

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6985 PRIVATE**

**E. CRESSWELL**

**12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**15TH FEBRUARY, 1917**

## Edmund (Jack) CRESSWELL / CRESSWELL

Edmund Cresswell was born at Deloraine, Tasmania on 30th March, 1893 to parents Walter Newton Cresswell & Sophia Cresswell (nee Newton).

Edmund Cresswell attended school at Deloraine, Tasmania.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Wilmot, subdivision of Deloraine, Tasmania recorded Edmund Cresswell, Farm Assistant, from Ferndale, Deloraine.

Edmund Cresswell was a 23 year old, single, Farmer from Deloraine, Tasmania when he enlisted on 13th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6985 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. N. Cresswell, Ferndale, Deloraine, Tasmania.

Private Edmund Cresswell was posted to 23rd Reinforcements of 12th Battalion on 14th December, 1916.

Private Edmund Cresswell (name as listed on Embarkation Roll) embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Persic* (A34) on 22nd December, 1916 with the 12 Infantry Battalion, 23rd Reinforcements.

**\*\*Note:** The Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour has the name as “*Edmond Creswell*” & the Embarkation Roll has the name as “*Edmund Cresswell*”. The name on the Attestation Papers is listed as “*Edmund Creswell*” but the 4 signatures at the bottom of Page 1 are all signed as “*E. Cresswell*”. Two further signatures are found on page 2 as “*Edmund Cresswell*”

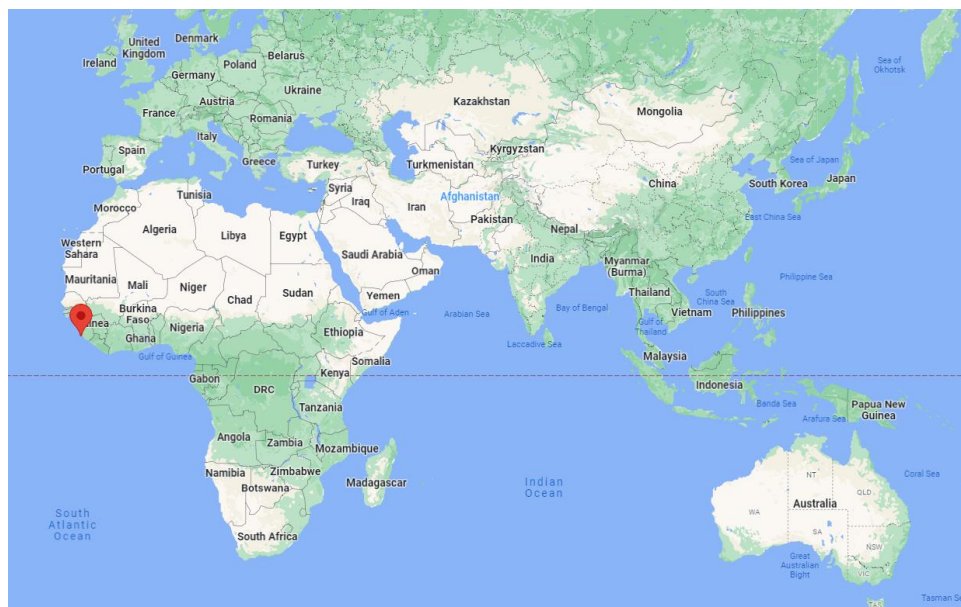
### 12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

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

Private Edmund Cresswell was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 10th February, 1917 with Left Lobar Pneumonia.

Private Edmund Cresswell died on 15th February, 1917 at Sea on board HMAT *Persic* (A34) from Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded “*Died of Acute Cardiac Dilatation.*” A hand written note in the Service Record file of Private Cresswell reads “*Died at Sea 15/2/17 at Free Town Sierra Leone West Africa. Buried at Sea.*”





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P80839

**The troopship HMAT Persic (A34) making ready to leave the wharf. 22 December, 1916 Port Melbourne**

Private Edmund Creswell was buried at Sea on 15th February, 1917 from HMAT *Persic* (A34). 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.

Private Edmund Cresswell 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 Cresswell's father - Mr W. N. Cresswell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

\*\*\*Note: At some stage Base Records were notified of the correct spelling of Private E. Cresswell as the Memorial Scroll & Plaque were issued with the correct spelling. The personal effects of the late Private Cresswell were addressed to his father with the correct spelling & the final Summary Sheet in the Service Record file has been amended with "*Creswell*" crossed out & written in red "*Cresswell*".

Base Records wrote to Mr W. N. Cresswell, Ferndale Cottage, Deloraine, Tasmania on 2nd January, 1931 with the following: "*I am forwarding herewith at the request of the Imperial War Graves Commission a printed order form referring to the publication of Hollybrook Memorial Register containing the particulars of your son, the late No. 6985 Private E. CRESSWELL, 12th Battalion. It will be noted from the proof slip entry that the deceased's surname has inadvertently been shown as "Creswell", and the discrepancy is being brought to the notice of the Commission with a view to correcting the Memorial records. It is regretted, however, that it will not be practicable to similarly amend the Register entry at this late juncture as the printed copies have already been prepared for publication.*"

Base Records wrote to The Secretary, Imperial War Graves Commission, Westminster, London on 2nd January, 1931 with the following "*In connection with the publication of Hollybrook Memorial Register (M.R. 40) your attention is invited to proof slip entry No. 226 referring to the late No. 6985 Private E. CREDDWELL, 12th Battalion, and it is desired to point out that the deceased's surname has been shown in error and should properly read as above...*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edmund Creswell – service number 6985, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private E. Creswell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



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

E. Creswell is remembered on the St Hilda's School Honour Roll, located in St. Mark's Anglican Church, East Westbury Place, Deloraine, Tasmania. The Honour Roll was previously held in the former St. Hilda's School, Deloraine.



**St Hilda's School Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia)**

E. Creswell is remembered on St Mark's Honour Roll, located in St. Mark's Anglican Church, East Westbury Place, Deloraine, Tasmania.



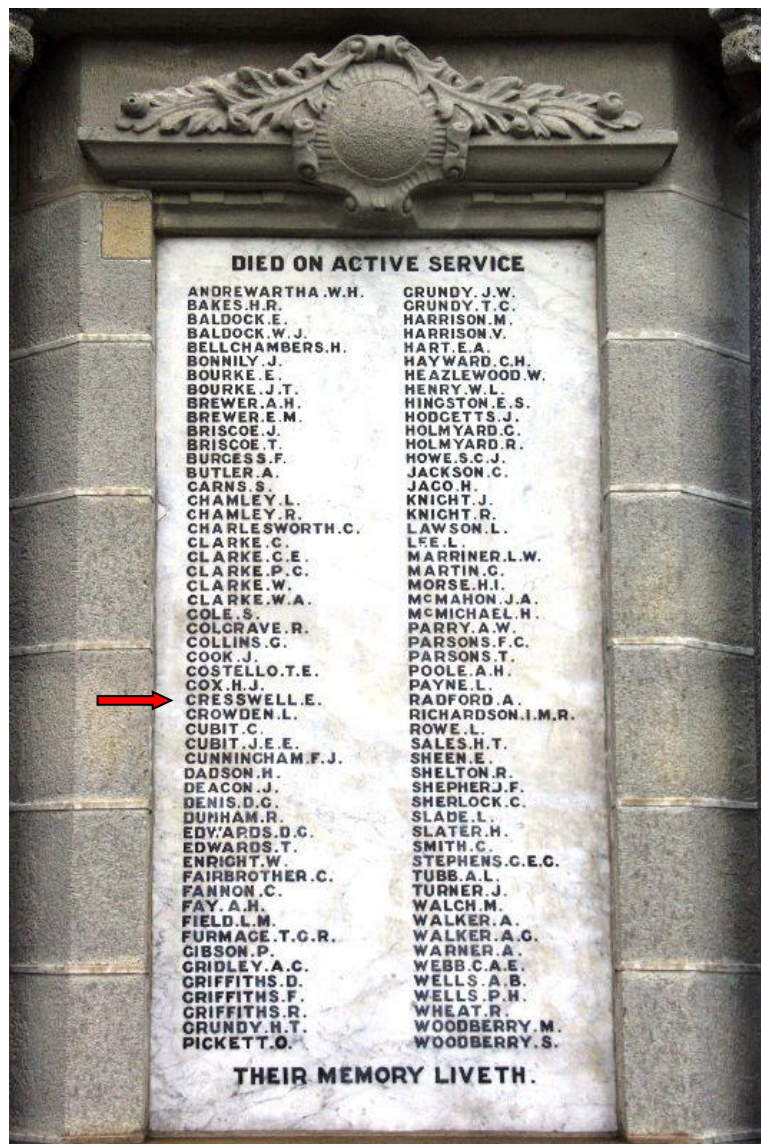
St Mark's Honour Roll (Photos by Arthur Garland)



E. Cresswell is remembered on the Deloraine War Memorial, located on Emu Bay Road, Deloraine, Tasmania.

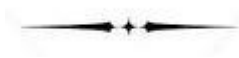


Deloraine War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)



(34 pages of Private Edmund Creswell'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**

CRESSWELL – On the 14th February, on transport Persic of pneumonia, Private Edmond (Jack) Cresswell, dearly beloved son of Sophia and W. N. Cresswell, aged 23 years.

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 24 February, 1917)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **276TH AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST**

##### TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

##### DIED OF ILLNESS

PTE E. CRESSWELL, Deloraine – Feb 14, 1917

*(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 3 March, 1917)*

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### **RETURN THANKS**

Mr and Mrs Cresswell and family, Deloraine, desire to return their thanks to all friends for their expressions of sympathy in their late bereavement.

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 28 March, 1917)*

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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)*







**Cross of Sacrifice**



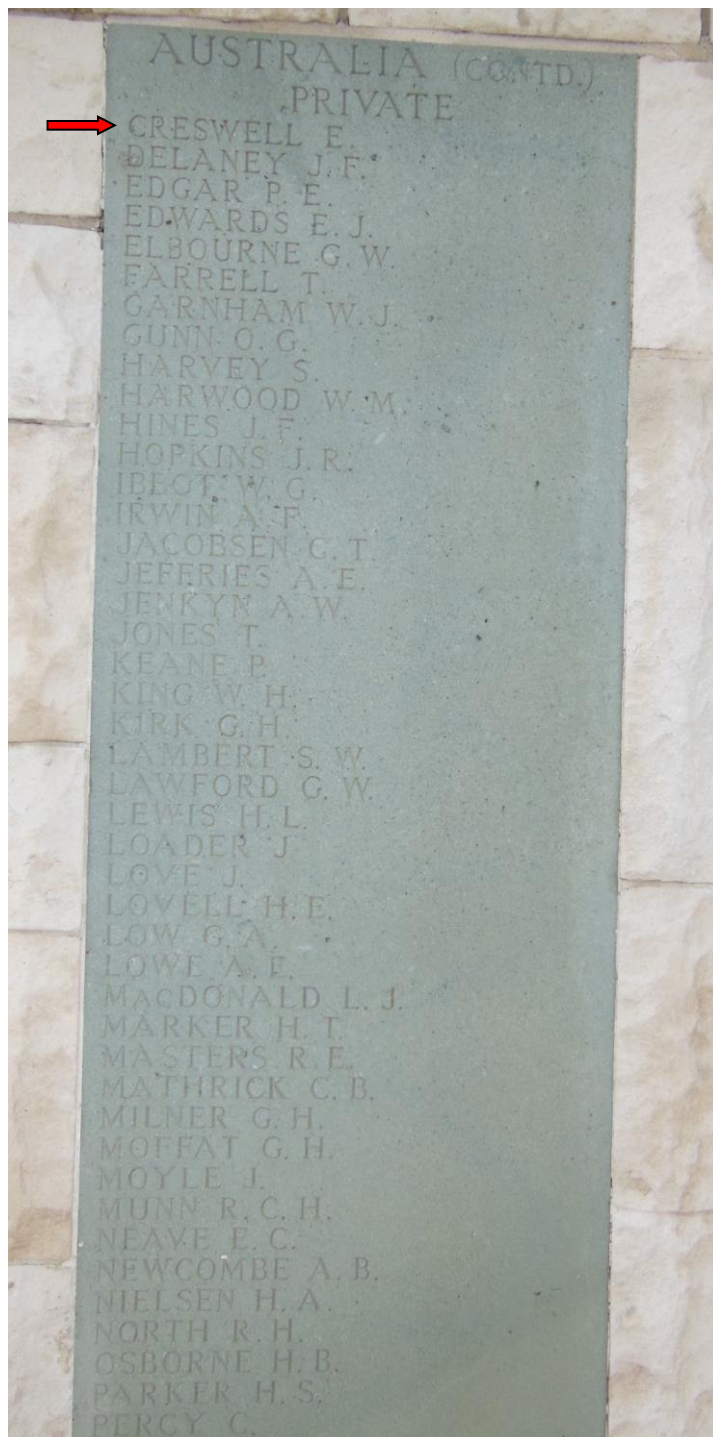
**Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice**



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

*(Photo from CWGC)*

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



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

