

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



735 PRIVATE

G. H. MILNER

44TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH JULY, 1916

George Hetherington MILNER

George Hetherington Milner was born at Perth, Western Australia on 8th October, 1896 to parents George & Mary Milner (nee Hetherington).

George Hetherington Milner attended Perth Modern School, Western Australia from 1911 to 1913.

George Hetherington Milner was a 19 year old, single, Clerk from Hill Crest, Alice Road, Claremont, West Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 27th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Christian Science & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr George Milner, Hill Crest, Alice Road, Claremont, West Australia. George Hetherington Milner stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with 86th Infantry "D" Company for 2 years & was still serving.

As George Hetherington Milner was under the age of 21 his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Geo. Milner & Mary E. Milner both signed their names on "*Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force*" form.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – George Hetherington Milner had served with Senior Cadets & Citizen Forces. "*Citizen Forces. Guard Duty at North Fremantle Battery & the Fremantle Camp.*" He was also "*Top of his class – Citizen Forces N.C.O. Examination at Fremantle 1915 for which he got his Sergeant's stripes.*"

A Certificate of Discharge was issued on 26th January, 1916 certifying "*Sergeant George H. Milner, of "D" Coy 86th Infantry has no equipment and is free to enlist.*"

Private George Hetherington Milner was posted to 1 Area on 27th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 44th Battalion on 5th February, 1916.

Private George Hetherington Milner, Service number 735, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suevic (A29)* on 6th June, 1916 with the 44th Infantry Battalion "D" Company.

44th Battalion

The 44th Battalion was raised at Claremont, Western Australia in February 1916. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division, and soon became known as "Old Bill's Thousand" after its first commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel William Mansbridge. The battalion left Australia on 6 June and proceeded to Britain for further training. It arrived in France on 27 November and entered the front line trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 29 December....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary 44th Battalion

DURBAN – June 21st 10 am – Arrived at Durban

Battalion route march (6 miles) through the City

June 22nd 7 am – Left Durban

CAPETOWN - 24th 8 pm – Arrived off Cape Town & anchored in harbour at 8 pm.

25th – Route March (6 miles) through outskirts of Cape Town

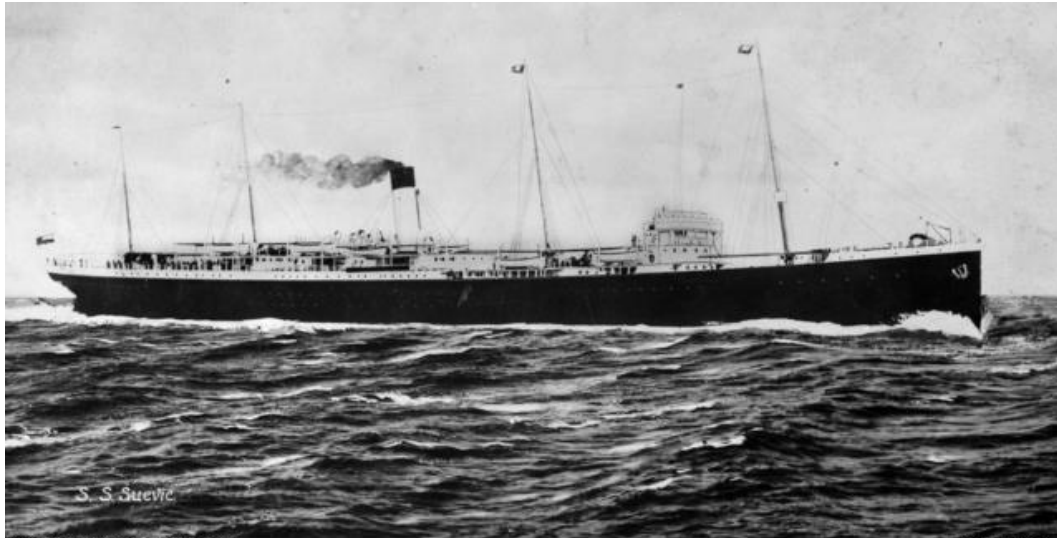
& 26th

27th 8 pm – Left Cape Town

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Hetherington Milner was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 25th June, 1916.

Private George Hetherington Milner died at 9.35 am on 5th July, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Suevic* (A29) from Pneumonia.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04754.001

Private George Hetherington Milner was buried at Sea on 5th July, 1916 from HMAT *Suevic* (A29). 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 George Hetherington Milner requested in his Will, dated 12th June, 1916 & extracted from his Pay Book, that he bequeathed to his parents George Milner & M. E Milner of Claremont, Western Australia, the whole of his property & effects. His father was appointed as Executor of the Will.

Private George Hetherington Milner 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 Milner's father – Mr G. Milner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Hetherington Milner – service number 735, of 44th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private G. H. Milner is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 138.



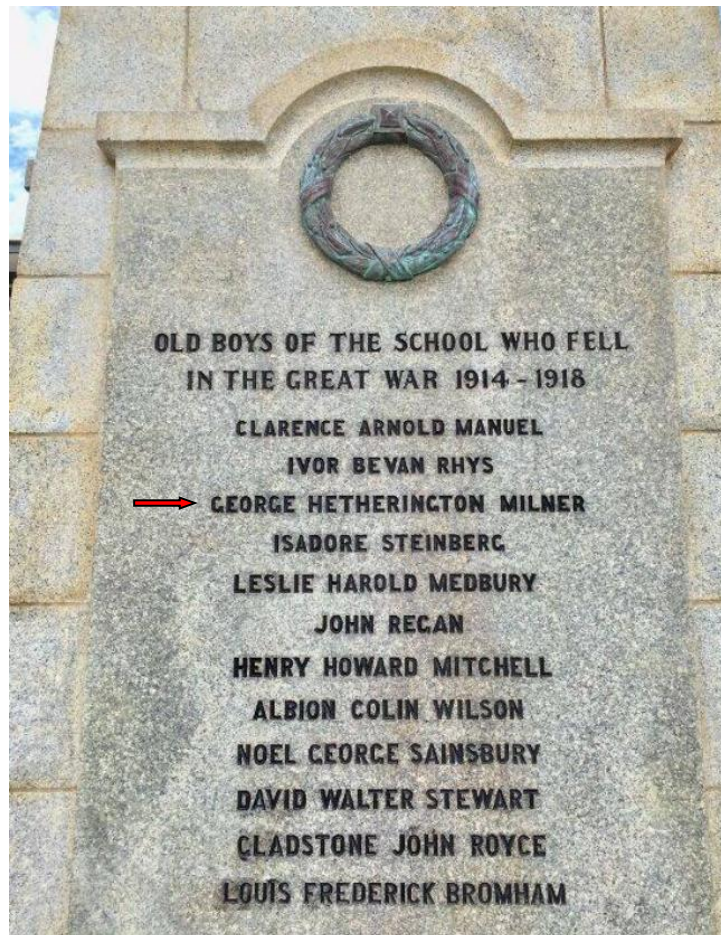
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

George Hetherington Milner is remembered on the Perth Modern School War Memorial, located in Perth Modern School, Roberts Road, Subiaco, Western Australia.



Perth Modern School War Memorial

(Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Perth Modernian Society Museum Association Inc)

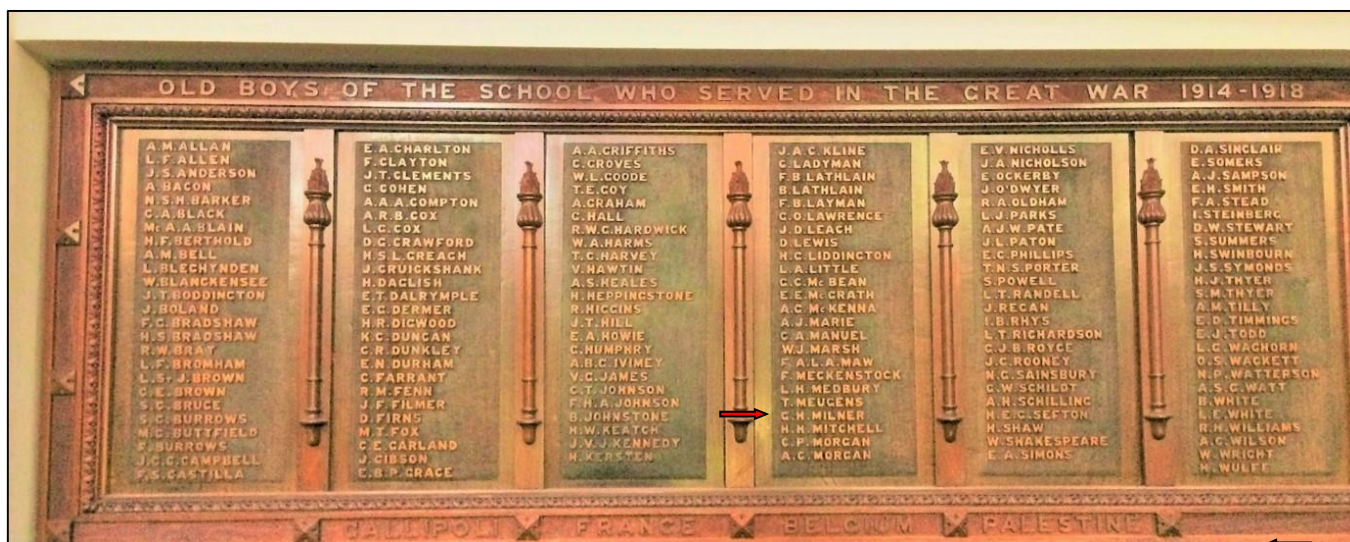


G. H. Milner is remembered on the Perth Modern School Roll of Honour, located in Perth Modern School, Roberts Road, Subiaco, Western Australia.



Perth Modern School Roll of Honour

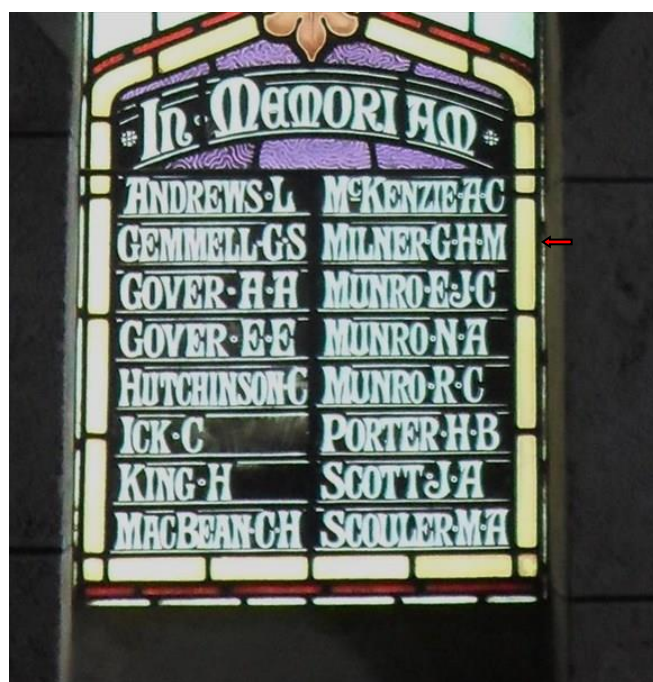
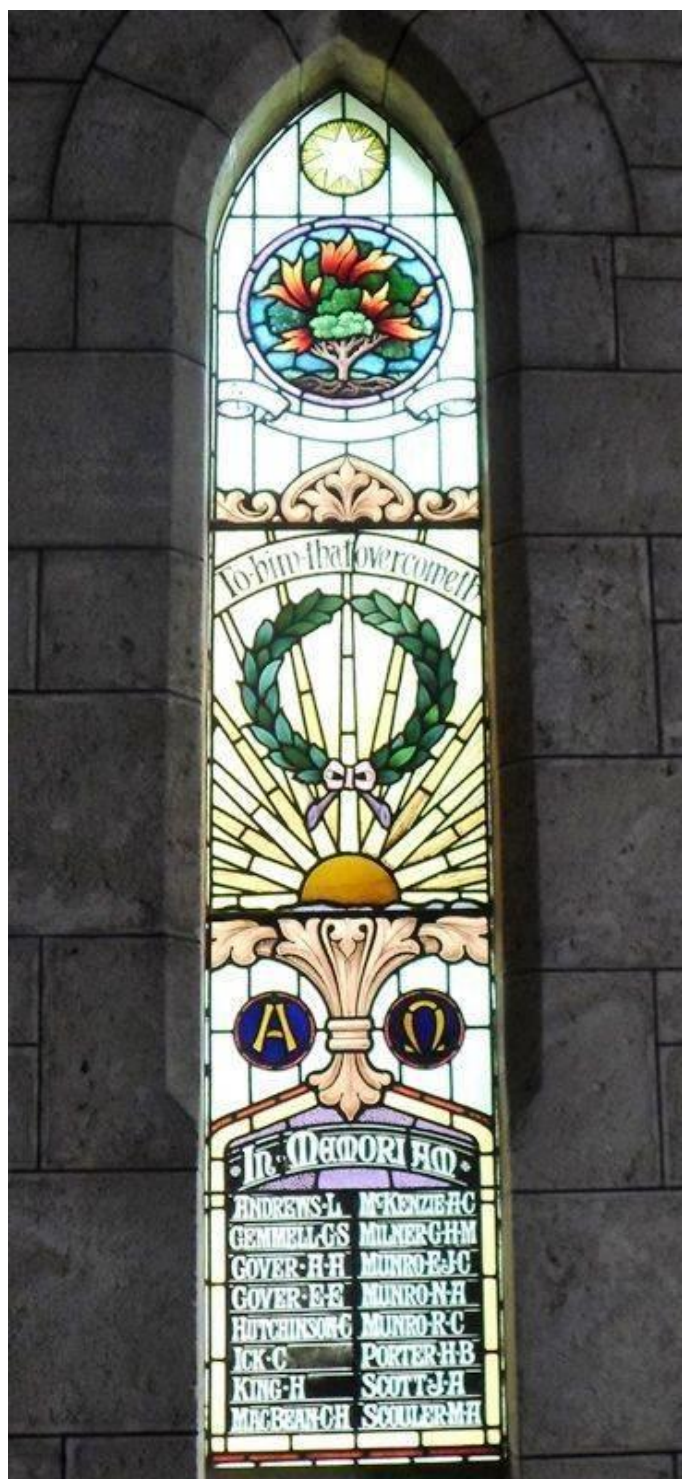
(Photos from Perth Modern School)



G. H. M. Milner is remembered on St. Aidan's Church War Memorial Glass Window, located in St. Aidan's Uniting Church, Princess & Chester Roads, Claremont, Western Australia.

The stained glass window commemorates 16 men of the Claremont Presbyterian Church who died in service or were killed in action in World War One. It remained in its original situation in the south end wall until re-located to the east wall in the early 1980s, when the timber Honour Boards commemorating both World Wars were removed from the Church.

The Claremont Presbyterian Church adopted the name St Aidan's in the 1930s. In 1977, a union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Australia saw St Aidan's join with the Claremont Congregational and Methodist congregations as a parish of the Uniting Church.



St. Aidan's Church War Memorial Glass Window (Photo & information from Monument Australia)

G. H. Milner 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.

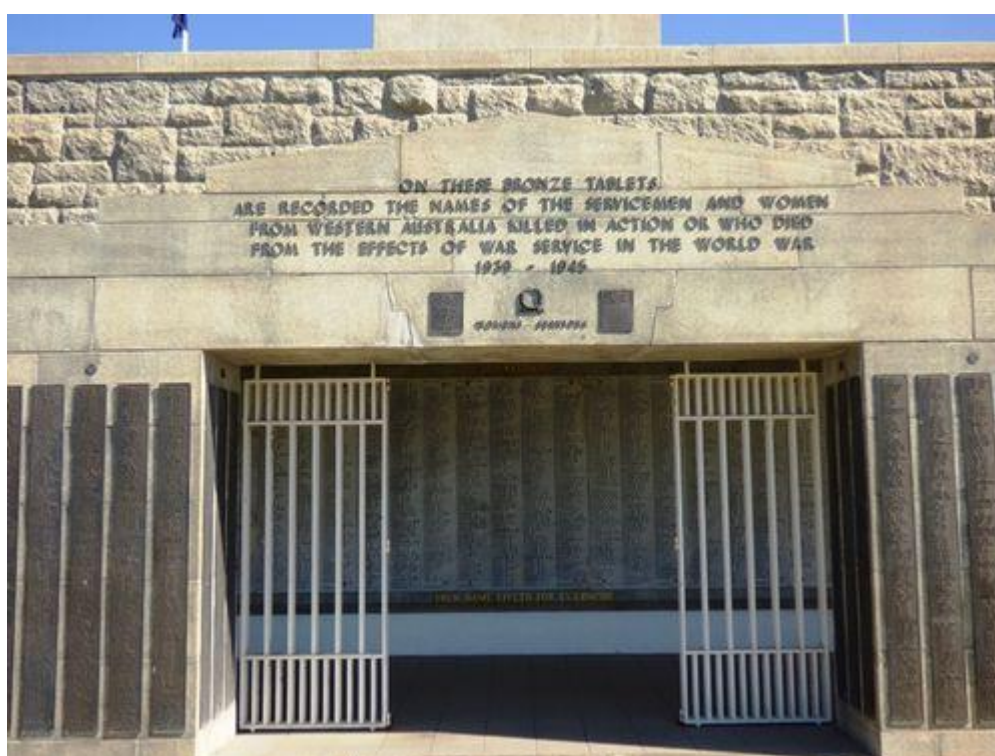
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a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



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)

& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

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





44th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(41 pages of Private George Hetherington Milner'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



George Hetherington Milner & his mother



Newspaper Notices

SOLDIERS AT PLAY

SPORTS AT CLAREMONT

Lieut Statchbury (secretary) and his committee of officers and N.C.O.'s have every reason to be pleased with the success of the sports meeting at Claremont last week. The various events resulted as follow:

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Mile Race – H. T. Rail, D Company.

1: Corporal Panton, D Company, 2: G. H. Milner, D Company, 3: Won by 60 yards; 15 yards between second and third.

.....

(*Camp Chronicle*, Midland Junction, Western Australia – 24 February, 1916)

THE LATE PRIVATE J. J. FLANAGAN

The funeral of the late Private John Joseph Flanagan, of D Company, 44th Battalion, A.I.F., Claremont who was accidentally killed by a passing train at North Fremantle, on the 4th inst, took place on Thursday afternoon with military honors. The deceased, who was in his 31st year, leaves a widow, a young daughter, and an infant son. The military cortege, headed by the firing party, moved from his late residence, No. 33 Alexander-road, Fremantle, and proceeded to the local cemetery, where the remains were interred in the Church of England portion. The casket, enshrouded with the Union Jack, was borne to the graveside by Privates M. C. Kidd, **G H. Milner**, H. Eldridge, F. C. Gobby, A. Curedale, and F. G. Sims (all drawn from deceased's platoon, D Company, 44th Battalion). The Rev. F. T Bowen, rector of St Paul's, Beaconsfield, read the burial service in the presence of numerous friends and relatives, after which three volleys were fired, and the "Last Post" sounded. The firing party and bugler were drawn from D Company, 44th Battalion, under Sergeant Foy, who also supervised the parade. Lieutenant Hillman was present representing Col. Mansbridge, Commanding Officer, 44th Battalion, Claremont.....

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 8 April, 1916)

DEATHS

MILNER – On July 5, 1916, of pneumonia, Private George H. Milner, dearly loved eldest son of Mr and Mrs Milner, Hillcrest, Alice-road, Claremont, 19 years and 9 months, Buried at sea.

He gave his best.

There is no death ! What seems so is transition.

This life of mortal breath

In but a suburb of the life elysian,

Whose portals we call death.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 29 July, 1916) & (*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 4 August, 1916)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

LATEST CASUALTY LIST

The 188th casualty list of Western Australian members of the A.I.F. was released on Saturday and is published below.....

DIED OF ILLNESS

G. H. Milner (Claremont)

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 31 July, 1916)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr and Mrs Milner and Family, Hillcrest, Alice-road, Claremont, sincerely THANKS their friends for telegrams, cards and letters of condolence kindly sent in sympathy in the loss of their son, George (late A.I.F.), buried at sea.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 2 August, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

MILNER – On July 5, 1916, of pneumonia, Private George H. Milner, dearly loved eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. Milner, Hillcrest, Alice-road, Claremont, 19 years and 9 months, Buried at sea.

He gave his best.

There is no death,

What seems so is transition.

This life of mortal breath

Is but a suburb of the life Elysian,

Whose portals we call death.

Deeply mourned.

-Inserted by his father and mother, George and Mary E. Milner, Claremont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 5 July, 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



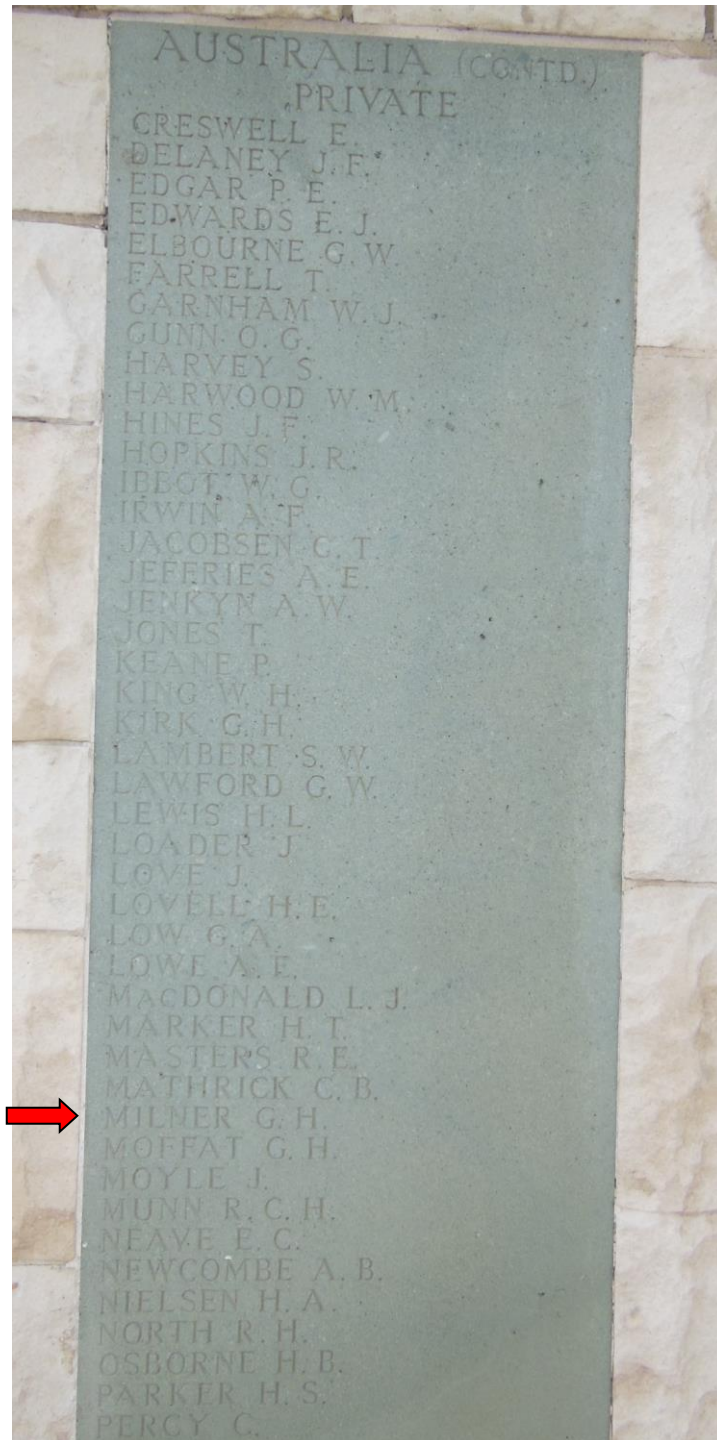
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice



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

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private G. H. Milner's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

