

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3479 PRIVATE

T. G. ROWLANDS

AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

8TH FEBRUARY, 1919

Thomas Grange ROWLANDS

Thomas Grange Rowlands was born at East Ballarat, Victoria in 1894 to parents Henry and Nina Mitchell Rowlands (nee Hazelwood).

Thomas Grange Rowlands attended State School No. 34 Humffray Street, Ballarat, Victoria.

The 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Ballarat, subdivision of Soldiers Hill, Victoria, recorded Thomas Grange Rowlands, Harness Maker, of 52 Rowe Street, Ballarat East. His parents Henry Rowlands, Miner & Nina Mitchell Rowlands, Home Duties were also listed at the same address along with Elvina Rosina Rowlands, Whiteworker. The 1919 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Ballarat, subdivision of Soldiers Hill, Victoria, recorded only Thomas Grange Rowlands, Harness Maker, of 52 Rowe Street, Ballarat East. No other Rowlands were recorded for this division.

Thomas Grange Rowlands was a 21 year old, single, Saddler (Information from Embarkation Roll) from Ballarat East, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 13th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3479 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr H. Rowlands, 52 Rowe Street, Ballarat East, Victoria. Thomas Rowlands stated on his Attestation Papers that he trade was a Harness Maker & he had been an apprentice for 5 years with T. J. O'Brien, Armstrong Street Ballarat, Victoria.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was posted to 74th Company at Seymour from 26th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company at Ballarat from 10th August, 1915 then transferred on 17th September, 1915 to 11th Reinforcements of 14th Battalion at Broadmeadows.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11th October, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 14th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands joined 14th Battalion at Ismailia on 4th February, 1916.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was sent sick to Hospital at Ismailia on 9th February, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 9th February, 1916 then transferred to 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismailia the same day. Private Rowlands was transferred to No. 4 Hospital Train from 1st Australian Stationary Hospital on 10th February, 1916. He was then admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Cairo on 10th February, 1916 with V.D. Private Rowlands was discharged to duty on 14th March, 1916.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands joined Overseas Base at Ghezireh on 15th March, 1916 then reported at Australian Details at Zeitoun on 25th March, 1916. He rejoined his Unit at Serapeum on 4th April, 1916.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was absent from 6 am to 6pm on 1st May, 1916 while posted as Serapeum. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was absent from 3 am Parade while posted as Serapeum on 26th May, 1916. He was awarded 4 days Confined to Barracks.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 1st June, 1916 on *Transylvania*. He disembarked from Marseilles, France on 8th June, 1916.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was wounded in action in France on 9th August, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance on 9th August, 1916 then was transferred & admitted to 14th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 10th August, 1916 suffering from Shell Shock (mild). Private Rowlands was transferred & admitted to 1st Convalescent Depot at Boulogne (no date recorded) then transferred to No. 5 Convalescent Depot on 17th August, 1916.

14th Battalion

The Headquarters of the 14th Battalion opened at an office at 178 Collins Street, Melbourne in the last week of September 1914. On 1 October it relocated to Broadmeadows Camp where the battalion's recruits, principally from

Melbourne and its suburbs, were taken on strength and trained. With the 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions, the 14th formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the AIF expanded and was reorganised. The 14th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 46th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August 1916.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 14th Battalion

9th August, 1916 – Poziers

Strength 30 Officers 711 other. Enemy shell fire quietened after dawn and the damage done by enemy retaliation repaired as far as possible. At Midday word was received that the 15 Bn n my left had returned to their former position so left flank of 14 Bn had to withdraw to former line also. During the early morning our shrapnel was falling short at R34 B21. F.O.O. notified and word also passed to contact aeroplane & acknowledged this then ceased. C. Coy relieved A Coy in firing line & A Coy relieved D Coy in support. Relief complete by 6 pm. Enemy artillery fire became severe at 7 pm and remained so all night.

Wounded – 2 Officers - 2/Lieuts Beamond & Ebbott 83 other ranks

Killed – 6 other ranks

Missing – 3 other ranks

To commissioned rank – 2/Lt H. Thompson & T. Loughhead.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands reported to Base Details at Etaples, France on 23rd August, 1916 then was transferred to 4th A.D.B. (Australian Divisional Base) Depot on 24th August, 1916. He proceeded to his Unit on 20th September, 1916 & rejoined 14th Battalion in the Field in France on 22nd September, 1916.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was wounded in action (2nd occasion) in France on 11th April, 1917. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 11th April, 1917 with bullet wounds to thigh, leg & right foot. Private Rowlands was transferred & admitted to 6th General Hospital on 13th April, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to legs & feet. He was transferred to England from Rouen, France on 19th April, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. George* with multiple GSW.

14th Battalion

Along with most of the 4th Brigade, the battalion suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. It spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium, advancing to the Hindenburg Line.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 14th Battalion

10/11th April, 1917 – Noreuil

4.45 am – The Battalion attacked the HINDENBURG LINE – see appendix 9 attached.

[Extract Narrative of events 11th April, 1917 below]

Time	Precis
4.17 am	Tanks in position
4.23 am	Enemy shoot at tanks
4.30 am	Stanton reports that tanks appear to be running late. 3 tanks in front of File(?) Moving
4.41 am	___ report that tanks opposite them are just moving at this time
4.48	First wave reported started followed by second
4.49 ½	All gone
4.50	Enemy send up S.O.S.
4.58	Message that FACT is moving
5.16	First objective reported taken
6.3 ½	Message from FACT stating that all unit in FIRST & SECOND objectives
.....	
7 am	Runner from FADE saying that Dryborough who was slightly wounded states that both objectives taken and our troops 400 yds North and still going.
.....	
7.21 am	Col B ROCKMAN rang up General giving information obtained from Capt JACKA, showing that the TANKS were a failure & Casualties heavy as a result. Prisoners now going back
7.40	Message from Bde – S-E corner of BULLECOURT taken by GAB Y. suggest bombing along to meet each other.
7.48	Contact plane (second) over machine gun fire from QUEANT
8 am	Prisoners examined. 3 Machine gun coys 6 in each coy 3 days in front line Name WIELAND 3rd M.G.Coy 124 WURTEM BERGERS 4 or 5 machine guns captured Reserve in SAUDERMONT Batt Did not know till 4 am that we were attacking 124 WURTENBURGERS in RIENCOURT.....
8.45	Report from MURRAY saying that we hold front line and portion of second.
.....	
11.20	Lt AARONS File (?) crawled back, reports things serious flanks being bombed back

	<i>No bombs, cannot shoot at anything. Only 25% left. Proposed to fall back onto line of shell holes out of bomb range and hold on till night.</i>
11.30 am	<i>Sgt BOLAND reports that bombs given out in FAD not well consolidated. Hope to hold on till dark, STANTON out. 46th pulling out on left</i>
11.45	<i>Our Brigade resumes original line</i>

10 pm – The Battalion marched to BEUGNATRE and bivouacked for the night.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 20th April, 1917. He was discharged to furlough on 6th June, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training & convalescing was completed in training & convalescing units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England from furlough on 21st June, 1917.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 26th June, 1917 with V.D. He was discharged on 7th September, 1917 after a total V.D. period of 74 days. Private Rowlands was marched in to Convalescent Training Depot on 7th September, 1917 then marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 15th September, 1917.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was medically classified on 15th September, 1917 as B1 A3 (Unfit for Service for 2 or 3 weeks). He was reclassified as B1 A4 (fit for Overseas Training camp when passed dentally fit) on 27th September, 1917.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 18th October, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was transferred to Machine Gun Corps Details at Grantham on 29th October, 1917 from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire. He was taken on strength of Machine Gun Corps Details on 29th October, 1917 from 14th Battalion.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was written up for an Offence on 20th March, 1918 at Belton Park – Conduct to the prejudice of good order & Military discipline in that he was gambling after lights out. He was awarded 10 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was medically classified as A3 (medically & dentally fit) on 4th April, 1918.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from Grantham on 15th April, 1918. He was marched in to M.G.C.B.D. (Machine Gun Corps Base Depot) at Camiers, France on 15th April, 1918. Private Rowlands was marched out to 4th Machine Gun Battalion from Camiers on 21st April, 1918 & was taken on strength of 4th Machine Gun Battalion on 21st April, 1918 from Machine Gun Reinforcements & previously 14th Battalion.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was reported to be with his Unit on 7th November, 1918.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was marched in from his Unit to A.G.B .D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France on 27th January, 1919 ready for transfer to England.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 29th January, 1919 from France.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was sent sick to 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England on 4th February, 1919. He was admitted with Influenza & was reported as dangerously ill on 4th February, 1919. (as per details on Casualty Form – Active Service).

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was admitted to Maudlin Street Section, 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England on 4th February, 1919 with Broncho Pneumonia. (as per details listed on Hospital Admissions form).

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands died at 2.35 am on 8th February, 1919 at Maudlin Street Section, 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Rowlands, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was buried on 11th February, 1919 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 6.703. From the burial report of Private Thomas Grange Rowlands - *Coffin was English Elm with metal fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- Wreath sent from City of Bristol Red Cross, with sympathy for the loss of a brave soldier. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev. Albert Law C.F. United Baptist. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives and friend present at the Funeral – Two Australian soldiers and 27 others – ladies and gentlemen, residents of Bristol.

Base Records forwarded on to Mr H. Rowlands, Susan Street, Sandringham, Victoria, father of the late Private Thomas Grange Rowlands, 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 items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mr H. Rowlands, 51 Hatter Street, Oakleigh, Victoria, father of the late Private Thomas Grange Rowlands, on 17th June, 1932 & 15th June, 1933, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press*" and "*Evening World*" containing articles referring to the 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 Mr H. Rowlands, 51 Hatter Street, Oakleigh, Victoria, father of the late Private Thomas Grange Rowlands, on 28th June, 1935, 22nd June, 1936 & 12th August, 1937 copies of the "*Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror*" featuring that year's Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where the remains of his late son were interred. The Newspaper items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Private Thomas Grange Rowlands was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Rowlands' father - Mr H. Rowlands, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

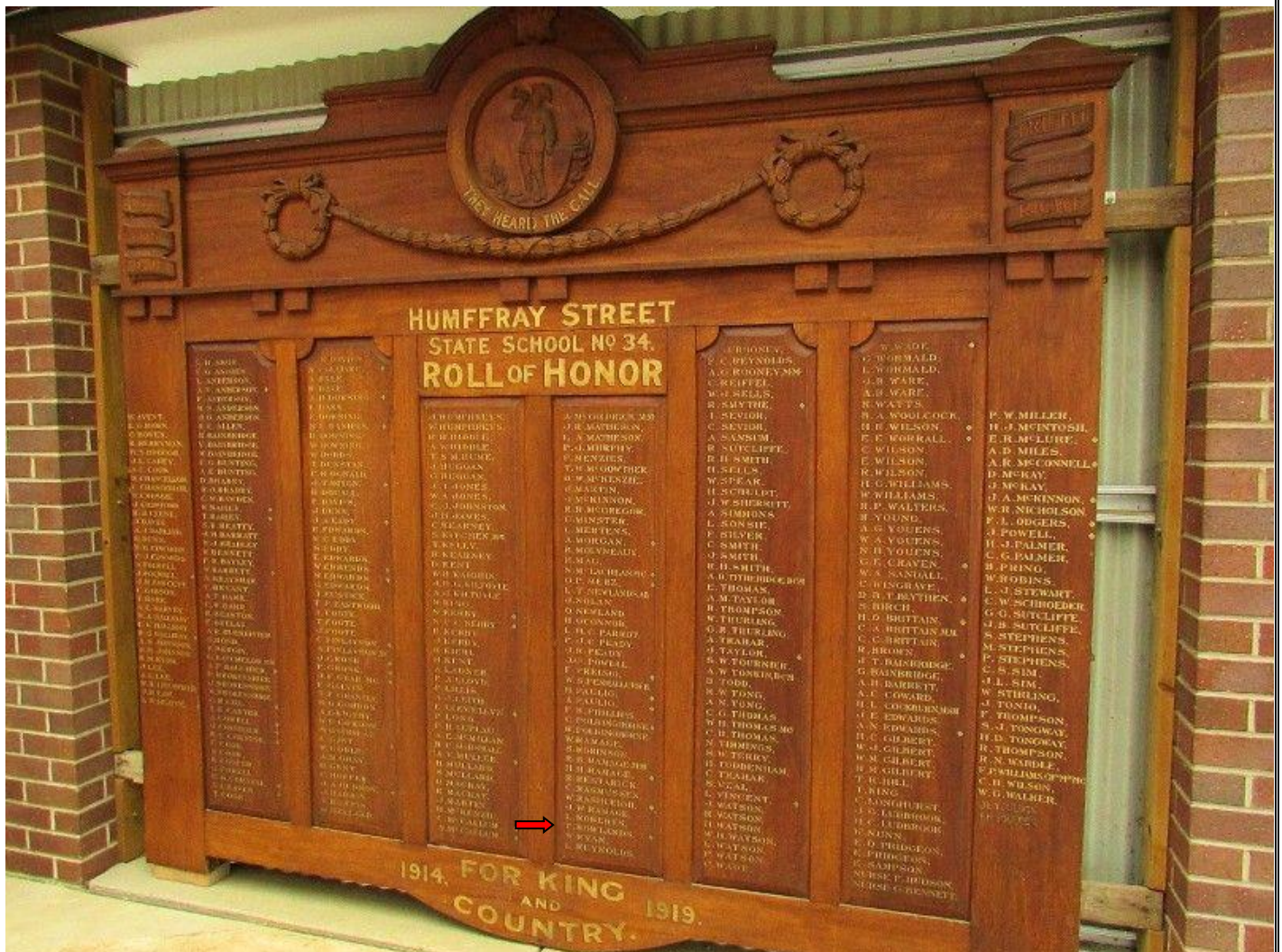
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Grange Rowlands – service number 3479, of 4th Battalion, Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of Henry and Nina Mitchell Rowlands, of 26 Henry Street, Windsor.

Private T. G. Rowlands is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 176.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. Rowlands is remembered on the Humffray Street State School No. 34 Roll of Honor, located 8/7 Battalion Headquarters, Sturt Street & Ring Road, Alfredton, Victoria.



Humffray Street State School No. 34 Roll of Honor (Photo from Monument Australia)

T. G. Rowlands is remembered on the Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda located at Sturt Street and Learmonth Avenue, Ballarat, Victoria.



Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda (Photo from Carol's Headstone Photos)

T. G. Rowlands is also remembered on the Ballarat Avenue of Honour (1917-1919) where almost 4,000 trees were planted to represent the number of men and women from the Ballarat district who served in World War 1. The trees were planted at intervals of 12 metres along 22 kms of the Ballarat-Burrenbeet Road. The Ballarat Avenue of Honour is famous for being the first avenue of its kind in Australia. Tree number 1158.



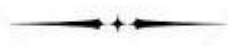
The Arch of Victory was built as an entrance to the Avenue of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia)



Ballarat Avenue of Honour (Photo from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

(56 pages of Private Thomas Grange Rowlands' 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



Newspaper Notices

FALLEN AND WOUNDED

PRIVATE T. G. ROWLANDS

Mr H. Rowlands, of Rowe street, Ballarat East, has been advised by the Defence authorities that his son, Pte T. G. Rowlands, of the 14th Battalion, has been admitted to the 14th Stationary Hospital, suffering from shell shock.

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 16 September, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

218th AND 219th LIST ISSUED

WOUNDED

T. G. ROWLANDS, Ballarat East

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 September, 1916)

SOLDIER'S LETTER

PRIVATE T. G. ROWLANDS

Writing to his mother from somewhere in France, Pte Thomas G Rowlands says:-"I feel quite well, but rather cold, as we had a fall of snow; but as we are not in the trenches we can put up with it.....just imagine me sitting in a tent with a warm sheepskin coat, and a pair of felt slippers, beside a nice coke fire burning in an old oil drum. Not bad, is it? The only thing was, with it is a couple of big 6 inch guns ____ yards from the tent, and every time they ___ we bounce about a foot off the floor, as we are just in the right place to catch all the concussion, but I would rather be where we are than where the shell lands. Young R. Collins is in the other tent too he is frozen, but I don't feel it. Much colder than it is in the old town where the snow is on the ground, although I suppose it will get colder as real winter goes on. That doesn't matter as long as we keep on going as we are. I suppose we will be in Bapaume by the time you get this. I myself have seen part of the place, so you can guess how close we are to it. I have also seen a couple of the famous tanks. They are curious looking contrivances, I can tell you. I have not had any letters from Australia for about six weeks: but I don't worry, as they are sure to turn up soon.

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 3 February, 1917)

PRIVATE T. G. ROWLANDS

Mr H. Rowlands, of Windsor, and late of Ballarat, has been advised by the Defence Department that his son, Pte. T. G. Rowlands, of the 14th Battalion, has been wounded; this being the second occasion. The nature of the wounds is not stated. Pte. Rowlands was educated at the Humffray street State school, and worked at the Ballarat Harness Co., Armstrong street, for five years, and enlisted in July, 1915, and has been in action seven times.

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 4 May, 1917)

PRIVATE T. G. ROWLANDS

Mr H. Rowlands, of Windsor, and late of Ballarat, has received further information from the Defence Department, stating that his son, Pte T. G. Rowlands, was admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, on 20th April, suffering from wounds in the legs and feet. Pte Rowlands was mentioned in despatches on 11th July, 1915.

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 11 May, 1917)

THE TOLL OF WAR

A DOUBLE LIST

295 AND 296

VICTORIANS

WOUNDED

Pte T. G. Rowlands, BALLARAT E. (second time)

(The Evening Echo, Ballarat, Victoria – 12 May, 1917)

DEATHS

On Active Service

ROWLANDS – Died on illness on the 8th February, at the Second Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England, Private Thomas Grange Rowlands, No. 3479 (Tich), saddler to the 13th Australian M.G.R., transport section, late of 14th Battalion, D Company, A.I.F., dearly beloved son of Harry and Nina Rowlands, and affectionate brother of Elvie, Freda, Harry, Willie, Jack and brother-in-law of Edgar Wells (returned Anzac) and grandson of the late T. and E. Rowlands, Ballarat, and Mrs. W. G. and the late W. G. Heazlewood, of Portland, dearly beloved cousin of Private W. J. Stuckberry, died of meningitis, and Sergeant A. J. (Lex) and E. R. (Edgar) Stevenson, killed in action; also Signaller V. C. Steinhauser (returned), and Private F. Wilson (still on active service), after three and a half years' active service, aged 25 years.

An honorable ending to a perfect life.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 February, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOR

CASUALTY LIST NO. 461

DIED OTHER CAUSES

T. G. ROWLANDS, Windsor, 8.2.19 (C.N.S.)

(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 March, 1919)

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)



Soldiers' Corner – Arnos Vale Cemetery (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2017)



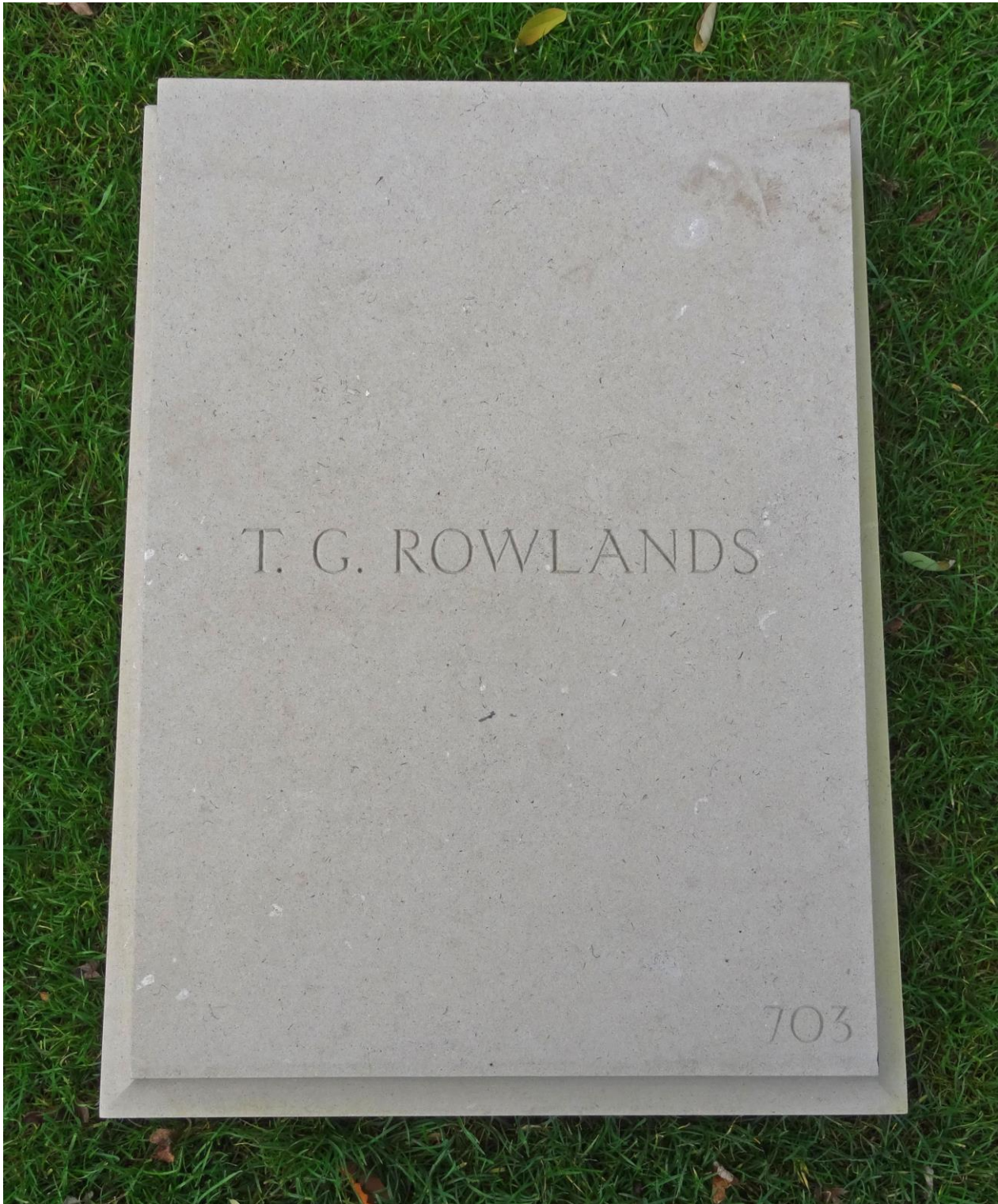
New Memorial Stones (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave November, 2018)

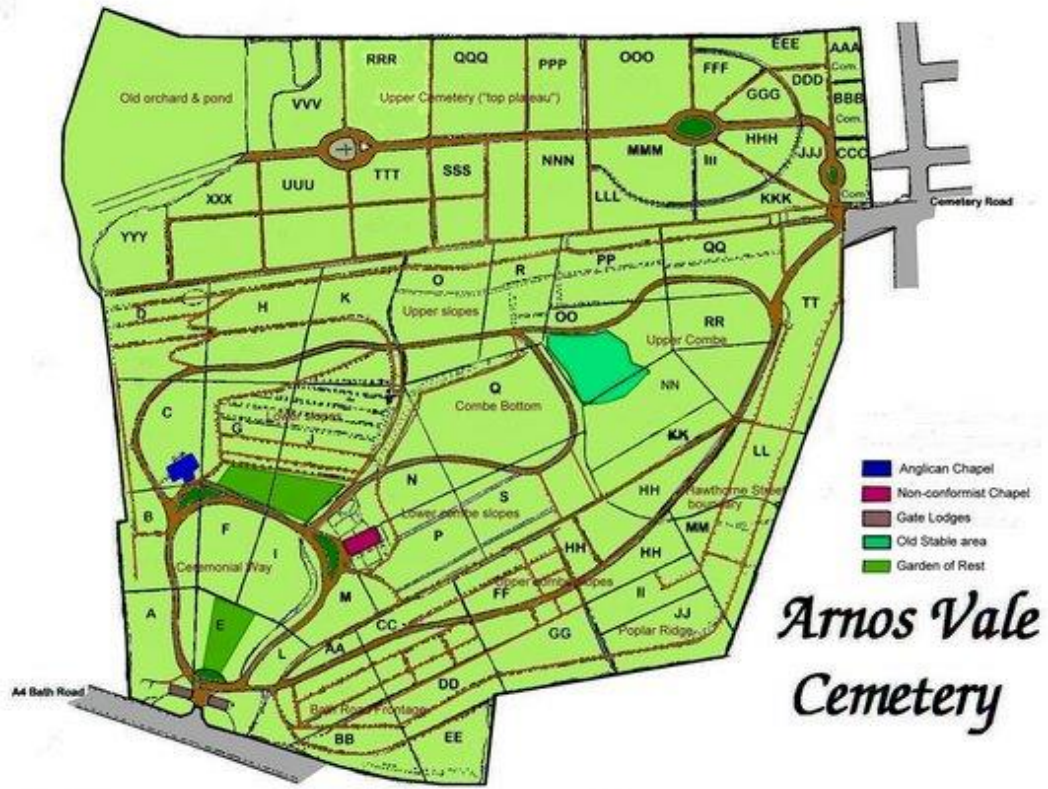
Photo of Private Thomas G. Rowland's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & his Memorial Stone in Soldiers' Corner.



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







Arnos Vale Cemetery

(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)