

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



61589 PRIVATE

F. BUGGINS

12TH AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT

18TH OCTOBER, 1918

Frank BUGGINS

Frank Buggins was born at Balbeggie, Dysart, Fife, Scotland on 19th October, 1897 to parents Alfred Henry & Mary Ann Buggins (nee Harris).

Frank Buggins was baptised on 21st January, 1900 at St. Peter's Church, Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire along with his siblings Thomas Samuel Buggins & Margaret Helen Buggins.

The 1901 England Census recorded Frank Buggins as a 3 year old, living with his family at Wavensmeare Rd, Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire, England. His parents were listed as Alfred Buggins (Gamekeeper, aged 37, born Arrow Alveston, Warwickshire) & Mary Ann Buggins (aged 37, born Batlow Alveston, Warwickshire). Frank was one of five children listed on this Census – Alfred Henry Buggins (aged 13, born Weethley, Warwickshire), Alice Gertrude Buggins (aged 7, born ?), Thomas Samuel (aged 4, born Fife, Scotland), then Frank & Margaret Ellen Buggins (aged 2, born Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire). Also listed was Emma Harris – mother in law of Alfred Buggins (aged 62).

The 1911 England Census recorded Frank Buggins as a 13 year old, living with his family at Lidcombe Wood, Stanway, near Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, England. His parents were listed as Alfred Buggins (Gamekeeper, aged 46) & Mary Ann Buggins (aged 46). Alfred & Mary Ann Buggins had been married for 25 years & had six children. Frank was one of five children listed on this Census – Alfred Henry Buggins (Estate Labourer, aged 23), Thomas Samuel Buggins (Gardening, aged 14) then Frank, Margaret Ellen Buggins (aged 11) & Mary Elizabeth Buggins (aged 10, born Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire).

According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour Frank Buggins "*emigrated to Australia at the time of serving as a (boy Scout) in company with a Scout Master & 12 other Boy Scouts, on February 27th, 1913.*" He was aged 15 years & 4 months when he came to Australia.

Frank Buggins, Farm Labourer, aged 15, along with 10 other Farm Labourers aged between 15 & 19 years, and with Mr Cyril Batchelor, aged 25, were passengers on Marathon which had departed from the port of London, England on 27th February, 1913 bound for Melbourne, Australia.

Frank Buggins was a 20 year old, single, Farmer from (care of Mrs McDonnell), West Boort, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 13th June, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 61589 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. H. Buggins, Stanway, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, England.

Frank Buggins signed a Statutory Declaration on 11th June, 1918 at A.I.F. Recruiting Depot, Town Hall, Melbourne, declaring that he was born on 19th October, 1897 at Belbeggie, Scotland.

Private Frank Buggins was posted to Recruit Depot at Broadmeadows from 25th June, 1918. He was transferred to Depot Battalion at Broadmeadows on 17th July, 1918 then to 12th General Service Reinforcements Victoria.

Private Frank Buggins embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Barambah* (A37) on 31st August, 1918 with the 12th Victorian Reinforcements.

Private Frank Buggins was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 12th October, 1918 (as per Hospital Admissions form – other forms state he was admitted on 15th October, 1918) with Influenza.

Private Frank Buggins died at 8 am on 18th October, 1918 at Sea (Sierra Leone) on board HMAT *Barambah* (A37) from Influenza. He died the day before his 21st Birthday.

Private Frank Buggins was buried at Sea at 11.10 am on Friday 18th October, 1918 from HMAT *Barambah* (A37). 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.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P80221

The troopship HMAT Barambah (A37) (previously Hobart) being towed from the wharf at Port Melbourne.
A large crowd of well wishers stands on the wharf.

According to British Armed Forces and Overseas Deaths and Burials - Deaths at Sea 1891 – 1972 – Private Frank Buggins was one of eleven deaths from HMAT *Barambah* (A37) – all died as a result of Heart Failure & Influenza. Ten of the Soldiers had died at Sea.

Ship	Year	Origin	Date	Location	Name	Age	Rank	Service	Destination
Barambah	19008	London	21.10.18	Freetown	Albert J. Wright	20	Private	British Melbourne	Melbourne
do	do	do	19.10.18	At Sea	Cecil B. Malloch	20	Private	British Preston, Vic	Preston, Vic
do	do	do	19.10.18	At Sea	James Hoyle	20	"	British Sulston Bury	Sulston Bury, Vic
do	do	do	18.10.18	At Sea	Frank Buggins	21	"	British Bathurst, N.S.W.	Melbourne
do	do	do	18.10.18	At Sea	Lawrence Vait	21	"	British Bonnang, Vic	do
do	do	do	18.10.18	At Sea	Albert B. Rust	20	"	British Armadale, N.S.W.	Sydney, N.S.W.
do	do	do	18.10.18	do	Stanley Harney	19	"	British Warrnambool	Melbourne
do	do	do	19.10.18	do	Scobie R. Seroggino	19	"	British Warrnambool, Vic.	do
do	do	do	19.10.18	do	George J. Spink	20	"	British Spendlow	do
do	do	do	20.10.18	do	Walter S. Short	21	"	British London	do
do	do	do	20.10.18	do	Douglas J. Breeden	22	"	British Burgton, Vic.	do

A Cablegram was sent to Secretary for Defence, Melbourne on 29th October, 1918 from Troopship *Barambah* stating "In conformity with para 41 A.I.F. Orders I beg to report that this transport left Cape Town at 6.30 pm on Sunday 6th October and anchored off Freetown, Sierra Leone at 10 am on Sunday 20th October. Severe Epidemic Influenza Six hundred cases. Caused following eleven deaths.... All buried at Sea Excepting Breeden ashore....."

A.A.

(C O P Y)

DEFENCE

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589 18 411

Sierra Leone

October 29th., 1918.

From O.C. Troops "Barambah"

To Secretary for Defence.

Melbourne.

In conformity with para 41 A.I.F. Orders I beg to report that this transport left Cape Town at 6.30pm on Sunday 6th October and anchored off Freetown, Sierra Leone at 10am on Sunday 20th October.

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COPY OF CABLEGRAM SENT TO THE SECTY. DEFENCE MELBOURNE FROM SIERRA LEONE.

Secretary Defence,
Melbourne.

Severe Epidemic Influenza Six hundred cases. Caused following eleven deaths.

No. 61174	Pte. JENKYN Andrew Watson	10th O.S.R.)	
" 60964	" MATHRICK Cecil Benjamin	9th ")	17/10/18
" 61030	" NOYLE James	9th ")	
No. 61589	Pte. HUGGINS Frank	12th O.S.R.)	
" 61006	" TAIT Lawrence	9th ")	18/10/18
" 62343	" MUST Albert Clarence	5th ")	
" 61161	" HARVEY Stanley	10th ")	
No. 61720	Pte. SCROGGIE Leslie Roy	12th O.S.R.)	19/10/18
" 61000	" SPINKS George Frederick	9th ")	
No. 61216	Pte. SHORT Walter Samuel	10th O.S.R.)	20/10/18
" 3126	" BREEDEN Douglas John	Ry. Unit)	

All buried at sea excepting Breedon ashore.

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Note:- In addition to those who died on board as above the undermentioned are reported as having died ashore:-

No. 62323	Pte. KABISCH Albert Bernhardt,	5th O.S.R.)	21/10/18
" 61590	" CAMPBELL Samuel Cleland,	12th ")	
No. 61735	Pte. MIDDINGS William Ernest	12th ")	22/10/18
" 61604	" DUNIGAN Frederick James	12th ")	
No. 60904	Pte. CURRIN James Celestino	9th ")	23/10/18

Also two members of the crew.

(SIGNED) H. POPE
Lieut-Colonel,
O.C. Troops.

Certified true Copy
H. Morgan

Private Frank Buggins requested in his Will dated 23rd August, 1918 that in the event of his death the whole of his property and effects to be given to his mother Mary Ann Buggins of Stanevay, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Frank Buggins 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 Buggins' father – Mr A. H. Buggins, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

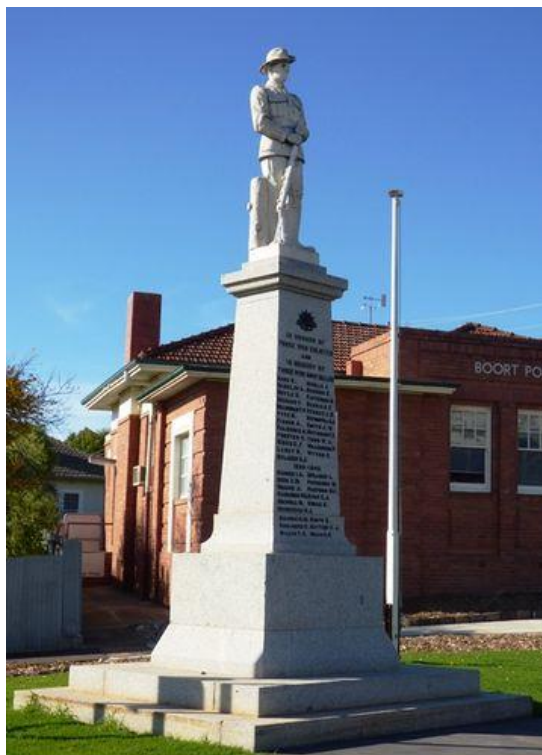
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frank Buggins – service number 61589, of 12th Australian Reinforcement. No family details are listed.

Private F. Buggins is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. Buggins is remembered on the Boort Soldiers Memorial, located at Post Office, Godfrey & Station Streets, Boort, Victoria.



Boort Soldiers Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

F. Buggins is remembered on the Boort RSL Memorial Honour Wall, located next to Memorial Hall, Godfrey & Lake View Streets, Boort, Victoria.



Boort RSL Memorial Honour Wall (Photos from Monument Australia)



Frank Buggins & his brother Henry Buggins are remembered on the Stanway War Memorial, located at Road junction B4077, Stanway, Tewkesbury, England.



Stanway War Memorial (Photo above by David Gearing; below by Michael Day)





Stanway War Memorial

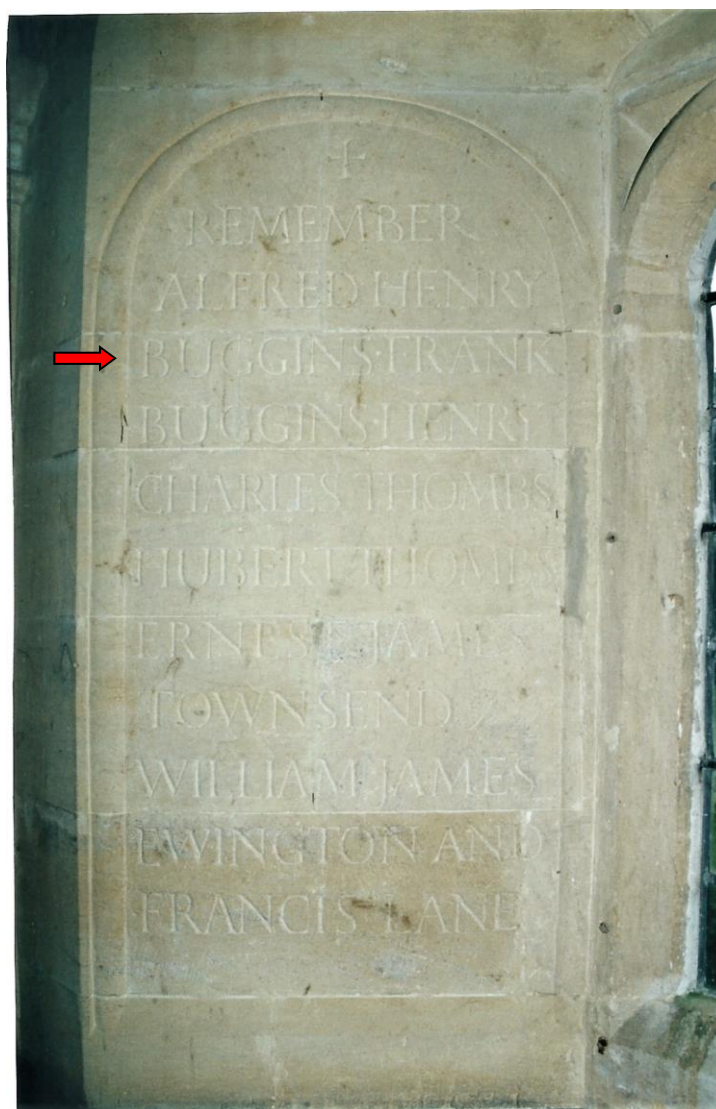
Frank Buggins & his brother Henry Buggins are remembered on the Parishioners World War 1 Memorial located in St. Peter's Church, Cotswold Way, Stanway, Gloucestershire, England.



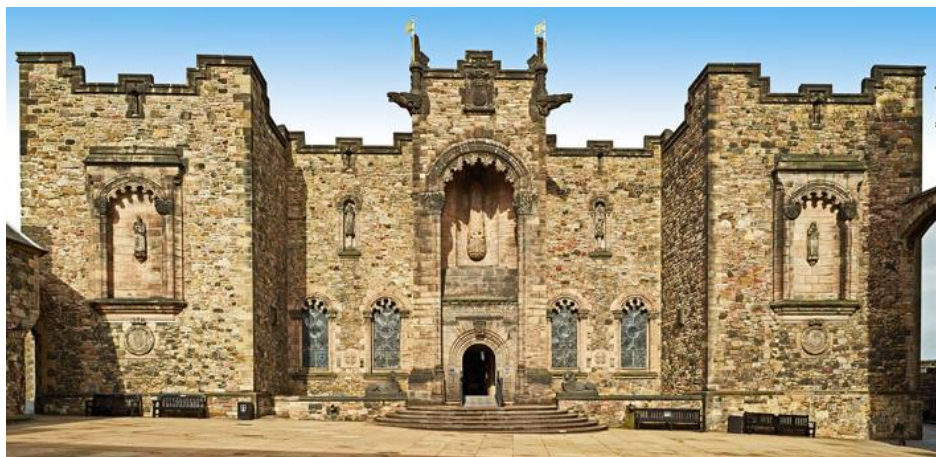
St. Peter's Church Stanway (Photos from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



St. Peter's Church Stanway

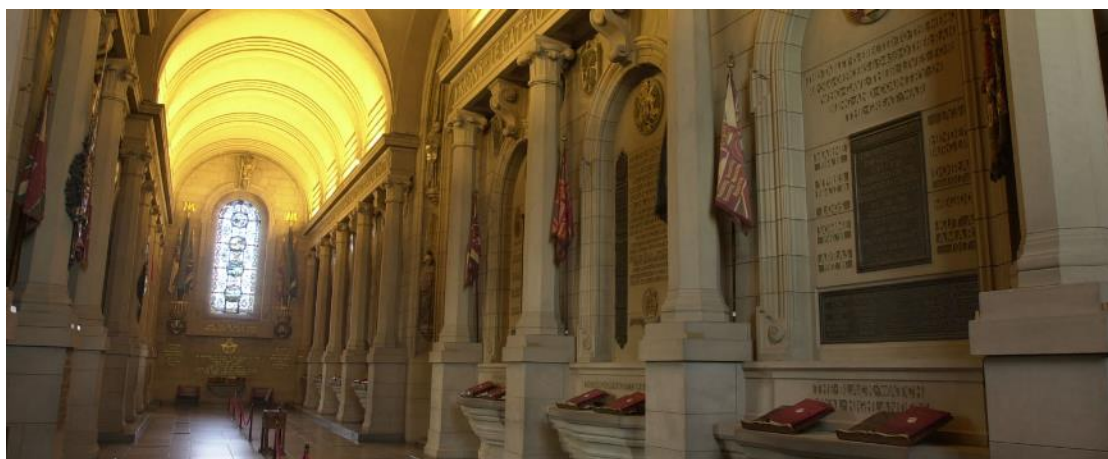


Frank Buggins is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(36 pages of Private Frank Buggins' 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

Connected to Private Frank Buggins

Older brother – Private Alfred Henry Buggins – 43447, 2nd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment. Died 9th November, 1918. Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, France.

The Memorial Plaques (also known as Death Pennies) for Alfred Henry Buggins & Frank Buggins were sold on Ebay UK on 25th December, 2018 for £350.



Newspaper Notices

A Transport Scandal

CONDITIONS ABOARD THE BARAMBAH

SHOCKING DISCLOSURES

INFLUENZA AND FILTH

(Australian Press Association)

LONDON, 22nd November

The Australian naval authorities are instituting an inquiry into the conditions aboard the troopship Barambah, a Commonwealth requisitioned steamer, of 5923 tons, which has, arrived in London. She carried over 1000 troops from Victoria and South Australia. The majority were infantry men, and there were also a railway section and about 100 sailors for the Australian navy on board. The overcrowding gave rise to serious complaints. The deck accommodation was such that the men below were only able to take short periods of exercise and games on deck in instalments. The bath accommodation was deficient and there was frequently a shortage of washing water.

Influenza broke out after leaving Cape town, and the epidemic swept the entire ship. There were 800 sick at one time, and as the hospital accommodation was limited the patients were lying everywhere about the decks and on the hatches. During the six days between Capetown and Sierra Leone the outbreak was at its height, and there were 25 deaths, six occurring in one day. The chaplain held a daily funeral. The medical supplies were inadequate, and were quickly exhausted. The two doctors worked manfully. Many men in the medical sections became ill, and volunteers at tended the sick.

The conditions were speedily ameliorated after the ship's arrival at Sierra Leone, where it remained for a week, awaiting an escort. Fresh supplies of drugs were obtained, and within two days most of the sufferers were convalescent. The Barambah continued her voyage with a large convoy under escort by the cruiser-destroyer Britannia, and was picked up by a flotilla of destroyers in the Bay of Biscay, where upon the Britannia departed for Gibraltar. She was torpedoed and sunk an hour later.

The men aboard the Barambah state that the vessel was in a filthy condition before she left Australia. The planking covering the iron decks was so badly laid that the interstices were filled with dirt. It was impossible to keep the decks clean. Meat was cut up on the deck, and when some of the planking was lifted a seething mass of maggots was found. The vessel was quite unsuitable for 800 men to sleep on her single 'tween decks.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 November, 1918)

AUSTRALIA'S HEROES

CASUALTY LIST No. 447

VICTORIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte Buggins, F., England

(The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 28 November, 1918)

TROOPSHIP BARAMBAH

SEVENTEEN DEATHS

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

The Assistant Minister for Defence (Mr. Wise) made a statement in the House of Representatives last night in regard to the troopship Barambah, which, it had been alleged, had left Australia in a filthy condition, and upon which several deaths had occurred.

Mr. Wise said that it seemed clear that the casualties on the Barambah were due to an outbreak of influenza, although it was not yet known how the disease was introduced on the vessel. From the reports of the officer commanding the troops, Lieut.-Colonel Pope, C.B., it was gathered that the precautionary measure of forbidding shore leave had been taken at Cape Town. Telegraphic news of 17 deaths and eight cases of illness had been received. The medical provision before the steamer left Australia consisted of two doctors and a staff of 31, there being as a matter of fact an excess of 15 orderlies, due to A.M.C. reinforcements on board. While the vessel was fitted up for 1,154 troops, the number actually placed on board was 940. He (Mr. Wise) had received a letter from Mr. George Foley, M.L.A., chairman of the West Australian advisory committee on military hospitals, stating that the troopship was not in a satisfactory state at Fremantle, flushing water for the lavatories being obtainable only occasionally, and shower-baths being dry. The explanation given in reply to Mr. Foley was that the trouble was due to a breakdown in the pumping machinery, which was in order when leaving Melbourne, and that no doubt when the pumping machinery was repaired matters would adjust themselves.

In a voyage report from Fremantle, dated September 9, Mr. Wise said Colonel Pope stated that deck space was limited, and that the troop deck where the hammocks were hung at night was somewhat congested. He also stated that the troops were in good health and spirits, and the ration issue quite satisfactory both in quality and quantity. From Durban Colonel Pope reported on September 29 as follows:


"The general health and spirits of the troops has remained excellent. Discipline among the troops has been well maintained, and very little crime has occurred, Rations have continued excellent."

At the same time the senior medical officer on the Barambah reported:

"The health of the troops has been good on the whole. There has been some cases of mumps. The food has been satisfactory in quality and quantity."

Mr. Wise, continuing, said that these were the facts relevant to the question which had been brought under his notice, but no reports had as yet been received from the commanding officer of the troops as to the general suitability of the vessel for the transport of troops. It seemed that the difficulties chiefly encountered arose from the outbreak of influenza making unexpected demands upon the medical personnel and supplies, as well as upon the ship's accommodation. Writing from Fremantle, the senior medical officer on board the Barambah reported that the hospital accommodation was ample, and that the surgical and medical supplies were in a good condition. The Durban report did not mention these matters, which presumably continued satisfactory. Lieut.-Colonel Pope, it might be added, was the president of the West Australian branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers League.

The return of deaths was as follows:

61,030, Pt. J. MOYLE, Victoria, 17/10/18.
61,174, Pte. A. W. JENKYN, Vic., 17/10/18
60,964, Pte. C. B. MATHRICK, Vic., 17/10/18.
61,659, Pte. F. BUGGINS, Vic., 18/10/18. 
61,006, Pte. L. TAIT, Vic., 18/10/18.
62,343, Pte. A. C. RUSH, S. Aust., 18/10/18.
61,161, Pte. S. HARVEY, Vic, 18/10/18.
61,720, Pte. L. R. SCROGGIE, Vic, 19/10/1918
61,000, Pte. G. F. SPINKS, Vic, 19/10/18.
3,126, Pte. D. P. BREEDEN, Rly Unit, 20/10/18
61,216, Pte. W. S. SHORT, Vic, 20/10/18.
61,590, Pte. S. C. CAMPBELL Vic
61,604, Pte. F. J. DUNIGAN, Vic,
61,735, Pte. W. E. MEDDINGS, Vic.
61,149, Pte. J. GEE Vic
60,304, Pte. J. C. CURRIN, Vic.
62,323, Pte. A. B. KABISCH, S. Aust.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 November, 1918)

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)

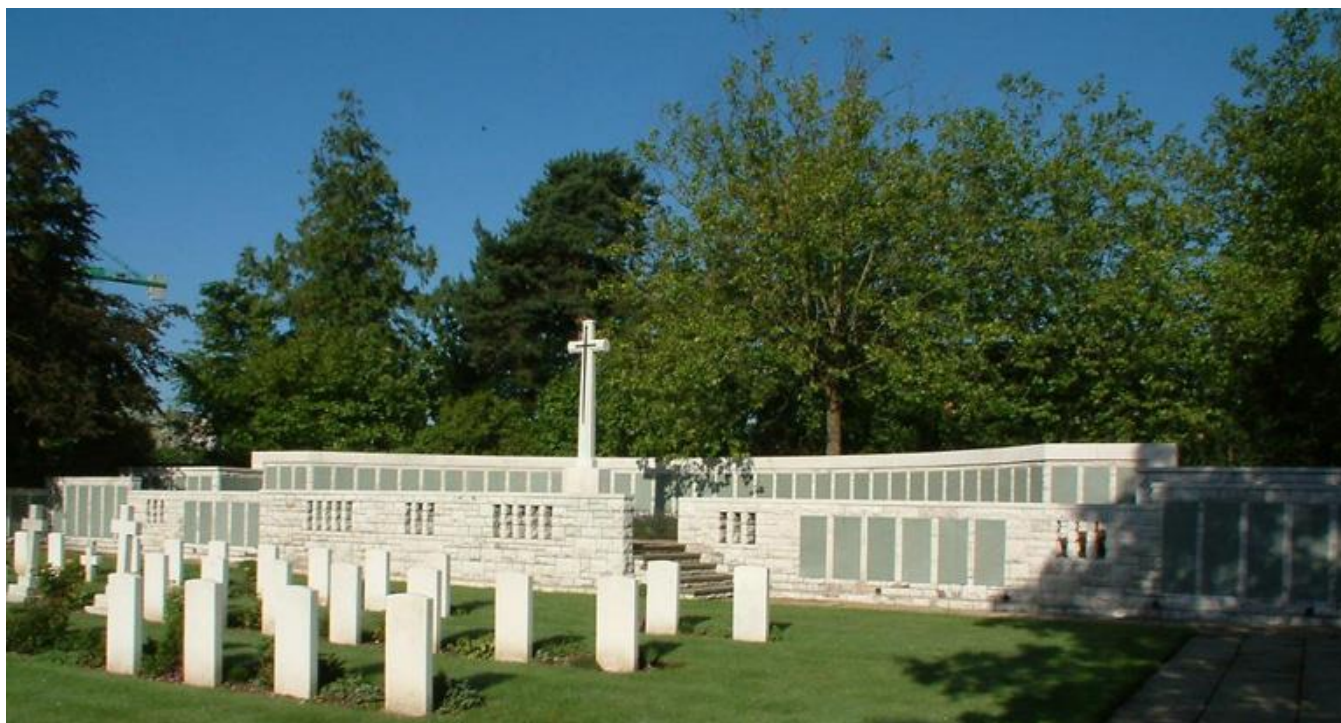
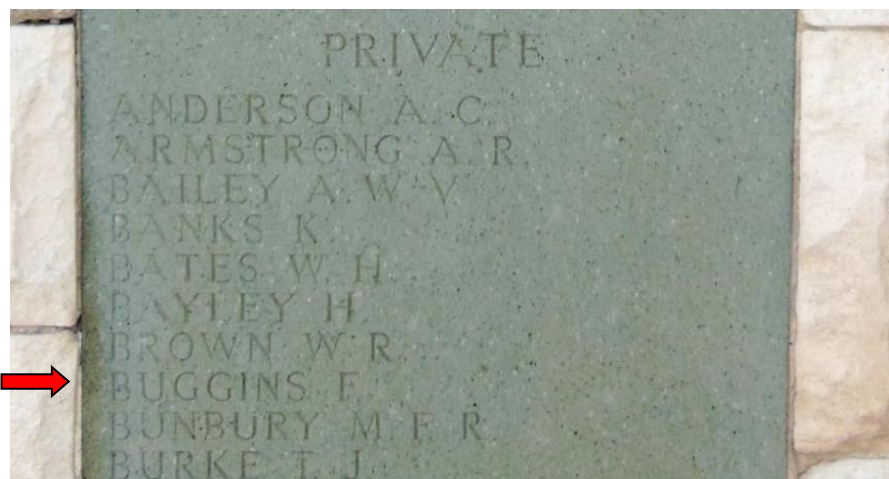
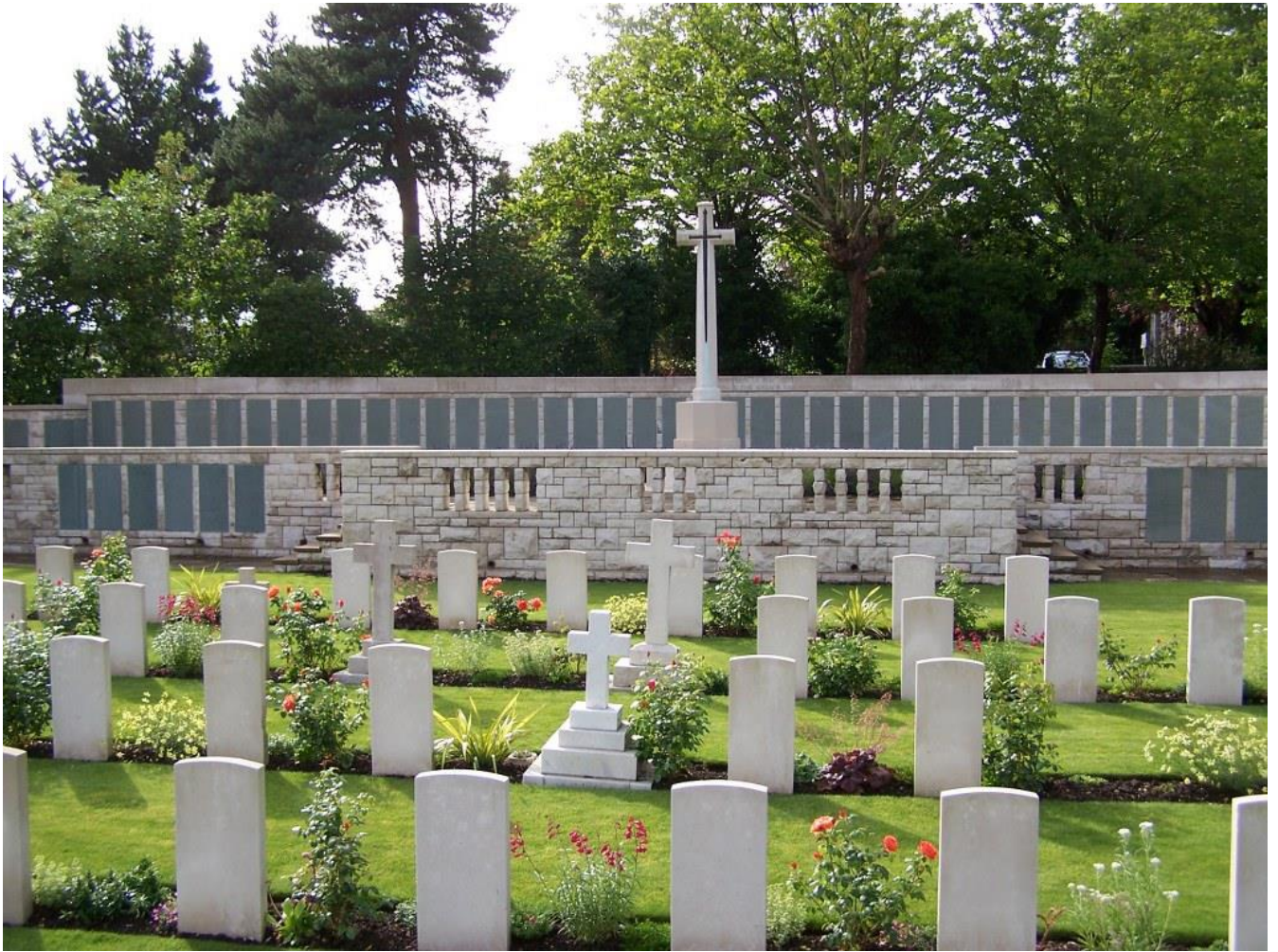


Photo of Private F. Buggins' name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





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

(Photo from CWGC)