

**St. Finian's Cemetery,
Castletown Berehaven
County Cork, Ireland War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SENIOR WIRELESS OPERATOR MM

A. B. C. McGREGOR

SS. SEANG CHOON

10TH JULY, 1917 Age 22

A Loved Australian Son

Angus Bartlett Clarence McGREGOR

Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor was born in 1894 at Goulburn, New South Wales to parents Aeneas & Adelaide Louise McGregor (nee Bartlett).

From the Commonwealth Gazette – 27 July, 1912:

VICTORIA

Promotions and Transfer

ANGUS BARTLETT CLARENCE McGREGOR, Telegraph Messenger, Grade I., Armadale, salary £52, to be Assistant, Grade II., Mail Branch, with salary of £72, from 15th June, 1912.

Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor joined the Mercantile Marine. He was attached to the *Seang Choon*.

Seang Choon

The *Seang Choon* was built for the Bibby Line in 1891 by Harland & Wolff Ltd., Belfast and originally named the *Cheshire*. She was used during the Boer War as a troopship.

In 1910 she was sold to Lim Chin Tsong of Rangoon and renamed the *Seang Choon*. Taken over in 1915 by the Liner Requisition Scheme as a troopship, she made one trip with troops to Egypt before becoming a hospital ship involved with the Dardanelles campaign. The *Seang Choon* (A49) made two additional voyages from Australia as a troop ship in 1916.

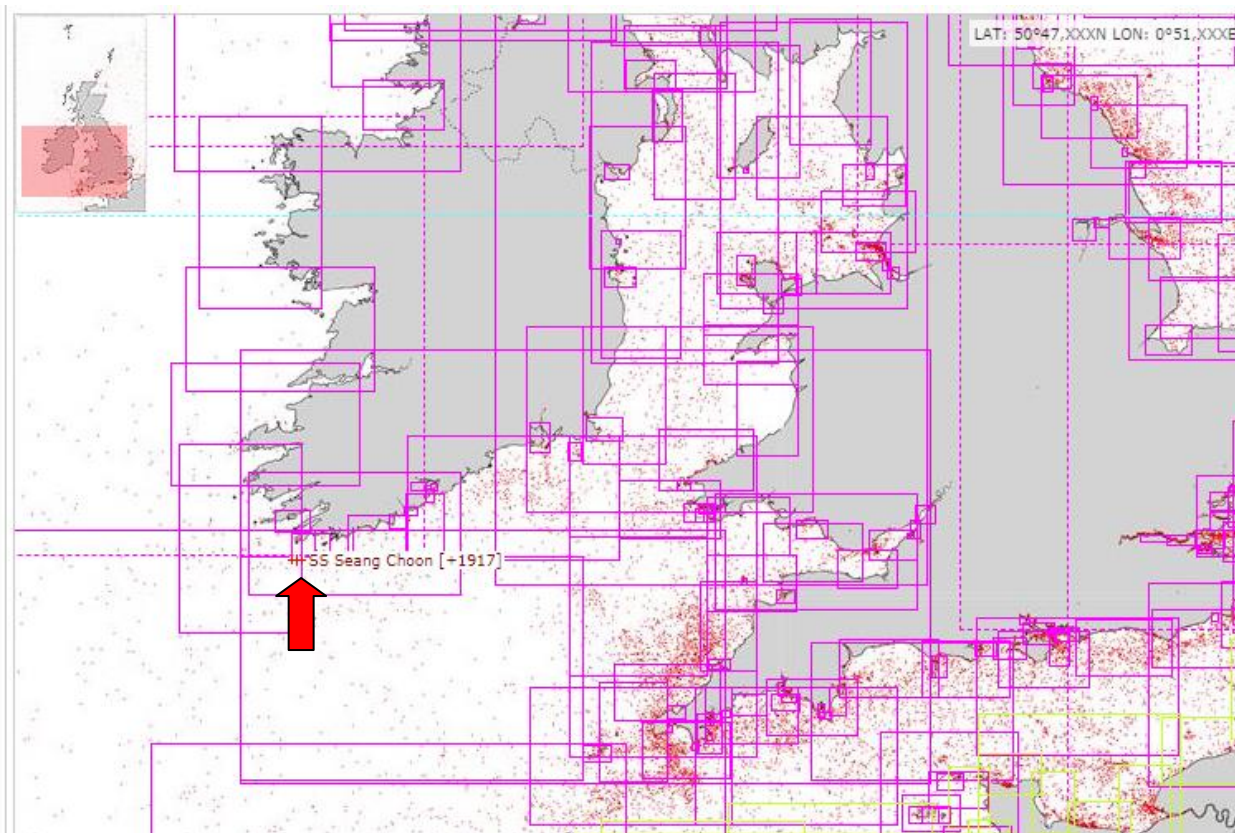


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H02243

Troopship *Seang Choon* shortly after leaving Pinkenba Wharf, Brisbane Queensland. C. 1915

On 10th July, 1917 on a voyage from Sydney to London & carrying general cargo (copper and lead), the *Seang Choon* was torpedoed without warning by German U-boat U.87 (Randolf Schneider as Captain) off Fastnet, Ireland. She sank in the Atlantic Ocean, 10 nautical miles (19km) south west of the Fastnet Rock. Nineteen lives were lost & the Captain was one of the survivors.



Location of wreck of Seang Choon (From Wrecksite)

Senior Wireless Operator Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor died on 10th July, 1917 as a result of the *Seang Choon* being torpedoed.

Senior Wireless Operator Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor was buried in St. Finian's Cemetery, Castletown Berehaven, County Cork, Ireland – north-east part and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Details of Will:

I Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor of 23 Molesworth Street Armadale and now leaving Australiasia on H.M. A. Transports as Wireless Operator do hereby bequeath in case of my decease all per personal belongings, moneys and insurance to my mother Adelaide Louisa McGregor of 23 Molesworth Street Armadale Victoria. Dated 1st February, 1915.

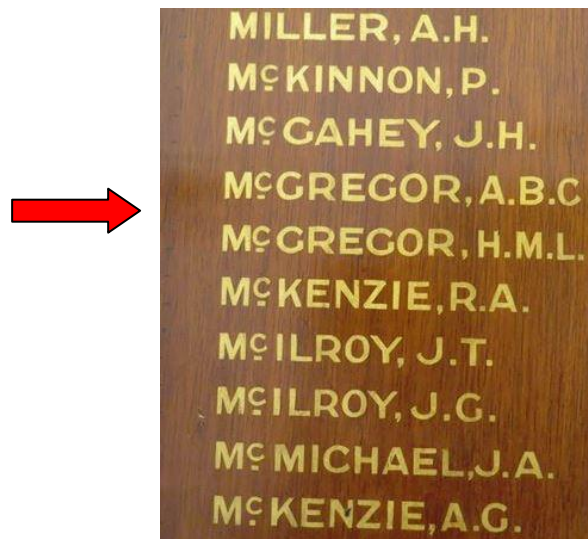
The Medal Card for Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor records his place of birth as "Goulburn, N.S.W. Year of birth 1895." The Mercantile Marine Medal was issued in Australia to 23 Molesworth Street Armadale, Melbourne. The British Medal issued M/8786/21.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Senior Wireless Operator Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor, aged 23, of S.S. "Seang Choon" (Rangoon), Mercantile Marine. He was the son of Mrs A. McGregor, of 23 Molesworth St., Armadale, Australia.

A.B.C. McGregor and his brother, H. M. L. McGregor, are both named on the Prahran RSL Honour Roll, located at Prahran RSL, 301 High Street, Prahran, Victoria.



Prahran RSL Honour Roll (Photos courtesy of Prahran RSL Club)



Senior Wireless Operator Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H06390

Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

McGREGOR – On the 2nd May, 1917, at Saltan, Germany, Private Herbert M. L., 19 years, 14th Battalion, died of wounds whilst a prisoner of war (previously reported missing, April 11, 1917); also, on the 10th July, 1917, Angus B. C., 22 years, wireless operator, lost at sea, his ship sunk by submarine, interred at Berehaven, South Coast, Ireland. Dearly beloved sons of Mr and Mrs Aeneas McGregor, 23 Molesworth street, Armadale, and loved grandsons of Mr Alfred Bartlett, sen., Echuca.

They silently slipped
O'er the threshold by night,
To make their abode
In the City of Light.

Two of Australia's bravest and best, who
nobly trod the path of duty.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 August, 1917)

DIED WHEN TRANSPORT SANK



A. B. C. McGREGOR

After having served nearly two years and a half as a wireless operator on a transport, Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor lost his life when the vessel was sunk by an enemy submarine. He was 23 years old, and when he enlisted in January, 1915, was a postal mechanic at Malvern. Before the war his wireless plant at Armadale attracted much attention, and his parents home was a meeting place for young men interested in wireless telegraphy. He was a son of Mr and Mrs Aeneas McGregor, of 23 Molesworth street, Armadale. His brother, Private H. M. G. McGregor, died of wounds at the front.

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 August, 1917) & (*The Prahran Telegraph*, Victoria – 1 September, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

McGREGOR – In loving memory of dear chum and pal, Angus B. Clarence (“Clarrie”), wireless operator on a transport, who was drowned when the ship was sunk by enemy submarine, July 10, 1917, buried St. Finian’s Cemetery, Ireland.

One of the best.

He has borne his crown,
He has gained his crown,
Though he lies in a far-off grave,
We think of his life, a duty done,
Manly, unselfish, and brave.
Never the lotus closes,
Never the wildfowl wake,
But a soul goes out on the east wind
That died for Britain’s sake.

-(Inserted by Charles R. Whitelaw, railway station, Goornong.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 July, 1918)

Connected to Angus Bartlett Clarence McGregor:

Younger brother - Private Herbert Mills Locke McGregor, 6310, 14th Battalion. Enlisted on 6th July, 1915, aged 18 years. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 7th September, 1916. Reported Missing 11th April, 1917. Died of wounds while a Prisoner of War in Germany on 2nd May, 1917. Buried Hamburg Cemetery, Hamburg, Germany.

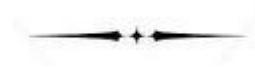
Newspaper item – *The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 August, 1917:

DIED WHILE PRISONER



PT. H. M. L. MCGREGOR

Having recovered from illness in hospital in England, Private Herbert M. L. McGregor was sent to France and was reported missing on April 11. Later official news stated that his death from wounds while a prisoner of war, occurred on May 2. Private McGregor was 19 years of age, and was the second son of Mr and Mrs A. McGregor, of 23 Molesworth street, Armadale. He left Australia in September, 1916. Prior to enlisting he was in the employ of the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company.



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Senior Wireless Operate A. B. C. McGregor does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Loved Australian Son

St. Finian's Cemetery, Castletown Berehaven, County Cork, Ireland

St. Finian's Cemetery, Castletown Berehaven contains 12 Commonwealth War Graves – all from World War 1.



St. Finian's Cemetery, Castletown Berehaven *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Senior Wireless Operate A. B. C. McGregor's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Finian's Cemetery, Castletown Berehaven, County Cork, Ireland.

(Note: - the Ship name on the CWGC headstone is incorrect – should be Seang Choon. CWGC were advised of the error at the time of researching)



(Photo courtesy of British War Graves)



St. Finian's Cemetery, Castletown Berehaven *(Photo from British War Graves)*