

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4481 PRIVATE

D. MORRISON

54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31ST DECEMBER, 1916

Donald MORRISON

Donald Morrison was born at Sydney, NSW around 1893 to parents Donald & Catherine Morrison (nee McPhee/MacPhee).

Donald Morrison attended Pyrmont Public School, Sydney, NSW.

Donald Morrison was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from 67 Union Street, Pyrmont, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Royal Agricultural Showground, Sydney, NSW on 3rd January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4481 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs C. Morrison, 67 Union Street, Pyrmont, Sydney, NSW. (Note: Occupation listed on Application to Enlist in the A.I.F. was Milkcarter. His address was listed as 284 St Johns Road, Forest Lodge with the form stamped 30th December, 1915 – Town Hall Recruiting Depot.)

Private Donald Morrison was posted to 11th Reinforcements of 17th Battalion on 3rd January, 1916 for recruit training.

Private Donald Morrison embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 9th April, 1916 with the 17th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea from 29th May, 1916 & discharged on 4th June, 1916. (Note: Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he was admitted to Ship's Hospital – *Megantic*). Private Morrison disembarked at Suez (no date recorded).

Private Donald Morrison was admitted to Fargo, Wiltshire, England on 4th September, 1916.

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 Donald Morrison joined 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 24th September, 1916.

Private Donald Morrison was transferred to 54th Battalion on 12th October, 1916 from 17th Battalion. He joined 54th Battalion in France on 12th October, 1916.

Private Donald Morrison was sent to 14th Field Ambulance on 9th November, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to 1st New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Amiens, France on 9th November, 1916 with Hydromeprosis. Private Morrison was transferred to Ambulance Train on 10th November, 1916 & admitted to 8th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 11th November, 1916. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *West Australia* on 12th November, 1916.

54th Battalion

The 54th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 2nd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 2nd, the 54th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Moving to France in June 1916, the 54th fought its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles, on 19 July. It was a disaster. The 54th was part of the initial assault and suffered casualties equivalent to 65 per cent of its fighting strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

From the War Diary 54th Battalion – November, 1916: they were located at the Somme from 1st – 8th November, 1916 then at Rainneville from 11th November, 1916.

Private Donald Morrison was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England on 15th November, 1916 with Hydromeprosis & was dangerously ill (Some forms have recorded he was admitted to 2nd Southern General

Hospital, Bristol on 3rd November, 1916 but he was still in France. The Hospital Admission form recorded he was admitted on 15th November, 1916). He was reported with Hydromeprosis (severe) on 15th November, 1916.

Mrs C. Morrison, 67 Union Street, Pyrmont, NSW, mother of Private Donald Morrison, was advised on 30th November, 1916 that Private D. Morrison had been admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital on 15th November, 1916 suffering from hydronophrosis, severe. Mrs Morrison was advised on 6th December, 1916 that her son was dangerously ill with Hydroneprosis.

Private Donald Morrison died on morning of 31st December, 1916 at 2nd Southern General Hospital (Southmead Section), Bristol, England from Hydromeprosis.

A death for Donald Morrison, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Donald Morrison was buried on 5th January, 1917 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 5. 732.

An envelope, located in the Service Record file of the late Private Donald Morrison, addressed to Mrs C. Morrison, 67 Union Street, Pyrmont, Sydney, New South Wales from Base Records in 1920 was returned to Base Records marked "*Left address – present address unknown.*"

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs C. Morrison, "Torfor", Raglan St, Mosman, NSW, mother of the late Private Donald Morrison, on 24th July, 1923, 25th September, 1924 & 23rd July, 1925, photographs depicting the Cross erected in the soldiers' corner of the Arnos Vale Cemetery, where her 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.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs C. Morrison, "Torfor", Raglan St, Mosman, NSW, mother of the late Private Donald Morrison, on 22nd August, 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 son was interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

An envelope, located in the Service Record file of the late Private Donald Morrison, addressed to Mr D. Morrison, "Torfor", Raglan St, Mosman, NSW from Base Records in 1930 was returned to Base Records marked "Unclaimed."

Private Donald Morrison was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Morrison's father – Mr D. Morrison, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private D. Morrison – service number 4481, of 54th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private D. Morrison is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 159.

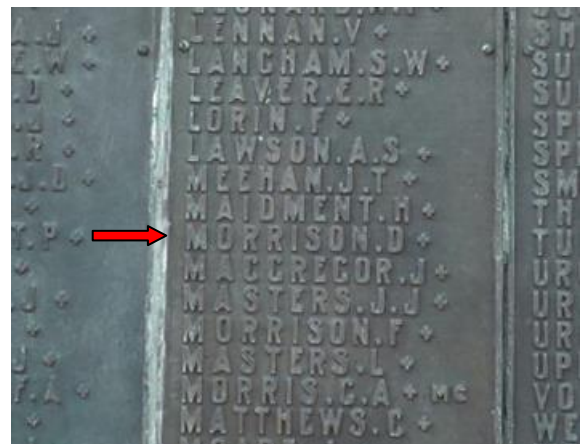


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

D. Morrison is remembered on the Pyrmont & Ultimo War Memorial, located at corner Harris & Miller Streets, Pyrmont, Sydney, NSW.



Pyrmont & Ultimo War Memorial (Photos from War Memorial Register NSW – David Roden)



(64 pages of Private Donald Morrison'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



**PRIVATE D. MORRISON,
of Pymont,
Died of illness.**

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 5 February, 1917)

Newspaper Notices

FOR AUSTRALIA

250th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte D. MORRISON, Pymont (seriously)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 14 December, 1916)

CASUALTIES

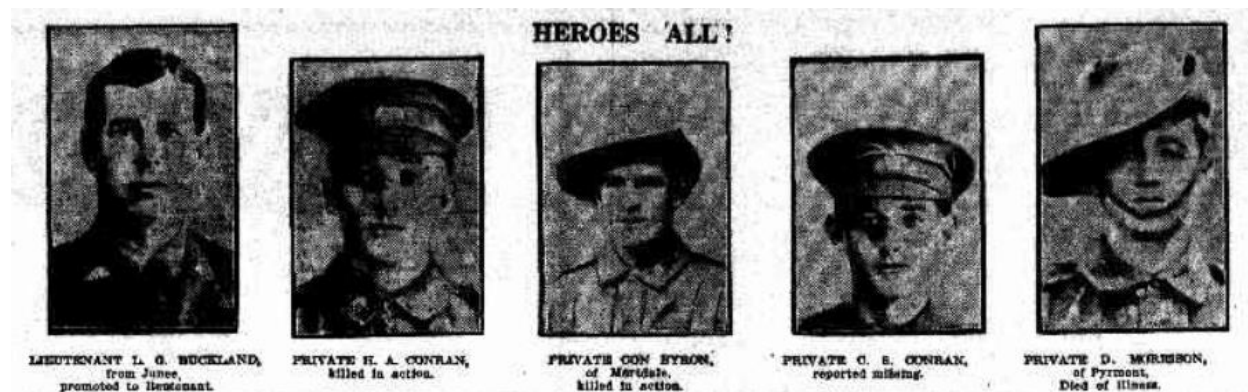
264th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Pte D. Morrison, Pymont

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 19 January, 1917)



(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 5 February, 1917)

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)



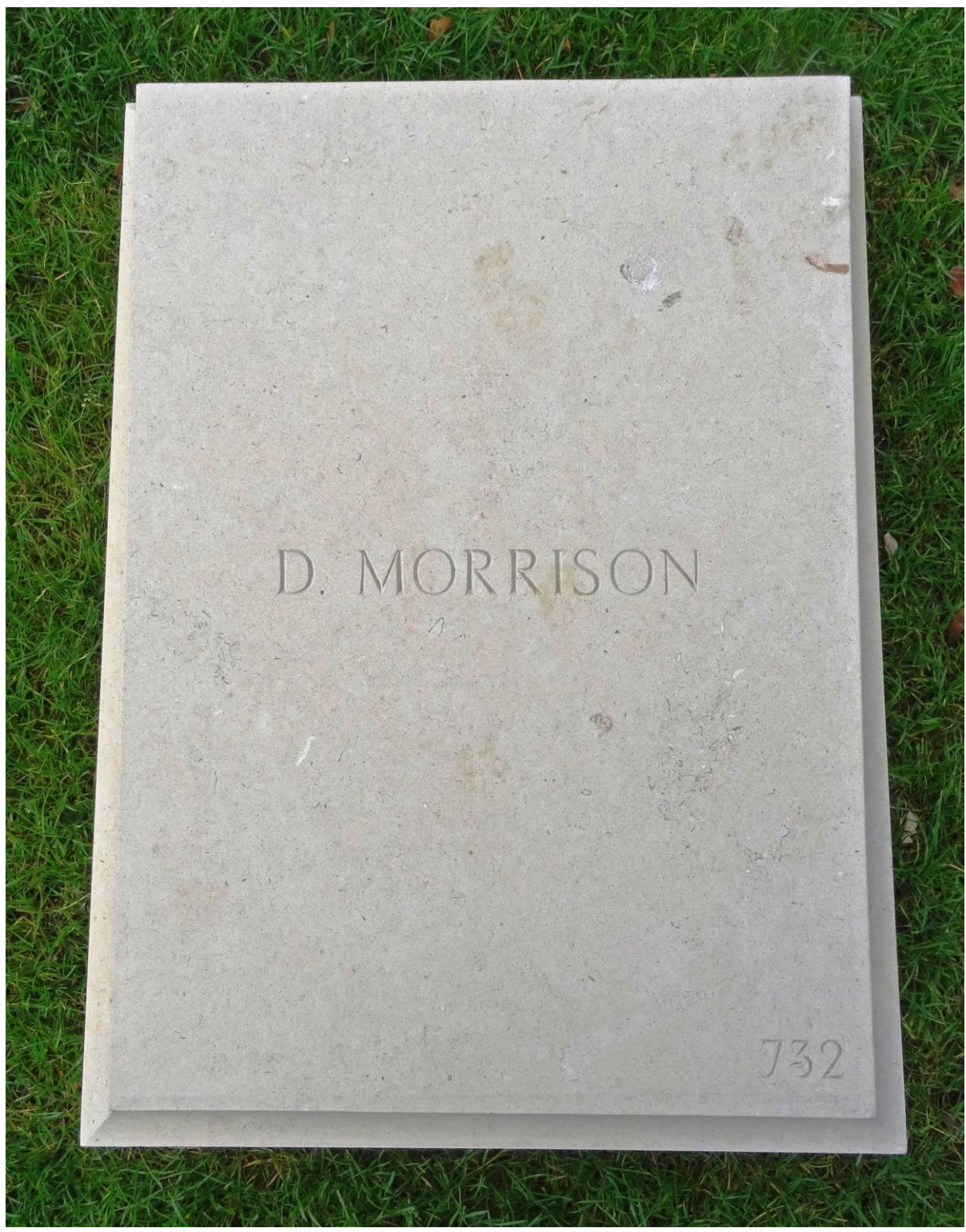
Soldiers' Corner – Arnos Vale Cemetery (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2017)

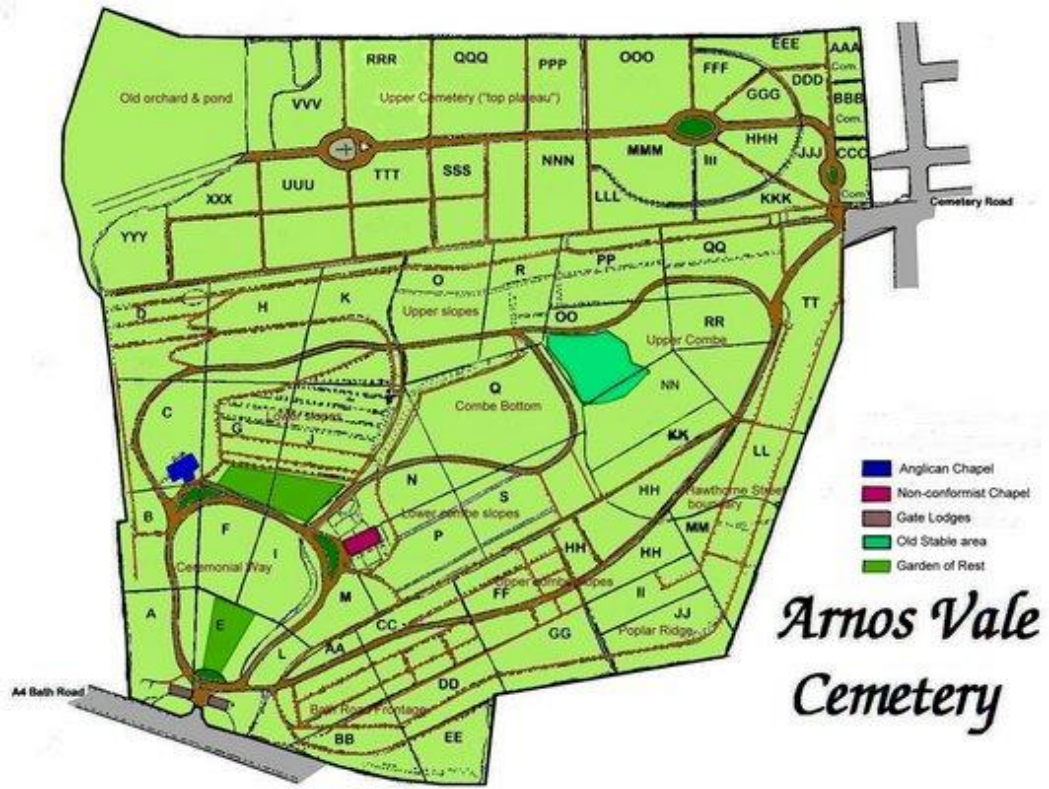


New Memorial Stones (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave November, 2018)

PTE. STANLEY E. JENKINS
PTE. THOMAS H. JACKSON
CPL. WILLIAM THORNTON JOHNSON
PTE. DONALD MORRISON
PTE. COLIN McCULLY
PTE. ROYAL EDWARD PENNA

PTE. BATTN.
26 TH BATTN.
25 TH BATTN.
54 TH BATTN.
1ST BATTN.
27 TH BATTN.





(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)