

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**61216 PRIVATE**

**W. S. SHORT**

**10TH AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT**

**20TH OCTOBER, 1918**

## Walter Samuel SHORT

Walter Samuel Short was born on 23rd April, 1897 in London, England to father Walter Samuel Short.

Walter Samuel Short married Theresa Josephene Lindsay in Victoria in 1918.

Walter Samuel Short was a 21 year old, married, Baker (marine) from (care of) Miss T. Lindsay, 13 Raphael Street, Abbotsford, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 20th June, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 61216 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs T. J. Short, 13 Raphael Street, Abbotsford, Victoria.

Walter Samuel Short listed his postal address as “*no Fixed address*” on the Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force form. He also signed a Statutory Declaration on 20th June, 1918 at Melbourne stating “*I, Walter Samuel Short, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I was born at London, England on 23rd April, 1897 and that I am 21 years 2 months old.*”

The Department of The Navy, Navy Office, Melbourne wrote a letter to The Officer in Charge, Recruiting Depot, Town Hall, Melbourne, on 18th June, 1918 stating “*This is to certify that Walter S. Short, who produces a Mercantile Marine Discharge Certificate, is not required in the Royal Australian Navy.*”

Private Walter Samuel Short was posted to Recruit Depot at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 22nd June, 1918 for recruit training. He was transferred to Depot Battalion at Broadmeadows on 10th July, 1918 & posted to 10th General Service Reinforcements (Victoria).

Private Walter Samuel Short embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Barambah* (A37) on 31st August, 1918 with the 10th V. (Victorian) Reinforcements.

A Cablegram was sent to the Secretary for Defence, Melbourne from Sierra Leone, on 29th October, 1918 from O.C. Troopship “*Barambah*” which stated “*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.*”

Private Walter Samuel Short was admitted to Ship’s Hospital on 10th October, 1918 with Influenza while at Sea. (The Hospital Admissions form recorded that he was admitted on 11th October, 1918).

Private Walter Samuel Short died at 1.10 pm on 20th October, 1918 at Sierra Leone on board HMAT *Barambah* (A37) from Syncope supervening on Influenza.

Private Walter Samuel Short was one of eighteen deaths on board HMAT *Barambah* (A37) on the voyage from Australia to England.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P80221

**HMAT *Barambah* (A37)**

The Cablegram mentioned above which was sent to the Secretary for Defence, Melbourne from Sierra Leone, on 29th October, 1918 from O.C. Troopship "Barambah" also included the following information:

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

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Secretary Defence,  
Melbourne.

Severe Epidemic Influsnza Sixhundred cases. Caused  
following eleven deaths.

No. 61174	Pte.	JENKYN Andrew Watson	10th G.S.R)	
" 60964	"	MATHRICK Cecil Benjamin	9th " )	17/10/18
" 61030	"	MOYLE James	9th " )	
No. 61589	Pte.	BUGGINS Frank	12th G.S.R)	
" 61006	"	TAIT Lawrence	9th " )	18/10/18
" 62343	"	RUST Albert Clarence	5th " )	
" 61161	"	HARVEY Stanley	10th " )	
No. 61720	Pte.	SCROGGIE Leslie 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	Ry. Unt)	

All buried at sea excepting Breeden ashore.  
Also One officer three ratings Naval Unit died.

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N o t e:-In addition to those who died on board as above the  
undermentioned are reported as having died ashore:-

No. 62323	Pte.	KABISCH 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 /

*Arthur Long Copson*  
Lieut-Colonel  
O.C. Troops.

Private Walter Samuel Short was buried at Sea on 20th October, 1918. 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 William Samuel Short requested in his Will, dated 16th July, 1918, that in the event of his death he gives the whole of his property and effects to Miss T. Lindsay, of Raphael St. Abbotsford.

Private Walter Samuel Short was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. (signed for by Samuel Short – February, 1925) A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Short's next of kin. The Memorial Scroll was sent to Private Short's widow – Mrs T. J. Short (August, 1921) & the Memorial

Plaque was sent to Private Short's widow in September, 1922 but redirected to his father & redespached in February, 1925.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Walter Samuel Short – service number 61216, of 10th Australian Reinforcements. No family details are listed.

Private W. S. Short 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*

(31 pages of Private Walter Samuel Short'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**

### **AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**

#### **447th Casualty List**

#### **DIED, OTHER CAUSES**

Pte W. S. SHORT, Abbotsford

*(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 28 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 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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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

### **VICTORIAN LIST**

#### **DIED, OTHER CAUSES**

Pte W. S. SHORT. Abbotsford, 20/10/18 (illness)

(*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)

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### 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.

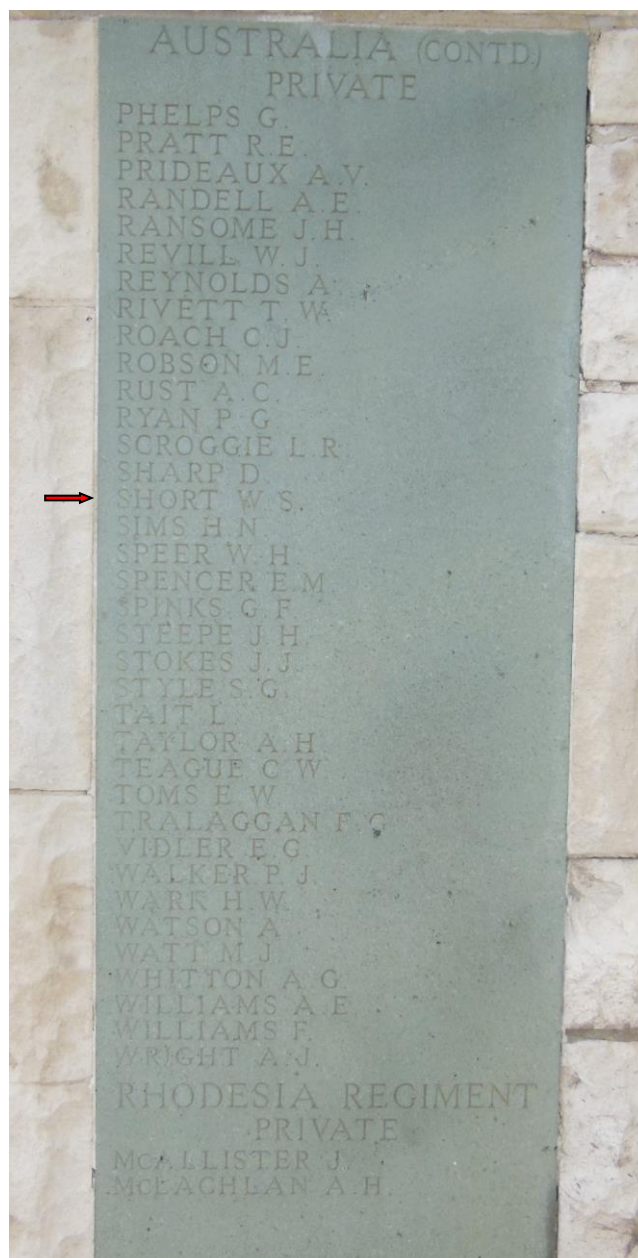
*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



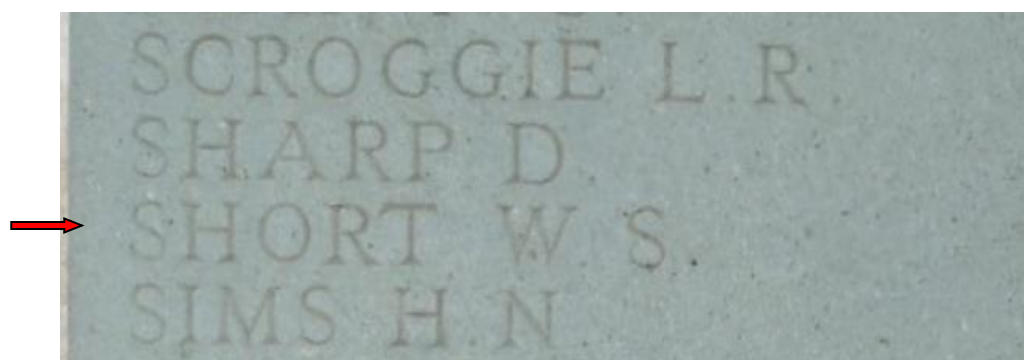




Photo of Private W. S. Short's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





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

*(Photo from CWGC)*