

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**61720 PRIVATE**

**L. R. SCROGGIE**

**12TH AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENTS**

**19TH OCTOBER, 1918**

## Leslie Roy SCROGGIE

Leslie Roy Scroggie was born at Warrnambool, Victoria on 21st March, 1899 to parents Joseph George & Ellen Elizabeth Scroggie (nee Moloney).

Leslie Roy Scroggie was a 19 year old, single, Dairyman from Terang, Victoria when he enlisted on 5th June, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Scroggie, of Terang, Victoria. Leslie Scroggie stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 1 year with Cadets & 1 year with 20th Light Horse.

As Leslie Roy Scroggie was under the age of 21 years he was required to produce a birth Certificate which showed he was born on 21st March, 1899 at Warrnambool, Victoria. His parents had been asked if they had any objection to their son enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad & no objection was made.

Private Leslie Roy Scroggie was posted to “Invalids” 3rd Military District on 27th June, 1918. He was transferred to Recruit Depot at Broadmeadows on 5th July, 1918 then on 24th July, 1918 he was transferred to Depot Battalion, A.I.F. at Broadmeadows. Private Scroggie was transferred to 12th General Service Reinforcements (Victoria) on 16th July, 1918/

Private Leslie Roy Scroggie, Service number 61720, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Barambah* (A37) on 31st August, 1918 with the 12th Victorian Reinforcements.

Private Leslie Roy Scroggie was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 15th October, 1918 with Influenza.

Private Leslie Roy Scroggie died on 19th October, 1918 at Sea on board HMAT *Barambah* (A37) from Influenza.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P80228

**Troopship *Barambah* - June, 1916**

Private Leslie Roy Scroggie was buried on 19th October, 1918 at Sea from 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.

Handwritten on the bottom of Private Leslie Roy Scroggie's Service and Casualty Form is the following:

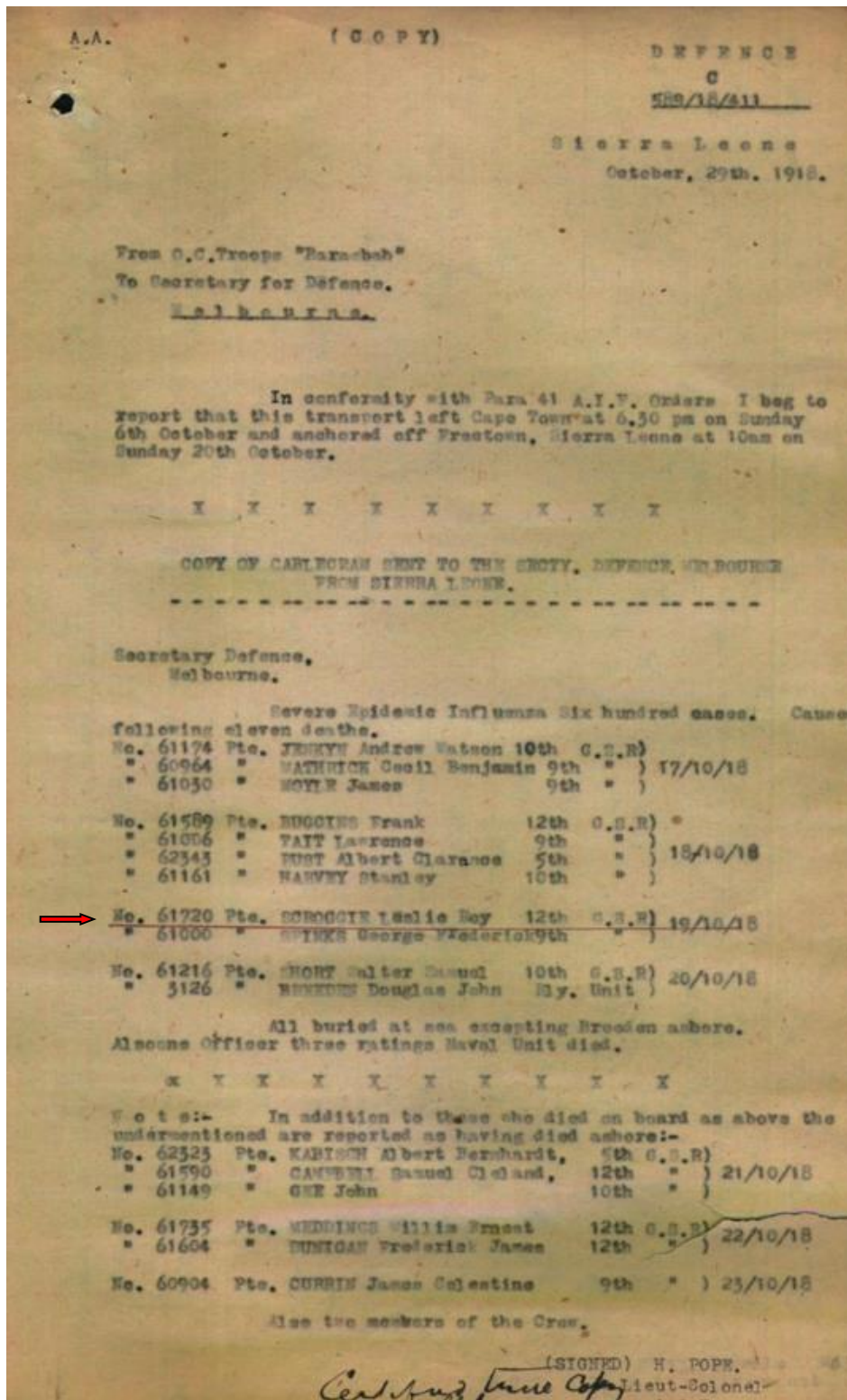
"Sierra Leone Severe epidemic Influenza

11 Deaths A.I.F. at Sea

6 Deaths " on shore

2 members of crew."

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.





Private Leslie Roy Scroggie requested in his Will dated 30th July, 1918 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects to his father Joseph Scroggie of Terang.

Private Leslie Roy Scroggie 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 Scroggie's father – Mr J. Scroggie, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie Roy Scroggie – service number 61720, of 12th Australian Reinforcement. No family details are listed.

Private L. R. Scroggie 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.



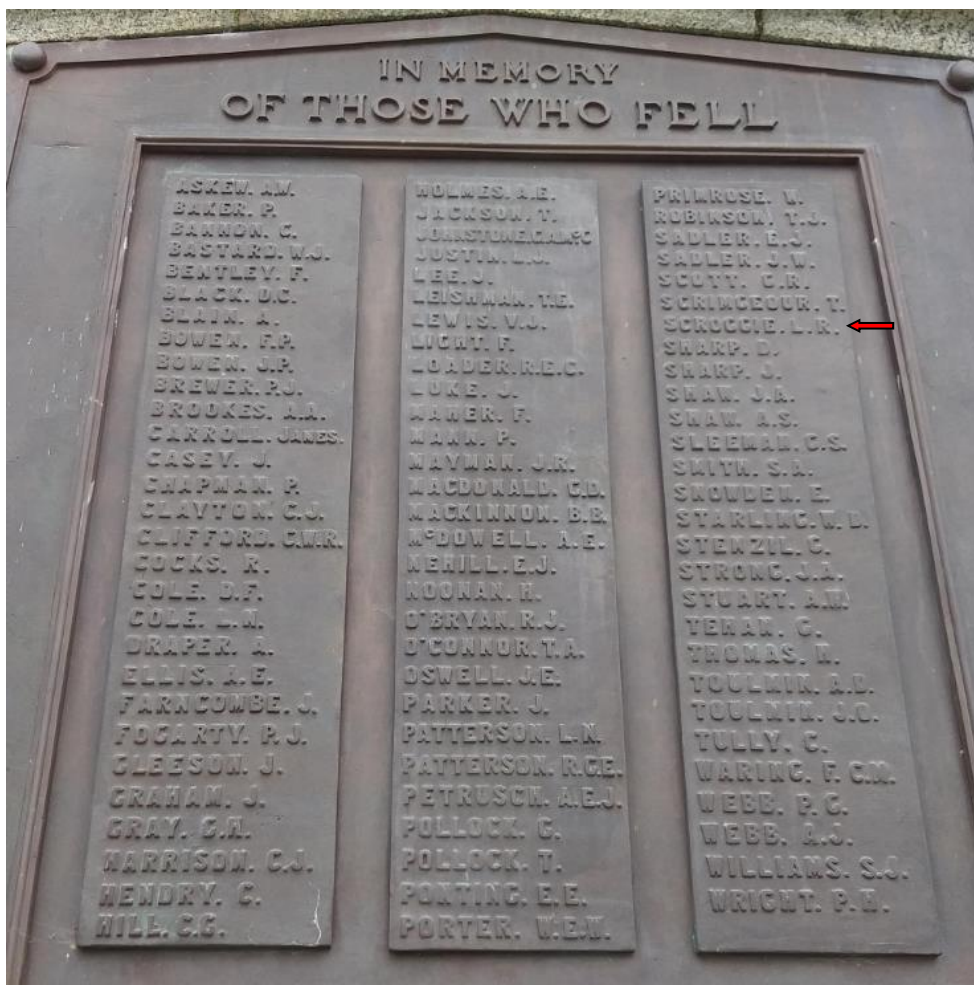
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*



L. R. Scroggie is remembered on the Terang War Memorial, located on High Street, Terang, Victoria.

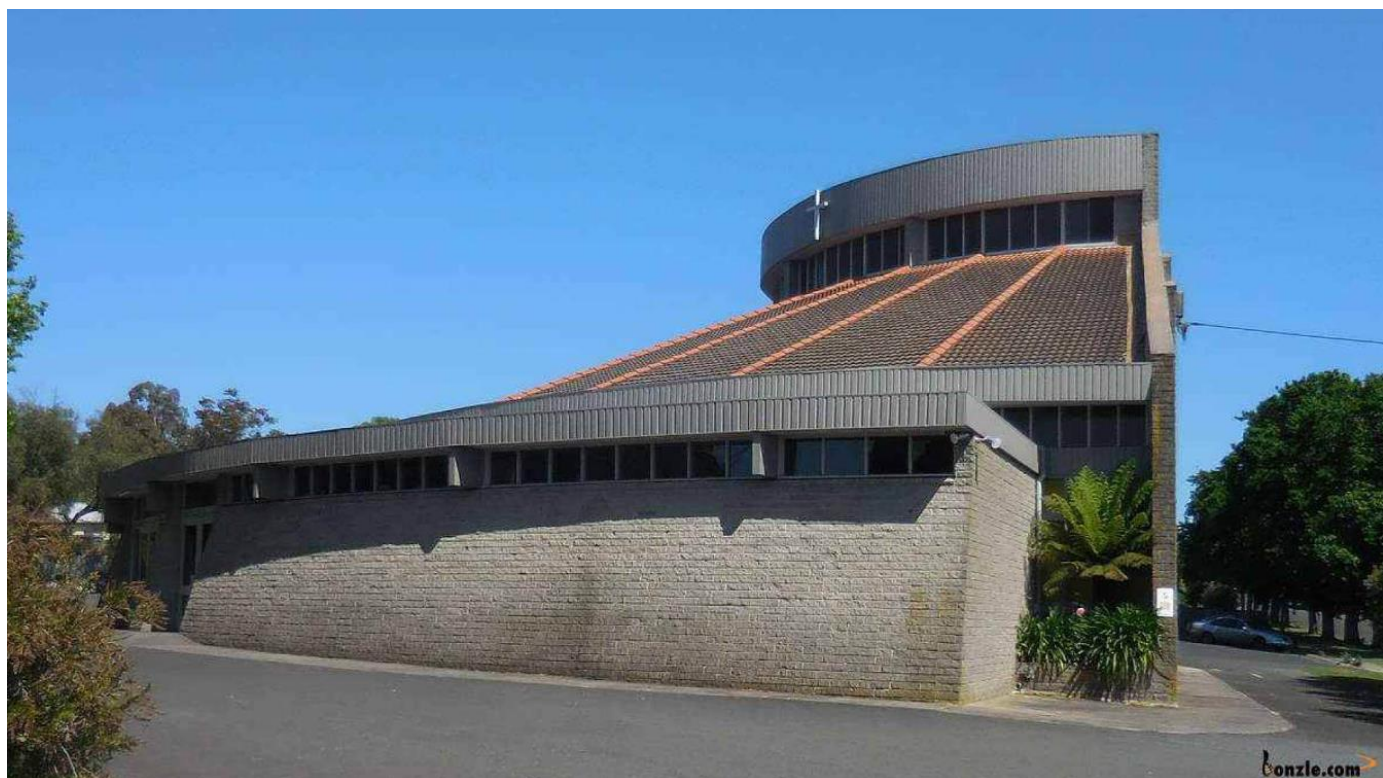


**Terang War Memorial** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Western Front Association – Central Victoria Branch)



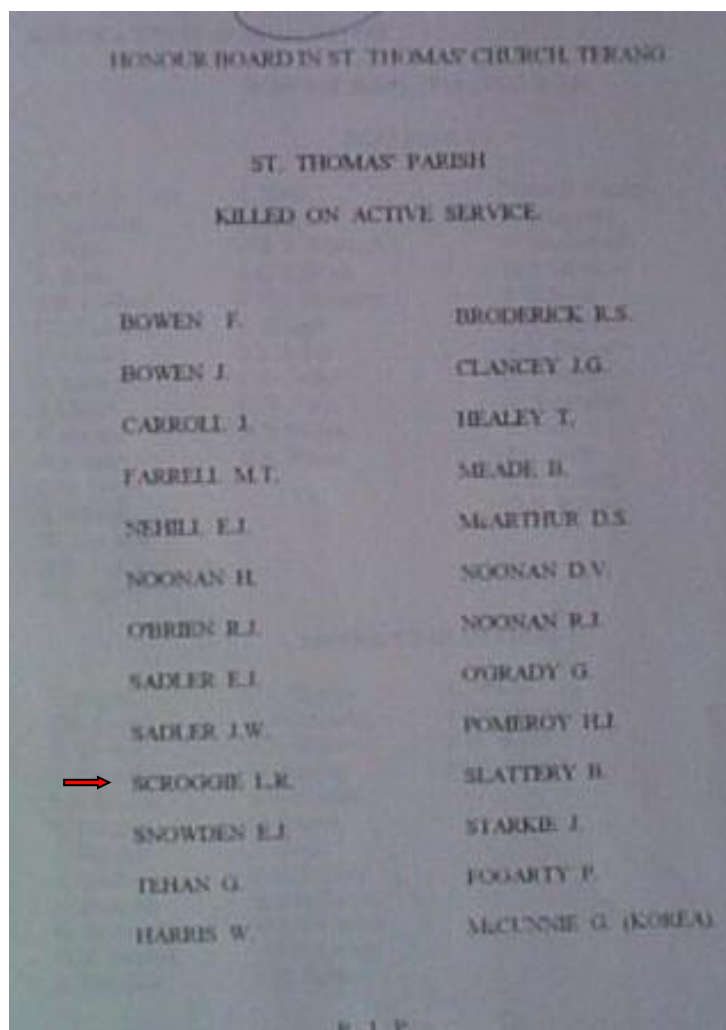


L. R. Scroggie is remembered on the St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church Honour Roll, Terang, Victoria.

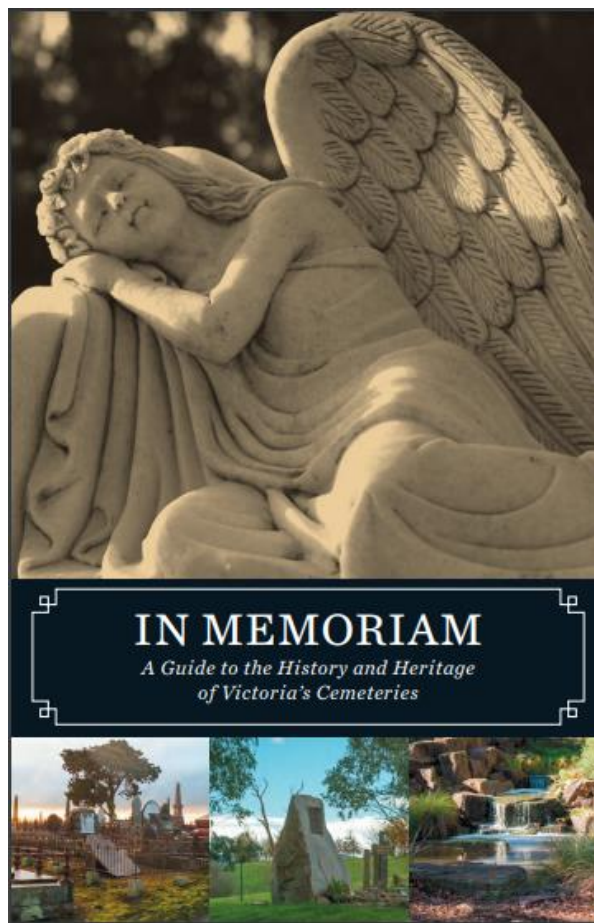


**St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Terang**

*(Photo above by Geoff Davey; Below from Victorian Heritage Database)*



Leslie Roy Scroggie is remembered in "A Guide to the History and Heritage of Victoria's Cemeteries" by Garrie Hutchinson. (Page 236 for Terang Cemetery)



### Private Leslie Roy Scroggie

HMAT Barambah suffered a severe outbreak of influenza en route to England in October 1918. There 600 cases with seventeen deaths among AIF members. Eleven were buried at sea, and six on shore in Sierra Leone in West. Among them was nineteen-year-old Private Les Scroggie a dairyman from Terang. He had enlisted in June 1918, died and was buried at sea on 19 October 1918.

(17 pages of Private Leslie Roy Scroggie'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DEATHS**

SCROGGIE – On 19th October, (at sea), Pte L. R. (Les) Scroggie, dearly loved second son of Joseph and Ellen Scroggie; aged 19 years 7 months.

Rest in peace.

Deeply Mourned.

Camperdown-road, Terang.

(*Terang Express*, Victoria – 29 October, 1918)

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### **LOCAL NEWS**

Mr Joseph Scroggie, of Terang, on Saturday received the painful news that his second son, Pte L. R. Scroggie, had died at sea on October 19. Pte Scroggie, who was only 19 ½ years of age, left Australia in September, and his death was due to influenza. Deep sympathy is expressed for the parents and other members of the family in their bereavement.

(*Terang Express*, Victoria – 29 October, 1918)

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## **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)

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## **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)

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## **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 Returned 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)

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## **THE 447th CASUALTY LIST**

### **VICTORIAN NAMES**

#### **DIED OF OTHER CAUSES**

Private L. R. Scroggie, Terang

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 30 November, 1918)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

CAMPBELL-WRIGHT – In loving memory of Ptes Campbell and Wright, also L.-Cpl. Buffins, Ptes Scroggie, Meddings, and Dunigan, who died on H.M.T. "Barambah" en voyage to England, October, 1918.

"How can man die better."

-(C.S.M., 12th G.S. Rfcts)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 October, 1919)

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Leslie Roy Scroggie is remembered on a headstone with his brother & sister in Terang Cemetery, Victoria.

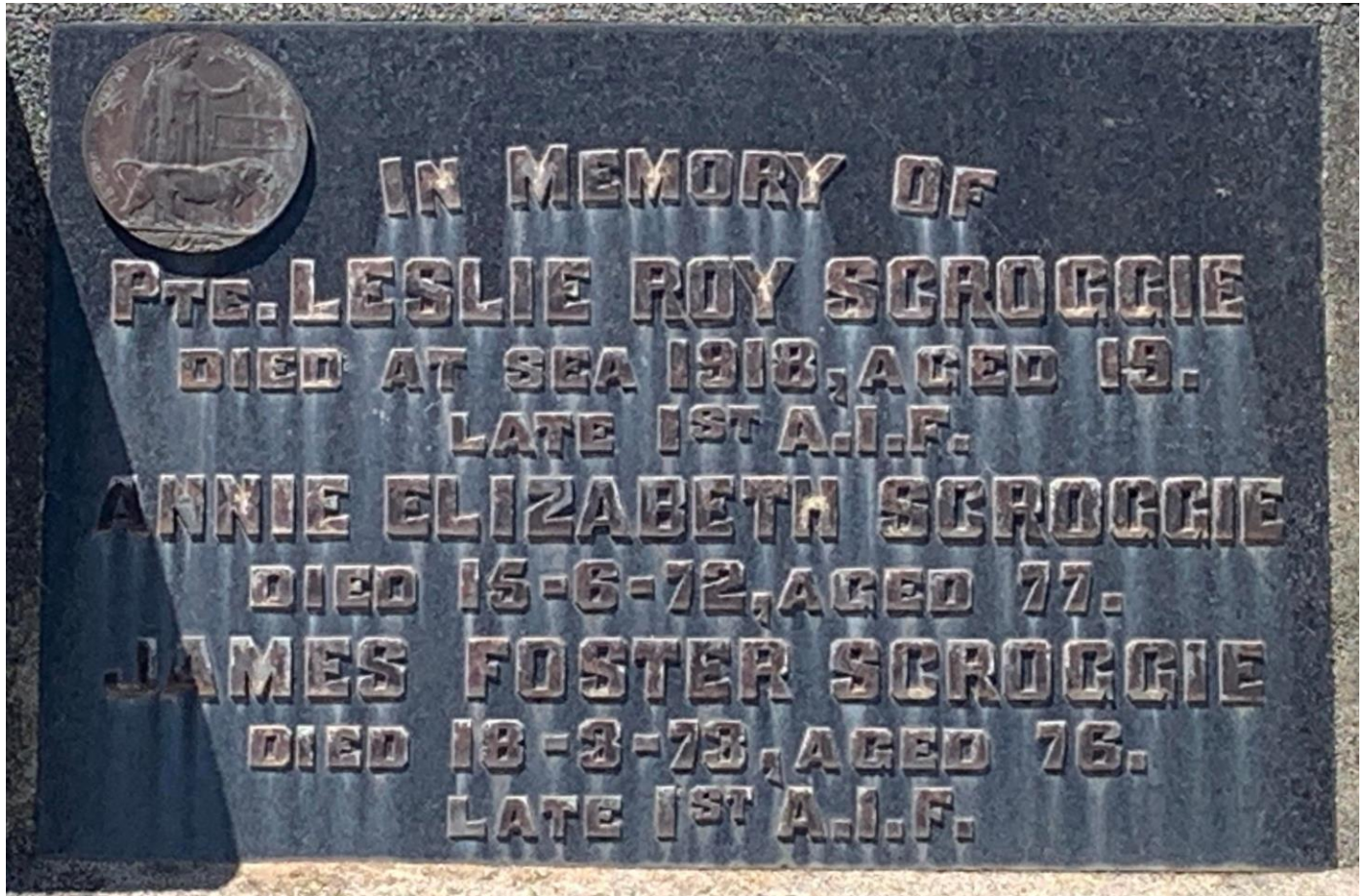


*(Photo from Find a Grave – George Spadon)*



**Scroggie Family Headstone** *(Photos from Find a Grave – Matt)*





*IN MEMORY OF*

*PTE. LESLIE ROY SCROGGIE*

*DIED AT SEA 1918, AGED 19.*

*LATE 1ST A.I.F.*

*ANNIE ELIZABETH SCROGGIE*

*DIED 15-6-72 AGED 77.*

*JAMES FOSTER SCROGGIE*

*DIED 18-3-73, AGED 76.*

*LATE 1ST A.I.F.*



## 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)*

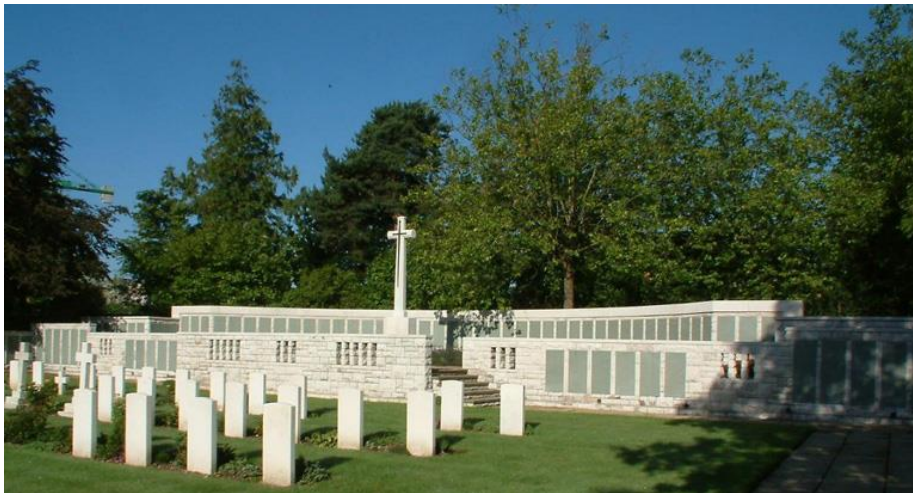


**Cross of Sacrifice**





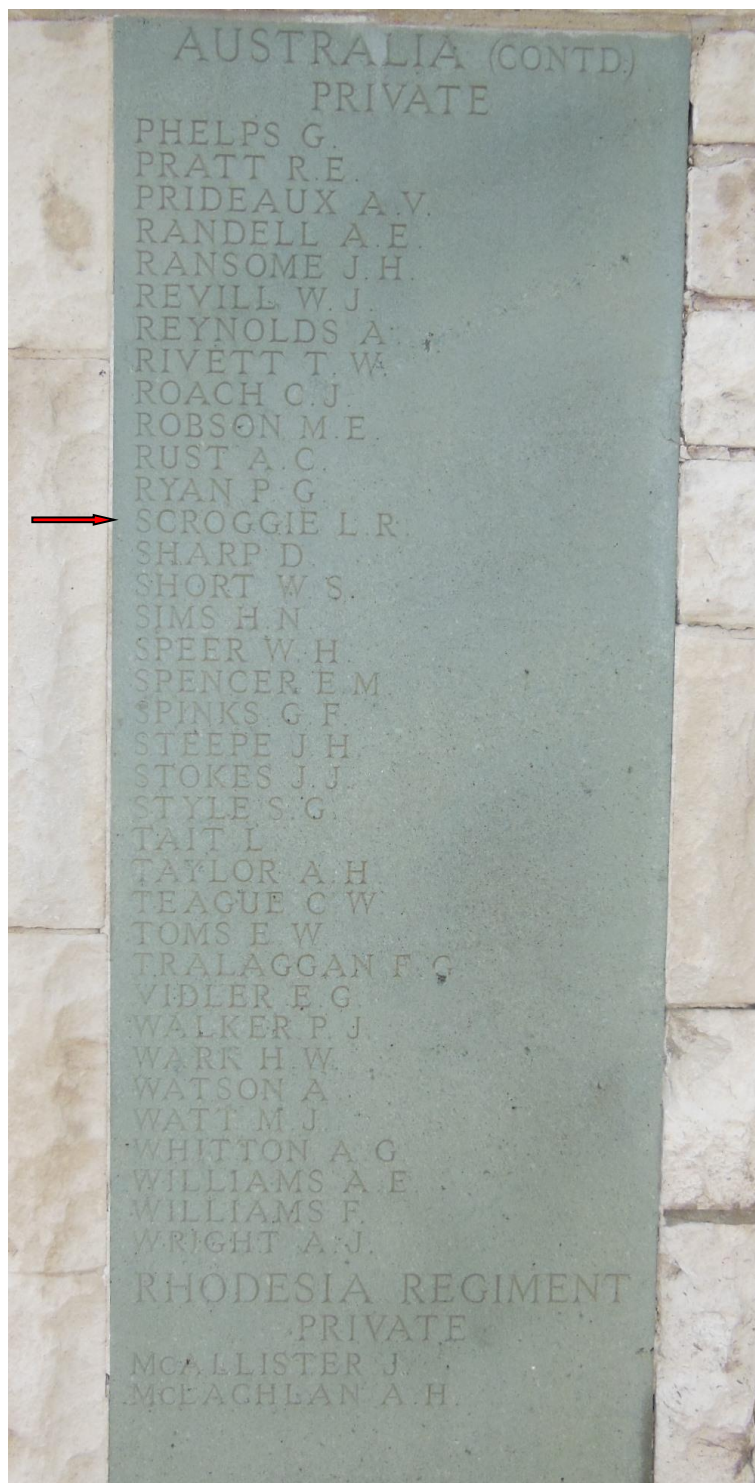
**Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo from CWGC)



**CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial** (Photo from CWGC)



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



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

