

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6114 PRIVATE**

**E. M. SPENCER**

**6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**17TH AUGUST, 1916**

## Erwin Mallette SPENCER

Erwin Mallette Spencer was born at Marshall Town, near Geelong, Victoria on 4th February, 1887 to parents William & Jane Spencer (nee Gardiner).

Jane Spencer, mother of Erwin Mallette Spencer, died on 13th March, 1887 at Connewarre, Victoria. He was raised by his Aunt – Isabella Gardiner at Strathbogie after his mother died (information from Family Trees on Ancestry).

William Spencer, father of Erwin Mallette Spencer, married Frances Blyth in 1888.

Erwin Mallette Spencer attended Locksley State School, Victoria.

William Spencer, father of Erwin Mallette Spencer, died on 10th July, 1903 at Avenel, Victoria.

Erwin Mallette Spencer married Kate Sabina Archer on 14th August, 1913 at the residence of C. H. F. Vroland, Strathbogie, Victoria.

Alfred Edward Spencer was born on 11th January, 1912 to Erwin & Kate Spencer. A birth was registered in 1914 for Winifred Lillian Spencer (born 13th May, 1914).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Flinders, subdivision of Korumburra, Victoria recorded Erwin Mallette Spencer, Labourer, from Kardella.

Erwin Mallette Spencer was a 30 year old, married, Labourer from G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 16th February, 1916 at Leongatha, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6114 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs K. S. Spencer, Connewarre East, via Geelong, Victoria.

Private Erwin Mallette Spencer was posted to 19th Depot Battalion at Geelong, Victoria for recruit training. He was transferred to Broadmeadows on 25th April, 1916. Private Spencer was transferred to HSPD (appears to stand for restricted duties while in Hospital) on 18th May, 1916.

Private Erwin Mallette Spencer was admitted to Clearing Hospital at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 18th May, 1916 with *“Deffective Eyes ? Tumor.”* He was transferred to No. 5 Australian General Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria on 18th May, 1916.

Major Webster wrote the following on 25th May, 1916: *“There is nothing to account for this defect of vision as far as I can see. His answers are not satisfactory. I would like to know what his vision was when examined as a recruit.”*

A report was completed by Major \_\_\_ on 29th May, 1916 which reads: *“Complains that vision of R eye has been defective for over 12 months so that he has been in habit of shooting from left shoulder. During past 3 weeks sight has become much worse. Has felt pain over the brow. Rt = 3/60 only Lt = 6/12.....I can discover no cause for the defect of vision complained of. Under examination at the test \_\_\_ the man’s answers are inconsistent. I believe the case is functional, but would be greatly \_\_\_ if I know the record of his vision at enlistment.”*

Major Webster wrote the following on 8th June, 1916: *“I cannot see any reason why this man should not see better with his right eye. He reads the same type at both 3 and 6 metres which of course is \_\_\_\_\_. I think he should return to duty.”*

In the comments for Hospital Admission form is the following: *“Major Webster thinks he is suspicious. 9/6/16 HSPD for Duty. Eye Specialist Reports are attached.”*

Private Erwin Mallette Spencer was posted to 3rd Reinforcements of 58th Battalion at Broadmeadows. He was transferred to 19th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 9th June, 1916.

Private Irwin Mallette Spencer (name as per Embarkation Roll) embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 28th July, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcements.

## 6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Erwin Mallette Spencer was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 14th August, 1916.

Private Erwin Mallette Spencer died on 17th August, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) from Meningitis.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB1021

### **HMAT *Themistocles* (A32)**

Private Erwin Mallette Spencer was buried at Sea on 17th August, 1916 from HMAT *Themistocles* (A32). 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 Erwin Mallette Spencer 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 Spencer's widow - Mrs K. S. Spencer, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).



**Memorial Plaque for Erwin Mallett Spencer**

*(Photo from Robert Thomas Strang – 2nd Great Grandson)*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Erwin Mallett Spencer – service number 6114, of 6th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private E. M. Spencer is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 48.



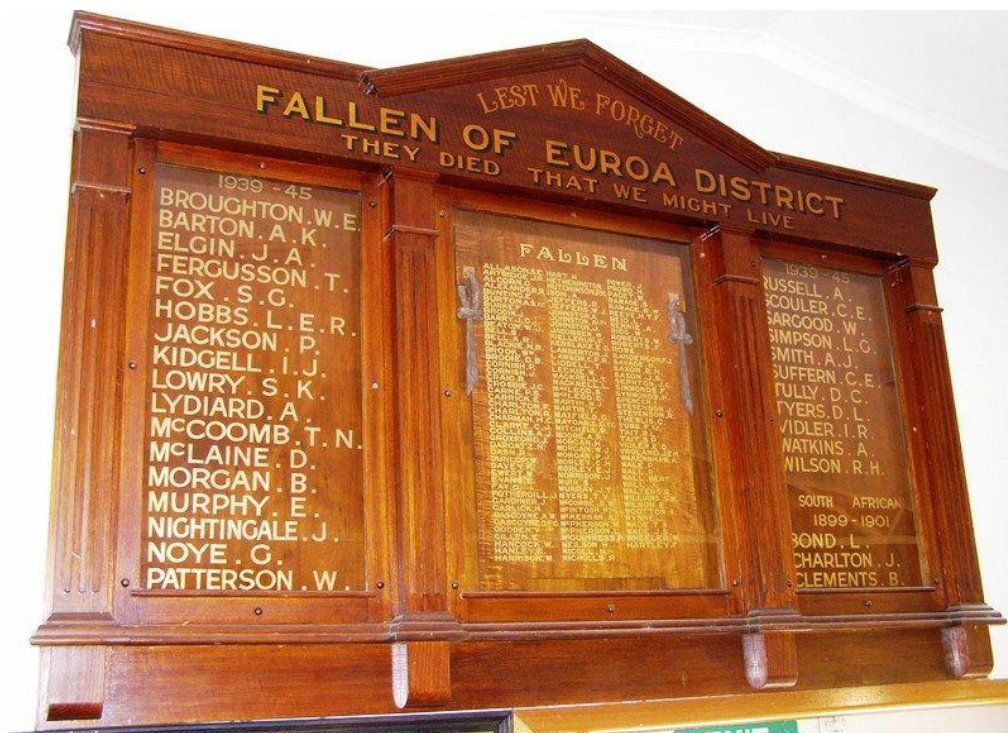
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

I. Spencer is remembered on the Connewarre & District Soldiers Honour Roll, located on Connewarre Memorial Hall, Randles Road, Connewarre, Victoria.



Connewarre & District Soldiers Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

I. Spencer is remembered on the Fallen of Euroa District Honour Roll, located in RSL Club, Kirkland Avenue, Euroa, Victoria.



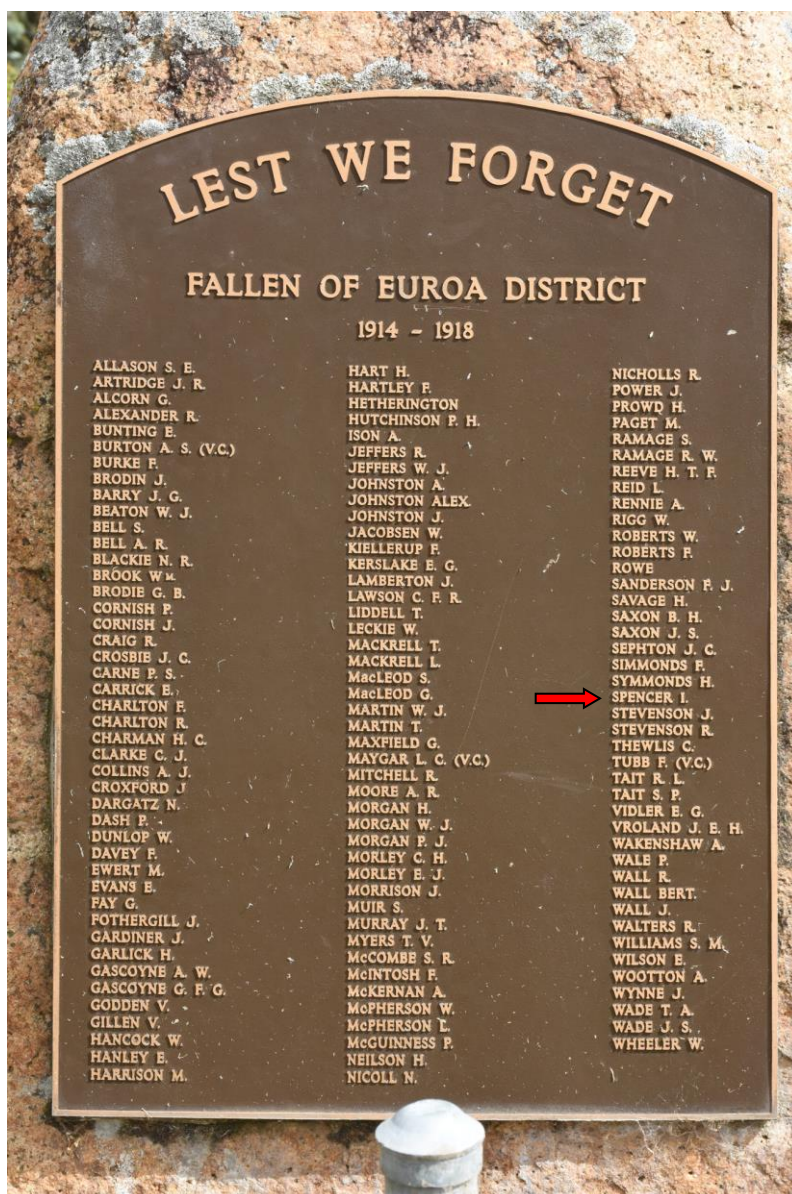


**Fallen of Euroa District Honour Roll** (Photos from Monument Australia)

I. Spencer is remembered on the Euroa War Memorial, located at Lions Park, Clifton Street, Euroa, Victoria.



**Euroa War Memorial**

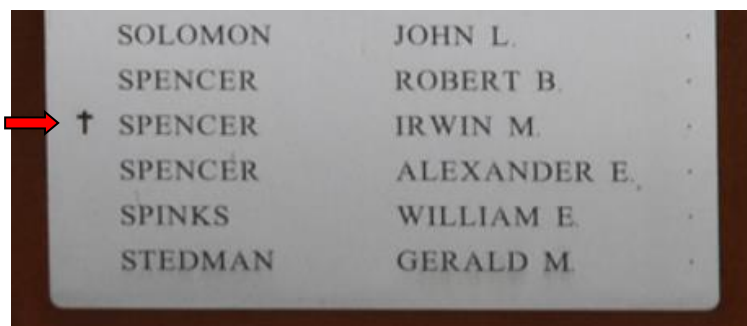


Euroa War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

Irwin M. Spencer is remembered on the Telegraph Park Memorial, located in Telegraph Park, Brock Street, Euroa, Victoria.



Telegraph Park Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



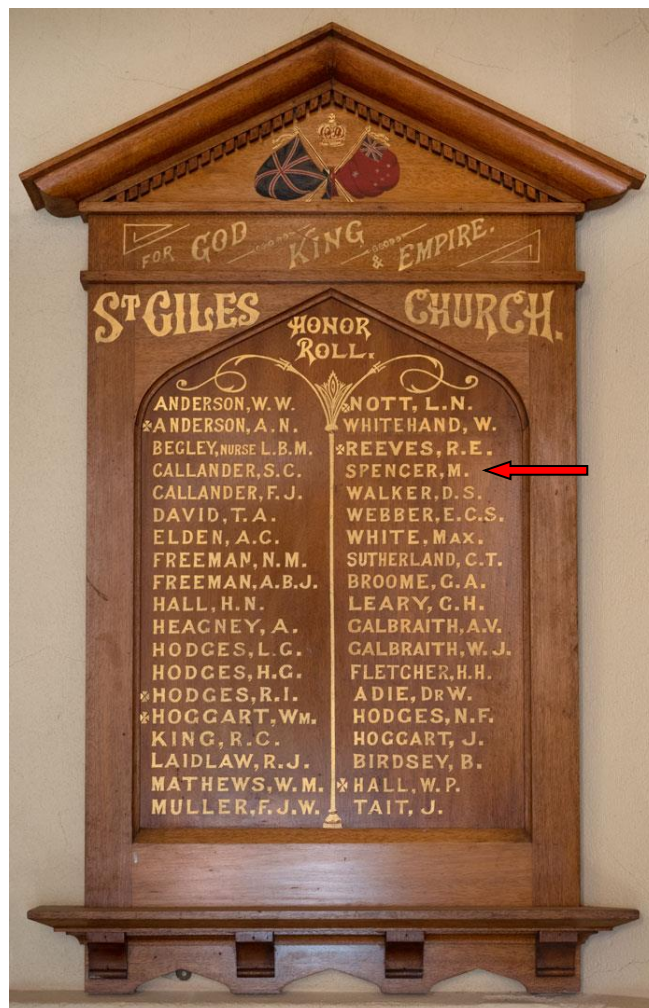


M. Spencer is remembered on the Geelong Barwon Rowing Club Honor Roll, located at 2 Barwon Terrace, Geelong, Victoria.



Geelong Barwon Rowing Club Honor Roll (Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

M. Spencer is remembered on the St. Giles Presbyterian Church Honor Roll, located in Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra Street, Geelong, Victoria.



St. Giles Presbyterian Church Honor Roll (Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

(37 pages of Private Erwin Mallette Spencer's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

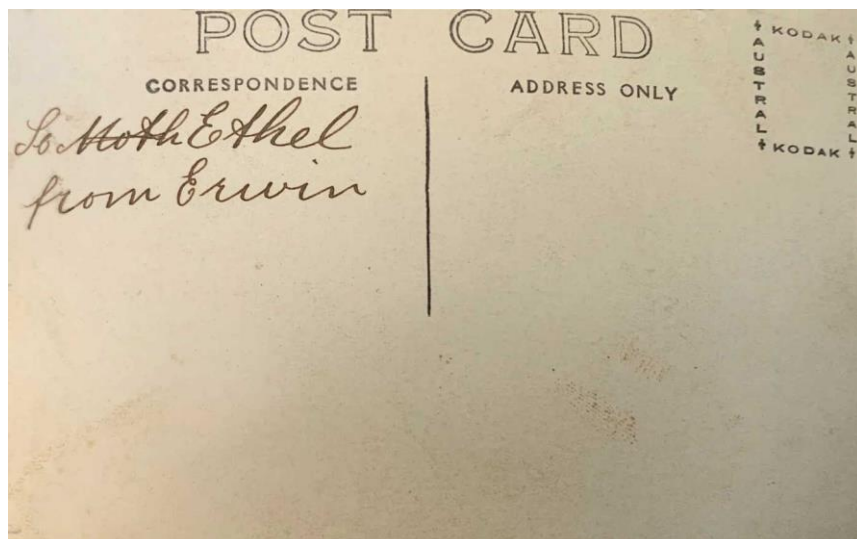
*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



**Private Erwin Mallette Spencer** (*left*); **George Dale** (*middle; a friend from Connewarre, Victoria*)  
& **Alexander Ewing Spencer** (*right; half-brother*)



**Photo Post Card of Private Erwin Mallette Spencer & reverse of Post Card**  
(Photos from Robert Thomas Strang – 2nd Great Grandson)



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **Recruiting**

#### **VOLUNTEERS FROM THIS SHIRE**

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SPENCER, Erwin M., Kardella

(*Great Southern Advocate*, Korumburra, Victoria – 2 March, 1916)

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#### **THE 210th CASUALTY LIST**

The Victorian names are:-

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

Private E. M. Spencer, Connewarre East.

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 16 September, 1916)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

SPENCER – Erwin Mallett Spencer, of Barwon Heads, died August 17 1916.

He was a soldier brave and true,

He did his duty and answered the bugle call.

-(Inserted by his loving wife and children, also sister, Ethel Scouler).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 August, 1917)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

SPENCER – In loving memory of my dear husband, Private Erwin Mallett, who died at Sea on the 17th August, 1916.

We pictured your safe return, dear Erwin,

And longed to clasp your hand;

But God has postponed our meeting –

It will be in a better land.

-(Inserted by his loving wife, Kate Spencer, and children and sister, Ethel Scouler, Nagambie.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 August, 1918)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

SPENCER – In loving memory of my dear husband, Erwin Mallette, who died at sea on August 17, 1916; Also his loving brother, Arthur Edwin, who died on May 9, 1919.

If I could have my dearest wish fulfilled,  
Or ask from Heaven whatever I willed,  
Of all earth's treasures, and Heaven's too,  
Dear Erwin, I would ask for you.

(Inserted by his loving wife and children, also loving sister, Ethel Scouler, Nagambie.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 August, 1919)

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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)*





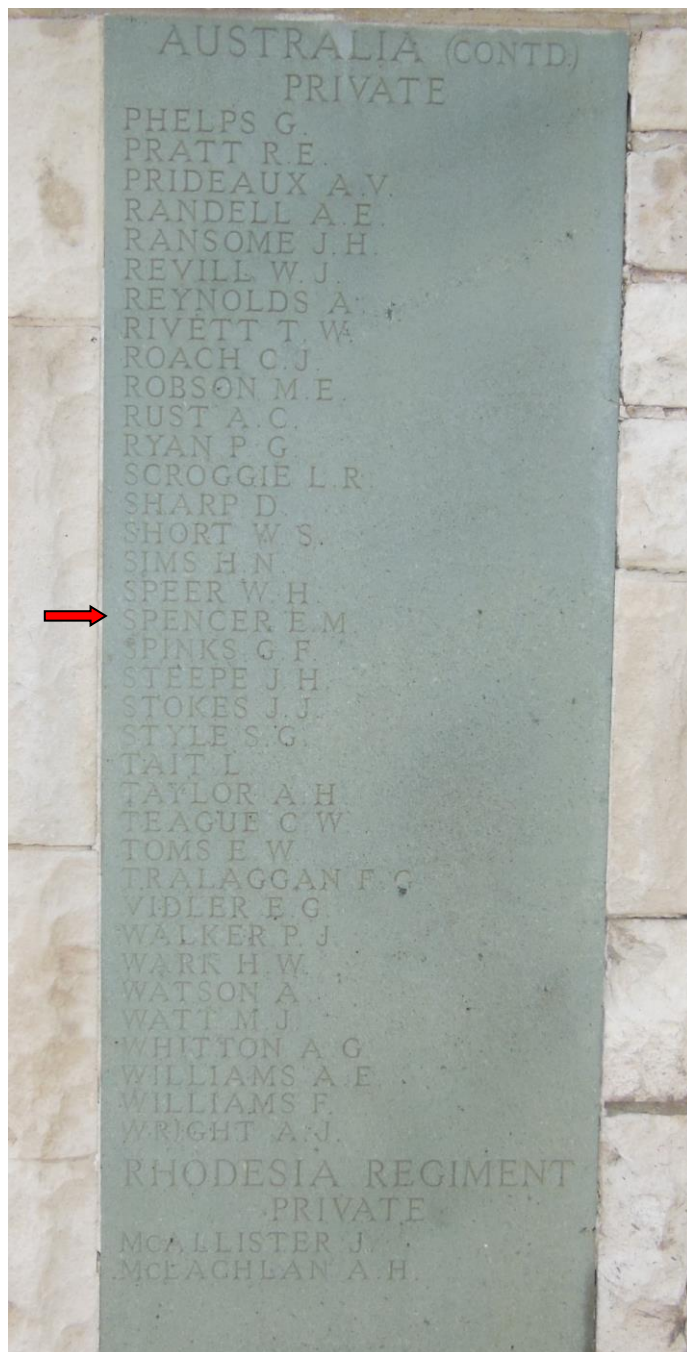


**CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial**

*(Photo from CWGC)*



Photo of Private E. M. Spencer's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

