

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7427 SAPPER

W. J. McPEAK

AUSTRALIAN TUNNELLING CORPS

14TH AUGUST, 1917

William James McPEAK

William James McPeak was born at Newcastle on Tyne, England on 19th April, 1874 to parents William & Jean McPeak (nee McCord).

(According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – William came to Australia when he was 7 years of age)

William James McPeak attended Christian Brothers, Adelaide, South Australia.

William James McPeak married Catherine Nelly Hand in 1897 in Western Australia.

Births were registered in Western Australia for the following children of William James & Nellie McPeak (nee Hand): William Francis McPeak (born 1898 at Kalgoorlie); Gladys Marie McPeak (born 1900 at Kalgoorlie) & Vincent McPeak (born 1903 at Kalgoorlie).

The 1903 & 1906 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Brown Hill, Western Australia recorded William James McPeak, Carter & his wife Nellie McPeak, Home Duties, of Bulong Road.

A birth was registered in Western Australia for the following child of William James & Nellie McPeak (nee Hand): Myrtle McPeak (born 1907 at Laverton; registered at Mount Margaret).

The 1910 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Coolgardie, subdivision of Mount Magnet, Western Australia recorded William James McPeak, Labourer, Lancefield G.M. Beria & his wife Nellie McPeak, of Beria.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Boulder, Western Australia recorded William James McPeak, Labourer & his wife Nellie McPeak, both from 64 Clancy Street.

A birth was registered in Western Australia for the following child of William James & Nellie McPeak (nee Hand): Kathleen McPeak (born 1912 at Boulder).

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Hannans, Western Australia recorded William James McPeak, Miner & his wife Nellie McPeak, both from Frank Street.

William James McPeak was a 41 year old, Miner from 1264 Frank Street, Boulder, Western Australia when he enlisted on 30th January, 1917 at Black Boy Hill, Western Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Nellie McPeak, 1264 Frank Street, Boulder, Western Australia. William McPeak stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Militia at Kalgoorlie from 1902 – 1904.

Private William James McPeak was posted to X Depot on 30th January, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to Tunnellers on 16th February, 1917 as Sapper. Sapper McPeak was transferred to Miners Reinforcements at Seymour, Victoria on 21st March, 1917 then on 21st May, 1917 he was transferred to Tunnelling Coys. Sapper McPeak was written up on Conduct Sheet on 23rd July, 1917 at Seymour for being A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) for 11 hours. He was fined £1.

Sapper William James McPeak, Service number 7427, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 4th August, 1917 with the Tunnelling Companies, March 1917 Reinforcements.

Sapper William James McPeak was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 8th August, 1917 with Acute Transverse Myelitis.

Sapper William James McPeak died at 5.50 pm on 14th August, 1917 at Sea on board HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) from Acute Transverse Myelitis. (The War Gratuity Schedule recorded he died from Acute Transverse Myalgia).

Sapper William James McPeak was buried at Sea on 14th August, 1917 from HMAT *Themistocles* (A32). 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.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB1021

HMAT *Themistocles* (A32)

A Report was made by Colonel G. H. Dean, Command Officer, H.M.A.T. 32 "*Themistocles*" regarding the four deaths that has occurred on the voyage from Australia to England.

V O Y A G E R E P O R T.

H. M. A. T. A32 "THEMISTOCLES".

At Sea, 1917.

X X X X X X X X

CASUALTIES.

8. There has been four (4) deaths namely :-

No. 1907 Private IRWIN F.S.A. May Rfcts. A.F.C. Died 28/9/17.

No. 7427 Private McPEAK W.J. March Rfcts Tunnelling Coy 14/8/17.

No. 7450 Private BAYLEY H. 25/6th Missing since 12.30 a.m.
25/8/17.

No. 7541 Private McDONALD L.J. 25/6th Died 5/9/17.

X X X X X X X X

(SGD) G. H. DEAN Col. A.I.F.
C.O. Troops H.M.A.T. A. 32 "THEMISTOCLES".

G. H. Dean
25/8/17

Sapper William James McPeak requested in his Will, dated 14th June, 1917, that all his real & personal property be bequeathed to his wife – Nellie McPeak, Oswald Street, Campsie, Sydney, New South Wales. Nellie McPeak was also named as Executrix of the Will.

Sapper William James McPeak 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 Sapper McPeak's widow – Mrs N. McPeak, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

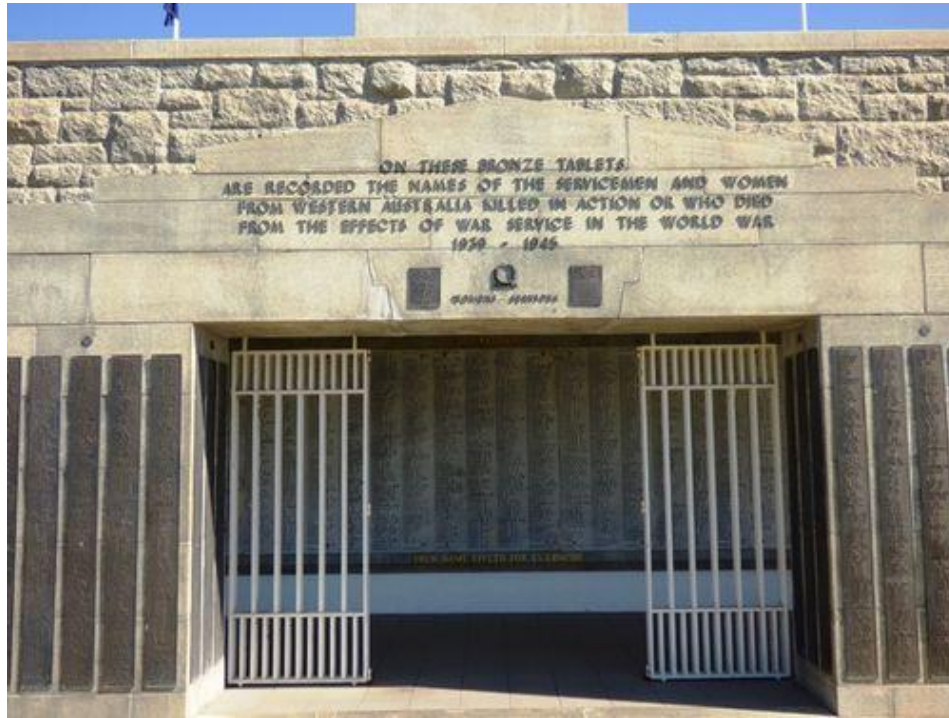
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper William James McPeak – service number 7427, of Australian Tunnelling Corps. No family details are listed.

W. J. McPeak is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



Corps of Engineers Panel *(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)*

W. J. McPeak is remembered on the Boulder Roll of Honour, located in Boulder Town Hall, 116 Burt Street, Boulder, Western Australia.



Boulder Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia)



W. J. McPeak is remembered on the Boulder Roll of Honor, located in Goldfields War Museum, Boulder Town Hall, 116 Burt Street, Boulder, Western Australia.



Boulder Roll of Honor (Photo from VWMA – Leanne Phillips)

Sapper W. J. McPeak is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 27.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(39 pages of Sapper William James McPeak'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



Newspaper Notices

VOLUNTARY ENLISTMENTS

Appended is a list of the names of volunteers who were accepted as medically fit for active service during the month of January :-W. J. McPeak.....

(Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 6 February, 1917)

BOULDER

News has been received that Mr McPeak, late of Frank street, who enlisted form here some months back, succumbed on the voyage to England, after being six weeks on the water. Mr McPeak was widely known in Boulder, where he was highly respected.

(The W. A. Record, Perth, Western Australia – 22 September, 1917)

THE TOLL OF WAR

AND ROLL OF HONOR

The 340th list of casualties among the West Australian troops.....

WEST AUSTRALIA

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Sapper Wm. Jas. McPeak, Campsie (N.S.W.)

(*The Sun*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 7 October, 1917)

Australian Casualties

List No. 340

West Australia

Other Death

Spr W. J. McPEAK (Campsie, NSW), cause not stated

(*Australian Town and Country Journal*, Sydney, NSW – 10 October, 1917)

DEATHS

McPEAK – Died at sea on Australian transport, Sapper W. J. McPeak, Reincs. Tunnelling Corps, formerly of Frank street, Boulder City. Family now residing Oswald-st., Campsie, NSW.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 13 October, 1917)

PERSONAL ITEMS

Mrs H. Carter, of Frank-street, Boulder, has received word through friends in the eastern States that Sapper W. J. McPeak, who left Boulder with others as reinforcements to the Tunnellers' Corps, has died at sea on a transport. His family now reside at Oswald-street, Campsie, NSW.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 13 October, 1917)

PERSONAL ITEMS

Mrs H. Mow, of Coronation-street, has received the sad news that her brother, Sapper W. J. McPeak, has died at sea on an Australian transport. He enlisted with the Tunnellers' Corps in February last. He has been on the goldfields since 1895 and was M.C. for the Boulder Pipers' Band for a number of years. He leaves a widow and five children.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 15 October, 1917)

DEATHS

McPEAK – Died at sea, on his way to Front, Sapper W. J. McPeak, late of Frank-street, Boulder, beloved brother and brother-in-law of Rose and Henry Mow; also uncle of Ralph (on active service), Mrs A, Jeffery, Will, Freda, Roy, Dorothy, and Eileen. Aged 43 years.

Deeply mourned.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 15 October, 1917) & (*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 16 October, 1917)

DEATHS

McPEAK – Died at sea, on his way to Front, Sapper W. J. McPeak, late of Frank-street, Boulder, beloved brother and brother-in-law of Rose and Henry Mow; also uncle of Ralph (on active service), Mrs A, Jeffery, Will, Freda, Roy, Dorothy, and Eileen. Aged 43 years.

Deeply mourned.

McPEAK – Died at sea on Australian transport, Sapper W. J. McPeak, Reinf. Tunnelling Corps, formerly of Frank street, Boulder City. Family now residing Oswald-st., Campsie, NSW.

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 16 October, 1917)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

The 352nd list of casualties among West Australian troops serving with the A.I.F.....

DIED OF ILLNESS

Sapper Wm. Jas. McPeak, Campsie, NSW., previously reported died, cause not stated.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 15 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

McPEAK – In loving memory of my dear brother, who died at sea, August 14th, 1917.

As the ivy clings to the oak,

So will our memory cling to thee.

R.I.P.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, R. and H. Mow

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 13 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

McPEAK – In loving memory of my dear brother, Sapper William McPeak, who died at sea 13th August, 1917.

Sadly missed

-Inserted by his loving sister, R. Mow

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 13 August, 1919) & (*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 19 August, 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*)

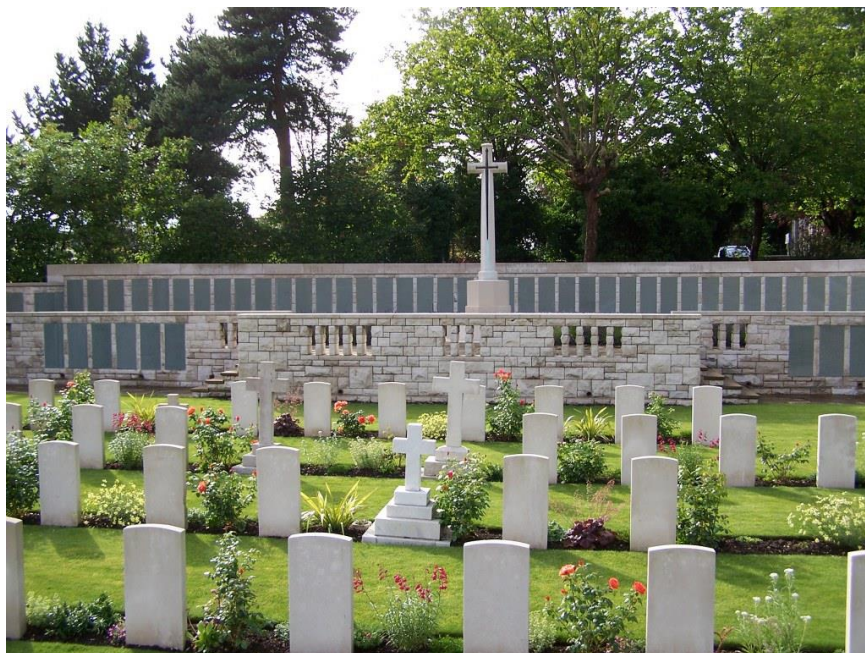
© Cathy Sedgwick 2023



Cross of Sacrifice

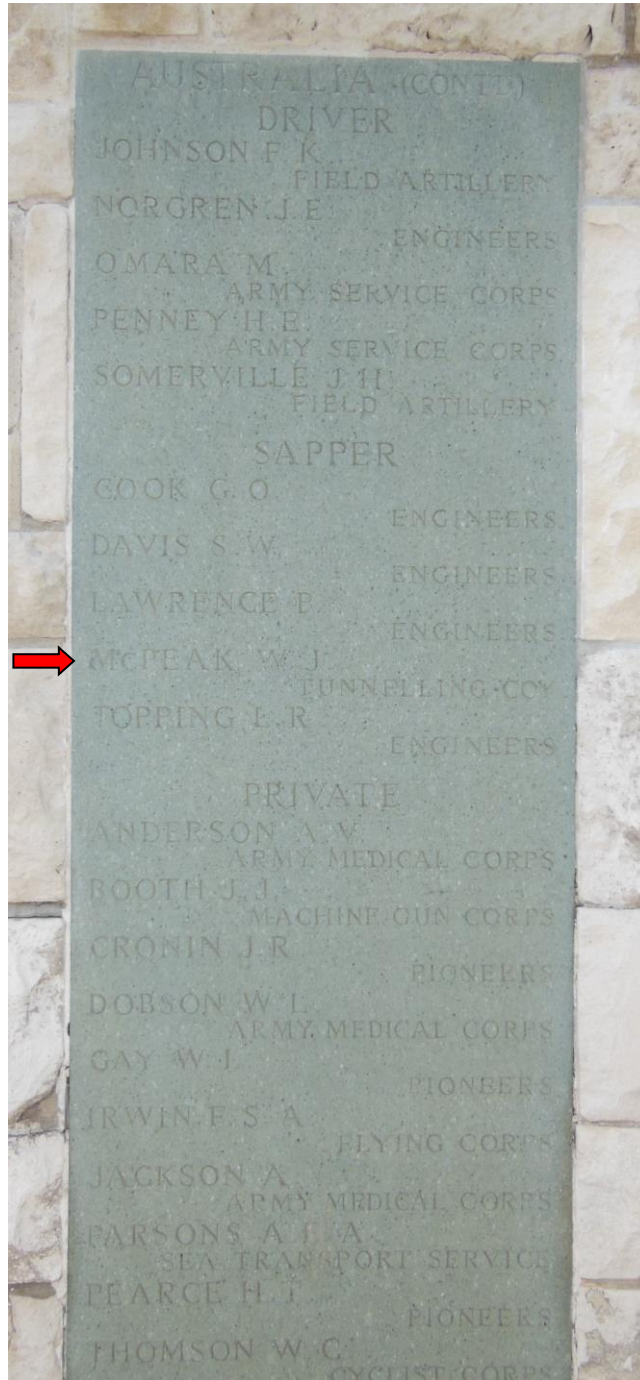


Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)



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

Photo of Sapper W. J. McPeak's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

