

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



47 PRIVATE

W. H. SPEER

38TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

30TH JULY, 1916

William Henry SPEER

William Henry Speer was born at Kinypanial, near Korong Vale, Victoria on 22nd November, 1894 to parents William & Annie Maria Speer (nee Bateman). His birth was registered in 1895 & listed a Korong Vale, Victoria.

William Speer, father of William Henry Speer, died on 31st August, 1894.

William Henry Speer attended school at Kinypanial, Victoria.

William Henry Speer was a 21 year old, single, Farmer from Korong Vale, Victoria when he enlisted on 23rd February, 1916 at Bendigo, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A. Speers, Korong Vale, Victoria.

Private William Henry Speer was posted to 38th Battalion on 23rd February, 1916.

Private William Henry Speer, Service number 47, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Runic* (A54) on 20th June, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 38th Infantry Battalion – Head-Quarters Section.

38th Battalion

The 38th Battalion was formed on 1 March 1916 at a camp established on the Epsom Racecourse at Bendigo in Victoria. Early training was disrupted by a severe outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis in the camp, as a result of which the healthy members were transferred to a camp at Campbellfield, where the Battalion had to be rebuilt from fresh reinforcements.

After training in both Australia and Britain, the 38th Battalion crossed to France in late November 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Henry Speer was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 23rd July, 1916 with Measles & Pneumonia.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00707.027

HMAT *Runic* (A54)

Private William Henry Speer died at 6 pm on 30th July, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Runic* (A54) from Pneumonia. Captain Fraser, Ship's Adjutant Transport A 54. Advised Commanding Officer 38th Battalion A.I.F. on 30th July, 1916 "I beg to report that No. 47 Private Speer, W. H., Bandsman, Headquarters, 38th Battn, admitted to Hospital on 21st July 1916, died this evening at 6 pm from Pneumonia supervening on an attack of Measles."

In information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – William Henry Speer died at Sea between Cape Town & England. She also stated he was a Bandsman to 38th Battalion & a Stretcher Bearer.

According to Register of Deceased Passengers at Sea – William Henry Spier died at 6 pm on 30th July, 1916 on *Runic* at Lat 8.36N Long 16.40W. His last place of abode was listed as Campbellfield Camp via Broadmeadows, Melbourne, Australia.

(Another death was recorded in Register of Deceased Passengers at Sea – Sapper Lynton Robert Topping died at 2.25 pm on 31st July, 1916 at Sea from Pneumonia)



Place of death of Private William Henry Speer

Private William Henry Speer was buried at Sea from HMAT *Runic* (A54) on 31st July, 1916. 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 Henry Speer 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 Speer's widowed mother – Mrs A. Speer, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Henry Speer – service number 47, of 38th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private W. H. Speer is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 130.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. H. Speer is remembered on the Kinypanial School Honour Roll for World War 1, last known to be located in Korong Vale Hall, Victoria.



Kinypanial School Honour Roll (Photo from Victorian Heritage Database)

W. H. Speer is remembered on the Korong Vale War Memorial, located in Borella Park, Vernon & Allen Streets, Lorong Vale, Victoria.



Korong Vale War Memorial (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Western Front Association Central Victoria Branch)

W. H. Speer is remembered on the Melbourne Electric Supply Company Limited Honour Roll, located in Light Horse & Field Artillery Museum, 200 Bessie Creek Road, Nar Nar Goon, Victoria.



Melbourne Electric Supply Company Limited Honour Roll

(Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

(35 pages of Private William Henry Speer'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 William Henry Speer

Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIANS IN WAR

TWO CASUALTY LISTS YESTERDAY

The 200th and 201st casualty lists issued tonight.....

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. H. SPEER, Korong Vale

(Hamilton Spectator, Victoria – 29 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

THE CASUALTY LISTS

BENDIGO AND NORTHERN DISTRICT MEN

DIED FROM WOUNDS

Pte W. H. SPEER, Korong Vale, 30/7/16

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 31 August, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

For Freedom's Cause

SPEER - In sad and loving memory of Private William H. Speer, of 38th (Bendigo) Battalion, who died on 30th July, 1916 aged 21 years 3 months. Youngest son of Mrs. A. M. Speer, and brother of Ernest, Birdie, and Arthur.

His King and country called him,

The call was not in vain:

On Australia's roll of honor

You will find our dear Will's name.

In the bloom of life God called him.

In the pride of his manhood days

None knew him but to love him.

None speak of his name but to praise.

No mother was there to soothe his brow.

No brothers to say good-bye

No sister to take him by the hand

When death was nearing nigh,

In the morning of his day.

- Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sister, at Korong Vale.

SPEER – In memory of Pte W. H. Speer, bandsman, 38th Battalion, who died at sea, of pneumonia, 30th July, 1916.

Friendship may pass, but fond memory clings for ever.

-Ivy Albert

(Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo, Victoria – 30 July, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SPEER.— In sad and loving memory of Private William H. Speer, who died on the 30th July, 1916, aged 21 years 8 months, youngest son of Mrs. A. M. Speer, and brother of Ernest, Birdie, and Arthur.

Your end came sudden, dear Willie,
It made us weep and cry,
To think we could not say good-bye,
Before you closed your eyes.
In the bloom of life God called him,
In the pride of his manhood days;
None knew him but to love him,
None speak of his name but to praise.
His loving ways and cheery smile,
Are pleasant to recall;
He had a kindly word for each,
And died beloved by all.
Always in our thoughts.

—(Inserted by his loving mother, brothers, and sister, at Korongvale.)

SPEER.— In sad and loving memory of our dear nephew, Private W. Speer, A.I.F., 38th Battalion, who died July 30, 1916.

A shadow o'er our lives is cast,
Our hearts are sad to-day;
It is just twelve months ago
Since dear Will passed away.

—(Inserted by his aunts, S. Watkins and M. Bateman.)

SPEER.— To the memory of my pal, Private W. H., died at sea 30th July, 1916.

Closest to their gods in splendour
Sit the souls of such as these.

—(L. C. W.)

SPEER.— In loving memory of our dear mate, Private William Henry Speer, 38th Battalion, who died at sea, July 30, 1916.

Only a soldier, he heard the call,
He did his duty—he gave his all;
One of earth's brightest, one of the best,
Like many another he is laid to rest.

—(Inserted by his loving comrade, Private A. W. Bell, A.I.F., and mates, Douglas, John, James, and Lindsay (Borong).)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 July, 1917)

For Freedom's Cause

IN MEMORIAM

SPEER – In memory of Pte W. H. Speer, bandsman, 38th Battalion, who died at sea, of pneumonia, 30th July, 1916.

Friendship may pass, but fond memory clings for ever.

-Ivy Albert

(*Bendigonian*, Bendigo, Victoria – 2 August, 1917)

**Notices were also placed in newspapers in 1918, 1919, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946

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



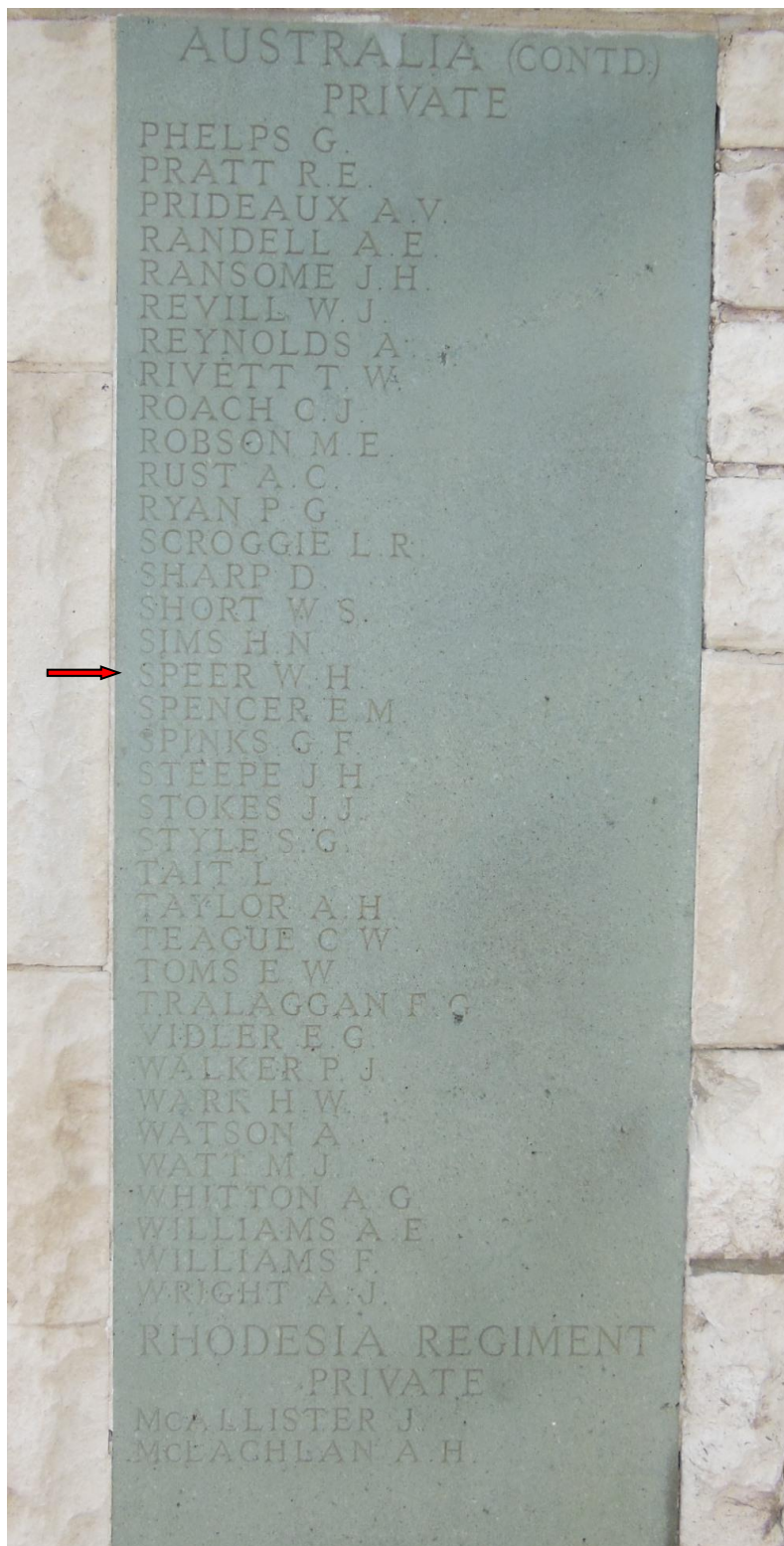
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)



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

(Photo from CWGC)

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



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

