

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2296 2ND CORPORAL

J. McCLOSKEY

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY CORPS

1ST DECEMBER, 1917

James McCLOSKEY

James Greig McCloskey was born at Riddells Creek, Victoria on 6th March, 1884.

(There are no births listed on Victorian Births, Deaths & Marriages website that match the name or years around his birth so parents are unknown)

James McCloskey married Margaret Boorty in 1911 in Melbourne, Victoria. They had the following children – Alice McCloskey (born 1913); James McCloskey (born 1914; died 1914); Francis Joseph McCloskey & Daniel McCloskey (born 1915). (Name listed as Boorty on Victorian Births, Deaths & Marriages website, however a family tree on Ancestry has the name as Boortz as does the death notice in newspaper for Margaret)

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Laanecoorie, subdivision of Maryborough, Victoria recorded James McCloskey, Railway employee & Margaret McCloskey, Home Duties, living at Lowenstein St., Maryborough.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Melbourne Ports, subdivision of Port Melbourne, Victoria recorded James McCloskey, Railway employee & Margaret McCloskey, Home Duties, living at _7 Esplanade W., Pt Melbourne.

Margaret McCloskey died on 26th April, 1915 at South Melbourne, Victoria.

James McCloskey married Sarah Celia Miller in 1915 in Victoria.

James McCloskey was aged 32 years & 9 months, married & a Railway Fireman when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 16th December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Sarah Cecilia McCloskey, 25 Adderley St, West Melbourne, Victoria.

The Statement of Service file for James McCloskey is marked in red *“Did no Duty. Cancelled at wife’s request.”*

A letter dated 22nd December, 1915 from Captain for A.A.G. 3rd Military District Headquarters C.S. to A.A.G. (A.I.F.) Officer in charge Recruiting Depot, Sturt Street reads: *“It has been represented that James McCloskey enlisted for active service whilst under the influence of drink, and now desires to withdraw. Please cancel his attestation papers.”*

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Maribyrnong, subdivision of Newmarket, Victoria recorded James McCloskey, Railway employee & Sarah Celia McCloskey, Home Duties, living at 48 Tennyson St. Kensington.

James McCloskey stated he was aged 32 years & 9 months, married & a Railway Fireman when he re-enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 15th December, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Cecilia McCloskey, 48 Tennyson St, Kensington, Victoria.

James McCloskey was posted to Railway Unit – No. 2 Section at Royal Park on 18th December, 1916 as 2nd Corporal. He was transferred to “M” Company, 2nd Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 19th February, 1917.

James McCloskey, Service number 608, was discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 26th February, 1917 at his own request. He had served for 74 days & his conduct was good. Discharged Certificate No. 559. James McCloskey had signed a Statutory Declaration on 16th February, 1917 stating he was a married man with three children under the age of sixteen years; the eldest being 4 years of age on 14th June last.

Mildred McCloskey, daughter of James & Sarah McCloskey was born in 1917, in Victoria.

James McCloskey was a 33 year old, married, Railway Fireman from Dimboola, Victoria when he re-enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 20th October, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Sarah McCloskey, Hindmarsh, Dimboola, Victoria. He stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 74 days with A.I.F. & was discharged at his own request.

Private James McCloskey was posted to Recruit Depot at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 22nd October, 1917. He was transferred to Railway Unit from 1st November, 1917 & appointed as 2nd Corporal.

2nd Corporal James McCloskey, Service number 2296, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Port Sydney* (A15) on 9th November, 1917 with the Railway Unit, October 1917 Reinforcements.

2nd Corporal James McCloskey was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 9th November, 1917 with Vaccina & was discharged on 11th November, 1917. He was re-admitted to Ship's Hospital on 20th November, 1917 suffering from Influenza & Measles. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "*Isolated with measles on 22/11/17 – developed broncho-pneumonia a few days later & died on 1/12/17.*"

2nd Corporal James McCloskey died at 11.45 am on 1st December, 1917 at Sea on board HMAT *Port Sydney* (A15) from Measles & Broncho Pneumonia.

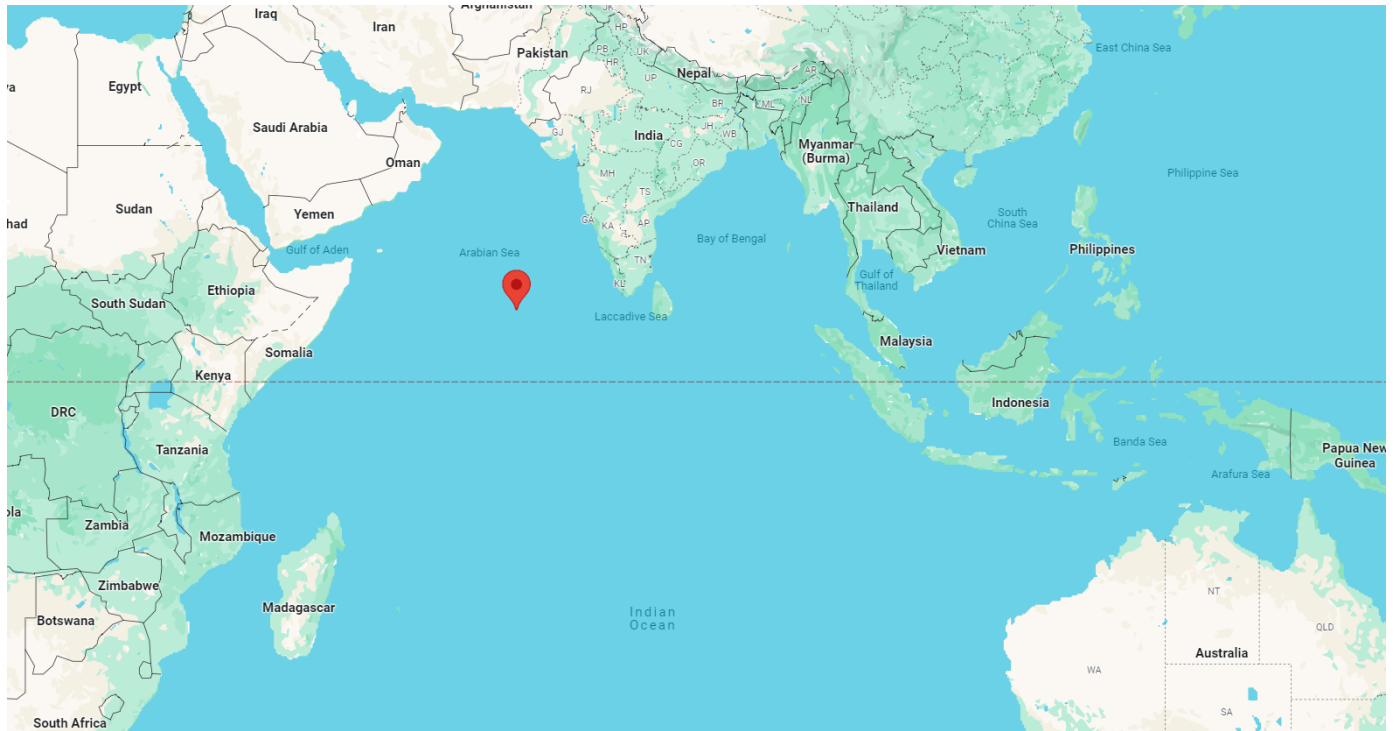


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H17014

HMAT *Port Sydney* (A15)

2nd Corporal James McCloskey was buried at Sea at 3.30 pm on 1st December, 1917 from HMAT *Port Sydney* (A15). 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.



Place of Burial as per details in Red Cross Wounded & Missing File

A report was made on 15th December, 1917 by Lieutenant Colonel F. J. Anderson, A.I.F. C. O. Troops, Australia Camp, Suez, to The Secretary for Defence Melbourne, regarding H.M.A.T. A.15 "Port Sydney". (Note: This is the only sheet located in 2nd Corporal James McCloskey's file):

"4. Health en route (Including reports of Senior Medical Officer)

I regret to report the death of one man, No. 2296 2nd Corporal McCloskey, James, Railway Section, from measles and broncho-pneumonia. This man was not in a good state of health when he embarked at Melbourne and when a few days out developed measles and subsequently broncho-pneumonia, which together caused his death. I am reporting full particulars as required by A.I.F. orders to the Officer-in-Charge, Base Records, Melbourne and also to the Intermediate Base, Cairo."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for 2nd Corporal James McCloskey contains a letter from Commander, T.S.S. Port Sydney (A15) from Bombay which reads: *"Re L/Cpl J. McCloskey. In the absence of any Military Authority I am sending you the particulars recorded in Ships papers. Lance Corporal J. McCloskey died on the 1st December 1917 from Broncho pneumonia, after measles. He was buried the same day in Latitude 7° 6' N, Longitude 66° 57' E. The burial service was conducted by the R.C. Priest Father Hennessey and he was accorded a Military funeral. I cannot give you any further particulars as all the Military Officers left us in December."*

(Transcript above was from the handwritten letter; the typed version has the incorrect Latitude listed as 70° 6' N – should be 7° 6' N as per handwritten letter)

2nd Corporal James McCloskey's Will, dated 8th November, 1917 at Broadmeadows Military Camp: *"This is the last will and testament of me 2nd Corporal James McCloskey of Hindmarsh St Dimboola, Victoria, late employee of Victorian Railways. I hereby wish my Insurance of £150 in the A.M.P. Society Collins St Melbourne Policy held by Victorian Railway to be paid in equal shews to my wife Sarah C McCloskey of Hindmarch St Dimboola, Alice McCloskey, Daniel George McCloskey, Francis Joseph McCloskey, Mildred McCloskey, money to be shared equally also £10 held by John McCloskey to Alice McCloskey a legacy to her by Francis McCloskey Deceased of Riddells Creek."*

2nd Corporal James McCloskey 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 2nd Corporal McCloskey's widow – Mrs S. C. McCloskey, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll signed for on 18th July, 1921. Plaque sent October, 1922).

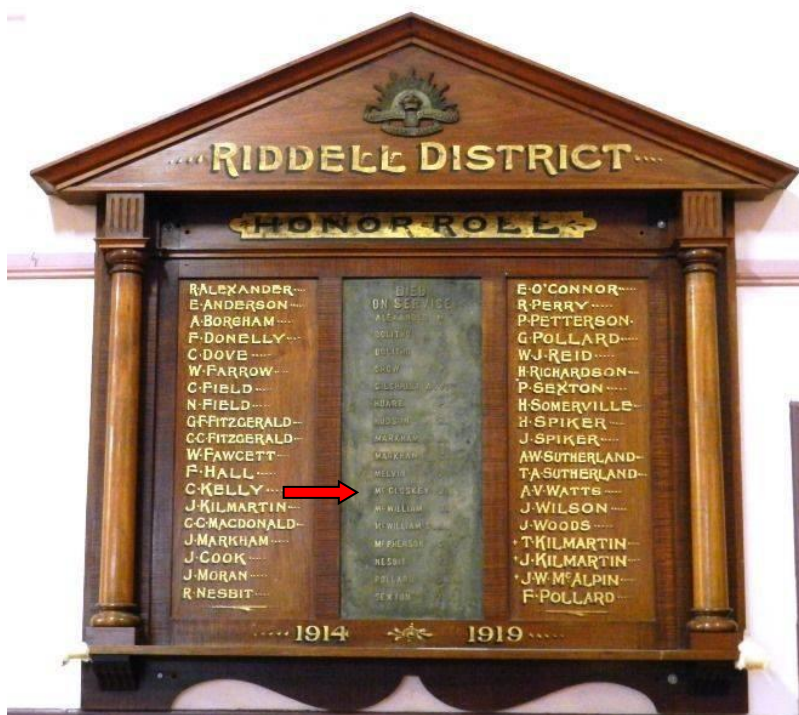
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists 2nd Corporal James McCloskey – service number 2296, of Australian Railways Corps. No family details are listed.

Second Corporal J. McCloskey is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 26.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. McCloskey is remembered on Riddell District Honor Roll, located in Riddells Creek Hall, 63 Main Road, Riddells Creek, Victoria.



Riddell District Honor Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

J. McCloskey is remembered on Riddells Creek State School Roll of Honour, located in Riddell's Creek Primary School, 69 – 77 Main Road, Riddells Creek, Victoria.



Riddells Creek State School Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

J. McCloskey is remembered on Riddell District Honour Roll for 1914 – 1919, located in Garden near Memorial Gates at 67 Main Road, Riddells Creek, Victoria.



Riddell District Honour Roll for 1914 – 1919 (Photos from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)



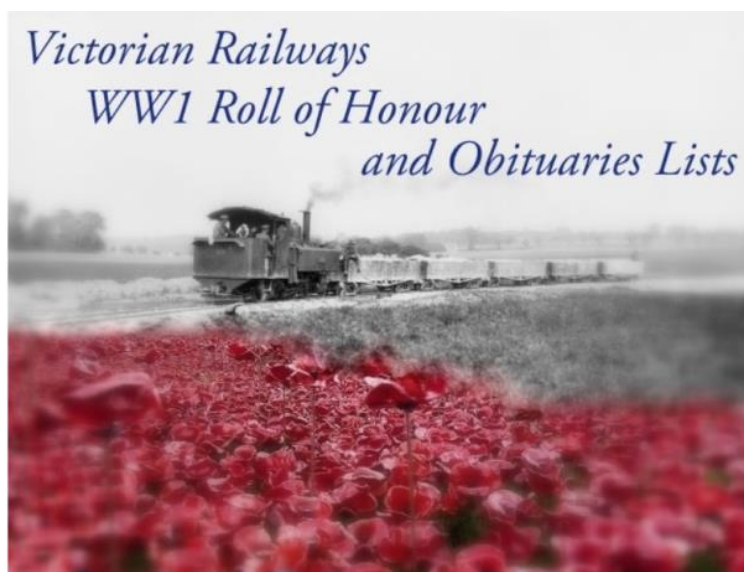
Riddell District Honour Roll for 1914 – 1919

J. McCloskey is remembered on Romsey Mechanic Hall Honour Roll (First World War) (Part B), located in the Romsey Mechanics Hall, 122 Main Road, Romsey, Victoria.



Romsey Mechanics Hall Honour Roll (Photo from VHD Victoria)

James McCloskey is remembered on the Victorian WW1 Roll of Honour and Obituaries Lists



James McCLOSKEY

V.R Employee no: 12843 Rolling Stock Branch - Fireman
Date of Entry into Railways: 2.2.1910

Served in the October 1917 Reinforcements - Railway Companies
Regimental number: 2296
Enlistment date: 20 October 1917
Rank on enlistment: 20 October 1917 [Railway Enlistment list - 1917](#)
Fate: Died of disease 1 December 1917
Place of death: At Sea
Age at death: 33
Place of burial: At Sea
Commemoration details: Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, England
[Name 1st appears on the Railway Obituary Lists - 1918 McCloskey J.](#)

(76 pages of 2nd Corporal James McCloskey'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

McCLOSKEY – On the 26th April, at 246 Montague street, South Melbourne, Margaret (Maggie), the dearly beloved wife of James McCloskey, of Victorian Railways, and loving mother of Alice, Daniel, and Francis, sister or James Boortz, of Hawthorn, and Robert Boortz, of Brunswick.

Rest in peace.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 April, 1915) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 May, 1915)

THE 378th and 379th CASUALTY LISTS

DIED OF ILLNESS

Corporal J. McCloskey, Dimboola

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 16 January, 1918)

Death

McCLOSKEY – On 1st December, 1917, at sea, Corporal James Greig McCloskey, late of Riddell, beloved husband of Celia Sara. Aged 3 years. R.I.P.

(*Gisborne Gazette*, Victoria – 15 March, 1918)

DEATHS

McCLOSKEY – On the 18th February, suddenly, at his mother's residence, 53 Malin-street, East Kew, Francis Joseph, the dearly loved second oldest twin son of Sarah and the late James McCloskey (died on active service) aged 3 years 10 months.

Rest in peace.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 February, 1919) & (*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 February, 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)



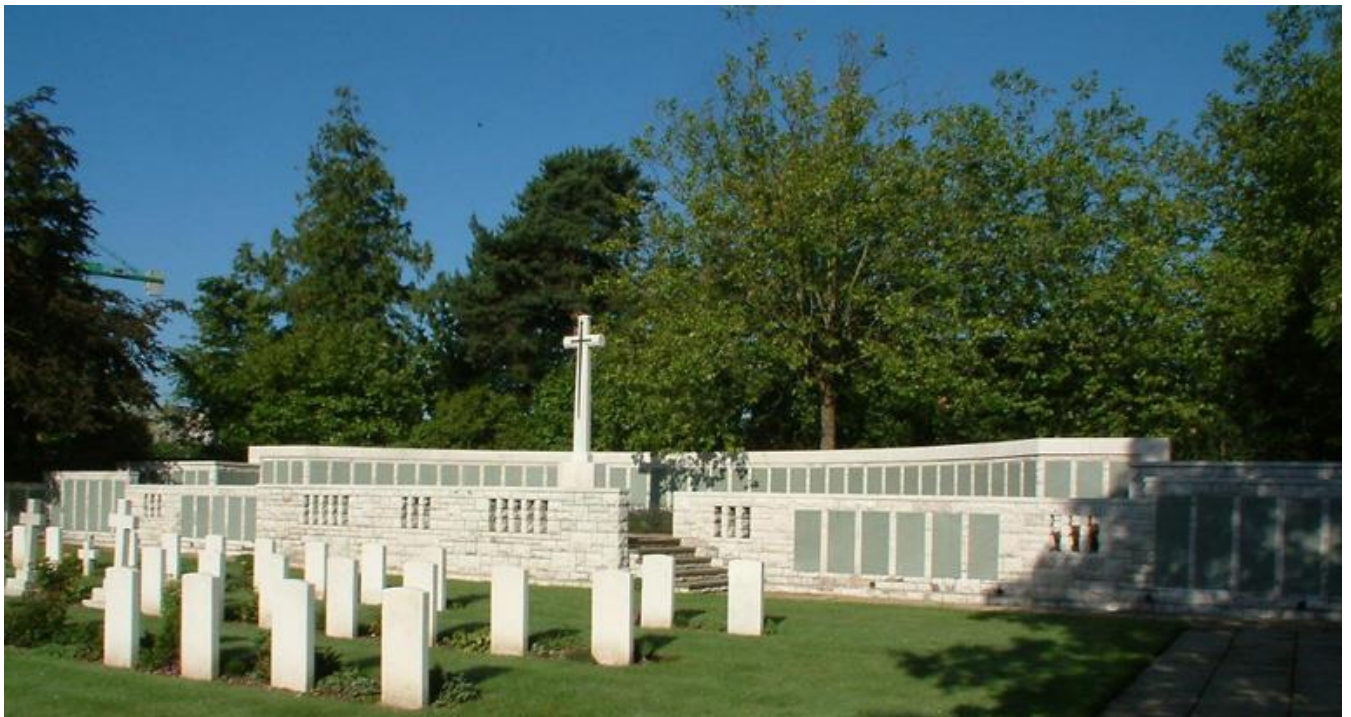
Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton



Cross of Sacrifice



Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)



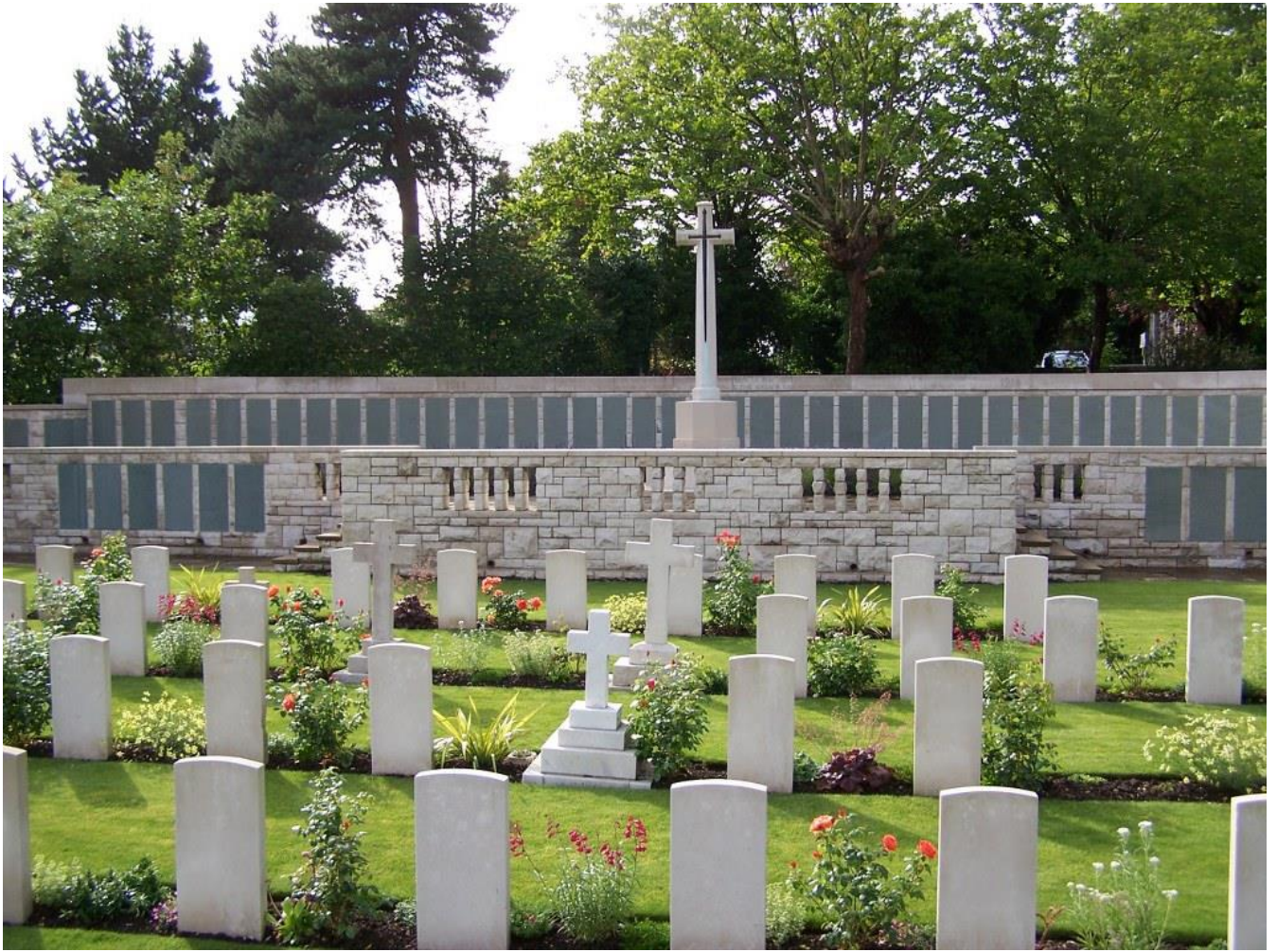
Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton

Photo of 2nd Corporal J. McCloskey'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)