

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



16402 SAPPER

C. A. ELIASSON

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

25TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 25

Carl Alfred ELIASSON

Carl Alfred Eliasson was born in Melbourne, Victoria in 1894 to parents John Alfred & Anna Christina Eliasson (nee Magnusson).

Carl Alfred Eliasson attended State School at Fremantle, Western Australia.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Fremantle, subdivision of North Fremantle, Western Australia recorded Carl Alfred Eliasson, Telegraphist from John Street, North Fremantle. His mother – Anna Christina Eliasson was recorded as a widow, from John Street, North Fremantle.

Carl Alfred Eliasson was a 23 year old, single, Telegraphist from North Fremantle, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 28th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 16402 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Anna Eliasson, John Street, North Fremantle, Western Australia.

Private Carl Alfred Eliasson was posted to 75 Depot on 29th June, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 21st Reinforcements of 16th Battalion on 21st July, 1916 then transferred to Depot Signal Company on 16th October, 1916. Private Eliasson was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 4th Divisional Signal Company on 8th December, 1916 & given a rank of Sapper.

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Persic (A34)* on 29th December, 1916 with the 4th Divisional Signal Company Engineers – 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 3rd March, 1917.

Divisional Signal Companies

Division Signals Companies belonged to the Royal Australian Engineers during WW 1. Later, the Royal Australian Signals Corps was created. The Division Signals Company was tasked with providing communications from the Headquarters to those of subordinate formations. In the case of 2nd Division, this meant the 4th (composite States) 12th and 13th Brigades and Division units (Artillery, Engineers, Pioneers, MG Battalions and Services etc).

Communications in 1916-18 would be by a combination of field telephone (requiring the laying of line) and limited radio towards the end of WW1.

Field telephones connected by line were the most usual means of electronic communication. Line was buried where possible but it would often be cut or broken by artillery fire or road traffic. Then it would have to be surface laid to maintain communications. Laying line was one of the most hazardous jobs in the front line. The "Linies" had to move above ground carrying a reel of wire. They could often be the only moving thing on the battlefield and thus attracted fire - both small arms and even artillery fire. Hence the task was often performed at night, with the added risk of getting disorientated on the battlefield. The "linies" also had the unenviable task of locating and repairing breaks in the line.

"Power buzzers" were also deployed forward to boost the signal being borne by the line. Later when radio began to appear, signallers would have to erect antennas / aerials, often exposing themselves to enemy observation and fire in the process. As antennas are invariably associated with Headquarters they would also attract the unwelcome attention of enemy artillery Forward Observers.

(Information by Steve Larkins – VWMA)



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.

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson was marched in to Australian Details 6 & 7 Camps at Perham Downs, Wiltshire from Australia on 4th March, 1917. He was marched out to Shefford on 9th March, 1917.

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 14th May, 1917. He was marched in to R.E. Depot at Abbeville on 16th May, 1917.

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson was marched out to 4th Divisional Signals from R.E. Depot on 5th June, 1917. He was taken on strength of 4th Divisional Signal Company in Belgium on 7th June, 1917.

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson was on leave to United Kingdom from 7th March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from leave on 21st March, 1918.

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson was wounded in action (gassed) on 17th October, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 18th October, 1918 with Gas Shell. Sapper Eliasson was transferred to England on 19th October, 1918.

War Diary - 4th Divisional Signal Company

17th October, 1918:

R.A.H.Q. Detach. General attack commenced. 27th U.S. Divsn attacked at 0530. On completion of protective barrage 7th and 14th A.F.A. Bdes passed to command of 5th Aust D.A. 10th and 11th Bdes passed to command of C.R.A. 4th Aust. D.A. 11th Bde formed advance guard Artillery, to be followed by 10th Bde.....

The battle did not progress as expected, so Artillery Brigades did not advance as originally intended.....

During the day traffic badly cut the lines, and as weather was wet, communication was very difficult to maintain. C.W. Wireless sets were erected at 4th Aus. D.A. H.Q. and 10th and 11th A.F.A. Bdes throughout.

5A Sub-Section. Enemy shelled area heavy with Gas shells. 2 linemen evacuated suffering from Mustard Gas, Brigade Headquarters moved to ESCAUFORT. Batteries connected by metallic pair.....

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson was admitted to The Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England on 20th October, 1918. He was reported as dangerously ill.

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson died from wounds (effects of gas classed as wounded) at 1.45 pm on 25th October, 1918 at The Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England. His cause of death was also listed as "Gassed" (suffocation shell gas poison) & Pneumonia.

A death for Carl A. Eliasson, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson was buried on 31st October, 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 7.713. From the burial report of Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and surmounted by several beautiful flowers, and conveyed to the graveside of a Gun Carriage. The Rev C.S. Walles of Bristol War Hospital officiated at the graveside and the Last Post was sounded. 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 Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson contains a letter from K. Underwood, Matron, Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, which reads: "*Admitted to Hospital from France Oct 20th "Gassed"; was rather poorly*

on day of admission. Voice very husky and tightness of chest. Poultices applied. Temperature was high till the day previous to his death. On the 22nd he became delirious and very restless, and was so for the following two days when he became much quieter. His breathing on the 23rd was very laboured, and he was very cyanosed whereupon oxygen was administered to him very frequently. On 24th his pulse became very weak and heart stimulants were given. On the night of the 24th he was much quieter, but very weak, and remained so till the following afternoon, when he died. As he was unconscious for 24 hours before he died, and was very quiet during that time, he had no suffering. He was given a Military Funeral and was buried in Arnos' Vale Cemetery, in the part thereof reserved for Soldiers. A beautiful floral wreath was given by the Nursing Staff and Patients of the Ward in which he was a patient."

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson requested in his Will dated 13th December, 1917 that all his real and personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Anna Christina Eliasson (widow) of John Street, North Fremantle, Western Australia.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs A. Eliasson, 193 Nicholson Road, Subiaco, Western Australia, mother of the late Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson, on 17th June, 1931, 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.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs A. Eliasson, 193 Nicholson Road, Subiaco, Western Australia, mother of the late Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson, on 17th June, 1932 & 15th June, 1933, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press*" and "*Evening World*" featuring articles of 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.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs A. Eliasson, 193 Nicholson Road, Subiaco, Western Australia, mother of the late Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson, on 28th June, 1935, 22nd June, 1936 & 12th August, 1937, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror*" featuring an article referring to the Pilgrimage and Commemoration Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery on the occasion of last Anzac Day. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Eliasson's widowed mother – Mrs A. C. Eliasson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson – service number 16402, aged 25, of 4th Div. Signal Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of Anna Christina Eliasson, of 20 Holyrood St., West Leederville, and the late John Alfred Eliasson.

Sapper C. A. Eliasson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 25.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

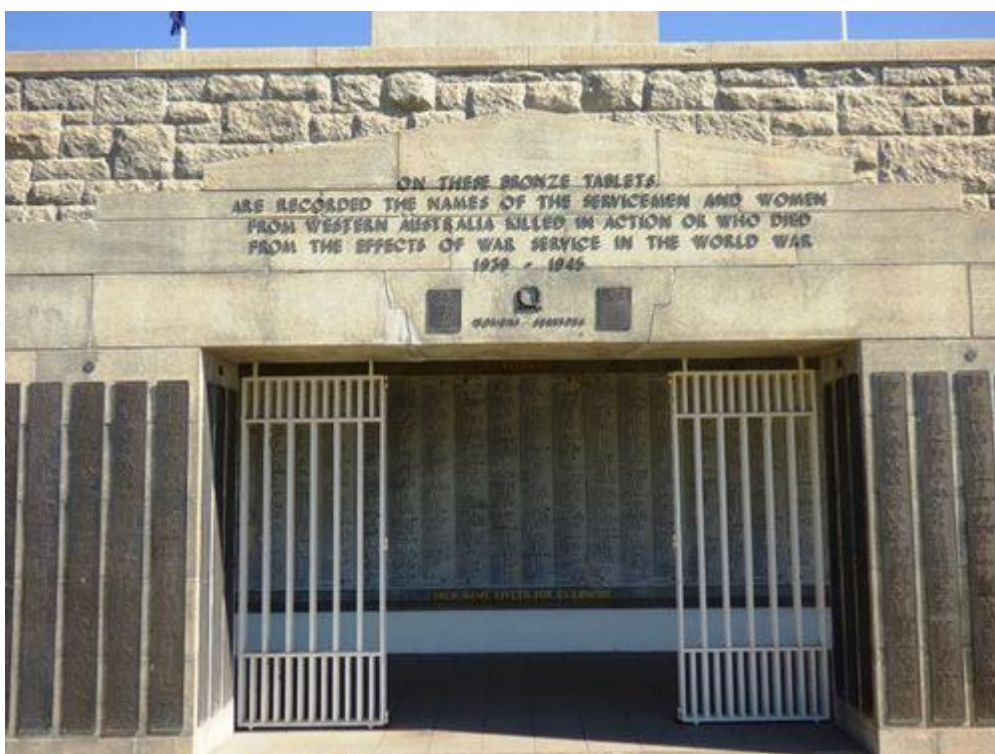
C. A. Eliasson is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





Corps of Engineers Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

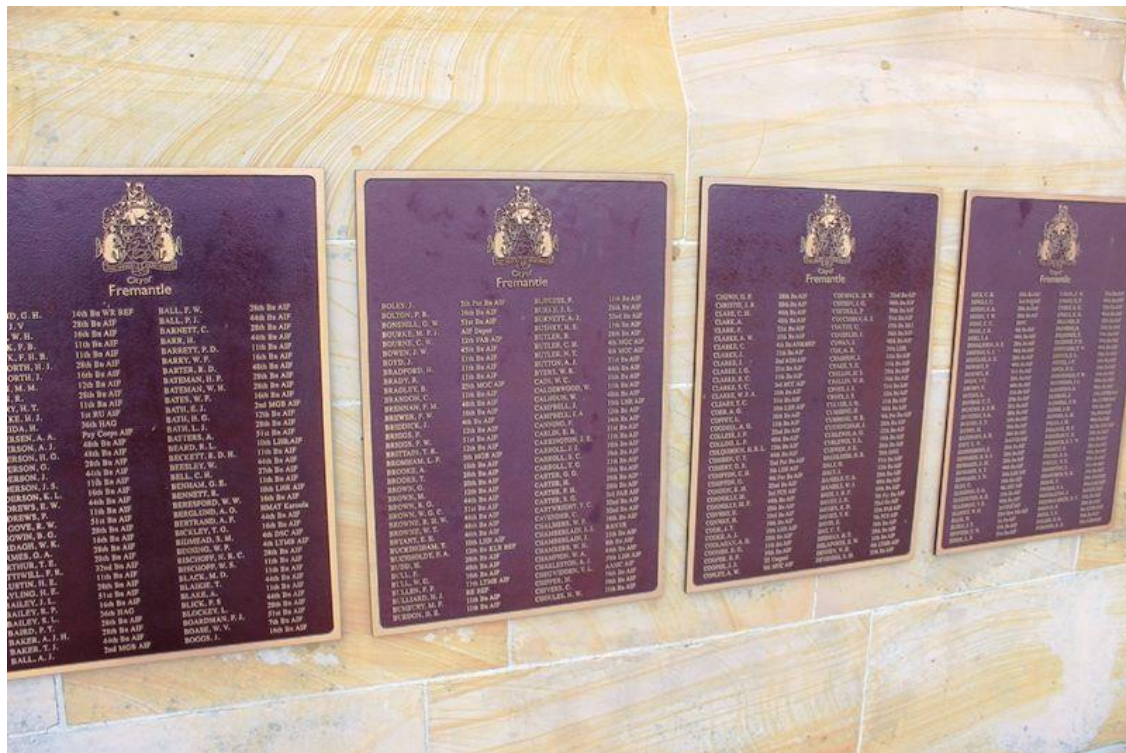
Sapper C. A. Eliasson is remembered with a Memorial Plaque (MW 68) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.





(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)

C. A. Eliasson is remembered on Fremantle's 849, located at War Memorial, Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, High & Swanbourne Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia. Twelve plaques contain all 849 names of the Fremantle servicemen who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The plaques were created as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations.





Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial (*Photos from Monument Australia*)



C. A. Eliasson is remembered on the North Fremantle War Memorial located in War Memorial Park, Queen Victoria Street & Harvest Road, North Fremantle, Western Australia.



North Fremantle War Memorial (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – tgheck1)



C. A. Eliasson is remembered on the West Leederville War Memorial, located at 84 Cambridge Street, West Leederville, Western Australia. Carl Alfred Eliasson was not included on the original War Memorial which was unveiled in 1924 however, the West Leederville War Memorial received a facelift in 2015, as part of a grant from the Australian Government that was approved in 2014. C. A. Eliasson is one of 50 names which were added to the Cenotaph in 2015. The additional 50 names were added to a new back panel & listed below the original 16 names & were added in alphabetical order.



West Leederville War Memorial

(Left: Photo from Monument Australia; right: courtesy of Rosemary Ritorto – Local Studies Librarian, Town of Cambridge)

An article in the local newspaper the Cambridge Post, Western Australia - February 21, 2015:

Names added 100 on

Far from fading away, 49 West Leederville servicemen are finally being recognised on the West Leederville War Memorial almost 100 years after they were killed. Cambridge local studies librarian Rosemary Ritorto said: "I suspect the names were just missed."

Changes in technology meant all sorts of records could now be searched, she said.

The Memorial, which stands in Cambridge Street outside the old Town Hall building, was unveiled in 1924.

A panel has been removed from the memorial by Perth Monumental Works to add the names to the 130 already there.

Ms Ritorto said the names would fit because they would be added with less space between them.

*The remembered soldiers are: Frank O'Reilly, John Leggo Holder, Edwin Edmondson, Frank Thomas Lewis Aylett, Albert Victor Gordon James, Thomas Charles Foster, Harry Holder, Harold Alexander Plummer, Frederick Ralph George, Wyatt James Wyatt, Leonard Arthur Smeed, John Paterson, Joseph Leonard Hennerty, Poland Alfred Siggs, John Randle, Percival Swithin Blick, Wilfred Ernest Drabble, John Charles Marsland, Frederick William Smith, Edwin Hepburn Townshend, John Beckett, Clarence George Marquis, David Smith, Percy Phillip Dunstan, George Cockburn, Edward Harry Darby, Thomas Henry Walsh, Charles Edwin Holden, James William Bowen, James Whittaker Edmondson, David Howieson, Edgar Vernon Brady, James Lyons, Clifford Nicholas Oates, Morris White, John William Beverhoudt Moore, Cyril William Sumner, Alfred Stephen Moran, Harold Oswald Bray, Jack Carter Newman, Charles Forest Hill Munday, Albert Cross, Ephraim Jarvis, Edwin Manthorpe Hancey, Griffith David Lewis, Stewart Irwin Smith, Horace William Pearson, Charles Edward Jones, **Carl Alfred Eliasson** and Charles Henry Hinson.*



Carl Alfred Eliasson (left) was remembered along with other A.I.F. Soldiers in a commemorative Anzac display for 2015 (with thanks to Rosemary Ritorto)

C. A. Eliasson is remembered on the Postmaster General's Department Honour Roll, located in the former G.P.O. Building, Murray Street, Forrest Chase, Perth, Western Australia.



Postmaster General's Department Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Bryan Hardy)

(52 pages of Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson'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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P07555.001

Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson

Newspaper Notices

WAR CASUALTIES

Mrs A. Eliasson, 20 Holyrood –street, West Leederville, late of North Fremantle, has received word that her son, Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson, died from gas poisoning on October 25 in the Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia - 14 November, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

ELIASSON – Sapper Carl Alfred Eliasson, 4th Divl. Signalling Company, died of gas poisoning in Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, October 24, 1918. Thy will be done.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers, 20 Holyrood –street, West Leederville

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia - 16 November, 1918) & (*Western Mail*, Perth, W.A. – 22 November, 1918)

W.A. Casualties

At the Fighting Fronts

List 448

DIED OF WOUNDS

Spr. Eliasson, Carl Alfred, North Fremantle, gas.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia - 30 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ELIASSON – In ever-loving memory of my dear son and brother, Carl Alfred Eliasson, who died from gas poisoning in War Hospital, Bristol, October 25, 1918.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brother.

ELIASSON – In loving memory of my dear comrade, Sapper Carl Eliasson, who died of wounds in England on October 25, 1918.

He left in hopes of returning
Along with his comrades so brave;
But with many a hero he is sleeping
In an honoured soldier's grave.

Inserted by his sincere comrade, (Sapper) Cecil J. White (returning).

ELIASSON – In loving memory of my dear friend, Sapper Carl Eliasson, who died of wounds in England on October 25, 1918.

On October 18 he wrote his last letter,
Bidding us be cheerful and brave;
Little he thought ere his last letter had reached us,
That he would be laid in a soldier's grave.

Inserted by his sincere friends, Mrs Freind, Etta, Marjorie and Bess (Northam).

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia - 25 October, 1919)

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)

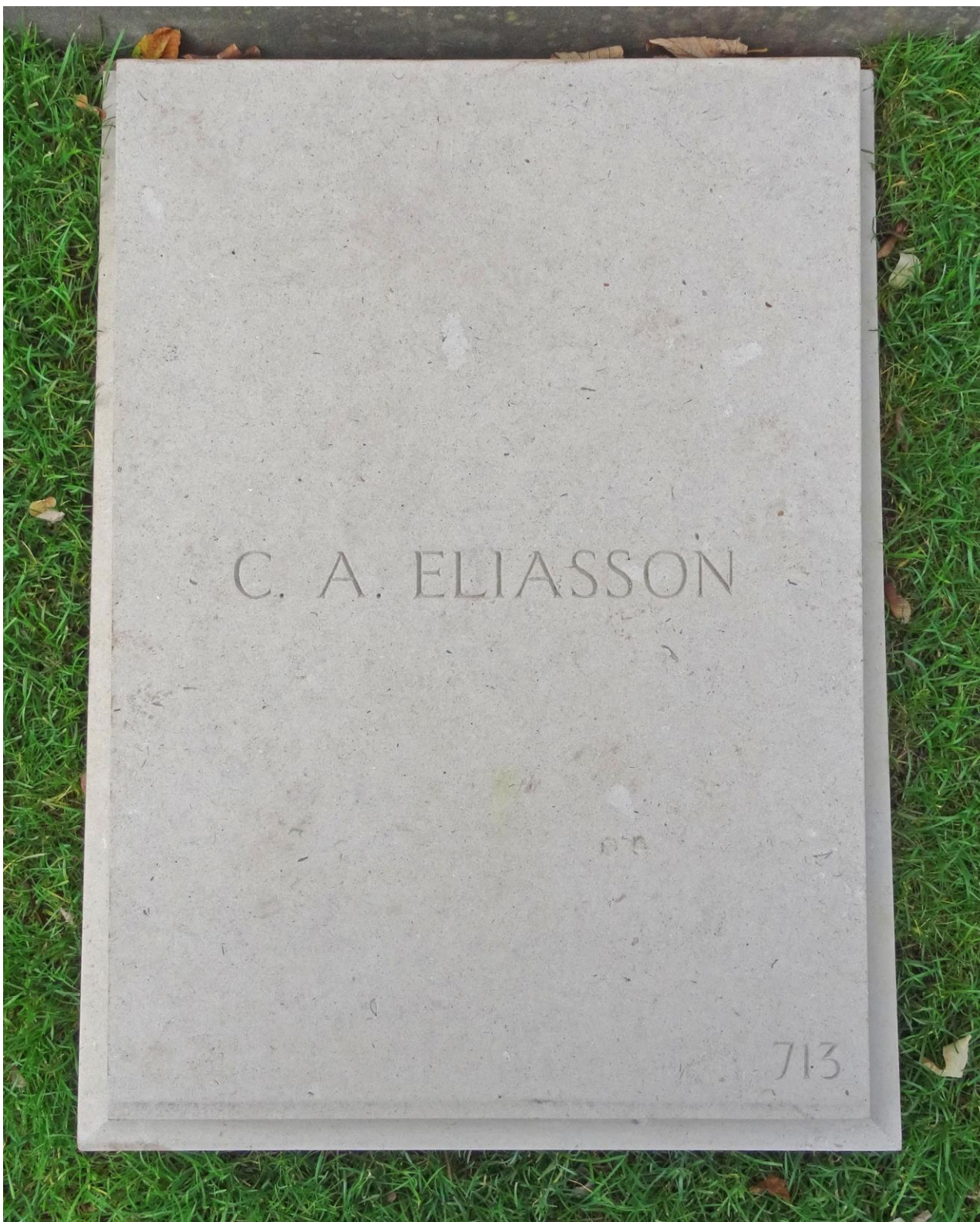
Photo of Sapper Carl Eliasson's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & his Memorial Stone in Soldiers' Corner.

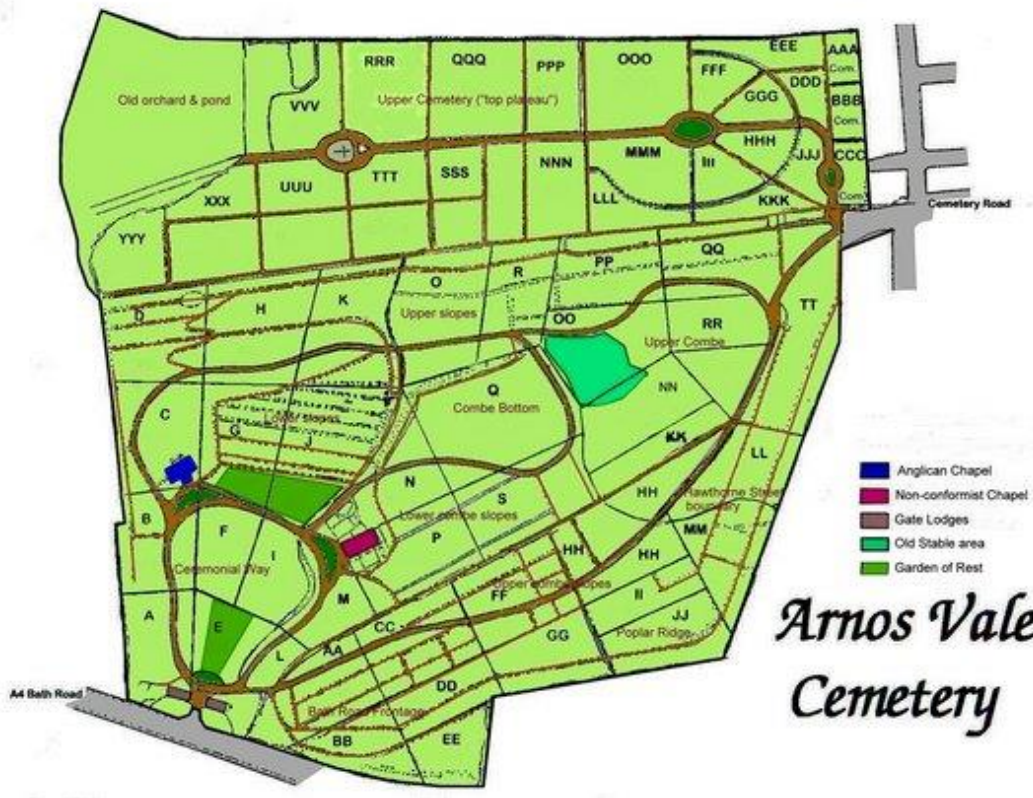


(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2019)

→
SPR. CARL ELIASSON
PTE. HENRY FULICK
PTE. RICHARD GOSSAGE
PTE. WILLIAM GREATHEAD
PTE. WILLIAM FRANCIS HAM
PTE. STANLEY J. JENKINS

10TH P.F.A.E.
4TH DIV. SIG. CO.
3RD M.G. BN.
40TH BATTN.
33RD BATTN.
22ND BATTN.
11TH BATTN.





(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)