

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2852 PRIVATE

M. E. ROBSON

34TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH JANUARY, 1917

Mervyn Esbert ROBSON

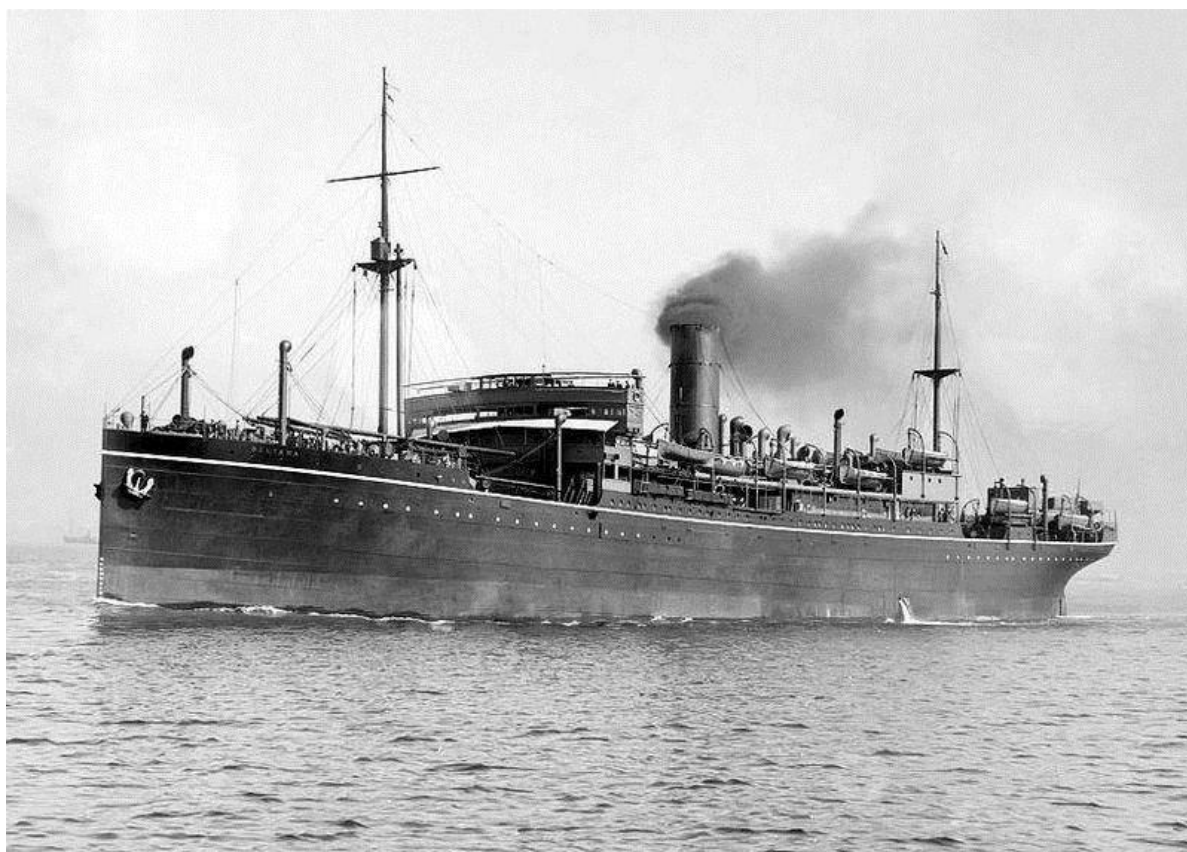
Mervyn Esbert Robson was born at Nundle, New South Wales in 1895 to parents Adam & Alice Maud Robson (nee Emblen).

Mervyn Esbert Robson attended Nundle Public School, NSW.

Mervyn Esbert Robson was a 21 year old, single, Shire Clerk from Nundle, via Tamworth, NSW when he enlisted at Rutherford, NSW on 8th November, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2852 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Wilton Robson, Gundy, via Scone, NSW. Mervyn Robson stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to being physically unfit.

Private Mervyn Esbert Robson was posted at Rutherford, NSW on 8th November, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 34th Battalion on 16th November, 1916.

Private Mervyn Esbert Robson embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 25th November, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 34th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.



HMAT *Beltana* (A72)

Private Mervyn Esbert Robson was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 29th December, 1916.

Private Mervyn Esbert Robson died at 10.30 pm on 8th January, 1917 at Sea on board HMAT *Beltana* (A72) from Measles & Broncho Pneumonia.

Private Mervyn Esbert Robson was buried at Sea on 9th January, 1917 from HMAT *Beltana* (A72). 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.

Private Mervyn Esbert Robson was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Robson's brother – Mr W. Robson, as the closest next-of-kin (both parents deceased). (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Mervyn Esbert Robson – service number 2852, of 34th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private M. E. Robson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 124.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

M. Robson is remembered on the Singleton War Memorial, located in Burdekin Park, 94 George Street, Singleton, NSW.

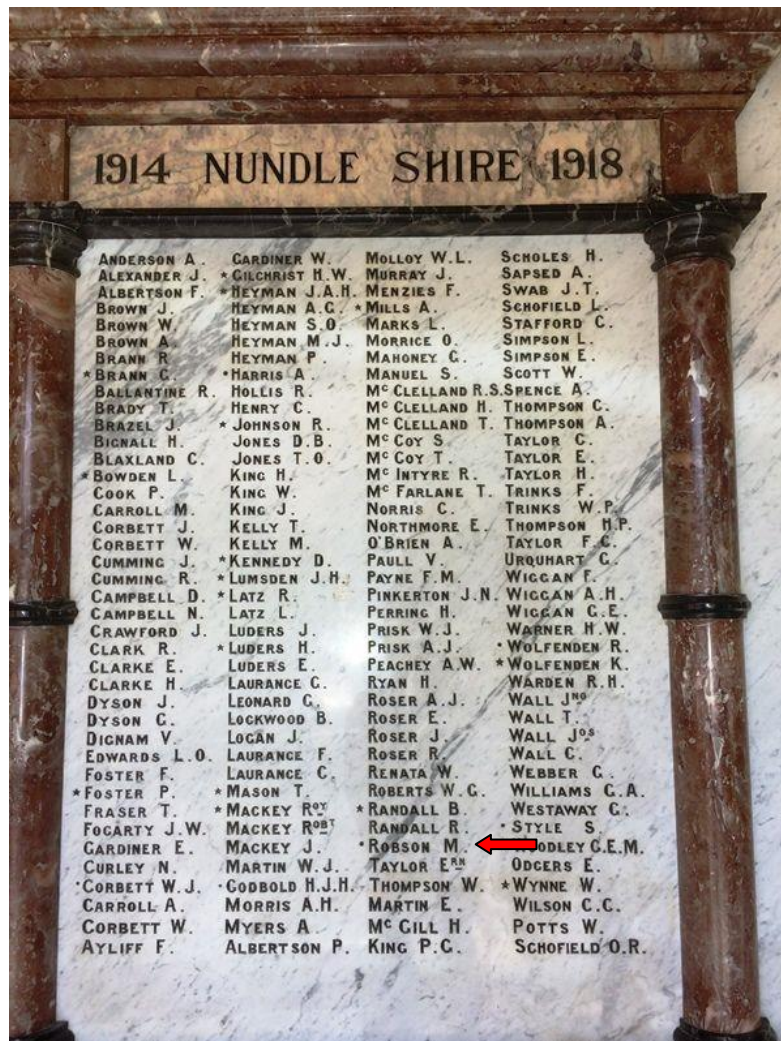


Singleton War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW)

M. Robson is remembered on the Nundle Shire Roll of Honour, located at Nundle Shire Office, Jenkins & Innes Street, Nundle, NSW.



Nundle Shire Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia)



(32 pages of Private Mervyn Esbert Robson'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



Newspaper Notices

FAREWELL GIFT TO SOLDIER

Private Mervyn Robson, late assistant in the town clerk's office, left town yesterday, having been up on final leave. Prior to his departure the Mayor (Alderman McDougall), on behalf of the council, presented him with a handsome pocket wallet. In making the presentation the Mayor expressed his appreciation of young Robson's spirit in enlisting, and wished him a safe and happy return. Before leaving Private Robson secured the autographs of the aldermen in his wallet.

(The Maitland Daily Mercury, NSW – 16 November, 1916)

FAREWELL GIFT TO PRIVATE M. ROBSON

Private Mervyn Robson, who for some time past has acted as assistant clerk in the Town Clerk's office, left town yesterday, having been up on his final leave. Prior to his departure the Mayor (Alderman McDougall), on behalf of the Council, presented him with a handsome pocket wallet. In making the presentation the Mayor expressed his appreciation of young Robson's spirit in enlisting, and wished him a safe and happy return. Before leaving Private Robson secured the autographs of the aldermen in his wallet. He sails about the end of the week.

(Singleton Argus, NSW – 16 November, 1916)

REPORTED DEATH OF PRIVATE ROBSON

Miss Taylor, a niece of Mrs Bradley, of George-street, received the sad intelligence on Thursday that her cousin, Private Mervyn Robson, who sailed from Sydney for the front about November 18th, had died on the voyage. The young soldier was well-known and highly esteemed in Singleton, and the circulation of the sad news in town was received with the profoundest regret. Private Robson was a native of Nundle, about 21 years of age, and prior to enlisting was assistant clerk at the Municipal Council chambers. Before leaving here, the Mayor, on behalf of the council, presented him with a handsome pocket wallet, in which Private Robson secured the autographs of aldermen.

(Singleton Argus, NSW – 20 January, 1917)

WAR CASUALTIES

DIED AT SEA

Private Mervyn Robson, who sailed from Sydney about November 18, died on the voyage. He was a native of Nundle, and about 21 years of age. Prior to enlisting he was employed as an assistant clerk by the Singleton Municipal Council.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 25 January, 1917)

CASUALTIES

DOUBLE LIST ISSUED

The 266th and 267th lists of Australian casualties were made available yesterday...

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Pte M. E. ROBSON, Scone

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 23 January, 1917)

MEN WHO FELL

DIED AT SEA

Private MERVYN ROBSON, who sailed from Sydney about November 18, died in the voyage from pneumonia and measles. He was a native of Nundle, and about 21 years of age. Before enlisting he was employed as assistant in the town clerk's office.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 27 January, 1917)

SINGLETON

News was circulated in town last week that Private Mervyn Robson, who sailed from Sydney about November 18, had died on the voyage. The intelligence was received with great regret, as the young soldier was a general favourite. He was a native of Nundle, and about 21, years of age. Prior to enlisting, he was employed for several months as assistant clerk in the Singleton Municipal Council Chambers; and to mark their appreciation of his services, and the spirit which prompted him to enlist, the Mayor, on behalf of the council, presented him with a handsome pocket wallet.

(The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 27 January, 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

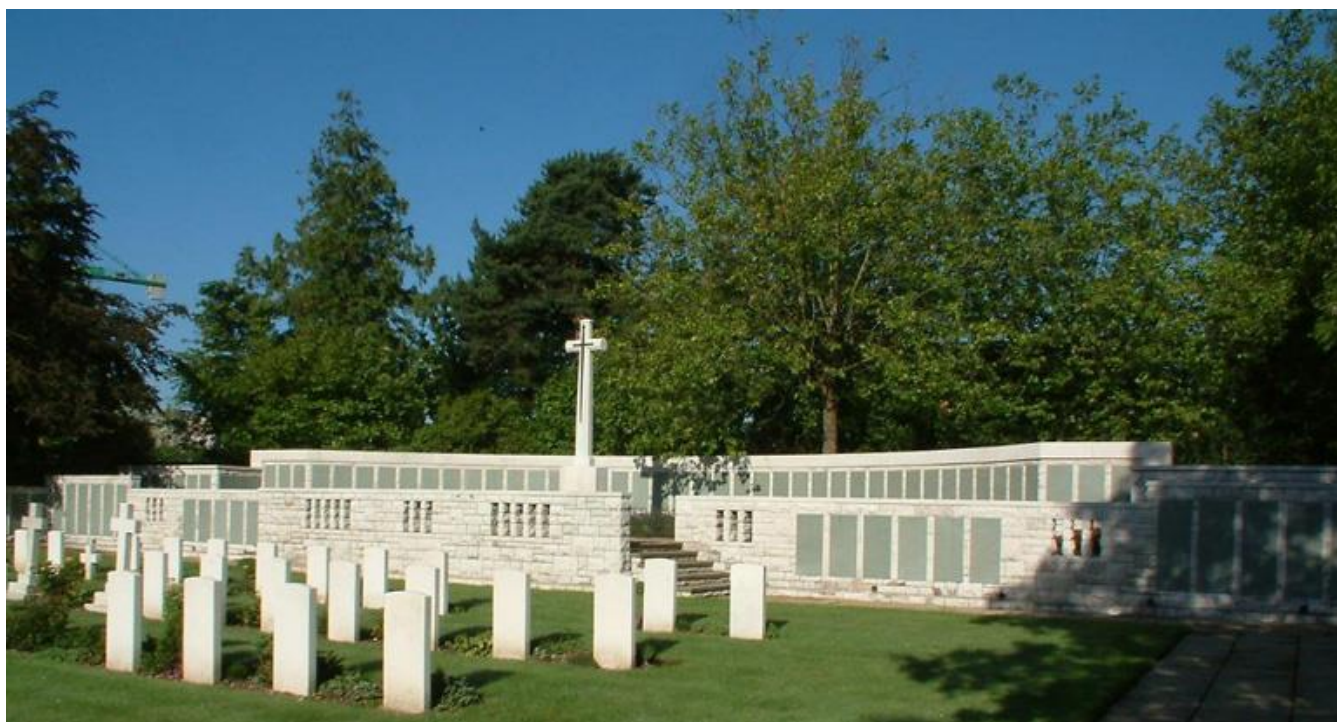
The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

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)



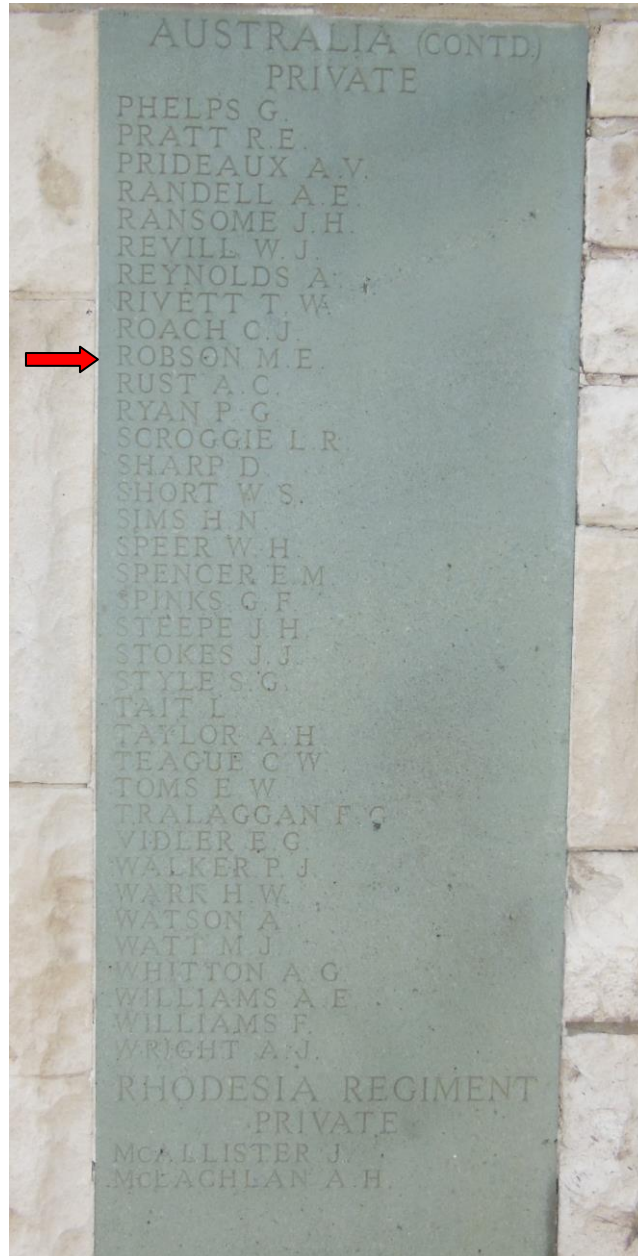


Cross of Sacrifice



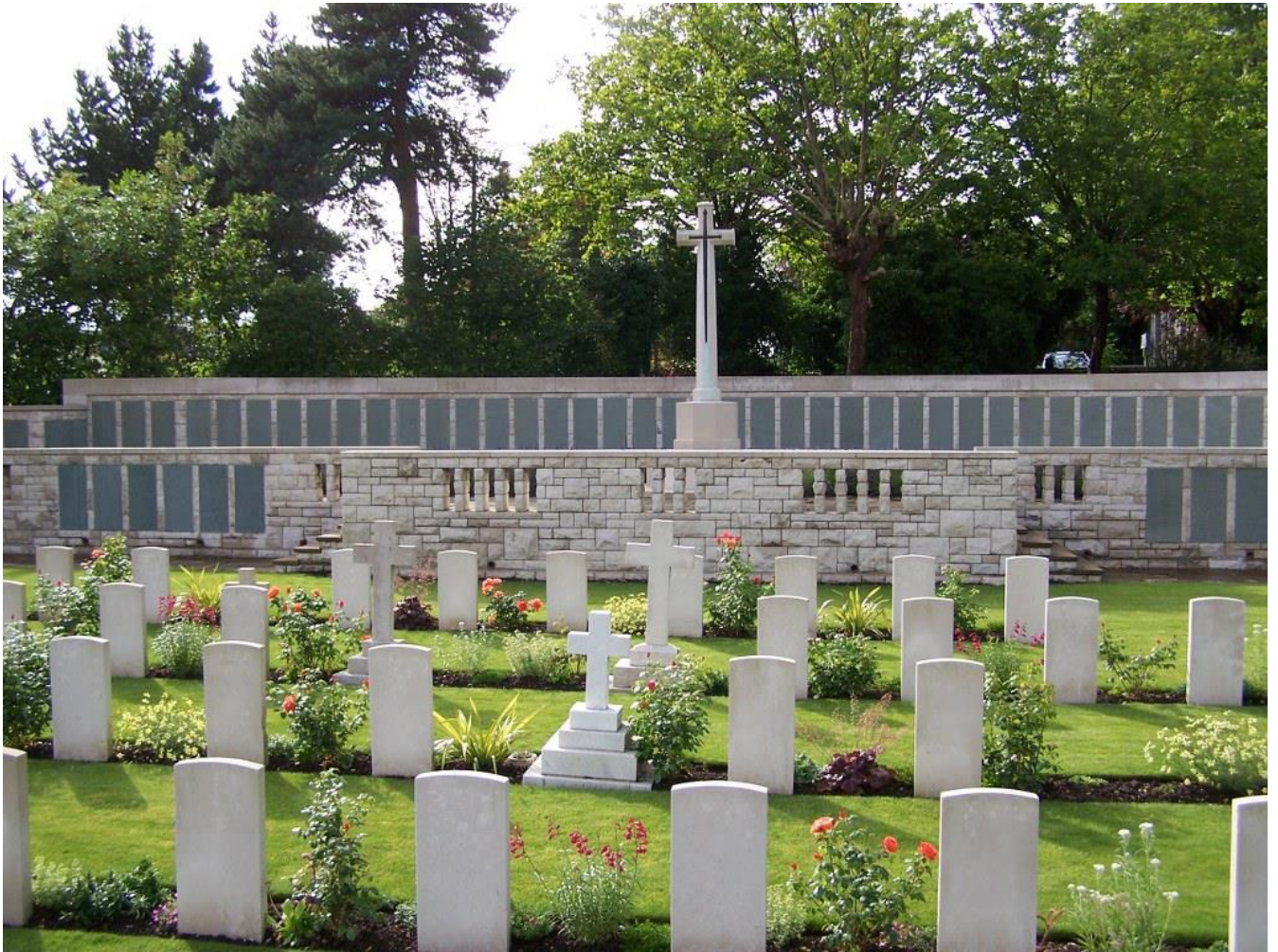
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice

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



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





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

(Photo from CWGC)