

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



62343 PRIVATE

A. C. RUST

5TH AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENTS

18TH OCTOBER, 1918

Albert Clarence (Bert) RUST

Albert Clarence Rust was born on 24th July, 1892 at Armidale, New South Wales to parents Henry John & Elizabeth May Rust (nee Parkes). (Place of birth listed on Attestation Papers & on information provided by his widow for the Roll of Honour as “*Armadale, N.S.W.*” Originally the place of birth on Attestation Papers was listed as “*Quorn, South Australia* then crossed out & replaced with “*Armadale, N.S.W.*” His Medical History form still has his birthplace listed as “*Quorn, South Australia*”)

Albert Clarence Rust attended State School in New Zealand (according to information provided by his widow – Elsie May Rust for the Roll of Honour).

Albert Clarence Rust married Elsie May Blight in 1911 in Victoria. Three births were registered in South Australia – Evelyn May Rust (born Adelaide, South Australia on 27th September, 1911), Esma Ivy Rust (born Adelaide, South Australia in 1912) & Albert Granville Rust (born Adelaide, South Australia on 5th January, 1914).

Albert Clarence Rust was a 25 year old, married Plumber from Prospect, South Australia when he enlisted on 3rd May, 1918 in Adelaide, South Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Salvation Army & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. M. Rust, 66 Gloucester Street, Prospect, South Australia.

Private Albert Clarence Rust was posted to B Company on 30th May, 1918 for recruit training. He was transferred to A Company on 20th June, 1918 then on 14th August, 1918 he was posted to 5th General Reinforcements (South Australia) for UK. (The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Private Rust had been admitted to Mitcham Clearing Hospital on 21st May, 1918 with a Burn & was discharged to duty on 1st June, 1918.)

Private Albert Clarence Rust, Service number 62343, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Barambah* (A37) on 31st August, 1918 with the 5th South Australian Reinforcements.

Private Albert Clarence Rust was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 9th October, 1918 with Influenza & was discharged on 12th October, 1918. He was re-admitted to Ship's Hospital on 16th October, 1918 with Influenza.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P80228

Troopship *Barambah* - June, 1916

Private Albert Clarence Rust died at 4.45 pm on 18th October, 1918 at Sea on board HMAT *Barambah* (A37) from Influenza.

The Register of Deceased Passengers listed Private Albert C. Rust who died on 18th October, 1918 at Sea on *Barambah* from Heart Failure, Influenza. He was one of four soldiers to die on 18th October, 1918 – all from Heart

Failure, Influenza. The Register listed thirteen soldiers who died on board *Barambah* between 17th October, 1918 & 20th October, 1918 – all from Heart Failure, Influenza.

Private Albert Clarence Rust was buried at Sea on 18th October, 1918 HMAT *Barambah* (A37). 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.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. Pope, O.C. Troops "*Barambah*", wrote to The Secretary for Defence, Melbourne on 29th October, 1918 via cablegram from Sierra Leone: "*In conformity with para 41 A.I.F. Orders I beg to report that this transport left Cape Town at 6.30 pm on Sunday 6th October and anchored off Freetown, Sierra Leone at 10 am on Sunday 20th October.*" The cablegram continues advising that there had been a severe epidemic of Influenza with 600 cases which caused eleven deaths.

Sierra Leone
October, 29th, 1918.

From O.C. Troops "Barambah"
To Secretary for Defence,
Melbourne.

in conformity with Para 41 A.I.F. Orders I beg to report that this transport left Cape Town at 6.30 pm on Sunday 6th October and anchored off Freetown, Sierra Leone at 10am on Sunday 20th October.

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COPY OF CABLEGRAM SENT TO THE SECTY. DEFENCE MELBOURNE
FROM SIERRA LEONE.

Secretary Defence,
Melbourne.

Severe Epidemic Influenza Six hundred cases. Caused following eleven deaths.

No. 61174	Pte. JENKYN Andrew Watson	10th	G.S.R)	
" 60964	" WATHRICK Cecil Benjamin	9th	")	17/10/18
" 61030	" MOYLE James	9th	")	
No. 61589	Pte. BUGGINS Frank	12th	G.S.R)	
" 61006	" TAIT Lawrence	9th	")	
" 62343	" RUST Albert Clarence	5th	")	18/10/18
" 61161	" HARVEY Stanley	10th	")	
No. 61720	Pte. SCROGGIE Lælie Roy	12th	G.S.R)	19/10/18
" 61000	" SPINKS George Frederick	9th	")	
No. 61216	Pte. SHORT Walter Samuel	10th	G.S.R)	20/10/18
" 3126	" BREEDEN Douglas John	Naval Unit)	

All buried at sea excepting Breeden ashore.
Also one Officer three ratings Naval Unit died.

x x x x x x x x x

Note:- In addition to those who died on board as above the undermentioned are reported as having died ashore:-

No. 62523	Pte. KAHISCH Albert Bernhardt,	5th	G.S.R)	
" 61590	" CAMPBELL Samuel Cleland,	12th	")	21/10/18
" 61149	" GEE John	10th	")	
No. 61735	Pte. MEDDINGS William Ernest	12th	G.S.R)	22/10/18
" 61604	" DUNIGAN Frederick James	12th	")	
No. 60904	Pte. CURRIN James Celestine	9th	")	23/10/18

Also two members of the Crew.

(SIGNED) H. POPE,
Lieut-Colonel,
O.C. Troops.

Private Albert Clarence Rust requested in his Will dated 20th May, 1918 that all his property whatsoever, including his Military Estate, be given to his wife Elsie May Rust, of 66 Gloucester Street, Prospect, South Australia. He appointed his wife as sole Executrix.

Private Albert Clarence Rust 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 Rust's widow – Mrs E. M. Rust, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert Clarence Rust– service number 62343, of 5th Australian Reinforcement. No family details are listed.

Private A. C. Rust is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



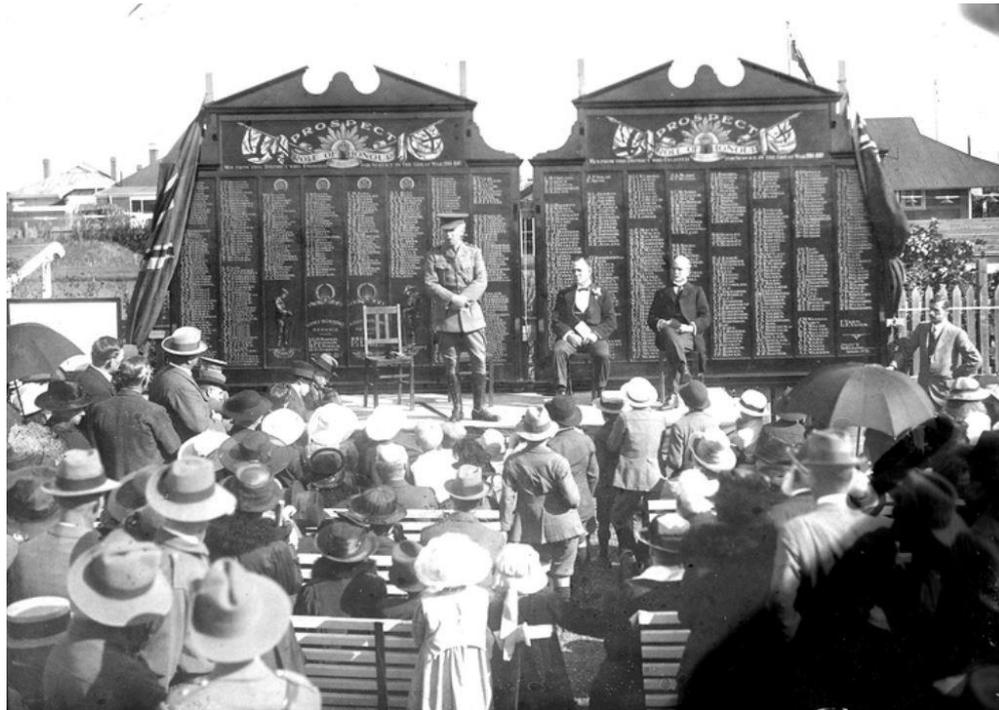
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. C. Rust is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

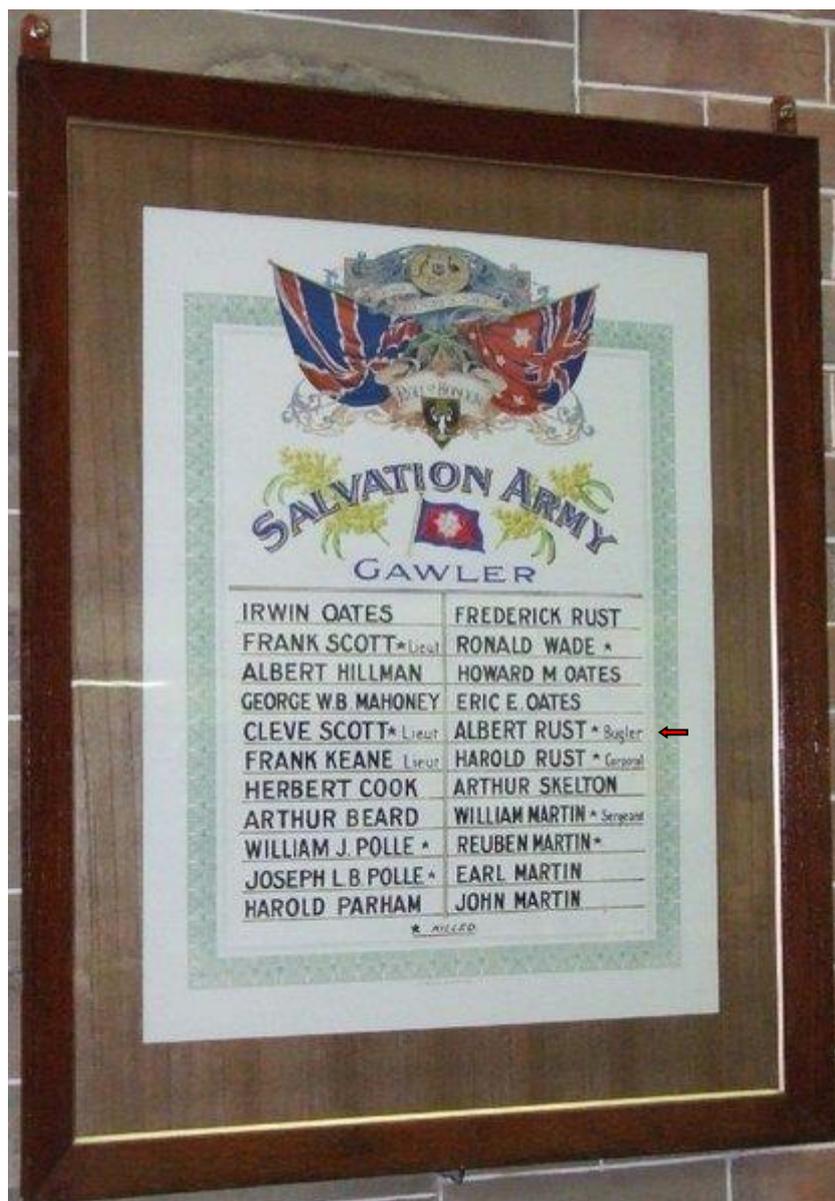
A. C. Rust is remembered on the Prospect Roll of Honour, located in Prospect RSL Hall of Memory, Wilcox & Menzies Crescent, Prospect, South Australia.



Prospect Roll of Honour (Photos from State Library South Australia)



Albert Rust is remembered on the Salvation Army Honour Roll, located in Gawler Institute Building, 91 Murray Street, Gawler, South Australia.



Salvation Army Honour Roll (Photo from VWMA)

(31 pages of Private Albert Clarence Rust'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 Albert Clarence Rust



Newspaper Notices

A Transport Scandal

CONDITIONS ABOARD THE BARAMBAH

SHOCKING DISCLOSURES

INFLUENZA AND FILTH

(Australian Press Association)

LONDON, 22nd November

The Australian naval authorities are instituting an inquiry into the conditions aboard the troopship Barambah, a Commonwealth requisitioned steamer, of 5923 tons, which has, arrived in London. She carried over 1000 troops from Victoria and South Australia. The majority were infantry men, and there were also a railway section and about 100 sailors for the Australian navy on board. The overcrowding gave rise to serious complaints. The deck accommodation was such that the men below were only able to take short periods of exercise and games on deck in instalments. The bath accommodation was deficient and there was frequently a shortage of washing water.

Influenza broke out after leaving Cape town, and the epidemic swept the entire ship. There were 800 sick at one time, and as the hospital accommodation was limited the patients were lying everywhere about the decks and on the hatches. During the six days between Capetown and Sierra Leone the outbreak was at its height, and there were 25 deaths, six occurring in one day. The chaplain held a daily funeral. The medical supplies were inadequate, and were quickly exhausted. The two doctors worked manfully. Many men in the medical sections became ill, and volunteers at tended the sick.

The conditions were speedily ameliorated alter the ship's arrival at Sierra Leone, where it remained for a week, awaiting an escort. Fresh supplies of drugs were obtained, and within two days most of the sufferers were convalescent. The Barambah continued her voyage with a large convoy under escort by the cruiser-destroyer Britannia, and was picked up by a flotilla of destroyers in the Bay of Biscay, where upon the Britannia departed for Gibraltar. She was torpedoed and sunk an hour later.

The men aboard the Barambah state that the vessel was in a filthy condition before she left Australia. The planking covering the iron decks was so badly laid that the interstices were filled with dirt. It was impossible to keep the decks clean. Meat was cut up on the deck, and when some of the planking was lifted a seething mass of maggots was found. The vessel was quite unsuitable for 800 men to sleep on her single 'tween decks.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 November, 1918)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AGE

Sir, — As the father of one of the boys who lost their lives aboard the transport Barambah, I would like, through the medium of your journal, to voice my indignation at the treatment meted out to these lads who set out to try to do their bit for King and country. If the facts are as stated in “The Age” of Saturday last there will be little doubt in the minds of the majority of people that whoever were in charge of the transport arrangements in this particular case were guilty of criminal negligence, and if brought to trial I venture to say there are very few juries who would hesitate to bring in a verdict of murder. According to official statements, there were just on 1000 troops, exclusive of the crew, aboard a vessel under 6000 tons, and one can imagine the rotten conditions that must have resulted through this overcrowding. The people in authority must have known when the vessel left Australia that she was going right through the centre of a plague-infested spot. According to reports, the natives of South Africa were dying like flies, and yet, after the vessel had called at the Cape, we find there were not enough drugs on the vessel to cope with the epidemic of influenza that had broken out. The mere fact that after a fresh supply of drugs had been obtained at Sierra Leone the majority of the patients were convalescent goes to prove that those lads' valuable lives could have been saved if the means had been to hand in time. In the circumstances, I think it is the duty of all who had relatives on board the Barambah to demand a searching inquiry as to who were to blame for this crime, and when found to see that they are punished like any other dangerous criminals. — Yours, &c.,

H. MATHRICK.

Oakleigh, 24th November

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 November, 1918)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

RUST – Private A. E. (Bert) Rust, dearly beloved husband of Elsi May, and son of Staff-Captain and Mrs Rust, of Perth, died at sea of influenza. Sadly missed. – Inserted by his loving wife.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 October, 1918) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 November, 1918)

THE AUSTRALIANS

CASUALTY LIST No. 447

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OTHER CAUSES

62343 – Pte A. C. RUST, Prospect (Oct 18, illness)

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 28 November, 1918)

WAR CASUALTIES

Staff- Captain and Mrs Rust, of Short-street, Perth, have received news of the loss of their second son, Private A. C. Rust, who died of influenza at sea while on the journey to the front, on October 18. Private A. C. Rust enlisted in Adelaide.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 29 October, 1918)

RETURN THANKS

Mrs A. C. RUST, of Prospect, desires to THANK all kind Friends, Relatives, for letters, Cars, and personal expressions of sympathy in the sad loss of her dear husband, Private A. C. Rust, who died of influenza, at sea, on October 18.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 12 November, 1918)

TROOPSHIP BARAMBAH

SEVENTEEN DEATHS

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

The Assistant Minister for Defence (Mr. Wise) made a statement in the House of Representatives last night in regard to the troopship Barambah, which, it had been alleged, had left Australia in a filthy condition, and upon which several deaths had occurred.

Mr. Wise said that it seemed clear that the casualties on the Barambah were due to an outbreak of influenza, although it was not yet known how the disease was introduced on the vessel. From the reports of the officer commanding the troops, Lieut.-Colonel Pope, C.B., it was gathered that the precautionary measure of forbidding shore leave had been taken at Cape Town. Telegraphic news of 17 deaths and eight cases of illness had been received. The medical provision before the steamer left Australia consisted of two doctors and a staff of 31, there

being as a matter of fact an excess of 15 orderlies, due to A.M.C. reinforcements on board. While the vessel was fitted up for 1,154 troops, the number actually placed on board was 940. He (Mr. Wise) had received a letter from Mr. George Foley, M.L.A., chairman of the West Australian advisory committee on military hospitals, stating that the troopship was not in a satisfactory state at Fremantle, flushing water for the lavatories being obtainable only occasionally, and shower-baths being dry. The explanation given in reply to Mr. Foley was that the trouble was due to a breakdown in the pumping machinery, which was in order when leaving Melbourne, and that no doubt when the pumping machinery was repaired matters would adjust themselves.

In a voyage report from Fremantle, dated September 9, Mr. Wise said Colonel Pope stated that deck space was limited, and that the troop deck where the hammocks were hung at night was somewhat congested. He also stated that the troops were in good health and spirits, and the ration issue quite satisfactory both in quality and quantity. From Durban Colonel Pope reported on September 29 as follows:

"The general health and spirits of the troops has remained excellent. Discipline among the troops has been well maintained, and very little crime has occurred, Rations have continued excellent."

At the same time the senior medical officer on the Barambah reported:

"The health of the troops has been good on the whole. There has been some cases of mumps. The food has been satisfactory in quality and quantity."

Mr. Wise, continuing, said that these were the facts relevant to the question which had been brought under his notice, but no reports had as yet been received from the commanding officer of the troops as to the general suitability of the vessel for the transport of troops. It seemed that the difficulties chiefly encountered arose from the outbreak of influenza making unexpected demands upon the medical personnel and supplies, as well as upon the ship's accommodation. Writing from Fremantle, the senior medical officer on board the Barambah reported that the hospital accommodation was ample, and that the surgical and medical supplies were in a good condition. The Durban report did not mention these matters, which presumably continued satisfactory. Lieut.-Colonel Pope, it might be added, was the president of the West Australian branch of the Re- turned Sailors and Soldiers League.

The return of deaths was as follows:

61,030, Pt. J. MOYLE, Victoria, 17/10/18.
61,174, Pte. A. W. JENKYN, Vic., 17/10/18
60,964, Pte. C. B. MATHRICK, Vic., 17/10/18.
61,659, Pte. F. BUGGINS, Vic., 18/10/18.
61,006, Pte. L. TAIT, Vic., 18/10/18.
62,343, Pte. A. C. RUSH, S. Aust., 18/10/18. ←
61,161, Pte. S. HARVEY. Vic, 18/10/18.
61,720, Pte. L. R. SCROGGIE, Vic, 19/10/1918
61,000, Pte. G. F. SPINKS, Vic, 19/10/18.
3,126, Pte. D. P. BREEDEN, Rly Unit, 20/10/18
61,216, Pte. W. S. SHORT, Vic. 20/10/18.
61,590, Pte. S. C. CAMPBELL Vic
61,604, Pte. F. J. DUNIGAN, Vic,
61,735, Pte. W. E. MEDDINGS, Vic.
61,149, Pte. J. GEE Vic
60,304, Pte. J. C. CURRIN, Vic.
62,323, Pte. A. B. KABISCH, S. Aust.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 November, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

RUST – In fond memory of our dear friend, Bert.

To a beautiful life, came a peaceful end,
For he died as he lived, with God as his friend.

-Inserted by Mr and Mrs A. Bond.

RUST – In loving memory of my dear brother-in-law, Bert, who died at sea, October 18, 1918.

He went with the hope of returning,
Went with his comrades so brave,
But with many a hero he's sleeping,
In an honored soldier's grave.

-Inserted by his sister-in-law, Nell.

RUST – In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Private A. C. (Bert) Rust, who died at sea, on the 18th October, 1918, of influenza.

'Tis hard to break the tender cords,
When love hath bound the heart;
'Tis hard, so hard, to speak the word,
We for a time must part,
But God in good, He gives us strength
To bear our heavy cross;
He is the only One Who knows
Our loneliness and loss.

-Inserted by his loving wife and children, Evelyn, Esma, Bertie.

RUST – A tribute of love to the memory of Private B. Rust, who died at sea, October 18, 1918.

At the heavenly gates you will meet us,
With the same sweet smile;
For we are only parted, Bert,
Just for a little while.

-Inserted by his aunt and grandpa, W. Busbridge and H. Parkes.

RUST – in loving memory of Albert Clarence (Bert), General Reinforcements A.I.F., died at sea, October 18, 1918.

Sadly missed by those who loved him,
By the pathway of duty
Flows the river of God's grave.

-Inserted by Bandmaster, Mrs Turner, and family.

RUST – In loving memory of Private A. C. Rust, who died at sea, October 18, 1918.

He was a pal, so brave and true;
A better pal I never knew.

-By his friend, A. R. Struthers.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 October, 1919) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 October, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

RUST – In loving memory of Private A. C. Rust, who died at sea, October 18, 1918.

He was a pal, so brave and true;
A better pal I never knew.

-By his friend, A. R. Struthers.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 October, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

RUST – In loving memory of our dear son, Private A. C. Rust, who died at sea October 18, 1918.

At the heavenly gates he will meet us,
With the same old loving smile;
For we are only parted, Bert dear
Just for a little while.

Inserted by his loving father, mother and sisters.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 18 October, 1920)

** Notices were placed in newspapers in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928

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)

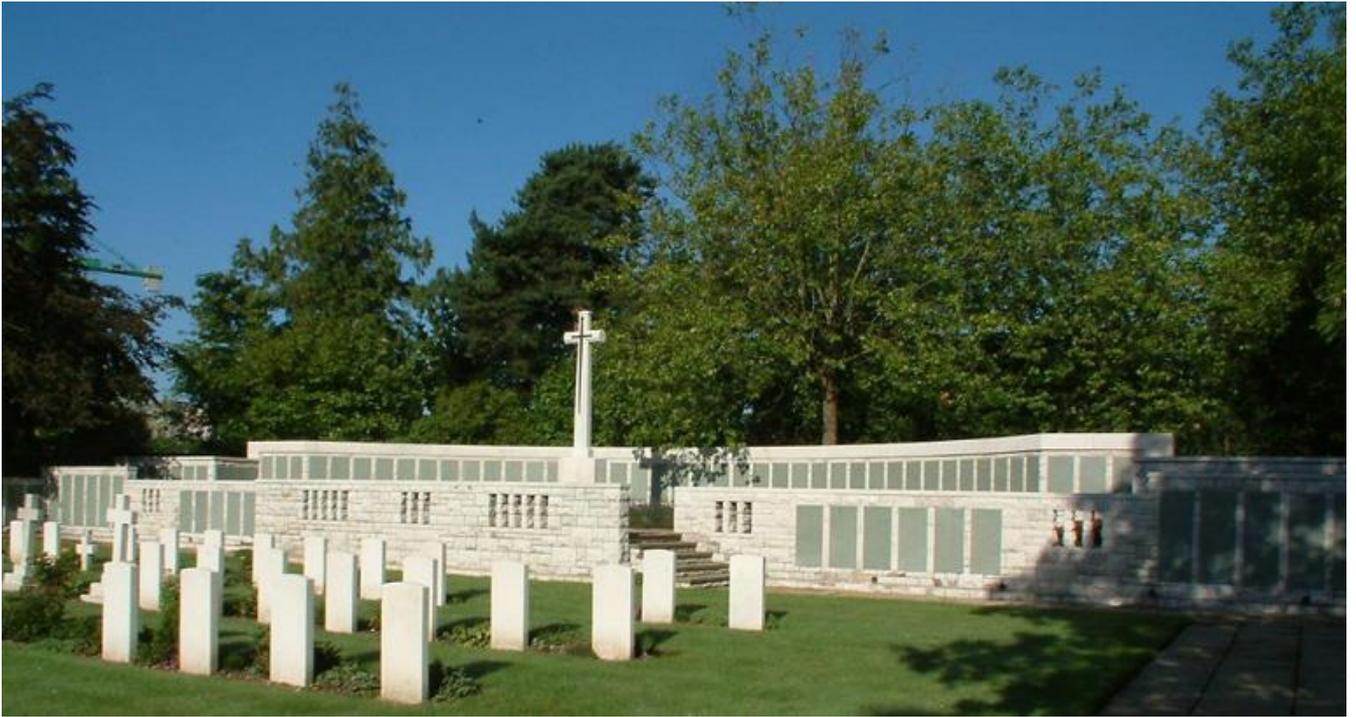




Cross of Sacrifice



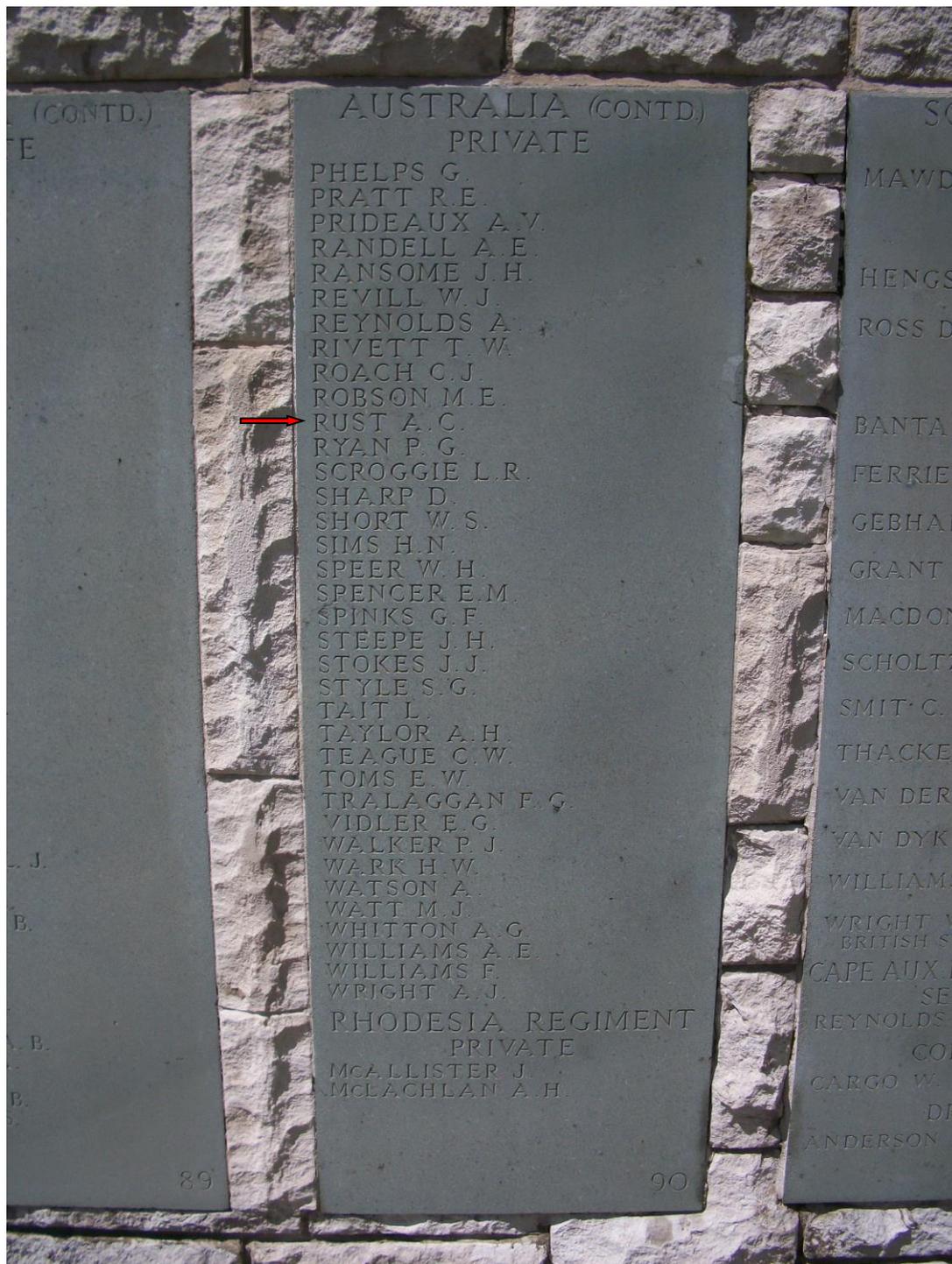
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)



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

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private A. C. Rust's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by Retired QA – Find a Grave)

