

**Welford Road Cemetery,  
Leicester, Leicestershire, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**ORDINARY SEAMAN 5777**

**E. M. B. PARKER**

**H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"**

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY**

**13TH DECEMBER, 1918**

## Edward Mervyn Blackstone PARKER

Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker was born on 15th April, 1901 in Newtown, Sydney, NSW to parents Edward J. and Nellie Parker (nee Evans).

From the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette – 27 July, 1916:

### **COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SERVICE**

#### **POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### *Services Terminated*

*EDWARD MERVYN BLACKSTONE PARKER, Telegraph Messenger, Ballina, from 7th July, 1916 (resigned).*

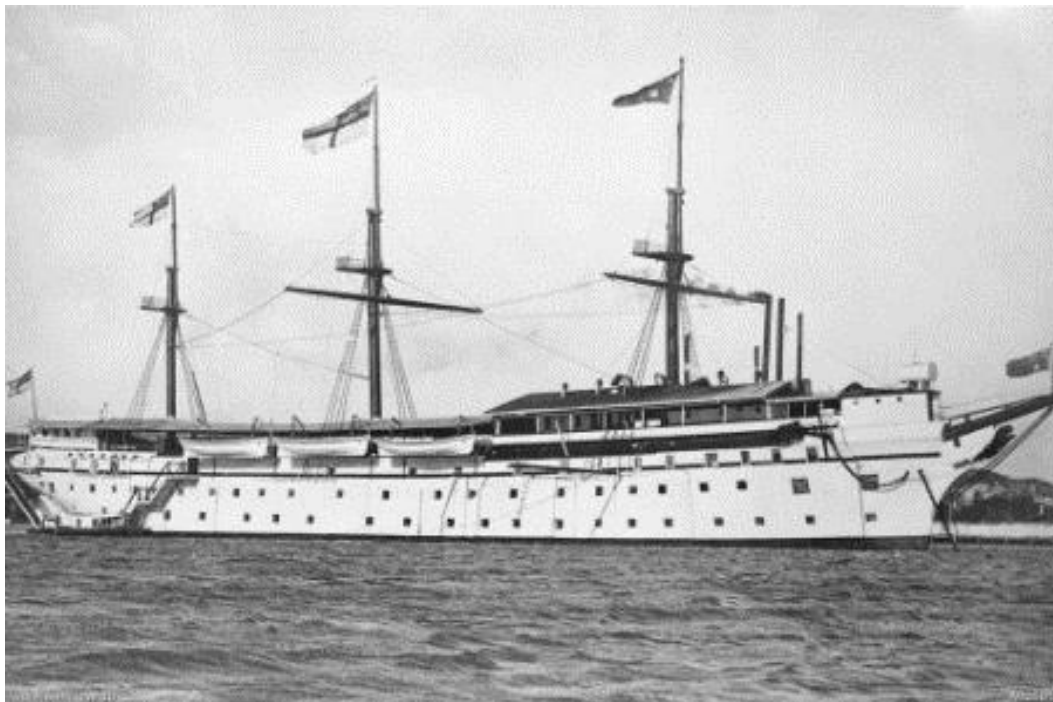
Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker joined the Royal Australian Navy on 25th July, 1916 at the age of 15 years. He was 5ft 7 ¼ inches in height with black hair, hazel eyes & a dark complexion. Edward Parker had scars of burns on his right arm, left arm & neck. His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Nellie Parker, Ross Street, Ballina, Richmond River, NSW.

Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker served in H.M.A.S. *Tingira* on 25th July, 1916 as Boy Class II. He was promoted to Boy Class I on 4th May, 1917.

### **H.M.A.S. *Tingira***

H.M.A.S. *Tingira* (an aboriginal word for "open sea") was a training ship commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy. Previously the *Sobraon* carried cargo and passengers between Australia & the United Kingdom once a year between 1866 & 1891. The *Sobraon* had been purchased by the NSW Government in 1891 & was used as a reformatory or Nautical School Ship for wayward boys until 1911.

The Royal Australian Navy refitted the *Sobraon* & was commissioned on 25th April, 1912 as H.M.A.S. *Tingira* & moored in Rose Bay, Sydney. Up to 250 boys between the ages of 14 ½ and 16 could be trained at any time, although the trainee complement rarely exceeded 200. Between 1912 and 1927, 3,158 boys were trained for naval service. As *Tingira* was immobilised, the steam yacht HMAS *Sleuth* was attached to the training ship as a tender, and used to provide seagoing experience to recruits.



**H.M.A.S. *Tingira* moored in Rose Bay, Sydney in 1912**

Boy Class I Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker returned to the London Depot on 8th August, 1917.

Boy Class I Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker served in H.M.A.S. *Sydney* on 5th October, 1917. He was promoted to Ordinary Seaman II on 15th April, 1918 then promoted again to Ordinary Seaman on 1st December, 1918.

### **H.M.A.S. *Sydney***

H.M.A.S. *Sydney* was a *Chatham* class light cruiser of the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.). Laid down in 1911 and launched in 1912, the cruiser was commissioned into the R.A.N. in 1913.

H.M.A.S. *Sydney* arrived in Bermuda on 6th January, 1915 where she spent eighteen months uneventfully patrolling along the west coast of the Americas. On 9th September, 1916, the cruiser sailed for the United Kingdom, and after a brief refit in Greenock, joined the 5th Battle Squadron at Scapa Flow. On 15th November, *Sydney* was reassigned to the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron at Greenock of which H.M.A.S. *Australia* was the flagship. For the remainder of the war H.M.A.S. *Sydney*'s service was confined to North Sea patrols.

H.M.A.S. *Sydney* was present at the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet on 21 November 1918. She returned to Australia on 19 July 1919. After the war, *Sydney* carried out routine fleet duties until paid off in 1928. She was broken up the next year.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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### **H.M.A.S. *Sydney* (January, 1918, Atlantic Ocean/North Sea)**

Ordinary Seaman Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker died on 13th December, 1918 from Meningitis.

A death for Edward Parker, aged 17, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Leicester, Leicestershire, England.

Ordinary Seaman Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker was buried in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England – Memorial Reference – Screen Wall 01.200. He does not have a headstone however, his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Ordinary Seaman Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker – service number 5777, aged 17, of H.M.A.S. “Sydney”, Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of Edward J. and Nellie Parker, of 2 Brunner Road, Broadmeadow, Newcastle, New South Wales.

Ordinary Seaman E. M. B. Parker is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 1.

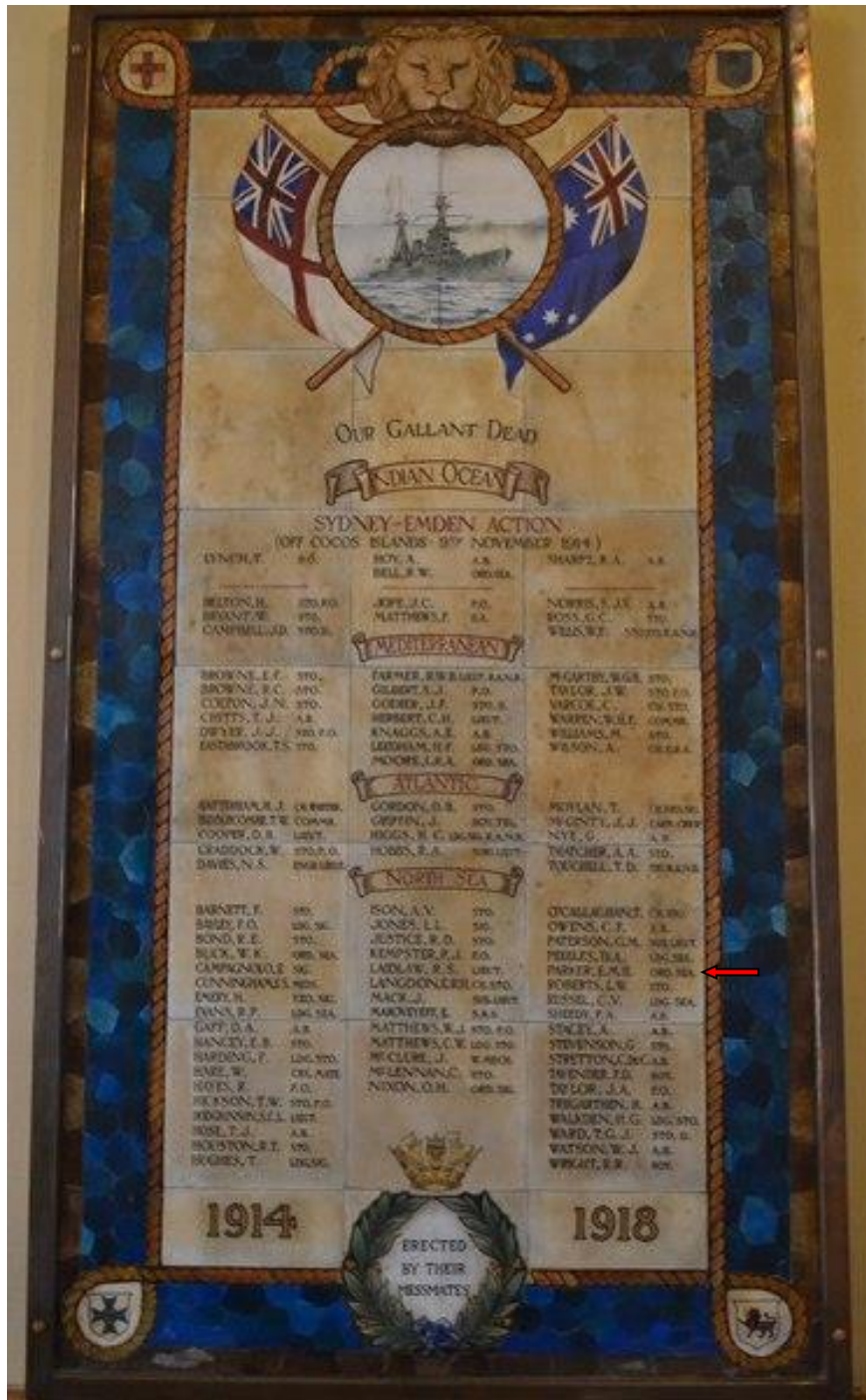


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

E. M. B. Parker is remembered on Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, located at HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Nelson Road, Crib Point, Victoria.



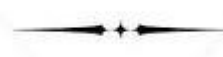
**HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria** (Photo courtesy of Karen Standen)



(Photo courtesy of Karen Standen)

(2 pages of Ordinary Seaman Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker'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) & National Archives



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **Roll of Honour**

PARKER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Edward M. (Teddy) Parker, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, died Leicester, England, 13th December, 1918; aged 17 years and 8 months.

Dear Teddy, how nobly you responded to your country's call.

And did you duty well,

And when peace was declared with joy and pride

We waited your return.

But God knew best and called you home on high.

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters, Mr and Mrs E. J. Sybil, and Basil Parker, Broadmeadow.

PARKER – In loving memory of my dear grandson, "Teddy," of H.M.A.S. Sydney; aged 17 years and 8 months.

Gone, but not forgotten.

Inserted by his loving grandfather, H. Evans.

PARKER – In loving memory of our dear nephew "Teddy," of H.M.A.S. Sydney, died Leicester, England, 13th December, 1918; aged 17 years and 8 months.

Never forgotten.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs H. Priest, and family, and Horace and Thelma Randell, Sydney.

PARKER – In loving memory of "Teddy" Parker, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, died 13th December, 1918; Leicester, England; aged 17 years 8 months.

Days of sadness still come o'er us,

Hidden tears afresh do flow,

For memory keeps the dear one near us,

Although he died a year ago.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle and cousins, Ern, Charl, and Sylvia and Chassie Steel, Locomotive Hotel, Newcastle.

PARKER – In loving memory of our dear nephew "Teddy" Parker, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, died 13th December, 1918, Leicester, England; aged 17 years 8 months.

A young life nobly ended.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle and family, Thirza and Will Andrews, Adamstown.

PARKER – In loving memory of my dear nephew and cousin, "Teddy" Parker, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, died Leicester, England, 13th December, 1918; aged 17 years 8 months.

In memory ever dear.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle and family, Mr and Mrs H. Gilsthorpe and family, Leicester, England.

PARKER – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Edward Mervyn Parker ("Teddy"), who died in England December 13, 1918.

As he lies in perfect sleep,  
His memory we will always keep.

Inserted by his loving auntie and uncle, Maude and Jack Parker and family, Cecil Cottage.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate – 13 December, 1919)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

PARKER – In loving remembrance of my god-son and mate, E. M. B. Parker, late H.M.A.S. Sydney, who died in Leicester, England, December 13, 1918. Inserted by F. Blackstone, and his loving mate, Perce Bruce.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 13 December, 1919)*

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## **Roll of Honour**

PARKER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Edward M. Parker, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, who died in Leicester Hospital, England, December 13, 1918.

Oh, so sadly missed.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, brother and sisters, Mr and Mrs E. J. Parker, Bruncker-road, Broadmeadow.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate – 13 December, 1920)*

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## 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.

Ordinary Seaman Edward Mervyn Blackstone Parker has a numbered flat memorial stone & is remembered on the CWGC's Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester.

## **Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England**

Between 1914 and 1919, the 5th Northern General Hospital, with more than 2,600 beds, occupied several buildings in Leicester and North Evington. More than 95,000 officers and men were admitted to the hospital, which recorded 514 deaths before its closure. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force operational training station near Leicester. Leicester (Welford Road) Cemetery contains 286 First World War burials, more than half of them forming a war graves plot with a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. The 46 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, which also contains eight Belgian war graves, 1 of which is unknown.

*(Information from CWGC)*



*(Photo by daglish – Find a Grave)*





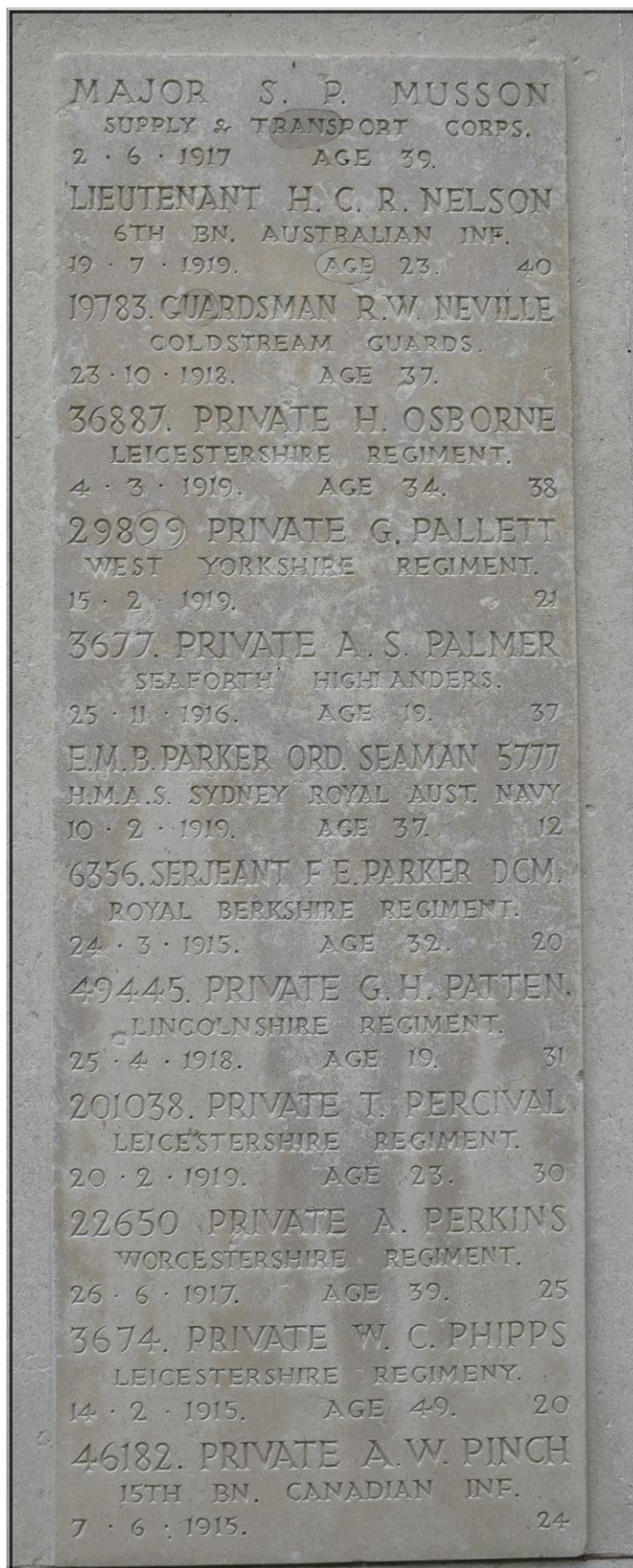
**Cross of Sacrifice & Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester** (Photo from CWGC)



(Photo by Jackie March – Find a Grave)

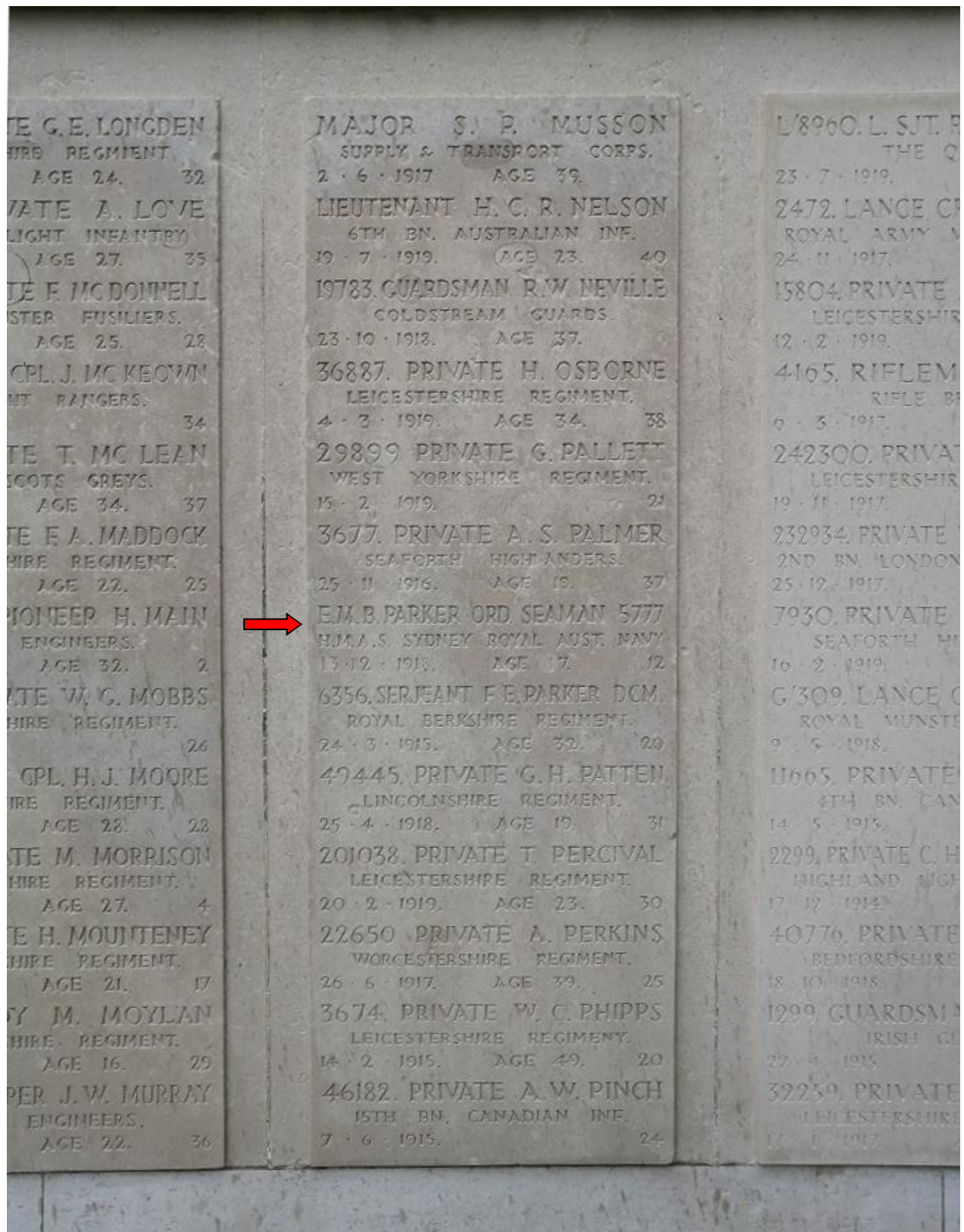
Photo of Ordinary Seaman E. M. B. Parker's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England.

(Note: The date of death recorded on the Screen Wall is incorrect. The date of death should be 13.12.1918. The age at death is also incorrect & should be 17.)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Sainthouse – Friends of Welford Road Cemetery)

UPDATE: The details of Ordinary Seaman E. M. B. Parker have now been corrected on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Sainthouse – Friends of Welford Road Cemetery – May, 2021)



Photo of Ordinary Seaman E. M. B. Parker's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England.



**ANZAC Day Commemorations** (Photos courtesy of Michael Doyle)





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Mr and Mrs A T Sharp visiting the graves of seven Australians at the Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, including the grave of Kathleen Adele Brennan, Australian Red Cross Society, member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment. Brennan died of influenza at Leicester, England on 24 November 1918.

From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.

