

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3215 PRIVATE

H. N. SIMS

53RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH NOVEMBER, 1916

Henry Norman (Harry) SIMS

Henry Norman Sims was born on a Farm at Hillgrove, New South Wales around 1893 to parents James & Elizabeth Annie (Bessie) Sims (nee Giles). (no record of his birth could be located on NSW B.D & M. website).

Henry Norman Sims attended Thalgarrah School, NSW.

Henry Norman Sims was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from Metz, NSW when he enlisted at Armidale, New South Wales on 3rd October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr James Sims, P.O., Metz, NSW. (According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Henry Norman Sims was a Surveyor's Labourer & also was involved in general Bush work).

Private Henry Norman Sims was posted to Recruits at Rutherford on 3rd October, 1916 with 6th Reinforcements of 35th Battalion. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 53rd Battalion on 4th November, 1916.

Private Henry Norman Sims, Service number 3215, embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 11th November, 1916 with the 53rd Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

53rd Battalion

The 53rd Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 1st Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 1st, the 53rd was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Sydney. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Henry Norman Sims was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 18th November, 1916.

Private Henry Norman Sims died at 7.30 pm on 19th November, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Suevic* (A29) from Measles complicated by Bronchitis.

[Note: A letter written by senior Medical Officer of "Suevic" detailing the two deaths of the voyage from Sydney to Durban listed Private Sims had died on 20th November, 1916]

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 3215

Rank Pte Name SIMS H.N.

Unit 53rd Battalion

LIST. 251 Casualty 20.11.16 Died at Sea. Measles & Bronchitis. Cable - 7/689 Dated Durban 7/11/16

Reference CIP/1021 Cause of death of above, measles complicated by Bronchitis CIP/1029/8 2014 Dated Durban 3/2/16

X. 19.11.16 Died enquiring Cause Died transport Suevic at Sea (C.I.B. 163/8205) Dated Durban 7/11/16

According to UK Registers and Indexes of Births, Marriages & Death of Passengers & Seamen at Sea 1891 – 1922 – Henry Norman Sims died on board *Suevic* while at Sea on 20th November, 1916 Lat. 32.18S, Long. 106.31E.

Suevic ✓ 113456 Liverpool. 1916 Nov. 20th at sea Lat. 32.18 S Long. 106.31 E Henry Norman Sims.



Private Henry Norman Sims was buried at 9 am at Sea on 20th November, 1916 from HMAT *Suevic* (A29). 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.

A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, London, England wrote to The Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne on 1st November, 1917 regarding 3215 Private H. N. Sims, 53rd Battalion, A.I.F. : *“With reference to your No. 3692 of the 14th August, relative to a sum of money which is stated to have been in the possession of the above-named late soldier at the time of his death – the Chief Paymaster’s records in this Administration show that an amount of £78:19:1 was placed to the credit of deceased’s ledger account in respect of cash obtained in effects. This sum would include the amount which the next-of-kin has enquired for, and it is considered that Mr James Sims has been over hasty in assuming that the money had been misappropriated.”*

Private Henry Norman Sims 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 Sims’ father – Mr J. Sims, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

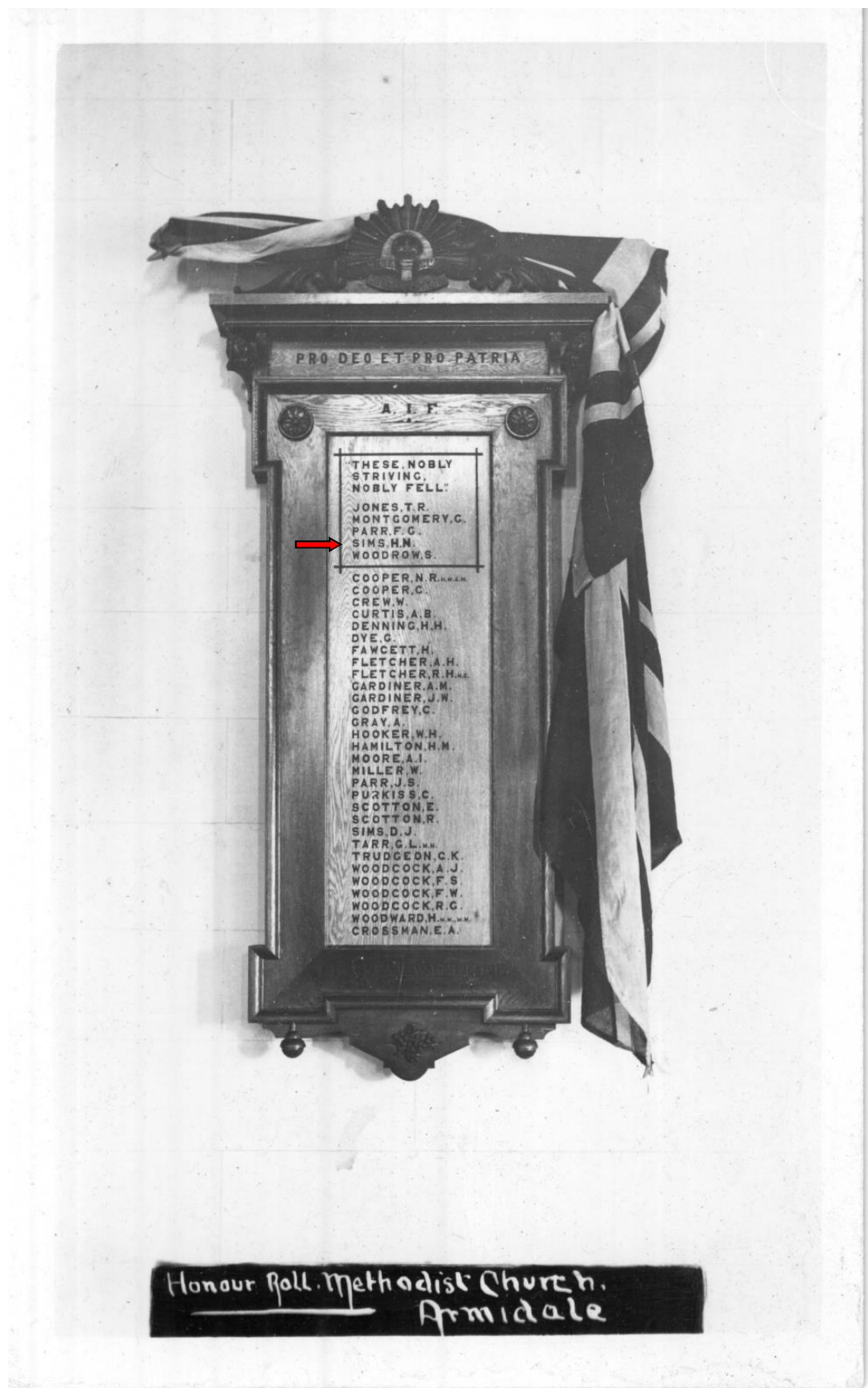
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Norman Sims – service number 3215, of 53rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private H. N. Sims is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 158.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

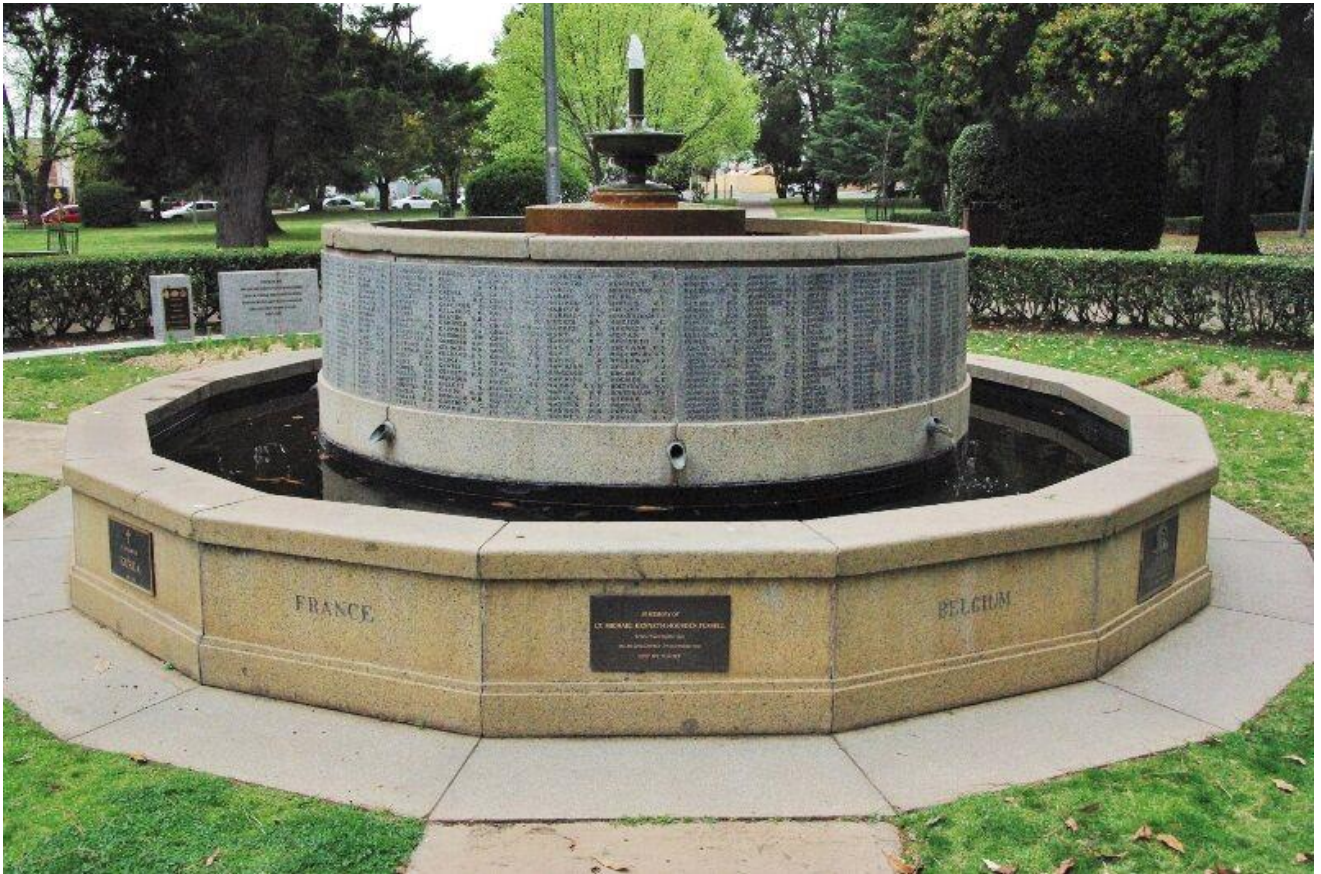
H. N. Sims is remembered on the Armidale Methodist Church World War 1 Honour Roll, located in Armidale Uniting Church Hall, 114 Rusden Street, Armidale, NSW.



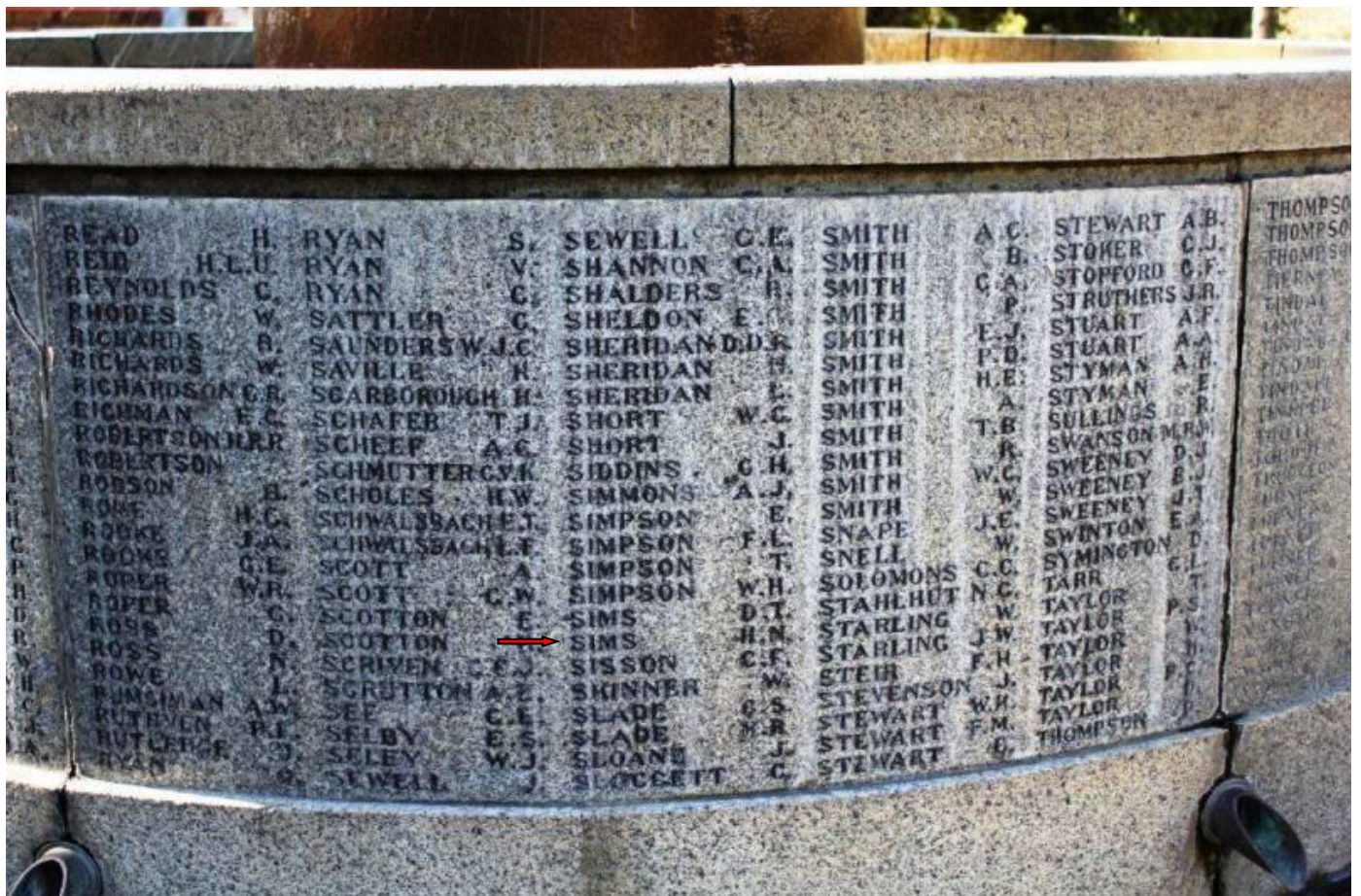
Armidale Methodist Church World War 1 Honour Roll

(Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Graham Wilson)

H. N. Sims is remembered on the Armidale Memorial Fountain, located in Central Park, Barney Street, Armidale, NSW.



Armidale Memorial Fountain (Photos from Monument Australia)



A "H.M. Simms" (there is no H.M. Simms listed on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour or Embarkation Roll – so believe this should be "H. N. Sims") is remembered on the Armidale Roll of Honour, located in Armidale War Memorial Library, 182 Rusden Street, Armidale, NSW.



Armidale Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)



(32 pages of Private Henry Norman Sims' 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



Henry Norman Sims



Newspaper Notices

Metz News

FAREWELL TO A DEPARTING SOLDIER

A very pleasant send-off was tendered Private Harry N. Sims in O'Neill's Hall on Tuesday night last. Although enlisting but four weeks ago, and home for the limited term of three days' final leave, the people of Metz turned out in fine force to wish God-speed to the latest addition to our soldier ranks from the little mining village. Dancing was indulged in till midnight, ample and choice refreshments being provided by the fair sex, with whom the departing soldier was a general favorite.

During an interval Mr. E. M'Na mara, on behalf of the residents, presented Private Sims with a beautifully inscribed gold medal. In making the presentation, Mr. M'Namara said he was proud of the fact that Metz was still adding to its long list of voluntary enlistments, and trusted that Private Sims would be spared to return, when he assured him that as hearty a reception would be given him as was the farewell now being tendered. Mr. M'Namara, who has three stalwart sons at the front, one of whom shrapnel has temporarily laid low, and is in an English hospital, then called upon Mr. Hutchison to supplement his remarks, and make further presentations on behalf of the parents.

Mr. Hutchison, while commending the patriotic spirit that prompted the young soldier to enlist, he being the second of the Sims family to go to the front, made feeling reference to the patriotic and self-sacrificing spirit of the soldier's parents, the father of whom has now entered his seventy-first year.

The aged dad could truly say in the words of the poet:—

I have given you unto the Empire,
 You will follow its battle flag;
You will hear the sound of slaughter
 In valley, on plain, and crag.
I have taken you out of the play ground,
 From many a merry mate,
To send you a stripling soldier
 Out to the field of fate.
But when the god fight is over
 And your share of the fight is done,
I shall be proud of the lad I lent,
 I shall be proud to say I am, my son ! My son !

After some sound advice, the speaker presented the soldier with a wristlet watch and pocket bible from his father and mother respectively. Knitted socks, muffler, mittens, and Balaclava Cap were then handed the guest by Mrs. Hutchison, on behalf of the Knitting Class.

The recipient feelingly replied, remarking that he had not enlisted for the sake of the presents, although assuring the donors he greatly appreciated them, but that he was going to do what he thought was up to him and every other eligible - "his bit."

Mr. Alex. Riddel, a recently-returned soldier, also added a few appropriate words on behalf of the departing soldier, at the same time giving the audience a graphical account of much that wearers of the khaki had to go through, in the trenches.

Mr. Hutchison rather astonished those present by stating that although clava caps, 10 mufflers, 30 pairs mit - the school girls had not been knitting twelve months, they had completed, and despatched to the front 12 Balatens, 64 washers, and 101 pairs of socks, made from wool, the major portion of which was purchased with funds collected by the school children, and that there was still money in hand.....

(The Armidale Chronicle, NSW – 8 November, 1916)

Australian Casualties

Lists Nos 248 to 253

New South Wales

Died of Illness

Pte H. N. SIMS (Metz), 20/11/16

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 20 December, 1916)

The Last Roll Call – We reprint the following from “Seaspray”:

Come he slow or come he fast,

It is but Death who comes at last.

The Grim Reaper has taken his toll from amongst us, and as a result the 53rd Battalion is short of one man who gave every promise of making an excellent soldier. On Monday evening a severe attack of inward measles and pneumonia carried off Private H. N. Sims, who enlisted from Metz, near Armidale, after a short illness, at the age of 23 years.

All that was humanly possible was done for him by the A.M.C., but despite their efforts he passed away in the presence of Captain-Chaplain Hover, who ministered to his spiritual needs. The young man retained his faculties until the end, and almost with his last breath he, whispered the words of that wonderful devotional classic, "Abide with Me," and spoke of his loved ones. The body was buried at sea at 9 p.m. in the presence of a great number of soldier comrades, whose silence was eloquent of the emotion they felt. To the accompaniment of the solemn burial service the mortal remains were consigned to the deep after a short, but none the less gallant effort to serve his King and Country, and the sounding of the "Last Post" concluded the most sorrowful ceremony, and one which we hope not to have to chronicle again.

Vale, Comrade Sims.

(The Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser, NSW – 12 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



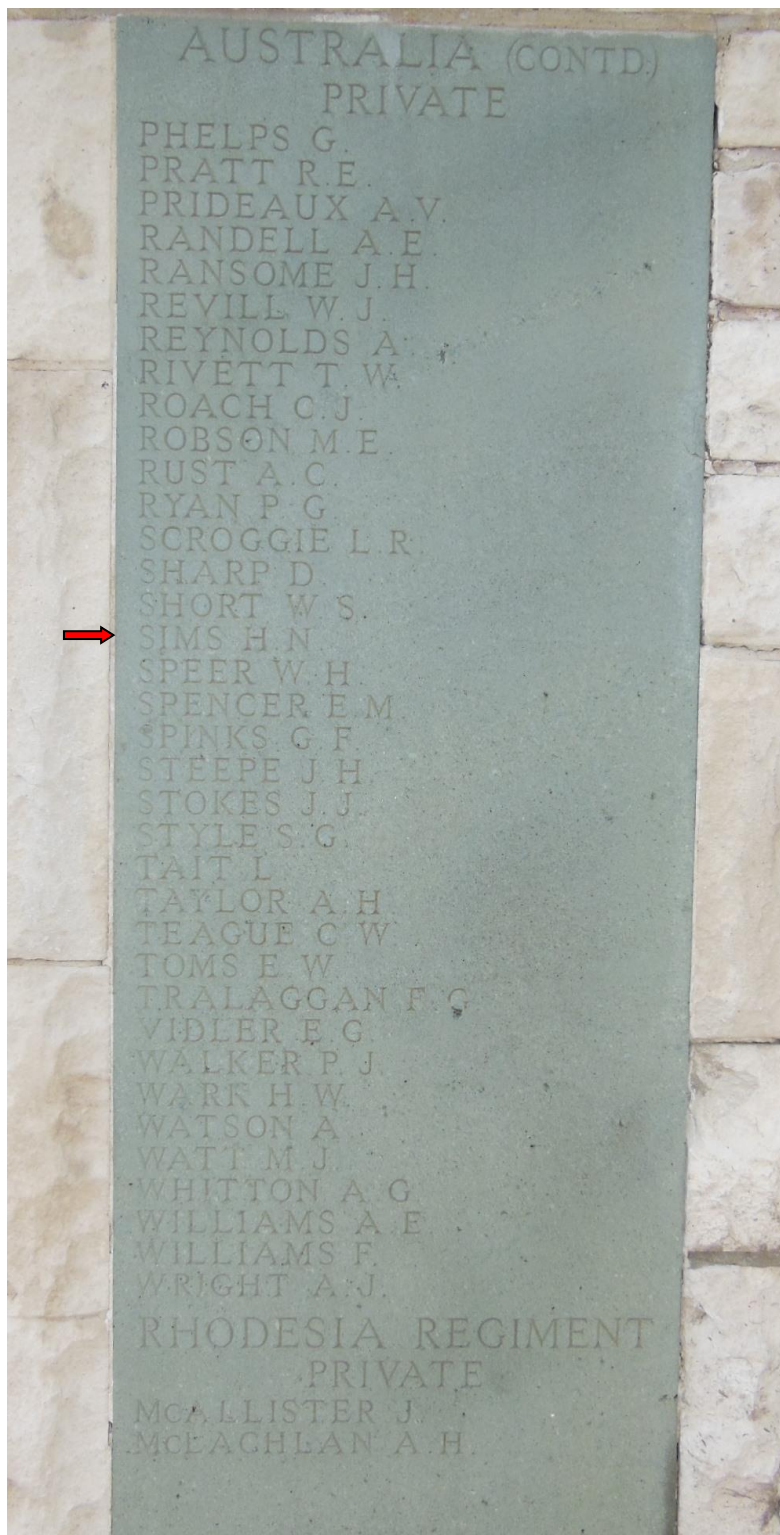
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)



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

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private H. N. Sims' name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

