

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2518 PRIVATE

A. G. WHITTON

52ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH OCTOBER, 1916

Arthur George WHITTON

Arthur George Whitton was born in Sydney, New South Wales in 1894 to parents James & Ada Whitton (nee Bailey)

Arthur George Whitton attended school at Bowen, Queensland.

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Clermont, Queensland, recorded Arthur George Whitton, Stockman, of Frankfield Station.

Arthur George Whitton was a 21 year old, single, Stockman from Poole Street, Bowen, Queensland when he enlisted on 29th April, 1916 at Bowen, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Ada Whitton, of Poole Street, Bowen, Queensland.

Private Arthur George Whitton was posted to No. 11 Dept Battalion on 5th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 52nd Battalion on 11th July, 1916.

Private Arthur George Whitton, Service number 2518, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Seang Choon* (A49) on 19th September 1916 with the 52nd Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements.

52nd Battalion

The 52nd Battalion was raised at Tel el Kebir in Egypt on 1 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were veterans from the 12th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 12th, the 52nd was originally a mix of men from South and Western Australia and Tasmania. From March 1916, the battalion's reinforcement groups mainly comprised men from Queensland. The 52nd became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Arthur George Whitton was admitted to Ship's Isolation Ward (no date recorded) with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Private Arthur George Whitton died on 17th October, 1916 while at Sea on board HMAT *Seang Choon* (A49) from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Private Arthur George Whitton was buried at Sea from HMAT *Seang Choon* (A49) on 17th October, 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 Arthur George Whitton requested in his Will, dated 15th October, 1916, that he bequeathed all his real & personal property to his mother – Ada Whitton of Bowen, Queensland. He also appointed Ada Whitton as sole executrix.

Private Arthur George Whitton 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 Whitton's father - Mr J. Whitton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

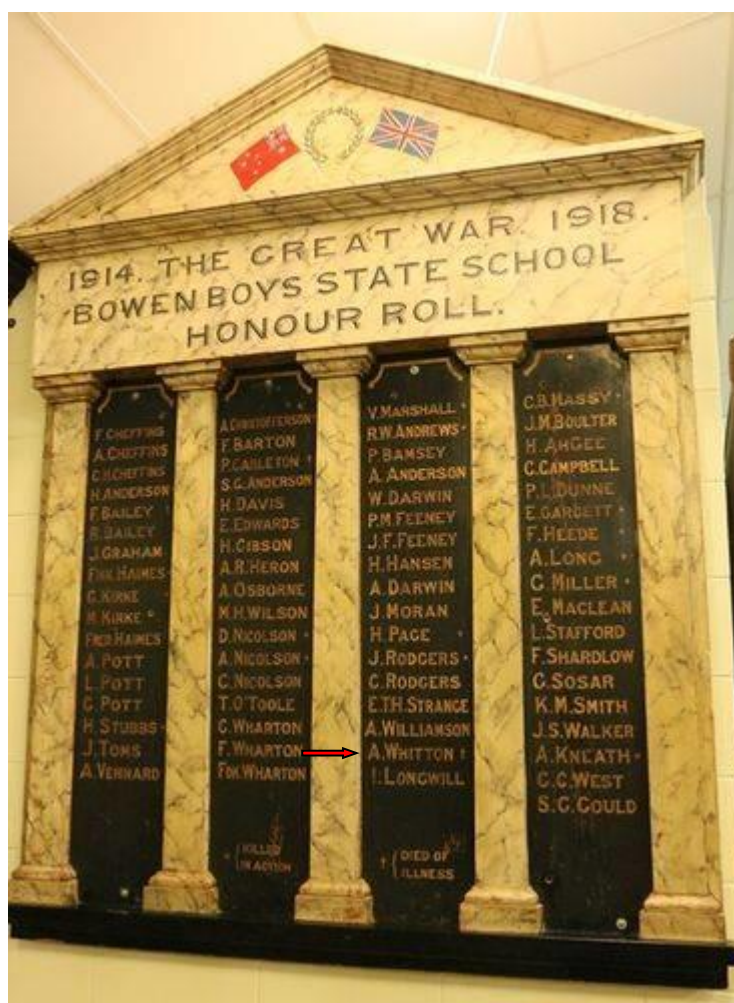
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur George Whitton – service number 2518, of 52nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private A. G. Whitton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 156.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Whitton is remembered on the Bowen Boys State School Honour Roll, located in Bowen Historical Museum, 22 Gordon Street, Bowen, Queensland.



Bowen Boys State School Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

A. G. Whitton is remembered on the Bowen War Memorial, located on Herbert Street, Bowen, Queensland.



Bowen War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)

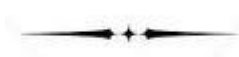
(35 pages of Private Arthur George Whitton's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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





(*The Queenslander Pictorial*, Brisbane – 14 October, 1916)



Newspaper Notices

RECRUITING

During the week seven offered their services, 2 being unfit, 1 fit for home service and four accepted. Those accepted were Arthur George Whitton, William Henry Bryant, William Thomas Green, Robert Walter Rogers.....

(*Bowen Independent*, Queensland – 6 May, 1916)

SOCIAL

News has been received of the death of Private Arthur Whitton, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Whitton of this town, from meningitis, which occurred on board a transport on the way to the front.

(*Bowen Independent*, Queensland – 24 October, 1916)

Roll of Honour

Queensland Casualties

The 238th list of Australian casualties was released by the censor.....

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte A. G. Whitton, Bowen, Q., 17/10/16

(*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 3 November, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

In loving memory of PRIVATE ARTHUR GEORGE WHITTON who died of meningitis on his way to the Front, October 17th, 1916, aged 22 years.

For Britain's home and freedom,
And to right a deadly wrong,
He chose the path of duty,
And joined the khaki throng.

Oh, how my heart does ache,
When I think of how he died,
To think I could not say good-bye,
Before he closed his eyes.

Inserted by his loving mother.

(*Bowen Independent*, Queensland – 16 October, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

In loving memory of our dear son and brother (Private Arthur George Whitton) who died October 17th 1916. Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

(*Bowen Independent*, Queensland – 19 October, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WHITTON – In sad and loving memory of Private Arthur George WHITTON, who died of Meningitis on board a transport on his way to the front, October 17th, 1916. Aged 22 years.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers.

(*Bowen Independent*, Queensland – 18 October, 1919)

***Memorial notices were also placed in newspapers in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923

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.

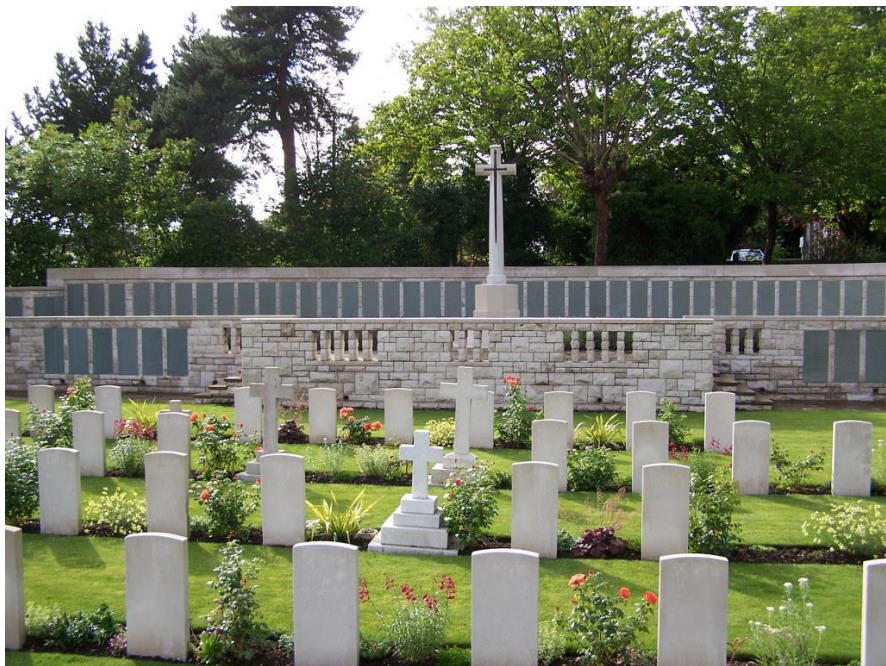
(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice

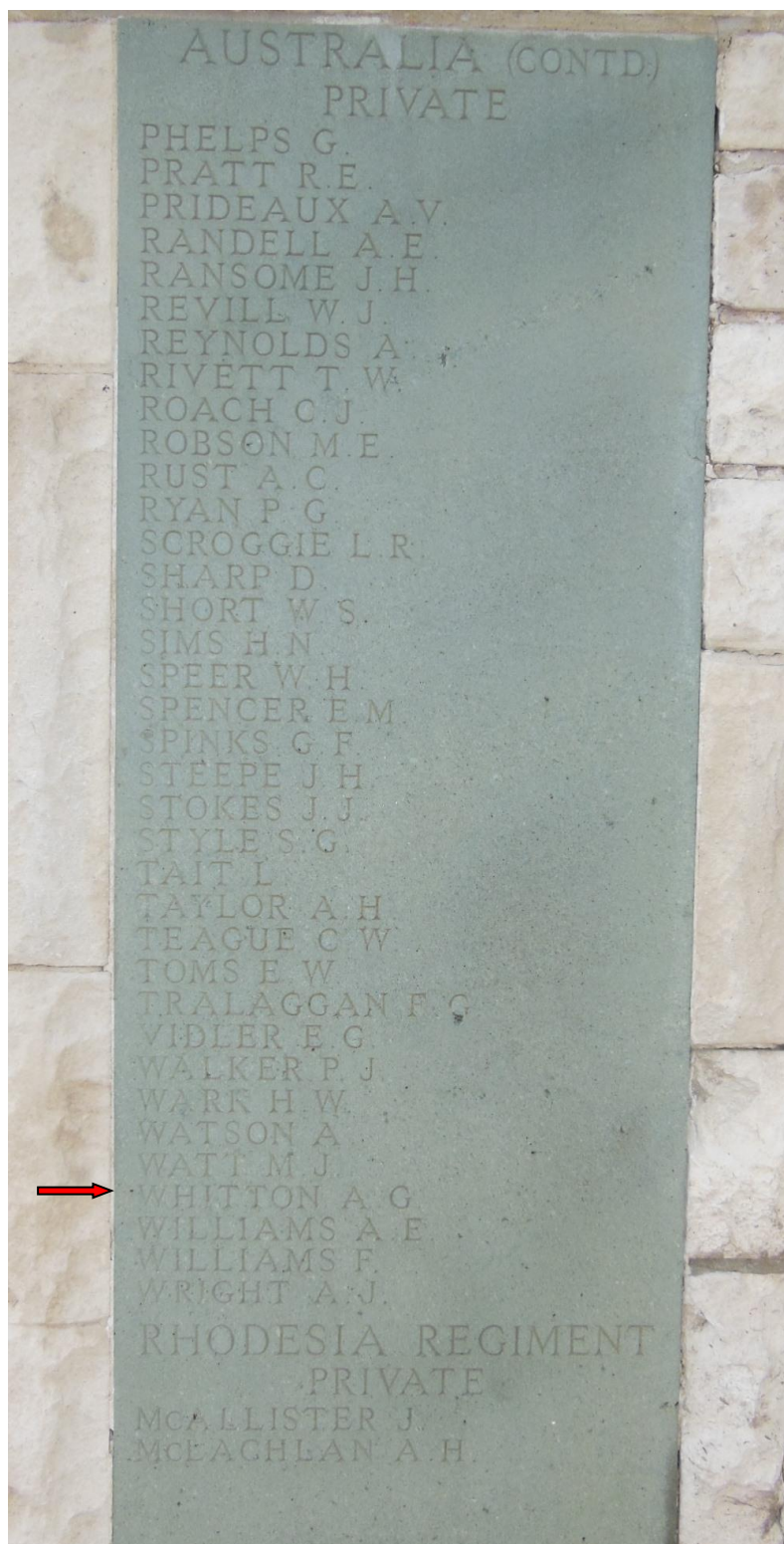


Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)



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

Photo of Private A. G. Whitton's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

