

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



454 PRIVATE

W. W. WALKER

AUSTRALIAN CYCLIST CORPS

19TH AUGUST, 1916

William Wilson WALKER

William Wilson Walker was born at Diggers Rest, Victoria in 1892 to parents Robert Campbell Walker & Jane Agnes Walker (nee Holmes).

William Wilson Walker attended Woodglan State School, Lindenow, Victoria.

William Wilson Walker was a 23 year old, single, Horse-breaker from Newry, North Gippsland, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 8th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 454 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Robert Walker, of Newry, Victoria.

Private William Wilson Walker was posted to 19th Depot Battalion at Geelong, Victoria on 10th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 2nd Reinforcements of 2nd Cyclist Battalion in 24th June, 1916.

Australian Cycling Corps

The Australian Cycling Corps was formed in Egypt in 1916 as part of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), and fought on the Western Front in France and Belgium during World War I. They were used mainly as despatch riders, while also conducting reconnaissance and patrolling. It was disbanded in 1919.

When the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was reorganised and expanded in Egypt in 1916 following its evacuation from Gallipoli, each of its five infantry divisions was allocated a company of cyclists in accordance with the British New Army establishment adopted at that time. At this time each company had an establishment of a headquarters and six cycle platoons with a total strength of 204 men. These companies were formed in March and April 1916 from volunteers from other AIF units in the Middle East. However, following their arrival in France, they were subsequently reorganised as corps troops, with the 1st and 2nd Cyclist Battalions being formed and attached to the I and II ANZAC Corps respectively in May and July. Meanwhile, a Cyclist Training Company was also formed in England. The 2nd Battalion included two companies of New Zealanders, and was commanded mostly by New Zealand officers. The establishment of each battalion included a headquarters and three companies, each of three platoons with a total of 26 officers and 310 other ranks.

The cyclist battalions were organised like the infantry, and were mainly used as despatch riders...*(Wikipedia)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA000139

Members of the Australian Cyclist Corps at Broadmeadows, Victoria, c. January 1915

Private William Wilson Walker embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Barambah* (A37) on 27th June, 1916 with the 2nd Cyclist Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0221

HMAT *Barambah*

Private William Wilson Walker was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 2nd August, 1916 with Measles. He developed Broncho Pneumonia on 15th August, 1916.

Private William Wilson Walker died at 1.10 am on 19th August, 1916 on board HMAT *Barambah* (A37) while at Sea from Broncho Pneumonia.

Private William Wilson Walker was buried at Sea from HMAT *Barambah* (A37). 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 Wilson Walker 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 Walker's father – Mr R. C. Walker, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Wilson Walker – service number 454, of 2nd Coy., Australian Cyclist Corps. No family details are listed.

W. Walker is named on the Maffra Shire Honour Roll, located at Maffra Library, Johnson & Foster Streets, Maffra, Victoria.



Maffra Shire Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



The Maffra Cenotaph, located in front of Maffra Library, Johnson & Foster Streets, Maffra, Victoria, contains a plaque which commemorates Maffra's Avenue of Honour which was planted by the Maffra Soldiers Welfare League in honour of men of the district who died in service or were killed in action in World War 1. 139 men from the district paid the supreme sacrifice. The avenue no longer exists.

The plaque commemorating the opening of the avenue is on the Maffra Cenotaph which was originally located at the start of the Avenue of Honour. The cenotaph was relocated to its current position & rededicated.

The avenue was formally opened by Mr Donald Mackinnon M.L.A. on the 3rd October 1918 when the first 10 trees were planted. Attached to each tree was a copper plate which listed the name of the soldier honoured, his rank and battalion. The trees were planted along the Maffra-Sale Road. It is believed that some of the plaques from the Maffra-Sale Road are on a board in Shelton.



The Maffra Cenotaph (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Private W. W. Walker 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

(46 pages of Private William Wilson Walker'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

DEATH

WALKER – Died at sea, August 19th, 1916, Private W. W. Walker, aged 23.

Inserted by his father, mother, brothers and sisters.

He answered the call of this King and country
Australia called on her brave lads,
Called them in honor's name
He gave his life for his country
That's how he played the game

(The Maffra Spectator, Victoria – 18 August, 1919)

THE 219th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private W. W. Walker, Newry

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 27 September, 1916)

On Active Service

WALKER — In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private W. W. Walker who died and was buried at sea on the 19th August, 1916. Aged 23 years and 10 months.

The sea, the lone blue sea, has him.
 He lies where pearls lie deep.
He was the best loved by us all,
 Yet none o'er his low bed may weep.
Could we've been there in the hour of death,
 And caught the sigh of his parting breath
Your last, faint whisper we might have heard,
 And breathed in your ear a true loving word.
Little we thought when he bade us good-bye,
 That he'd left us for ever, left us to die.
Not even his dear lifeless form did we see,
 But for ever our memory will cling to thee
The shock was great, tho blow severe,
 To part with one we loved so dear.
Only those who have lost are able to tell
 The pain at the heart at not saying farewell.

— Inserted by his sorrowing father, mother, brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces, Lindenow South.

(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 16 August, 1917)

On Active Service

WALKER – In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte W. W. Walker, aged 23 years 10 months, who died and was buried at sea, 19th August, 1916.

He sailed on his last commission,
 On the beautiful ship, called "Rest."
And his head is safely pillowed
 In his Great Commander's breast.
We often think of days gone by
 When we were all together
A sadness o'er our lives is cast
 Our dear Willie's gone for ever.
Your end came suddenly, dear Willie
 It made us weep and cry,
And, Oh! it was so hard to think
 We could not say good bye.

-Inserted by his loving sister, brother-in-law, nephew and neice, M.E., C.A., C.R., M. J. E. MacGregor, Lindenow South

WALKER.— To the memory of our son, Private W. W. Walker, who died and was buried at sea, 19th August 1916; aged 23 years 10 months.

Somewhere beneath the waves our darling lies,

Our little, little boy.
 Who came from above
 As a gift of love,
And crowned our life-with Joy.
The years crept on and stole our babe
Our Joy was touched with pain
 But the music sweet
 Of his little feet
Still echoes on our brain.

From boy to youth, from youth to man
We've watched our darling grow.
 Then the sound of war
 Brought us anguish sore,
We knew our boy would go.

We could not speak that last good-bye
But kissed him o'er and o'er.
 And we watched him go
 With a heart of woe —
Go to come back no more.

Somewhere beneath the waves our darling lies—
Somewhere beneath the sea;
 But his soul was brave
 It's beyond the grave
Somewhere, Somewhere with God

And now a heavenly message comes
A whisper sweet of love
 And we know with joy
 We shall clasp our boy,
Somewhere, somewhere above.

— Inserted by his father and mother, Robert C. and Jane A. Walker, Lindenow South (late of Newry).

(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 15 August, 1918)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

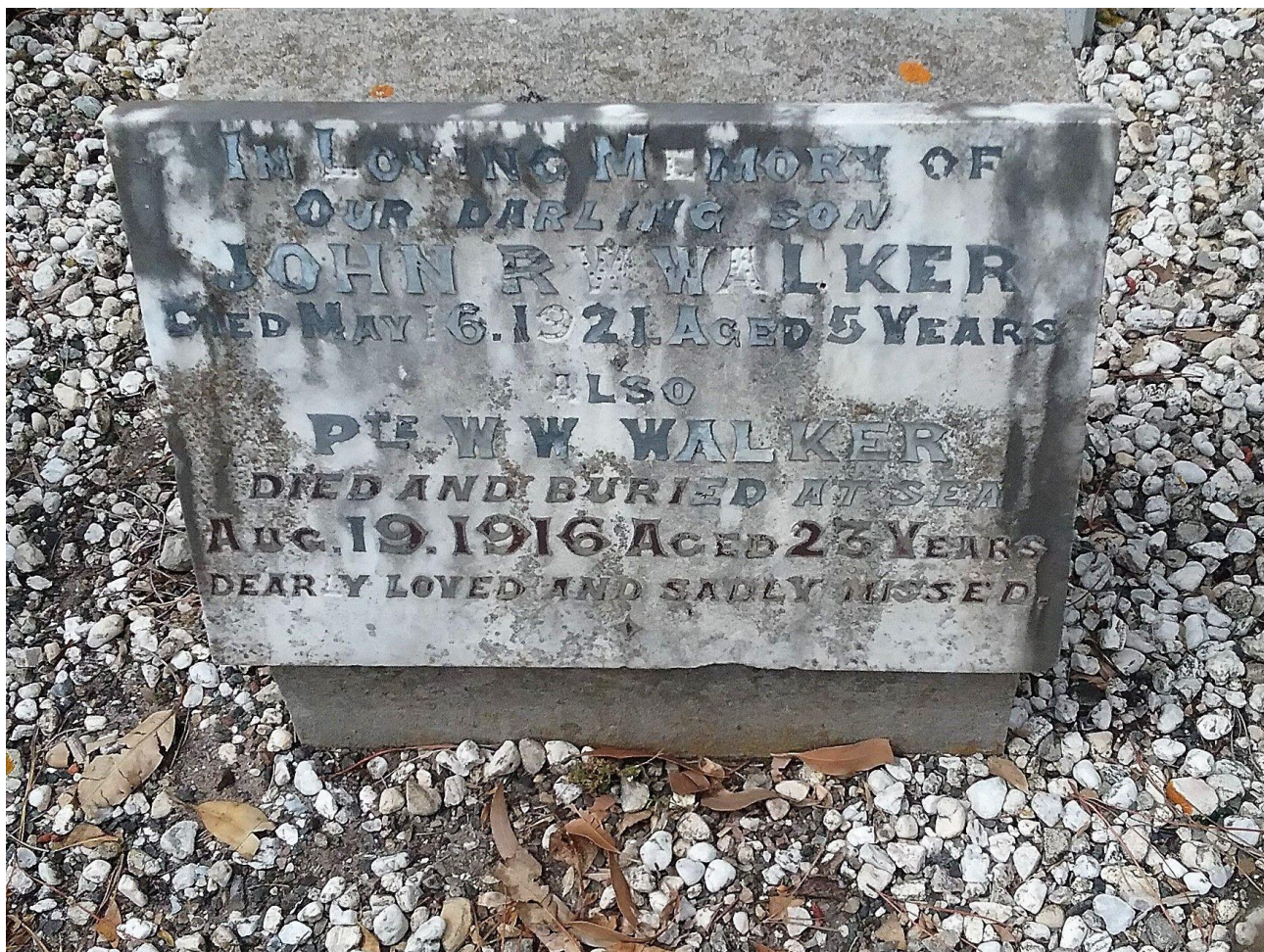
WALKER – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private W. W. Walker, who died and was buried at sea on the 19th August, 1916.

“Gone, but not forgotten by those who loved him so well.”

-Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law.

(The Maffra Spectator, Victoria – 18 August, 1919)

William Wilson Walker is remembered on a headstone in East Devonport Pioneer Park Cemetery, Tasmania (originally St. Paul's Anglican Church Cemetery).



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julie Henderson & Lacey Milier)

In Loving Memory of

Our Darling Son

John R. W. WALKER

Died May 16, 1921 Aged 5 Years

Also

Pte W. W. WALKER

Died And Buried At Sea

Aug. 19, 1916 Aged 23 Years

Dearly Loved And Sadly Missed

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



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

(Photos from CWGC)



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



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

