

Cheltenham Cemetery
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2913 PRIVATE

H. C. VALE

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

30TH APRIL, 1918 Age 35

Abide With Me

Hubert Chamberlain VALE

Hubert Chamberlain Vale was born in Cheltenham, England on 8th January, 1882 to parents Benjamin & Elizabeth Vale (nee Stratford). (Information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour records that Hubert Vales was born in Wales).

The 1891 England Census recorded Hubert C. Vale as a 9 year old Scholar, living with his family at 36 Hungerford Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England. His parents were listed as Benjamin Vale (House Painter, aged 42, born Cheltenham, Gloucestershire) & Elizabeth Vale (aged 41, born Prestbury, Gloucestershire). Hubert was one of seven children listed on this Census (all born Cheltenham, Gloucestershire) – William Vale (Brewer's Porter, aged 16), Florence M. Vale (Scholar, aged 13), Evelyn E. G. Vale (Scholar, aged 11) then Hubert, Maud E. Vale (Scholar, aged 7), Herbert A. Vale (Scholar, aged 5) & Constance M. Vale (aged 2).

Elizabeth Vale, mother of Hubert Chamberlain Vale, died on 1st September, 1891 at Prestbury, Gloucestershire, England.

Benjamin Vale remarried in 1893 to Ada Maria/Marie Thompson.

Hubert Chamberlain Vale joined the Royal Navy on 14th November, 1899 stating his date of birth as 11th February, 1881. He was given a Service number of 293708 (Portsmouth) & signed on for 12 years.

Hubert Vale served in Duke of Wellington II as Stoker 2nd Class then served in *Mars*.

The 1901 England Census recorded Hubert C. Vale as a 20 year old Stoker as a member of the crew of His Majesty's Ship *Mars* which was a Battleship First Class, captained by Henry D. Barry & was positioned at Gibraltar on Sunday night, 31st March, 1901, the date of the 1901 England Census.

He also served in *Duke of Wellington*, *Warrior*, *Fire Queen II* & *Euryalus* as Stoker. His last entry was "Run" on 8th March, 1906 while on *Euryalus*. (Run = deserted)

According to information supplied by his wife for the Roll of Honour, Hubert Chamberlain Vale came to Australia when he was about 20 years old.

Hubert Chamberlain Vale married Christina Elizabeth Roeder in 1910 in the district of Rockdale, NSW.

A son, Hubert Walter Roeder Vale, was born to Hubert & Christina Vale, on 3rd October, 1910. He was baptised on 27th November, 1910 in St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Street, Sydney, NSW.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Hurstville, NSW listed Hubert Chamberlain Vale, fireman & his wife Christina Vale, Domestic Duties, living at Hudson Street.

Hubert Chamberlain Vale was a 34 year old, married, Fireman from Hurstville, NSW when he enlisted at Royal Agricultural Show Grounds, Moore Park, Sydney, NSW on 31st July, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2913 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Christina Vale, Sandhurst, Allan Street, Arncliffe, NSW. Hubert Vale stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 7 ½ years with Royal Navy. Hubert Vales was tattooed on chest & both forearms & also had a star tattooed on his front right thigh.

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale was posted to "A" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion at Cootamundra on 13th August, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Pioneer Battalion, 8th Reinforcements on 23rd August, 1916. Private Vale was appointed Acting Corporal on 5th October, 1916. Acting Corporal Hubert Chamberlain Vale was transferred to 3rd Pioneers, 5th Reinforcements on 13th October, 1916 & appointed as Acting Sergeant on 30th October, 1916.

Acting Sergeant Hubert Chamberlain Vale embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 9th November, 1916 with the 3rd Pioneer Battalion, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9th January, 1917.

Acting Sergeant Hubert Chamberlain Vale had been written up on 30th December, 1916 while At Sea – 1. Disobedience of orders & 2. Using obscene language to an N.C.O. He was reprimanded by Lt. Col. P. W. Fallon on 3rd January, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Acting Sergeant Hubert Chamberlain Vale was marched in to Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire, England on 10th January, 1917. V. O. (Voyage Only) Sergeant Hubert Chamberlain Vale reverted to rank of Private on 11th January, 1917 on arriving in England at Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire.

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale was to be Corporal (E.D.P – extra duty pay) from 21st January, 1917. He was sent sick to Brigade Hospital on 22nd January, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 2nd February, 1917.

Corporal (E.D.P.) Hubert Chamberlain Vale was to be Temporary Corporal from 1st March, 1917 on becoming Permanent Cadre with Pioneer Training Battalion - under para 213 AIF Orders dated 19th August, 1916.

Temporary Corporal Hubert Chamberlain Vale was written up for an Offence while posted at Larkhill – A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from midnight on 10th March, 1917 to 7 am on 12th March, 1917. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 2 days' pay & also reverted to permanent grade of Private by Major T. F. Rutledge on 12th March, 1917.

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 20th March, 1917 from Pioneer Training Battalion. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 21st March, 1917. Corporal Vales was marched out to his Unit on 8th April, 1917 & was taken on strength of 3rd Pioneer Battalion in the Field on 9th April, 1917 from 5th Reinforcements.

3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

The 3rd Pioneers were raised in Victoria, in March 1916, from volunteers drawn from Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia and was subsequently assigned to the 3rd Division. The battalion was formed in the aftermath of the failed Gallipoli campaign when the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) was expanded as part of plans to transfer it from the Middle East to Europe for service in the trenches along the Western Front. This expansion saw several new infantry divisions raised in Egypt and Australia, as well as specialist support units such as machine gun companies, engineer companies, artillery batteries and pioneer battalions.

Trained as infantrymen, the pioneers were tasked with light combat engineer functions in the field, with a large number of personnel possessing trades from civilian life. The concept had existed within the British Indian Army before the war, but was adopted by the Australian Army in early 1916 to meet a need for troops with construction and engineering skills to assist with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and undertaking battlefield clearance. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. At the same time, they could be pressed into the line to fight alongside regular infantry where required.

(Pioneer information from Wikipedia)

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale was sent sick to Hospital on 18th September, 1917. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 18th September, 1917 with Macula then transferred & admitted the same day to 4th Stationary Hospital at Arques with "def. vision". Private Vale was transferred to his Unit on 22nd September, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital the same day.

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale was sent to Bombing School at Morbecque from 4th November, 1917. He rejoined his Unit in the Field on 19th November, 1917.

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale was due two Blue Chevrons (no date recorded).

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale was wounded in action on 9th April, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 9th April, 1918 with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to face & thigh then transferred the same day to 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital. Private Vale was admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 11th April,

1918 with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to face & thigh. He was transferred to England & embarked on Hospital Ship *Panama* on 12th April, 1918.

War Diary – 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

HEILLY BUIRE

7th April, 1918 – It was anticipated that the enemy, when he got his guns up forward and into position, would commence shelling the village of HEILLY, and other places near the Line. In view of this, the Transport Section of this Unit was moved from HEILLY to FRANVILLERS, for greater safety.

Practically no timber was available in this Area. It was therefore necessary, in the construction of the bridges over the River ACRE, SOUTH OF BONNAY, to salvage the necessary timber to complete the work. On the 7th April, 6 O.R. were struck off strength.

8th April, 1918 – Two O.R. taken on strength from Base Details

9th April, 1918 – Seven O.R. Wounded in Action 2 O.R. struck off strength.

10/11th April, 1918 – Six O.R. struck off strength

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale was admitted to Horton (County of London) War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, England on 13th April, 1918 with shell wounds to face, head & right thigh – severe.

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale died at 9.40 pm on 30th April, 1918 at Horton (County of London) War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, England from Streptococcal Septicaemia following wounds received in action.

A death for Hubert C. Vale, aged 36, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Epsom, Surrey, England.

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale was buried at 12 noon on 4th May, 1918 in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England – Plot number N. 9286 (Soldiers Plot) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths which were sent by the Father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters. Prior to the interment a service was held by the Rev. H. A. Wilson in the Cemetery Chapel. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives present at the Funeral – *Father & Mother – Mr & Mrs B. Vale, 3 Suffolk Square, Cheltenham. Brother – Lieut. H. A. Vale, 14th Gloucester Regt, B.E.F.*

(Note – the Report of Death form records that the Burial was to take place at Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood near Woking on Saturday 4th May, 1918).

Newspaper item – Gloucestershire Echo, England – 4 May, 1918:

HEROES FROM THE ANTIPODES

Australians' Funerals in Cheltenham

Touching Scenes

The funerals of four Australian soldiers who have given their lives for the Empire took place in Cheltenham on Saturday. The first, that of Corpl. Herbert Chamberlain Vale, third son of Mr B. Vale, of 3 Suffolk-square, Cheltenham, who died at the County War Hospital, Epsom, of wound, was private, but in accordance with military regulations, the remains being laid in the local cemetery during the morning. The other three, who had died in Cheltenham military hospitals, in each case was the result of gas poisoning, were buried in the afternoon with full military honours. Of these Private J. H. Fenton, and Private Sidney G. Turner, both aged 27, _____ at the St. John Hospital, Gloucestershire and the third, Private James Warren _____ at Suffolk Hall.

There were present at the funeral of Cpl. Vale his parents, four sisters and two brother (Sec.-Lieut. H. A. Vale, ___ter Regt., and Air Mechanic C. B. Vales, R.N.A.S.) and his brother-in-law (Sergt. G. L. Swann, of the Canadians). with ___ was a regimental sergeant-major representing the Australian Administrative ___ London. The coffin was draped with a Union Jack, and the colours of Australia were on the hearse. The Rector of Cheltenham (Rev. H. A. Wilson) officiated. In addition to the family wreaths there was one from the nursing staff of the County War Hospital, Epsom, and one from Sir John and Lady Searle.

The united funeral of the three ___ fellows who died in the local hospitals were witnessed by many thousands of the town people in the afternoon, the death of these sons of the Empire in our midst ___ vibrated a very sensitive and tender chord in the hearts of the townspeople, who watched the procession through the streets and the ceremony at the graveside with great sympathy. The tow hearses from St. John Hospital were joined at the Promenade Fountain by that from Suffolk Hall, and the three proceeded together to the Cemetery, the band of the Cheltenham Company of the Gloucester Volunteer Regiment playing the "Dead March" from Handel's "Saul" on the way. A firing party of the Volunteers also started from the St. John Hospital, The bears for both Pte Fenton and Pte Turner were men of the St. John Ambulance. The private mourners following their remains were Pte Fenton's two aunts, a brother (Pte Arthur Fenton), himself recovering from gas poisoning, was attending from a Birmingham military hospital, and Miss Pallister (Pte Turner's fiancée). The hospital and other officials present were Warrant Officer Yeomans (representing the Administrative Headquarters of the Australian Imperial Staff, London), Miss Woodward (Commandant of St. John), Miss Grounds (matron), Miss Molesworth (quartermaster), Mr Ward Whittard (hon. secretary), Sisters Roberts and Symonds (who were in charge of the cases), several nurses, and a large number of patients.

With Pte Warren's remains were a detachment of Red Cross men, who included the bearers, about 20 wounded soldiers, Miss M. Hattersley Smith (Commandant), Miss Marriott (Quartermaster), Miss Mott (Assistant Quartermaster), Miss Pownoll Williams (housekeeper), Miss Hattersley Smith (head cook), Miss Layng (V.A.D. Nurse), Mr Nettleton (hon. staff), Sisters Price and Oldman, Mr W. R. Carles (president of the Victorian League), and Mrs Waterfield (wife of Cannon Waterfield, principal of Cheltenham College, who attended as a countrywoman of the fallen soldiers).

The funeral service was a most impressive one, and very solemnly read by Canon Cox, vicar of Christ Church, at the gravesides. The three coffins were carried from the hearses by members of the St. John Ambulance, and deposited on trestles in front of the grave. As each coffin was lowered into its last resting place in the beautiful position selected by the Australian authorities, Canon Cox recited the committal sentences, and Warrant Officer Yeomans threw earth on each coffin.

The immense crowd present repeated the Lord's Prayer and a verse of "Jesu, Lover of my Soul," led by the band, was sung, after which Canon Cox pronounced the blessing, and the solemn but beautiful ceremony was over. The sun was glaring hot, and the long march back by the band, Volunteers, and St. John Ambulance, was, as is usual, enlivened by stirring march tunes.

In each case several wreaths were sent. Those for Pte Fenton were on behalf of his father and mother in Australia; his sisters and brothers (Arthur, Fred, Eric, Ethel, Bert, and Isabel); Mona (Australia); Aunt Gert, Aunt Kate, Uncle George, Fannie and Jem (Nottingham); Mrs Reginald Waterfield (a "fellow Australian"); his hospital comrades; the St. John Commandant and Staff; Miss Dorothea Dobson (official visitor of the Australian Red Cross), with grateful memory and sympathy for his absent relatives and friends; and the V.A. nurses from A to E wards.

Pte Turner's wreaths were from his mother; his hospital comrades; the Commandant and staff of St. John; the V.A. nurses of the St. John ward; an anonymous token of sympathy; Miss Dorothea Dobson (Australian Red Cross); the Cheltenham branch of the Victoria League; Mrs Reginald Waterfield; H. Martyn; Ethel (his fiancée, Gateshead); Ma Pallister, Ivy Carleon, and Lorna (Gateshead); Mr and Mrs J. L. Pallister (Gateshead).

For Pte Warren flowers were sent by his mother, the Commandant and staff of Suffolk Hall; the Victoria League; Mrs Reginald Waterfield; and two from the patients of the hospital.

Within a stone's throw of the Australians' graves is that of Captain Charles Sturt, the famous explorer who penetrated to the interior of Australia and discovered the River Murray, and n whose memory a statue by Adrian Jones was recently erected in Adelaide by public subscription."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Hubert Chamberlain Vale contains a letter from the Ward Sister of The Horton (County of London) War Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, England which reads: "Wounded 2913 Pte H. C. Vale admitted 13-4-18 with severe shrapnel wounds of face penetrating and involving the left ear, compound fracture of

cheek bone. On the evening of the 26th his condition became serious necessitating an operation which was performed on the morning of the 27th, but he gradually became weaker and died from Septic Poisoning at 9.30 pm Tuesday 30th. His parents were with him from the 28th until he died. They arranged for his body to be sent on to Cheltenham where the funeral took place on the 4-5-18 at the Cemetery there. ___scription of wreath for Pte Vale given by Nursing Staff and Patients of Ward N. Foundation of white flowers with the letter "A" in purple (Battalion Colour) also bunch of Red white and blue streamers."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Hubert Chamberlain Vale also contains two accounts by two informants:

- Informant - No. 2822 Pte J. Henderson, "D" Company, 3rd Pioneers: "*Informant described Vale as about 5ft high, stout build, medium complexion, aged about 30/35, thought to have come from Arncliffe; was originally in the Navy, afterwards employed on the Railways, and subsequent to that was connected with some waterworks. He left with him on the "Benalla" in November 1916, was married with one child, Informant states that the both belonged to "D" Company. Sometime during April 1918 the Battalion was in Billets at Heley. About 6 pm Vale and other if the Company were in a house used as a billet when a shell dropped into it and hit Vale and two others. Informant was about 50 yards away from the building and saw the explosion. He also saw Vale being carried away on a stretcher; he was conscious and spoke to some of his mates. Informant believes that he died in a hospital in England about a month later and that while he was there he was seen by some of his relatives who lived in England. Informant was told this by one of Vale's mates who was with him in Hospital. According to Informant Vale was a popular chap.*"
- Informant – Private J. O'Connor, 286B 3rd Pioneers, "B" Company: "*Vale and I left Australia together on 9th November 1916 as 5th Reinforcements to 3rd Pioneers. I think his name was Hugo – he left Australia as a Corporal. He was wounded in the foot in Heilly just outside of Amiens near Morlancourt in April 1918 about 3 weeks after we got down there. He was wounded by a shell and I saw him being carried out – he was quite cheerful and waved to the boys as he left. I hear later on that he had had his foot amputated and then had died of his wounds. When I saw him carried out I had no idea his wounds would prove fatal.*"

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale requested in his Will dated 24th July, 1917 that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Mrs Christina Vale, Wright Street, Hurstville, Sydney, NSW.

Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Vale's widow – Mrs C. Vale, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale – service number 2913, aged 35, of 3rd Australian Pioneers. He was the husband of C. Vale, of Cheltenham Street, Hurstville, New South Wales.

Private H. C. Vale is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. C. Vale is remembered on the Hurstville War Memorial, located at Memorial Square, Forrest Road, Hurstville, NSW.

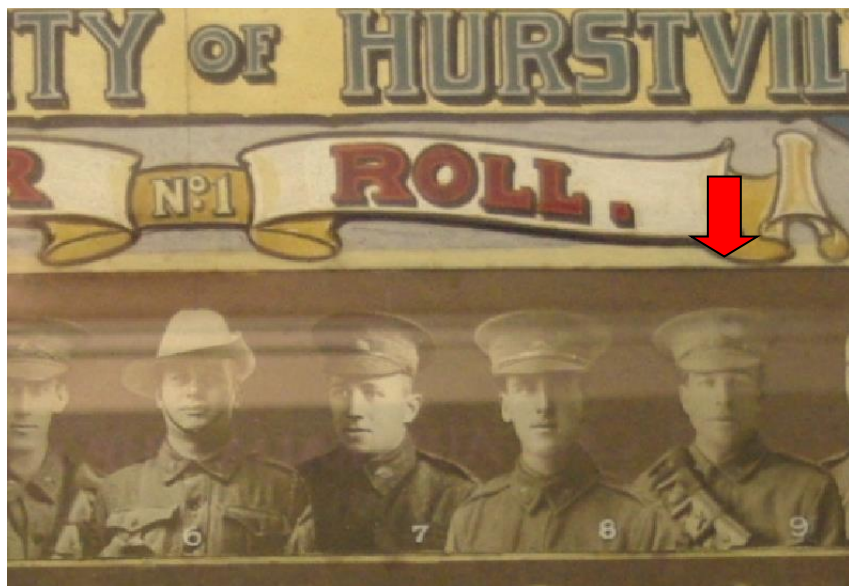


Hurstville War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)



H. C. Vale is remembered on the Municipality of Hurstville Honour Roll – No. 1 which is located at the Hurstville City Museum and Gallery, 14 MacMahon Street. Hurstville, NSW.





H. C. Vale is remembered on the Cheltenham War Memorial located at The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.



Cheltenham War Memorial (Photo from War Memorials Online)





(61 pages of Private Hubert Chamberlain Vale'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

DEATHS

VALE – On April 30, at the London and County War Hospital, Epsom, Corpl. Herbert Chamberlain Vale, Australian Imperial Force, third son of Mr B. Vale, of 3 Suffolk-square, Cheltenham, died of wounds received in action on April 9th.

(Gloucestershire Echo, Gloucestershire, England – 3 May, 1918) & (Cheltenham Chronicle, Gloucestershire – 4 May, 1918)

CASUALTY LISTS

The following casualties are contained in the 397th and 398th Lists:-

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte HUBERT CHAMBERLAIN VALE, Arncliffe

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Australia – 10 May, 1918)

APRIL FIGHTING

HEAVY CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte H. C. VALE, Arncliffe (prev. rep. wounded)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 20 May, 1918)

OUR SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT

Mrs Vale, of Wright Street, Hurstville, has been notified that her husband, Private H. C. Vale, has died of wounds in France. Prior to enlisting Private Vale was employed at the Water and Sewerage Board, Sydenham.

(*The Propeller*, Hurstville, NSW, Australia – 24 May, 1918) & (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW, Australia – 30 May, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

VALE – In loving memory of my dear husband, Hubert C. Vale, who died of wounds, April 30, 1918 at Horton, London, War Hospital, We who loved you sadly miss you. Inserted by his loving wife and son, C. and H. Vale.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW, Australia – 30 April, 1919)

TRIBUTE TO “AUSSIES”

Anzac Day in Gloucester

The Gloucestershire Echo of May. 1 devotes a column to reports of the Anzac Day demonstrations, which were held the day before at Cheltenham, and in which Boy Scouts and Girl Guides took a prominent part. Beautiful wreaths were placed by the Scouts and Guides on the well-kept graves of 10 Australian soldiers, after the Deputy-Mayor gave a fervent address. The names of the 10 Australian were:— Pte. J. Warren, 5th Pioneer Battalion; Pte. S. G. Turner, 53rd Battalion; Pte. J. H. Fenton, 15th Field Ambulance; Sgt. W. R. B. Johnson, 15th Field Ambulance; Pte. A. R. Callaghan, 54th Battalion; Pte. W. R. Jerrom, 3rd Machine Gun Battalion; Pte. A. W. Stevens, 7th Battalion; Pte. R. W. Resso, 54th Battalion; **Pte H. C. Vale, 3rd Pioneer Battalion**; Lce.-Cpl. P. J. Penketh, 17th Battalion (the wreath of the last named was deposited by Miss Hattersley Smith). The following is a copy of a letter sent to the next-of-kin to those Australian soldiers by the Cheltenham Remembrance Day committee (represented in the signatures by Aid. C. H. Margret, Acting Mayor and Mr. T. H. Packer, acting Secretary: — We fell sure that you will be pleased to know that on Cheltenham's Anzac Day, the graves of the 10 Australian soldiers who died in Cheltenham from wounds and other, injuries received, in battle, and were buried in our beautiful cemetery, were visited and wreaths and flowers deposited thereon. In this way the memory of those sons of the Empire who have found a last resting place far from their homes, at the foot of the historic Cotswold Hills, will be kept fresh in the minds of Cheltonians. From our charmingly placed cemetery there are beautiful views of a long stretch of the hills and of the wide expanse of the vale of the Severn— indeed, there is no more charming or picturesque spot in the whole of the Western Shires. And bordering the cemetery are: — “A rise steeply sloping, a fence with stone coping, the last - we diverged round the base or the hill.”— The scene of Adam Lindsay Gordon's (a Cheltonion) famous poem “How We Beat the Favourite.” Within sound are the “Chimes of sweet St. Mary's On far English ground,” and can be seen from it — “the mist of the Cotswold Hills Where I once heard the blast of the huntsman's horn, Not far from, the Seven rills.” —the source of the River Thames. The proceedings arranged by the Remembrance Day Committee commenced at the War Memorial — erected in memory of 1,400 men of Cheltenham, who, like their Australian comrades, “died that we might live.” To this spot were brought many wreaths and bouquets of flowers, which were conveyed to the cemetery — two miles away— by over 500 Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, a selected number of whom proudly carried large bouquets of red, white, and blue flowers— the national colours— and both wreaths and flowers were garnished with ribbons of the same colour, while a wreath sent by an Australian mother bore the black and green colours of the battalion to which her dead son belonged. The long procession headed by the bugle band of the scouts had a striking effect as it passed along the principal streets and timbered avenues, crowded by townsfolk, on its way to the cemetery. ... At the close of the proceedings the beautiful hymn, “Fight the good fight” was sung by the whole audience—more than 2,000 – the “Last Post” was sounded, and scarcely had its rallying echoes along the hillside died away when “God save the King” had been sung, and the simple, effective, yet reverent ceremony had come to an end, and the dead soldiers were “left alone in their glory.”

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 July, 1922)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private H. C. Vale does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Abide With Me

Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England

(Also known as Bouncer's Lance Cemetery and Prestbury Cemetery)

This cemetery contains burials of both wars. The 110 First World War graves are mainly of men who died in the local voluntary hospitals. The burials are scattered except for a small plot of 10 Australian graves. The Second World War burials number 71, half of them forming a war graves plot in the eastern part of the cemetery. There are 2 Polish war burials and a further 4 Non World War service burials within C.W.G.C. care in this cemetery. Cheltenham Crematorium is situated within the cemetery and 28 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on bronze panels within the crematorium cloisters.

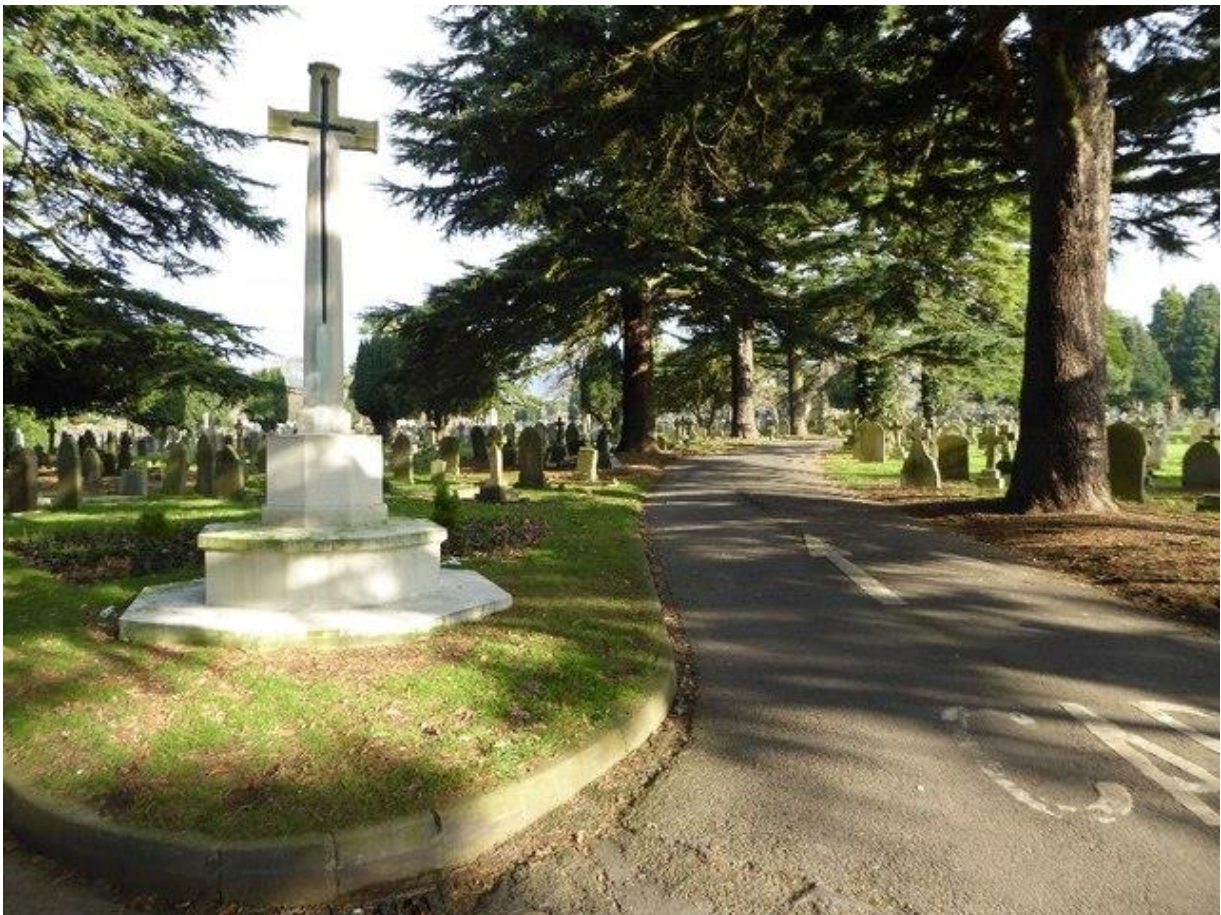
(Information from CWGC)



Entrance to Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



War Graves in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire *(Photo from CWGC)*

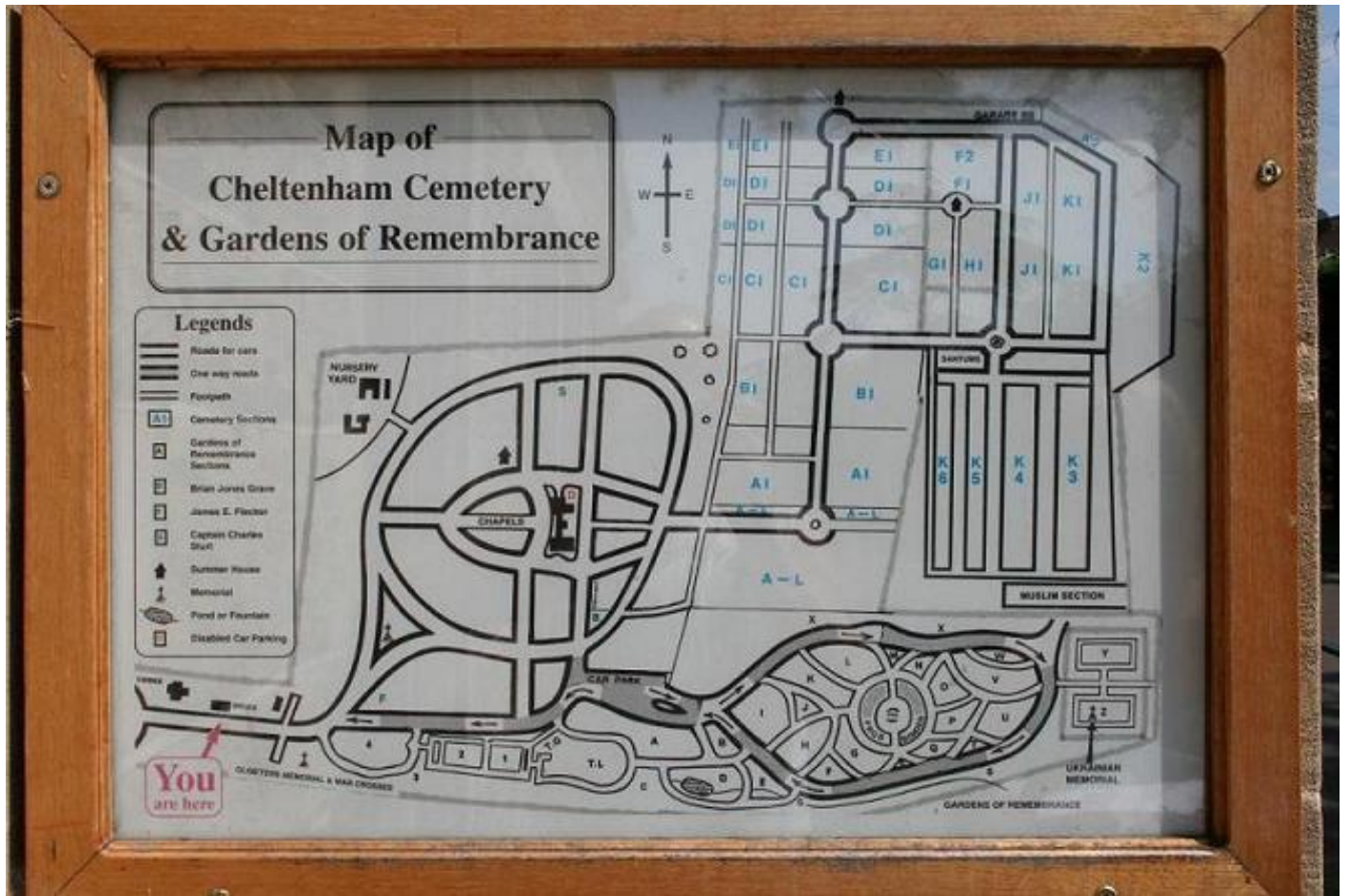


Cross of Sacrifice in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire *(Photo by Philip Halling)*

Photo of Private H. C. Vale's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England.



(Photo by ColinA – Find a Grave)



Map of Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)