

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2422 PRIVATE

H. PARKINSON

5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

26TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 28

Though Lost To Sight

To Memory Ever Dear

Henry (Harry) PARKINSON

Henry Parkinson was born at Greta, New South Wales on 7th March, 1890 to parents Herbert Smith Parkinson & Emma Elizabeth Parkinson (nee Bristow).

Henry Parkinson married Mary Agnes V. Bendeich on 21st May, 1914 at Lochinvar, New South Wales. Their marriage was registered in the district of Maitland West, New South Wales. They had 2 children – Veronica “Eileen” May Parkinson was born on 2nd September, 1914 at Branxton, NSW & Ida Jean Parkinson was born on 16th December, 1915 at Branxton, NSW.

Henry Parkinson was a 26 year old, married, Labourer from Cliff Street, Greta, NSW when he enlisted on 13th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Mary Ann Parkinson, of Cliff Street, Greta, NSW. (According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – Henry Parkinson was a Coal Miner).

Henry Parkinson was posted to Recruits on 7th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 30th Battalion Reinforcements on 1st January, 1916 as Private. Private Parkinson was Absent without Leave on 3rd January, 1916 while posted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW. He was fined 5/- & one day's pay.

Private Henry Parkinson, Service number 2422, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on H.M.A.T. *Orsova* (A67) on 11th March, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements. (Note: The Purport form in the Service Record file for Private Henry Parkinson has recorded he embarked from Sydney on H.M.A.T. *Anchises* on 14th March, 1916.)

Private Henry Parkinson embarked from Alexandria on H.M.A.T. *Ivernia* on 21st June, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916. He proceeded from 5th Divisional Base in France on 2nd August, 1916 & was taken on strength of 30th Battalion in France on 6th August, 1916 from 4th Reinforcements.

30th Battalion

The 30th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Liverpool in New South Wales on 5 August 1915. Most of its recruits hailed from the Newcastle region and other parts of country New South Wales, but almost an entire company was composed of former RAN ratings from Victoria.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916. The 30th Battalion's first major battle was at Fromelles on 19 July 1916. It was tasked with providing carrying parties for supplies and ammunition but was soon drawn into the vicious fighting. Following Fromelles, the battalion was rotated in and out of the front line along with others in the brigade, but played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.

In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line. During the general advance that followed, the 30th Battalion had the honour of occupying Bapaume, one of the original objectives for the Somme Offensive of 1916. The 30th missed much of the heavy fighting of 1917, being employed in flank protection and reserve roles at the second battle of Bullecourt and the battle of Polygon Wood.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Henry Parkinson was transferred & taken on strength of 5th Pioneer Battalion on 27th August, 1917 from 30th Battalion.

5th Pioneer Battalion

The 5th Pioneer Battalion was an Australian infantry and light engineer unit raised for service during the First World War as part of the all volunteer Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Formed in Egypt in March 1916, the battalion subsequently served on the Western Front in France and Belgium, after being transferred to the European battlefields shortly after its establishment. Assigned to the 5th Division, the 5th Pioneer Battalion fought in most of

the major battles that the AIF participated in between mid-1916 and the end of the war in November 1918. It was subsequently disbanded in early 1919.

The 5th Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 5th Division. The battalion was formed in the aftermath of the failed Gallipoli campaign when the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was expanded as part of plans to transfer it from the Middle East to Europe for service in the trenches along the Western Front. This expansion saw several new infantry divisions raised in Egypt and Australia, as well as specialist support units such as machine gun companies, engineer companies, artillery batteries and pioneer battalions, which were needed to meet the conditions prevalent on the Western Front.

Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. The pioneer concept had existed within the British Indian Army before the war, but had not initially been adopted in other British Empire forces. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

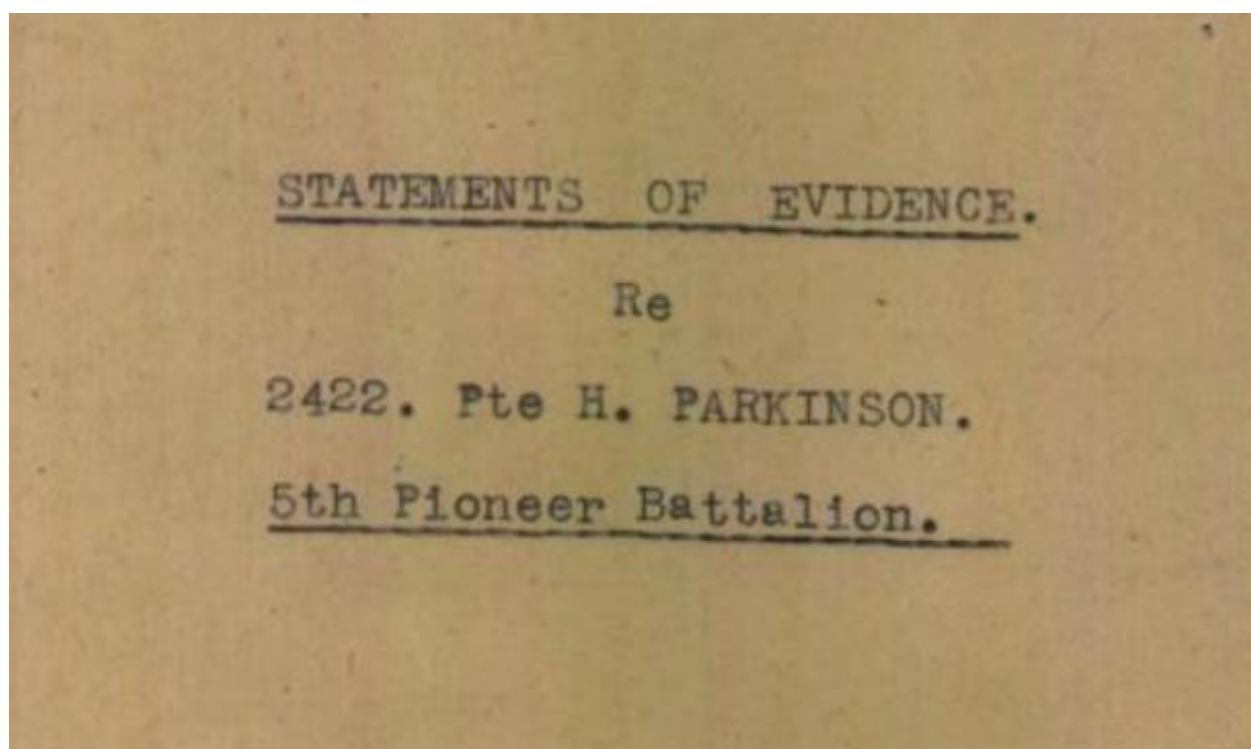
The 5th Pioneer Battalion was formed from volunteers from the 5th Division who possessed relevant trade qualifications, or who were deemed to be suitable for manual labouring tasks. Many were skilled and experienced in mining and other artisanal trades. According to some sources a majority of the battalion's recruits were from South Australia, although others refer to a significant proportion originating from Western Australia.

(Extract of Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

Private Henry Parkinson was on Leave to UK from 23rd September, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 4th October, 1917.

Private Henry Parkinson was reported to be with his Unit on 17th July, 1918 (this usually occurred when no movements had been noted on the Casualty Form – Active Service for a period of time)

Private Henry Parkinson was accidentally injured in the Field on 11th August, 1918. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance with accidental burns to his Face & Body then transferred to 55th Casualty Clearing Hospital on 11th August, 1918. Private Parkinson was transferred to Ambulance Train 27 on 12th August, 1918 & admitted to 8th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 15th August, 1918. He was transferred to England from Havre, France on 21st August, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle*.



EVIDENCE.

O/C

A Coy. 5th Pioneer Battalion

Re - Accident to 2422. Pte H. Parkinson.

On 11-8-18 after tea I was in company of Pte Parkinson going along an old German trench between MAREDCAVE and WARFUSSEE I was on one side of the trench about 5 yards in advance when I heard Pte Parkinson screaming out and looking around I noticed he was in flames - I ran to his assistance and smothered the flames in blanket and helped to run him along to Hospital as quickly as possible. I don't know how the accident happened but from what Pte Parkinson said "he thought he must have kicked something.

(Sgd) L.J. Jackson Cpt

(Sgd) 456. Pte S.W. Elliott.

O/C

A Coy. 5th Pioneer Battalion.

Re - Accident to 2422. Pte H. Parkinson.

After tea on 11-8-18 I, in company with Ptes Elliott and Parkinson was going along an old German trench between MAREDCAVE and WARFUSSEE I was well in the lead, when hearing screams looked back and noticed that Elliott was putting out flames on Pte Parkinson's clothes with a blanket I went to his assistance and helped to get him away. I asked Pte Parkinson how it happened and he said he thought he must have kicked something.

(Sgd) L.J. Jackson Cpt

(Sgd) 992. Pte A.M. Yates.

A Report on Accidental or self-inflicted Injuries was completed on 20th October, 1918 by Lieutenant Colonel H. G. Carter, Commanding, 5th Pioneer Brigade. Private Parkinson had "extensive burns of Face - Both arms Both thighs. Scrotum and Penis & Back. Burns of left arm were in parts third degree all other 2nd degree also on penis & scrotum. Developed Tetanus. Died 26-8-18." "Burns caused by the explosion of a phosphorus bomb." The Commanding Officer believed that the injury was caused in the performance of military duty & no blame was to be placed on either the soldier or any other person. The G.O.C. Brigade agreed that no one was to blame & no disciplinary action was to be proposed.

Private Henry Parkinson was admitted to Regents Park Hospital, Southampton, England on 22nd August, 1918 with Burns of both sides of Face - both arms, both legs, scrotum (Phosphorous Shell). The Hospital Admissions form recorded "Injured August 11th/18 at Villers Bretonneux, France. Admitted 22.8.18 with extensive burns some of which were 3rd degree, burns very dirty on admission, had been dressed with picric before arrival - parts of body 4 hourly f___ rest wax - developed Tetanus 25.8.18 and died in the evening of 26.8.18."

Private Henry Parkinson died at 6.55 pm on 26th August, 1918 at Regents Park Auxiliary Hospital, Southampton, England from Burns accidentally received & Tetanus.

A death for Henry Parkinson, aged 28, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Southampton, Hampshire, England.

Private Henry Parkinson was buried on 29th August, 1918 in Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton, Hampshire, England – Grave No. 4 Section B10.

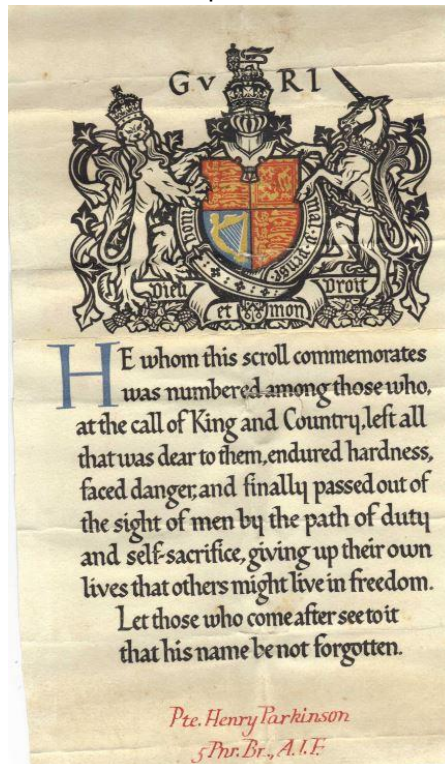
From the burial report of Private Henry Parkinson - *Coffin was good, Elm with brass mounts. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and surmounted by some beautiful wreaths sent by the following: Patients "Blightmount" St. Johns Hospital, Matron and Medical Officers. Matron & Staff, and Visting Ladies. The Matron of the hospital, several nurses and a number of Australian soldier patients attended the funeral. The "Last Post" was sounded by an A.S.C. Bugler. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, were represented at the funeral.*

Private Henry Parkinson's place of burial is now recorded by CWGC as Plot B. 01. 4. and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Henry Parkinson requested in his Will, dated 5th June, 1917, that all his real estate & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Mary Agnes Parkinson, of Cliff Street, Greta, New South Wales. Private Parkinson also appointed his wife as sole Executrix.

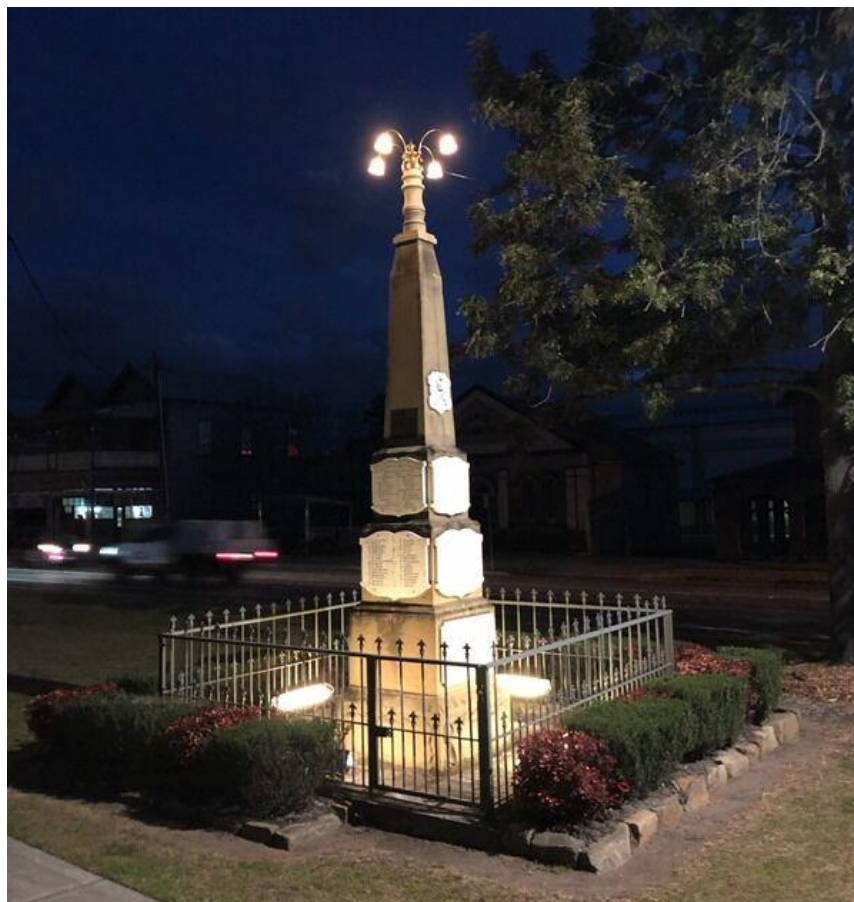
The Public Trustee, Newcastle Branch, NSW, wrote to Army Base Records, Albert Park Barracks, Melbourne, Victoria on 29th June, 1961 regarding 2422 Private Henry Parkinson, 5th Pioneers: *"Estate of the late Mary Agnes O'Conner. The Public Trustee is the administrator of the estate of the abovenamed, who was previously the widow of Henry Parkinson. Henry Parkinson died on 26th August, 1918 at Southampton, England, whilst on actual military service with the Australian Military Service. It would be appreciated if you would forward his Death Certificate to this office."*

Private Henry Parkinson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Parkinson's widow – Mrs M. A. Parkinson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & re-despatched December, 1921. Plaque sent November, 1922).



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Parkinson – service number 2422, aged 28, of 5th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Herbert Smith Parkinson & Emma Elizabeth Parkinson; husband of Mary Agnes Parkinson, of Nelson St., Greta, New South Wales.

H. Parkinson is remembered on the Greta War Memorial, located on New England Highway & Water Street, Greta, NSW.



Greta War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



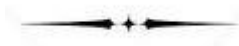
Private H. Parkinson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(58 pages of Private Henry Parkinson'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



Private Henry Parkinson *(with permission of Debbie Jenkins)*



Private Harry Parkinson *(with permission of Debbie Jenkins)*



Private Henry Parkinson *(with permission of Debbie Jenkins)*



Private Henry Parkinson (left) & William George Swinton, DCM (right) *(with permission of Debbie Jenkins)*



Private Henry Parkinson *(with permission of Debbie Jenkins)*



Newspaper Notices

WAR CASUALTIES

KILLED IN ACTION

Mrs William Muir, of 69 Devonshire-street, West Maitland, has been notified that her nephew, Pte Harry Parkinson, of Greta, has been killed in action.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 31 August, 1918) & (Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 5 September, 1918)

& (The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 7 September, 1918)

Roll of Honour

PARKINSON – In loving memory of our dear husband and dad, Private Harry Parkinson, who died of “burns and tetanus” in England on August 26, 1918; aged 28 years and 4 months.

The saddest day us yet to come,
When the boys come marching home,
And we miss among the cheery crown,
Dear Harry, who will never return.

Inserted by his loving wife and little Eileen and Ida, Cliff-street, Greta. 8486

PARKINSON – In loving memory of our dearly beloved son and brother, Private Harry Parkinson, of 5th Pioneers, who died of “burns and tetanus” in England on August 26, 1918; aged 28 years and 4 months.

Dear son of my bosom, you sleep with the brave,
Where no tears of your parents can drop on your grave.
Your chair, it is vacant, our family will mourn
For you, dear Harry, who will never return.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, and brother, Bob and Will, Nelson-street, Greta. 8486.

PARKINSON – Died of “burns and tetanus” on August 26, 1918, Private Harry Parkinson, of the 5th Pioneer Battalion, aged 28 years and 4 months.

Sleep on, dear Harry, in they last long sleep,
In a grave I never shall see,
But some gentle hand, in a distant land,
Will lay down a flower for me.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Maude and Corporal W. Swinton (on active service), nephew and niece, Willie and Dulcie, Great. 8486.

PARKINSON – A tribute of love to the memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Private Harry Parkinson, of the 5th Pioneer Battalion, who died from burns and tetanus in England on August 26, 1918; aged 28 years and 4 months.

In a hero's grave he is lying,
Harry, dearest and best,
Hushed be all sorrow and weeping,
Harry is only at rest.

Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt, and cousins, Robert and Julia Coates, Beatrice and Ida, Greta. 8486.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 25 September, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

432nd LIST

DIED FROM OTHER CAUSES

H. Parkinson (Greta), 26/8/'18, injuries

(The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 12 October, 1918)

Roll of Honour

PARKINSON – In loving memory of our dear husband and dad, Private Harry Parkinson, who died of wound in England on August 26, 1918; aged 28 years and 5 months.

Thou art not forgotten, dear Harry,
Nor wilt thou ever be,
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee.

Inserted by his loving wife, Mary, and little Eileen and Ida, Cliff-st., Greta. 7488.

PARKINSON – In loving memory of our dear son, Private Harry Parkinson, who died of wounds in England on August 26, 1918; aged 28 years and 5 months.

When we see the boys returning, Our hearts do throb with pain,
To think that you, our own dear son,
Will never come home again.
In dreams I see your loving face,
And kiss your fair, sweet brow,
And whisper, as we loved you then,
We love your memory now.
Thought far away your resting place
Is tended by kindly hands.

Inserted by his loving mother and father, Nelson-st., Greta. 7488

PARKINSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Harry, who died of wounds on August 26, 1918; aged 28 years and 5 months.

You are not forgotten, Harry dear,
For true love never dies;
The dearest spot on earth to us
Is where our brother lies.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Maude and Will Swinton (returned), Willie and Dulcie. 7488

PARKINSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Harry Parkinson, who died of wounds in England on August 26, 1918; aged 28 years and 5 months.

You are not forgotten, Harry dear,
For true love never dies;
The dearest spot on earth to us
Is where our brother lies.

Ever remembered by his loving brothers, Bob and Will, Greta. 7488

PARKINSON – A loving tribute to the memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Private Harry Parkinson, who died of wounds in England on August 26, 1918.

His happy young voice is now hushed for ever,
Though remembered by us, who loved him so dear;
His memory will live in our hearts, yes, for ever,
He fought for his country and all that was dear.

Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt and cousins, Robert and Julia Coates, Beatrix and Ida, Greta. 7488

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 26 August, 1919)

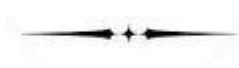
**Newspaper notices were also placed in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938 & 1939



*The resting place of HENRY PARKINSON,
5th Pioneer Battalion, A.I.F.,
Who died at S. John Hospital, Southampton, August 26th, 1918.*



Original Cross Marker for Private H. Parkinson (with permission of Debbie Jenkins)



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private H. Parkinson has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

Though Lost To Sight

To Memory Ever Dear

Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton, Hampshire, England

Southampton was No 1 Port during the First World War and military hospitals were established in the University buildings, in the Highfield Institution and at Shirley Warren. During the Second World War, 4.5 million tons of military equipment passed through Southampton docks and parts of the prefabricated harbours used at Arromanches during the Normandy invasion were made there. For a while, Southampton was also base to the 14th Major Port Transportation Corps of the United States Army.

Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery contains burials of both wars and a memorial to the missing.

The cemetery has a First World War plot near the main entrance containing most of the 125 graves from this period. Behind this plot is the Hollybrook Memorial which 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. It 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.

Most of the 186 Second World War burials are in a separate war graves plot. 3 of these burials are unidentified seaman of the Merchant Navy.

In addition to the Commonwealth war graves, the cemetery contains 67 war graves of other nationalities, many of them German, of which 2 are unidentified.

(Cemetery information from CWGC)



Chapel at Hollybrook Cemetery *(Photo by Michael Day)*



Hollybrook Cemetery (Photo below from 2012 – Basher Eyre)





(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



Hollybrook Cemetery with Hollybrook Memorial at front *(Photo by Michael Day)*

Photo of Private H. Parkinson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave - Charlie)