ACUTTER, F. A.	77	COX, F. J.	133	HOGUE, O.	94	METCALFE, J. B.	91	PICKARD, E. H.	82	STONE, C. F.	22
AITCHISON, A. W.	240	COZENS, P. J.	42	HOLDAWAY, W. J.	31	HEYNETT, A.	31	PORTER, S.	177	STOUT, H. W.	92
ANGELINETTA, F. A.	240	CRADICK, W. R.	4	HOLLIDAY, W.	25	MIDDLETON, A. R.	84	POWIS, C. E.	89	STREAT, C. A.	181
ARMITAGE, W.	180	CRAIG, C.	219	HOLROYD, L. P.	290	MILLAR, W. B. R.	7	PURNEY, F. W.	123	SUTTIE, C.	93
ASHBY, J. S.	12	CROFT, C.	199	HOOD, W. R.	62	MILLEN, R.	236	PYE, R. E.	8	SWYNY, L. J.	219
ASHTON, H.	261	CROKER, R. W.	253	HORE, R. W.	300	MILLER, A. E.	238	RADNEBEN, J.	44	TAMS, A.	221
ATKINS, H. A.	9	CROSS, W. V.	382	HOSKISSONE, J.	232	MILLER, A. W.	178	RALPH, L.	282	TAYLOR, J. C. S.	34
BAILEY, E. F.	224	CUMMINGS, C. K.	103	HOUSTON, A. W.	96	MILLS, C. W. M.	88	RAMACE, E.	61	TAYLOR, J. O.	143
BALL, R. J.	278	DALY, A.	74	HUDSON, E. A. K.	88	MILNE, H.	278	RAMSAY, S. M.	275	TEMPLEMAN, A. W.	218
BARBER, R. O.	35	DALZELL, C. T. B.	282	HUGHES, E. V.	163	MONTGOMERY, W.	77	RANDOLPH, A. S.	181	THOMPSON, C. H.	50
BARRELL, W.	198	DAVIS, C.	78	HUGHES, F. H.	96	MOORE, C. A.	50	RATCLIFFE, J. B.	92	THOMPSON, H.	152
BARTLETT, W. C.	190	DAVIS, C. J.	61	HUGHES, L. R.	9	MOORE, J.	101	RATCLIFFE, J. P.	92	HORACE, W. H.	152
BATTYE, C. C.	193	DEVITT, W. C.	270	HUGHES, R. A.	161	MOORE, R. C.	167	REID, E. H.	82	TIBBS, R. H.	187
BEAN, H. K.	154	DJIBREN, E. H.	227	HULL, A. V. L.	260	MOORE, R. I.	89	REID, W. J.	281	TOONE, W. J.	285
BEESON, H. L.	143	DOHERTY, J.	23	HULL, A. W.	75	MORRIS, F. F.	235	RICHARDS, C.	200	TOUT, R. J.	188
BECC, C. E.	292	DONKIN, H. H.	267	HUNTER, D. D. C.	82	MOSS, A. D.	89	RICHARDSON, W. H.	244	TUCKER, A. E.	169
BERRIMAN, J.	1	DONNELLAN, R.	213	HUTCHINSON, F.	100	MOUNTER, A. W.	23	RITCHIE, F. L.	220	TYSON, J. A. C. K.	37
BILL, W. C.	142	DOYLE, R. H.	3	INGRAM, R. T.	83	MUNRO, S. H.	31	ROBERTS, A. S.	182	UPTON, C. L.	135
BLANCHET, L.	261	DREYER, N. L.	65	JACKSON, J.	166	MUNRO, S. H.	31	ROBERTS, R. O.	96	USHER, R. D.	240
BLOXHAM, W. T.	211							ROBERTSON, A.	10	USSHER, L. A. F.	210
BOOKER, W. J.	80							ROBINSON, W. R.	102	WADE, J. S.	245
								ROBSON, J. W. B.	101	WALLES, C. E.	73

2nd Corporal W. G. Bill is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 23.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(39 pages of 2nd Corporal William George Bill'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



Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOR

Death of Second-Corporal George Bill

As we go to Press we learn that Rev. Jas. Barr has just been apprised by the Defence Department that Second-Corporal George, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bill, of our town, died at sea on 20th inst. The late Corporal Bill, who had only recently completed a brilliant scholastic course at Sydney University, was attached to the Field Engineers. We join a large circle of friends in extending our sincere sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

(Cowra Free Press, NSW – 26 July, 1916)

Death of William George Bill

ONE OF THE FAMILY

(By "Gossip")

What a tragedy this war is! How many homes and lives have been desolated by it ? What a price to pay for freedom from Prussian militarism, and soul-less German domination! !

Here is the portrait of the son of one of our subscribers, Mr. William Bill, of; Leumeah, Cowra, who died at sea on July 20th. The man who died at sea, of meningitis, is just as much of a hero as the man who died in the trenches, and just as much of a loss to the ones who are left behind.



Late Cpl. William George Bill.

Corporal William George Bill was 22 ½ years old, and was bound for the front; with the Field Engineers on the transport, "Ajana" when he was attacked with meningitis, died, and was buried at sea. And all the great hopes and noble ambitions ended.

He was a mechanical and electrical engineer, and started at the Sydney Technical College under Mr. Turner, and got his diploma in electrical engineering on the 16th of September, 1914, and graduated from there to the Sydney University, and was one of three who won the Peter scholarship, tenable for four years, and had just finished his 3rd year when he enlisted in the Engineers. And the great promise of the young life ended before ever he reached the front. Alas, for another tragedy of this awful war!

(The Sydney Stock and Station Journal, NSW – 4 August, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

BILL – Died of illness, at sea, on the 20th July, 1916, Corporal WM. GEORGE BILL 9th Field Engineers, A.I.F. Aged 22 years. Only son of Mr and Mrs Wm. Bill, "Leumeah," Cowra, N.S. Wales

(*Cowra Free Press*, NSW – 5 August, 1916)

Return Thanks

MR, MRS & MISS BILL desire to convey their heartfelt THANKS to all friends for great kindnesses received. Also to Rev. Jas. Barr, Cadets, Masonic Brethren, Choir and Congregation of St. Peter's Church for the beautiful service conducted in memory of their son and brother, which has been a great solace to them in this very sad bereavement.

(*Cowra Free Press*, NSW – 5 August, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

Corporal Wm. G. Bill

At St. Peter's Church last Sunday evening Rev. James Barr conducted a memorial service for Corporal W. G. Bill. The seating accommodation of the church was taxed to its utmost capacity by a congregation of reverent and sympathizing worshippers. Seats were reserved for returned soldiers, men on "final leave," and cadets, of whom a large number attended to pay tribute to their dead comrade. The brethren of the Masonic Order were also, present-deceased being a member of the craft. The service opened with the National Anthem, and then followed the prayers and reading of the Lessons.

The preacher chose for his text John 14, 1st verse, the words "Let not your heart be troubled." These words, said the rev. gentleman, are perhaps the most familiar in the whole of God's Word. If we had to choose a verse for preservation and then all the rest of the Book to be lost, probably the universal choice would be these words. They are too the most sacred: Because of the circumstances in which they were uttered, the scenes, relationship, and memories of which they remind us. Call up in us the deepest reverence. How helpful too they are. Here you have a faith that will lift any soul out of the deepest depths and bring comfort and consolation to the saddest heart. They speak to us of a God who loves us, a Christ who saves us, and of the mansions above. They are the words that have helped many a soul to adopt the death song of the Apostle Paul and to shout "O death, where is thy sting; O grave where is thy victory!" Although they were uttered so long ago, yet when we look around the world and look into our own hearts and lives, we cannot get away from the fact that the heart of the world to-day is a troubled one. Doubt has taken possession of the hearts of many men, How complex life has become. How difficult it is for a man to keep firm from the worries and anxieties that beset his path, either professionally or commercially? Those living in the regions beyond are not strangers to us, but they are our neighbours. To many troubled hearts come the glorious message of eternal life, and it is the message I bring to you tonight. "Let not your heart be troubled." In closing, the preacher said "Of my own choice I would not have arranged for this service, nor, I am certain would he whom we seek to honor have desired it, but at the request of a large number of brethren and sympathizers it was done. The deceased soldier was a man of such a quiet, simple, retiring disposition that he would shrink from publicity. It is indeed sad to think that a young life so full of promise being cut off just on the its threshold. At the close of, such a brilliant University career, to hear the call of his country and then, truly loyal, seek to do his duty, and ere he had begun to perform it found a grave in the ocean depths, make the circumstances peculiarly sad. As a lad, many of you knew him, but there was another side of his character which I perhaps know better than you. Deeply religious and spiritual, he lived his short life in the love and fear of God, and I am sure that if conscious moments were given to him in the last hour, there was no dread in his heart as he passed into the great Unseen. In the name of the sorrowing parents and relatives I thank you all for your presence here as I know it will go far to cheer and gladden their hearts in this the hour of their deep grief and sorrow. "Let not your heart be troubled."

The closing hymn, "Abide With Me," was then sung and the Benediction pronounced, after which the "Dead March" (Saul) was played by the organist (Mr. W. C. Jackson) assisted by an orchestra comprising Messrs J. McLeish

(flute), F. Sandilands (violin), and W. McLeish (dble. bass), Messrs. K. Poignand and V. Corp [cornets] sounded "The Last Post."

(*Cowra Free Press*, NSW – 5 August, 1916)

Latest Casualties

189th LIST

Died of Illness

Cpl W. G. Bill (Cowra)

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 11 August, 1916)



(*Sydney Mail*, NSW – 23 August, 1916)



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.

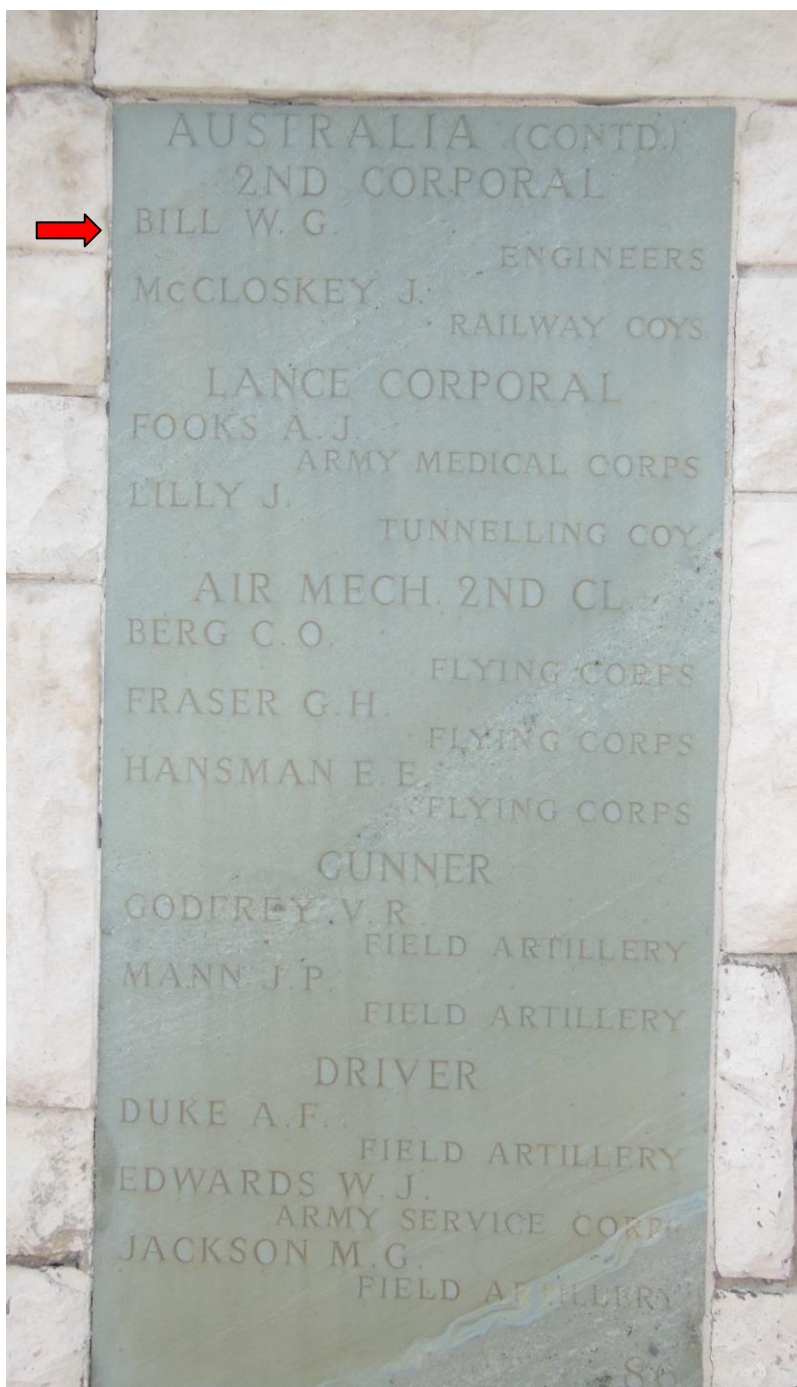
(Information & photos from CWGC)



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

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of 2nd Corporal W. G. Bill's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

