

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6722 PRIVATE

W. R. BROWN

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH DECEMBER, 1916

William Royal (Roy) BROWN

William Royal Brown was born at Townsville, Queensland on 27th February, 1896 to parents Thomas & Mary Jane Brown (nee Prole). (Listed on Queensland Births, Deaths & Marriages website as William Boyd Brown).

William Royal Brown attended Richmond Hill State School, Queensland.

William Royal Brown was a 21 year old, single, Cook from Pryor Street, Charters Towers, Queensland when he enlisted at Charters Towers, Queensland on 7th August, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6722 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. J. Brown, Pryor Street, Charters Towers, Queensland. William Brown stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 18 months with Senior Cadets.

Private William Royal Brown was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 18th August, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 22nd Reinforcements of 15th Battalion on 12th September, 1916.

Private William Royal Brown embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on 17th November, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements.



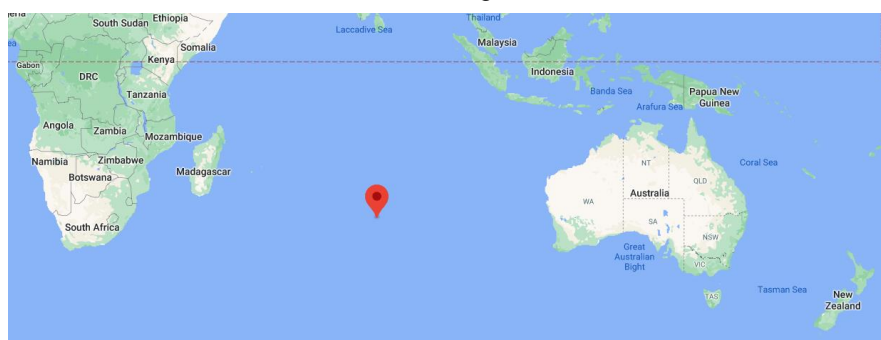
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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HMAT *Kyarra* (A55)

Private William Royal Brown died on 5th December, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) from Meningitis.

According to British Armed Forces and Overseas Deaths and Burials - Deaths at Sea 1891 – 1972 – Private Wm Royal Brown died At Sea in Indian Ocean Lat. 29° 24' S, Long. 80° 36' E.



Private William Royal Brown was buried at Sea on 5th December, 1916 from HMAT *Kyarra* (A55). 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.

Mrs Mary Jane Brown, Prior Street, Richmond Hill, Charters Towers, Queensland, replied to Base Records letter on 24th May, 1921 stating she was the “*nearest blood relative, (his mother) his Father Thomas Brown being dead (fourteen) 14 years.*”

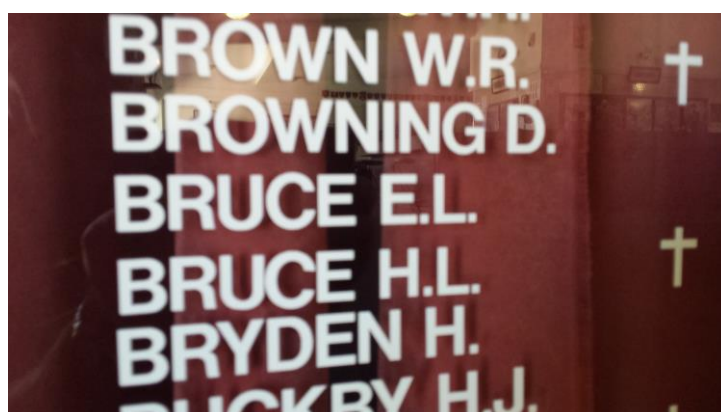
Private William Royal Brown was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Brown’s mother – Mrs M. J. Brown, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Royal Brown – service number 6722, of 15th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

W. R. Brown is remembered on the Charters Tower Wall of Remembrance, located at Prior Street, Richmond hill, Queensland.



Charters Tower Wall of Remembrance (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



(Photo courtesy of Vic, Secretary, Charters Towers RSL)

Private W. R. Brown is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 75.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(28 pages of Private William Royal Brown'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LISTS Nos. 252 AND 253

Died of Illness

Private W. R. Brown (Charters Towers)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 19 December, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

BROWN – Private W. R. Brown, died at sea, December 5th, 1916, aged 21 years 9 months.

God saw what was before him-

What trials there were to come;

Smiling down He thought it best

To take our dear Roy home.

One year has passed since that sad day,

© Cathy Sedgwick 2020

When our dear Roy was called away.
God took him home – it was His will.
Forget him ? No, we never will.

(Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sister, Mrs M. J. Brown and family)

(*The Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 5 December, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR.

BROWN.—Private W. P. Brown, died at sea on 5th December, 1916.

Though we know he is only at rest,
To-day, as we gaze at his photo,
Its likeness so faithful and true.
Do you know how our hearts are aching
And longing, dear boy, for you.

(Inserted by his mother, brothers and sisters).

(*The Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 6 December, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR.

BROWN.—Private Roy Brown, died December 5th, 1916.

No one knows how much we miss him.
Some may think the wound is healed
For they cannot feel the sorrow
In a mother's heart concealed.

(Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sister).

(*The Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 8 December, 1919)

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

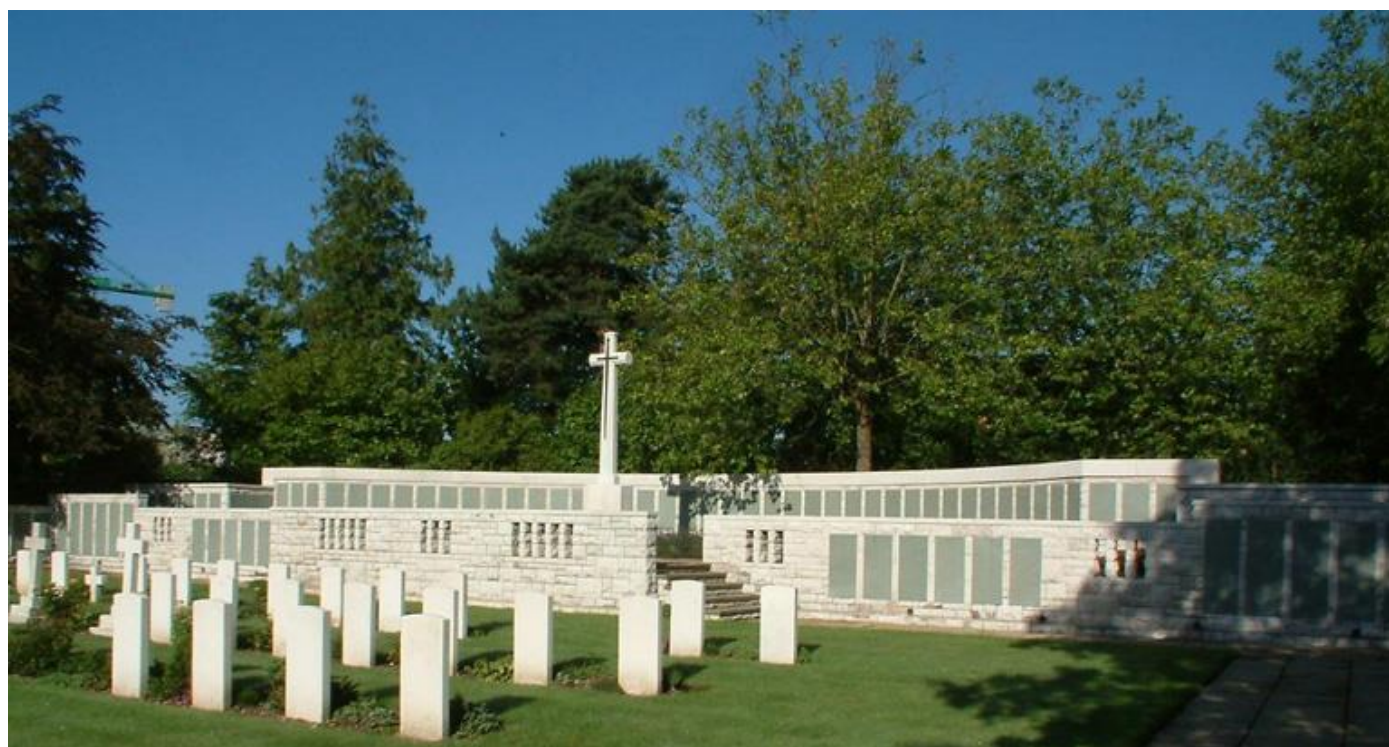
The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

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

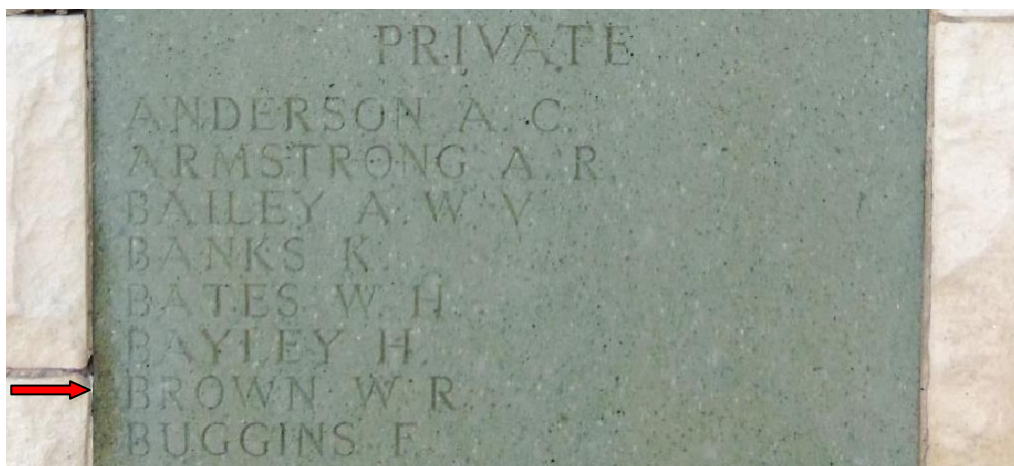


Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice

Photo of Private W. R. Brown'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)