

Cheltenham Cemetery
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2506 LANCE CPL.

P. J. PENKETH

17TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

29TH APRIL, 1918 Age 26

In Memory Of My Dear Son

Who Died For Freedom

Peace Perfect Peace

Mother

Percy James PENKETH

Percy James Penketh was born in 1891 at Forest Lodge, Sydney, NSW to parents James William & Eva Eliza Alma Penketh (nee Moffitt).

Percy James Penketh was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Esta Road, Balmoral Beach, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, NSW on 2nd August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2506 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Penketh, of Esta Road, Balmoral Beach, NSW.

Private Percy James Penketh was posted to B Company, 5th Reinforcements on 17th Battalion for recruit training.

Private Percy James Penketh embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 5th October, 1915 with the 17th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Egypt.

Private Percy James Penketh embarked from Alexandria on 17th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd March, 1916.

A Board of Inquiry Decision was made on 19th August, 1916 that Private P. J. Penketh was wounded & missing.

Private Percy James Penketh was wounded in action in France on 25th August, 1916. He was admitted to Corps Collecting Station on 25th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to arm. Private Penketh was transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 27th August, 1916 with GSW (gunshot wound/s) to left arm. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Jan Brydel* on 28th August, 1916.

Private Percy James Penketh was admitted to 2nd K. G. H. Leeds, (Statement of Service form records the Hospital at 2nd Northern General Hospital) England on 29th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to left arm. He was discharged to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 21st September, 1916 from 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital.

Mrs E. Penketh, of Esther Road, Balmoral Beach was advised on 22nd September, 1916 that her son Private Percy J. Penketh had been wounded.

Private Percy James Penketh was granted furlough from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire England from 23rd September, 1916.

Private Percy James Penketh proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 11th November, 1916 from 5th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 13th November, 1916, Private Penketh rejoined his Battalion in France on 24th November, 1916.

Private Percy James Penketh was 1. AWL (Absent without leave) from 2.30 pm on 8th December, 1916 to 12 noon on 9th December, 1916 – 21 ½ hours while posted in France & 2. AWL (Absent without leave) from 2 pm on 9th December, 1916 to 7 pm on 9th December, 1916 – 5 hours. He was awarded 10 days F.P. (Field Punishment) No. 2 & forfeited a total of 12 days' pay.

Private Percy James Penketh was appointed Lance Corporal to complete establishment from 3rd May, 1917 while posted with 17th Battalion in France.

Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh was AWL (Absent without leave) from 5 am on 5th July, 1917 till 5 pm on 6th July, 1917. His punishment was reduced to rank of Private & forfeited 2 days' pay from 12th July, 1917.

Private Percy James Penketh was appointed Lance Corporal to complete establishment from 25th September, 1917 while posted with 17th Battalion in France.

Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh was wounded in action in France (2nd occasion) on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 17th April, 1918 having been gassed (shell) then transferred to Ambulance Train on 18th April, 1918. Lance Corporal Penketh was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th April, 1918. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle* on 21st April, 1918.

War Diary – 17th Battalion

GENTELLES:

16.4.18 – *Our position heavily shelled with 8 inch & ____ from 2 pm to 4 pm. Casualties 2 OR killed & 5 wded.*

17.4.18 – *Very quiet day.*

18.4.18 – *Relieved by 2/2 Londoners. Bn bivouacked near NOIS de BLANGY. Received word that we are to move to QUERRIEU tomorrow. 2 OR killed & 2 wded with bombs.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

17th Battalion

The 17th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.

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After further training in Egypt, the 17th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 22 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August. The Battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time, although in a reserve role, between 18 and 28 August.

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In 1917 the 17th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost four times as strong, at Lagincourt. The battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh was admitted to Voluntary Aid Hospital – 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Bristol on 22nd April, 1918 & was reported as dangerously ill.

The Hospital Admissions form records that Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh was admitted to Priory Hospital, Cheltenham, England on 22nd April, 1918.

Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh died at 12.30 am on 29th April, 1918 at Cheltenham Area Hospital, Gloucestershire, England from wounds – Gassed. The Hospital Admissions form records that Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh died of cardiac failure & double Pneumonia. A Cablegram to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London advised that “2506 Lance Corporal Penketh 17th A.I.F. died 12.30 am Brother present.”

A death for Percy Penketh, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh was buried at 3 pm on 2nd May, 1918 in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England – Plot number N. 9287 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths which were sent by the Nursing Staff and patients of the Priory V.A.D. Hospital. Firing Party and Bugler were supplied by the Gloucester Volunteer Regt. Pallbearers by patients by Priory V.A.D. Hospital, Cheltenham. Several of the Nursing Staff and about 50 patients from the Priory V.A.D. Hospital followed the remains to the Cemetery. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Cemetery Chapel by Rev. A. C. Gabell. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names and address of relatives or friends present at funeral – Brother 3444 M. D. Penketh, (L/Cpl) Postal section, A.I.F. Hqrs, London.

(Note: according to Australian War Memorial & Commonwealth War Graves Commission records – Private Milton Dudley Penketh was killed in action on 5th November, 1916.)

Percy James Penketh requested in his Will dated 15th August, 1917 that all his personal estate be left to his mother – Eva Penketh of Esther Road, Balmoral Beach, Mosman, NSW.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Penketh, of 2 Burwood Road, Burwood, NSW, mother of the late Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh & Private M. D. Penketh, in July, 1920 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically in their father was alive & if so could she provide his address due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs E. Penketh replied to Base Records stating she was classed in all military reports as a “*deserted wife having had no support nor do I know his whereabouts during the past fifteen years.*”

Mrs E. Penketh, of Balmoral House, 139 Military Road, Mosman, Sydney, NSW, mother of the late Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh, wrote to Base Records in February, 1919 enquiring if her son had been entitled to a Military Medal as she had “*heard lately from some returned men that he did.*” Base Records replied stating that no advice had been received at their Office that Lance Corporal P. J. Penketh had been awarded any Decoration.

Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Penketh’s mother - Mrs E. Penketh, as there was no trace of the father. (Scroll sent September, 1921 – returned & readdressed October, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922 - returned & readdressed November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh – service number 2506, aged 26, of 17th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James William & Eva Penketh, of Women’s Retreat, Church St., Burwood, Sydney, New South Wales. His brother Milton Dudley Penketh also fell.

Lance Corporal P. J. Penketh is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 83.

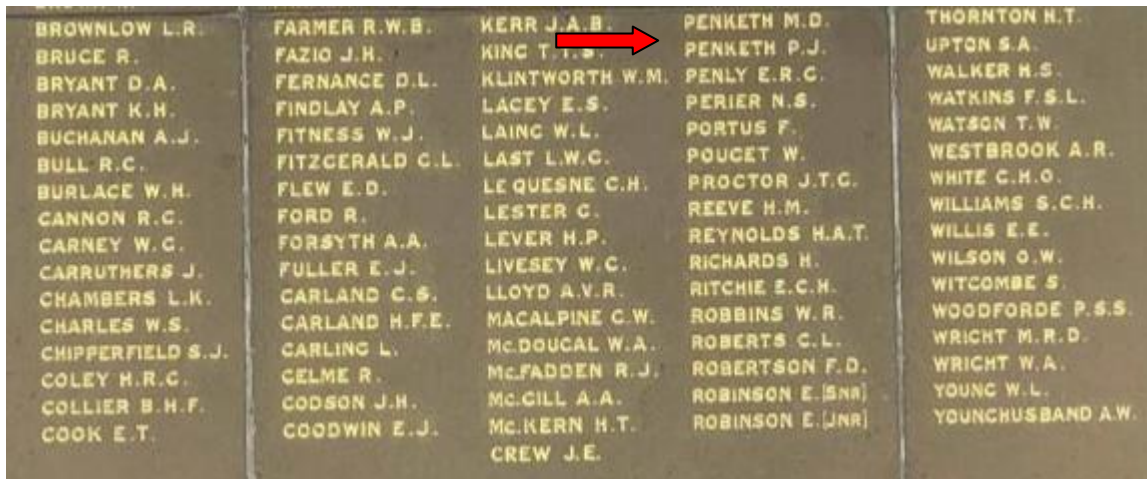


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

P. J. Penketh & his brother – M. D. Penketh, are remembered on the Mosman War Memorial, located at Alan Border Oval, Myahgah Road & The Crescent, Mosman, NSW.



Mosman War Memorial (Photos from Places of Pride – AWM – Gavin Fordyce)



P. J. Penketh & his brother – M. D. Penketh, are remembered on the St. Clement's World War 1 Roll of Honour, 144 Raglan Street, Mosman, NSW.



St. Clement's World War 1 Roll of Honour (Photo from War Memorial Register NSW)

(71 pages of Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh'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



[Connected to Lance Corporal Percy James Penketh:](#)

Younger brother – Private Milton Dudley Penketh, 3444, 1st Battalion – Enlisted on 12th July, 1915. Embarked 5th October, 1915 from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) with his brother Private Percy James Penketh. Killed in action 5th November, 1916, aged 22. Remembered on Villers Bretonneux Memorial, France.

Older brother – Private Clyde Vivian Penketh, 3112, 3rd Battalion – Enlisted 2nd August, 1915, aged 32. Embarked 8th October, 1915 from Sydney on HMAT *Warilda* (A69). Returned to Australia 15th November, 1919.



Newspaper Notices

THE PENKETHS OF MOSMAN

THE PENKETHS OF MOSMAN.



**PTE. M. D. PEN-
KETH,**
of Mosman,
now in France.



**CRPL. V. PEN-
KETH,**
of Mosman,
wounded and
dangerously ill.



**PTE. P. J. PEN-
KETH,**
of Mosman,
now in France.

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 30 August, 1916)

WOUNDED

PRIVATE P. J. PENKETH

Private Perry J. Penketh, fourth son of Mrs E, Penketh, of Mosman, has been wounded in France. The eldest son, Private Clyde, is also in hospital suffering from wounds. The youngest son, Private Milton, is in action in France.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 26 September, 1916)

TOWN AND COUNTRY

The convoy of soldiers which arrived at Cheltenham recently included a number of men suffering from gas poisoning. Three of them have since succumbed – Pte Jerrom at St. John Hospital, Pte Albert Callaghan at Suffolk Hall Hospital and Pte Penketh at the Priory. All of them belonged to the Australian Imperial Force, and arrived in Cheltenham on the same day, namely, April 22nd.

(Cheltenham Chronicle, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England – 4 May, 1918)

APRIL FIGHTING

HEAVY CASUALTY LIST

MANY MEN GASSED

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Pte P. J. PENKETH, Balmoral Beach, C.M.S.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 20 May, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

PENKETH – Died at Cheltenham Area Hospital, England, April 28, 1918, of wounds and effects of gas received in France, after two years' and a half of active service, Pte Percy James Penketh, fourth beloved son of Mrs E. Penketh, of Military-road, Mosman, aged 26 years. A brave life nobly ended. Inserted by his sorrowing mother, sisters and brothers, Ida, Gladys, Raymond and Clyde (on active service).

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 June, 1918)

On Active Service

PENKETH – In loving memory of my dear sons, Lance-cpl. M. D. Penketh, 1st Batt., killed in action, November 5, 1916, at Flers, France, aged 22 years; also his brother, Lance-cpl. Percy James, died of gas effects at the Priory Hospital, Cheltenham, England on April 29, 1918, aged 26 years, 17th Batt.

In honour's cause they died and found their graves,
Life's battle o'er across the ocean waves;
But now they ___ where other loved ones are,
In yon fair ___ safe across the bar.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother, sister, Gladys, brothers, Raymond and Clyde (on active service).

PENKETH – In loving memory of my dear brother, Lance-cpl. Milton Dudley, killed in action, November 5, 1916 at Flers, France, also his brother, Lance-cpl, Percy James, died of gas, in England, on April 29, 1918.

Soldiers rest, they warfare o'er,
Sleep the sleep that knows no breaking;
Dream of battle fields no more,
Days of danger, nights of waiting.

Inserted by his sorrowing sisters, Alma. brother-in-law Jack, and family.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

PENKETH – In loving memory of my dear sons, Lance-cpl. Milton, 1st Batt., killed in action, Flers, November 5, 1916; also Lance-cpl. Percy, 17th Batt., died April 29, 1918, in England, from gas effects received at Villers Bretonneux.

They sleep among the honoured dead,
Their duty nobly done.

Inserted by their sorrowing mother, sister Gladys, brothers, Raymond and Clyde (on active service).

PENKETH – In loving memory of my dear brothers, Lance-cpl. M. D. Penketh, 1st Batt., killed in action, November 5, 1916 at Flers, France; also Lance-cpl. P. J. Penketh, 17th Batt., died April 29, 1918, in England, from gas effects received at Villers Bretonneux.

So dealy loved,
So sadly missed

Inserted by their sorrowing sister and brother-in-law, Mrs and Mr Roberts, and family.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 November, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

PENKETH – In affectionate remembrance of Lance-cpl. Percy James Penketh, 17th Batt, died in England, April 29, 1918 from gas effects received at Villers Bretonneux, aged 26 years. Also Lance-cpl. Milton Dudley Penketh, 1st Batt., killed in action, Fleurs, November 5, 1916, aged 21 years. Beloved son of Mrs E. Penketh, formerly of Mosman.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 April, 1921)

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)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

PENKETH – In affectionate remembrance of my dear sons, Lance-cpl. Percy James Penketh, 17th Batt., died April 29, 1918, at Cheltenham, England, from gas effects received at Villers Bretonneux, April 24, 1918, aged 26 years; also Lance-cpl. Milton Dudley Penketh, 1st Batt., missing, Flers, November 5, 1916, aged 22 years. Deeply mourned. Mother.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 April, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

PENKETH – In loving remembrance of my dear sons, Lance-corporal Percy James Penketh, died April 29, 1918, at Cheltenham, England, from gas effects received at Villers Bretonneux, aged 26 years; also Lance-corporal Milton Dudley Penketh, missing, Flers, November 5, 1916, aged 22 years. Mother.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 30 April, 1926)

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)

Lance Corporal P. J. Penketh does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of My Dear Son Who Died For Freedom

Peace Perfect Peace

Mother

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.

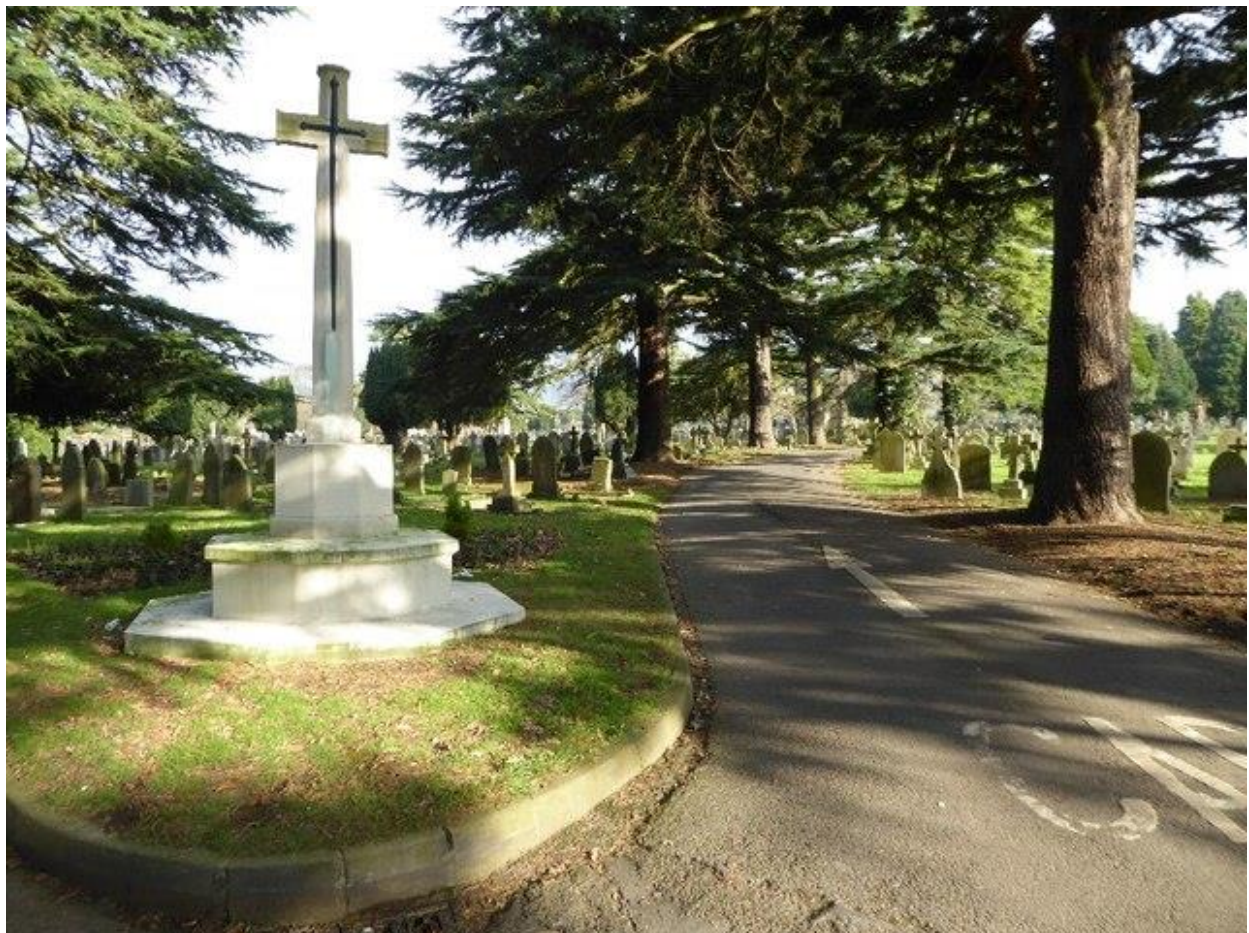
(Information from CWGC)



Entrance to Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



War Graves in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire *(Photo from CWGC)*

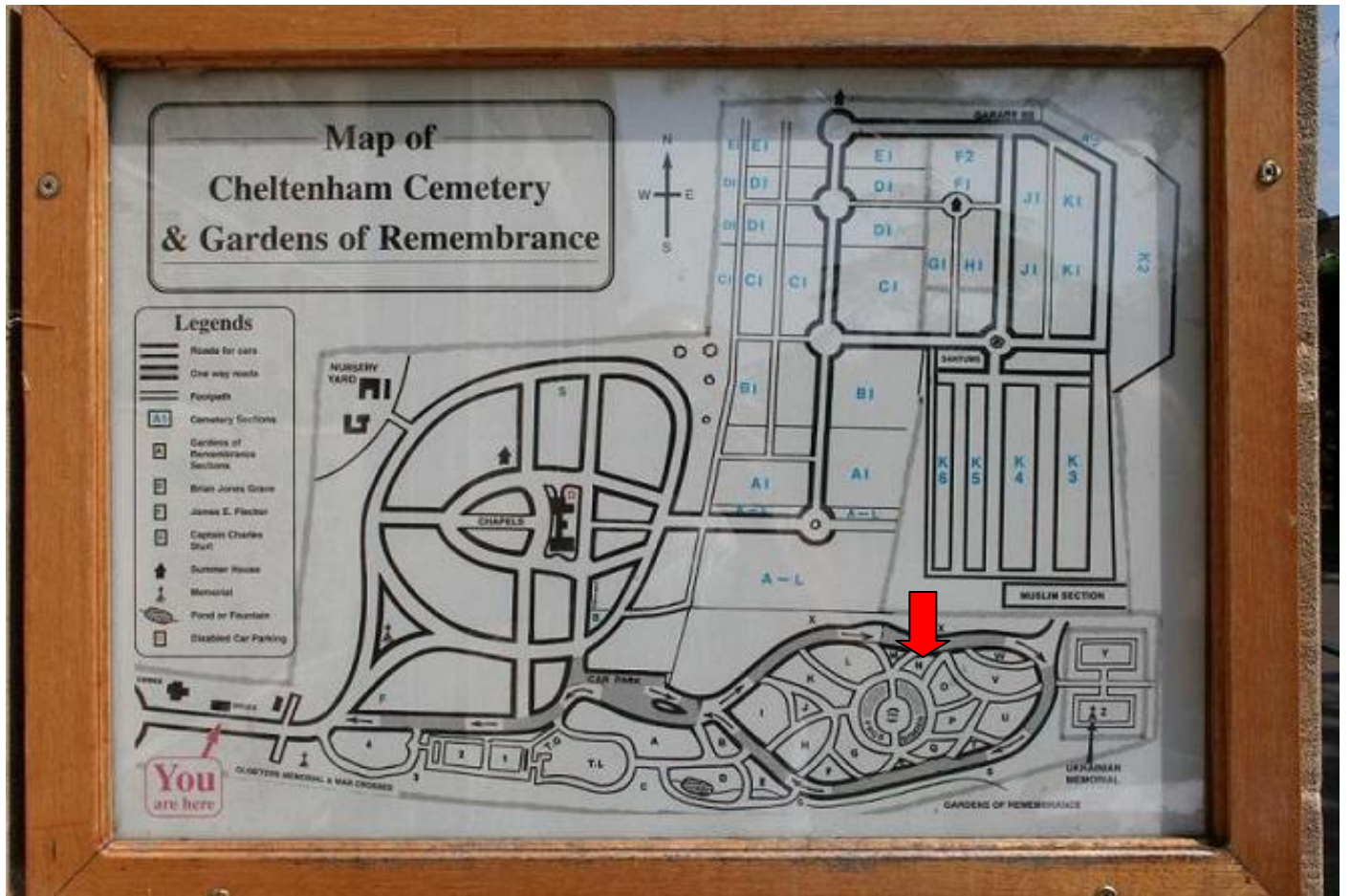


Cross of Sacrifice in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire *(Photo by Philip Halling)*

Photo of Lance Corporal P. J. Penketh's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England.



(Photo by Alf – Military Images)



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