

**Cathays Cemetery,
Cardiff, Wales
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



TS/8869 CORPORAL

R. H. PILKINGTON

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

26TH NOVEMBER, 1919

Robert Hamlet PILKINGTON

Robert Hamlet Wade Pilkington was born on 26th April, 1877 at Terang, Victoria to parents Robert & Jessie Elizabeth Pilkington (nee Rae).

Robert Hamlet Wade Pilkington married Frances Emily Dykes on 17th January, 1900 in Wangaratta, Victoria.

Newspaper item – The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 March, 1909:

WENT TO THE BOER WAR

HUSBAND WHO DID NOT RETURN

WIFE ASKS FOR DIVORCE

Melbourne, March 30

Frances Emily Pilkington, 23 years of age, who recently instituted proceedings for divorce against her husband Robert Hamlet Wade Pilkington, 27 years of age, on the ground of desertion, to-day applied for an order to allow of substituted service of copies of the petition and citation, as she did not know where her husband was at the present time. The petitioner said she was married at Wangaratta in 1900, and a few months later her husband, who was a blacksmith, went to South Africa, and served in the Boer War as a farrier-sergeant. He had given her only 10/- during their married life. In September, 1900, she received the following letter from her husband:- "Waterralonder - Dear old Sweetheart - I received your very welcome letter this morning, and being pleased at getting an answer is a fool to it. I am glad you are keeping well, and I ought to be kicked on the head for leaving you all alone to work for yourself, but I won't stick at this much longer. If Tom doesn't send for Ella in less than three months, I am coming home to you. I am working for the C.S.A.E. now, contracting to strengthen all the bridges on the Eastern line. Well, 'Bon,' I would very much like to see your saucy face again if only on cardboard. I went in for a big boxing 'beano' the other week, and knocked corners off all the blokes in one night. But never mind, love, when we are together again I will give up boxing for good, and then I will have plenty of time to tease you. Fondest love and kisses from your old boy, Bob. P.S. - I wish I was spooning with you now instead of banging away at a heap of steel rivets. Well, good-bye, little girl, with lots of love and sweet dreams. - Bob."

There were many crosses on the letter to indicate kisses. The petitioner had written many times to her husband in reply to this letter, but she had heard nothing of him since. Mr. Justice Cussen said further enquiries might be made as to the "Tom and Ella" mentioned in her husband's letter, and to allow of this being done the application was adjourned.

Newspaper item – The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 August, 1909:

DIVORCE COURT

PILKINGTON V. PILKINGTON

This was a suit by Frances Emily Pilkington, aged 27, of Carlton, for a dissolution of her marriage with Robert Hamlet Wade Pilkington, aged 27, blacksmith. Mr. A'Beckett (instructed by Messrs. Seccomb and Woodfull) appeared for Mrs. Pilkington. The parties were married on January 17, 1900, and there are no living children of the marriage. In June, 1900, the husband left to go to the war. They corresponded for a time affectionately, the last letter being dated September 27, 1905. On that occasion the husband expressed an intention of joining her again soon, but from that time she never heard from him or of him. A decree nisi, with costs, was granted.

Robert Hamlet Pilkington was a 38 year old, single, Farrier from Old England Home, Octagon, Plymouth, England when he enlisted at Plymouth, England on 30th September, 1915 with the Royal Army Service Corp. His service number was TS/8869 (TS – Transport Special). His next of kin were listed as his parents – Robert & Jessie Pilkington, 22 Hannan Street, Williamstown. Robert Pilkington Stated on hi Attestation papers that he had previously served in His Majesty's Forces – 10 months R.F. Scouts; 3 months 23 days Transvaal Rifles & 1 year & 243 days with S.A. Light Horse. His distinctive marks were listed as "second finger left hand missing & Tattoo mark S.A.L.H. in a Maltese cross & 1900 right forearm."

Robert H. Pilkington was tested in the Workshops of 3B. Reserve Brigade R.F.A. at Exeter on 1st October, 1915 & proved himself as a skilled Showing Smith.

Shoeing Smith Robert Hamlet Pilkington was posted to Woolwich on 1st October, 1915.

Shoeing Smith Robert Hamlet Pilkington was transferred to No. 4 Sub Company A.S.C. at Park Royal in 1915 (date illegible).

Shoeing Smith Robert Hamlet Pilkington was appointed Acting Farrier Corporal (without pay) on 17th July, 1916. He was posted to 224 Coy. Bordon the same day.

Acting Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was on Home Service from 30th September, 1915 to 14th August, 1916.

Acting Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington embarked from Southampton on 15th August, 1916 with 10th Auxiliary H.T. (Horse Transport) Company to join British Expeditionary Force in France. He disembarked at Rouen, France on 16th August, 1916.

Acting Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was promoted to Farrier Corporal on 13th October, 1916.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was transferred to 8th Auxiliary H. T. (Horse Transport) Coy on 14th January, 1917.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was sent to A.S.C. B.D. on 31st August, 1917.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was transferred to 4th Company 7th Divisional Train on 5th October, 1917.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was on leave from 29th October, 1917 to 8th November, 1917.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was severely reprimanded on 27th November, 1917 for "*Making an improper reply to a Senior N.C.O. on 25th November, 1917.*"

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was reprimanded on 3rd December, 1917 for "*leaving his work without permission on 1st December, 1917.*"

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was sent to Hospital on 8th May, 1918 & returned to duty on 14th May, 1918.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was admitted to 24th Casualty Clearing Station on 14th June, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 38th Stationary Hospital at Genoa on 25th June, 1918. He was discharged to 2nd A.S.C. Base Depot for duty on 4th July, 1918. Farrier Corporal Pilkington reported to 4th Coy 7th Divisional Train on 6th August, 1918.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was admitted to 22nd Field Ambulance on 21st August, 1918 with Bronchitis then transferred the same day to 21st Field Ambulance. He was discharged to duty on 29th August, 1918.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was admitted to 22nd Field Ambulance on 8th September then transferred to 21st Field Ambulance then transferred again on 15th September, 1918 to 9th Casualty Clearing Station. He was admitted to 29 Stationary Hospital on 23rd September, 1918 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Farrier Corporal Pilkington was transferred & admitted to 62th General Hospital on 9th October, 1918 with an aneurism. He was admitted to 81st General Hospital at Marseilles on 16th October, 1918 then marked for transfer to England on 29th October, 1918. Farrier Corporal Pilkington was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle* on 31st October, 1918 with Aortic Aneurisms.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was on Home service from 2nd November, 1918.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was admitted to 3rd Western General Hospital, Cardiff, Wales on 1st November, 1918 with an Aortic Aneurism. He was discharged on 20th December, 1918 as an Outpatient.

Robert Hamlet Pilkington was medically discharged on 20th December, 1918 "No longer physically fit for War Service" - King's Regulation 392 xvi. His disability was recorded as "Aneurism of ASCF & Transvarch Aorta."

A weekly Pension of 30/- from 21st December, 1918 was paid to ex Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington. His address on discharge was listed as c/o General Post Office, Woolwich.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was awarded the Silver Badge (No. B69037) on 15th January, 1919.

The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement.

The large sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes. The decoration was introduced as an award of "King's silver" for having received wounds or injury during loyal war service to the Crown's authority. A secondary causation for its introduction was that a practice had developed in the early years of the war in the United Kingdom where some women took it upon themselves to confront and publicly embarrass men of fighting age they saw in public places who were not in military uniform, by ostentatiously presenting them with white feathers, as a suggestion of cowardice. As the war had developed substantial numbers of servicemen who had been discharged from His Majesty's Forces with wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance, found themselves being harassed in such a manner and the badge, to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress, was a means of discouraging such incidents being directed at ex-forces' personnel. It was forbidden to wear the badge on a military uniform. (Wikipedia)



Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington died on 26th November, 1919 at 3rd Western General Hospital, Cardiff, Wales.

A death for Robert Pilkington, aged 44, was registered in the December quarter, 1919 in the district of Cardiff, Glamorganshire, Wales.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was buried in Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales – Plot number EB. 113 and has a shared Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

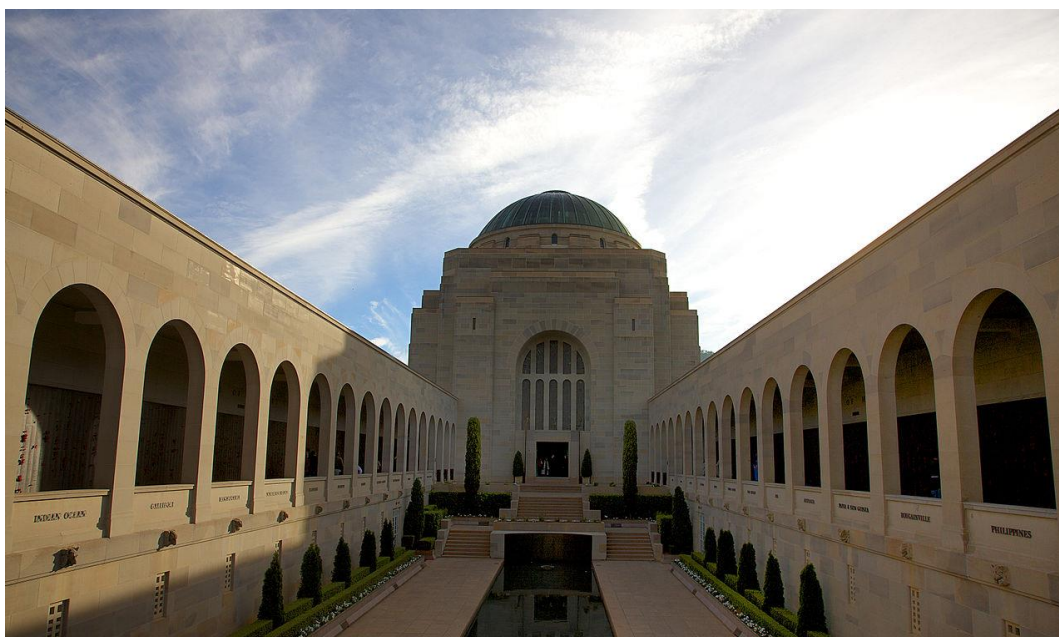
Mr Charles Holder, 23 Thames St., Staines, Middlesex wrote on 6th April, 1926: *"Could you please give me any information regarding the enclosed enquiry for details of "Robert Pilkington" who enlisted in the Army Service Corps and is presumed dead, and any official record of his death is required by a relative of the deceased who is now residing in Australia who has written to me asking if I could obtain official confirmation for him. I enclose stamped addressed envelope and would much appreciate an answer to this enquiry, also any expense in connection of this I will remit by return."*

R.A.S.C. Records replied to Mr C. Holder on 9th April, 1926 stating that they had no record of the death of Farrier Cpl. R. H. Pilkington, TS/8869, R.A.S.C. & suggested that Mr Holder contact The Controller, Pension Issue Office.

Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington - service number TS/8869, aged 42, of Royal Army Service Corps. He was the son of Robert & Jessie E. Pilkington, of Rokeby, Warracknabeal, Victoria, Australia.

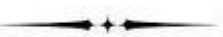
Robert Hamlet Pilkington is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

(Farrier Corporal Robert Hamlet Pilkington's Service records are available for On Line viewing Ancestry & Find My Past).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

A PATRIOTIC FAMILY

EIGHT ENGAGED IN THE WAR

The Melbourne "Herald" of the 15th inst. contains the portraits of the patriotic Pilkington family. The soldiers and nurse are nephews and niece of Mr. Peter Rae, of Pental Island. The following particulars are given:

Mrs. R. Pilkington, of 22 Hannan street, Williamstown. has six sons, a daughter, and a son-in-law serving the Empire.

Farrier-Sergeant-Major R. Pilkington served with General Botha in the German South-West African campaign, and, after having obtained his discharge at the conclusion of hostilities there he went to England and enlisted there. He is now in France.

Farrier-Sergeant J. L. Pilkington is at present in hospital in Egypt, but was at Gallipoli from the landing until the evacuation.

Trooper D. Pilkington is with the New Zealanders, and was wounded at Gallipoli. He is at present in hospital in Manchester with 10 wounds.

Trooper A. C. Pilkington is attached to the Australian Light Horse.

Sister M. Pilkington is nursing at the Palace Hospital, Heliopolis.

Sapper N. P. Pilkington served for 12 months under General Botha in the Boer rebellion in South Africa, and also in German South-West Africa.

Trooper J. Pilkington joined the Light Horse here, but was discharged owing to ill-health.

Mrs. Pilkington's second daughter's husband (K. J. Davis) is a sergeant with the Australian troops in Egypt.

R. Pilkington, J. L. Pilkington, and J. Pilkington served in the South African war, and all three obtained non-commissioned rank, Sergeant J. Pilkington being mentioned in despatches.

Mrs. Pilkington is a Victorian native, and is a daughter of the late Mr. F. Rae, one of the earliest pioneers of the Western district.

(Swan Hill Guardian and Lake Boga Advocate, Victoria – 29 May, 1916)

Photo from above mentioned "The Melbourne "Herald" of the 15th inst"



Farrier-Sergeant R. H. Pilkington marked with arrow





Farrier-Sergeant R. H. Pilkington

Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales

During the 1939-1945 War, the city of Cardiff was one of the Royal Naval bases of the Western Approaches Command. It was severely damaged by enemy air attack during the early part of the 1939-1945 War and has been largely rebuilt. The cemetery, known locally as Cathays Cemetery was opened in 1859 and has been extended to cover over 100 acres. The cemetery contains war graves of both world wars. Just over a third of the 1914-1918 burials are contained in a War Graves Plot in the portion of Section EB, this plot is on two converging roadways leading to the main entrance. The remainder of the graves are scattered in other parts of the cemetery. After the 1914-1918 War, a Cross of Sacrifice was erected in front of the plot in the angle formed by the junction of the two roadways, the whole forming a triangular island site. The 1939-1945 War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery in more than 30 different sections. A number of them are airmen who came from the Royal Air Force stations at Cardiff and St. Athan. There are now nearly 500, 1914-1918 and over 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. Some 40 French and Norwegian Foreign Nationals are also commemorated here.

(Information & Photos from CWGC)





Entrance to Cathays Cemetery (Photo by Peter – Find a Grave)



Cathays Cemetery (Photo courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay's Cemetery)

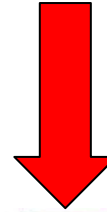


Cathays Cemetery (Photos courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay's Cemetery)



Map Of Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff showing Section EB – Roll of Honour

(Courtesy of The Friends of Cathays Cemetery)



		113	114	115		
103	104	105	106	107	108	109
96	97	98	99	100	101	102
89	90	91	92	93	94	95
82	83	84	85	86	87	88
75	76	77	78	79	80	81
	69	70	71	72	73	74
	63	64	65	66	67	68
	57	58	59	60	61	62
	51	52	53	54	55	56
	45	46	47	48	49	50
		40	41	42	43	44
		35	36	37	38	39
		30	31	32	33	34
		25	26	27	28	29
		20	21	22	23	24
			16	17	18	19
			12	13	14	15
			8	9	10	11
			4	5	6	7
			1A	1	2	3



Australian CWGC Headstone



Private Headstone for Babbage

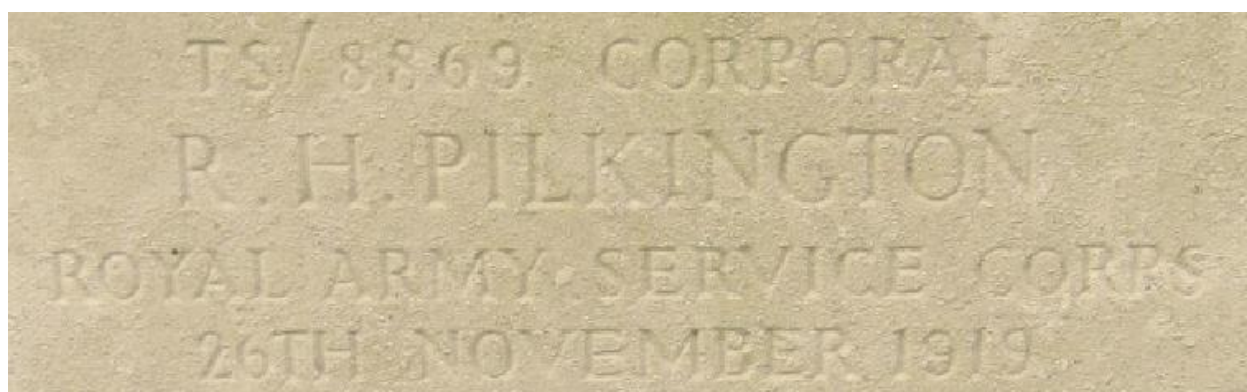


RASC CWGC Headstone for Pilkington

Photo of Corporal R. H. Pilkington's shared Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff, Wales.



(Photo by Peter – Find a Grave)



**TS/8869 CORPORAL
R. H. PILKINGTON
ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS
26TH NOVEMBER 1919**

**T4/247432 DRIVER
R. SELLEN
ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS
16TH SEPTEMBER 1920**

**T1/3664 DRIVER
VICTOR PERCY TURLEY
ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS
4TH NOVEMBER 1918 AGE 21
THE LORD GAVE
AND THE LORD
HATH TAKEN AWAY**

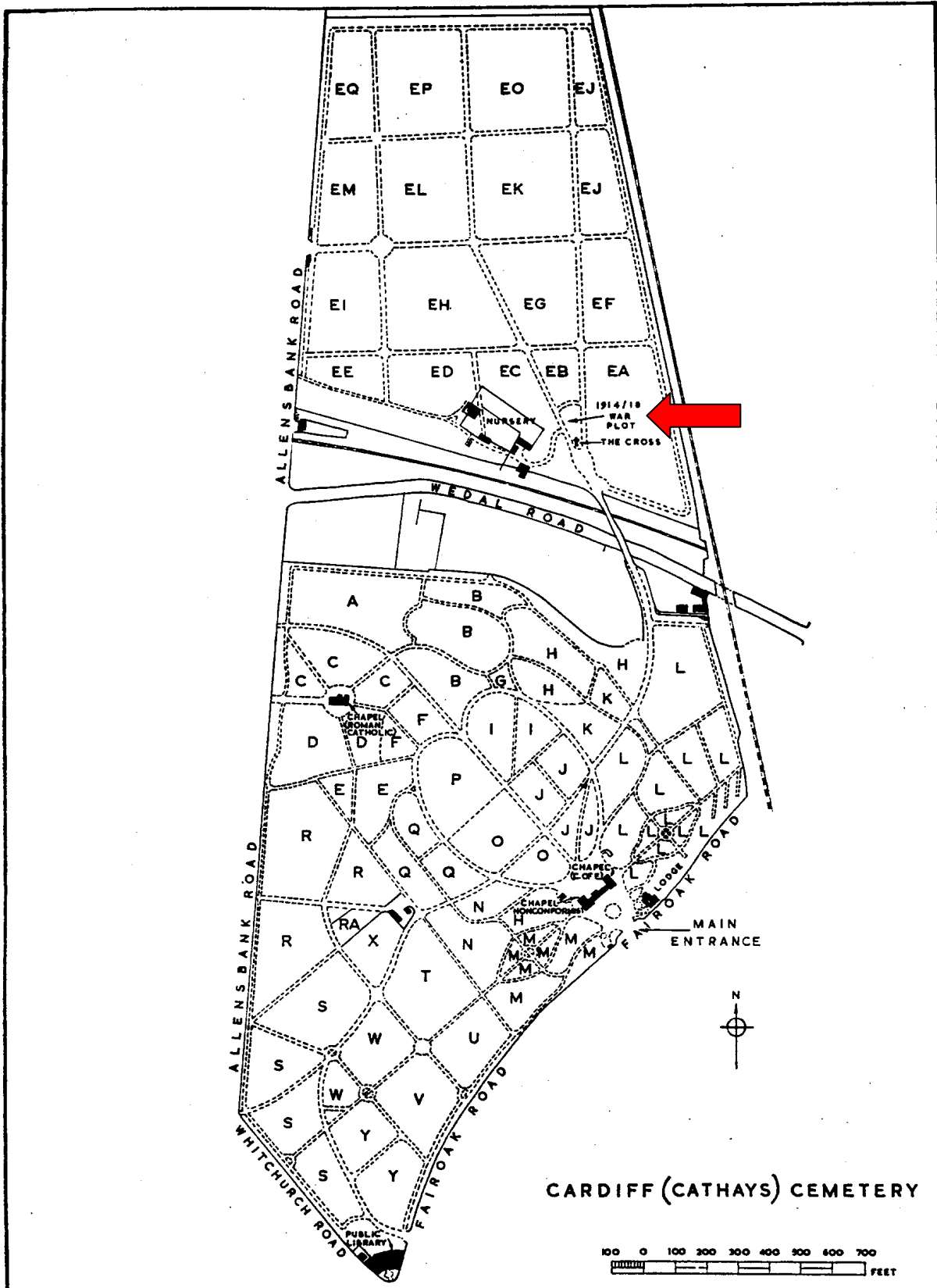


Corporal Pilkington's headstone (red arrow) *(Photo courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay's Cemetery)*



Corporal Pilkington's headstone (taken February, 2019)

(Photo courtesy of John Farnhill – The Friends of Cathay's Cemetery)



CARDIFF (CATHAYS) CEMETERY

Cemetery Plan from CWGC