

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7037 PRIVATE

R. E. PRATT

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH DECEMBER, 1916

Robert Edward PRATT

Robert Edward Pratt was born on 18th April, 1891 at Casino, NSW to parents Stephen & Henrietta Pratt (nee Saville).

Robert Edward Pratt was aged 25 years & 5 months, single and a Farmer from Kyogle, NSW when he enlisted at Lismore, NSW on 14th September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7037 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr S. Pratt, North Casino, Richmond River, NSW.

Private Robert Edward Pratt was posted to 11th Depot Battalion at Enoggera, Queensland on 17th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 23rd Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 1st November, 1916.

Private Robert Edward Pratt requested on 2nd November, 1916 that the District Paymaster to pay, from the day of embarkation & during his service in the Australian Imperial Forces, on his behalf three shillings per day to James Thomas Pratt (brother) of Roseleigh, Kyogle, Richmond River, NSW.

Private Robert Edward Pratt was admitted to No. 13 Australian General Hospital on 5th November, 1916 with Vaccinia & discharged on 7th November, 1916.

Private Robert Edward Pratt embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on 17th November, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 23rd Reinforcements with his older brother – David George Pratt.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P07178.002

HMAT *Kyarra* (A55)

Private Robert Edward Pratt was admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea on 4th December, 1916.

Private Robert Edward Pratt died on 7th December, 1916 at Sea on board Troopship HMAT *Kyarra* from Meningitis.

Private Robert Edward Pratt was buried at Sea from HMAT *Kyarra* on 7th December, 1916. He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave.

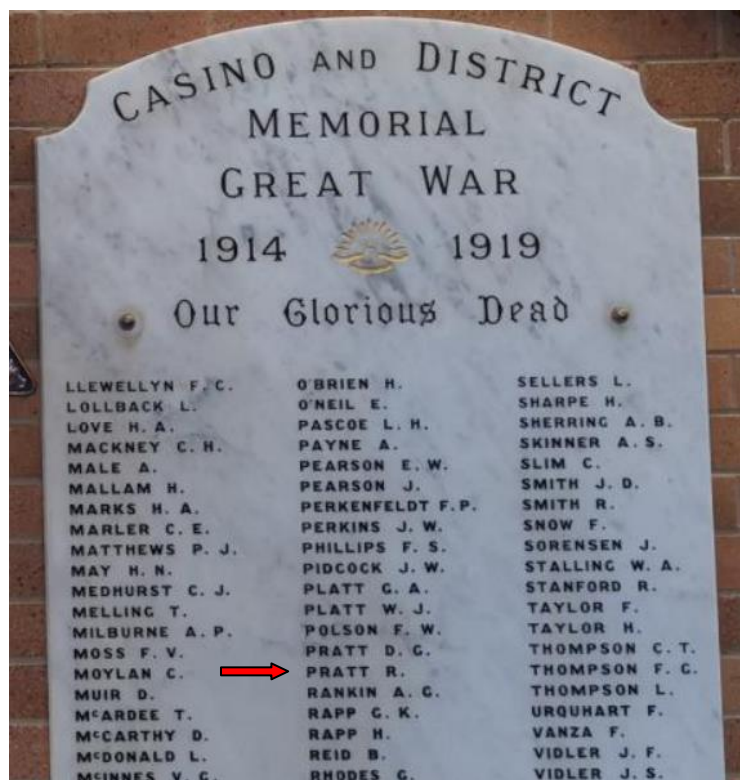
Private Robert Edward Pratt was entitled to British War Medal of only as he had not entered a Theatre War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Pratt's father – Mr S. Pratt, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both despatched January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Robert Edward Pratt – service number 7037, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

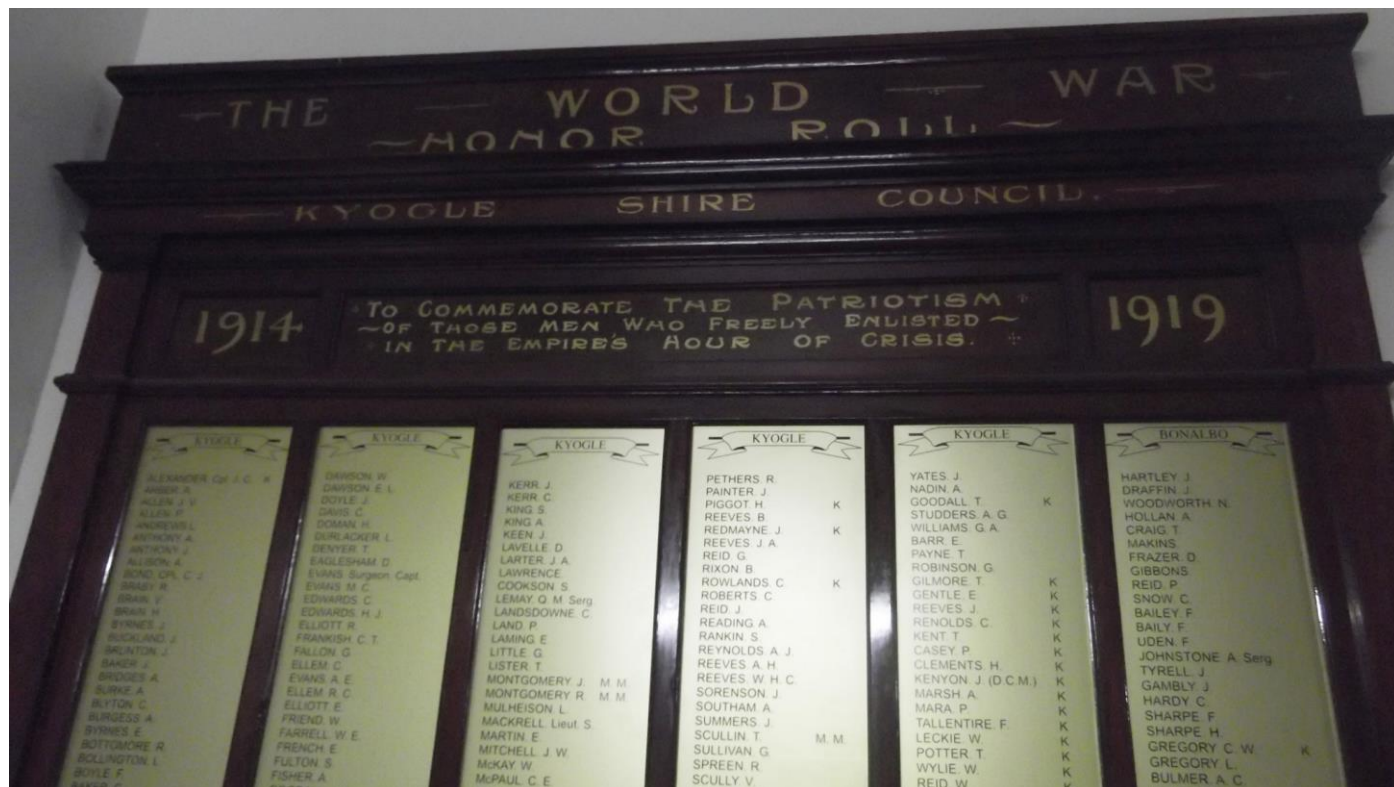
R. Pratt is remembered on the Casino & District Memorial Hospital Roll of Honour, located at Casino & District Memorial Hospital, Hotham & Canterbury Streets, Casino, NSW.



Casino & District Memorial Hospital Roll of Honour (Photo from Places of Pride – AWM – Graeme Bray)



R. Pratt is remembered on the Kyogle Shire Council Honor Roll, located in Kyogle Memorial Institute, corner Summerland Way and Stratheden Street, Kyogle, NSW.



Kyogle Shire Council Honor Roll

(Photos from War Memorials Register NSW – Graham Kennett – Kyogle Council)



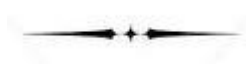
Private R. E. Pratt is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 57.

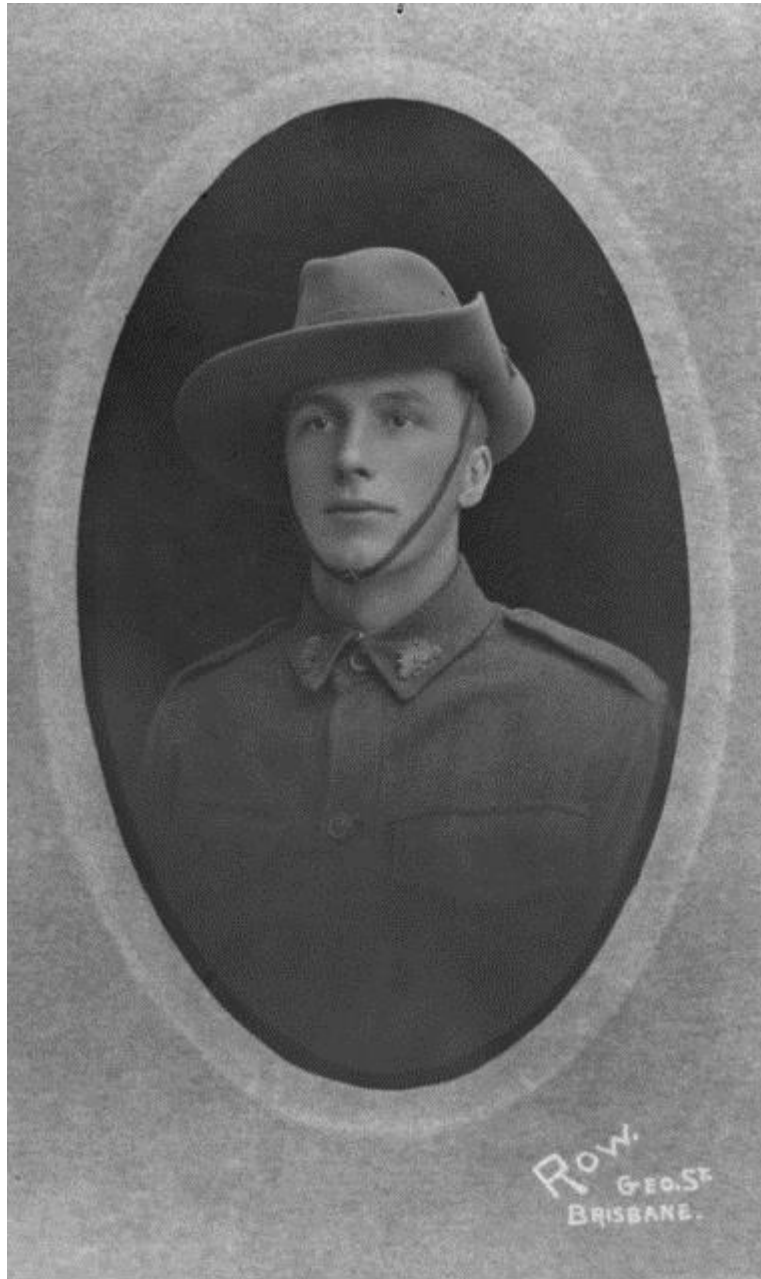


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(34 pages of Private Robert Edward Pratt'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

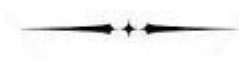




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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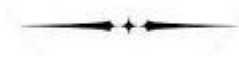
Private Robert Edward Pratt



[Connected to Private Robert Edward Pratt:](#)

Older brother – David George Pratt. – Private 7036. Enlisted 16th October, 1916 as a 27 year old Farmer from North Casino, NSW. Embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on 17th November, 1916 on HMAT *Kyarra* with 23rd Reinforcements of 9th Infantry Battalion. Transferred to 49th Battalion 21st June, 1917. Wounded in action in France 14th April, 1918. Returned to Australia & embarked from England on 19th October, 1918 with GSW to left chest – penetrating. Admitted to Ship's Hospital 25th October, 1918 with Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia. Died at Sea 8th November, 1918 on board H. T. *Sardinia*. Entitled to British War medal & Victory Medal.

Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.



Newspaper Notices

LOCAL ENLISTMENTS

The following have enlisted at Lismore depot:- B. Fowler, The Channon; R. E. Pratt, Kyogle; C. Fletcher, Lismore; and R. J. McRae, Bellingen.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 15 September, 1916)

WAR CASUALTIES

DIED AT SEA

PRIVATE R. E. PRATT

Private R. E. Pratt, son of Mr and Mrs S. Pratt, North Casino, died at sea on his way to the front. Another brother is at the front.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 December, 1916)

253rd LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Ptes R. E. Pratt, North Casino

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 22 December, 1916)

MEMORIAL SERVICE

THE LATE PTE R. E. PRATT

The Methodist Church on Sunday morning last was packed by representatives of all sections of the community wishing to do honor to the memory of a fallen soldier, Private Robert Pratt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Pratt, of North Casino. While the congregation remained standing the following obituary was read : —

"Robert Edward Pratt, aged 25 years, died at sea on the seventh of December, 1916, whilst serving his King und Country. As a son his life was exemplary. None had fault to find with his citizenship. As a soldier we must class him among the immortal ones whose mighty deeds and supreme sacrifices have sounded abroad Australia's name and fame and sanctified to us for ever this Southern Land which gave us birth. We mourn his loss. Our country, at this time cannot afford to lose such men. Our condolence is with those whose loss is the greatest and whose grief is deep— his bereaved beloved ones. To these we extend our sincerest and profoundest sympathy. We commend them to the consolation of the Eternal God, who is their refuge, their strength and their very present help. May the memory of our soldier-citizen be ever fresh with us, and his spirit — the spirit which deems honor dearer than life, and life but death when liberty is denied— rest upon us here this morning, to make us better citizens of our earthly estate, and worthier children of our 'conversation,' which is in Heaven.— Amen."

The congregation still standing with bowed heads, the church organ gave forth with fine sympathy the majestic measures of the Dead March from Saul.

The service then opened with an inspiring rendering of "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." Rev. (Sergt.) W. S. McKibbin appeared in full regimentals. The pulpit was covered with the immortal "Jack" and our starry flag, both carried out, by the way, most appropriately for this occasion, on a purple background. Against this the loving tributes of snow-white lilies and asters stood out in stately relief. Mr. McKibbin, home on sick leave after twelve months'

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service on the Western front, speaking from the text, "The Lord God of Hosts is with us," gave an address that will long remain in the hearts and minds of those who heard it.

"Is it worth while?" he asked. "At times like this one gets away from the banner-waving and the shouting, and in the face of bereavement, the heartbreak of mother, sister and sweetheart, and the tears of strong and stalwart men, one must ask 'Is it worth while?'" Five years ago— three years ago— he would have answered an emphatic "No !" But to-day, having been in the full tide of war's carnage, having stood beside the yawning graves of almost countless pals and hundreds upon hundreds of fellow-Australians, he could only answer an unreserved "Yes !" Having seen the make-up of the German peoples, having realised the abnormalities of German psychology, he must say "Yes." We are fighting for the freedom of the whole human race and for the liberty of Christianity. If those things are to go, better far that we should perish with them than to survive and become Prussianised. Germany's ends are Satanic and her soul is devil-possessed. The spirit of militarism, which is the spirit of murder, rapine, savagery and slavery, has overwhelmed her. Never was a war more justified than this war, even from a religious standpoint. What is this talk of war being incompatible with Christianity ? What about the Israelites in their cities ? Did they not fight with God on their side? What about the godly man of Joshua's day, and later, the Covenanters with the sword of God on the hills of Scotland ?

Referring to the honor roll framed behind the pulpit, Mr. McKibbin said that if he had his way, right beside it would hang another honor roll bearing the names of the soldiers' mothers, wives and sweethearts. As a soldier back from the battlefield to-day he bowed in the presence of such, and proclaimed them the real heroines of the war, and the aged fathers as the real heroes. One outstanding lesson of the war was the lesson we are learning of sympathy — that rich and wholesome sympathy which broadens out until rigid individualism is lost in the community interest and the vision of the common weal. This war should also give to us a sterner faith in God and the Right, coupled with a mighty love for our land. This is the price of our land, and surely we must love that land worthily. Our twenty thousand dead, entombed on Gallipoli, enfolded in the sands of Egypt, or embosomed in the fair fields of France, are but part of the price. A greater yet must be paid. We must send more men.

"Our lads must learn there's a sterner task

Than playing a well-pitched ball ;

That the land we love may some day ask

For a team when the trumpets call—

"A team that is ready to take the field

To bowling with balls of lead,

In a test match grim, where if one appealed,

The umpire might answer 'dead!'

"It is well to collar and kick and run

In a fierce-fought football match,

Where to grass his man is the full- back's fun,

While the barrackers breathless watch.

"But the time has come when the forwards' rush

Is on the tongues of flame,

And the men in the scrums will faint and flush

In the heat of a bloodier game."

And among the immortal ones whose spirit of renunciation in the interests of the Commonwealth, and whose self-effacement in the hour of danger, have so far kept for us our inheritance the name of Private Pratt now stands. And when the sea gives up its dead, when trumpets blow and angels line the way, the souls of the heroes, and their loved ones will undoubtedly meet again, and the sundered ties be once more welded in eternal love."

Quite a feature of the solemn service was the faultless rendering by the children's choir of Burnham's sweet and appealing anthem, "And God shall wipe away all Tears." Other hymns sung feelingly by the adult choir and congregation were Sullivan's "For all the Saints," "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" and "A Few More Years Shall Roll."

(The Richmond River Express and Casino Kyogle Advertiser, NSW – 16 February, 1917)

PERSONAL

There was a packed congregation at Casino Methodist Church on Sunday morning last, the occasion being a memorial service in connection with the death at sea of Private Robert Edward Pratt, whose demise took place on 7th December. Deceased, who was 25 years of age, was a brother of Mr J. E. Pratt, of Kyogle.

(The Kyogle Examiner, NSW – 17 February, 1917)

In Memoriam

PRATT – In loving memory of our dearly beloved Son and Brother, ROBERT EDWARD, who departed this life on 7th of December, 1916, while on his way to the front; aged 25 years and 8 months.

It seems but a day since he bade us goodbye,
His heart full of hope, and his spirits so high;
How little we thought when he left us that day,
The grim hand of death would soon tear him away.
So gentle and kind – how we miss his dear face,
Now we know that on earth we can ne'er fill his place;
Though asleep in the Saviour where grief is unknown,
In sorrow and tears are his loved ones at home.

'Tis just one year ago to-day
Since God called you away;
We think of you and speak of you,
And miss you every day.
And the hardest part is yet to come,
When our heroes do return;
And we miss amongst the cheering crowd
The face of our beloved son.

[Inserted by his sorrowing Parents, Brothers, and Sisters]

(Casino and Kyogle Courier and North Coast Advertiser, NSW – 8 December, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

PRATT – In loving memory of our dearly loved son and brother, PRIVATE ROBERT EDWARD PRATT, who died at sea 7th December, 1916.

For many years our family chain
Was closely linked together,
But, oh, that chain is broken now-
Our dear one has gone for ever.
No one knows how much we miss him,
Friends may think the wound is healed,
But they little know the anguish
That is within our hearts concealed.

[Inserted by his sorrowing parents, brothers, and sisters.]

(The Richmond River Express and Casino Kyogle Advertiser, NSW – 6 December, 1918)

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



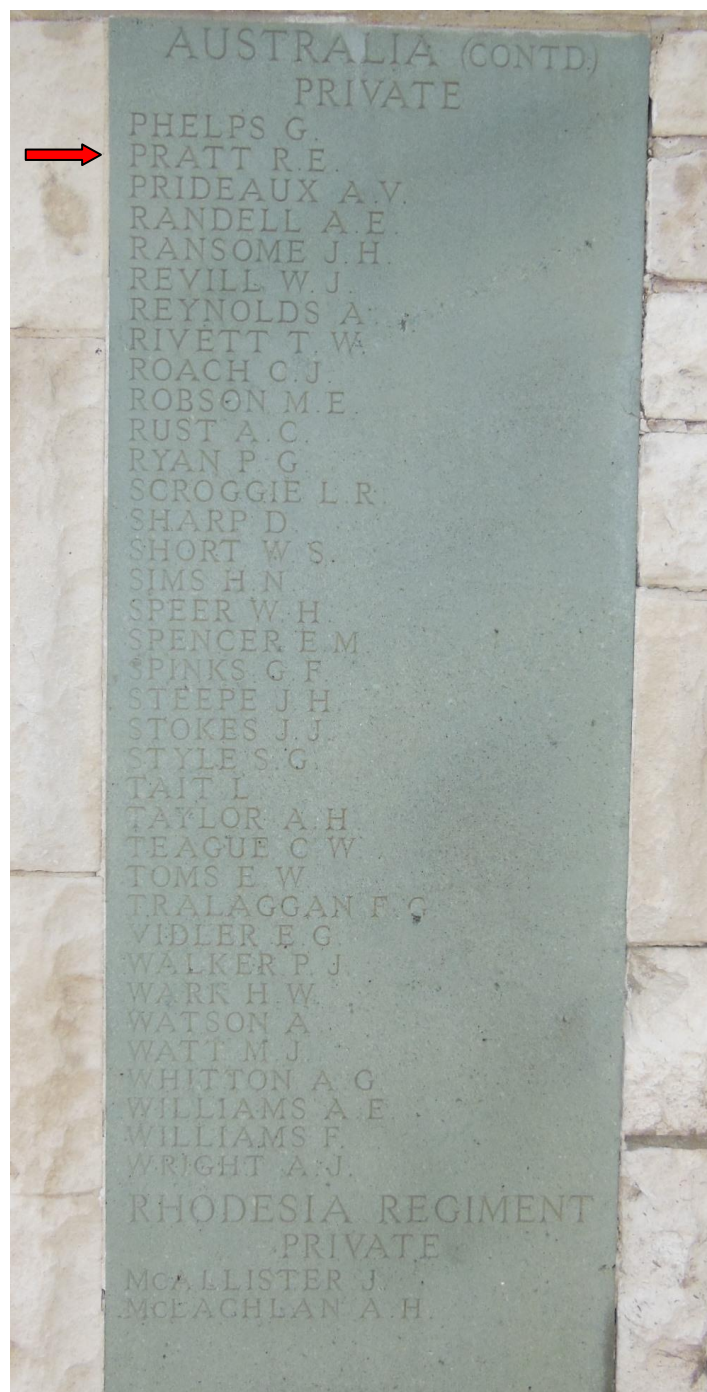
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice



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

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private R. E. Pratt's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

