

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



60303 PRIVATE

M. J. WATT

16TH AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENTS

21ST OCTOBER, 1918

Malcolm John WATT

Malcolm John Watt was born at Berry, South Coast, New South Wales on 18th March, 1899 to parents John Combe Watt & Harriett Watt (nee Bettens).

Malcolm John Watt was a 19 year old, single, Turner & Fitter's Apprentice from Kyogle, Richmond River, New South Wales when he enlisted on 8th July, 1918 in Sydney, New South Wales with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Watt, Kyogle, Richmond River, New South Wales. Malcolm Watt stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been an apprentice with J. F. O'Fynn in Lismore for 5 years. He also stated he has served for 4 years with Senior Cadets & 1 year with Citizen Forces.

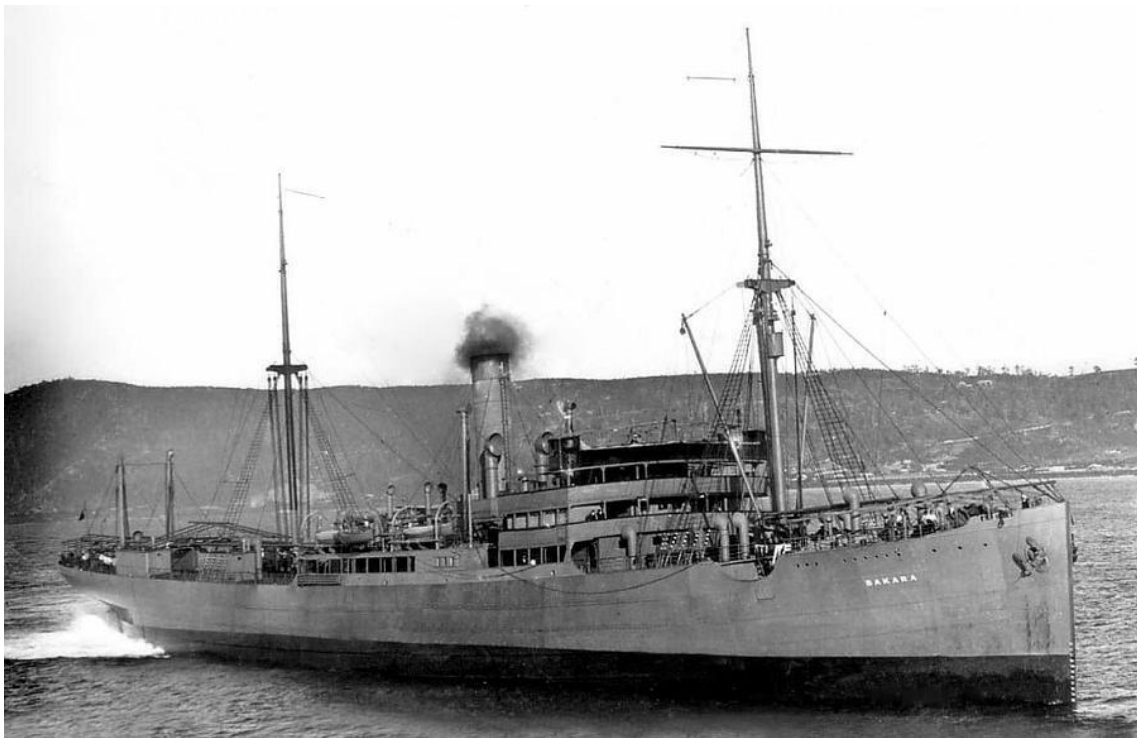
As Malcolm John Watt was under the age of 21 – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. John Watt & Harriett Watt, of "Josephton", Kyogle signed the following letter on 4th July, 1918: *"This is to certify that the above mentioned person is our son and was born at Berry, New South Wales on the 18th day of March, 1899."*

Private Malcolm John Watt was posted to Recruits Depot on 8th July, 1918 at Liverpool Camp, Sydney, NSW. He was transferred to Composite Battalion on 1st August, 1918. Private Watt was granted final Leave from 5th to 10th August, 1918.

Private Malcolm John Watt, Service number 60303, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Bakara* (A41) on 4th September, 1918 with the 16th General Service (New South Wales) Reinforcements.

Private Malcolm John Watt was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 18th October, 1918 with Pneumonia.

Private Malcolm John Watt died on 21st October, 1918 at Sea on board HMAT *Bakara* (A41) from Influenza. (Note: The War Gratuity Schedule/Purport form recorded that he died from heart failure. Another entry below that recorded he died from heart failure following Pneumonia & a third entry recorded he died from Influenza.)



HMAT *Bakara* (A41)

Private Malcolm John Watt was buried at Sea on 22nd October, 1918 from HMAT *Bakara* (A41). 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.

The Officer Commanding, HMAT *Bakara* (A41), wrote to The Secretary for Defence, Melbourne, Australia on 23rd October, 1918 from Sierra Leone advising of five deaths of Soldiers who had died between 15th October, 1918 & 21st October, 1918 – all had died from Heart Failure & had been buried at Sea. Since typing his report, The Officer Commanding Troops. A41 added another three names – Private John Delaney, who had died on 22nd October, 1918 and Private Henry Thomas Marker & Private Herbert Stanley Parker who had both died on 23rd October, 1918 – all three dying from Heart Failure.

DEFENCE.
589/18/435.
H.M.A.T. "Bakara" A. 41.
Sierra Leone,
23rd October, 1918.

The Secretary for Defence
MELBOURNE.
Victoria, Australia.

Sir,

In accordance with A.I.V. standing Orders No. 41, I have the honor of reporting in the following terms :-

X X X X X X X X X X X X

8. CASUALTIES :†

No. 60219 A/Cpl. GUNN G. G., N16 G.S.R., died 15/10/18. Heart Failure. No. 60272 A/Cpl PERCY G., N16, G.S.R., died 17/10/1918. Heart Failure. No. 60324, Pte. RANBOME, J.W., N16. G.S.R., died 19/10/1918, Heart Failure/ No. 60326, Pte. ANDERSON, E.A., N16. G.S.R., died 19/10/1918, Heart Failure. No. 60303, Pte. WATT, M.J. N16, G.S.R., died 21/10/1918, Heart Failure.

These deaths all occurred at Sea and the men were buried at sea.

X X X X X X X X

8. CASUALTIES:- (Additional) Since typing my report I regret to state that the following additional deaths have occurred:-

No. 65738, Pte. DELANEY John Francis, N 18. G.S.R., died 22/10/1918. Heart Failure. No. 60248 Pte. MARKER Henry Thomas, N 16. G.S.R. died 23/10/1918. Heart Failure. No. 66054, Pte. PARKER Herbert Stanley, N 19. G.S.R., ~~marked~~ died 23/10/18. Heart Failure.

23/10/18.

H. E. ARNALL. Major.
O. C. Troops. A. 41.

Private Malcolm John Watt requested in his Will, dated 10th August, 1918, that in the event of his death the whole of his Property & Effects be given to his mother – Harriett Watt, Kyogle, Richmond River, NSW.

Private Malcolm John Watt 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 Watt's father – Mr J. Watt, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Malcolm John Watt – service number 60303, of 16th Australian Reinforcement. No family details are listed.

Private M. J. Watt 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

M. J. Watt is remembered on the Lismore & District Memorial for Great War 1914 – 1919, located in Lismore Memorial Baths, 179 Molesworth Street, Lismore, New South Wales.



Lismore Memorial Baths (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Graeme Bray)



Lismore & District Memorial for Great War 1914 – 1919

(42 pages of Private Malcolm John Watt'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

LOCAL ENLISTMENTS

Enlistments in Lismore for last week were: - Malcolm John War,.....

(*Northern Star*, Lismore, NSW – 28 May, 1918)

Death of Private M. J. Watt

While the proceedings of Jack's Day were at their height, sad news came that Private Malcolm John Watt, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Watt Casino road, had succumbed to pneumonia on October 19th. Deceased had left Australia only six weeks previously. He had been employed for three years in O'Fynn's Engineering shop, Lismore, and immediately on attaining the age of 19 and offered his services to his country, hoping that his technical skill would be availed of. He belonged that class of youth which thinks and feels correctly without making any fuss or show, a class from which much may be expected in the way of efficiency and courage. His death is deeply deplored, and much sympathy is felt for his sorrowing parents, who received the mournful tidings just on the eve of the day that recalled the death of another son (Joe). At the meeting of the Repatriation Committee on Monday night, a motion of sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Watt was carried.

(*The Kyogle Examiner*, NSW – 6 November, 1918)

NEARER THE END

DOUBLE CASUALTY LIST

NO. 448

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

M. J. WATT, Kyogle (illness)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 30 November, 1918)

THE LATE PTE M. WATT

Mr. John Watt, of Kyogle, has received the following letters of sympathy in reference to the death of his son, Pte. Malcolm Watt, who succumbed to an attack of influenza whilst returning to Australia in the s.s. Bakara. Captain-Chaplain Coulcher under date 4th November, writes: —I am writing as padre on board the Bakara to you about your son, Malcolm. You will have got already the news about his going home, and your own sad loss. I am enclosing some of his hair in case you or yours would care to have it. It is but a small memento, but may be a precious one. Spanish influenza broke out on board after we left Capetown; it was raging there and none of us landed. The doctors think we might have contracted it at Durban. We had 300 boys down at once, one of the doctors and nearly all the officers. We lost 23 of our dear old boys. I had a lot to do with your boy in his sickness, washing him and tending him, and trying to make him comfortable. He made a big fight for it and fought hard for life. The doctor did all that was possible, and you owe him a debt for his attention. Malcolm talked of home and remembered you all, but he was largely unconscious, and I was with him and commended him to God when he went out. He was buried with military honors at sea two days before we reached Sierra Leone; I was in great hopes that we would pull him through, but his temperature ran to 105 and 106 and acute pneumonia set in. It will be a sad blow, but he died as truly on active service on board as on the battlefield. You have given a son for God and humanity. May He comfort you. All truest sympathy and all honor to Malcolm in his sacrifice.

A letter from Lieut. Chas. M. Marsh, Q.C. Gen. Ser. Refs, is as follows:—I write to express my regret at the death of your son, Pte. M. J. Watt, a member of my reinforcement, who died at sea of pneumonia on the 21st October last. His illness was short and he was cheerful to the last. He received every possible attention both from the medical officers, their staff and our Church of England clergyman, who was with him at the end. He was one of my most promising boys and a great favorite in the company. You will be consoled with the knowledge that dying as he did on active service he gave his life for Australia and the Empire equally as much as had he been killed in action. Please accept my sincere sympathy.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 25 March, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOR

WATT – In loving memory of our dearly beloved eldest children, Private Malcolm John Watt, 16th G.S. Rfts., A.I.F., aged 19 years and 7 months, who died with Spanish influenza on board the troopship Bakara 21st October, 1918, and was laid to rest in the deep, via Capetown, Sierra Leone, en route to England. Also Joseph Ernest Watt, who died at Wollongbar 3rd November, 1915, aged 15 years.

Brothers united.

Not lost, though, mother soul – just in the seeming –

(Death oft shall come, and with no duty done!)

We paid the larger sacrifice demanded –

Past seeing eyes, dears, we are still your sons.

Inserted by their sorrowing parents, John and H. Watt, and brothers and sisters, Kyogle.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 21 October, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOR

WATT – In loving memory of Pte M. J. Watt, died of illness 21st October, 1918.

Also a token of love of our children gone before.

Wait till we see the morning

Break on the golden shore.

Inserted by their loving parents, sisters and brothers.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 21 October, 1920)

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.

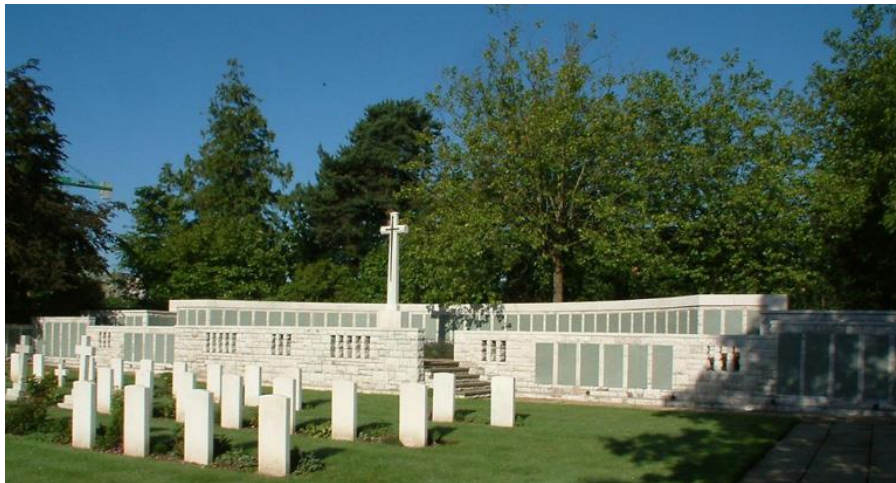
(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice

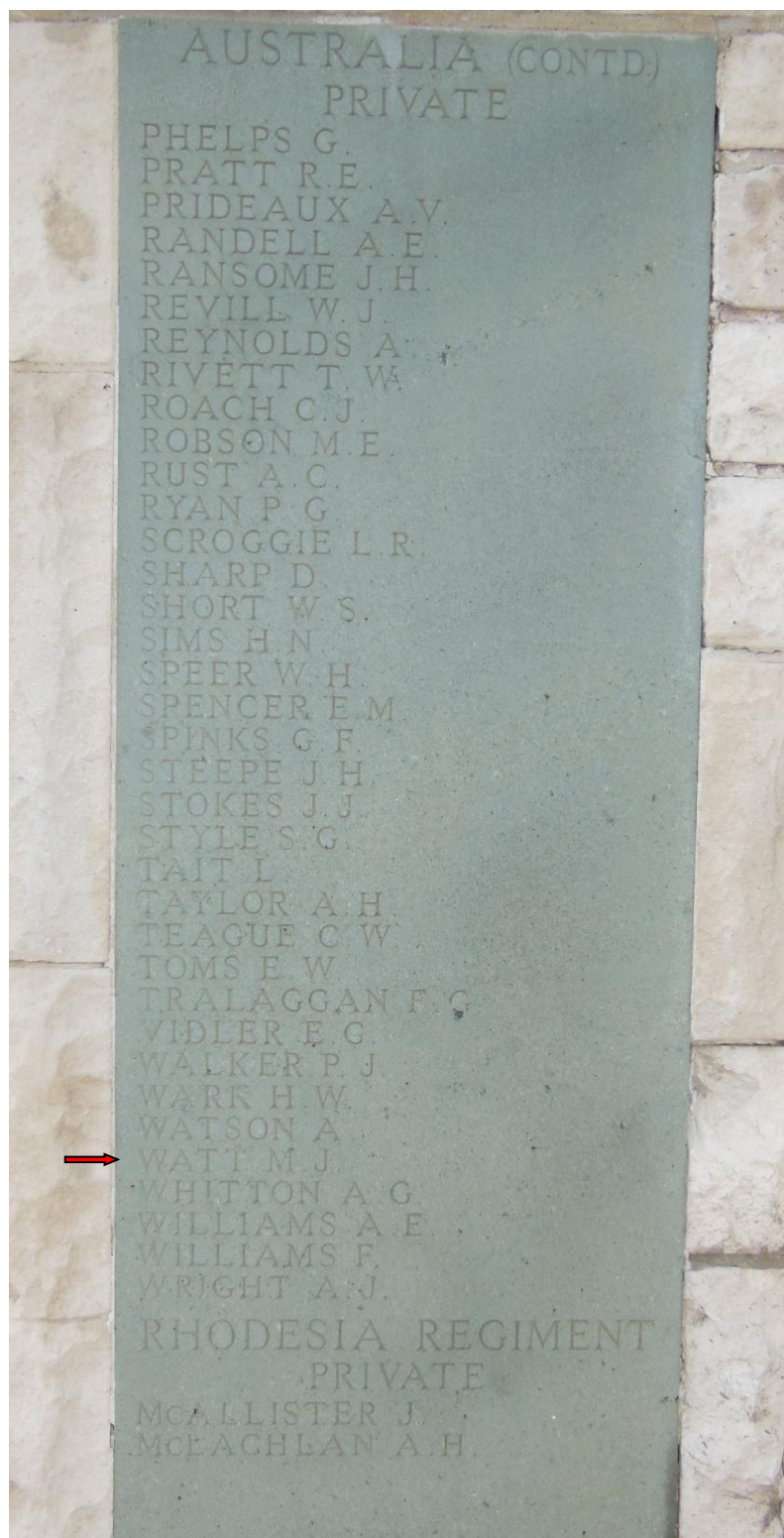


Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice (Photo from CWGC)



CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial (Photo from CWGC)

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



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

