

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**60964 PRIVATE**

**C. B. MATHRICK**

**9TH AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT**

**17TH OCTOBER, 1918**

## Cecil Benjamin MATHRICK

Cecil Benjamin Mathrick was born at Preston, Victoria on 28th February, 1898 to parents Henry John & Frances Charlotte Frances Mathrick (nee Young).

Cecil Benjamin Mathrick was a 20 year old, single, Setter from Dandenong Road, Oakleigh, Victoria when he enlisted on 18th May, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 60964 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr H. J. Mathrick, Dandenong Road, Oakleigh, Victoria. Cecil Mathrick stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets for 4 years & also Citizen Forces - 47th Infantry at Oakleigh for 2 years.

Lieutenant Dalton, A.I.F. Receiving Depot, South Melbourne, wrote to Mr & Mrs H. J. Mathrick, Dandenong Road, Oakleigh, Victoria on 29th May, 1918 stating that their son Cecil Benjamin Mathrick had enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces for Active Service Abroad. The letter requested their son's date of birth & if they had any objection to his enlistment. Both Henry J. Mathrick & Frances Charlotte Mathrick signed their consent & had no objection to their son's enlistment.

Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick was posted to Recruit Depot on 5th June, 1918 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Battalion at Broadmeadows on 26th June, 1918 then transferred the same day to 9th General Service Reinforcements (Victoria).

Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick (name as listed on Embarkation Roll) embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Barambah* (A37) on 31st August, 1918 with the 9th Victorian Reinforcements.

Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick was written up 25th September, 1918 while at Sea for Breaking a disturbance on the troop deck after "Lights Out". He was awarded 48 hours detention.

Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 11th October, 1918 with Influenza & was discharged on 15th October, 1918. He was re-admitted to Ship's Hospital on 15th October, 1918.

Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick died at 4 pm on 17th October, 1918 at Sea on board HMAT *Barambah* (A37) from Influenza.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P80228

Troopship *Barambah* - June, 1916

Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick was buried at Sea from HMAT Barambah on 17th 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.

Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick requested in his Will dated 18th July, 1918 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Charlotte Frances Mathrick.

Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick 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 Mathrick's father – Mr H. J. Mathrick, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick – service number 60964, of 9th Australian Reinforcement. No family details are listed.

Private C. B. Mathrick 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*

C. Mathrick is remembered on the Dunstan Lodge MUIOOF Honour Roll (Oakleigh), located at Monash Council Chambers, 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, Victoria.

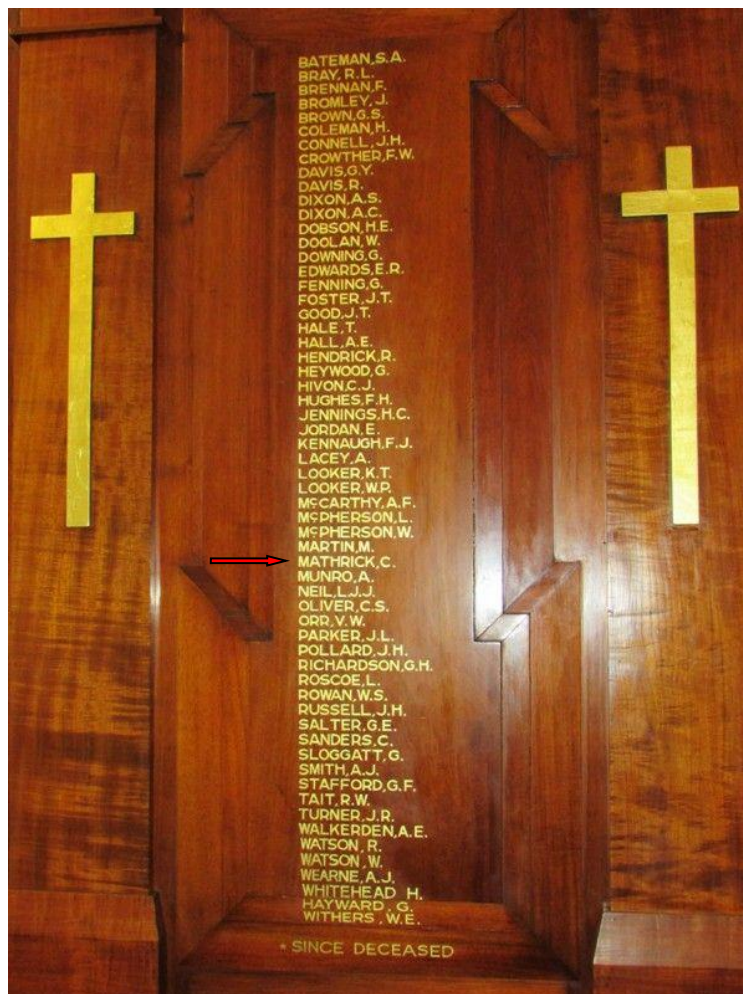


**Dunstan Lodge MUIOOF Honour Roll** (Photo from VHD Heritage)

C. Mathrick is remembered on the Oakleigh Roll of Honour, located in Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL Club, 95 – 97 Drummond Street, Oakleigh, Victoria.



Oakleigh Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)





C. Mathrick is remembered on the Avenue of Honour, Drummond Street, Oakleigh, Victoria.

*An avenue of trees commemorates those from the district who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. Flowering gums were planted and the avenue was officially opened on the 19th August 1923.*

*A row of replacement trees have since been planted in Drummond Street and lamp posts have been placed in the street signifying that it is a memorial avenue. The name-plates under the original trees were removed and plaques listing the names of those who died are located on the lamp posts.*

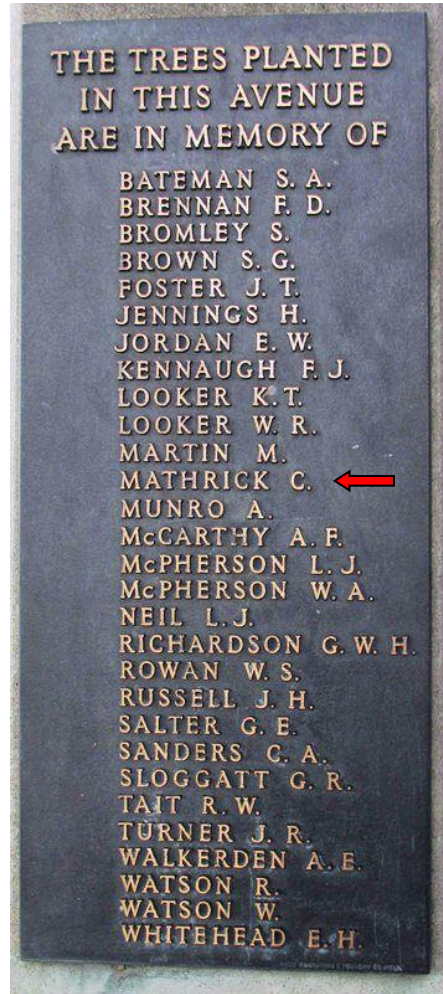
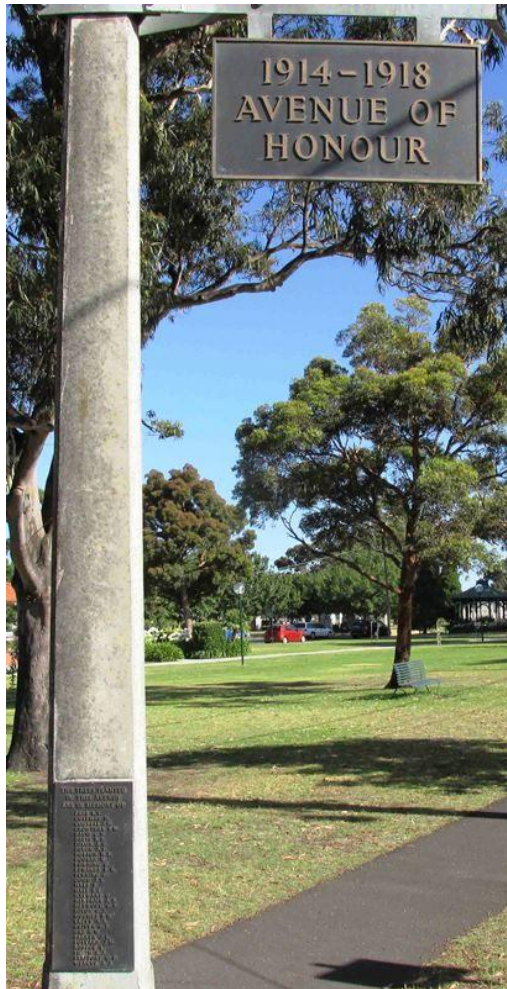
*The avenue was rededicated on Anzac Day 1988.*



**Oakleigh Avenue of Honour** (Photos & information from Monument Australia – Greg Gordon)







**Oakleigh Avenue of Honour**

The Oakleigh Cenotaph, located in Warrawee Park, Drummond Street, Oakleigh does not list individual names.



**Oakleigh Cenotaph** (Photo from Monument Australia)

(34 pages of Private Cecil Benjamin Mathrick'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*



**Mathrick Family**

**Cecil – aged 17 (arrow)**

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **Send-Off to Soldiers**

#### **A BRILLIANT AFFAIR**

There was fully 500 people present at the Mechanics' Hall on Thursday, July 25, to send off 12 soldiers who will be shortly leaving for active service abroad. The hall was beautifully decorated with flags (kindly lent by Mr J. C. Betts and pot plants by Mr Griff, wattle blossom. Tables were set out on the stage full of dainty eatables for the soldiers and their parents.

The following soldiers were honored - **C Mathrick**, A. H. Orr, J. Holford, F. Sharp, A. Goding, L. Andrew, G. Kitson, E. Thomas, A. Jennings, S. Nicholl, W. Laffan, G. Castle, W. Rattle, T. Jones, R. Dean, B. Auldish, P. Henry, W. Newat and J. Munyard.

Songs, interspersed with games, passed a pleasant evening. Songs were rendered by the following artists - Misses Stafford, Jarvey, Edna Robbins, Pearson, Sadie Anderson, Doris Easton; recitation, Miss Phillips, and Private Nicholl. The soldiers created much amusement by singing their camp songs.

Cr Corr, who apologised for the absence of the Mayor, who had gone to Western Australia, gave an eloquent speech, for which he was loudly applauded.



Special praise is due to the committee who worked hard to make the evening the success it was. The committee consisted of the following--Mesdames J. Hanney, M. Lothian, V. Watt, E. Goding and A. McAulay, and Misses O. Bennett, D. and N. Kynoch, D. Goding, V., R. and G. Fisher, and M. Clarkson, & Messrs J. Hanney, A. Fisher and J Dale.

Thanks are also due to Messrs H Fisher and A. McAuly for their valuable assistance in helping to decorate the hall. Miss Brooks supplied excellent music.

*(Oakleigh and Caulfield Times Mulgrave and Ferntree Gully Guardian, Victoria – 3 August, 1918)*

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### **Off to the War**

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Cecil Mathrick, well known as "Mat," and very popular with his mates, also the fair sex, is the second son of Mr and Mrs H. Mathrick, Dandenong road, to enlist to fight for freedom and right....

*(Oakleigh and Caulfield Times Mulgrave and Ferntree Gully Guardian, Victoria – 7 September, 1918)*

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### **The War**

Quite a gloom passed over Oakleigh on Friday, 25th, when the news came through that Private Cyril Mathrick, second son of Mr and Mrs H Mathrick, Dandenong road, Oakleigh, had died at sea from Spanish influenza, on the way to fight for King and country. Cecil was well-known in Oakleigh and respected by all, he was of a cheery disposition and the sad news of his death came as a great shock to his mates. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved ones in the loss they have sustained.

*(Oakleigh and Caulfield Times Mulgrave and Ferntree Gully Guardian, Victoria – 2 November, 1918)*

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### **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)

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## **TO THE EDITOR OF THE AGE**

Sir, — As the father of one of the boys who lost their lives aboard the transport Barambah, I would like, through the medium of your journal, to voice my indignation at the treatment meted out to these lads who set out to try to do their bit for King and country. If the facts are as stated in “The Age” of Saturday last there will be little doubt in the minds of the majority of people that whoever were in charge of the transport arrangements in this particular case were guilty of criminal negligence, and if brought to trial I venture to say there are very few juries who would hesitate to bring in a verdict of murder. According to official statements, there were just on 1000 troops, exclusive of the crew, aboard a vessel under 6000 tons, and one can imagine the rotten conditions that must have resulted through this overcrowding. The people in authority must have known when the vessel left Australia that she was going right through the centre of a plague-infested spot. According to reports, the natives of South Africa were dying like flies, and yet, after the vessel had called at the Cape, we find there were not enough drugs on the vessel to cope with the epidemic of influenza that had broken out. The mere fact that after a fresh supply of drugs had been obtained at Sierra Leone the majority of the patients were convalescent goes to prove that those lads' valuable lives could have been saved if the means had been to hand in time. In the circumstances, I think it is the duty of all who had relatives on board the Barambah to demand a searching inquiry as to who were to blame for this crime, and when found to see that they are punished like any other dangerous criminals. — Yours, &c.,

H. MATHRICK.

Oakleigh, 24th November

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 November, 1918)

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## **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)

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## Holy Trinity Church, Oakleigh

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### CALLED HOME

Of the 53 names on our Roll of Honour, no fewer than 11 have laid down their lives.

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Private Cecil B. Mathrick, died of influenza at sea, October 17, 1918.

Our hearts are very sore for the loss of these. They gave their lives bravely, and died heroically. We sympathise deeply with their bereaved relatives. All these eleven fallen ones were God fearing men. Ten of them were Communicants.

*(Oakleigh and Caulfield Times Mulgrave and Ferntree Gully Guardian, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

MATHRICK – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private C. B. Mathrick, who died at sea on the transport Barambah 17th October, 1918.

One of the best.

This day brings back our memory  
Of one who is called to rest,  
And those who think of him to-day  
And those who loved him best.  
He heard the bugle sounding,  
He answered the call;  
He died an Australian hero.  
The noblest death of all.

-Inserted by his loving mother, father, brothers and sisters, Oakleigh.

MATHRICK – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Cecil Mathrick, who died at sea 17th October, 1918.

He heard the bugle sounding,  
And he answered the call;  
He died an Australian hero.  
The noblest death of all.  
In our hearts your memory lingers,  
Tender, fond and true;  
Not a day goes by, dear Cecil,  
But what we think of you.

\_Inserted by his loving sister Ruby, and brother and sister-in-law, Boy and May

MATHRICK – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private C. B. Mathrick, who died at sea on transport Barambah 17th October, 1918.

Loved by all.

Far away from all who loved him,  
Comrades gently laid him to rest;  
In a hero's grave he is sleeping,  
One of God's brightest and best.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, V. and F. Watt.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 October, 1919)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

MATHRICK – A tribute to the memory of our comrade, Private Cecil Mathrick, who died at sea on the 17th October, 1918.

He needed no recruiting speeches,  
He answered his country's call;  
He died an Australian hero's death,  
The grandest death of all.

-Inserted by the Marrymakers

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 October, 1919)

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\*\*Notices were also placed in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927

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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.

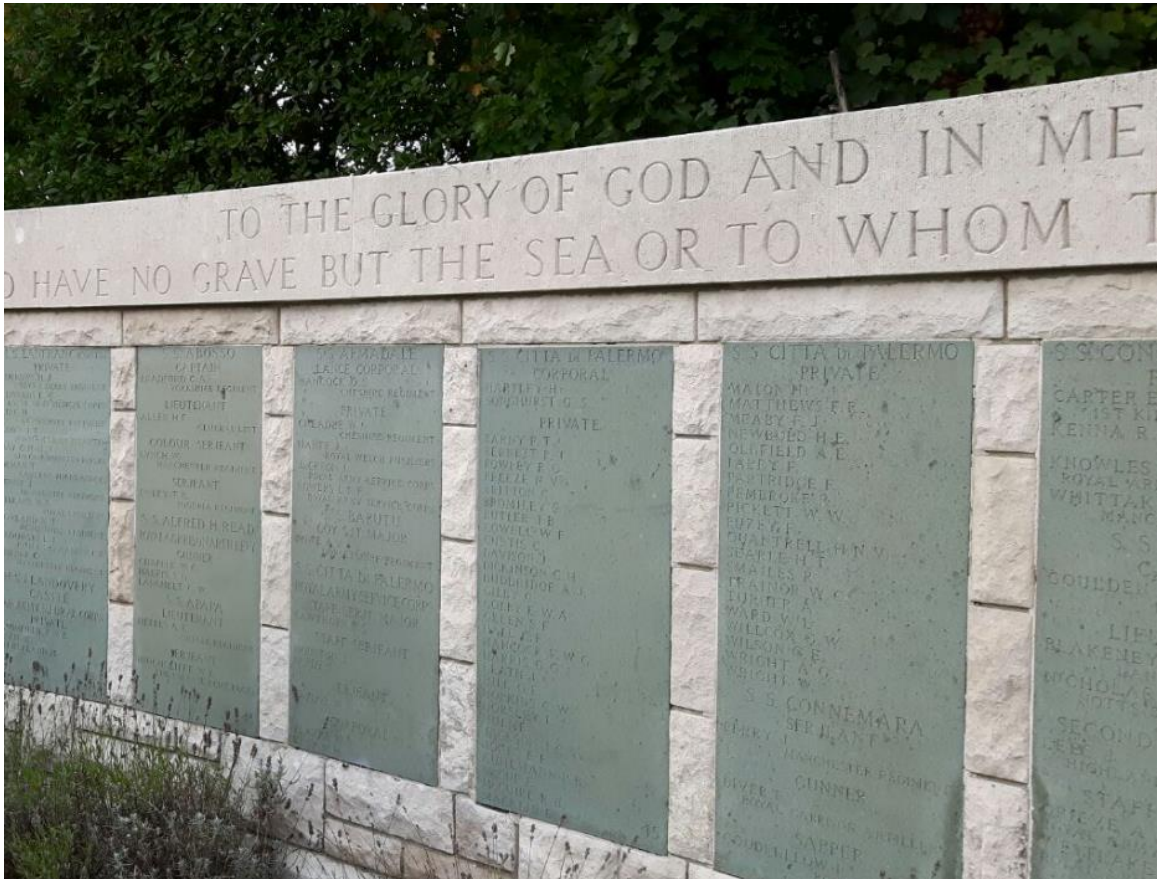
There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Cross of Sacrifice**



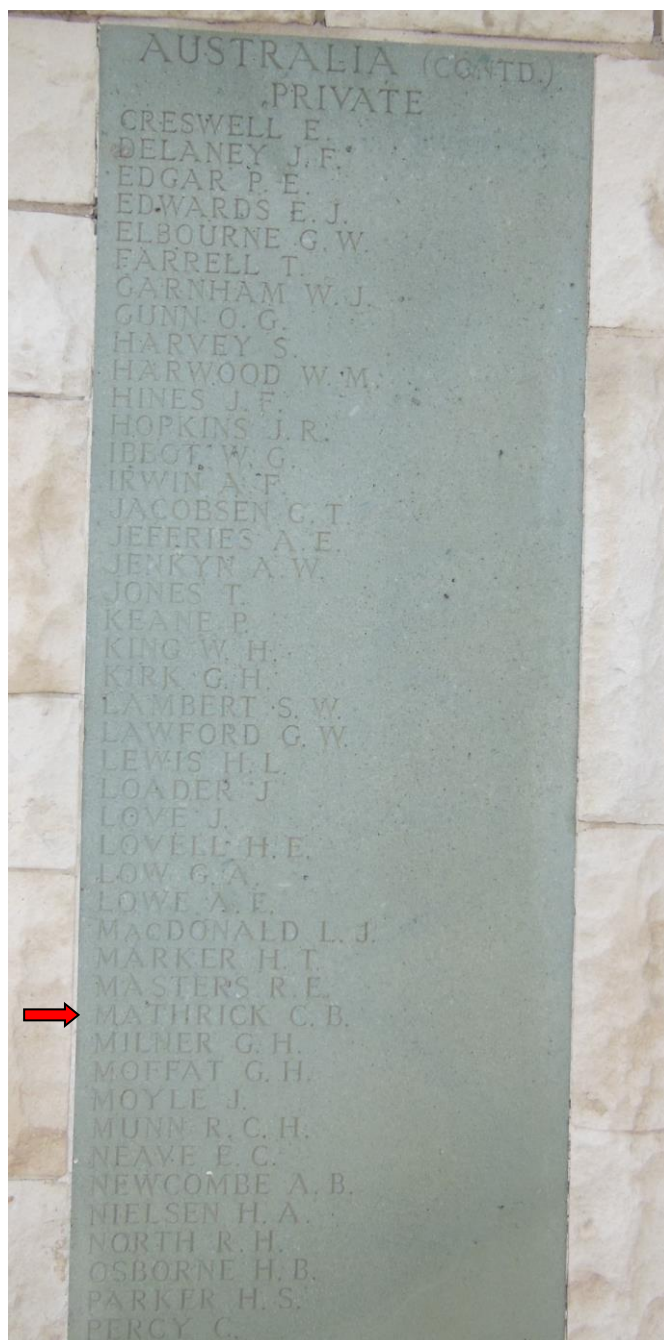


Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice

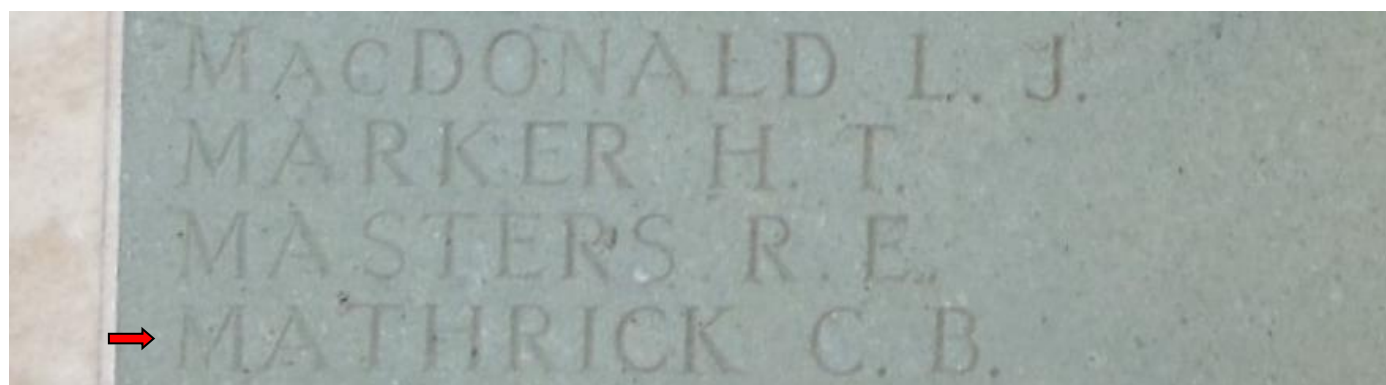




Photo of Private C. B. Mathrick's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





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

*(Photo from CWGC)*