

**Southern Cemetery,
Manchester, Lancashire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



907 PRIVATE

E. F. HAHN

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH JUNE, 1915

Ernest Francis HAHN

Ernest Francis Hahn was born at Redesdale, Victoria on 29th June, 1893 to parents Henry Frederick (Heinrich Friedrich – born Germany) & Jane Hahn (nee Rose).

Ernest Francis Hahn attended High School at Kyneton, Victoria.

Ernest Francis Hahn was a 21 year old, single, Butcher from The Pines, Redesdale, via Kyneton, Victoria when he enlisted at Toowoomba, Queensland on 12th October, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 907 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Henry F. Hahn, Redesdale P.O., via Kyneton, Victoria.

Private Ernest Francis Hahn embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 22nd December, 1914 with 15th Infantry Battalion, "F" Company.

15th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 15th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The Queensland and Tasmanian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked for overseas just before Christmas. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an A.I.F. division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt, it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

As the Ottoman defenders checked the Allied advance inland, on arrival the 15th Battalion was rushed into the line on the left flank of the beachhead. As the advance inland stalled, the battalion became isolated and threatened with destruction until Cannan withdrew his force to a more tenable position. Later, they helped shore up the line before occupying positions around "Pope's Hill" and "Russell's Top", where they joined an attack on 1 May. After that, they occupied "Quinn's Post", and defended it against a strong Ottoman counterattack on 19 May. Further fighting occurred around the battalion's position as the Ottoman troops began tunnelling under the "no man's land" that divided the two lines. Counter-mining actions were undertaken, but on 29 May a significant attack was put in against the 15th Battalion's position and they were briefly forced back before restoring the situation with a strong counterattack.

From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead.

(Information from Australian War Memorial & Wikipedia)

Private Ernest Francis Hahn was wounded in action at Gallipoli Peninsula on 12th May, 1915 with severe wounds to chest. He was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Nevasa* on 16th May, 1915. Private Hahn's father was advised that his son had been wounded.

Private Ernest Francis Hahn was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, Lancashire, England on 29th May, 1915.

Private Ernest Francis Hahn died on 25th June, 1915 at 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, Lancashire, England from Enteric Fever.

A death for Ernest Hahn, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of Prestwich, Lancashire, England.

Private Ernest Francis Hahn was buried on 29th June, 1915 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number 399.

A letter was sent to Mr H. F. Hahn, Redesdale P.O., via Kyneton, Victoria, dated 29th May which reads:

“With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 907, Private E. F. Hahn, 15th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice from Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, London, dated 21st February, 1919, as follows:-

- *“In the Southern Cemetery at Manchester there were buried in common graves nine deceased members of the Australian Imperial Force. The remains of these have now been exhumed from the common graves and in each case have been re-interred in separate single graves in virgin soil in a site specially set aside as an Australian plot. The work was successfully carried out last week under the supervision of a senior Non-commissioned Officer from these Headquarters, and the new graves have since been marked by the provision of the standard oak cross enamelled white with black lettering. Photographs of the new graves will be taken at an early date and sent to you for transmission to the next-of-kin.”*

Your son is now buried in Grave No. 174, Section Q.”

A War Pension had been granted to Ernest Hahn Dole – ex-nuptial child, c/o Mrs Fagan, 6 Havelock Street, Bendigo, Victoria. The Pension was increased from £13 per annum from 1st July, 1915. Enquires were made to establish “whether the abovementioned child has any claims” to War Medals & other Memorabilia. According to the “Deceased Soldiers’ Estate Act of 1918” the War Medals were to be dispatched to the nearest blood relative – widow, eldest surviving so, eldest surviving daughter, Father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister. Mrs Fagan, who had custody of the child registered as Ernest Hahn, stated that Evelyn Dole was the mother & she was residing at Myrtle Creek. The child had been born 6th April, 1914 & Mrs Fagan had received him when he was 17 days old. According to records at Registrar of Births showed that the father’s name was not shown & the child was illegitimate. The child’s mother had apparently been contacted three times with regard to the War Medals but had not replied. It was decided that the War Medals would be given to Pte E. F. Hahn’s father.

Ernest Hahn was listed on the Victoria Police Gazette for 25th March, 1915.

“HAHN, ERNEST, is charged, on warrant, issued at the instance of Evelyn Beatrice Dole, Bendigo, with deserting his illegitimate child at Bendigo, on the 3rd December, 1914. Description:- 21 years of age, 5 feet 10 or 11 inches high, medium build, dark ruddy complexion; generally dresses in a dark vicuna suit.”

Private Ernest Francis Hahn was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hahn’s father – Mr H. F. Hahn, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

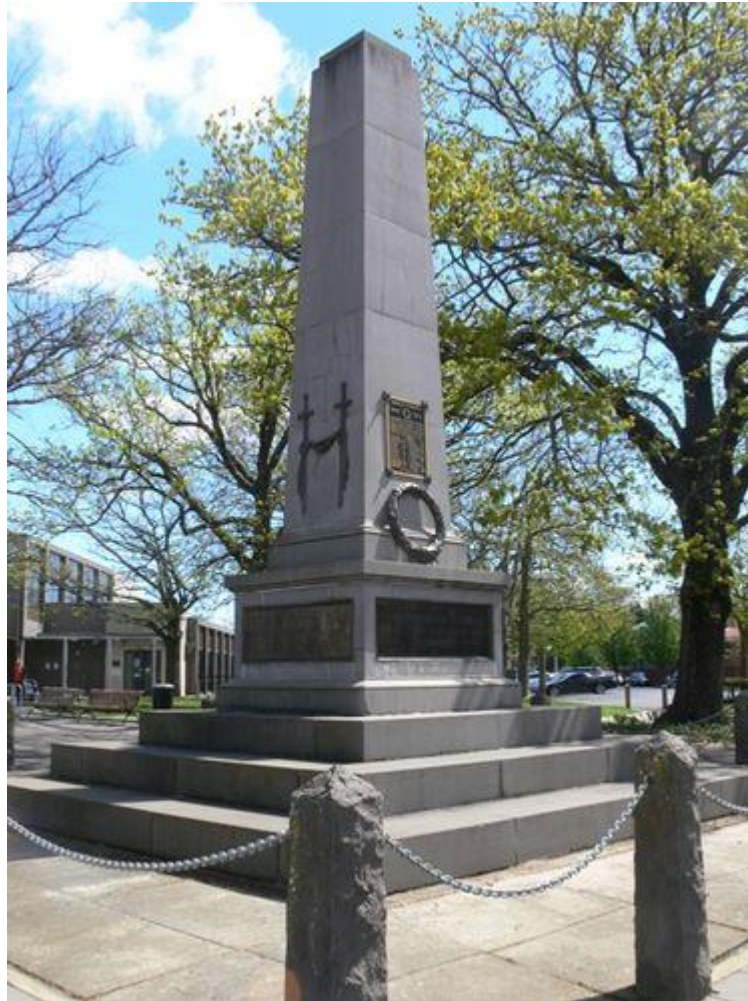
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ernest Francis Hahn – service number 907, of 15th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private E. F. Hahn is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 76.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. Hahn is remembered on the Kyneton War Memorial located at Mollison & High Streets, Kyneton, Victoria.



Kyneton War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders/Roger Johnson)



E. Hahn is remembered on the Redesdale Honour Roll, located in Redesdale Hall, Heathcote-Kyneton Road, Redesdale, Victoria.



Redesdale Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

(52 pages of Private Ernest Francis Hahn's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website. Note: Some forms have his name as "Eric Francis Hahn").

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

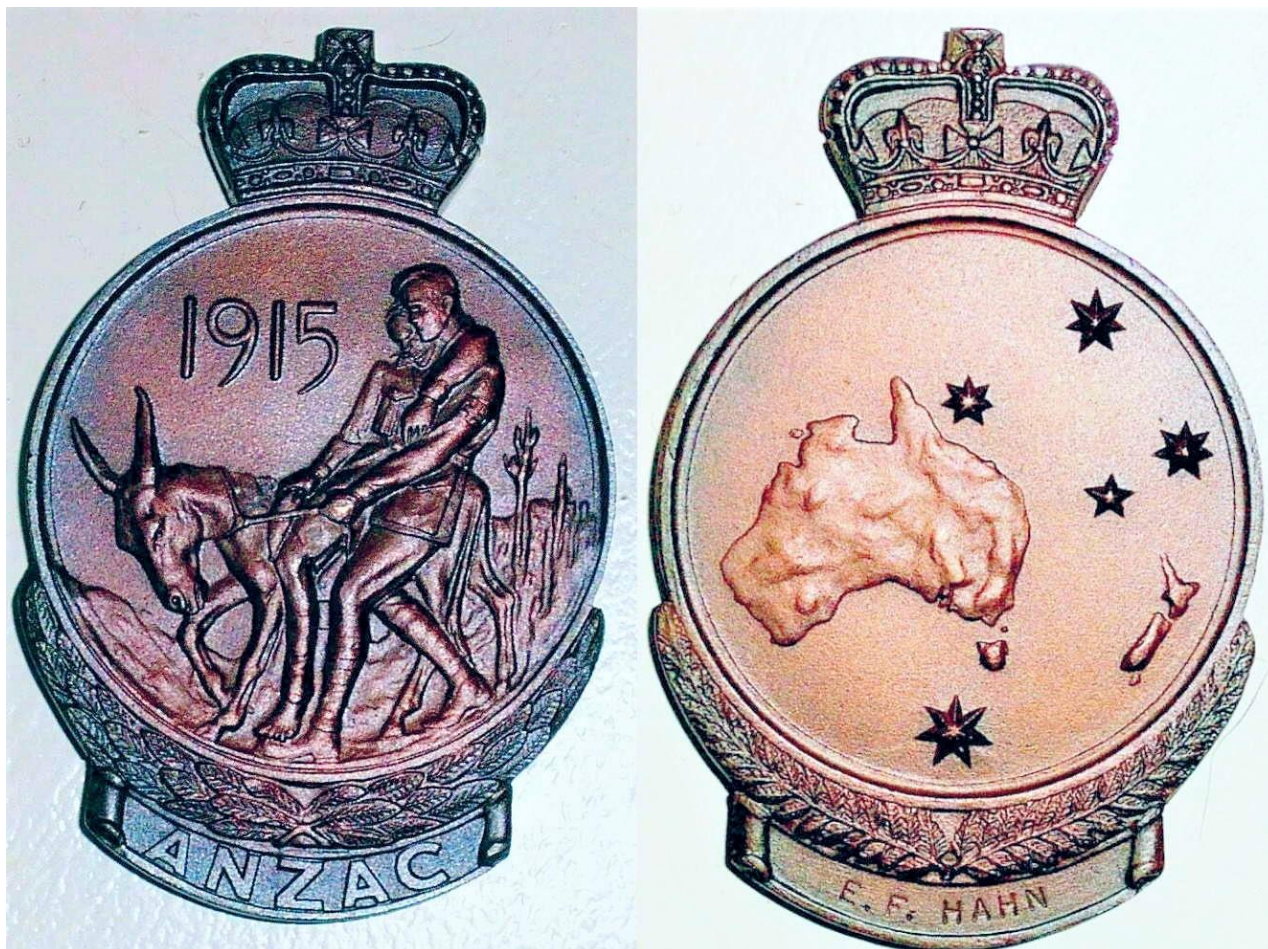


“Gallipoli Medal” – Anzac Commemorative Medallion

The Anzac Commemorative Medallion was instituted 1967. It was awarded to surviving members of the Australian forces who served on the Gallipoli Peninsula, or in direct support of the operations from close off shore, at any time during the period from the first Anzac Day in April 1915 to the date of final evacuation in January 1916.

(Department of Defence, Australian Government)

An Anzac Commemorative Medallion was issued on account of the service of Private Ernest Francis Hahn at Gallipoli.



Anzac Commemorative Medallion issued on behalf of Private E. F. Hahn

(Photos courtesy of Margaret Cooper- granddaughter of Private E. F. Hahn)

Newspaper Notices

FALLEN ON THE FIELD OF HONOR

The Soldier's Legacy.

Not land or wealth

That might be scattered by a spend thrift's hand

Leave I;

But I bequeath

A legacy of years

Unto the land I love.

Not life, but boyhood's dreams,

Lose I

To keep Australia free.

The mists are gathering oe'r Gallipoli;

.....Farewell!

—Twenty-One.

The following particulars of the careers of some of those who have died fighting for God and Empire Private Ernest Kahn, of Redesdale.

A few weeks ago Mr H. Hahn, of Redesdale, received word from the Defence Department that his son Ernest had been, wounded at the Dardanelles. All enquiries since failed to set any definite information re the extent of his wounds until last Tuesday week, when Mr Hahn, received a post card, unstamped, from his son saving he was wounded in the chest, but no particulars where he was located. The following night word came from the department that he was at Manchester Hospital. On Friday last the sad message of his death on June 25 last was sent by Canon Bishop, of Kyneton, to Mr Dawtry, Police station, who conveyed the sad tidings to the bereaved family, and messages of condolence from Canon Bishop, the Government and the King and Queen. Much sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs Hahn, as this is the third member of their family who has died in a strange land. The other two have died of enteric fever, one son, William, in Canada: a daughter, Lilian, in West Australia.

(Kyneton Guardian, Victoria – 6 July, 1915)

HEATHCOTE AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS KILLED

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Prior to the announcement of the above sad happening there was published the name of Pte E. Hahn, son of Mr H. Hahn, of Redesdale, who had been wounded and was in the Manchester hospital. The sad news has since, however, been conveyed to his relatives that the young soldier, who was only about 20 years of age, died of his wounds at the institution mentioned. Pte Hahn was a Queensland volunteer, he having been resident in the northern State some time previously to the outbreak of the war.

(The Mclvor Times and Rodney Advertiser, Heathcote, Victoria – 8 July, 1915)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

49th CASUALTY LIST

QUEENSLAND
DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte E. F. HAHN, 15th Batt, Redesdale, Vic, Enteric fever, Manchester

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 9 July, 1915)

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

PRIVATE E. F. HAHN

(died of enteric fever and wounds), was the son of Mr H. F. Han, a well-known resident of Redesdale. He was 21 years of age.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 July, 1915)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

HAHN – In loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Private Ernest Francis Hahn, 15th Battalion, Machine Gun Section, who passed away at Manchester from wounds received at Gallipoli, on the 22nd June, 1915.

Not gone from memory, not gone from love,

But gone to our Father's home above.

Rest in the Saviour, sweetly rest,

They miss you most who loved you best.

- Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers, Redesdale.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 June, 1916)

DEATHS

HAHN – on the 16th January, at Redesdale, Jane, beloved wife of H. F. Hahn, and loving mother of Mrs Gibbard (Windsor), Mrs Hyslop (Footscray), Mrs A. E. McMahon (Adelaide), Mrs Dalbson (Oaklands), Mrs Natrass, and Mrs Keddie (Perth), Lily (deceased), Jack, Bert, Harry (Redesdale), Henry (Deceased), Willie (deceased), Robert (deceased), Ernest (Anzac, killed on active service), aged 66 years; after a long illness.

At rest. Deeply mourned.

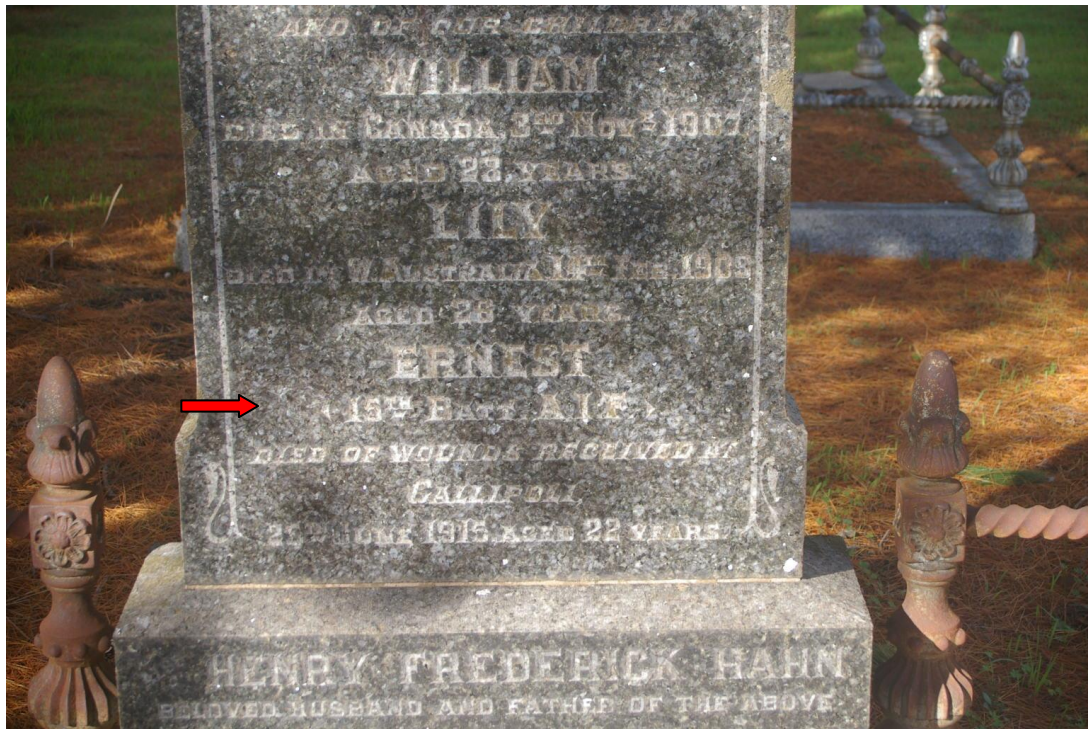
(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 January, 1919)

Ernest is remembered on the family headstone located in Heathcote Cemetery, Victoria.



Family Headstone – Jane Hahn, William, Lily, Ernest, Henry Frederick Hahn

(Photos courtesy of Carol's Headstone [photos](#))



ERNEST

15th BATT. A.I.F.

DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED AT

GALLIPOLI

25th JUNE, 1915, AGED 22 YEARS

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*)

A letter from Base Records, dated 14th July, 1921, to Mr H. F. Hahn, Post Office, Redesdale, via Kyneton, Victoria advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Private E. F. Hahn, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Mr Henry Hahn had requested the inscription "In loving memory of Private Ernest F. Hahn, Redesdale, Australia. Aged 22 years. Anzac." He was advised in August, 1921 that the soldier's name & age would already be inscribed on the headstone & to choose another inscription.

Private E. F. Hahn does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

Casualties buried in the following cemeteries and churchyards are now alternatively commemorated on Screen Wall Memorials in Manchester Southern Cemetery:

Ashton-under-Lyne (St Michael) Churchyard Extension
Birch-in-Rusholme (St James) Churchyard
Bury (Brunswick) United Methodist Cemetery
Cheetham Hill (St Luke) Churchyard
Eccles (St Mary) Churchyard
Eccleston (St Thomas) Churchyard Extension
Edgeworth Congregational Chapelyard
Hey (or Lees) (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension
Manchester General Cemetery
Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery
Openshaw (St Barnabas) Churchyard
Swinton Unitarian Chapelyard.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





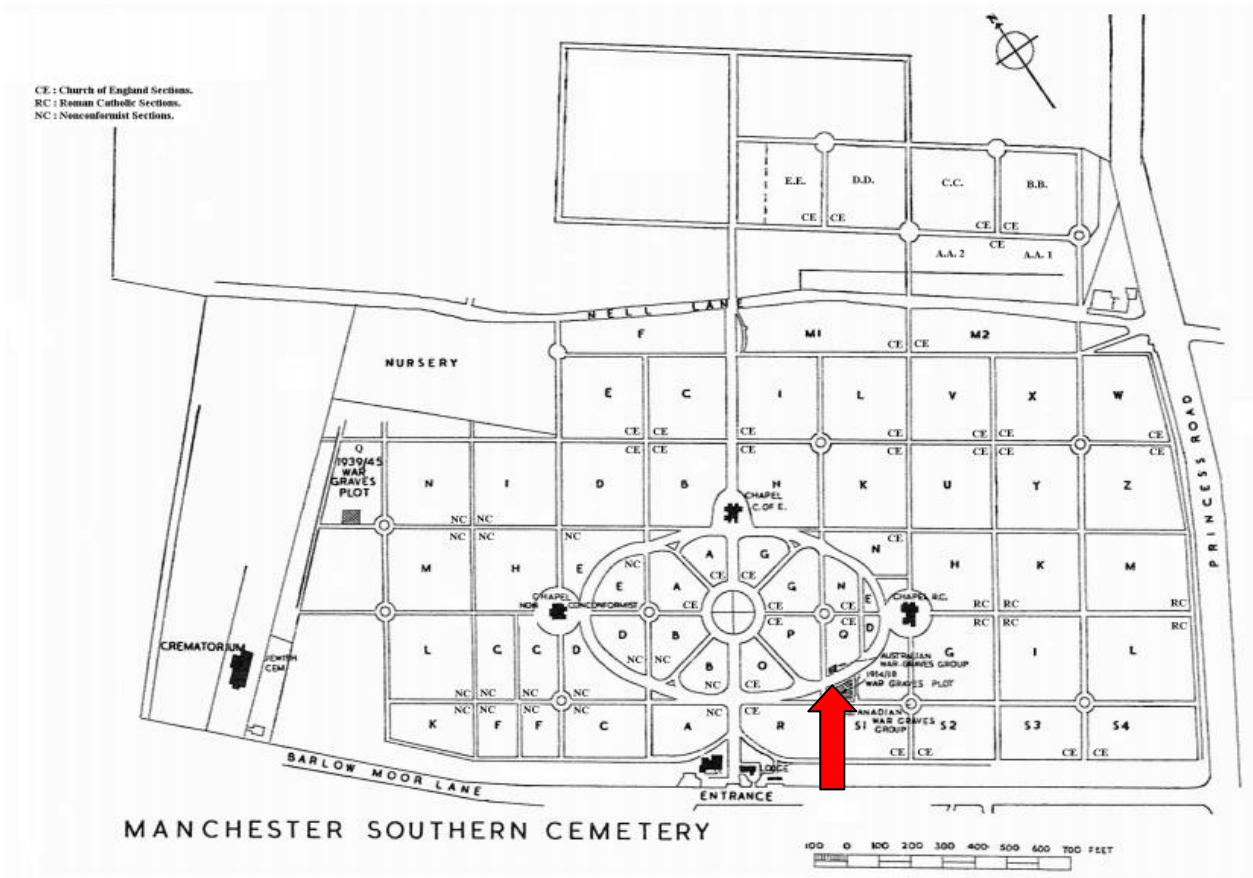
Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing 14 Australian War Graves from WW1 in this Plot



Photo of Private E. F. Hahn's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)



Southern Cemetery, Manchester (Australian War Graves Group marked with arrow)

