

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1280 LANCE CORPORAL

R. RICHARDS

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

26TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 22

Roy RICHARDS

Roy Richards was born at Homebush, Sydney, NSW in 1894 to parents William Evans Richards and Fanny Richards (nee Ridge). His birth was registered in the district of Canterbury, NSW.

Roy Richards attended Sydney Grammar School, NSW.

Roy Richards was a 21 year old, single, Clerk from "Broughlea" Abbotsford Road, Homebush, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 2nd March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1280 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother Mrs Fanny Richards, "Broughlea" Abbotsford Road, Homebush, Sydney, NSW. Roy Richards stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 1 year with Senior Cadets & 3 years with the Militia.

Private Roy Richards was posted to 19th Battalion on 4th March, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Roy Richards embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 25th June, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion "D" Company.

Private Roy Richards disembarked at Alexandria on 7th January, 1916

19th Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A large number of the 19th's original recruits had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) in the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914. The 19th left Australia in late June, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 19 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. From mid-September, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on the night of 19 December, the 19th Battalion was responsible for the defence of Pope's Hill.

After further training in Egypt, the 19th Battalion proceeded to France. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Roy Richards was transferred to 5th Brigade Machine Gun Company from 19th Battalion on 10th March, 1916. He was taken on strength of 5th Machine Gun Company at Moascar on 10th March, 1916.

Private Roy Richards proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 17th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd March, 1916.

Private Roy Richards was appointed Lance Corporal on 4th July, 1916 while in France.

Lance Corporal Roy Richards was wounded in action on 7th November, 1916. He was admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 7th November, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to chest wall. Lance Corporal Richards was transferred to No. 9 Ambulance Train on 8th November, 1916 & admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 8th November, 1916. He was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *West Australia* on 12th November, 1916.

Lance Corporal Roy Richards was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England on 15th November, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to chest wall - severe. His condition was reported as dangerous on 21st November, 1916.

Lance Corporal Roy Richards died at 1 am on 26th November, 1916 at 2nd Southern General Hospital (Southmead), Bristol, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. to chest. The Hospital Admissions form records "*P.B removed; death from mediastinitis.*"

A death for Roy Richards, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Lance Corporal Roy Richards was buried on 29th November, 1916 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 5.730.

Base Records forwarded on to W. R. Richards Esq., Managing Director, Messrs Hill, Clarke & Co., O'Connell Street, Sydney, NSW, father of the late Lance Corporal Roy Richards, on 17th June, 1931, 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 his son were interred. The Newspaper item had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to W. R. Richards Esq., Managing Director, Messrs Hill, Clarke & Co., O'Connell Street, Sydney, NSW, father of the late Lance Corporal Roy Richards, on 17th June, 1932 & 15th June, 1933, copies of the "*Western Daily Press*" and "*Evening World*" featuring that year's Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of his son were interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to W. R. Richards Esq., Managing Director, Messrs Hill, Clarke & Co., O'Connell Street, Sydney, NSW, father of the late Lance Corporal Roy Richards, on 28th June, 1935, 22nd June, 1936 & 12th August, 1937, copies of the "*Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror*" featuring the Pilgrimage and Commemoration Services held at Bristol, England on the occasion of last Anzac Day. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Lance Corporal Roy Richards was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Richards' father – Mr W. E. Richards, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Roy Richards – service number 1280, aged 22, of 5th Coy., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of William Evans Richards and Fanny Richards, of "Broughlea" Abbotsford Rd., Homebush, Sydney, New South Wales.

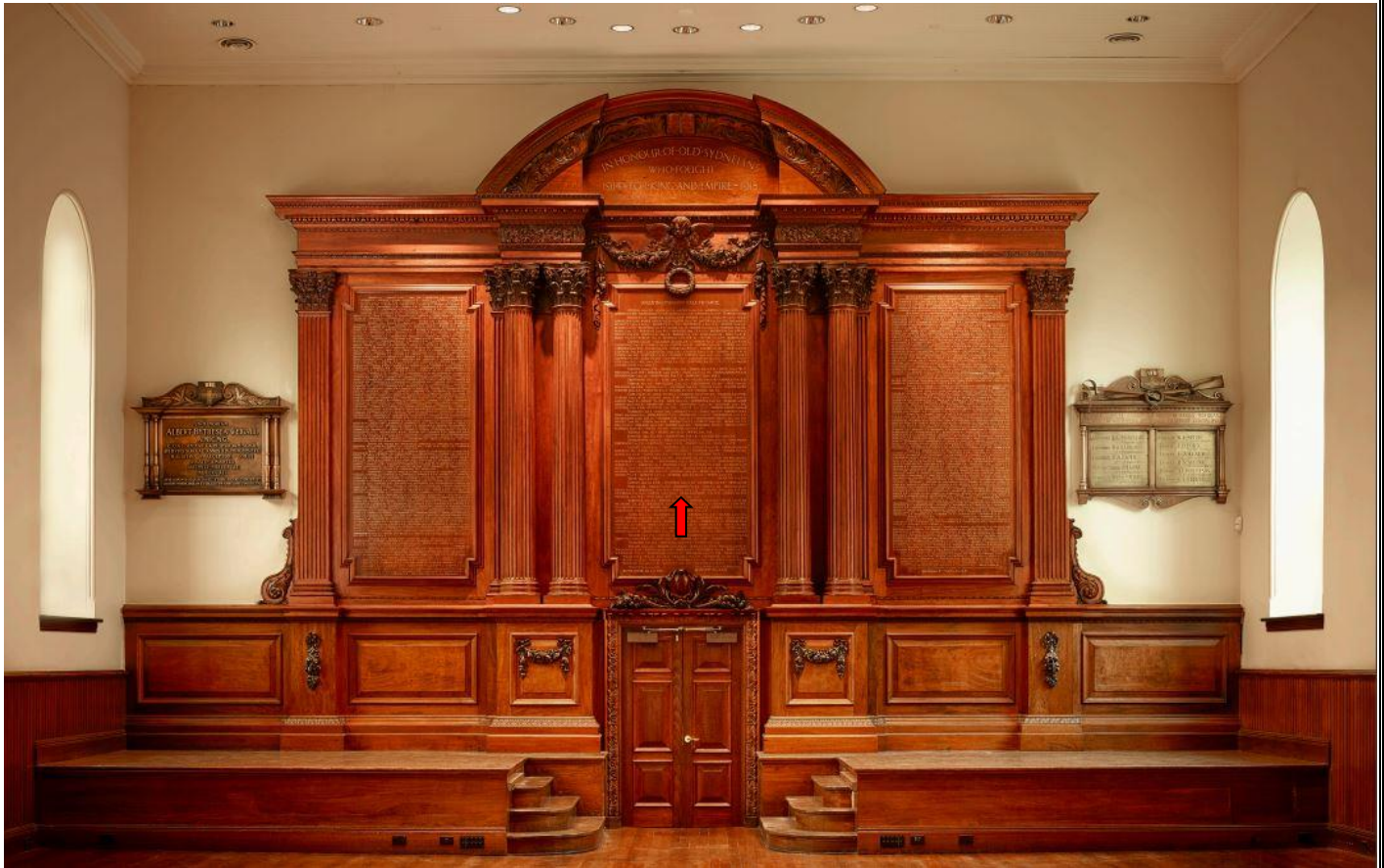
From information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – copies of letters & Diary belonging to the late Lance Corporal Roy Richards are with the Mitchell Library, Sydney, NSW.

Lance Corporal R. Richards is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 179.

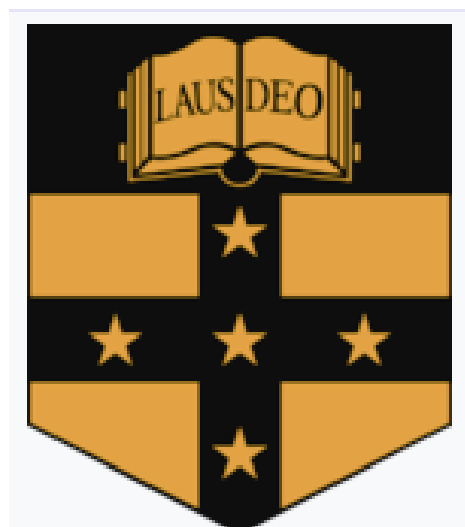
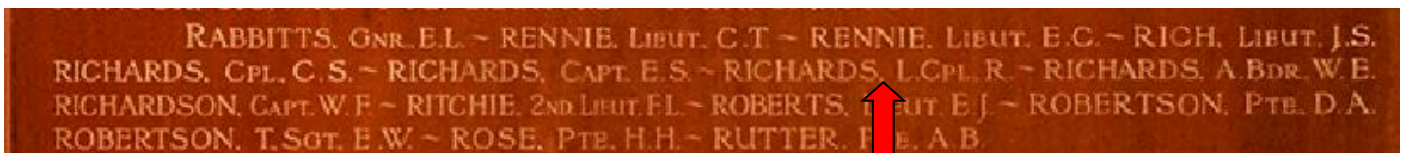


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Lance Corporal R. Richards is remembered on the Sydney Grammar School Honour Board, located at Sydney Grammar School, College Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW.



Sydney Grammar School Honour Board (Image courtesy of Sydney Grammar School)



Roy Richards & his brothers – William, Charles & Oswald are remembered on St. Anne's Anglican Church, First World War Roll of Honour, located in St. Anne's Church, corner Homebush and Beresford Roads, Strathfield, NSW.



St. Anne's Roll of Honour, Strathfield (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW)



(41 pages of Lance Corporal Roy Richards' 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



Richards Family

(Left to right: William E., Fanny (nee Ridge), Roy, Ruby, Oswald E., William Evans Richards & Charles H.)



Lance Corporal Roy Richards



Newspaper Notices

DEATH OF MR ROY RICHARDS

Mr W. E. Richards, managing director of Hill, Clark and Co., Ltd., has been advised by cable of the death of his youngest son, Roy, in England, on the 26th November. The first news of his being wounded said that it was not serious, but a further intimation from the military advised "dangerously ill, gunshot wound in chest," and apparently pneumonia supervened after his arrival at hospital in England.

Roy, who was the first of Mr Richards' four sons to enlist, was the only one connected with the business, where he was universally popular. Of a cheerful, bright disposition, he made many friends, both in the office and outside, and his loss is deeply regretted by all, and a great blow to his parents.

He was also among the first of the staff, and his home centre of friends to enlist nearly two years ago, being attached to the 19th Battalion Machine Gun Section, which landed in Gallipoli simultaneously with the British forces at Sulva Bay, moving across to link up with the latter, and subsequently he was chiefly at "Quinn's Post," and "Cameron's," remaining on the Peninsula until the evacuation. After going to France he was attached to the 5th Australian Machine Gun Section, being in action at Armentieres and Pozieres and at the time of his death was one of three left out of the original section leaving Australia. His first and only furlough was for eight days in England in September last, and it was evident that he was wounded soon after his return to the front from his holiday.

At the time of his death he was a corporal, and from letters apparently was in a position of great trust in the fighting line. His letters were always cheerful and full of hope, and he was very proud, not only of being an "Anzac," but "Pozières-Anzac" which is a great reputation to have achieved. He gave for his country a good young life, which was full of promise, and is deeply mourned by all with whom he was associated.

(The Sydney Wool and Stock Journal, NSW – 8 December, 1916)

TWENTY-TWO DEATHS

WOUNDED NUMBER 376

LATEST CASUALTY LIST

A satisfactory feature of the 247th list of Australian casualties, issued yesterday, is that the number of deaths recorded is only 22, seven of whom have been killed in action....

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte R. Richards, Homebush, and dangerously ill

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 10 December, 1916)

Death of Private Roy Richards

The many friends of Mr W. E. Richards, managing director of Hill, Clark and Co. Ltd., will be sorry to learn of the death in England of his youngest son, Roy, from Pneumonia, following upon a gunshot wound received in France. A lad of only 22 years he responded to the country's call close upon two years ago, and took part in a deal of fighting both in Gallipoli and France, notably Quinn's Post and Pozières, in connection with the 19th Battalion machine gun section, and was brimful of pluck. He was a young man of great promise, having a fine nature, which endeared him to all he met or was associated with, and is another of the many sad penalties connected with this unfortunate war.

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 11 December, 1916) & (Cootamundra Herald, NSW – 12 December, 1916)

FOR AUSTRALIA

TWO CASUALTY LISTS

The 255th and 256th casualty lists were issued this morning...

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

L. Corp. R. RICHARDS, Homebush

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 23 December, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

RICHARDS – In memory of Lance-Corporal Roy Richards, who died at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, England, 27th November, 1916, from gunshot wounds received in France, youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. E. Richards, "Broughlea," Homebush, aged 23 years.

An Anzac of Pozieres.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 27 November, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

RICHARDS – In memory of Lance-Corporal Roy Richards, of 19th Battalion, and the 5th Aust. Machine Gun Co., youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. E. Richards, "Broughlea," Homebush, who died at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, England, 26th November, 1916, from gunshot wounds received in action on the Somme.

An Anzac of Quinn's Post and Pozieres."

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 26 November, 1918)

Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW

Roy Richards is remembered on a headstone located in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW – Old Church of England – Section 2 Row 23 with an inscription which reads:



An older section of Rookwood Cemetery



(Photo from Find a Grave – Roy Smith)

An Anzac Of Pozieres

In Memory Of

No. 1280

Lance Corporal ROY RICHARDS

Of The 5th Australian Machine Gun Company.

Youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. F. Richards,

Broughlea, Homebush.

Who Died at Southmead Hospital, Bristol,

England, on 26th November 1916

From wounds received in France.

Aged 22 Years

Buried in Arnos Vale Cemetery,

Bristol, England.

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)

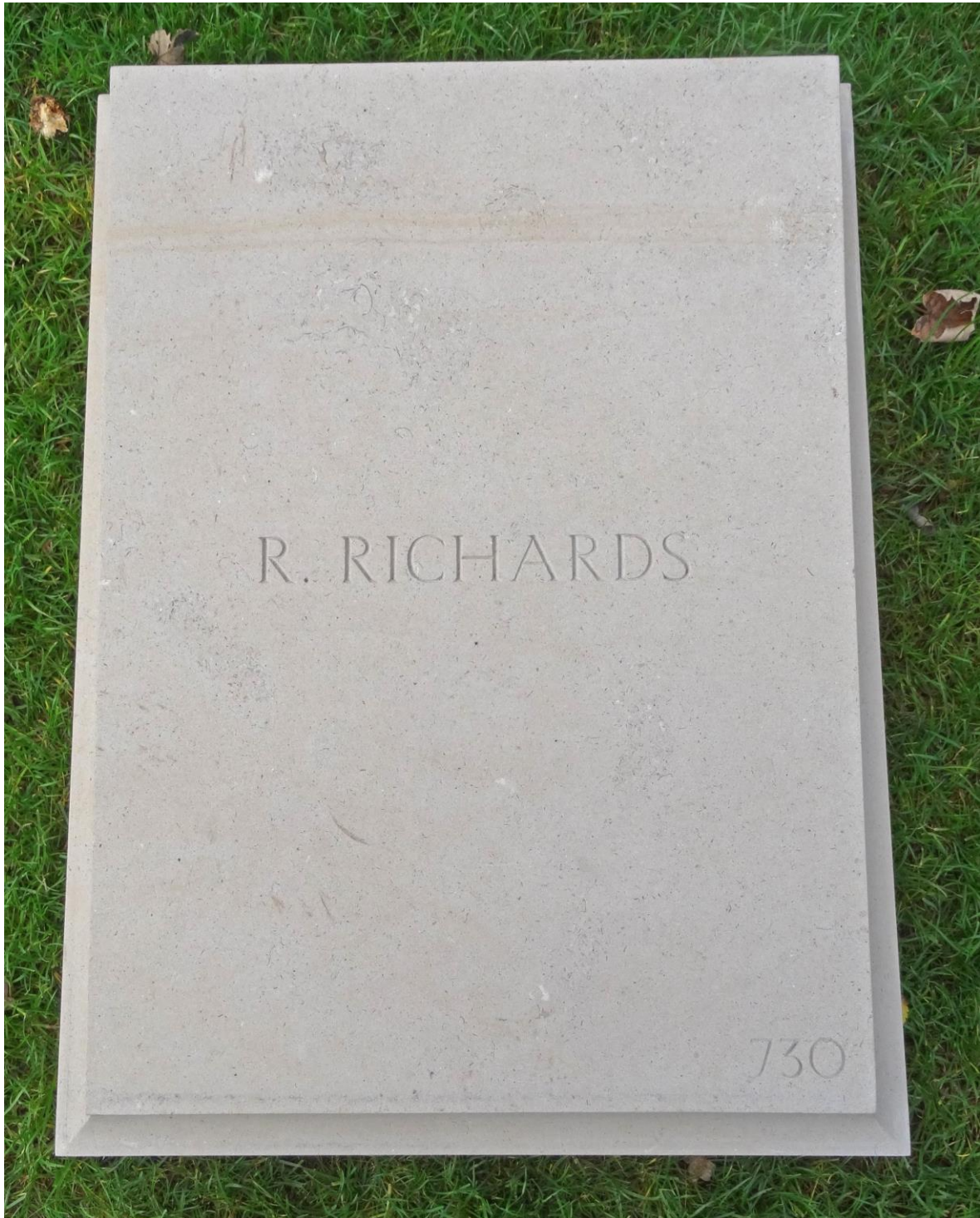
Photo of Lance Corporal Roy Richard's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & his Memorial Stone in Soldiers' Corner.

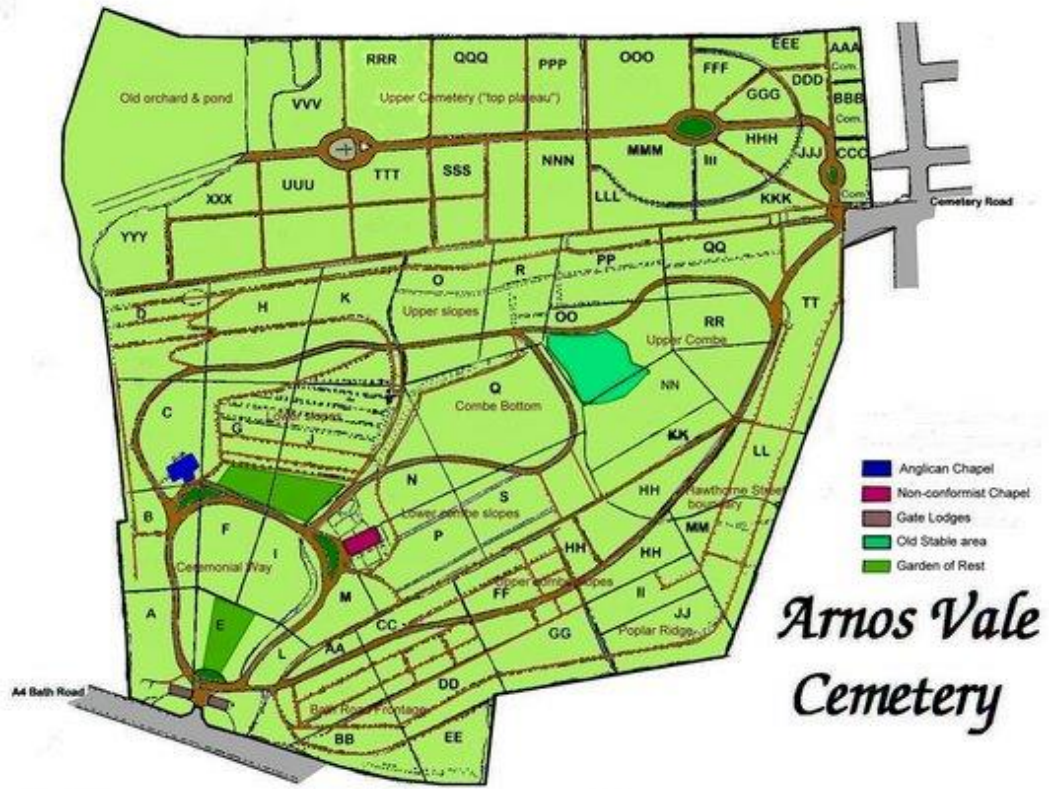


(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2019)

PTE. COLIN McCULLY
PTE. ROYAL EDWARD PENNA
L/CPL. ROY RICHARDS
PTE. THOMAS G. ROWLANDS

1ST BATTN.
27 TH BATTN.
5 TH M.G.C.
4 TH M.G.BN.





(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)