

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6344 DRIVER

M. O'MARA

AUSTRALIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS

14TH AUGUST, 1917

Mathias (Mat) O'MARA

Mathias O'Mara was born in 1884 at Heidelberg, Victoria to parents William & Margaret Lucy O'Mara (nee Donnelly).

William O'Mara, father of Mathias O'Mara died on 21st August, 1913 at 17 Forest Ave, Western Australia.

Mathias O'Mara was a 31 year old, single, Jockey from Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 8th March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6344 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. O'Mara, Narrogin P.O., Western Australia.

Mathias O'Mara was posted to No. 12 Depot Company on 8th March, 1915 for recruit training. (One of the Statement of Service forms has the rank of "Corporal" recorded.) He was transferred to 16th Company, Army Service Corps (A.S.C.) on 16th March, 1915 with Rank of Driver.

Driver Mathias O'Mara embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 22nd May, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade Train, 16th Company Army Service Corps (as per Embarkation Roll, however the Casualty Form – Active Service & Statement of Service form both recorded "*Embarked on "Southland" for Overseas on 30/5/15*").

Driver Mathias O'Mara disembarked at Alexandria on 4th January, 1916 ex *Sunla* from Mudros (assuming after evacuation of Gallipoli).

Driver Mathias O'Mara was sick in Hospital (no date recorded).

Driver Mathias O'Mara was absent from Camp at Ismalia from 10pm on 19th February, 1916 till 5 pm on 21st February, 1916. He was awarded 3 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 6 days' pay.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance on 5th March, 1916. He was transferred to 5th Field Ambulance with Bubo at Moascar on 6th March, 1916 then transferred & admitted to No. 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Ferry Post the same day with Bubo & Chancre. Driver O'Mara was transferred & admitted to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismalia on 7th March, 1916 with V.D.G. & Bubo (Venereal Disease – Gonorrhoea & Bubo – an enlarged lymph node that is tender and painful – particularly in the groin & armpit). Driver O'Mara was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Abbassia on 7th March, 1916. He was discharged to duty on 20th March, 1916 & joined Overseas Base at Ghezireh the same day. He had a loss of pay of 15 days.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was transferred from Overseas Base to Serapeum on 29th March, 1916. He was admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Cairo on 29th March, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Driver O'Mara was discharged to Overseas Base on 3rd April, 1916.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was admitted to No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 7th May, 1916 with Balantitis & was discharged on 13th May, 1916.

[Note: There are no details recorded in the Service Record file to show when Driver O'Mara was transferred to England]

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 06.00 to 19.30 on 21st June, 1916 while posted at Park House, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England. He was absent from 06.00 Parade on 21st June, 1916 & was awarded 4 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was written up for causing a disturbance in hut at 11 pm on 1st July, 1916 & using obscene language to an N.C.O.. He was awarded 4 days Detention.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 24.00 on 17th July, 1916 to 10.15 on 18th July, 1916 while posted at Larkhill, Wiltshire. He forfeited 2 days' pay.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was marched in from A.S.C. (Army Service Corps) detachment at Larkhill to No. 4 Camp Training Depot, Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 22nd August, 1916.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was listed as an Absentee from No. 4 Camp Training Depot, Parkhouse, Wiltshire from 24.00 on 27th August, 1916 to 08.45 on 1st September, 1916. He was awarded 8 days detention & forfeited 13 days' pay.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was admitted to Delhi Hospital, Wiltshire on 30th September, 1916.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was written up for an Offence at Perham Downs – Absent without Leave from 24.00 on 30th December, 1916 until 12.00 on 8th January, 1917. He was awarded 9 days Detention by Lieutenant Colonel A. Doble & forfeited a total of 18 days' pay.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was written up for an Offence at Perham Downs – Absent without Leave from 24.00 on 27th January, 1917 to 07.00 on 3rd February, 1917. He was awarded 28 days Field Punishment No. 2 by Major M. E. Lloyd on 8th February, 1917 & a total forfeiture of 35 days' pay.

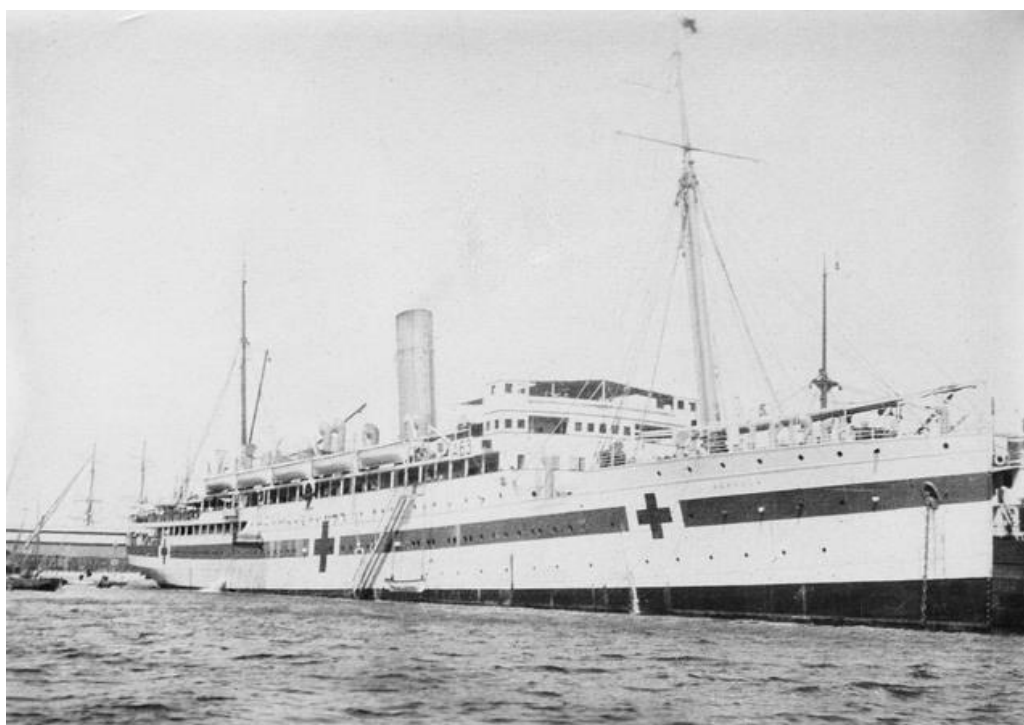
Driver Mathias O'Mara was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 8th March, 1917. He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, England on 3rd April, 1917 & was reported to be seriously ill with Tuberculosis.

A Medical Report was completed on Driver Mathias O'Mara on 20th April, 1917 while a patient at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield. His age was listed as 33 years & his former occupation was Barman & Clerk. Driver O'Mara's disability was recorded as Tubercular Disease of Larynx & Lungs (no T.B. demonstrated). The disease had originated on 8th March, 1917 while he was posted at Perham Downs. *"This man was 12 months in Egypt & landed in England June 16th 1916. Ill at Perham Downs parading ___ for a month. Sent into Tidworth Military Hospital transferred to Harefield 3/4/17."* The disability was caused from Exposure & infection while on Active Service & was listed as a permanent disability. The Medical Board found on 1st May, 1917 that Driver Mathias O'Mara should be discharged as permanently unfit for General & Home Service.

The address details for the next of kin of Driver Mathias O'Mara were changed for his mother – Margaret O'Mara on 30th June, 1917 to 351 Rokeby Road, Subiaco, Western Australia.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was discharged from 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield on 3rd July, 1917 for Australia.

Driver Mathias O'Mara embarked from England on Hospital Ship *Karoola* on 3rd July, 1917 for return to Australia as he was suffering from T.B. Disease Larynx and Lungs.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A02861

Hospital Ship *Karoola*

Driver Mathias O'Mara died on 14th August, 1917 at Sea on board Hospital Ship *Karoola* from Tubercular Laryngitis. A total of 1 Officer & 6 Other Ranks died on the voyage from Melbourne to UK & UK to Melbourne on Hospital Ship *Karoola* – Period 25th April, 1917 to 27th August, 1917. The list of seven men signed by Lieutenant Colonel T. G. Wilson, No. 1 Australian Hospital Ship *Karoola*, listed Driver M. O'Mara's cause of death as Pulmonary Phthisis.

Driver Mathias O'Mara is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. (It is not listed anywhere on his Service Record file but Driver Mathias O'Mara would have been buried at Sea).

Driver Mathias O'Mara requested in his Will, dated 19th June, 1917, that in the event of his death one half of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mrs Margaret O'Mara & the other half to his brother – Jack O'Mara.

The address details for the next of kin of the late Driver Mathias O'Mara were changed for his mother – Margaret O'Mara on 7th January, 1918 to 263 Roberts Road, Subiaco, Western Australia.

Driver Mathias O'Mara was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver O'Mara's mother – Mrs M. O'Mara, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Mathias O'Mara – service number 6344, of Australian Army Service Corps. No family details are listed.

Driver M. O'Mara is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 181.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

M. O'Mara is remembered on the Belmont War Memorial, located in Faulkner Park, Progress Way, Belmont, Western Australia.



Belmont War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – James Pol)



(Photo by Rosie Ritorto)

M. O'Mara 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.

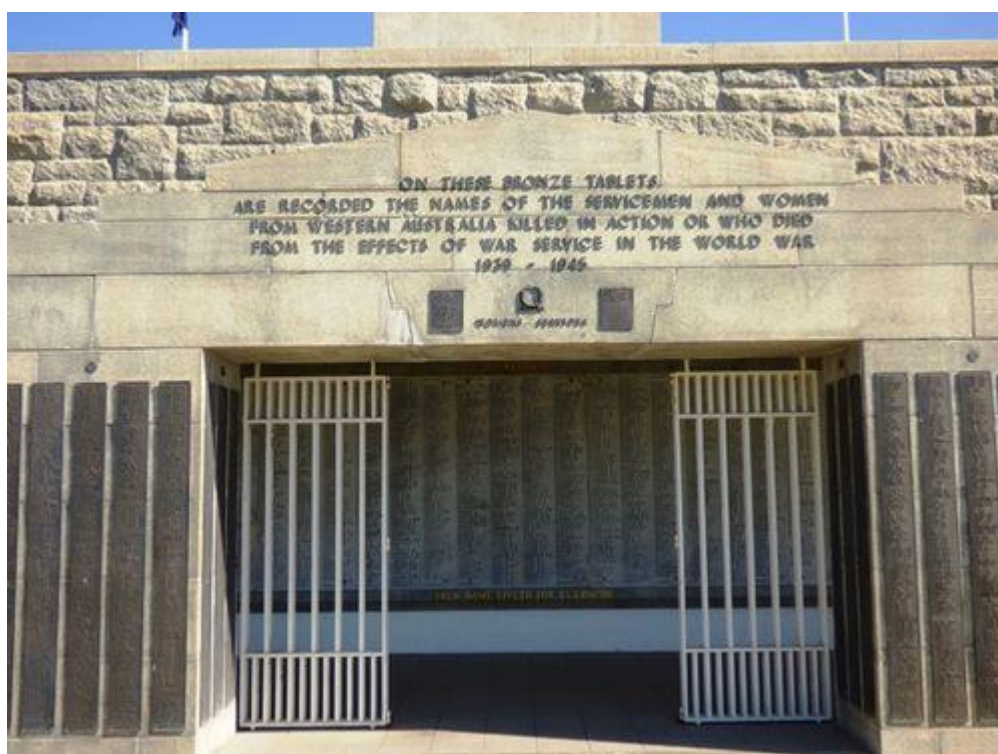
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a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

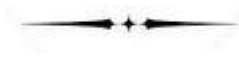




Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(33 pages of Driver Mathias O'Mara'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

AN UNPROVOKED ASSAULT

Mathias O'Mara was charged with having assaulted one Smith.

The accused pleaded not guilty.

Evidence was given to the effect that on New Year's morning the accused accosted Smith, and knocked him down, and then tried his hand upon another man. There was no provocation given to warrant the assault.

Defendant told the court that he was walking down the street, when he was struck by somebody. He immediately turned and retaliated.

The bench, who termed the assault a cowardly one, fined the accused £2, with costs, in default 14 days. Half the fine (if paid) was ordered to go to Smith.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 2 January, 1907)

Hotel-Barbering

Young Man's Downfall

Mathia O'Mara, one a well-known jockey, was charged in the City Police Court this morning, ___ Messrs Russell, Collette and Rendell Js.P. with having stolen 3s 3d from John Cummings at the Duke of York Coffee Palace last night.

This was a clear case of hotel barbering, but Mr Russell said that the Bench were reluctant to send accused to gaol, as he had never been convicted of stealing before. He would be fined £5 and costs, in default one months' imprisonment.

(The Evening Mail, Fremantle, Western Australia – 4 December, 1909)

Jockey in Trouble

Mathias O'Mara, a jockey, aged 30 years, was remanded for eight days at the Police Court this morning upon a charge of having, at Perth, on January 8, stolen the sum of £44, the property of James Bertram.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 9 January, 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

315th CASUALTY LIST

ILL

Corporal Mathias O'Mara (Narrogin), second occasion, previously reported returned to duty.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 26 June, 1917)

ITEMS OF NEWS

Returning Sick and Wounded –

Our Peth correspondent telegraphed last night:- The following sick and wounded soldiers are due at Fremantle tomorrow:-.....Cpl. Mathias O'Mara.....

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 18 August, 1917)

DEATHS

O'MARA – Corporal Mathias, aged 33, 16th A.A.S.C., aboard transport, on the 14th, beloved youngest son of Mrs M. O'Mara, of Belmont, and the late W. O'Mara; also brother of Mrs M. Dewar, Mrs W. D. Lessels, Mrs W. F. Nelligan, Mrs E. S. Hymus, Bill (on active service), and J. J. O'Mara, of Belmont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 18 August, 1917)

WAR CASUALTIES

Mrs M. O'Mara, of Hay-street, Subiaco, has received the sad news that her youngest son, Mat, while returning home, had died and been buried at sea within a few days' steam of Fremantle. Corporal O'Mara, who was attached to the 16th A.A.S.C., had been on service abroad for over two years. He was on the Southland when that vessel was torpedoed on her way to Gallipoli, and took part in the evacuation. He afterwards proceeded to England with his corps and saw service on the Continent.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

O'MARA – In sad and loving memory of my dearest son, Corporal Matthias O'Mara, after two years and a half active service at Gallipoli, Egypt, France, wounded and invalided home; died at sea; buried from hospital ship Karoola.

Inserted by his sorrowing widowed mother.

O'MARA – In loving memory of my dear brother, Mat., who died at sea, August 14, 1917, on hospital ship Karoola (late 16th A.S.C.)

-Inserted by his fond brother, Jack, and sister-in-law Bub; also nieces, Florrie and Ethel, and nephews, Willie, Mat, and Jack O'Mara.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 14 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

O'MARA – In sad but loving memory of my dear son, Driver Matthias, who died at sea on August 14.

Sadly missed.

May his soul rest in peace.

Inserted by his sorrowing widowed mother.

O'MARA – In loving memory of our dear brother, Mat, who died at sea on August 14.

R.I.P.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Maggie and Jack Ryan.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 14 August, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

O'MARA – In loving memory of our dear brother, Driver Mat O'Mara, who died at sea, on August 14, 1917

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Maggie and Jack Ryan.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 13 August, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

O'MARA – In loving memory of my dear brother, Driver Mat O'Mara, A.S.C., who was buried at sea, August 14, 1917, when returning from active service.

Inserted by his loving brother Bill.

O'MARA – In loving memory of our brother, Driver Matthias O'Mara (Mat), A.S.C., who was buried at sea, August 14, 1917, when returning from active service.

R.I.P.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Maggie and Jack Ryan.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 14 August, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

O'MARA – In loving memory of my dear brother, Mathias O'Mara (Mat), of the 16th A.S.C., who was buried at sea, August 14, 1917.

R.I.P.

Inserted by his loving brother, Bill O'Mara.

O'MARA – In loving memory of Driver Mathias O'Mara (Mat), of the 16th A.S.C., who was buried at sea, August 14, 1917.

R.I.P.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Maggie and Jack Ryan.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 14 August, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

O'MARA – In loving memory of our dear brother, Mathias O'Mara (Mat), of the A.S.C. who died at sea when returning home.

Inserted by his sister and brother-in-law, Maggie and Jack Ryan.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 14 August, 1924)

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.

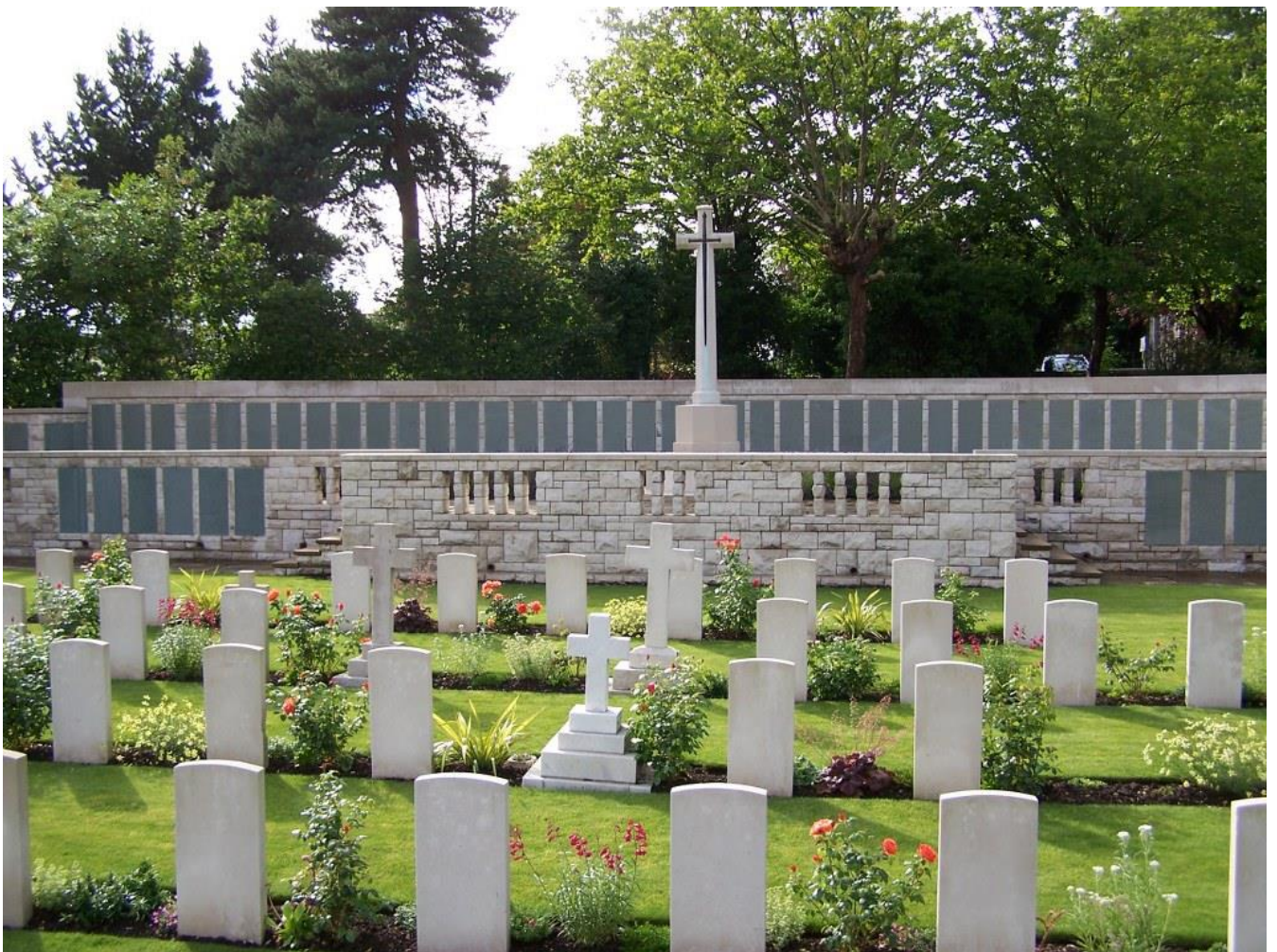
(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice



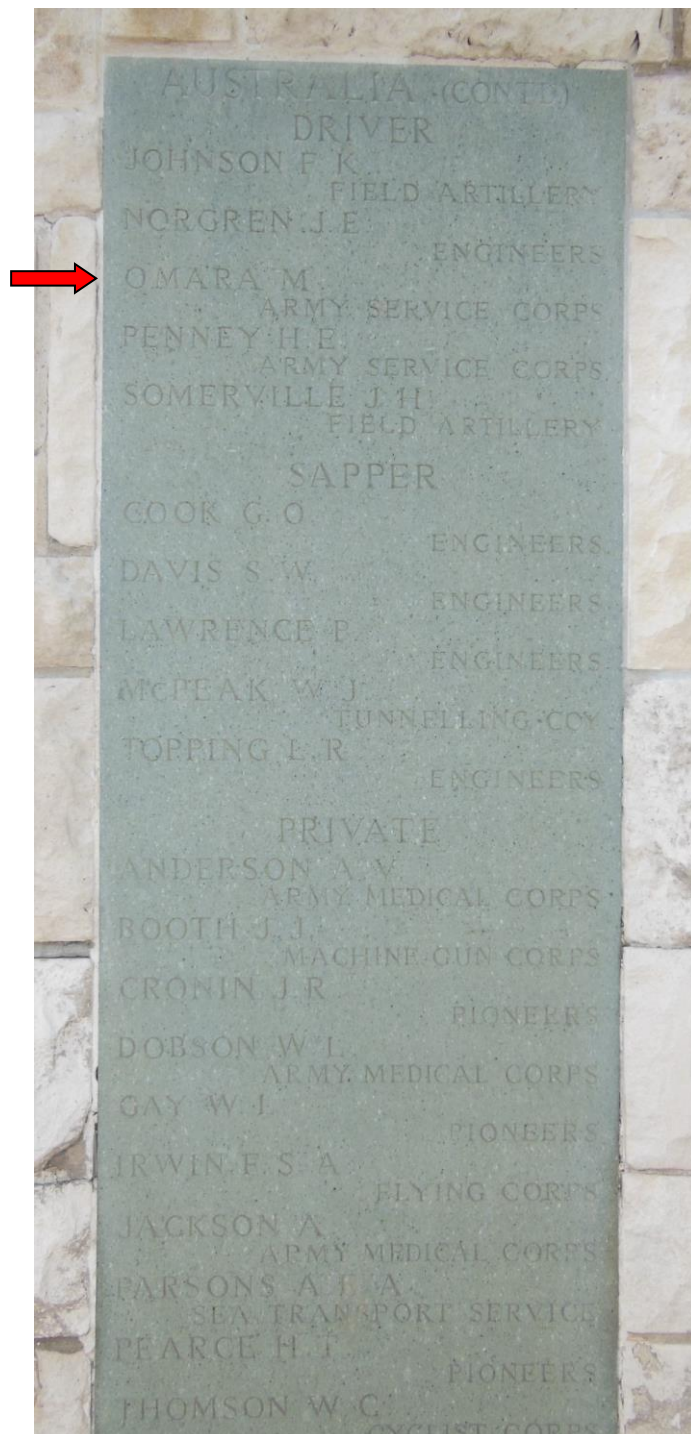
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice



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

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Driver M. O'Mara's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

