

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



60219 CORPORAL

O. G. GUNN

16TH AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT

15TH OCTOBER, 1918

Oswald George GUNN

Oswald George Gunn was born at Marrickville, Sydney, NSW on 19th September, 1895 to parents David Bremner Gunn & Eliza Jane Gunn (nee Strong). He was baptised at St. Clements Church, Marrickville, Sydney, NSW on 13th November, 1895. His father was listed as a News Agent.

Oswald George Gunn attended school at Petersham, Sydney, NSW.

From NSW Police Gazette – 27 April, 1910:

Missing from his home, Marrickville-road, Marrickville, since the 8th instant, - Oswald Gunn, 14 ½ years of age, big for age, florid complexion, black hair, buck teeth; dressed in a blue serge coat, long grey tweed trousers and vest, fawn tweed cap, strong lace-up boots and grey stockings. Supposed to have gone up the country. Inquiry at the instance of his parents as above address.

Oswald George Gunn was a 21 year old, single, Engineer from Haberfield, NSW when he enlisted on 5th January, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1454 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mrs D. Gunn, Myola, Walker Avenue, Haberfield, NSW. Oswald Gunn stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been an apprentice for 5 years with Clyde Engineering Coy. NSW. He also stated he had served with 31st Infantry for 3 years.

Private Oswald George Gunn was posted to 2nd Reinforcements of 3rd Battalion.

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.....The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves and served there until the evacuation in December. In August, the battalion took part in the attack on Lone Pine.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Oswald George Gunn embarked from Alexandria on 5th April, 1915 on *Derfflinger* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force). He joined 3rd Battalion at Anzac (no date) from "*Hold Party*."

Private Oswald George Gunn was admitted to Military Hospital at Valetta on 14th June, 1915 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left forearm. He was transferred to Intarfa on 7th July, 1915.

Private Oswald George Gunn was admitted to Military Hospital at Intarfa, Malta on 7th July, 1915. He was transferred to Tigne Military Hospital at Malta on 26th July, 1915 then on 21st August, 1915 he was transferred & admitted to St. Patrick's Hospital at Malta. Private Gunn embarked on Hospital Ship *Plassey* from Malta for England on 5th September, 1915.

Private Oswald George Gunn was admitted to Military Hospital at Fulham, London, England on 12th September, 1915.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Oswald George Gunn on 21st November, 1915 at Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, England. His disability was recorded as G.S.W. left forearm which had occurred on 19th May, 1915 at Gallipoli while on active service. His present condition was listed as "*...a compound fracture of radius. Weakness in muscles of left forearm. Pain on pronation and supination.*" Five operations were performed for "*removal of lead and repair to bones.*" The Medical Officer in charge of case replied to the question do you recommend discharge as permanently unfit ? – "*from the army ? No.*" The Medical Board recommended that Private Gunn be discharged as permanently unfit for active service but fit for Home Service.

The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Private Oswald George Gunn was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital (no date) with a fractured forearm. "*Explosive bullet wound to the left forearm caused a compound fracture of the radius down to with a sinns leeds (?) & metal can be felt. To have an xray picture taken.*

30.10.15 Operation C & E Capt Clawes. Small sequestom & piece of metal removed from lower ½ of radius & sinms curetted then packed with isdo__ gauge.

21.11.15 All wounds quite healed & patient boarded.”

Private Oswald George Gunn was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, England on 18th December, 1915.

A Hospital Admissions form recorded Private Oswald George Gunn at Weymouth – admitted 23rd February, 1916 & discharged 2nd March, 1916 with G.S.W. left arm. “*Local abcess over wound. Opened & drained. Recovery.*”

On 19th April, 1916 an addition to the Medical Report was added: “*Several small foci (?) of infection have ____in last few weeks. Opened & formented (?)*”

Private Oswald George Gunn was returned to Australian on “*Suevic*” from Portland on 11th March, 1916 due to G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to forearm. He arrived in Australia on 22nd April, 1916.

A Medical Board reviewed Private Oswald George Gunn & recorded his injury as GSW left forearm. The injury had occurred at Gallipoli on 19th May, 1915 while on Active Service. His present condition was listed as “*wound healed. Function of arm good. Pronation and Supination limited. Power of hand and wrist deficient.*” The Board recommended on 6th July, 1916 that Private Gunn be discharged permanently for 12 months.

Private Oswald George Gunn was discharged as Medically Unfit from the Australian Imperial Force on 9th September, 1916.

Oswald George Gunn was a 23 year old, single, Engineer from Haberfield, NSW when he re-enlisted on 11th April, 1917 in Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3297 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr D. Gunn, “Myola” Walker Avenue, Haberfield, NSW. Oswald Gunn stated on his Attestation Papers that he had not been an apprentice. He stated he had previously served with A.I.F. 3rd Battalion Infantry for 1 year & 250 days & was wounded. The Distinctive marks chart on his Attestation Papers showed “*Gunshot Wounds*” with two “X”s marking the left forearm.

A Medical Board was assembled at Victoria Barracks on 11th April, 1917 to examine Oswald George Gunn & found him fit for Active Service.

Private Oswald George Gunn was posted to Recruits at Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 17th May, 1917. He was transferred to Liverpool, Sydney, NSW as Gunner from 18th May, 1917. Gunner Gunn was transferred to “B” Company, No. 1 Battalion on 15th June, 1917. He was transferred again on 22nd June, 1917 to 8th Reinforcements of 33rd Battalion as Private. Private Gunn was transferred to “B” Company, 1st Infantry Depot (no date recorded) then transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 35th Battalion on 13th July, 1917.

A letter in the Service Record file written 14th July, 1917 from Dr Newton, MB, of Redcliffe, Five Dock (Sydney, NSW) reads: “*I hereby certify that Mrs Gunn (mother of Private Oswald Gunn who is I believe shortly about to sail for the front) is suffering from complete nervous prostration & cardiac asthenia. I must strongly recommend that this lad’s departure be deferred for a time in the interest of his mother’s heath for I am of opinion that an additional shock to her in her present condition would result in serious consequences.*”

A Hospital Admissions form recorded Private Gunn was admitted to 4 A.G.H. (Australian General Hospital) on 21st July, 1917 with GSW left forearm.

Commonwealth Military Forces – 2nd Military District Transfer Form recorded that Private Oswald George Gunn, No. 72959 was transferred from “E” Company, 1st Infantry Depot Battalion to S.O.I. on 13th August, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Oswald George Gunn of 1st Depot Battalion, held at 4th Australian General Hospital, Randwick, Sydney, NSW on 21st August, 1917, who had enlisted on 17th March 1917 and 4th January, 1915 & had returned to Australia on 29th April & was discharged. His disability was recorded as an old GSW to left forearm that had occurred at Gallipoli on 19th May, 1915. “*Wounded as above. Returned to Australia &*

discharged 9 Oct '16. Reenlisted 17 March 17. In Camp wrist & hand "went stiff" & painful. Under manage & exercise treatment has improved. Now no pain & movements free." Private Gunn was asked if any operation/s had been performed – he answered *"five or six of unknown nature."* The Medical Board stated that there was a *"slight weakness of left fore-arm"* which was the result of active service – G.S.W. & he was ¼ incapacitated. The Board recommended that Private Gunn be discharged as permanently unfit & a Pension.

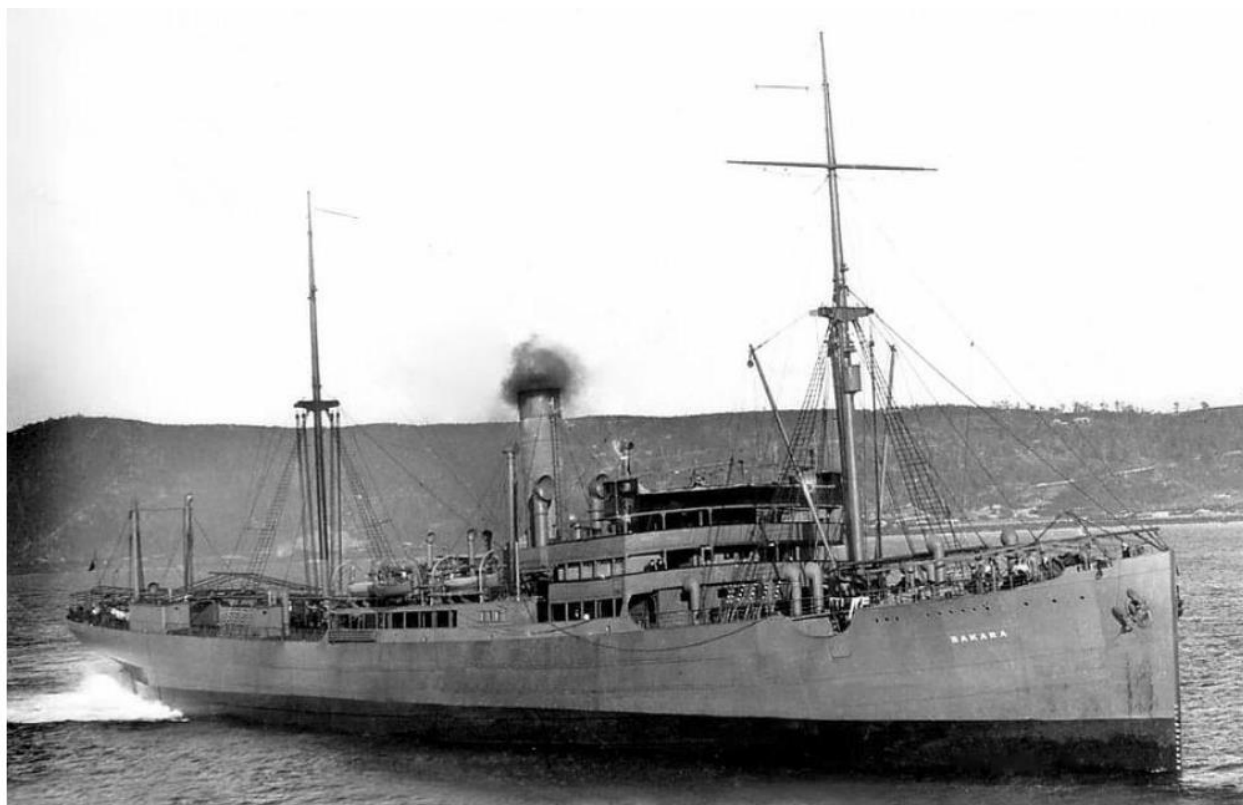
Private Oswald George Gunn was discharged as Medically Unfit not due to Misconduct on 6th September, 1917.

Oswald George Gunn was a 24 year old (date of birth listed on Attestation Papers as 4 January, 1892), single, Fitter from Haberfield, NSW when he re-enlisted on 22nd April, 1918 in Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 60219 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr D. Gunn, 26 Walker Avenue, Haberfield, NSW. Oswald Gunn stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been an apprentice for 5 years with Clyde Engineering Coy. NSW. He also stated he had previously served with 3rd Battalion, A.I.F. for 1 year & 250 days & was discharged medically unfit. The Distinctive marks chart on his Attestation Papers showed *"Wounds GSW"* with an "X" marking the left forearm.

A Medical Board was assembled at Victoria Barracks on 22nd April, 1918 to examine Oswald George Gunn & found him fit for Active Service.

Private Oswald George Gunn was posted to Recruit M. & D. Depot at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 30th April, 1918. He was transferred to 1st Infantry Depot Battalion "C" Company on 8th May, 1918 then transferred on 10th May, 1918 to "D" Company. (Note: One Statement of Service Form has recorded that Private Gunn was transferred to B" Company on 9th May, 1918). Private Gunn was transferred on 21st July, 1918 to "A" Company of Composite Battalion then transferred to 16th Reinforcements (NSW) as Acting Corporal on 5th August, 1918.

Private Oswald George Gunn embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Bakara (A41)* on 4th September, 1918 with the 16th General Service Reinforcements. He was appointed "Voyage Only" Corporal on embarkation on 4th September, 1918.



HMAT *Bakara (A41)*

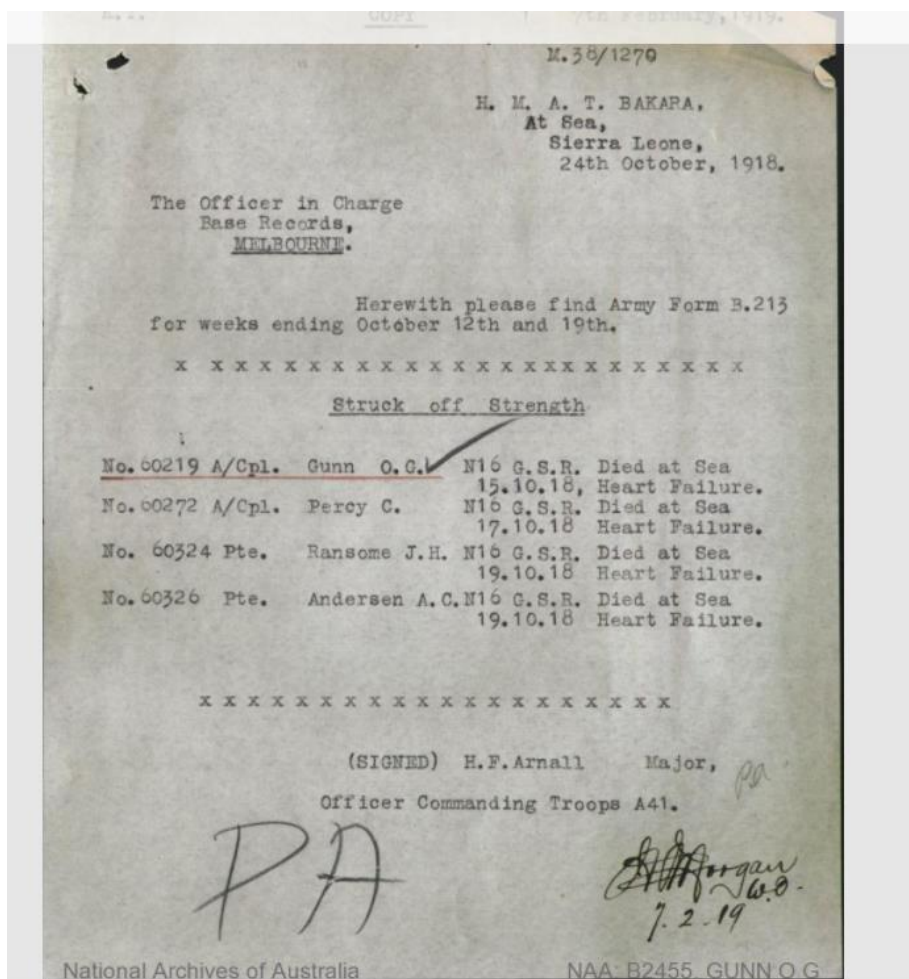
(Voyage Only) Corporal Oswald George Gunn was admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea on 10th October, 1918 to 13th October, 1918 with Influenza. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*complains of pains all over body, cough Raw feeling in chest. Temp 99. 13.10.18 Temp normal feels alright Discharged.*" (Voyage Only) Corporal Gunn was readmitted to Ship's Hospital on 13th October & diagnosed with Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Admitted with pains on left side of chest, coughing Temp 103. 14.10.18 Temp very high. Coughing bloodstained sputum. Pains in left chest. Cyanosed Dyspnoea. Rsp 36 Semi delirious at times. Harsh breathing over left base, numerous rales _____ . 15.10.18 Very cyanosed & dyspnoeis.*"

(Voyage Only) Corporal Oswald George Gunn died at 5.15 pm on 15th October, 1918 at Sea on board HMAT *Bakara (A41)* from Heart Failure following Pneumonia.

Acting Corporal Oswald George Gunn was buried at Sea on 16th October, 1918. 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.

A notation on the Casualty Form – Active Service (page 38/118) in the Service Record file for (Voyage Only) Corporal Oswald George Gunn recorded "*Reverted to Private 15/10/18*" – this has been crossed out & the following written "*Cancelled. This soldier retains rank of V.O. Cpl in accordance with A.I.F. Order 777.*"

Acting Corporal O. C. Gunn was the first of four Soldiers to die on H.M.A.T. *Bakara* while at Sea between 12 & 19th October, 1918 according to a cable sent to Officer in Charge, Base Records on 24th October, 1918 from Sierra Leone.



From the war diary of Stanley Carver

"Wed 16/10/1918. Poor chap died of Pneumonia at 5.45 last night. A returned man named Gunn of H16 where he was well liked.

Buried at sea this morning at 7. Service very impressive and solemn. Engines were stopped and boat moved forward with her own way. Officers, firing party and padre in ceremonies occupied the small gun deck in the stern while, strangely hushed, the lads crowded together below. The body sewn in canvas and covered with a flag was carried up. The flag was eloquent a last () honour conferred by the () of a grateful country. The service being read and the body consigned to the deep one volley was fired seeming to rend the veil of the great beyond, then the bugles wailed as if in lament, again the volley, and again the wail, and then a final volley followed by the awesome and melancholy last post came like a voice decreeing that our late comrade had gone to that bourn whence no traveller returns."

(Source: Find a Grave)

Private Oswald George Gunn requested in his Will dated 3rd August, 1918 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mrs Eliza Jane Gunn, 26 Walker St, Haberfield, Sydney, NSW.

Acting Corporal Oswald George Gunn was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Acting Corporal Gunn's father – Mr D. Gunn, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Oswald George Gunn – service number 60219, of 16th Australian Reinforcement. No family details are listed.

Corporal O. G. Gunn is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 36.

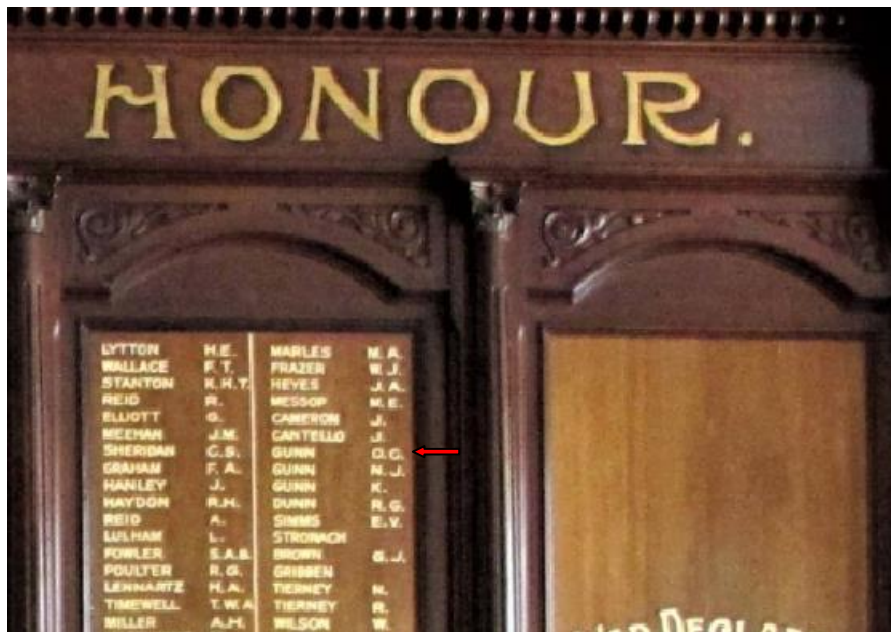


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

O. G. Gunn is remembered on the Haberfield Roll of Honour, located in Haberfield School of Arts Roll of Honour, 78-80 Dalhousie Street, Haberfield, Sydney, NSW.



Haberfield Roll of Honour (Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Susan Jackson-Stepowski)



(118 pages of Acting Corporal Oswald George Gunn’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

Connected to Acting Corporal Oswald George Gunn:

Older brother – Norman James Gunn – Private 2828. Enlisted 20th June, 1915 as a 21 year old Clerk. Embarked with 4th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements on 30th September, 1915. Later 2nd Australian Field Artillery Brigade. Awarded Military Medal. Returned to Australia 12th April, 1919.

Younger brother – Keith William Gunn – Driver 36616. Enlisted 3rd January, 1917 as a 21 year old Law Clerk. Embarked with Field Artillery, 29th Reinforcements on 5th November, 1917. Returned to Australia 5th March, 1919.



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

64th Casualty List

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Private O. Gunn (Haberfield)

(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW – 14 August, 1915)

CASINO LAND BUSINESS

At the Casino Crown Lands Agent's Office last week there were two conflicting applications for homestead far area 606 for returned soldiers, 108 acres, parish Roseberry, county Rous. The names are:- Oscar Stanbury Olsson and Oswald George Gunn.

(*Northern Star*, Lismore, NSW – 26 December, 1916)

WAR CASUALTIES

Mr. and Mrs. D. Gunn, of 26 Walker-avenue, Haberfield, have been informed that their third son, Corporal Oswald George Gunn, has died at sea from heart failure, following on pneumonia. He was an original Anzac of the 3rd Battalion, and took part in the landing at Gallipoli. Subsequently he was wounded and invalided home. He re-enlisted in May last, and left Australia in September with reinforcements. Two brothers, Keith W. Gunn, recently reported wounded, and Norman J. Gunn, who has seen three years' service, are still abroad.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 6 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

GUNN – Died at sea, through heart failure, following pneumonia, Corporal Oswald George Gunn, an original Anzac, of the 3rd Battalion, and beloved third son of Mr and Mrs D. Gunn, of Myola, Walker-avenue, Haberfield, aged 23 years.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 6 November, 1918)

NEARER THE END

DOUBLE CASUALTY LIST

MANY AUSSIES ILL

NO. 448

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

A.-Corpl. O. G. GUNN, Haberfield (illness)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 30 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GUNN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Cpl. Oswald George Gunn (Anzac), buried at sea, October 15, 1918, aged 23. Inserted by his parents and brothers.

GUNN – A loving tribute to Cpl. Oswald G. Gunn (an Anzac, 3rd Batt.), who gave his life for his country on H.M.A.T. Bakara, October 15, 1918. K. and B. Berry.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 October, 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.

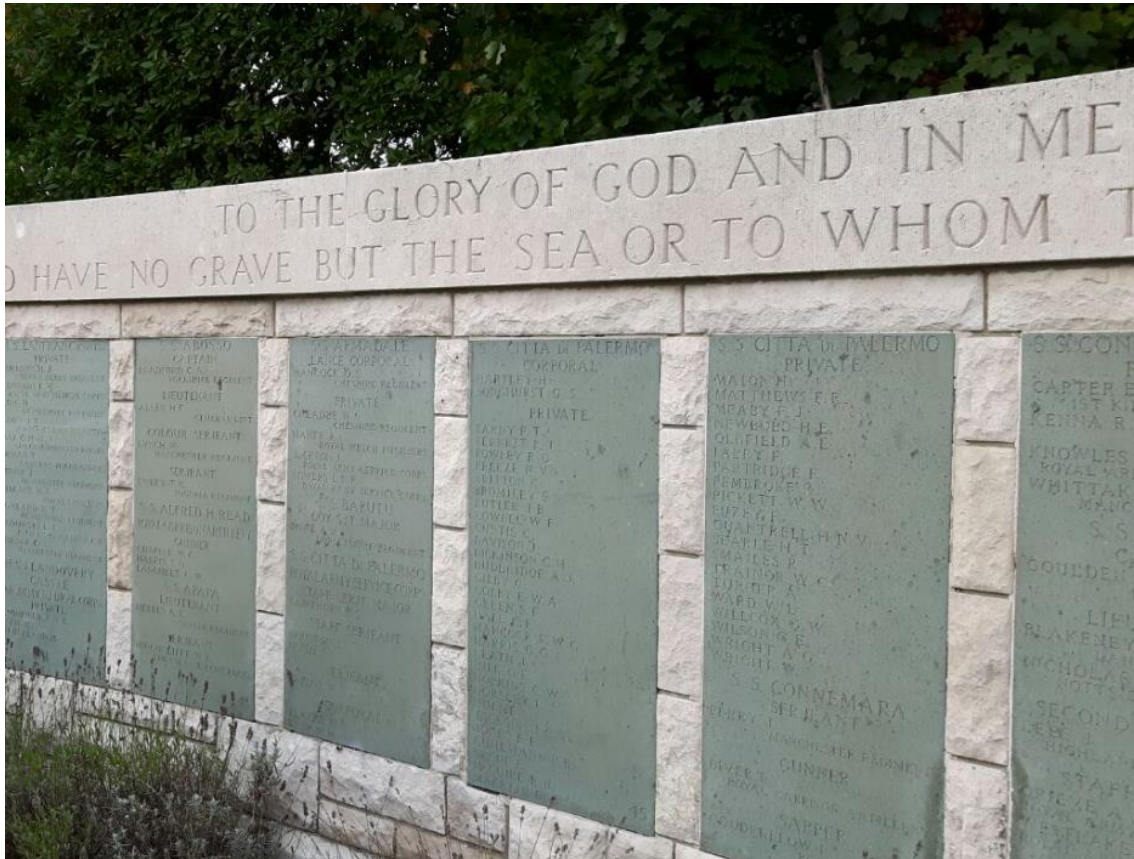
The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



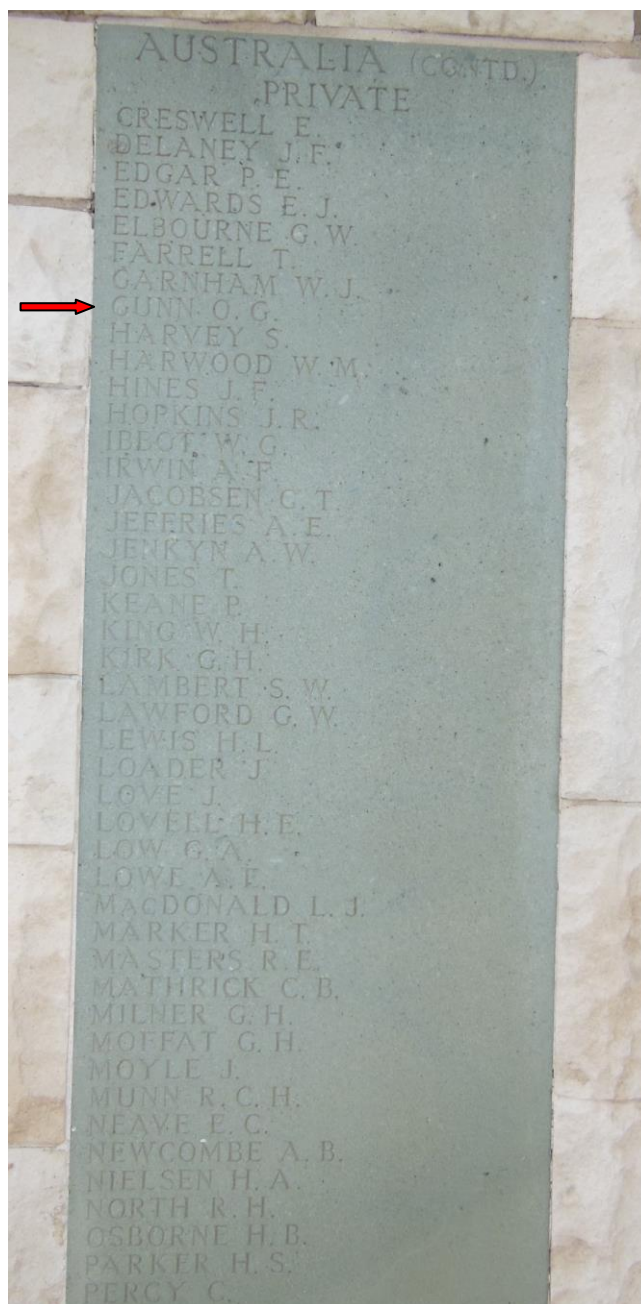
Cross of Sacrifice



Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice



Photo of Acting (Voyage Only) Corporal (recorded by CWGC as Private) O. G. Gunn'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)