

Cheltenham Cemetery
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



14808 PRIVATE

J. H. FENTON

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

1ST MAY, 1918 Age 26

He Giveth His Beloved Rest

Joshua Haddon FENTON

Joshua Haddon Fenton was born at High Street, Woollahra, Sydney, NSW in 1891 to parents Charles and Eleanor Mary Fenton.

Joshua Haddon Fenton attended school at Fourth Street, Woollahra, Sydney, NSW.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Ashfield – Bland Street Polling Place, NSW listed Joshua Haddon Fenton, Salesman, living at 19 John Street. Also listed at the same address – Charles Fenton, Carpenter, Eleanor Mary, Domestic Duties & Ethel Gertrude Fenton, Attendant.

Joshua Haddon Fenton was a 24 year old, single, Librarian from Ashfield, NSW when he enlisted at Casula, NSW on 3rd January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 14808 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr C. Fenton, 19 John Street, Ashfield, NSW.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was posted to "D" Company, Depot Battalion, Casula on 24th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to A.A.M.C. (Australian Army Medical Corps) at Liverpool, NSW on 12th February, 1916. Private Fenton was transferred to A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) Reinforcements on 9th September, 1916.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 9th September, 1916 with the Army Medical Corps & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 26th October, 1916. Private Fenton had been admitted to Ship's Hospital from 7th October – 21st October, 1916 with Measles.

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 & also in the county of Dorset.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was written up for an Offence on 6th January, 1917 at Wareham, England – A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from midnight on 3rd January, 1917 to 11 pm on 4th January, 1917. This was admonished by O.C. (Officer Commanding), No. 4 Command Depot & he forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on *Princess Clementine* on 3rd February, 1917.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France from England on 3rd February, 1917.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was transferred to 5th Division A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) at Etaples on 24th February, 1917 & was taken on strength of 15th Field Ambulance in the Field on 26th February, 1917.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was wounded in action on 7th May, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 7th May, 1917 with gunshot wound(s) to head. He was discharged to duty from 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 19th May, 1917 & rejoined 15th Field Ambulance on the same day.

Mr C. Fenton, of Berowra, Prospect Road, Summer Hill, NSW, father of Private Joshua Haddon Fenton, was advised on 29th May, 1917 that his son had been wounded.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was detached to Prophylactic Treatment Department in France on 16th July, 1917 & rejoined 15th Field Ambulance from detachment on 27th July, 1917.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was wounded in action on 21st September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Field Ambulance on 22nd September, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 53rd General Hospital on 23rd September, 1917 with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to shoulder. Private Fenton was transferred to England on Hospital Ship St. Andrew on 24th September, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to right shoulder.

War Diary – 15th Field Ambulance:

21st September, 1917

..... *Unofficial report received from Captain C. C. MINTY, M.C. advising 2 Casualties among the Unit personnel under his charge – No. 1710 PRIVATE DALEY, H. H. killed and No. 5502 PRIVATE FELTON, R.C. slightly wounded and evacuated.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was admitted to Shorncliffe Military Hospital, England on 24th September, 1917 (Statement of Service form record Hospital as Bevan Military Hospital, Sandgate, London, England) with GSW to right arm & shoulder. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 10th October, 1917.

Mr C. Fenton, of "Berowra" Prospect Road, Summer Hill, NSW, father of Private Joshua Haddon Fenton, was advised on 5th October, 1917 that his son had been admitted to Bevan Military Hospital, England, on 24th September, 1917, suffering from gunshot wound to right arm & right shoulder.

Mr Charles Fenton, father of Private Joshua Haddon Fenton, advised Base Records on 23rd November, 1917 that his address had changed from 11 Prospect Road, Summer Hill to 18 Station Street, Petersham, NSW.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was discharged to furlo from 12th December, 1917 to 26th December, 1917 & was then to report to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 8th January, 1918 from No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was marched out of Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 8th February, 1918 to A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 17th February, 1918.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 18th February, 1918. He was marched out to 5th Divisional Ambulance on 20th February, 1918. Private Fenton rejoined his Unit – 15th Field Ambulance on 26th February, 1918 from being wounded.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was wounded in action – Gas (2nd Occasion) ("*Gas (2nd occasion)*") as stated in service record file) on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 55th Field Ambulance then transferred to 41st Casualty Clearing Station on 17th April, 1918. Private Fenton was transferred & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital on 19th April, 1918 having been gassed. He was transferred to England on 21st April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

War Diary – 15th Field Ambulance:

17th April, 1918

*No. 15798 Pte L. R. HILL and 17198 Pte V. D. LEE evacuated to CCS sick and struck off strength. The following bearers "B" Section were gassed and evacuated to C.M.D.S. and struck off strength today. No. 15800, Pte W. S. H. DOYLE, No. 65, Pte J. C. DANIELSON, NO. 9123 Pte H. W. FERGUSON, **No. 14808, Pte J. H. FENTON**, No. 11428, Pte P. J. KELLY, No. 6879, Pte A. F. LEMON, M.M., No. 6884, Pte S. E. MARA, No. 15574, Pte F. H. D. MARSHALL. Major H. S. McLELLAND temporarily detached for duty as R.M.O. 59th BATTALION, A.I.F. dated 16.4.18.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was admitted to Voluntary Aid Hospital, Cheltenham, England on 22nd April, 1918 – Gassed – severe.

Mr C. Fenton, of 18 Station Street, Petersham, NSW, father of Private Joshua Haddon Fenton, was advised on 30th April, 1918 that his son had been "gassed (classed as wounded) 2nd occasion."

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton died at 5 pm on 1st May, 1918 at St. John's Hospital, Cheltenham (some forms in the Service Record file name the Hospital as "Cheltenham Area Hospital"), England from wounds – Gassed.

A death for Josiah H. Fenton, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was buried at 2 pm on 4th May, 1918 in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England – Plot number M. 9162 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Joshua Haddon Fenton - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by several wreaths which were sent by friend, patients and Hospital Staff of St. John's V.A.D. Hospital, Cheltenham. Band, Firing Party and Bugler and Company of men, under the command of an Officer, were supplied by the Gloucester Volunteer Regt. 200 soldiers (patients in Hospital), about 20 members of St. John's Ambulance Bde and 30 members of the Red Cross Society followed the remains to the Cemetery. Canon Cox officiated at the graveside. 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.*

Names of relatives or friends present at the funeral – Brother – No. 5382 Pte Fenton, A.C. 56th Bn, 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham.

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 in whose memory a statue by Adrian Jones was recently erected in Adelaide by public subscription."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Joshua Haddon Fenton contains several written accounts regarding Private Fenton:

- From A. S. Woodward, Commandant, St. John Hospital, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham – *"Died of Wounds 1 – 5 -18 I know how sadly uncertain the Mails are to Australia now, and therefore I am quite glad to repeat all I have already said in letters to Mrs Fenton and Pte H. Fenton's Fiancée writ both before and after his Funeral. He was admitted to this Hospital with many other Australians on April 22nd 1918, badly gassed, but we had no cause to think gravely of his condition. He had relatives in England with whom we communicated but his condition was not such as to warrant us summoning them. It was not till after dinner on May 1st that he suddenly became dangerously ill and in spite of every effort he passed away about 5 o'clock that afternoon. He had not suffered, but the heart failed; the Church of England Chaplain saw him shortly before he died, as of course the Matron sent for him. We had also telegraphed to his relations in Nottingham, and an Aunt – Miss Stephens – came that night, but too late to see her Nephew alive. Another Aunt came the next day – Mrs Warren – and a brother Pte Arthur Fenton, a patient in a Birmingham Hospital had special leave and came the night before the Funeral.*

Your Government sent a special representative to attend the Funeral, and there is a reserved piece of ground in the cemetery for Australian Soldiers, and each has a separate single grave.

I enclose a list of the flowers, which were very beautiful. Miss Stephens arranged for all those from the family and Fiancée. As you may remember another splendid laddie from Australia died here about the same time and another in a Hospital near here, and the three funerals took place at the same time. The men of the St. John Ambulance Brigade turned out to form a Guard of Honour, and to act as bearers, the local Volunteers

furnished the Firing Party and the Band. About 60 men from the Hospital marched to the Cemetery, and the Comdt. Quarter Master, Matron, Hon Secretary, and the Sister in charge also went.

I sent Mrs Fenton photographs of the processions and the Grave and a newspaper with an account in it, and I hope she may have received them.

The Aunts and Pte Arthur Fenton seemed quite satisfied with the arrangements and spoke very gratefully. I only wish we could have done more, and that the Parents could know how heartfelt is our sympathy for them. If there is anything more they, or you wish to know please do not hesitate to ask me."

- **Flowers Sent In Memory Of Pte Fenton:**

1. *Cross From loving Father and Mother. Australia*
2. *Wreath From loving sisters and brothers Arthur, Fred, Eric, Ethel, Bert and Isabel, Australia*
3. *Lilies From sorrowing and loving Mona.*
4. *Harp From loving Aunt Gert, Aunt Kate, Uncle George, Fannie and Jim, Nottingham.*
5. *Cross A token of sympathy from a fellow Australian Mrs Reginald Waterfield*
6. *Wreath From his comrades in the Hospital*
7. *Cross From the Commandant and Staff at St John Hospital with deepest regret*
8. *Wreath With respect and sympathy. From the Cheltenham branch of the Victoria League.*
9. *Wreath In grateful memory of Private Fenton. With much sympathy for his absent relatives and friends. From Miss Dorothea de B. Dobson. Official visitor to the Australian Red Cross.*
10. *Chaplet From the V.A. Nurses from A. to E Wards, with Deepest sympathy.*

- Informant 15527, Private C. N. Brack, 15th Field Ambulance – *Informant described Fenton as about 5'10" high, medium build, medium complexion, aged about 23/24. Informant states that they both belonged to the 15th Field Ambulance.*

On a date, probably towards the end of April last, the 15th Field Ambulance was working near Villers Bretonneux. The Germans threw over about 5000 gas shells on this particular day and Fenton was one of those who were Gassed. Informant was at their Dressing Station at Dehors at about 6 pm when Fenton passed through the Station. Informant went over to see him and found that he was very bad, but conscious, although he couldn't see Informant as his ways were bandaged up. Informant was told that he went from the Station to the 2nd Australia General Hospital at Boulogne, and he believes that he died in England. According to Informant Fenton was a well liked chap.

- Informant Private D. Freil, 3017, 15th Field Ambulance *Informant described Fenton as about 5 feet 8 inches high, medium build, fresh complexion, aged about 26 or 27.*

Informant states that they both belonged to the 15th Field Ambulance. On a date at the commencement of April last, the Field Ambulance was at Villers Bretonneux during the German advance which resulted in the capture of that village by the Huns two days later. A Regimental Aid Post was established in a cellar of the Chateau. While engaged in his duties, Fenton was gassed and Informant was on the car that took Fenton to the 15th Field Ambulance Dressing Station at Aubigny, where he left him and heard afterwards that he had died.

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton requested in his Will dated 19th March, 1917 that the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mrs Charles Fenton, of 11 Prospect Rd, Summer Hill, Sydney, NSW.

Mrs Eleanor M. Fenton, mother of the late Private Joshua Haddon Fenton, wrote to Base Records in 1924 requesting to make application for the Plaque & Scroll of her deceased son. Base Records replied on 30th April, 1924 that the Memorial Scroll & Plaque had been forwarded to his father on 22nd July, 1921 & 26th February, 1923 respectively.

The personnel effects of the late Private Joshua Haddon Fenton were forwarded to his mother (Legatee) – Mrs C. Fenton, 11 Prospect Road, Summer Hill, NSW from St. John’s Hospital, Cheltenham. A separate Pocket Book was forwarded to Miss M. E. Dryborough, Coreen, 18 Station Street, Petersham, NSW & had been forwarded “*in compliance with written request (inside pocket book) of the late soldier.*”

Private Joshua Haddon Fenton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Fenton’s father – Mr C. Fenton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Joshua Haddon Fenton – service number 14808, aged 26, of 15th Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of Charles and Eleanor Mary Fenton, of 18 Station St., Petersham, New South Wales.

Private J. H. Fenton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 182.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(73 pages of Pte Joshua Haddon Fenton’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

311th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Pte JOSHUA HADDON FENTON, Summer Hill

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 18 June, 1917)

CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte JOSHUA HADDON FENTON, Summer Hill (second occasion)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 November, 1917)

APRIL FIGHTING

HEAVY CASUALTY LIST

MANY MEN GASSED

A big batch of me who were killed in action or who died of wounds received during the heavy fighting last month are included in casualty list No. 401, issued to-day.

The wounded include a large number of men who were gassed.

Following are the names of the dead, missing and prisoners of war:-

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Pte J. H. FENTON, Petersham, C.M.S. (prev. reported wounded, third occasion, gas).

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 20 May, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

FENTON – Died of wounds (gas) in France, May 1, 1918, Private J. Haddon (Dick) Fenton, 15th Field Ambulance, A.I.F., aged 27 years, dearly loved second son of C. and E. M. Fenton, 18 Station-street, Petersham. He served. God grant us victory that his life be not given in vain.

FENTON – Private J. Haddon (Dick) Fenton, 15th Field Ambulance, A.I.F., died of wounds (gas), aged 27 years. One of the best. Inserted by his brothers and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 25 May, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

HADDON – Died of wounds and effects of gas, in France, May 7, Joshua, son of C. and E. M. Fenton, late of Ashfield. He has attained the great peace.

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

FUNERAL OF THREE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS IN CHELTENHAM

(Clipping courtesy of David Drinkwater)

CHELTENHAM CHRONICLE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE GRAPHIC, SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1918.



FUNERAL OF THREE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS IN CHELTENHAM.

THREE MORE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS DIED DURING LAST WEEK AT CHELTENHAM V.A.D. HOSPITALS OF GAS POISONING, TWO AT ST. JOHN, GLOUCESTER ROAD (PTES. J. H. FENTON AND SIDNEY G. TURNER, BOTH AGED 27), AND ONE (PTE. JAMES WARREN, 35) AT SUFFOLK HALL. THEY WERE BURIED TOGETHER IN THREE GRAVES SIDE BY SIDE WITH FULL MILITARY HONOURS IN CHELTENHAM CEMETERY ON SATURDAY, MAY 4th.

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| 1.—The cortege coming down Promenade. | 5.—Wounded soldiers following the cortege. | 7.—Comrades round graves. |
| 2.—Carrying the three coffins to the graves. | 6.—Warrant Officer Yeomans drops earth on each coffin as Canon Cox recites burial sentences. | 8.—Volunteers in procession. |
| 3.—The three hearse in line coming up Cemetery drive. | | 9.—Standing at grave sides as last volleys are fired. |
| 4.—The bearers about to lower the coffins. | | |

[Photos by Cheltenham Newspaper Co., Ltd.]

(Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic, England – 11 May, 1918)

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 J. H. Fenton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Giveth His Beloved Rest

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.

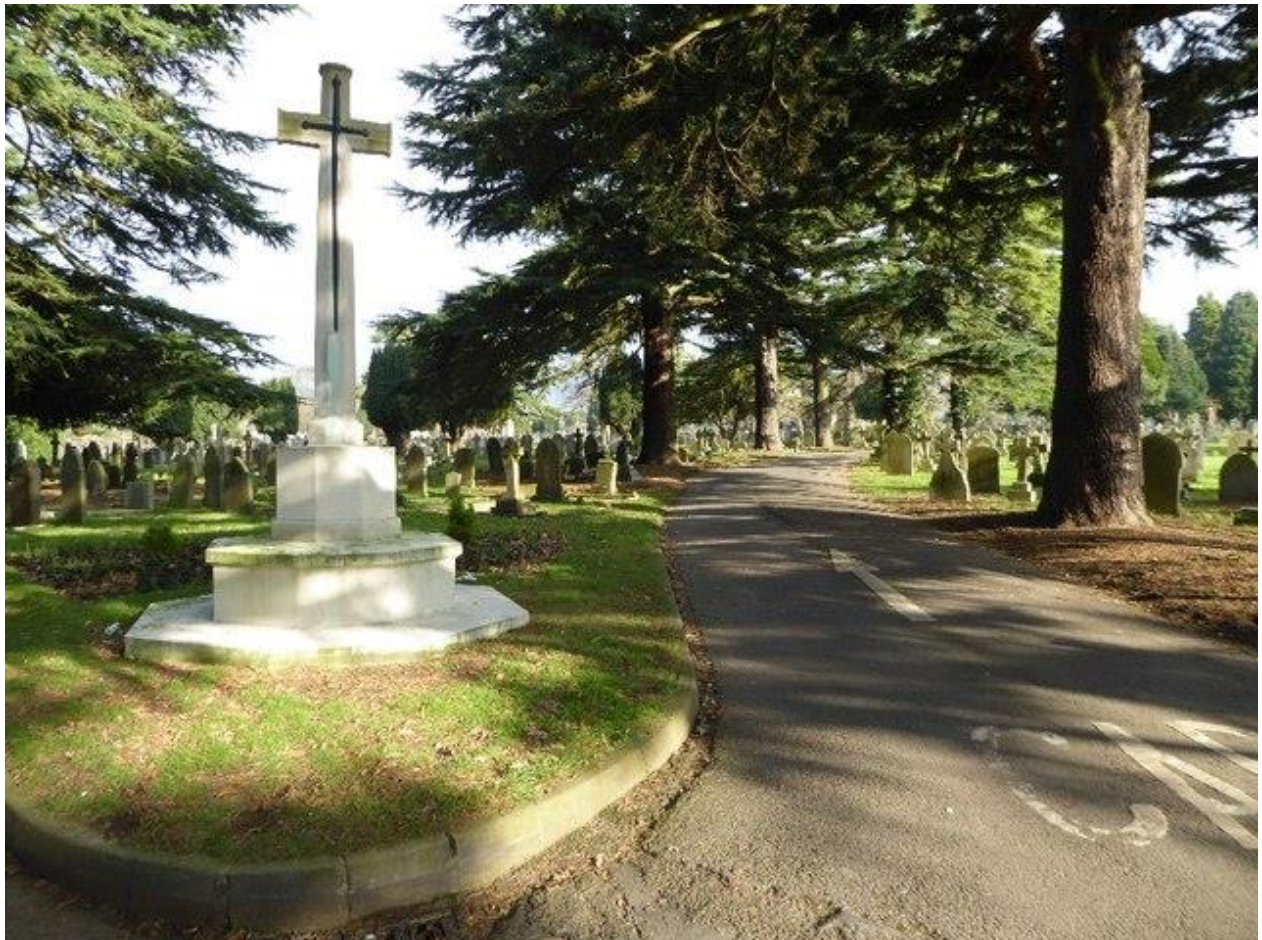
(Information from CWGC)



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)*

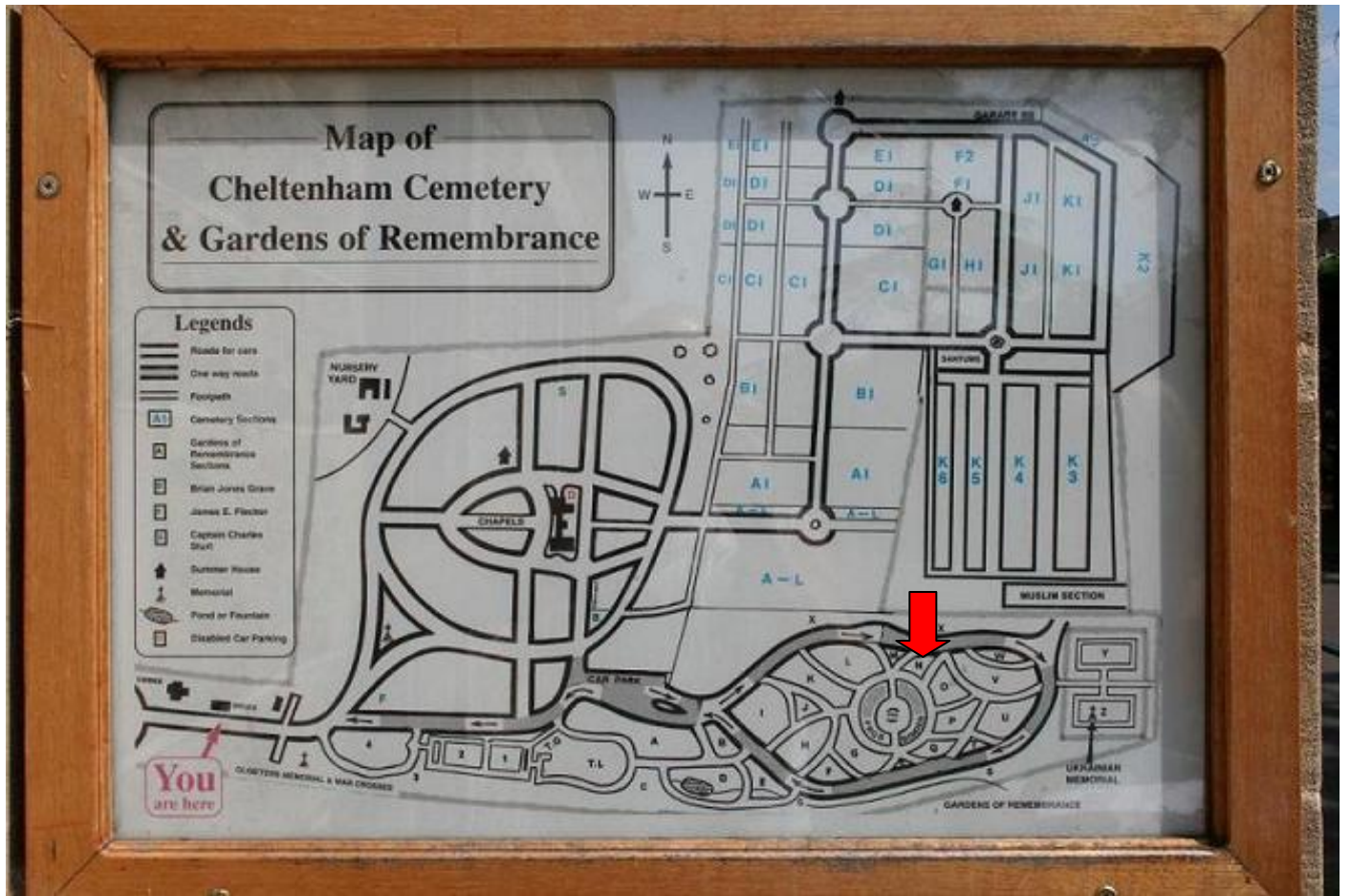
Photo of Private J. H. Fenton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England.



(Photo by ColinA – Find a Grave)



(Photo by Alf)



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