

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3249 PRIVATE

R. E. PENNA

27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 22

Royal Edward (Roy) PENNA

Royal Edward Penna was born at Sevenhills, South Australia on 8th November, 1893 to parents John Henry and Hannah Penna (nee Lovell).

Royal Edward Penna attended Flinders Street Public School, Adelaide, South Australia.

Royal Edward Penna was a 22 year old, single, Shoemsmith from Waller Street, Goodwood, South Australia when he enlisted on 5th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3249 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Hannah Penna, of Waller Street, Goodwood, South Australia.

Private Royal Edward Penna was posted to "A" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 5th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 27th Battalion on 16th September, 1915. Private Penna was admitted to Clearing Hospital at Mitcham on 19th November, 1915 with Tonsillitis & discharged on 24th November, 1915.

Private Royal Edward Penna embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 12th January, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 27th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

Private Royal Edward Penna embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 21st March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916.

Private Royal Edward Penna was taken on strength of 27th Battalion in France on 1st June, 1916.

Private Royal Edward Penna was wounded in action on 4th August, 1916. He was admitted to No. 2 Field Ambulance on 4th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to hand & arm. Private Penna was transferred & admitted to No. 45 Casualty Clearing Station on 4th August, 1916 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 5th August, 1916. He was admitted to No. 1 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 6th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to left hand, arm, groin & leg. Private Penna embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian* on 9th August, 1916.

27th Battalion

The 27th Battalion was raised in South Australia in March 1915, from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, a large number of whom hailed from the suburbs of Adelaide.....

After another stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France as part of the 2nd Australian Division. The 27th Battalion entered the front-line trenches for the first time on 7 April 1916 and took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 28 July and 5 August.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 27th Battalion

3rd August, 1916:

Work continued as before.

Wounded Lieut Pollar and 7 O.R.

Night 4/5th August, 1916:

Attacked position on left of BAPAUME Rd at 9 pm. Attacked and captured two lines of trenches and strong point at windmill. Narrative Attached.

Casualties: Officers - Lieut Selth, Killed, Major Cunningham, Missing, Lieut Pearce, Missing.

Capt. G. Dey, wounded, Lieut Clyde, wounded, Lieut Boorne, wounded, Lieut Rowe, wounded.

Lieut Campbell, wounded, Lieut Juldge, wounded, Lieut Ridge, wounded.

Other ranks Killed 40 Wounded 289 Missing 67

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Royal Edward Penna was admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England on 10th August, 1916. He was reported as seriously ill on 4th September, 1916.

Private Royal Edward Penna died on 4th September, 1916 at Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left hip, Septic Arthritis & exhaustion.

A death for Edward R. Penna, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Royal Edward Penna was buried 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 AA. 5. 731.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Royal Edward Penna contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of his friends in Adelaide to obtain the fullest details possible into his illness, death and burial. Matron K. Underwood, Beaufort Hospital, Bristol, England replied with the following letter regarding Private Royal Edward Penna: *"Died of wounds – I am writing particulars to his sister in Australia but shall be glad to tell you what I can respecting his death etc. Private Penna was a man of whom we were all fond such a nice man, and the sister over him could not have done more for him had she been his Mother. He was delirious for quite three weeks, before he died, and had a special night nurse for a long time. There were a great many Australian in the same War who paid him every respect and kindness, and there was one orderly in particular, whom poor Penna always called for. He was present with him when he died as of course was Sister and Nurse. He died of "Septicaemia" following bad gunshot wounds of the thigh. I can truthfully assure his friends that everything possible was done for him, he was so much liked by all who came in contact with him, and we felt so sad to think his own people was not with him. He did not recover consciousness, before passing away, after being delirious the three weeks, he therefore never asked for his people, he knew me sometimes and the sister but only for a few minutes together. He was followed to his last resting place the Bristol Cemetery (its name I am not sure of) by some of the Sisters, other soldier, his favourite orderly and others, and he had wreaths on his coffin. I have rambled rather I fear, but I thought you could abbreviate as you think fit. I knew this poor fellow very well indeed, it was such a sad sight to see him so ill for such a long time, but he did appear to suffer, his delirium was the worst we had to contend with. I came to London yesterday from the Beaufort Hospital, and brought your letter with me to answer hence it is written at the address given. I return to Bristol to-morrow, should you require to know anything more. He died of gunshot wound of hip resulting in Septic Arthritis exhaustion."*

Private Royal Edward Penna was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Penna's mother – Mrs H. Penna, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent June, 1922). John Henry Penna, father of the late Private Royal Edward Penna, died 19th December, 1918 in the district of Adelaide, South Australia.

Hanna Penna, mother of the late Private Royal Edward Penna, died 4th May, 1922 in the district of Adelaide, South Australia.

Base Records forwarded on to Mr A. J. L. Penna, Lanore Avenue, Goodwood Park South Australia, brother of the late Private Royal Edward Penna, on 17th June, 1931, a copy of the "Western Daily Press" containing an article on the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of his brother were interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mr A. J. L. Penna, Lanore Avenue, Goodwood Park South Australia, brother of the late Private Royal Edward Penna, on 17th June, 1932 & 15th June, 1933, copies of the "Western Daily Press" and "Evening World" featuring the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of his brother were interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mr A. J. L. Penna, Lanore Avenue, Goodwood Park South Australia, brother of the late Private Royal Edward Penna, on 28th June, 1935, 22nd June, 1936 & 12th August, 1937, copies of the "*Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror*" featuring this year's Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of his brother were interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Royal Edward Penna – service number 3249, aged 22, of 27th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John Henry and Hannah Penna, of 77 Weller St., Goodwood Park, South Australia.

Private R. E. Penna is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 111.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. E. Penna is remembered on the Unley City Honour Roll, located at Unley Town Hall, Unley Road & Oxford Terrace, Unley, South Australia.



Unley City Honour Roll (Photo from RSL Virtual War Memorial)

R. E. Penna is remembered on the Unley Memorial Arch, located in Memorial Gardens, Unley Road & Thomas Street, Unley, South Australia.



Unley Memorial Arch (Photos from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson/Nigel Daw)



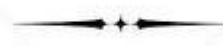
R. E. Penna is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(49 pages of Private Royal Edward Penna'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



Back: Ellen, Florence, Arthur, Olive, Lillian Rose, Violet. Front: Edith, John Henry, Hannah, Royal Edward, Isabella, Clarissa.

Penna Family Photo

Newspaper Notices

SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WHO HAVE GONE TO FIGHT FOR KING AND COUNTRY



A. C. Collins, Privates R. E. Penna, R. Taylor, G. Allen, A. G. Clenow

(*Critic*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 January, 1916)

FOR FREEDOM'S CAUSE

PENNA – On the 4th September, at Bristol, England, died of wounds received in France, R.R.E. Penna, dearly beloved younger son of J. H. and H. Penna, Weller street, Goodwood Park, aged 22 years.

(*Daily Herald*, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 September, 1916) & (*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 September, 1916)

LATE PTE R. E. PENNA

Mr and Mrs J. H. Penna, of Weller street, Goodwood Park, have been advised that their son, Pte R. E. Penna, has died of wounds at an hospital in England. The deceased, who was a grandson of the late Mr Edward Penna, of Sevenhills went into camp in August of last year and left for the front in January last. He reached France in March.



THE LATE PTE. R. E. PENNA.

Previous to enlisting he worked in his father's business, and was also an enthusiastic worker in the Unley Methodist Church and Sunday School. He was highly esteemed by a large number of friends.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 September, 1916) & (*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 September, 1916) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 September, 1916) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 September, 1916)

& (*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 September, 1916 – no photo)

For King and Empire

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

“The path of duty was the way to glory.”

..... Pte R. E. Penna.....

(Australian Christian Commonwealth, South Australia – 29 June, 1917)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

PENNA – In loving memory of Pte R. E. Penna (Roy), who died at Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, on 4th September, 1916, of wounds receive din action at Pozieres.

“Behind the shadows there standeth God.”

-Inserted by his parents, brother and sisters.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 September, 1917) & (The Advertiser, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 4 September, 1917) & (The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia - 4 September, 1917) & (Observer, Adelaide, Sth Australia - 8 September, 1917) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, Sth Australia - 8 September, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

PENNA – A tribute of love to the memory of Private Roy, E. Penna, who died of wounds September 4, 1916.

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

-Inserted by his parents, brother and sisters.

PENNA – In loving memory of Roy E. Penna, who died of wounds received in France, at the Beaufort Hospital, on September 4th, 1916. – Inserted by his loving friend. Dora Chittleborough.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 4 September, 1918) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 7 September, 1918)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

PENNA – Pte R. E. Penna, of 27th Battalion, who died of wounds on 4th September, 1916.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 September, 1925)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

PENNA – Pte R. E. Penna, of 27th Battalion, who died of wounds on 4th September, 1916.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 September, 1926)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

PENNA – Pte R. E. Penna, of 27th Battalion, who died of wounds on 4th September, 1916.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 September, 1928)

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)

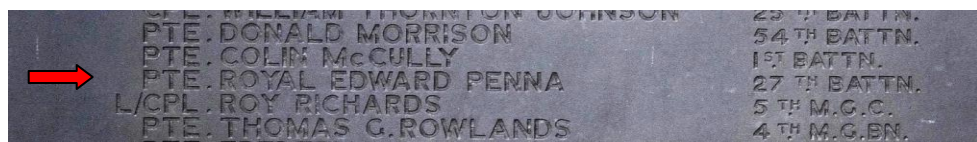


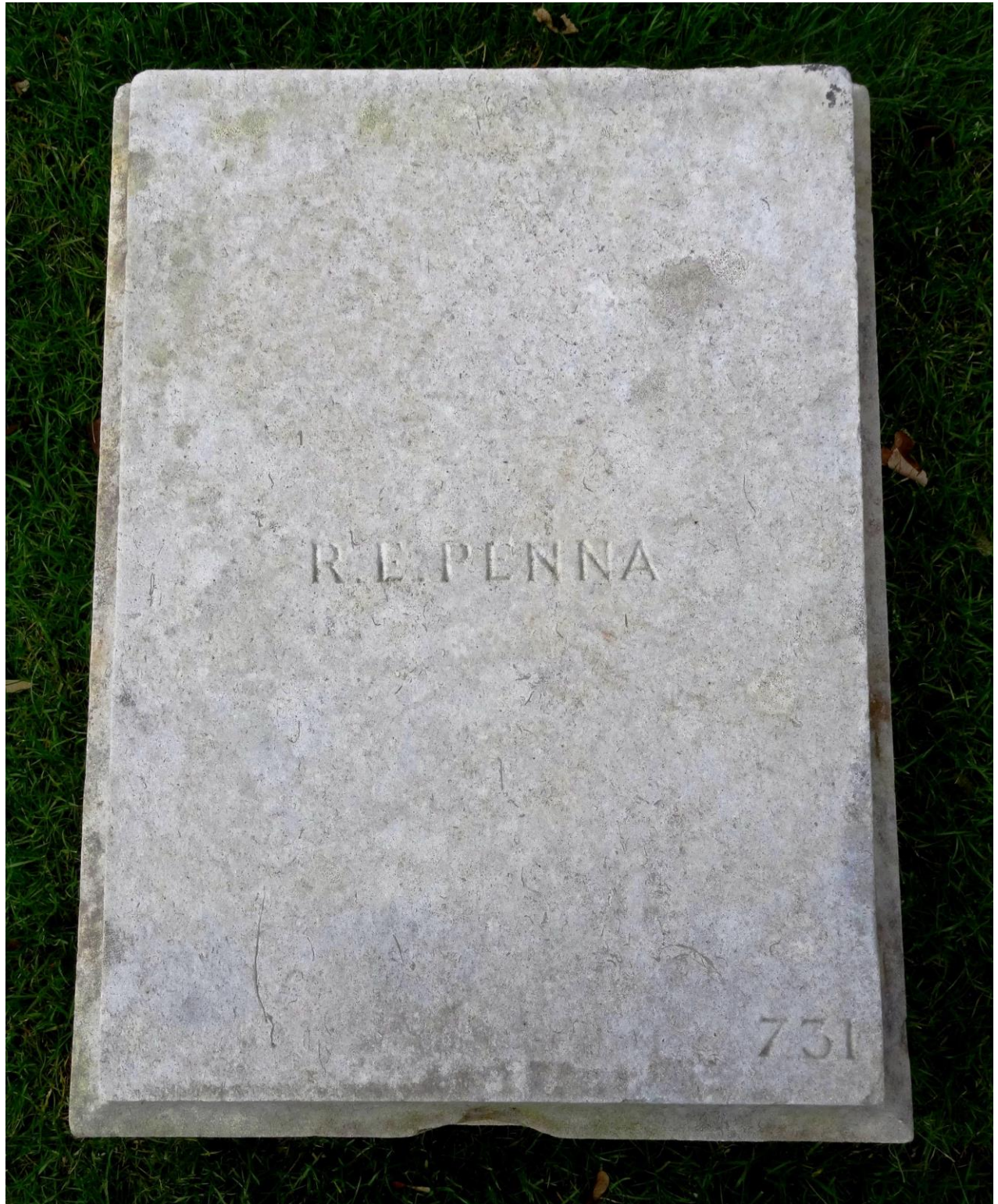
New Memorial Stones (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave November, 2018)

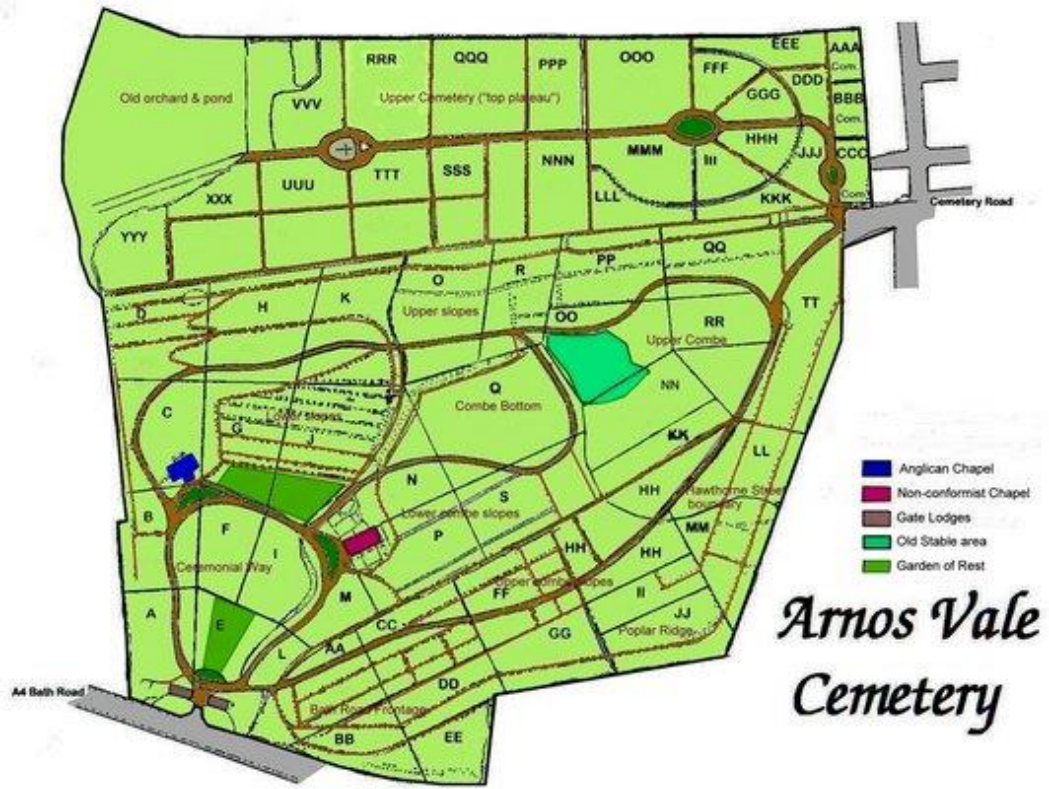
Photo of Private Royal Edward Penna's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & his Memorial Stone in Soldiers' Corner.



(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2019)







(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)