

**Arnos Vale Cemetery,
Bristol, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7693 PRIVATE

W. B. BAMFORD

1ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 40

Walter Barton BAMFORD

Walter Barton Bamford was born at Macdonaldtown, Sydney, NSW on 16th July, 1878 to parents Charles and Ellen Sophia Bamford (nee Coker).

Walter Barton Bamford married Norma Josephine Henrietta Woodcroft on 21st October, 1916 at St. Andrew's Church, Summer Hill, NSW. Walter was recorded as a 38 year old Clerk from Double Bay & Josephine was listed as residing at Ashfield, born at Inverell to foster parents William Woodcroft & Elizabeth Francis Woodcroft (nee Bury).

Ellen Sophia Bamford, mother of Walter Barton Bamford, died on 17th April, 1917 at Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.

Norma Josephine Henrietta Bamford, wife of Walter Barton Bamford, died on 19th May, 1917 at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW.

Walter Barton Bamford was a 39 year old, widower, Clerk (Produce Accounts Sales Clerk) from 20 Queen Street, Ashfield, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney, NSW on 10th August, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7693 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs A. Wiltshire, "Rosebank" Park View Road, Alphington, Melbourne, Victoria.

Private Walter Barton Bamford was posted to Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 31st August, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to Recruit M & D Depot at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 5th September, 1917 then transferred to "E" Company, 1st Infantry Battalion, 26th Reinforcements on 17th September, 1917.

Private Walter Barton Bamford embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ulysses (A 38)* on 19th December, 1917 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 26th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 16th January, 1918. He then embarked from Port Said on 24th January, 1918 on *Leasowe Castle* & disembarked at Taranto, Italy in 2nd February, 1918. Private Bamford was taken on strength at No. 9 Rest Camp, Cumino on 2nd February, 1918. He entrained to Cherbourg on 12th February, 1918 & embarked for UK from Cherbourg on the same day. Private Bamford disembarked at Southampton, England on 13th February, 1918.

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.

Private Walter Barton Bamford was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 13th February, 1918.

Private Walter Barton Bamford proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 17th June, 1918 from No. 4 Camp, Sutton Veny. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France in 19th June, 1918 then marched out to his Unit the same day. Private Bamford was taken on strength of 1st Battalion from 26th Reinforcements in France on 30th June, 1918.

Private Walter Barton Bamford was sent to Hospital on 20th July, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 20th July, 1918 with Scabies then transferred & admitted the same day to 1st DRS (Divisional Rest Station / 2nd Australian Field Ambulance). Private Bamford was discharged to his Unit on 28th July, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion the same day.

Private Walter Barton Bamford was wounded in action on 25th August, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 25th August, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to right side & abdomen then transferred & admitted to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Bamford was transferred to "47 or 48th Casualty Clearing Station" on 26th August, 1918. He was admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th August, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to side & abdomen. Private Bamford was transferred to England on 28th August, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle*.

1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army,

principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion participated in the battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as 'the black day of the German Army in this war'.

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary 1st Battalion

Line – 23rd August, 1918:

At 2 am Bn moved by companies to assault position and were on tape line by 3.15 am.

Attack launched at 4.45am

After attack Bn moved to Brigade Reserve, more being complete by 9 pm.

5000 cigarettes && 3 day matches received from Y.M.C.A.

During the operations Lieuts D. J. Burren and 2 Lieut J. P. Kelly were killed; T/Capt G. Steen evacuated injured, 2nd Lieuts W. _ Fowler and D. A. Crowhurst being evacuated wounded.

(Report on operations attached) Appendix 14

Bde Reserve – 24th August, 1918:

Bn in Brigade Reserve. Reorganisation commenced.

Bde Reserve – 25th August, 1918:

Bn in Brigade Reserve.

Lieut C. A. Clarke rejoined nucleus from leave to UK

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Walter Barton Bamford was admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England on 30th August, 1918 with GSW to side & abdomen.

Private Walter Barton Bamford died suddenly at 11.45 am on 8th September, 1918 at Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England from wounds received in action – GSW to left side – severe fleshy; acute Septicaemia & Heart Failure.

A death for Walter B. Bamford, aged 40, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Walter Barton Bamford was buried on 12th September, 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 7.711. From the burial report of Private Walter Barton Bamford - *Coffin was Oak with metal Name tablet. Deceased was accorded a Military funeral, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. Three beautiful wreaths were sent from the Nursing Staff, and fellow patients of Ward No. 2, Beaufort War Hospital. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack", and borne to the graveside, where Canon, The Rev: J. G. Alford conducted the burial service. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The personal effects of the late Private Walter Barton Bamford from Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England were sent to his sister – Alice Wiltshire, Rosebank, Park View Road, Alphington, Melbourne, Victoria.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Wiltshire, St. Elmo Avenue, Alphington, Victoria on 9th June, 1921 as she was noted as the registered next-of-kin of the late Private Walter Barton Bamford. They asked a series of questions – does the soldier have any sons or daughters – if not is his father alive, is his mother alive; does he have any brothers living & if so who is the eldest; does he have any sisters older than herself. Mrs Wiltshire replied that she did not know if her father was alive, she had an older brother Charles from St. Leonards, NSW & she was the eldest of the sisters.

C. J. Bamford, eldest and only brother of the late Private Walter Barton Bamford, wrote to Base Records on 19th July, 1921 stating that his father was living & his present address was Charles Bamford - "Bayview" Henry Street, Fivedock, NSW. He stated his father was desirous of receiving the War Medals referred to & *"I should say that they should pass to the family name of Bamford – that is to father, then to myself as only surviving son, and then to my only son Albert Bamford. I think Alice ie. Mrs Wiltshire will fall in with this when I suggest it to her."*

Private Walter Barton Bamford was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bamford's father - Mr C. Bamford, "Bayview" Henry Street, Fivedock, NSW, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Walter Barton Bamford – service number 7693, aged 40, of 1st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles and Ellen Sophia Bamford.

Base Records wrote to Mr C. Bamford, "Bayview" Henry Street, Fivedock, NSW, father of the late Private Walter Barton Bamford, on 25th September, 1924 forwarding on, at the request of Mr Robert E. Bush, of Bishop's Knoll, Stoke-Bishop, Bristol, a photograph of the Cross erected in the soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery, wherein the remains of his son was interred. A Memorial Card & newspaper cutting of the ceremony were also included. (See photographs below.

Private W. B. Bamford is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 28.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. B. Bamford is remembered on St. Andrew's Anglican Church Roll of Honour, located inside St. Andrew's Church, 2 Henson Street, Summer Hill, Sydney, NSW.



St. Andrew's Anglican Church Roll of Honour (Photos from NSW War Memorials)

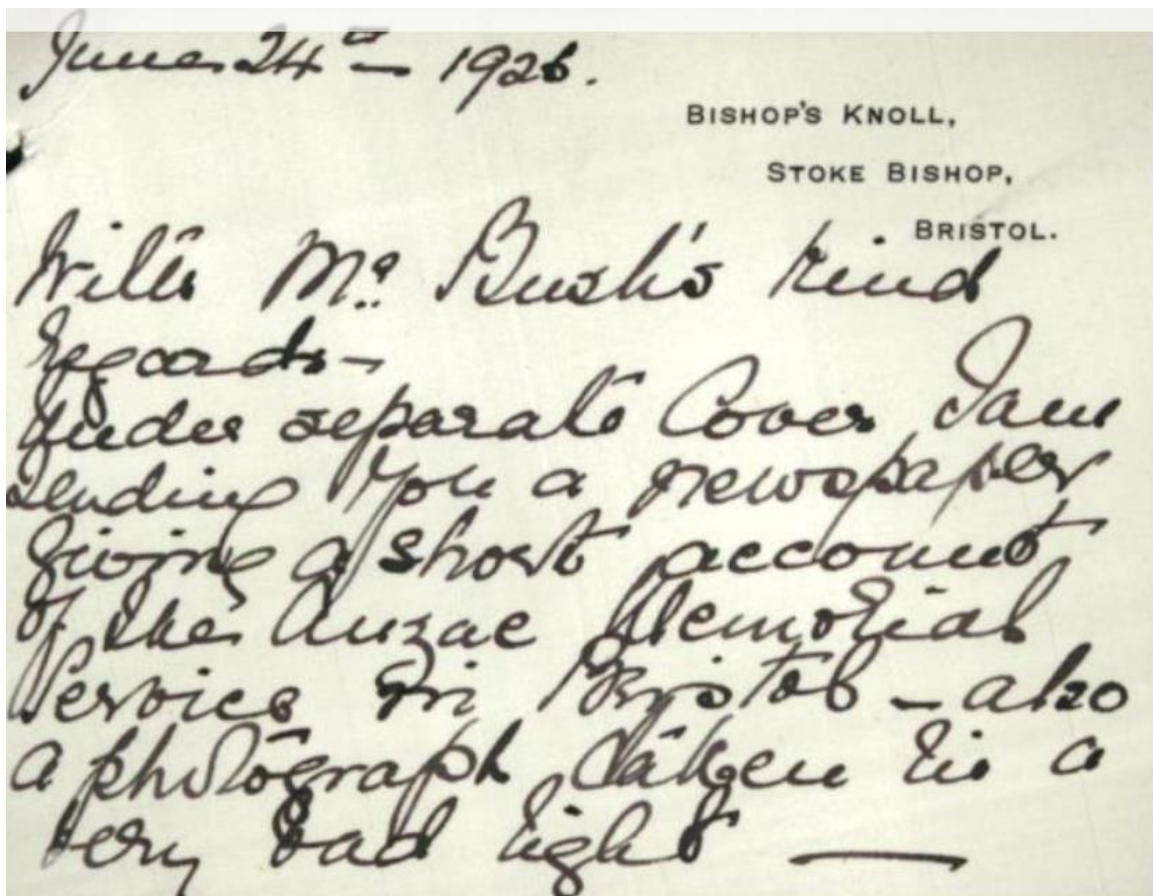
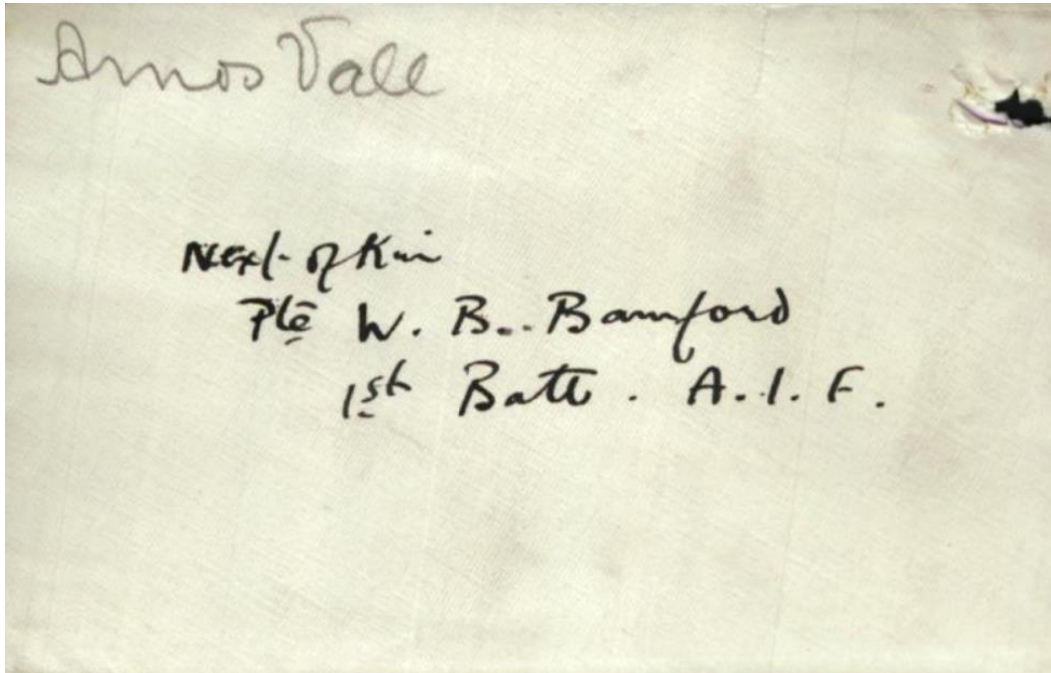


(81 pages of Private Walter Barton Bamford's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



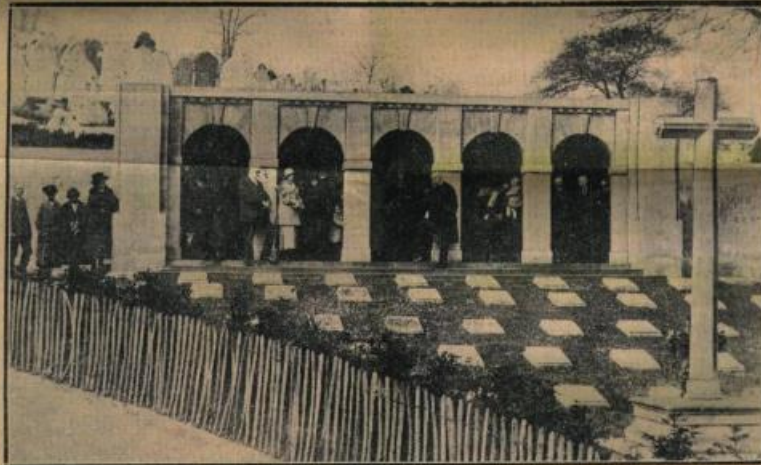
The following items were located in the Service Record file of the late Private Walter Barton Bamford – photos of Arnos Vale Cemetery, Anzac Day Memorial Cards & Newspaper clippings.





Y. APRIL 27, 1925.

GALLIPOLI DAY COMMEMORATION



THE SOLDIERS' CORNER, ARNO'S VALE.

Each year, on the 25th of April, a service of remembrance is held for those who died in Bristol of war wounds, and are buried in Soldiers' Corner, 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, Bishop'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 Herapath, the Misses Nora and Doris Burt, Miss Vera Saville, Miss Goldenfirth, Miss Stafford James, Miss Ennis, the Misses Spellerth, Miss Thornleigh, Mr F. C. Philip, and Mr A. G. Powell. Mrs R. E. Bush was away from Bristol, and Miss Hall-Houghton and others were unavoidably absent. Miss Laing, another devoted worker at Bishop's Knoll, took a wreath to the one Australian soldier who was buried at Greenbank Cemetery.

Most of those present brought flowers. Mr R. E. Bush placed a very beautiful emblem—the work of one of the Bishop's Knoll sisters—at the foot of the cross in the "Corner," and Mr Philip contributed a wreath of daffodils. Spring flowers there were in plenty, a postman in uniform contributing a bunch of wallflowers, and other sympathetic folk adding their tender tribute.

Bishop Clyford, in his short address, said: We are gathered here on this 10th anniversary of Gallipoli day to reverently and affectionately commemorate our brethren from various parts of the British Empire who, after having valiantly fought and honourably suffered in the Great War, were brought to this city of Bristol and here breathed their last breath. We laid their bodies in the earth at this spot, and here they rest in hope till the Day of Resurrection. We gratefully cherish their memory. We renew it to-day, and will never allow it to pass from our mind and heart. God's mercy and peace be with them, so is our affectionate regard, and may that great cause for which they have their lives be ever upheld and prosper and ever honoured among men of goodwill.

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



MR E. C. PHILIP AND MR R. E. BUSH PLACING WREATHS ON THE CROSS.

With Mr R. E. Bush's Compliments
Bishop's Knoll -
Stoke Bishop
Bristol.

Private W. B. Bamford. 15th Batt.

Anzac Day

APRIL 25TH, 1925.



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

TO

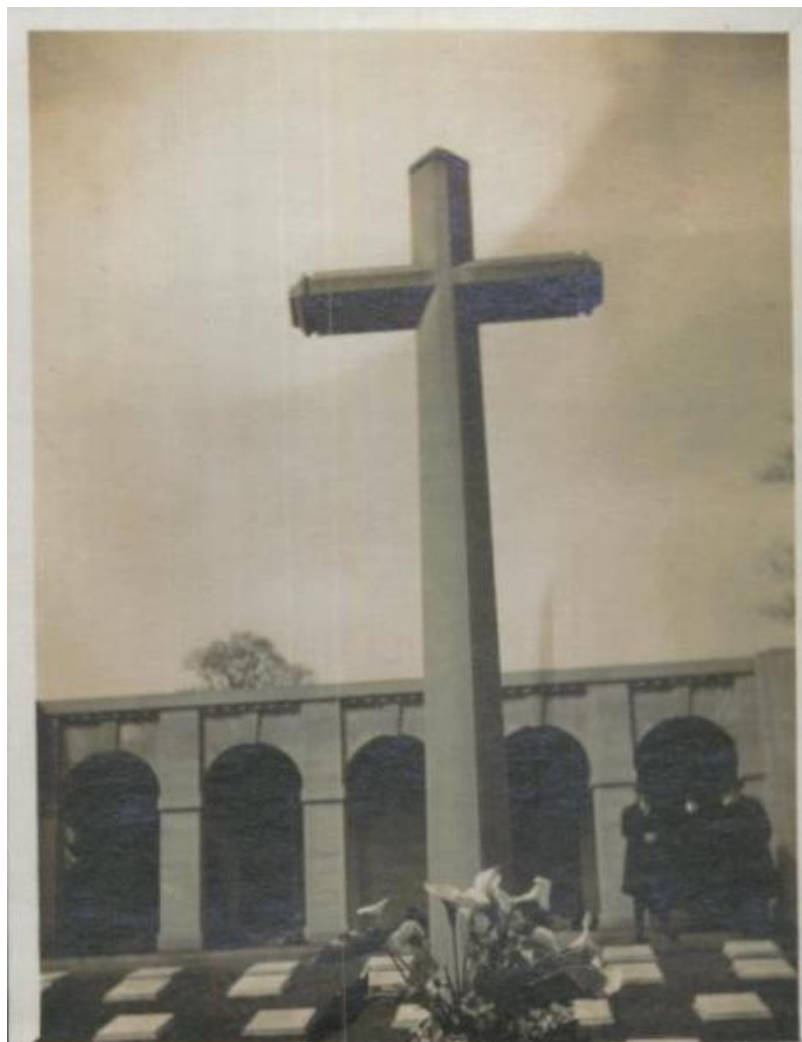
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOLDIERS' AND
SAILORS' GRAVES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

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."

L.L.



SOLDIERS' CORNER.

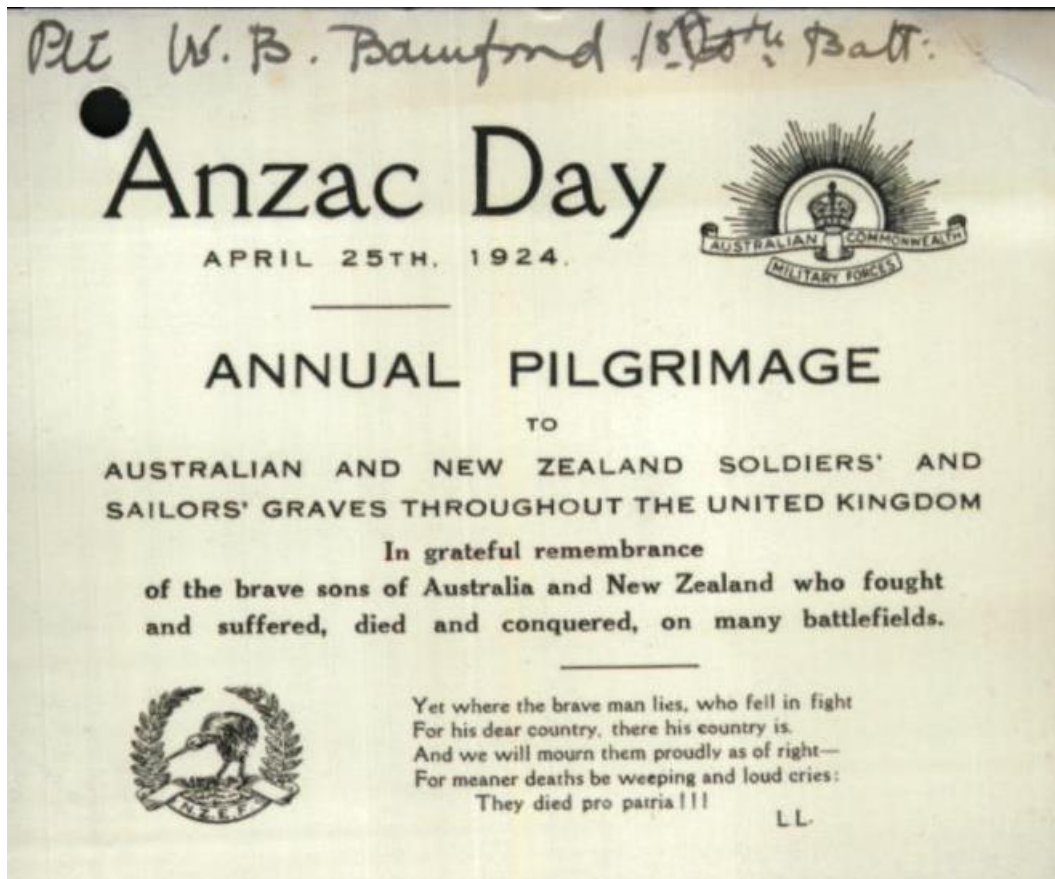
ANZAC DAY SERVICE AT ARNO'S VALE.

Bishop Clifford's Touching Tribute.

In the beautifully-kept bit of consecrated ground at Arno's Vale Cemetery, known as "Soldiers' Corner," there was a simple remembrance service yesterday morning. It was Anzac Day—the anniversary of that never-to-be-forgotten morning in 1915 when soldiers from the homeland with comrades from Australia and New Zealand forced the historic landing on Gallipoli. Some of these gallant Anzacs died in Bristol of their wounds, and each year, when April 25 comes round, they are remembered by those who comforted them in their last hours at Bishop's Knoll and other hospitals. Yesterday beautiful flowers were placed at the foot of the memorial cross, and Bishop Clifford, who ministered to the Australian wounded in Bristol throughout the war, conducted a brief service.

In his address to those assembled Bishop Clifford said: "These graves have a great and touching interest for us. We owe those who lie here a debt of no small honour and gratitude. How little it is we can do for the dead—even for those to whom we owe most. We can, however, pay them the tribute of our gratitude and respect, and this we heartily do to-day. I suppose there are some here who have seen the great war cemeteries in France, Flanders, and Gallipoli. Our cemetery is very different in many respects, for those who lie in their foreign graves had the romantic glory of death in action. That was not so with those who lie here. Brought to this country sorely wounded or sick, they had not the glory of death in action. Yet we honour them none the less for that. We, who knew them in their hospital days, know how much there was of sacrifice in those weary days as they lay dying in pain and discomfort. We know what self-restraint they exercised, and how nobly they bore their troubles until it pleased God to take them. Our thanks are due to them for what they did for us, our country, its freedom, its honour, its glory. These are our brothers who helped to save our Empire in the days of sore trouble. If they could speak to us to-day—and perhaps their spirits are with us—they would thank us for treating them as we do. With all honour and affection they would say to us: 'Live as we tried to live for the country so dear to us, for the Empire in which we all glory.' Two days ago the great Imperial Exhibition at Wembley was opened, with its wonderful display of material resources of all kinds; but the things we are most proud of are not the Empire's material wealth, not its size and grandeur, but the men it produces. Our brothers who lie here were noble specimens of the sort of men our Empire can breed. God rest their souls."

Those present at the service included Mr R. E. Bush (late Commandant Bishop's Knoll War Hospital), Miss Hall Houghton, Miss Philp, Miss Gouldsmith, Miss Thornley, Miss Laing (devoted workers at the hospital), Mr Douglas Cole (Canadian Trade Commissioner), and Mr A. G. Powell (hon. secretary Bishop's Knoll Old Comrades' Society). Owing to absence from Bristol, Mrs Bush was unable to be present.



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

BAMFORD – Died at Beaufort Military Hospital Bristol, on September 8, 1918, from wounds received in France on August 30, Private Walter Barton Bamford, of 27th Reinforcements of 1st Battalion, A.I.F. Resident of Lewisham and Double Bay, and for many years employed at Hill, Clark and Co. Ltd., O'Connell-street, Sydney. Son of Charles Bamford, Sydney; brother of Ethel Hriett Woodcroft Bamford, Mosman; Charles John Reeves Bamford, Herald Office, Sydney; and Alice Ruth Wiltshire, Alphington, Melbourne; son-in-law of Mr and Mrs E. F. Woodcroft, Ashfield.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 18 October, 1918) & (*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 18 October, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BAMFORD – Died of wounds received in France at Beaufort Military Hospital, Bristol, Private Walter Barton Bamford, beloved brother and brother-in-law of Mr and Mrs J. R. Thompson, Florists, Mosman.

BAMFORD - Died of wounds, hospital, Bristol, England, September 8, 1918. Pte W. B. Bamford, son-in-law of Mr and Mrs W. Woodcroft, Ashfield

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 19 October, 1918)

436th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte WALTER BARTON BAMFORD, Alphington, Vic.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 22 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

BAMFORD – In memory of my son, Walter Barton Bamford, who was wounded in France and died in the Bristol Hospital, England, September 8th, 1917.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 8 September, 1920)

On Active Service

BAMFORD – In memory of my son, Walter Barton Bamford, wounded in France, died in Bristol Hospital, England.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 7 September, 1921)

Private Walter Barton Bamford is remembered on his wife's headstone in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW.

(Plot T, Zone C # 12079)



(Photo from Rookwood Cemetery)

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)



Arnos Vale Cemetery *(Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave)*



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

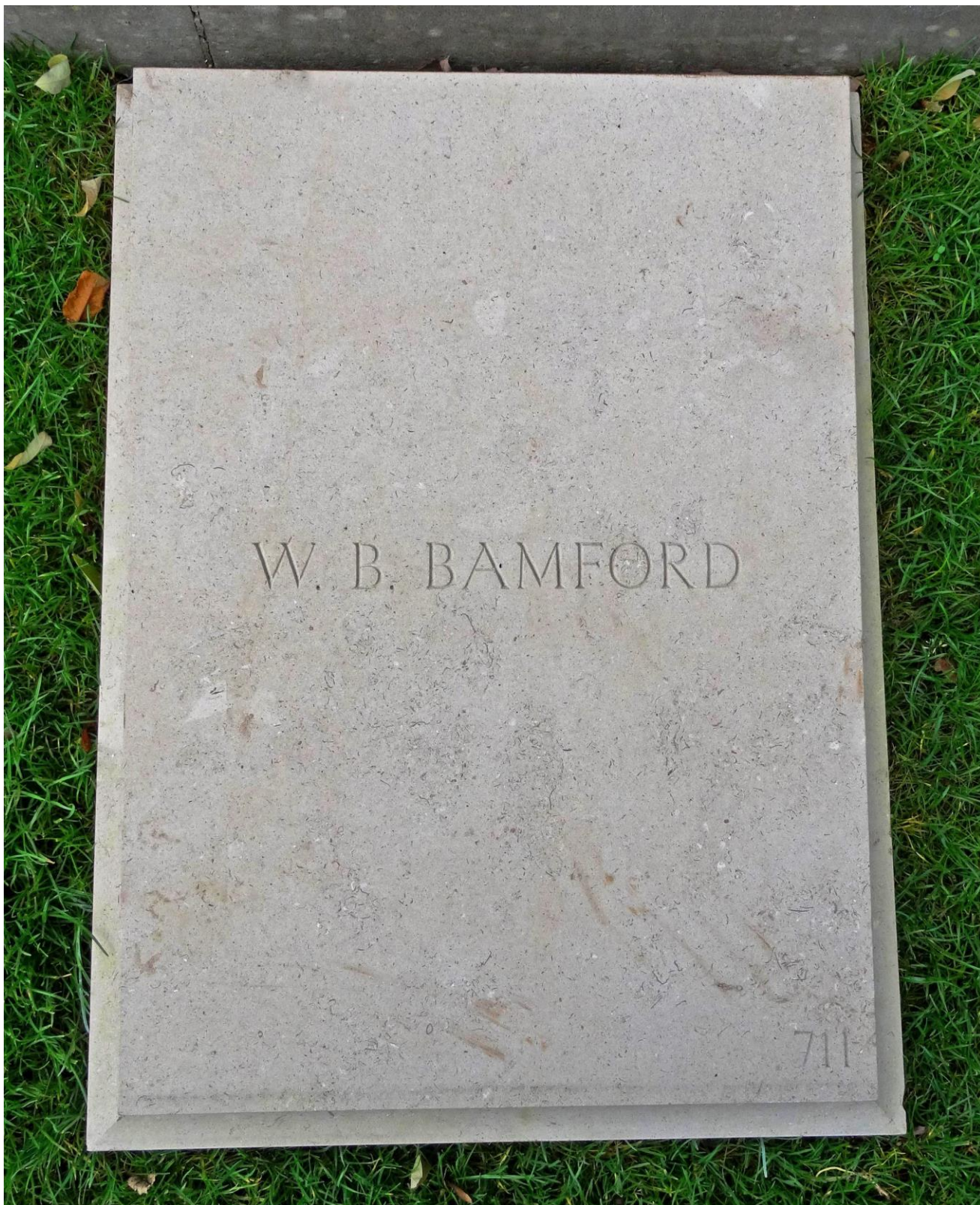


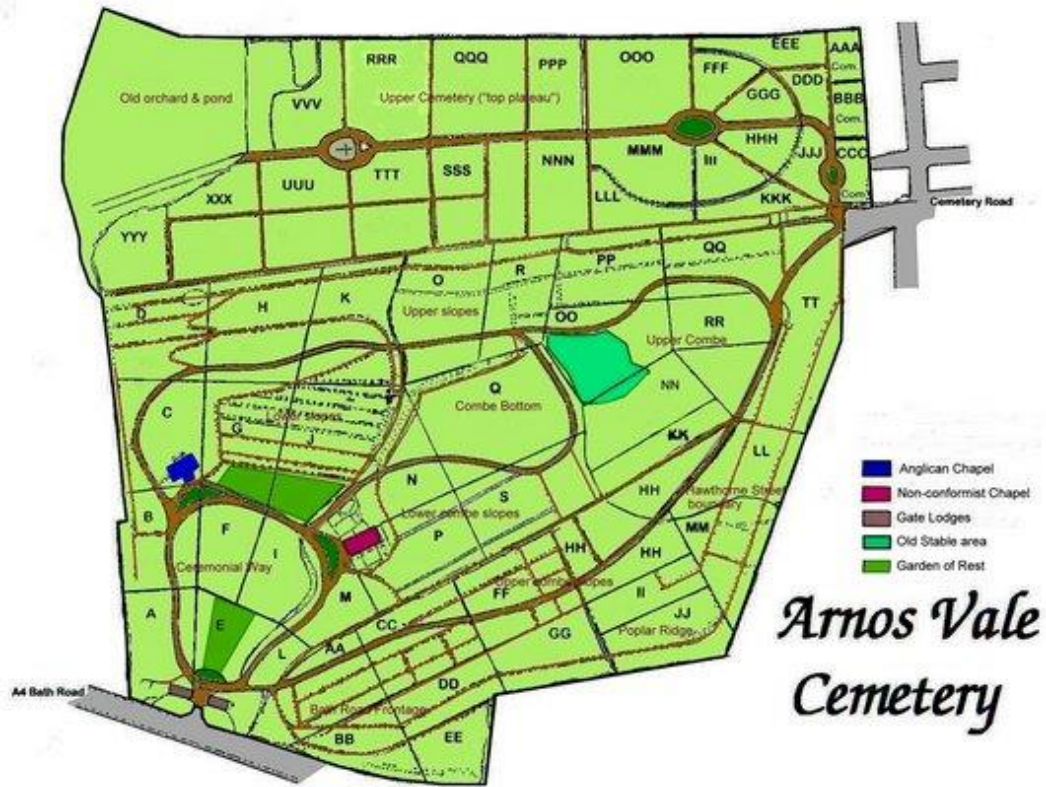
New Memorial Stones (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave November, 2018)

Photo of Private Walter Barton Bamford's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & his Memorial Stone in Soldiers' Corner.



(Photos courtesy of JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2019)





Arnos Vale Cemetery

(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)