

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2200 PRIVATE

ALAN HERBERT NEWELL

23RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 20

The Lord Is My Shepherd

I Shall Not Want

Alan Herbert NEWELL

Allan Herbert McClure was born at Penguin, Tasmania on 1st August, 1896 to mother Mary Jane (May) Edmonds McClure.

[Mary Jane (May) McClure may have married Samuel John Aylett on 14th March, 1898 in Tasmania, which may have ended in a charge of desertion in 1906 in Victoria.]

Alan Herbert Newell attended Richmond State School. *(Note: information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour does not state whether he went to school in Richmond, Tasmania or Richmond, Victoria)*

[Births were registered for the following children of Edwin Percy Newell & May (Jane) Newell (nee Edmonds:- Irene Jessie Newell (birth registered 1906 in Carlton, Victoria); Edna California Newell (birth registered 1909 at Richmond, Victoria) & Albert Edwin Newell (birth registered 1915 at Northcote, Victoria.) These names match 3 of the names of the siblings of the late Private Alan Herbert Newell in a Memorial Notice placed in Victorian newspaper in 1916.]

Alan Herbert Newell was a 20 year old, single, Knitting Manufacturer from 64 Pender Street, Thornbury, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 16th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2200 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Newell, 64 Pender Street, Thornbury, Victoria.

As Alan Newell was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. May Newell signed her consent on 15th July, 1915 for her son Alan Herbert Newell – aged 19 years to enlist.

Private Alan Herbert Newell was posted to 46th Depot Company on 15th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 23rd Battalion on 20th July, 1915.

Private Allan Herbert Newell *(Note: Spelling of Allan as per Embarkation Roll)* embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Honorata (A20)* on 27th September, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.

(Note: Attestation Papers have the Christian name as "Allan" but his mother has completed the Information Sheet for the Roll of Honour & recorded her son as "Alan Herbert Newell.)

Private Alan Herbert Newell was taken on strength of 23rd Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 11th January, 1916.

Private Alan Herbert Newell proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 19th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 26th March, 1916 from Troopship *Lake Michigan*.

Private Alan Herbert Newell was charged 6/6d for the cost of replacing a Hat on 29th April, 1916.

Private Alan Herbert Newell was wounded in action in France on 4th August, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 4th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to his back & arms. Private Newell was transferred to 26th M.A.C. (Motor Ambulance Convoy) & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 4th August, 1916. He was then transferred & admitted to 22nd General Hospital, Etaples, France on 4th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to back & was dangerously ill. Private Newell embarked from Calais on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* on 15th August, 1916 for England.

23rd Battalion

The 23rd Battalion was raised in Victoria in March 1915 as the third battalion of the 6th Brigade. After initial training, it left Australia in March and arrived in Egypt, where it would complete its advanced training, in June.....

The battalion was next "in the line" on 10 April 1916, when it occupied forward trenches of the Armentieres sector in northern France. This relatively gentle introduction to the Western Front was followed in July by the horrific battles of Pozieres and Mouquet Farm, after which it was estimated that the Battalion lost almost 90 per cent of its original members.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary- 23rd Battalion

POZIERES – 4th August, 1916:

C & D Coys front line. A & B CHALK PIT Reserve Trench. Lieut. Col W. K. Fethers wounded. Major W. Brazenor assumed command. Operations Order received from Brigade that 22nd Battalion would attack O.G 1 & 2. 23rd Battalion 1 Coy would secure left flank 22nd Battalion and entrench along BRINDS ROAD from PT 36 to 91 (91 exclusive). Issued OPERATION ORDER No 27. Lieut Parkes commanded this covering party, Strength OFFICERS O.R.

6 pm – D Coy & 2 platoons A Coy assembled C Coys Trench

8.40 pm – Received information from Bde of Block in Saps with Adjutant cleared 22nd B/n who proceeded through orchard.

9.15 pm – Artillery barrage in conjunction with our Assault took place. “D” Coy & 1 platoon “A” Coy strength 120 moved from MOSS PT (58) to 91 exclusive. Commenced entrenching 3 x N.W. of ROAD. Bombs & M.G. fire troublesome.

10.24 pm – Message from Capt Smith stating 22nd Bn LEFT FLANK required reinforcing.

10.54 pm – A Coy less 2 platoons & B Coy reported Capt Beith at K. TRENCH PT 12

11 pm – Capt Main reported at 11 pm & was detailed for duty with 2 Runners a Liason Officer to SUSSEX BATTN

11.30 pm – Issued instructions to Capt Smith for two patrols Strength 12 each to reconnoitre trench parallel to our 85-36.

11.15 pm – Wounded man of trench digging party Company called and stated conditions up to PT 58. This man was only digging 10 minutes. Strength 29 OFF 790 OR

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mrs M. Newell, of 64 Pender Street, Thornbury, Victoria, mother of Private Alan Herbert Newell, was advised by Base Records on 14th August, 1916 that Private A. H. Newell was dangerously ill with gunshot wound to hand, back & shoulder.

Private Alan Herbert Newell was admitted to 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England on 15th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to Spine - severe.

Mrs M. Newell, of 64 Pender Street, Thornbury, Victoria, mother of Private Alan Herbert Newell, was advised by Base Records on 25th August, 1916 that Private A. H. Newell had been removed from the dangerously ill list.

Private Alan Herbert Newell died on 26th August, 1916 at 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. to Spine paralysis.

A death for Allen Newell, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Steyning, Sussex, England.

Private Alan Herbert Newell was buried in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIE.52 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mrs M. Newell, of 64 Pender Street, Thornbury, Victoria, mother of Private Alan Herbert Newell, was advised by Base Records on 29th August, 1916 that Private A. H. Newell was again dangerously ill.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Alan Herbert Newell contains a request from the Red Cross to obtain all the details of his death. A reply was sent from Sister B. Donit, of 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton

which reads: "Matron has asked me to write you the details of Pte Newell No 2200 23rd Battn, A.I.F., as he was in my ward. He was with us 10 days & gradually got weaker, the end was sudden, heart failure, he told us he had no pain & was most grateful for all that was done for him, and liked by all who knew him. The morning following his death, the Australians, in the same block, collected money round among their comrades to buy a wreath, & as so much was collected they wished what was over to be sent to his Mother, which I have done, as they thought she might like to buy some little memento in the shape of a photo frame. I have also written to his Mother & given all information about him. The Australians got permission to follow him to his grave & he lies in Brighton Cemetery. The wreath they gave him cost a guinea & was all white & Anzac written across in red. This is all there is to tell & I shall be glad if it is of any use to you."

The Matron, 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton added the following to the bottom of the letter by Sister Donit: "I will add a line to Sister's note to say I had the Chaplain visit this boy twice daily, and he seemed very happy & ready for anything. It was a real sorrow to us to have to let him go in spite of all that skill of surgery & Nursing could do. He was a sweet character I am sure & endeared himself to all. It may be a consolation to his friends to know that he was tended by gentle and skilled nurses who did all they could to ease & comfort him in the absence of his own dear ones."

Private Alan Herbert Newell was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Newell's mother – Mrs M. Newell, as the closest next-of-kin (father deceased). (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

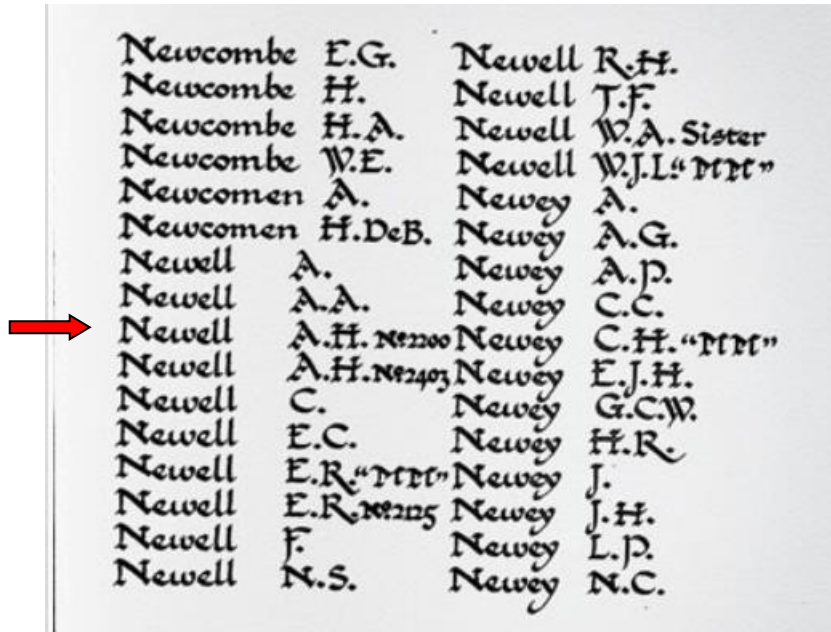
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alan Herbert Newell – service number 2200, aged 20, of 23rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mrs May Newell, of 64 Pender St., Thornbury, Victoria.

Private A. H. Newell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 99.



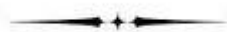
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. H. Newell is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(58 pages of Private Alan Herbert Newell'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





Private Alan Herbert Newell & his brother Albert Edwin Newell

(Photo courtesy Michelle Richards)



Newspaper Notices

Mr E. P. Newell, of Pender street, Northcote, has been notified that his son, Private A. H. Newell, was wounded in France. Private Newell left with the 23rd Battalion in September last, and has been in the trenches since April.

(Preston Leader, Victoria – 19 August, 1916) & (Northcote Leader, Victoria – 19 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

TWO LISTS ISSUED

...No. 200 and No. 201

WOUNDED AND DANGEROUSLY ILL

Pte A. H. NEWELL, Thornbury

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 August, 1916)

Deaths

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

NEWELL – Died in England, 26th August, from wounds received in France, Pte Alan Herbert Newell, dearly beloved son of Mrs E. P. Newell, 64 Penders street, Thornbury, aged 20 years and 3 weeks.

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Bravely he has done his share.

(*Preston Leader*, Victoria – 16 September, 1916) & (*Northcote Leader*, Victoria – 16 September, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

NEWELL – Died in England, August 26, from wounds received in France, Private Alan H. Newell, dearly loved son of Mrs E. P. Newell, 64 Penders street, Thornbury, loved brother of Ida, Jessie, Cali, and Albert, aged 20 years 3 weeks.

He laid down his life like a hero,
In response to his country's call,
There are many who'll remember and miss him,
Though he's only a private, that's all.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 September, 1916)

THE 215th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private A. H. Newell, Thornbury

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 23 September, 1916)

DIED ON THE FIELD OF HONOR



Pte. A. H. NEWELL



Pte. T. N. LYNCH

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 August, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NEWELL – In loving memory of my dear son, No. 2200, Private Alan H. Newell, 23rd Battalion, died in England on 27th August, 1916, of wounds received in France while helping a wounded comrade; loving brother of Ida, Jessie, Edna and Jim, aged 20 years.

Sadly missed by all.

A gallant hero, true and brave,
Peacefully sleeps in an English grave.
Great is my sorrow, but God knew best
When he took my loved one home to rest.
We picture his safe returning;
 We longed to clasp his hand;
But death has postponed our meeting –
 'Twill be in a better land.

-Inserted by his loving mother, May Newell, 64 Penders-street, Thornbury.

NEWELL – In loving memory of Private Alan H. Newell, who was wounded in France on the 3rd and died in England on the 27th August.

His King and country called him,
 The call was not in vain;
On Australia's roll of honor
 You will find dear Alan's name.
 Though only a private,
 But one of the best;
 He laid down his life
 Along with the best
 A soldier and a man.

-Inserted by I. and A.G.

NEWELL – MARTIN – In loving memory of our dear friend, Alan Newell, who died of wounds received in France 27th August, 1916, loving comrade of our dearly loved son, Claude Nelson Martin, killed in action 3rd May, 1917.

Two soldiers, yes, and heroes, too.
Sadly a mother is thinking
 Of her soldier son so brave,
Who fought for the cause of freedom
 And lies in a hero's grave.
We seem to see your faces, Lads,
 Through a mist of anxious tears;
Ah, the mother's part is a broken heart
 And a burden of lonely years.

-Inserted by F. and A. Martin and family, 24 Miller-street, West Melbourne.

NEWELL – A tribute to the memory of Private Alan H. Newell, who died in England on the 27th from wounds received in France on 3rd August, 1916, aged 20 years.

Amidst the roaring of the battle
And the rain and shot and shell,
Fighting for home and loved ones,
The true-born hero fell.
How noble was the death he died,
His life so short a span;
We'll always think of you, Alan,
You died as you lived – a man.

-Inserted by his loving grandmother, aunt Ethel and uncle Walter Edmonds.

NEWELL – In sad and loving memory of my nephew, Private Alan. H. Newell, who died on the 27th August, 1916, of wounds received in France, aged 20 years.

His King and country called him,
The call was not in vain;
On Australia's roll of honor
You'll find my nephew's name.

-Inserted by his uncle Joe.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NEWELL – In loving memory of my dear son, No. 2200, 23rd Batt., Pte Alan H. Newell, who died of wounds in England on 27th August, 1916, aged 20 years.

Remember that his manhood
Had scarcely 'ere begun,
And now a simple wooden cross
Show duty nobly done.
To have, to love, and then to part
Is the saddest part of a mother's life.

-Inserted by mother, 64 Pender-street, Thornbury.

NEWELL – In loving memory of my dear brother, Pte Alan H. Newell, 23rd Batt., who died in England from wounds received in France 27th August, 1916, age 20 years.

He has sailed on his last long journey
In a beautiful barque called Rest,
And now he is safely resting
On his Great Commander's breast.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Ida and Les. Wilding, 96 Collins-street, Thornbury.

NEWELL – A tribute to the memory of No. 2200, Pte Alan Newell, 23rd Batt., who gave up his young life fighting for England and home on 27th August, 1916, aged 20 years.

Sleep on, dear Alan, in a soldier's grave,
Your life for the Empire you freely gave.

-Inserted by E. Newell.

NEWELL – In loving memory of my dear cousin, No. 2200, 23rd Batt., Pte Alan H. Newell, died of wounds in Kitchener Hospital, Brighton, England, 27th August, 1916, aged 20 years.

Our hero was full of life, of eager zest,
The mainspring of that gift which we call joy;
Gay as a child, but those who knew him best
Fathomed the deeper feelings of the boy.
His heart was tender, yet amid the strife
He fought with valor till his latest breath;
Yet he who welcomed every day of life
Went forth unflinchingly to meet his death,
And we who are his loved ones are left to mourn.

-Inserted by his cousin, Edith Williamson, Thornbury.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NEWELL – In sad remembrance of my loved son, Private Alan Herbert, who died 27th August, 1916, from wounds received in France while helping a wounded comrade, dearly loved eldest grandson of late Mary Edmonds, brother of Ida, Jessie, Edna and Jim, aged 20 years, late of 64 Pender-street, Thornbury.

A call to duty 'twas nobly done,
In doing that duty a crown was won;
No fear for self in trying to save
The life of another his life he gave.

-Inserted by mother, May Newell.

NEWELL – In sad but loving memory of our dear nephew, Private Alan H. Newell, who died of wounds in England on 27th August, 1916.

Sadly missed.

His King and country called him,
The call was not in vain;
On Australia's roll of honor
You will see our hero's name.

-Inserted by his aunt and uncles E.M.E., W.E.E. and J.H.N.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NEWELL-EDMONDS-AKED – In loving remembrance of my dear son, Private Alan. H. Newell, 23rd Battalion, died of wounds 27th August, 1916, aged 20 years; also his dear grandma, died at Thornbury 2nd May, 1919; also his true comrade of many years, John Aked (late A.I.F.) died at Footscray 2nd May, 1919. So sadly missed by all.

Time changes everything,
But memory, like the ivy, clings.

-Mother, brother and sisters.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 August, 1920)

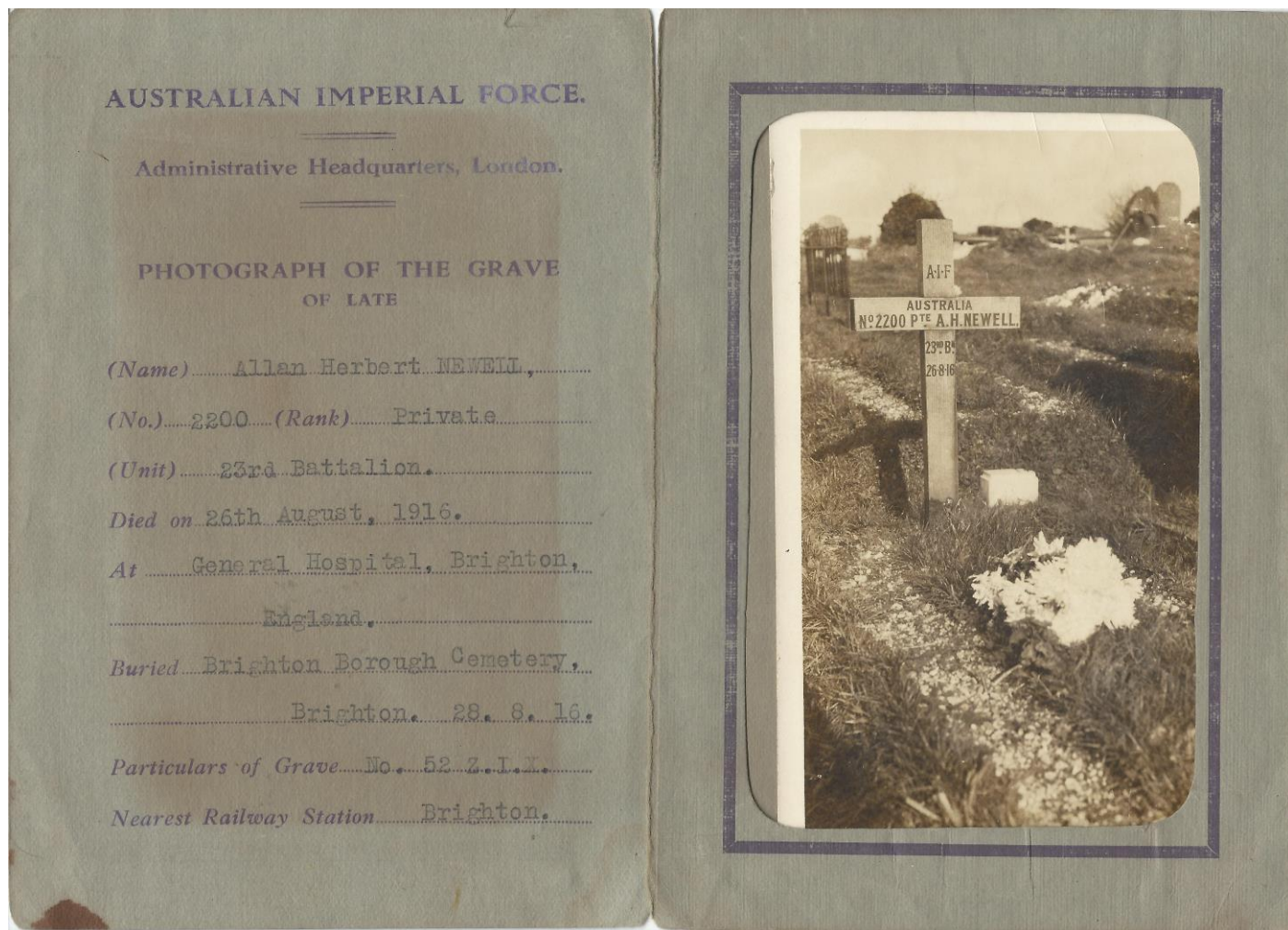
IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NEWELL – In loving memory of my dear son, Private Alan H. Newell, died of wounds on 27th August, 1916, aged 20 years, loving grandson of late Mrs M. Edmonds, of Thornbury. Sadly missed.

-Mother.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 August, 1921)



Photograph of the original grave marker cross sent to the next of kin of the late Alan Herbert Newell

(Photo courtesy Michelle Richards)



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 Alan Herbert Newell does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Is My Shepherd I Shall Not Want

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private Alan Herbert Newell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham)