

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3528 LANCE SERGEANT

A. H. RICHARDSON

7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH APRIL, 1917

Alfred Harold RICHARDSON

Alfred Harold Richardson was born at Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria in 1881 to parents Samuel Alfred & Bessie Maria Richardson (nee Walker).

Samuel Alfred Richardson, father of Alfred Harold Richardson, died in 1884 in Victoria.

Alfred Harold Richardson attended school at Leighton Park, Reading, England & also attended Queen's College, Oxford, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Alfred H. Richardson as a 19 year old Student attending Leighton Park School, Reading, Berkshire, England.

The 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Kew, Victoria recorded Alfred Harold Richardson, Author, Sunning Hill, Cotham Rd, Kew.

Alfred Harold Richardson was a 35 year old, single, Journalist from Sunning Hill, Cotham Road, Kew, Victoria when he enlisted on 30th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3528 & his religion was Baptist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A. H. Richardson, Sunning Hill, Cotham Road, Kew, Victoria.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was posted to 37th Depot on 2nd July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 19th July, 1915 then transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 16th September, 1915.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11th October, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson joined 7th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 20th January, 1916 from 11th Reinforcements.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was appointed Lance Corporal on 1st February, 1916 while posted at Serapeum.

Lance Corporal Alfred Harold Richardson was promoted to Corporal on 15th February, 1916 while posted at Serapeum. He was appointed Lance Sergeant on the same day.

Lance Sergeant Alfred Harold Richardson reverted to ranks at his own request on 23rd March, 1916.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was admitted to 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Serapeum on 25th March, 1916 with Influenza. He was transferred to Base by Ambulance Train on 29th March, 1916.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was admitted to Australian Military Infectious Hospital at Cairo on 14th April, 1916 with Typhoid.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was admitted on 15th June, 1916 with Enteric at Alexandria (no other information recorded).

A Medical Report was completed on Private Alfred Harold Richardson on 15th July, 1916 at Ras-el-Tin Convalescent Depot. His disability was listed as Enterica which had originated in February, 1916 at Serapeum, Canal Zone. *"Patient contracted typhoid fever in Feb 1916 on the Canal. Was 10 days in Hospital (No. 1 A.S.H.), Ismalia; then sent to No. 3 A.G.H. Cairo for 3 weeks, then went to Shubra Hospital then to No. 4 Auxiliary Hosp. Cairo, then to Ras el Tin Convalescent Depot where he was been on month. Total length of illness five months"*. The disability was caused by Active Service & infection. Private Richardson's present condition was listed as *"Patient thin & anaemic, complains of joint pain, worse in right shoulder and both feet, is very weak & walks with aid of stick..."* The Officer in charge of the case recommended that Private Richardson be changed to England (he was not recommended for discharge as permanently unfit). The Officer in charge of Hospital, Ras El-Tin Convalescent Camp agreed with the decision on 27th July, 1916.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was Boarded for England & transferred to Montazah from Ras-el-Tin on 7th August, 1916. He embarked for England on 13th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Kanowna* from Montazah Convalescent Depot.

7th Battalion

The 7th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was admitted to Addington Park War Hospital, Croydon, England on 26th August, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was admitted to No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, England on 2nd October, 1916 with Anaemia & Debility. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Profound anaemia, Debility & Chronic Rheumatism. Improvement under treatment very slight.*"

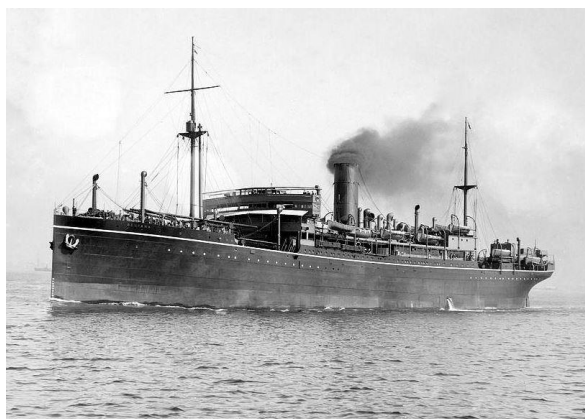
A Medical Report was completed on Private Alfred Harold Richardson at No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, England on 11th October, 1916. His disability was listed as "*Debility after Enteric Fever Ch. Rheumatism.*" The disability has originated in February, 1916 at Serapeum on Suez Canal. "*After Enteric Fever Feb 1916 patient was boarded and sent to England. Rheumatic pains commenced before the Enteric Fever. Mild at first and gradual at onset. No joints swollen but pains in joints and swelling of feet. No heart lesions. During and after Enteric pains became worse and more persistent. Massage does not improve condition. Right shoulder is most affected and less frequently arch of feet.*" The disability was caused by ordinary Military Service – Infection by B. Typhoid. Private Richardson's present condition was listed as "*Patient is thin and anaemic – walks with stick as he feels safer. Arch of both feet tender to pressure but no wasting of muscles. Muscles of lower leg and thigh hard. No marked wasting. Movement of abduction of Rt shoulder is painful....*" The Officer in charge of the case recommended that Private Richardson be discharged as permanently unfit. The Officer in charge of Hospital considered he was temporarily unfit for General Service. The Medical Board found that Private Richardson was "*temporarily unfit for general service for more than six months and unfit for home service.*"

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was discharged from Southall & was on furlough from 17th October, 1916 till 27th October, 1916. He was admitted to "*Isolation M V*" on 17th December, 1916.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was sent sick to Sidney Hall Hospital on 30th December, 1916 from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset.

Private Alfred Harold Richardson was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, England to be returned to Australia on 17th March, 1917 on H.T *Beltana* (A 72) for Change due to Debility & Chronic Rheumatism. He embarked from Devonport, England.

Lance Sergeant Alfred Harold Richardson died at midnight on 8th April, 1917 at Sea on board H. T. *Beltana* from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. [Private A.S.C. Dawson, No. 5646, 4th Battalion also died at Sea on board H. T. *Beltana* from Tuberculosis.]



H. T. Beltana

Lance Sergeant Alfred Harold Richardson was buried at Sea from H. T. *Beltana* at 7 am on 8th April, 1917. 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.

Lance Sergeant Alfred Harold Richardson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Richardson's mother – Mrs M. Webster, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Sergeant Alfred Harold Richardson – service number 3528, of 7th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

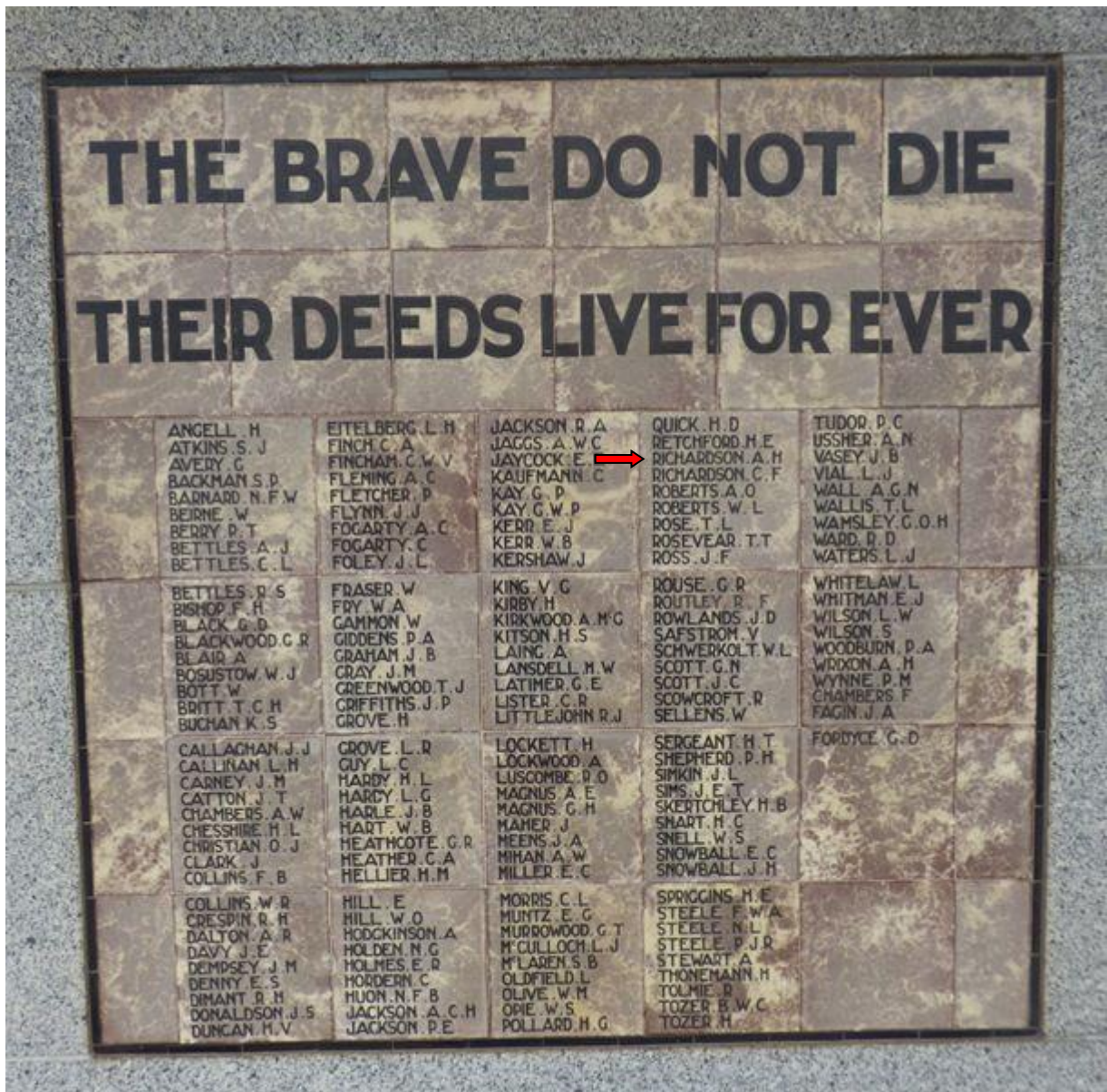
Lance Sergeant A. H. Richardson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 51.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. H. Richardson is remembered on the Kew War Memorial, located at Cotham Road & High Street, Kew, Victoria.





Kew War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

(48 pages of Lance Sergeant Alfred Harold Richardson'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





Alfred Harold Richardson (*Photo from Find a Grave*)



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

RICHARDSON – Died at sea, returning to Australia, on 8th April, Lance-Sergeant Harold Richardson, aged 35, beloved second son of Mrs H. Webster, Sunning Hill, Cotham road, Kew, and the late S. A. Richardson, Melbourne.

God knows best.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 April, 1917) & (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 April, 1917)

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RICHARDSON – On the 8th April, 1917, at sea, while returning to Australia, Lance-Sergeant A. Harold Richardson, loved brother of J. Arthur Richardson and F. Ian Richardson, Kew.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 April, 1917)

AUSTRALIA'S ROLL OF HONOR

290th CASUALTY LIST

L.-Sergt A. H. Richardson, Kew, died of illness

(*Kyneton Guardian*, Victoria – 3 May, 1917)

PERSONAL

Application is being made for probate of the will of Alfred Harold Richardson, formerly of Sunning Hill, Cotham road, Kew, but lately a member of the Australian Imperial Force, who died on a troopship on 8th April last. The assets are sworn at £9780, consisting of real estate £1380 and personal estate £8400. Subject to bequests to friends, testator leaves his estate to his mother and brothers.

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 18 July, 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 Lance Sergeant A. H. Richardson's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

