

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

C. J. BOWEN

34TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH SEPTEMBER, 1916

Cyril John BOWEN

Cyril John Bowen was born at Port Curtis, Springsure, Queensland on 18th March, 1886 (as listed on Queensland Births, Deaths & Marriages, however Cyril John Bowen recorded his date of birth as 18th March, 1889 on the Application for a Commission in the A.I.F. form) to parents Patrick & Marianne Genevieve Bowen (nee Mahoney).

Cyril John Bowen attended State School & St. Joseph's College, Nudgee, Queensland. He also attended Duntroon Military College.

The 1909, 1910 & 1911 Australian Electoral Rolls for the district of Cairns, Queensland recorded Cyril John Bowen, Bank Clerk from Lake Street.

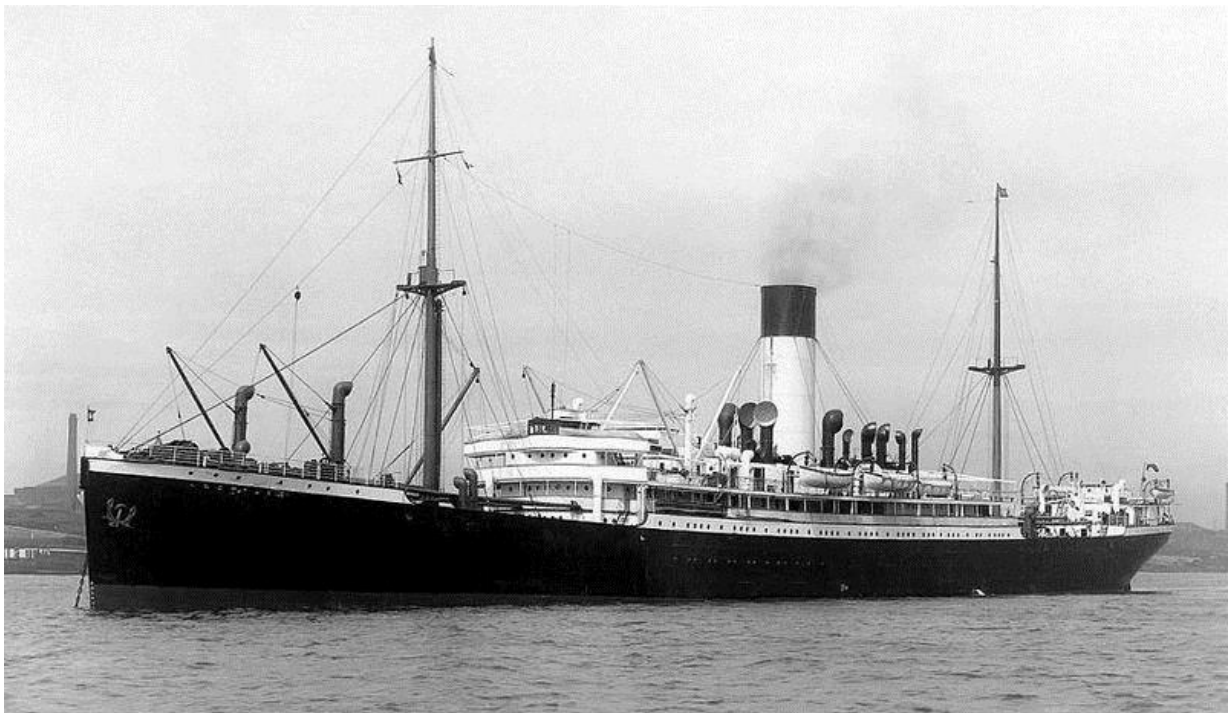
The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the district of Burke, sub-district of Croydon, Queensland recorded Cyril John Bowen, Bank Clerk from Sircom Street.

Cyril John Bowen was a 27 year old, single, Bank Accountant from Bank of NSW, Sydney, NSW when he joined the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 8th September, 1915. His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Marianne Genevieve Bowen, Ardagh, Abbott Street, Cairns, North Queensland. Cyril Bowen stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with 7th Australian Light Horse & College Cadets.

Cyril John Bowen applied for a Commission in the Australian Imperial Force (date on form 15th August, 1916). He stated his date of birth as 18th March, 1889 & stated he had been educated at Nudgee College, Queensland. Cyril Bowen had a Queensland Civil Service Certificate. He also stated he had served with "A.L.H. *Queanbeyan* & *College Cadets*. 3 ½ months N.C.O. & Officer's Schools. Passed Officer's Training School, Duntroon, NSW." Cyril Bowen was employed as a Bank Accountant.

Cyril John Bowen was appointed as 2nd Lieutenant on 20th May, 1916 with 3rd Reinforcements of 34th Battalion. (*Commonwealth Gazette* No. 64 – 25th May, 1916).

Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 24th August, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 34th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements.



HMAT *Anchises* (A68)

Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen was taken ill at Sea on 11th September, 1916 & was diagnosed on the evening of 14th September, 1916 as having Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. Second Lieutenant Bowen was reported as dangerously ill on the morning of 15th September, 1916 & the Transport Ship redirected to Durban.

Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen died at 1.30 pm on 15th September, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Anchises* (A68) from Meningitis.

Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen was buried at 6 pm on 15th September, 1916 at Sea from HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 15th September, 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.

Report made by Colonel Gerald R. Campbell, OC Troops H.M.A.T. A68:

3 Annexures

INTERMEDIATE REPORT.

DEFENCE
323/2/499
A. I. F.

H.M.A.T. "A68".

CAPETOWN.

September 18th 1916.

Duplicate

From O.C. Troops,
H.M.A.T. "A68". (S.S. *Anchises*.)

To Secretary of Defence,
MELBOURNE.

In continuation of my first Intermediate Report from ADELAIDE (August 28th), I beg to report as follows:-

1. The Transport sailed from ADELAIDE at 1 P.M. August 28th and arrived at CAPETOWN at *3 p.m.* On September 18th 1916.
2. I regret to have to report that Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen 3rd Reinforcements of 34th Battalion was taken ill at sea on September 11th; later he developed serious symptoms; and ultimately on evening of September 14th, after consultation with Ship's Surgeon who had had large experience of Meningitis, the case was conclusively ~~xxxxxx~~ diagnosed as one of Cerebro-spinal -Meningitis by the S.M.O. the other M.O. and the Ship's Surgeon (see report of S.M.O. attached)/

Early on the morning of September 15th, I received a recommendation from the S.M.O. and the other Medical Officers mentioned that the Transport should proceed direct to DURBAN to land the patient (who was most dangerously ill) as the most hopeful course to adopt to save his life, ^{seeing that} he could there ^{with} obtain better conditions and nursing etc than ~~was~~ possible on board ship.

Approving of the course recommended I then explained the matter to, and requested, the Commander of the Transport to make direct for DURBAN ; THEN DISTANT about 320 miles, bearing a little N of W, and he promptly acceded to my wish and altered his course accordingly.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
RECEIVED
17-OCT-1916

L. W. Muddala

Secretary of Defence (2).

DEFENCE
823/2/499
FILE

I also communicated by Wireless with the Military Commandant DURBAN notifying ^{him} of the action I was taking.

I regret to say that the patient died at 1:30 P.M. on the same day. (See S.M.O's report attached) and accordingly the Transport at once resumed her course for CAPETOWN, the Military Commandant at DURBAN being notified by me by wireless of Lieut Bowen's death and the resumption of the Transport's course to CAPETOWN, and also my desire that he should cable to you notice of Lieut Bowen's death.

Acting on the recommendation of the S.M.O, I decided that Lieut Bowen's body should be buried at sea at 6 P.M. ^{on the day of his death} at which hour the burial took place ^{with Military honours} Chaplain Captain Le Maitre officiating in the presence of the Commander of the Transport, myself and all the Officers and the deceased's Unit (who formed the firing party) as well as other Troops.

Lieut Monfries O.C. 3rd/34th Btn has been given possession of the deceased's effects and papers, which he is forwarding to you: he has also written to Lieut Bowen's relatives.

All the Officers and other Ranks join me in expressing deep regret for the loss we have sustained by Lieut Bowen's death and great sympathy for his relatives: he was a most conscientious and keen officer and was liked and respected by all who came in contact with him.

Otherwise the health of the Troops has been generally good-
(14) ~~further~~ ^{five further} cases of mumps have however occurred and there are now ~~one~~ ^{one} of which will be discharged in a day or two- there ~~are~~ ^{is} also ~~one~~ ^{one} cases of measles (almost convalescent) which it was necessary to isolate in cabins. There have been further cases of venereal disease and the suitable isolation of same in rough or cold and wet weather has been unsatisfactory-the space under "A" Troopdeck outside the detention cells having to be used for lack of better provision. More ample accommodation for such cases is urged.

3. In view of the small supply of rifles (87), musketry, the most suitable form of training on board ship, of which the South Australian Units have had little or none, could not be carried out

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Sydney to obtain all possible information as to his illness and death.

- Informant – A. Harkness, 2713, 34th Battalion, No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick, relayed the following: *“I knew Mr Bowen well. I went through my training under him at Rutherford Camp, near Maitland. He left before I did, as I was ill at the time. He went away as a 3rd Reinf. to the 34th Battn. and died on board ship – just before getting to Durban I think. I was told this in England by Lieut. Momfries, who also went away as a 3rd Reinf. with Mr Bowen. I think he died from Meningitis. Mr Momfries said that Mr Bowen was only ill for a short time. Some of the boys also told me about Mr Bowen. He was buried, I believe, at sea.”*
- Informant – Pte 2139 N. Pickering, 34th Battalion, A.I.F., No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick, was described in the Red Cross report as *“A careful reliable witness.”* He relayed the following: *“I knew Mr Bowen, he was a 3rd Reinforcement to 34th Battalion and was a great friend of mine, he left Sydney with me on 3rd Reinf. to 34th Battn. in the Anchises on 24/8/16 and died of meningitis on 15th or 16th September 1916 at 10 am on the Anchises two days before we reached Capetown. I was with him when he first became ill. He was buried at sea at sunset the day he died. Captains Smith and Booth were the military Doctors. His initials were C. J. and his name was Cyril, he worked in the Bank of New South Wales, but his mother lived at Cairns.”*
- Informant – Pte 20_3 Pte Comvery, 9th Machine Gun Co., No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick, relayed the following: *“I knew Lt. Bowen but not very well. He died on the way to Cape Town. We buried him about 4 days before we reached there. I heard it was meningitis. We were all very sorry. The men were devoted to him. He was a splendid chap.”*

The personal effects of the late Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen were sent to “Marion G. Bowen”, Cairns, North Queensland. “M. G. Bowen” signed for receipt of items on 14th June (no year recorded)

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. G. Bowen, “Ardagh”, Abbott Street, Cairns, Queensland, on 11th December, 1922 with the following: *“I wrote to you on 10th March, 1921, concerning the affairs of your son, the late 2/Lieutenant C. J. Bowen, 34th Battalion, asking you to let me know whether the fathers were still alive, and if so, his address. No reply has so far been received and I shall be very much obliged if you will furnish me with the desired information as early as possible so that I may be in a position to properly dispose of the late soldier’s War Medals, etc.”*

Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen 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 be sent to the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll marked *“Pending N.O.K.”*).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen, of 34th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Second Lieutenant C. J. Bowen is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 123.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. J. Bowen is remembered on the Bank of New South Wales Roll of Honour, located in Westpac Bank Building, 341 George Street, Sydney, NSW.



Bank of New South Wales Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



(28 pages of Second Lieutenant Cyril John Bowen'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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

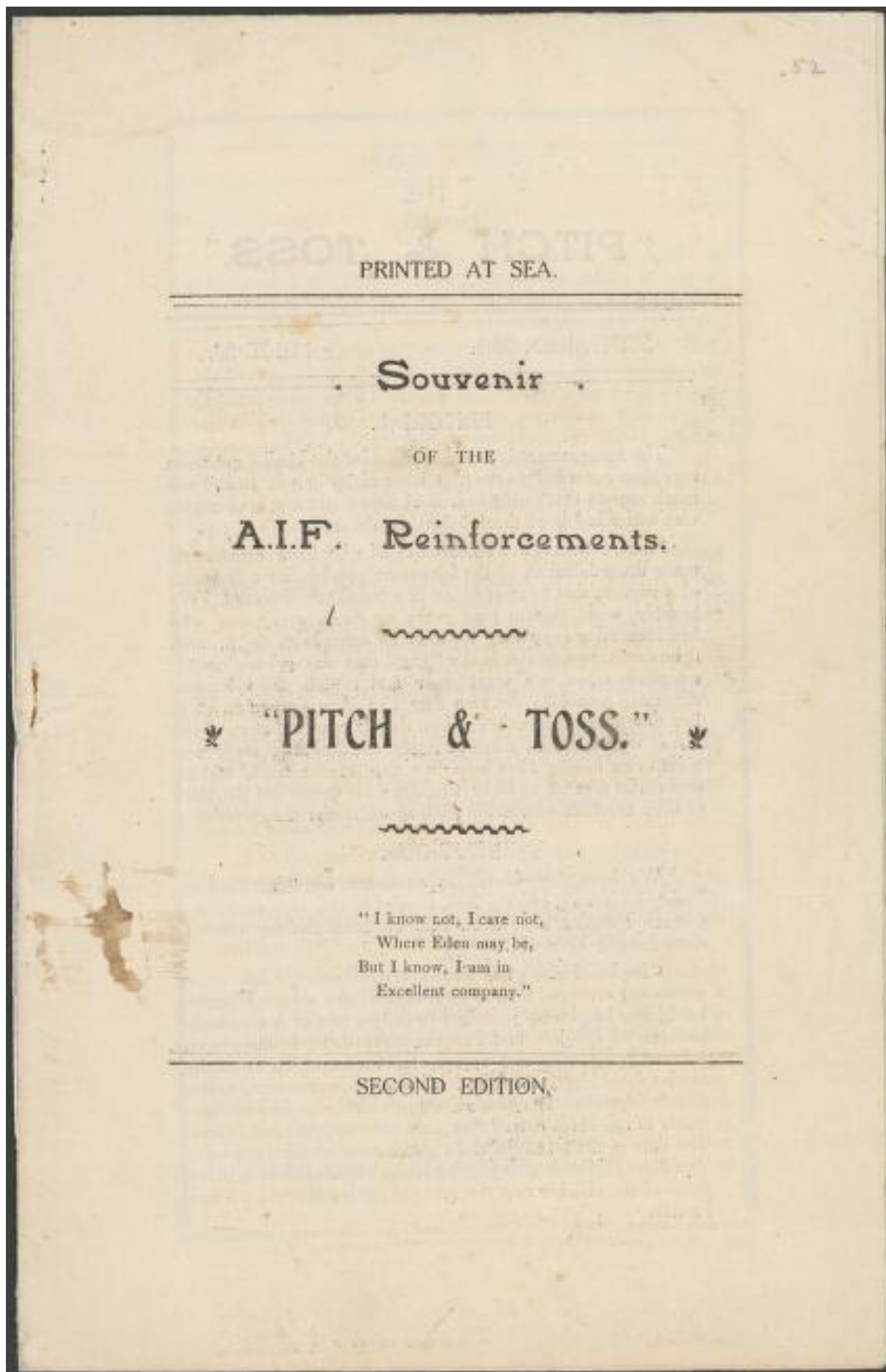
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CANBERRA, ACT. 1916-04-14. GROUP PORTRAIT OF NO. 3 PLATOON 1ST OFFICERS' TRAINING SCHOOL, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE DUNTRON.

IT IS SAID THAT THIS PLATOON PASSED THEIR COURSE AND ON THE LAST DAY FORMED UP AND MARCHED INTO QUEANBEYAN. THEY HAD ONE BEER EACH AND MARCHED BACK. THEY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SENT BACK TO THEIR UNITS AS UNSUITABLE TO BE OFFICERS.

*AMONGST THE SIGNATURES ON THE VERSO OF THE PHOTOGRAPH ARE THOSE OF GEORGE WILLIAM PERKINS, E. A. GIDLEY, STEWART G. GRANGE, F. DUNCAN, **CYRIL JOHN BOWEN**, J. DYET, K. FAULKNER POTTS, C. DIGHT, F. R. BENNETT, ALFRED GRAHAM, R. M. CAMPBELL, GEORGE HOLCOMBE, R. HEPBURN, N. L. BOYDEN, T. G. ERICKSSON, RON CLARK, GORDON CAMERON, LIEUTENANT RICHARD JOHN DOWDEN*

(PHOTOGRAPHER SUTCLIFFE & AKERS. DONOR B. FLORANCE)



Obituary.

With deep regret we have to announce the death of 2nd Lieut. Cyril John Bowen; which took place at sea at 1 p.m. on the 15th inst. after an illness lasting only five days. The official notification which appeared in 'Orders' on the day of decease, was worded as follows:

"The O.C. Troops deeply regrets that he has to announce the death to-day of 2nd. Lieut. Cyril John Bowen of the 3rd Reinforcements, 34th Battalion, who was a promising officer, keen and conscientious in the discharge of his duties, and greatly liked and respected by all the Officers and by everyone who knew him. He was buried at sea at 6 o'clock this evening, Chaplain Captain the Rev Father Le Maitre reading the burial service.

The deceased gentleman, who was nearly 28 years of age, left the service of the Bank of New South Wales (Sydney) to become a Soldier. He was connected with the Artillery and Light Horse, and after passing successfully through the Officer's School at Duntroon was attached to the 3rd of the 34th. It was from the Rutherford (N.S.W.) Camp that he embarked upon the voyage, that for him was so soon to end in sleep.

We understand that shortly after leaving Sydney whilst walking on the boat deck with a fellow officer he met with an accident. At the time it was not thought that he had sustained any serious injury, but unfortunately, such has proved not to have been the case.

The Empire can ill spare such men of promise, an efficient officer, and a courteous gentleman, he had won his way into the very heart of his unit, and no task that he might have set before those under his command would have been too hard to tackle and accomplish.

It seems hard for him, that after giving up so much, he should not have had a chance to strike a blow, but there is more than one way of serving one's country, and through the men, who will be inspired by his memory to great deeds his service will be very real. With the bereaved mother of this fine specimen of Australia's manhood we heartily sympathize, but feel sure in the far distant home in Cairns, Queensland, there dwells a woman as ready to sacrifice, and as brave to bear as is all that grand army of Australia's glorious womanhood.

The following touching testimony comes from the members of the late officer's unit.

BEEDEC.

We mourn. The loss of our officer and friend has cast a gloom upon us all. In life his purpose was as wide as the ocean in which he sleeps. By his decease the Empire has lost a brilliant soldier and we have lost a comrade. Although his sword is sheathed in death, in our memories his personality lives. Those we cherish most in life are first to cross the border. We all join in sending our deepest sympathy to the relatives of the deceased.

Q.M.S. RETCHFORD, Pro. 34th Batt.

The tributes we have received, touching the life and work of the late Lieutenant would require, for their expression, far more space than is available. But we feel sure that in what has been said the sentiments of all have been declared.

R. J. D.

VAINQUEUR.

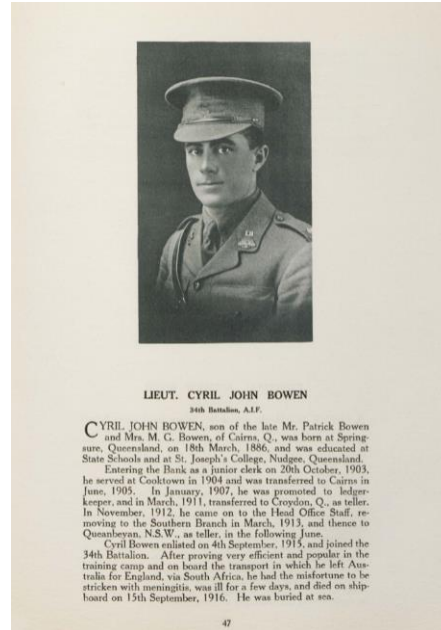
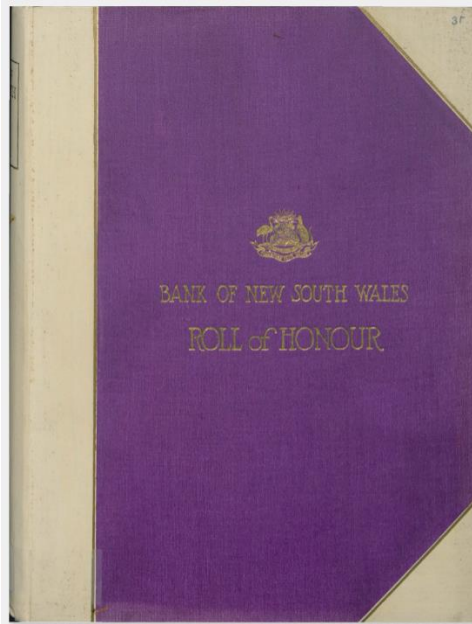
We laid him to rest in the azure deep,
While the southerly winds were sleeping;
The sun fled down on the western steep,
With a brave soul safe in its keeping,
A mighty cenotaph o'er him is spread,
And the stars at night guard his slumbers;
The horses so white sport o'er his head,
But he heeds not at all their thunders.
O! bravely he answered his country's call,
And forth he sallied with mien bold;
Till Death swooped out with his inky pall,
And round him pressed his pinions so cold,
Quiesant his body far away,
But the memory so sweet is vibrant;
And he leads his men from day to day,
For his soul is abroad and triumphant.

E.B.J.



The late LIEUT. CYRIL JOHN BOWEN.

Bank of New South Wales Roll of Honour



LIEUT. CYRIL JOHN BOWEN

34th Battalion, A.I.F.

CYRIL JOHN BOWEN, son of the late Mr. Patrick Bowen and Mrs. M. G. Bowen, of Cairns, Q., was born at Springsure, Queensland, on 18th March, 1886, and was educated at State Schools and at St. Joseph's College, Nudgee, Queensland.

Entering the Bank as a junior clerk on 20th October, 1903, he served at Cooktown in 1904 and was transferred to Cairns in June, 1905. In January, 1907, he was promoted to ledger keeper, and in March, 1911, transferred to Croydon, Q., as teller. In November, 1912, he came on to the Head Office Staff, removing to the Southern Branch in March, 1913, and thence to Queanbeyan, N.S.W., as teller, in the following June.

Cyril Bowen enlisted on 4th September, 1915, and joined the 34th Battalion. After proving very efficient and popular in the training camp and on board the transport in which he left Australia for England, via South Africa, he had the misfortune to be stricken with meningitis, was ill for a few days, and died on shipboard on 15th September, 1916. He was buried at sea.

Newspaper Notices

TOWN AND COUNTRY

Mr Cyril J. Bowen, accountant, Bank of New South Wales, Queanbeyan, son of the late Sub-Inspector Bowen, has been accepted for active service abroad.

(Cairns Post, Queensland – 14 September, 1915)

Cyril J. Bowen, second son of the late Sub-Inspector and Mrs Bowen, Cairns, has passed successfully his examination as Lieutenant at the Duntroon Military College, and has obtained a commission in the 34th Battalion, leaving Sydney next month.

(The Northern Herald, Cairns, Queensland – 28 July, 1916)

Roll of Honour

Queensland Casualties

The 229th and 230th casualty lists were released by the censor on 7th October.

DIED OF ILLNESS

2nd-Lieut. C. J. Bowen, Cairns, reported died of illness, 15/9/16, is included in the New South Wales list.

(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 13 October, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BOWEN – Aboard a troopship bound for the Front, on 15th September, from meningitis, Lieutenant Cyril J. Bowen, second son of the late Sub-Inspector Bowen and Mrs Bowen, Cairns, North Q'land.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 20 October, 1916) & (The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 October, 1916)

PERSONAL NOTES

Much regret was expressed at Cairns when news was received announcing the death of Lieutenant Cyril J. Bowen, from meningitis, on board a troopship bound for the front. The deceased soldier the second son of the late Sub-inspector Bowen and Mrs. Bowen, Cairns. He was an old Nudgee boy, and at the time of his enlistment in September, 1915, was accountant in the Bank of New South Wales, Queanbeyan, New South Wales. He enlisted as a trooper in the Light Horse, and then entered the Officers' Training School, finally passing his examination at lieutenant at Duntroon, and obtaining a commission in the infantry. His eldest brother is now in camp at Salisbury Plain.

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 October, 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)



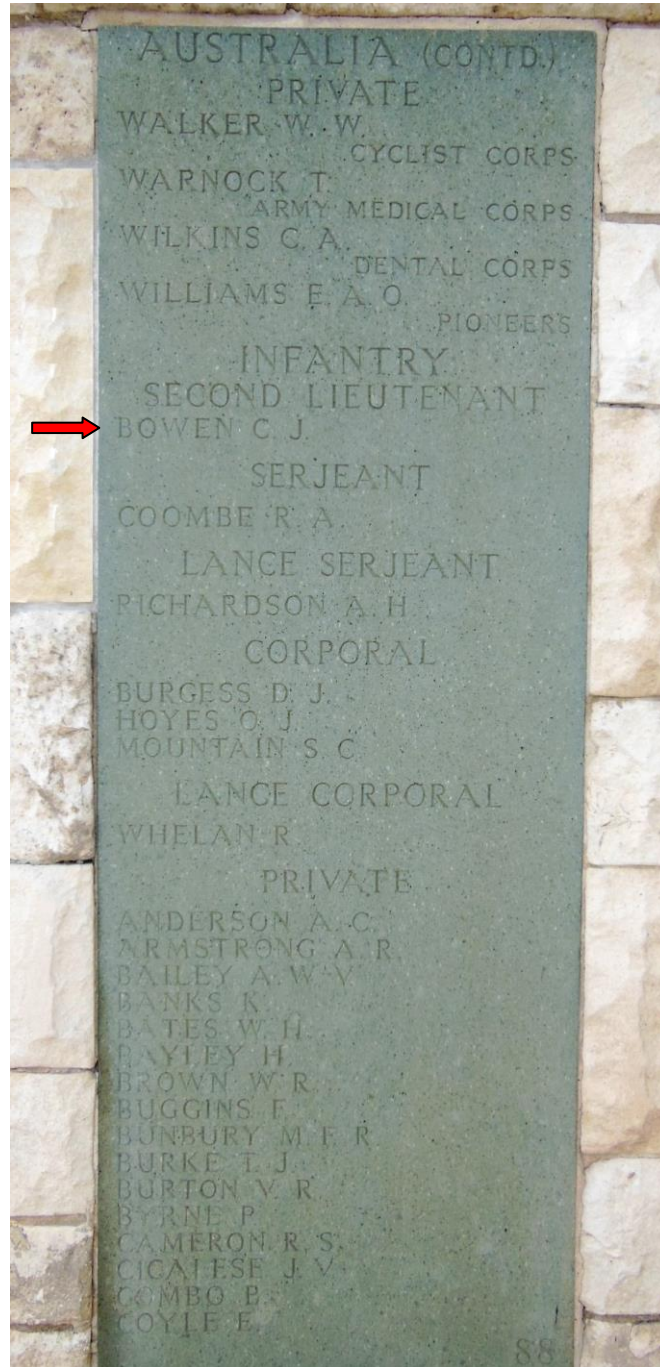


Cross of Sacrifice



Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice

Photo of Second Lieutenant C. J. Bowen'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)