

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3200 PRIVATE

R. E. MASTERS

45TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH DECEMBER, 1916

Roderick Elias MASTERS

Roderick Elias Masters was born in 1891 at Junee Reefs, New South Wales to parents Spencer James Masters & Ada Betsey Masters (nee Chapple). His birth was registered in the district of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.

Roderick Elias Masters was a 25 year old, single, Labourer from Bethungra, NSW when he enlisted on 11th November, 1916 at Cootamundra, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3200 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Spencer Masters, Sunny Range, Bowning, NSW.

Private Roderick Elias Masters was posted to "A" Company, 2nd Battalion on 11th November, 1916 for recruit training. [The Statement of Service form recorded that Private Masters was transferred to Liverpool on 16th November, 1916. A.I.F. Camp Cootamundra is listed next under "Unit in which served" (no date) then 8th Reinforcements of 45th Battalion (no date).]

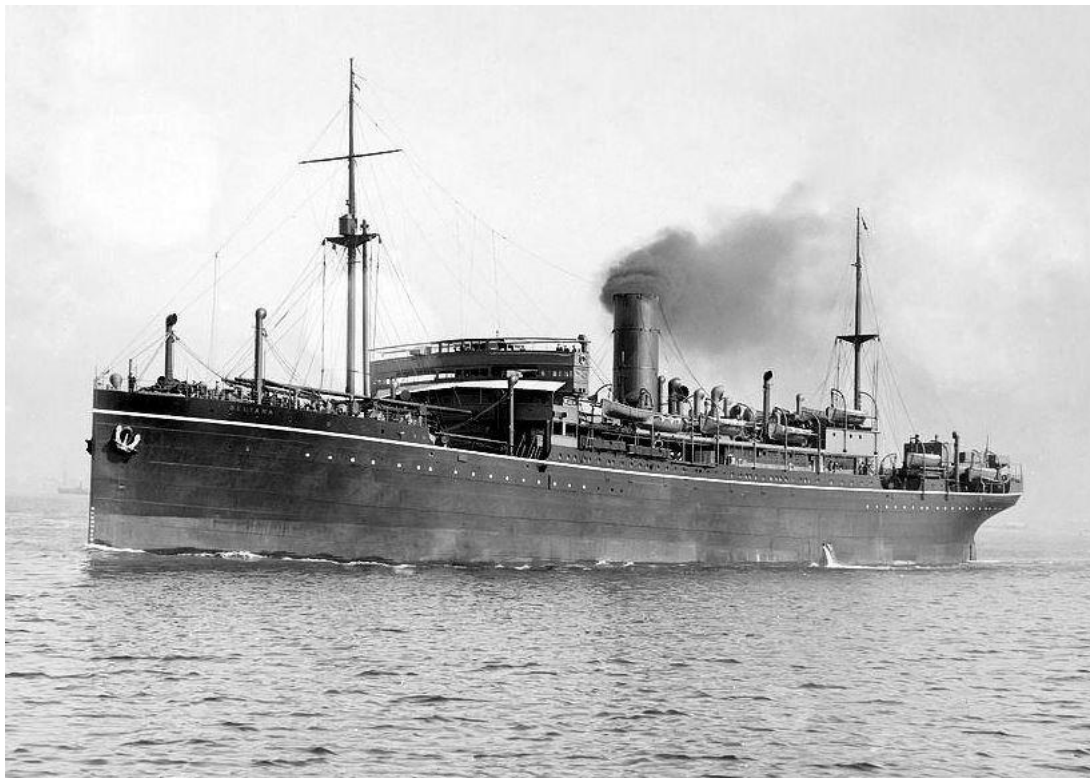
Private Roderick Elias Masters embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 25th November, 1916 with the 45th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 10th December, 1916 with Measles & Bronchial Pneumonia.

45th Battalion

The 45th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 2 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 13th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 13th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men from New South Wales....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Roderick Elias Masters died on 18th December, 1916 at Sea on board H.M.A.T. *Beltana* from Measles & Broncho Pneumonia. (Some forms in the Service Record file for Private Masters only recorded he died from Broncho Pneumonia)



H.M.A.T. *Beltana*

Private Roderick Elias Masters was buried at Sea on 18th December, 1916 from H.M.A.T. *Beltana*. 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.

Newspaper item – *The Yass Courier*, NSW – 25 January, 1917:

Died at Sea

Private Roderick Elias Masters

Lieutenant Lindsay, writing to Mr Spencer Masters, Sunny Range; Bowring, under date " At Sea, Dec. 12," says :—" It is my duty to inform you of the death of your son, Roderick Elias Masters, which occurred yesterday morning. Your son volunteered for duty in the hospital, and while there contracted measles and bronchial pneumonia. The chaplain and I were called to his bedside about half-an-hour prior to the end, and found two doctors and two nurses doing their best to save him, but it was not to be. His end was entirely painless and peaceful. He just dropped out quietly as if he were sleeping, He was buried at noon with full military honors. The whole company paraded in full uniform. The service was conducted by Captain Walker, the Church of England chaplain, and was attended by the Colonel commanding the troops on the ship, and by the Major in charge of the Army Medical Corps on board. Your son's personal effects were collected by the A.M.C. , and will be sent to you.

And now let me hope that when your mind dwells on your son, you will find consolation in the thought that he died for his King and Country in the cause of humanity ; and no man can do better.

In conclusion, I ask you to accept my sympathy and the sympathy of his mates, for he was liked and was respected by all who knew him."

Private Roderick Elias Masters 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 Masters' father – Mr S. Masters, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Roderick Elias Masters – service number 3200, of 45th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private R. E. Masters is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 140.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. E. Masters is remembered on the Yass and District Great War Roll of Honour, located in Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall, 82-94 Comur Street, Yass, New South Wales.



Yass and District Great War Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia)



(33 pages of Private Roderick Elias Masters' 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



Private Roderick Elias Masters

Newspaper Notices

Died at Sea

News has been received by his father – Mr Spencer James Masters, Bowning – that his son, Private Roderick Elias Masters, died at sea on 18th December. That he had not seen service in no way lessens the fact that Private Masters met with none the less a hero's death. He died as faithfully for his country on the troopship as if killed in the trenches.

(The Yass Courier, NSW – 8 January, 1917)

CASUALTIES

261st LIST

Died of Illness

Pte R. E. Masters, Bowning

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 12 January, 1917)

GUNNING AND THE WAR

News has been received through the Defence Department by Mr and Mrs S. J. Masters, of Bowning, that their son, Private R. E. Masters, died at sea on December 18, 1916, from pneumonia. Private Masters was 25 years of age, and was a grandson of Mr J. D. Chapple, of "Ashell," Gunning. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents.

(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW 18 January, 1917)

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



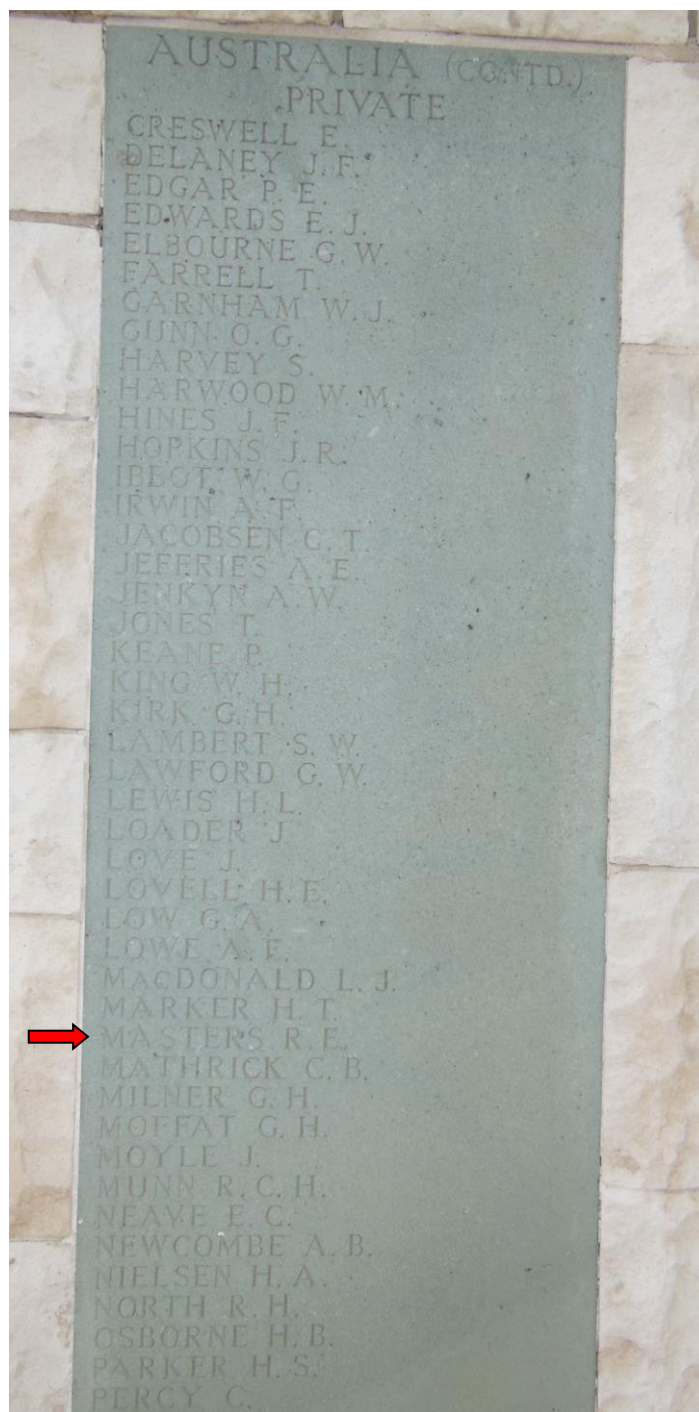
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice



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

(Photo from CWGC)

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



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

