Hollybrook Memorial,

Southampton, Hampshire, England

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

2208   CORPORAL

S. C. MOUNTAIN

48TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD AUGUST, 1916

Sydney (Syd) Chalmers MOUNTAIN

Sidney Chalmers Mountain was born at Wilson Street, South Broken Hill, NSW in 1890 to parents John Simpson Mountain & Florence May Mountain (nee Mackenzie/McKenzie). ("Sidney" spelling as per NSW B.D.M).

Sydney Chalmers Mountain attended Central School at Broken Hill, NSW & attended St. Peters College, Adelaide, South Australia.

John Simpson Mountain, father of Sydney Chalmers Mountain, died on 24th January, 1908 at Broken Hill, NSW

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Willyama, Oxide Street Polling Place recorded Sydney Chalmers Mountain, Electrician, of 184 Oxide Street. His mother – Florence May Mountain was also listed at the same address.

Sydney Chalmers Mountain was a 25 year old, single, Electrician and Motor mechanic from Broken Hill, NSW when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 14th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2208 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Florence May Thomas, Mulga Hotel, Oxide Street, Broken Hill, NSW.

Private Sydney Chalmers Mountain was posted to "E" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 14th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "C" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 16th January, 1916 & appointed Provisional Corporal on 1st February, 1916.

Provisional Corporal Sydney Chalmers Mountain was posted to N.C.O.'s School at Mitcham on 16th February, 1916 reverting to the rank of Private. He was appointed Provisional Sergeant with "C" Company on 1st March, 1916. Sergeant Mountain was posted to N.C.O.'s School at Mitcham on 27th March, 1916. He was posted with "A" Company on 15th May, 1916 as Provisional Corporal.

Provisional Corporal Sydney Chalmers Mountain was admitted to Mitcham Clearing Hospital on 23rd July, 1916 with Synovitis (left ankle). The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*probably rheumatic origin.*"

Provisional Corporal Sydney Chalmers Mountain was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 48th Battalion on 1st June, 1916.

Provisional Corporal Sidney Chalmers Mountain embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Ballarat (A70)* on 12th August, 1916 with the 48th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.
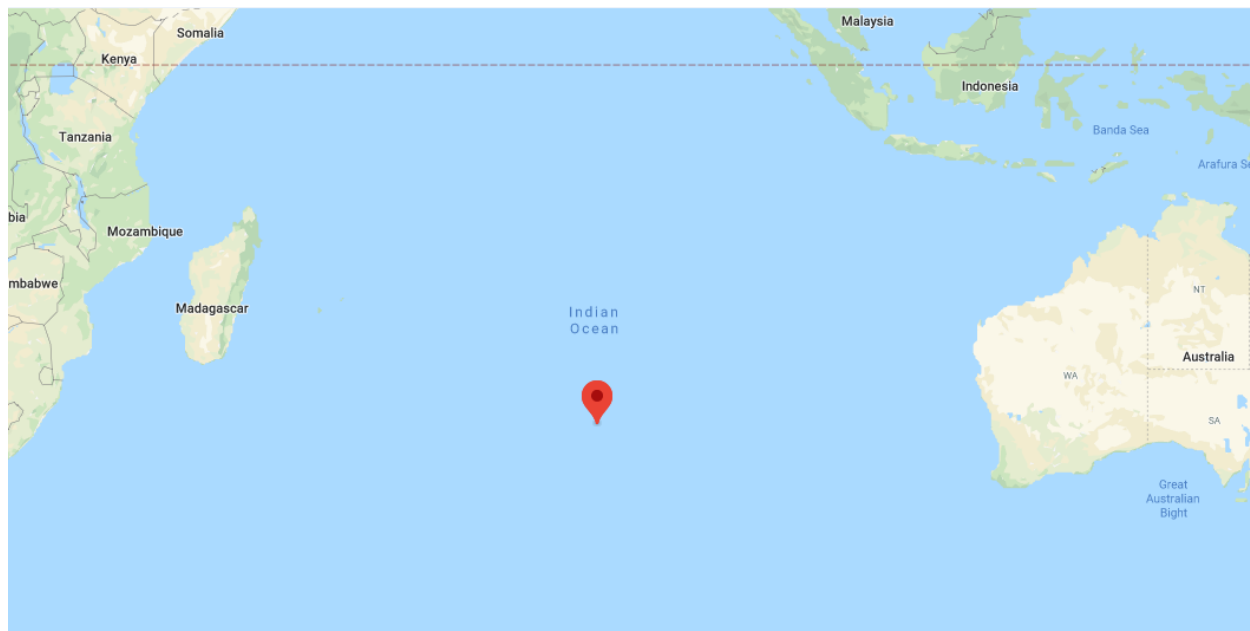
48th Battalion

The 48th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Roughly half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 16th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 16th, the men of the new battalion hailed mainly from regional South Australia and Western Australia. The new battalion formed part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division. It became known as the "Joan of Arc" (the Maid of Orleans) battalion because it was "made of all Leanes" - it was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ray Leane, his brother was the adjutant, and several other relatives were scattered throughout the battalion.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Provisional Corporal Sydney Chalmers Mountain was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 16th August, 1916.

Corporal Sydney Chalmers Mountain died at 9:5 am on 23rd August, 1916 while at Sea on board Troopship *Ballarat* (A70) from Chronic Interstitial Nephritis, Broncho Pneumonia & Uraemia. The position of the Ship at the time of Corporal Mountain's death was recorded as Lat 30° 4' S & Long 81° 2' E. The Hospital Admissions form recorded *"patient has a family history of Nephritis. He has evidently been suffering for many months and should not have been passed for service."*

Corporal Sydney Chalmers Mountain was buried at Sea at 4 pm on 23rd August, 1916 – Latitude 30 13' S. Longitude 80 18' E. by Chaplain Captain Edward Gordon, Church of England. 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. From the Funeral Service report: *"The body of No. 2208, Cpl. Mountain, S.C. 4th/48th will be committed to the deep at 4 pm today. O/C., G. Coy. 4th/48th will details firing party, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal and 12 other ranks to form up on port side aft well deck. Massed Buglers will parade under A/Band Sergeant Guest. Companies will parade aft well deck at 3.45 pm as follows: G. Company on for part aft well deck starboard and centre. A, B, C and D. Companies on starboard side in rotation. E. F. H. and I. Companies and A.A.M.C. on port side in rotation. Routine will cease at 3.30 pm."*

Corporal Sydney Chalmers Mountain – buried at Sea

Corporal Sydney Chalmers Mountain 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 Corporal Mountain's widowed & remarried mother – Mrs F. M. Thomas, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1922 & Plaque sent February, 1923).
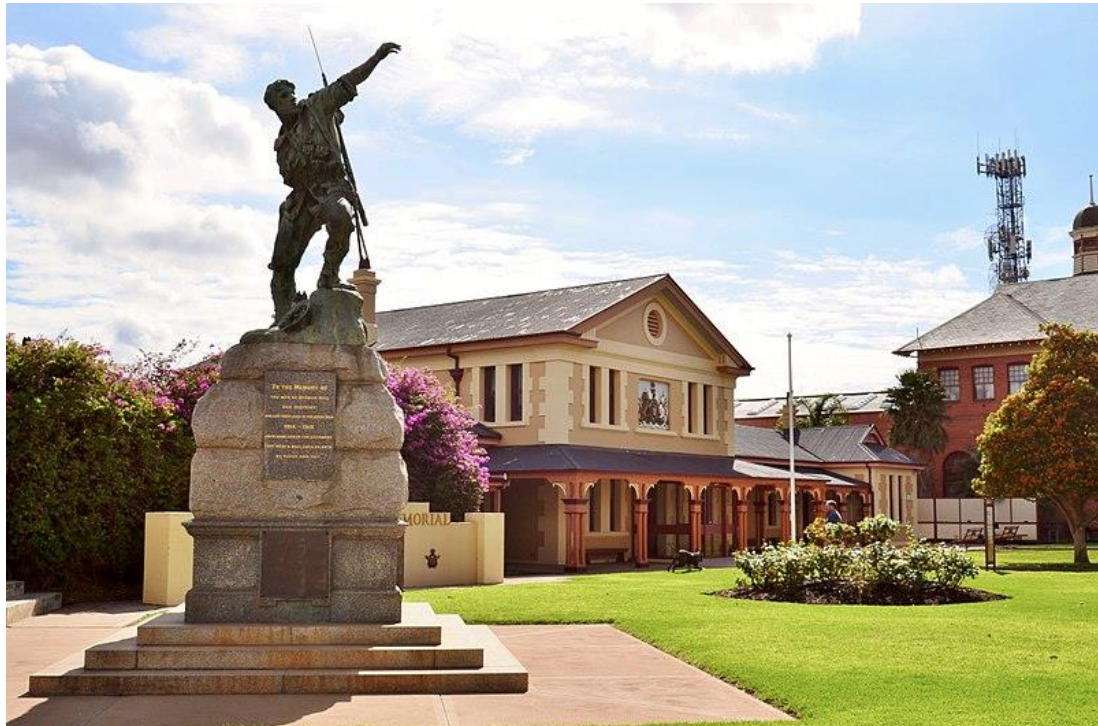
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Sidney Chalmers Mountain – service number 2208, of 48th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Corporal S. C. Mountain is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 146.

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

S. C. Mountain is remembered on the Broken Hill War Memorial Reserve World War 1 Cenotaph (The Bomber) located at 234 Argent Street, Broken Hill, NSW.
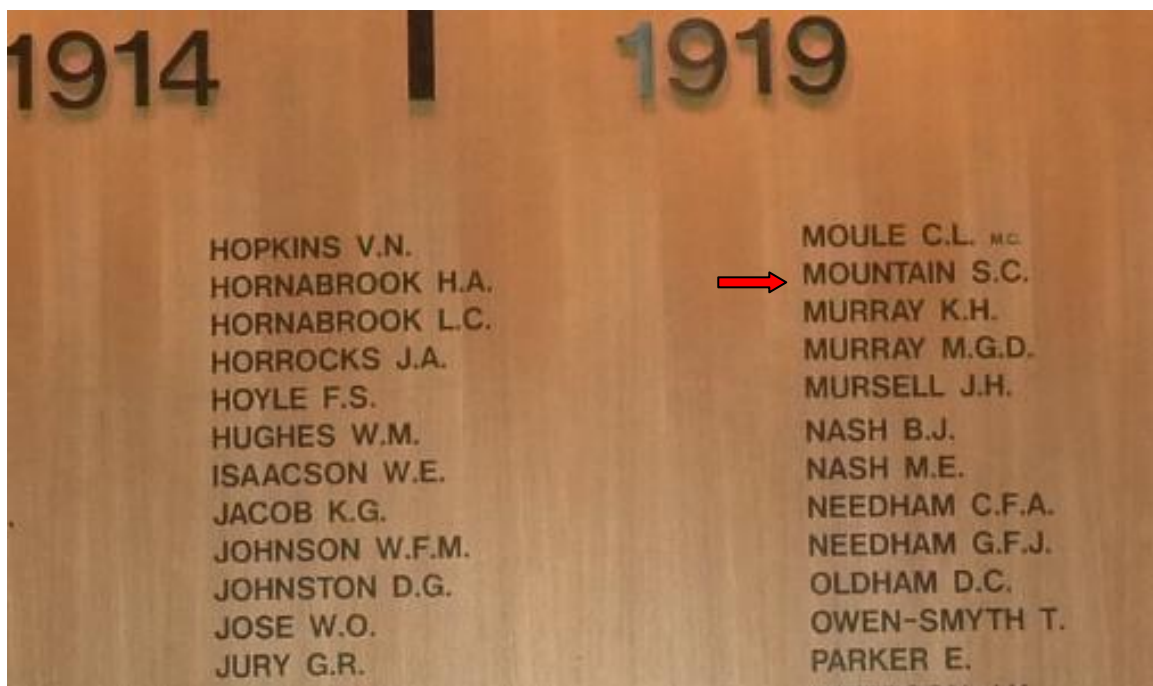

Broken Hill War Memorial/Cenotaph *(Photo above by Bahnfrend; below from War Memorials Register NSW)*

S. C. Mountain is remembered on the World War 1 Honour Roll in the Memorial Hall at St. Peter's College, Adelaide, South Australia.

St. Peter's College WW1 Honour Roll *(Photos courtesy of Ms Andrea McKinnon-Matthews, School Archivist)*

S. C. Mountain is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.

National War Memorial – Adelaide *(Photos by Bilby)*

(40 pages of Corporal Sydney Chalmers Mountain'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

RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

SEND-OFF TO VOLUNTEERS

Last night's send-off to the Broken Hill volunteers for military service, was exceptionally interesting. In the first place, the contingent of recruits was much larger than it has been for a long time, and secondly, there was a big display of public enthusiasm.

It was quite an imposing procession that left the front of the Masonic Club and marched via Oxide, Argent, and Bromide streets to the Sulphide-street railway station.

The Broken Hill Band, its numbers swelled by the aid of some members of the City and A.M.A. Bands, led the march. Then came a big muster of the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts, followed by members of the Barrier Empire League, the volunteers, and then more members of the league.

As they marched to the accompaniment of "The Postman's Parade," played by the band, the volunteers were frequently greeted with rousing cheers from the hundreds of people assembled along the route to witness the march past.

There was, probably, a greater number of the public participating in the send off than has been the case since the night that the first contingent of Broken Hill volunteers went away. The railway station was crowded, so much so, that it was difficult when the train was in to move about. While the volunteers were occupied in finding seats in the train and in bidding good-bye to friends, the band played "Wake Up Australia," "Rule Britannia," and other popular and patriotic tunes. Then after a series of ringing cheers had been given for the volunteers and our King and country, and the boys at the front, hats were raised as the strains of the National Anthem were heard. The familiar words were sung by many, and as the concluding line of the first verse was sung, the whistle went, and the train slowly moved

off, the band then striking up "Auld Lang Syne." Many stood silently watching until the tail- lights disappeared round the curve into the Railway Town station. This seemed to be the signal for the breaking of a silence that was impressive, and to the accompaniment of a sudden burst of chattering, the huge crowd split up and went its different ways.

The names of those who left last night were:— C. H. Chanhall L. B. Squires R. F. Cain J. Harrington F. Dyer J. L. Cotton C. W. Ridley H. Brown T. Hangau R. Wright S. Cox A. B. Petrie W. Cardwell P. C Ritchie R. E. Coombes F. W. Moon L. Wallis J. P. Phillips M J. Stephens T. H. Cass O. W. Bax H. W. C. Howe S. J. J. Owens E. S. Stevens E. J. Holmes H. Davis J. Considine O Englis H. C. Tregilgas F. Bermingham J. J. W. Ridley E. Brady E. Milligan C. Trenaman J. R. McMahon **S. C. Mountain** H. E. Smith J. C. Woods L. C. Grogan T. Johnston G. R Foulis C. R. Pettigrow J. Thielgard W. G. Robinson J. Laphair R. J Simington W. H. Johns C. T. Eley F C. Winkless W. Auspach R. Swift H. C. Cross H. R. Inwood J. J. Cooper T. Boothey W. Reardon W. L. M'Dermott G. Davidson C. L. Bowen F. Dumont W. H. Heslop E. Foster F. C. Davey E. Harvey F. W Aitkinson _ Needham C. H. Fulton

Lieutenants T. L. Barson, Peters, and Dunn, also left for Adelaide by Monday night's train.

(*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW – 14 January, 1916)

GONE INTO CAMP

The following men went into camp on Friday:-…….. S. C. Mountain,…….

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 15 January, 1916)

IN BROKEN HILL

CORPORAL S. C. MOUNTAIN DEAD

Mrs. Thomas, of the Mulga Hotel (better known as Mrs. Mountain), received official notification last night of the death of her son, Corporal S. C. Mountain, who died at sea on August 23, leaving Australia with the troops for the front. Corporal Mountain died when the transport was only 11 days out from bronchial pneumonia. Deceased, who was 26 years of age, had been engaged on the line of lode as electrician.

(*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW – 8 September, 1916)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

214th Casualty List

The names of the Broken Hill and South Australian soldiers, together with the dead of all States, and the particulars given in the casualty list of the residence of each soldier's relatives are given below:-

BROKEN HILL

DIED OF ILLNESS

Corporal S. C. Mountain, Broken Hill, August 23.

(*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW – 19 September, 1916)

CORPORAL S. C. MOUNTAIN

Information has been received by Mrs A. G. Thomas, of Broken Hill, that her son, Corporal S. C. Mountain, died on board a transport on August 23, the cause of death being bronchial pneumonia. Corporal Mountain joined the colors in January last. He quickly rose to the rank of sergeant, but owing to a brief illness was reduced to corporal and sailed with that rank. He was educated at St. Peter's College. In civil life he was employed as electrician on the "line of lode." He was 25 years of age.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 3 October, 1916) & (*Chronicle,* Adelaide, South Australia – 7 October, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

MOUNTAIN – In loving memory of Sergeant S. C. (Syd) Mountain, 48th Battalion, A.I.F., died at sea August 23, 1916.

Though death divides, fond memory clings.

Inserted by his mother and sister.

(*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW – 23 August, 1917)

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

MOUNTAIN – In loving memory of my dear friend Syd., who died at sea on August 23, 1916. Ever remembered by his loving friend, Ada Lambert.

MOUNTAIN – In loving memory of Sergeant S. C. Mountain, who died at sea on August 23, 1916. Inserted by his sincere friend, A. T. Caines.

(*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW – 23 August, 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.
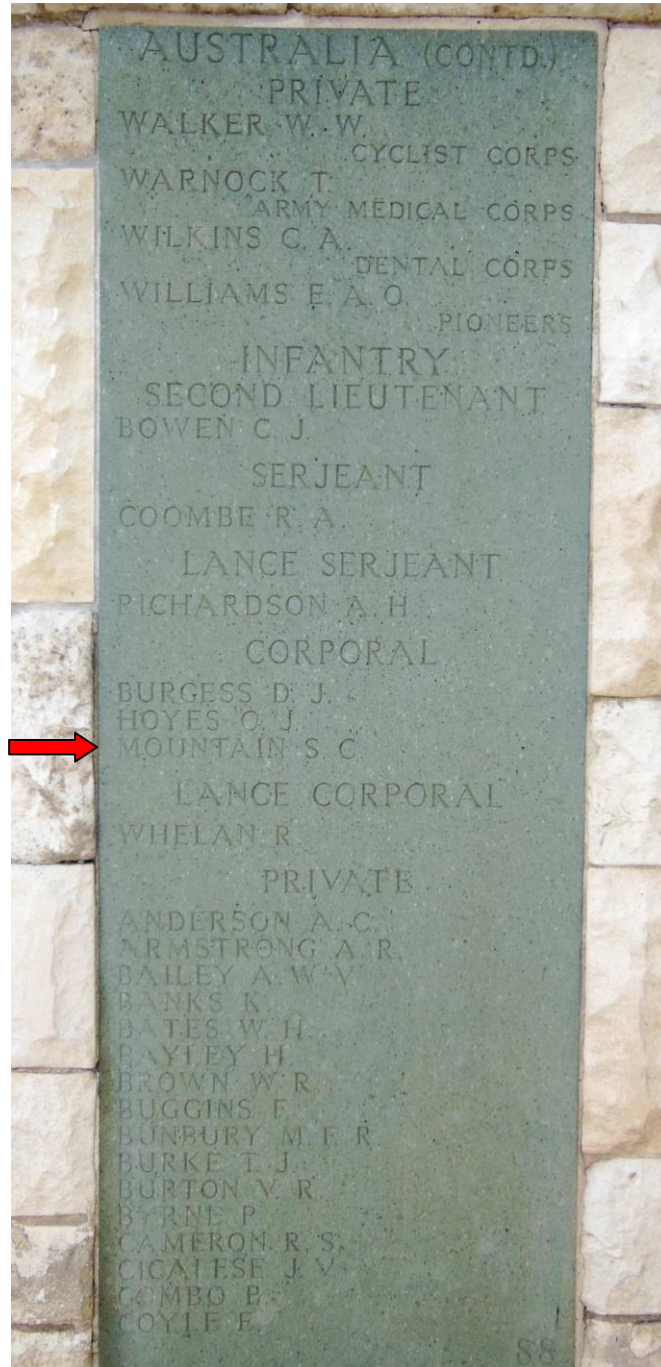
(Information & photos from CWGC)

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 Corporal S. C. Mountain's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)