Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, England War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



35528 GUNNER

J. A. DWAN

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY 16TH APRIL, 1918

John Alexander DWAN

John Alexander Dwan was born on 24th September, 1888 at Charters Towers, Queensland to parents Patrick Dwan & Sarah Alexandria Dwan (nee Leetch).

John Alexander Dwan attended Grammar School at Charters Towers, Queensland.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Maranoa, subdivision of Miles, Queensland recorded John Alexander Dwan, Accountant from Miles.

The 1917 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Rockhampton, Queensland recorded John Alexander Dwan, Bank Accountant, St Kilda, Archer Street.

John Alexander Dwan was a 28 year old, single, Clerk from A.B.C. Bank, Rockhampton, Queensland when he enlisted on 5th February, 1917 at Brisbane, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 35528 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sara A. Dwan, c/o St. John's House, Hale Street, Milton, Brisbane, Queensland. John Dwan stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 1 year & 9 months with Kennedy Infantry; 11months A.I.F. Brisbane as Lieutenant & 3 months Port Curtis Infantry, Rockhampton.

Private John Alexander Dwan was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 6th February, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to Field Artillery – May Reinforcements as Gunner on 15th February, 1917.

Gunner John Alexander Dwan embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Miltiades (A28)* on 2nd August, 1917 with the Field Artillery Brigade, May, 1917 Reinforcements & disembarked at Glasgow, Scotland on 2nd October, 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.

Gunner John Alexander Dwan was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire, England on 3rd October, 1917.

Gunner John Alexander Dwan proceeded overseas to France from Heytesbury, Wiltshire via Southampton on 31st January, 1918. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 1st February, 1918. Gunner Dwan was marched out to 4th Divisional Artillery from A.G.B.D. on 4th February, 1918. He was taken on strength of 10th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 7th February, 1918.

Gunner John Alexander Dwan was wounded in action in France on 5th April, 1918. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 5th April, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to left thigh. Gunner Dwan was transferred & admitted to 10th Canadian Stationary Hospital on 6th April, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to thigh, wrist & eye. He was transferred & admitted to 4th General Hospital on 7th April, 1918 with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to thigh, left arm & eye.

War Diary 10th Field Artillery Brigade

Albert – 5th April, 1918:

Dull but fine day – temp 60° wind westerly 5 M.P.H.

A deep & heavy barrage put down by enemy at 7.30 am on all batteries & ehadquarter (see casualties) – at 9.10 am enemy attacked & the day was one long fight – Major Garlin O.C. 37th & Lt. Harrison Signals Officer were killed & Lts Massman, Linsley & Stubbin were wounded. Lt. Stubbin only slightly so remained on duty. The battle swayed backwards & forwarded & ended up with a slight loss of ground by us (see 12th & 13th Inf. Bde. Diaries) – Our two brigades had 3 German divisions against them & did great slaughter.

Evac. Nil Cas 5 O [Officers] 34 O.R. on duty. 24 O [Officers] 693 O.R.

Evac 2 LD Cas 1R 6 LD on duty 166R – 365 LD

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

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Gunner John Alexander Dwan was invalided to England & admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital at Bristol, England on 8th April, 1918 with GSW to left thigh, left arm, left eye & was reported as dangerously ill.

Gunner John Alexander Dwan died at 11.50 pm on 16th April, 1918 at 2nd Southern General Hospital (Bishops Knoll Section), Bristol, England from gunshot wounds to eye & left thigh. The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Gunner Dwan also had Septic Meningitis & death followed severe epileptic convulsions.

A death for John A. Dwan, aged 36, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Gunner John Alexander Dwan was buried at 3 pm on 19th April, 1918 in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. His name is remembered on the CWGC Screen Wall & he has a flat Memorial Stone. Cemetery/Memorial reference Screen Wall 7. 709. From the burial report of Gunner John Alexander Dwan - Coffin was good Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths. Gun Carriage and Pallbearers were supplied by the Royal Engineers. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Chapel of the 2nd Southern General Hospital by Bishop Clifford. The grave will be turfed immediately and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Names of relatives or friends present at the Funeral – Cousin Miss Edith I, Irwin, Moorefield House, Dundrum, Dublin, Ireland.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner John Alexander Dwan contains a letter from the Sister in Charge, 2nd Southern General Hospital, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England which reads: "Mr Bush, the Commandant of this Hospital wrote fully to Gunner J. A. Dwan's (35528) relatives immediately after his death. Also, his cousin, Miss Irwin from Ireland was with him several days before he died. She also attended the funeral and knew all the circumstances connected with the Soldier's death. However, it may be more convenient for you to know these particulars. Admitted to this Hospital 8.4.18. Gunshot wounds left thigh, left arm and face. Enucleation of left eye. Foreign body and wound of right eye causing almost total blindness. Condition – practically unconscious all the time, but had intervals of a few minutes consciousness when he seemed grateful for all that was being done for him. I am glad to report he suffered very little pain. Died 16/4/18 about 11.55 pm & was buried by Bishop Clifford (C.E.) in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol with full military honours."

A War Pension was granted to Sarah Alexandra, Dwan, of Warwick, widowed mother of the late Gunner John Alexander Dwan, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 19th June, 1918.

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. A. Dwan, c/o W. McIntosh, "Blinkbonnie", Warwick, Queensland, mother of the late Gunner John Alexander Dwan, in reply to her letter enquiring about the belongings of her late son. Base Records replied with the following information "I regret to inform you that a package containing your son's effects as per attached inventory, was included in the consignment lost at sea with the ill-fated "Barunga", as the result of enemy action on its way to Australia. No hope can be entertained of the recovery of the articles so lost."

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Ex. 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol. Book.

No. 18.

1 Torch, 1 Sasty Razor & Blades in Case, Pouch, 1 Diary, 1 Prayer
Book, 1 Money Belt with Buttons, attached containing: - 1 Knife,
Fork & Spoon(combined) 9 Coins), 3 Handkerchiefs, 2 Discs, 1 Coin,
1 Shaving Brush, 1 Pr Scissors, 11 Badges, 1 Swivel & Strap, 1
Cheque Book on Australian Bank of Commerce, 2 Pencils, 1 Pen, 2
Combs, 1 Broken File, 1 Religious Medallion, 1 Pr Gloves, 1 Hair
Brush, 1 Note book & Stationery, 1 Wallet, containing: - 1 Fountain
pen, Flars, 1 Scapula, Cards, Photos.

Tybook handed to Estates Branch, A.I.F. Headquarters, London.

40 Francs, 1/- passed to Chief Paymaster, A.I.F. Headquarters,
London.

Per Barunga 20.6.18.
In case No. 1206.
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Mrs S. A Beythien, remarried mother of the late Gunner John Alexander Dwan, advised Base Records on 17th January, 1921 in a letter thanking them for the two photographs of her late son's grave – "I take it that the headstone shown in the photograph is only a temporary one, as I was asked by you some time ago if I cared to choose some fitting words or verse to be printed on the Headstone...." She advised in the letter that her permanent address would be c/o W. McIntosh, "Blinkbonnie", Warwick, Queensland.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs S. A Beythien, Belmont, New South Wales, remarried mother of the late Gunner John Alexander Dwan, on 20th July, 1923, a photograph depicting the Cross erected in the soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery, where her late son was interred, together with a representative group taken on the occasion of the Anzac Day Service of remembrance in Bristol. A copy of the "Western Daily Press" describing the pilgrimage was also sent under separate cover. The items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs S. A Beythien, Belmont, New South Wales, remarried mother of the late Gunner John Alexander Dwan, on 22nd September, 1924, a photograph depicting the Cross erected in the soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery, where her late son was interred, along with a Memorial Card & press cutting of the ceremony. The items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England. (see photos below).

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs S. A Beythien, Belmont, New South Wales, remarried mother of the late Gunner John Alexander Dwan, on 27th July, 1925, a photograph depicting the Cross erected in the soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery, where her late son was interred, along with a Memorial Card & press cutting of the ceremony. The items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England. (see photos below).

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs S. A Beythien, Belmont, New South Wales, remarried mother of the late Gunner John Alexander Dwan, on 9th September, 1930, a copy of the "Western Daily Press" containing an article referring to the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of her late son was interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England. The letter was returned to Base Records with Address "unknown".

Gunner John Alexander Dwan was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Dwan's remarried mother - Mrs S. A. Beythien, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner John Alexander Dwan – service number 35528, of 10th Bde, Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Patrick and Sarah Alexandra Dwan, of Bluckbonnie, Warwick, Queensland.

Gunner J. A. Dwan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 16.



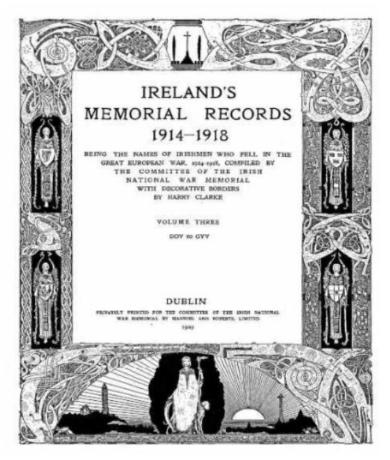
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

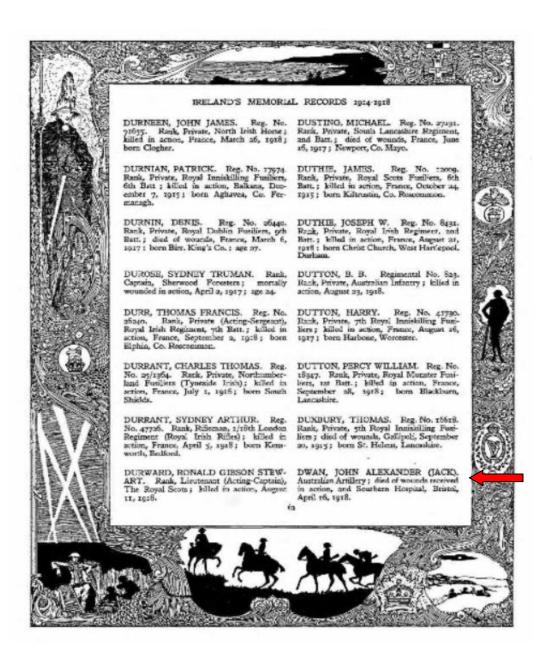
The Rockhampton War Memorial, located in Botanic Gardens, 100 Spencer Street, Rockhampton, Queensland does not list individual names.

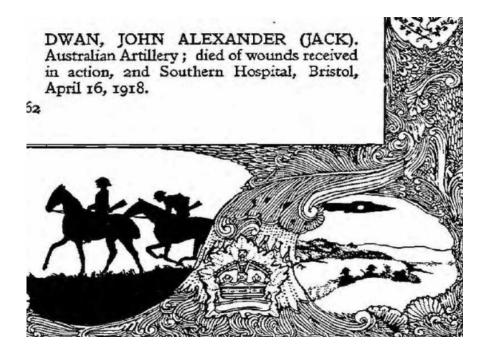


Rockhampton War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Diane Watson)

John Alexander (Jack)Dwan is remembered in Ireland, Casualties of World War 1, 1914-1922 (Vol 3 Dov to Gyv. Page 62)



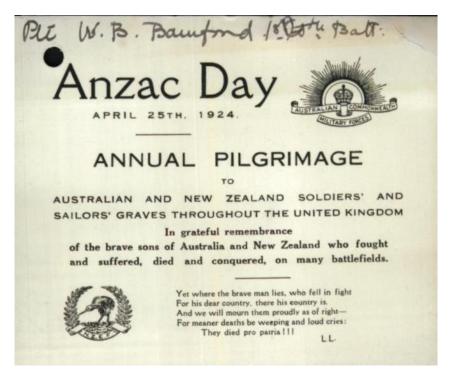




(79 pages of Gunner John Alexander Dwan's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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

The following photos were located in the Service Record file of the late Private Walter Barton Bamford, 1st Battalion Australian Infantry who died on 8th September, 1918 & was buried in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, England. Similar items would have been sent to Mrs S. A Beythien, Belmont, New South Wales, remarried mother of the late Gunner John Alexander Dwan (as described previously).







Anzac Day APRIL 25TH. 1925. April 25TH. 1925.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

TO

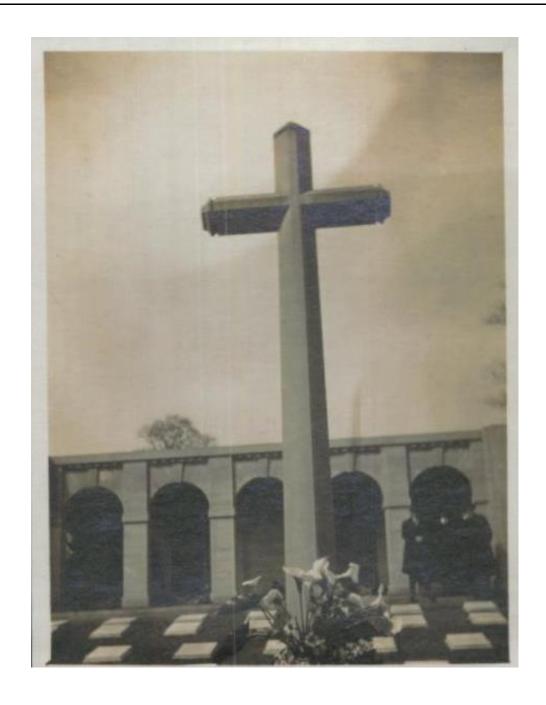
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' GRAVES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

In grateful remembrance of the brave sons of Australia and New Zealand who fought and suffered, died and conquered, on many battlefields.

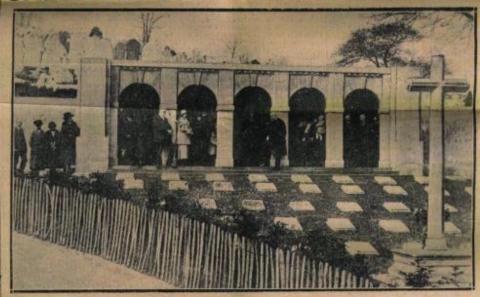


This is their epitaph. "Traveller south or west Go, say at home we heard the trumpet call, And answered. Now in the 'Old Home' we rest. Our end was happy if our country thrives. Much was demanded. Lo! our store was small—That which we had, we gave—it was our lives."

LL.



GALLIPOLI DAY COMMEMORATION



THE SOLDIERS' COUVER, ARNO'S VALE

Each year, on the mits of April, a service of remembrance is held for those who died in Bristol of war wounds, and are buried in Soldiers' Cornet, Arno's Vale. On Saturday, in the beautiful sunshine of a typical English spring morning, there assembled many who were associated with hospital work in Bristol for overseas troops, Hishop's Knoll, which, as most people know, was given over as a war hospital from 1914 to 1919, was represented by Mr R. E. Bush (Commandant), Mr and Miss Philip, Mrs (Commandant), Mr and Miss Philp, Mrs Herapath, the Misses Nora and Doris Burt, Miss Veru Savile, Miss Goldemith, Miss Stafford Jones, Miss Ennis, the Misses Spelierth, Miss Thornleigh, Mr E. C. Philp, and Mr A. G. Powell, Mrs H. E. Bush was away from Bristel, and Miss Hau-Houghton and others were unavoidably absent. Miss Laing, another devoted worker at Bishop's Knotl, fook's wreath to the mis Australian soldier who was buried at Greenbank Cemelery.

soldier who was buried at Greenbank; Cemstery.
Most of those present brough; flowers. Mr E. E. Bush placed a very beautiful emblem-tine work of one of the Bishop's Knotl science at the feet of the cross in the "Corner," and Mr Fhills contributed a wrash of daffordis. Spring flowers there were in plenty, a postman in uniform con-tributing a bunch of wallflowers, and other sympathetin folk adding their tender tri-bute.

sympathetic folk adding their tender tribute.

Bishop Clyford, in his short address, said:
We are gatheted here on this folk anniversary of Gallipoli day to reverently and affectionally commemorate our brethren from various garts of the British Empire who, after having valiantly tought and benourably softend in the Great War, were brought to fine day, after having valiantly tought and benourably softend in the Great War, were brought to fine day, and the third has breathed their last breath, who laid their hodies in the certain the spot, and bere they rest in hope till the Bay of Resurrection. We gratefully charish their memory. We remove it to-day, and will there allow it to pass from our mind and heart. God's mercy and peace be with them, as is our affectionale regard, and may that great chane for which they gave that fresh cannot be with they gave their lives be over upheld and presiper and over homesered among men of goodwill.

Prayer was said, and this simple service which will so greatly comfort the relatives was over.



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – Died from wounds, April 17th, John Alexander Dwan, son of Mr and Mrs P. Dwan, late of Charters Towers.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 2 May, 1918)

PERSONAL

Official information had been received of the death of Lieutenant John Alexander Dwan, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Dwan, Brisbane, and nephew of Mr W. Dwan, School of Arts Hotel, Warwick, and Mrs W. McIntosh, "Blinkbonnie" Freestone. Prior to enlistment he was for several years in the service of the Australian Bank of Commerce, and had been employed in the Warwick and Miles branches of the bank before being transferred to the Brisbane Office.

(Darling Downs Gazette, Queensland - 6 May, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – Died of Wounds, April 17th, 1918, John Alexander Dwan, only son of Mr and Mrs P. Dwan, Milton, Brisbane.

(Inserted by his loving Rockhampton friends)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 14 May, 1918) & (The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 18 May, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – In memory of Gunner John Alexander Dwan, late 10th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F., who, badly wounded at Melancourt, died at Bishop's Knoll Hospital, Bristol, 16th April, 1918.

Inserted by his loving mother and relatives.

DWAN – In memory of Gunner John Alexander Dwan, 10th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F., died of wounds in Bishop's Knoll Hospital, Bristol, on 16th April, 1918.

Inserted by K. and E. Jones.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 16 April, 1919) & (The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 17 April, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – In memory of Gunner John Alexander Dwan, late 10th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F., who, badly wounded at Melancourt, died at Bishop's Knoll Hospital, Bristol, 16th April, 1918.

Inserted by his loving mother and relatives.

(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 16 April, 1919)

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ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN - Wounded in France and died in England on the 17th April, John Alexander Dwan.

Deeply Regretted.

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 16 April, 1919) & The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 19 April, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – In memory of John Alexander Dwan (gunner), wounded at Millencourt, April 4th, 1918, died at Bishop's Knoll Hospital, Bristol, April 16th, 1918.

Thy will be done

Inserted by his loving mother and relatives.

(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland - 16 April, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – A tribute of love to the memory of Gunner John Alexander Dwan, died of wounds, Bristol, England, April 16th, 1918.

Thy will be done

Inserted by his loving mother and relatives.

(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 16 April, 1921)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – Gunner John Alexander Dwan, late 10th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F., died of wounds in France, 17th April, 1918.

Deeply Regretted.

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 16 April, 1921 & The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 23 April, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – A tribute of love to the memory of Gunner John Alexander Dwan, died of wounds, at Bishop's Knoll Hospital, Bristol, April 16th, 1918.

Thy will be done

Inserted by his mother and relatives.

(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland - 15 April, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – Gunner John Alexander Dwan, late 10th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F., died of wounds in France, 17th April, 1918.

Deeply Regretted.

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 17 April, 1922 & The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 22 April, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – A tribute of love to the memory of Gunner John Alexander Dwan, died of wounds, Bristol, England, April 16th, 1918.

Thy will be done

Inserted by his loving mother and relatives.

(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland - 16 April, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – Gunner John Alexander Dwan, late 10th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F., died of wounds in France, 17th April, 1918.

Always Regretted.

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 17 April, 1923 & The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 21 April, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – A tribute of love to the memory of Gunner John Alexander Dwan, died of wounds, Bristol, England, April 16th, 1918.

Thy will be done

Inserted by his loving mother and relatives.

(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland - 16 April, 1924)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DWAN – Gunner John Alexander Dwan, A.B.C. Bank, Rockhampton, late 10th Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F., died of wounds in France, 17th April, 1918.

Always Regretted.

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 17 April, 1924 & The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 26 April, 1924)

***Notices were also placed in the newspapers in 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938

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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.

Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England

The cemetery was established in 1837. During both wars, there were a number of military hospitals at Bristol and the city was the depot of the Gloucestershire Regiment. During the Second World War there were also a number of Royal Air Force stations and prisoner of war camps in the area. ARNOS VALE CEMETERY contains burials of both wars. Most of the 356 First World War burials were of men who died at the local hospitals, particularly the 2nd Southern General and the Beaufort, many of whom were landed at Avonmouth from hospital ships from the Mediterranean. Their graves can be found in the 'Soldiers Corner', a plot established by the British Red Cross, near the main entrance. The 238 casualties buried here are commemorated on a memorial at the rear of the plot. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. There are also special memorials to one casualty buried in the cemetery whose grave could not be located and another commemorating a casualty buried in Bedminster Church Cemetery whose grave could not be maintained. There are 149 burials from the Second World War, some forming a small plot in an area in the upper part of the cemetery set aside for burials from the Naval Hospital at Barrow Gurney; the rest are scattered. Those whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a Screen Wall Memorial. BRISTOL (ARNOS VALE) CREMATORIUM stands within the cemetery. A memorial in front of the crematorium commemorates 68 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



Arnos Vale Cemetery - Main Entrance on Bath Road (Photo by JohnM - Find a Grave)



(Photo from CWGC)



(Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave



Soldiers' Corner – Arnos Vale Cemetery (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2017)



New Memorial Stones (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave November, 2018)

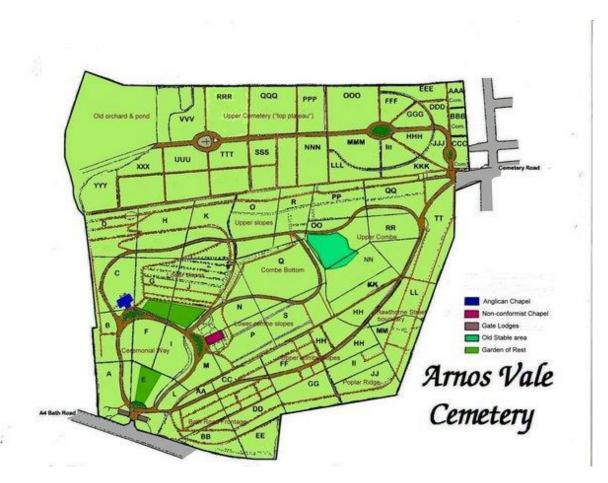
Photo of Gunner John Alexander Dwan's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & his Memorial Stone in Soldiers' Corner.



(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2019)







(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)