

**Locksbrook Cemetery,
Bath, Somerset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4549 PRIVATE

A. G. SWEETLAND. M.M.

18TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 23

To Live In Hearts

We Leave Behind

Is Not To Die

Albert Graham SWEETLAND

Albert Graham Sweetland was born at Kensington, London, England on 6th January, 1895 to parents Albert William and Edith Alice Sweetland (nee Rudd). He was baptised on 4th April, 1895 with the family living at 20 Blenheim Crescent.

The 1901 England Census recorded Albert G. Sweetland as a 6 year old, living with his family at 20 Blenheim Crescent, Kensington, London, England. His parents were listed as Albert William Sweetland (Mechanical Engineer, aged 32, born London) & Edith Alice Sweetland (aged 28, born London). Albert was the only child listed.

Albert Graham Sweetland attended school at Oxford Gardens, Kensington, England.

The 1911 England Census listed Albert Graham Sweetland as a 16 year old Servant (looking after ___ & Poultry) for Mrs Clara E. Faulk & her family at The Retreat, Kenwyn, Cornwall, England.

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour Albert Sweetland came to Australia when he was 18 years old.

Albert Graham Sweetland was a 21 year old, single, Station Hand from Denbeigh, Shirley Road, Roseville, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 22nd December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4549 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his Mrs E. Sweetland, 20 Blenheim Crescent, Kensington, England. Albert Sweetland stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to a slight defect of his right eye.

Albert Graham Sweetland was posted to "C" Company, 13th Battalion on 5th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Signal School at Casula, NSW on 8th February, 1916. Private Sweetland was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 18th Battalion on 1st March, 1916.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 9th April, 1916 with the 18th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

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

Private Albert Graham Sweetland was Absent without Leave from 5th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire from 24.00 on 11th September, 1916 to 06.30 on 13th September, 1916. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 4 days' pay.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 19th November, 1916 from 5th Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 20th November, 1916. He was taken on strength of 18th Battalion in France on 4th December, 1916 from 11th Reinforcements.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland was wounded in action on 3rd May, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right leg then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on 5th May, 1917. Private Sweetland was transferred & admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 7th May, 1917. He was transferred to Boulogne on 10th May, 1917 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship St. Denis on 11th May, 1917.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland was admitted to War Hospital at Reading, England on 11th May, 1917 with G.S.W (gunshot wound/s) to right leg & left thigh – severe. He was transferred from Reading War Hospital on 24th August, 1917 to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford. Private Sweetland had a shrapnel ball embedded in neck of his left femur. It was advised to not operate. Private Sweetland was discharged to furlough on 14th September, 1917 & after was to report to Weymouth.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 28th September, 1917 from furlough. He was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 26th November, 1917.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 26th November, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for Overseas Training Camp in two to three weeks) on 27th November, 1917. He was medically classified on 12th December, 1917 as B1 A3 & the same on 17th December, 1917, 24th December, 1917, 2nd January, 1918, 9th January, 1918, 14th January, 1918. He was medically classified as B1 A4 (fit for Overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit) at the end of January, 1918 then A3 on 14th February, 1918 (fit for Overseas Training Camp, to which transferred for hardening, prior to rejoining unit overseas).

Private Albert Graham Sweetland was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 15th February 1918 from No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland was marched out to 2nd Training Brigade at Fovant, Wiltshire on 28th March, 1918 from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 3rd June, 1918 from Fovant. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 6th June, 1918. Private Sweetland was marched out from A.I.B.D. on 8th June, 1918 to join his Unit & rejoined 18th Battalion in France on 10th June, 1918.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland & Private Roy Lord (4700) were recommended for the Military Medal on 14th August, 1918 for their following action: *"After the objective was gained on 9th August 1918 near Rainecourt, east of Amiens, wounded men were lying in front. These two men left their entrenchment and crossed an open road, went out 300 yards in front of their position and carried back 2 wounded men. They then salvaged a stretcher and carried their comrades back to the R.A.P. through a hail of fire."*

Private Albert Graham Sweetland & Private Roy Lord were recommended for the Military Medal on 6th September, 1918 for the same action on 9th August, 1918 but with a slightly different version by G.O.C. 5th Australian Infantry Brigade: *"After the objective had been gained on 9th August 1918 near Rainecourt, east of Amiens, wounded men were observed 250 yards in advance of the position. These men salvaged a stretcher and went forward under heavy machine gun and shell fire, bound up their wounds and carried them back to safety. The enemy were firing on stretcher bearers and these men had no red cross."*

Private Albert Graham Sweetland & Private Roy Lord were both awarded the Military Medal for their actions on 9th August, 1918. (*London Gazette* 14 May, 1919 & *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* 15 September, 1919).

Private Albert Graham Sweetland was wounded in action (2nd occasion) in France on 3rd October, 1918. He was admitted to 141st Field Ambulance on 3rd October, 1918 with Shell Gas then transferred & admitted to 50th Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd October, 1918. Private Sweetland was transferred & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 9th October, 1918 with G.S.W. to back (Blood Donor). He embarked for England on Hospital Ship Panama on 17th October, 1918.

18th Battalion

The 18th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.

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In 1917 the 18th was involved in the follow-up of German forces during their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was involved in some particularly heavy fighting around Warlencourt in late February. The battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out: the second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France; and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

After another winter of trench duty, the spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive that the 18th Battalion helped to repel. With this last desperate offensive turned back, the Allied armies turned to the offensive and the 18th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaurevoir Line around Montbrehain on 3 October.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Albert Graham Sweetland was admitted to Bath War Hospital, Somerset, England on 18th October, 1918 with G.S.W. (bullet) to back. He suffered acute Appendicitis & Pneumonia from 25th October, 1918.

Private Albert Graham Sweetland died at 1.30 am on 7th November, 1918 at Bath War Hospital, Somerset, England from Pneumonia, Appendicitis & Heart failure.

A death for Graham A. Sweetland, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Bath, Somerset, England.

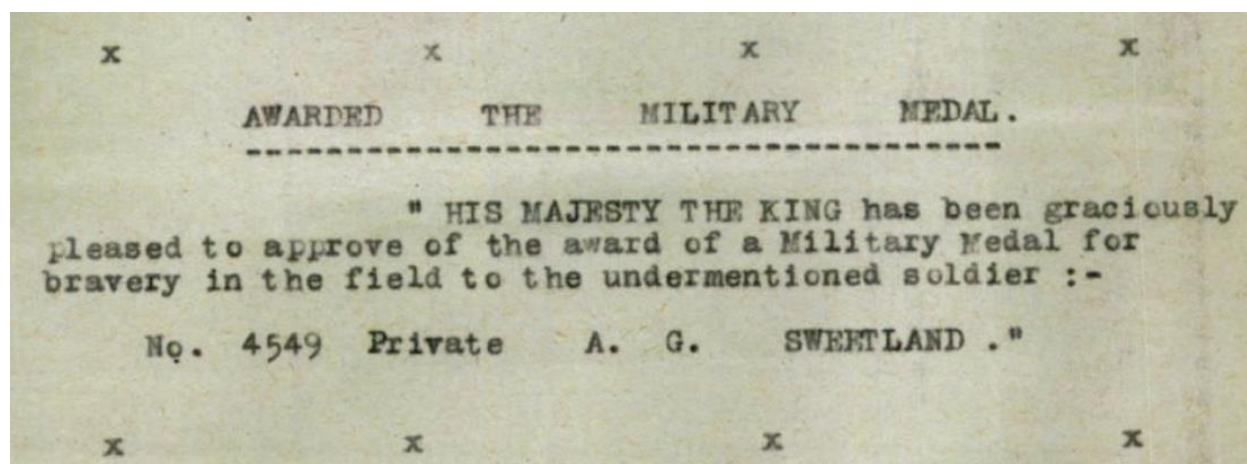
Private Albert Graham Sweetland was buried on 12th November, 1918 in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England – Plot number C.H. 35 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Albert Graham Sweetland - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass mounts. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and surmounted by several wreaths sent from Mother & Father, Sisters in Ward No 5, Bath War Hospital, Mrs J. Church, Aunt Eva, Mrs Jones, Cousin Maud. The Rev. J. Turner Smith conducted the burial service at the graveside, where the "Last Post" was sounded The grave will be turfed by the A.I.F. London, and an oak cross will be erected. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of family & friends present at the Funeral – Mr & Mrs Sweetman, Aunt, Sister and Fiancee Miss Reid.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Albert Graham Sweetland contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his wounds, death and burial. The O.C. Bath War Hospital wrote the following reply: *"Pte Sweetland was admitted to Bath War Hospital as a "Blood Donor". He had a successful operation from Appendicitis. Later he had influenza and developed Pneumonia from which he died on 7-11-18. He was buried in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, on 12-11-18. His relatives were with him when he died and were present at the funeral."*

Private Albert Graham Sweetland requested in his Will dated 14th December, 1917 that his mother – Mrs Edith Alice Sweetland be appointed as Executor. He bequeathed his mother one third of the total of his money & all property in her keeping & in keeping of George William Smith Esq. of Denbigh, Shirley Road, Roseville, NSW & Herbert Osborne Esq, Kingston, Glen Innes, NSW. Private Sweetland bequeathed to his finance – Miss Charlotte Ellen Reed, of 3 Clyde Rd, Wallington, Surrey, England, one third of the total of his money and all property in her keeping. The final third of his total money he bequeathed to his brother & sisters equally between them – Leslie, Dorothy, Winifred, Grace & Lillie.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Sweetland, of 20 Blenheim Crescent, Kensington, London, England, mother of the late Private Albert Graham Sweetland in October, 1919 to forward to her a copy of the extract from Second Supplement No. 31338 to the London gazette, dated 14th May, 1919 relating to the conspicuous services rendered by her son :



Private Albert Graham Sweetland was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Sweetland's mother – Mrs E. Sweetland, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

A slip of paper in the Service Record file for Private Albert Graham Sweetland has the following: "Bath Herald" Newspaper of 26th April, 1924 Despatched to N.O.K. 11.7.24" & the following dates "Again 25.6.25" "Again 5.7.1926"
From letters sent to other Australian Soldiers buried in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, the slip of paper relates to copies of the "The Bath Herald" that appear to have been sent yearly to the next-of-kin by Mrs Crowle, of Bath, featuring articles on the Anzac Day Commemoration held in the Cemetery. [See examples below after headstone photo.]

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert Graham Sweetland – service number 4549, aged 23, of 18th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Albert William and Edith Alice Sweetland, of 20 Blenheim Crescent, Notting Hill, London, England.

A. G. Sweetland is remembered on the Three Soldiers Roll of Honour located in Roseville Uniting Church, 7 Lord Street, Roseville, NSW.



Three Soldiers Roll of Honour (Photo from NSW War Memorials Register)

A. G. Sweetland is remembered on the Roseville War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, cnr Pacific Highway and MacLaurin Parade, Roseville, NSW.



Roseville War Memorial (Photo from NSW War Memorials Register)

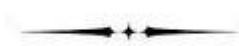
Private A. G. Sweetland is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 87.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(52 pages of Private Albert Graham Sweetland'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



Newspaper Notices

FALLEN HEROES

310TH LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte ALBERT GRAHAM SWEETLAND, England, (severely)

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 14 June, 1917)

DOUBLE MILITARY FUNERAL

The Rev. J. Turner Smith has again conducted a double military funeral at Locksbrook Cemetery. On Tuesday afternoon, Pte John Albert Lien (27), 118th U.S.A. Infantry, and Signaller Albert Sweetland (23), 18th Battalion A.I.F., both of whom died at the Bath War Hospital, were laid to rest in the portion of the cemetery which has been set aside to receive the mortal remains of gallant soldiers who came to fight from overseas. The splendid Australian band from the No. 1 Australian Depot, Sutton Veny, bearers and firing party were again in attendance to accord military honours. The coffin of the Australian soldier was covered with the Union Jack and that of the American with the "Stars and Stripes." Relatives of the Australian soldier were able to attend the funeral. The mourners were Mr and Mrs A. W. Sweetland (father and mother), Miss W. Sweetland (sister), Mr B. Rudd, Miss M. Rudd and Miss N, Reed. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr H. C. G. Lye. The officer in charge of the firing party was Lieut. Burt.

(Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Bath Somerset, England – 16 November, 1918)

TWO CASUALTY LISTS

Many Wounded

No. 446

WOUNDED

A. G. SWEETLAND, England (2nd occ.)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 25 November, 1918)

450th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte ALBERT G. SWEETLAND, England

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 December, 1918)

Military Medallists

PRIVATE LORD

Private Roy Lord, of the 18th Battalion, has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery. The Commanding Officer, in recommending him for the decoration and congratulating him, refers to his commendable action (in company with Pte. Albert Graham Sweetland) and gallantry thus:— "After the objective had been gained on 9th August, 1918, near Rainecourt, east of Amiens, wounded men were observed 250 yards in advance of the position. These men salvaged a stretcher and went forward under heavy machine gun fire and shell fire, bound up their wounds, and carried them back to safety. The enemy were firing on stretcher bearers, and these men had no red cross. — Brigadier General J. C. Robertson, Commander and Aust. Division." Pte. Lord, who is still in France, is the second son of our esteemed local senior sergeant of police and Mrs. Lord. He is a married man, and enlisted in 1916 from Sydney. He had a brother killed in action, while another member of such a redoubtable fighting family, Sergt. C. Lord, an original Anzac, too, recently returned.

(The Scrutineer and Berrima District Press, NSW – 22 February, 1919)

CIRCUIT LIFE AND WORK

ROSEVILLE

A memorial service to honour the three soldiers who went from the church to the great war and did not return, was held on October 12th, and was largely attended by the members of the congregation and representatives of the local patriotic bodies. A fitting memorial tablet, bearing the names of C. T. Collier, W. A. L. Jones, and A. G. Sweetland, .M.M., was unveiled by Lieut. Col. C. A. Callaghan, C.M.G., D.S.O., whose well-chosen touching words, together with the moving address of Rev. P. J. Stephen, and the appropriate music of the choir, feelingly rendered, combined to give the service an impressiveness which will be long remembered by those who were present.

(The Methodist, Sydney, NSW – 8 November, 1919)

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)

Private A. G. Sweetland does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

To Live In Hearts We Leave Behind Is Not To Die

Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England

Bath (Locksbrook) Cemetery contains 90 First World War graves, 44 of which (mainly from the war hospital) form a plot. The 32 Second World War graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. There are 7 Australian War Graves from World War 1.

(Information & War Graves photo below from CWGC)

The following extract of a letter from Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, to Base Records, Melbourne, in July, 1918 was found in the Service Record file of the late Driver John McClymont, 3612, who was buried in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath on 12th October, 1917. He was the first of seven Australians who ended up being buried in Locksbrook Cemetery. The letter reads: "*Late 3612 Dvr McClymont, J. 1st Bde Hqrs, late 2nd Bn, A.I.F – The Municipal Corporation of the City of Bath, which is the Burial Authority for the Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, has very generously placed at the disposal of the A.I.F. in the finest part of the Cemetery a little Australian plot of 8 graves free of charge. Prior to this the local Undertaker who was charged by the Hospital upon instructions of these Headquarters to procure a separate single grave in virgin soil made a selection in a portion of the Cemetery that did not appeal to the representative of these Headquarters who attended the funeral. Accordingly, after discussion with our representative the Corporation offered us the little Australian plot which has been appreciatively accepted.*

The Town Clerk and Superintendent of the Cemetery further undertook that, subject to our obtaining the necessary licence from the Home Office, the Cemetery Authority would exhume the body of McClymont from the unsuitable position in which it was buried and re-inter it in the Australian Section.

The licence having been readily accorded, the Corporation has now carried their promise into effect,"



War Graves in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath *(Photo by Colin Peachey – Find a Grave)*

Photo of Private A. G. Sweetland's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath, Somerset, England.



(Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave)



World War 1 War Graves in Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath *(Photo by Rwendland)*



(Photo by Colin Peachey – Find a Grave)

ANZAC CEREMONIES IN LOCKSBROOK CEMETERY

ANZAC PILGRIMAGE IN BATH



Sunday last was Anzac Day, the fifth anniversary of the landing of the 29th Division in Gallipoli. The above picture depicts the scene at Locksbrook Cemetery, where wreaths and flowers were laid on the graves of the Anzacs who died in the Bath War Hospital. All photos "Bath Weekly Chronicle"

(Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Somerset, England – 1 May, 1920)

FALLEN ANZACS

IMPESSIVE SERVICE AT LOCKSBROOK CEMETERY

Sunday was Anzac Day, the fifth anniversary of the landing of the 29th Division in Gallipoli, and it was fittingly celebrated by memorial services in many churches in honour of the officers and men who fell in that desperate enterprise. Wreaths and flowers were placed on the graves of Australians and New Zealanders who died in England, and there was a simple, yet impressive service at Locksbrook Cemetery, where the seven brave Anzacs who died in the Bath War Hospital. It had been organised by Mrs Crowle, to whom had been given many beautiful flowers for placing on the graves. The Rev. W. H. Edwards, of Combe Down, conducted a brief memorial service and gave an address, in which he recalled the gallantry of our overseas soldiers. The hymn, "Peace, perfect peace," was feelingly sung.

Among those present were the Rev. H. W. and Mrs Doudney, Miss Freaan, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Meyer, Miss West, Mrs, Miss and Master Crowle, Miss Millard, Mr Eyres, Mrs Parker, Miss Stoward, Miss Symons, Mr Dawson, Mr Smith, Miss Mills etc.

Mrs Crowle informs us that she hopes to form a committee of resident Australians and other, whose object will be to see that in future the Anzac Day Pilgrimage Day is better organised in Bath. Copies of the paper containing a report of the in memoriam service will be sent to the relations of the fallen men in Australia and New Zealand.

(Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Somerset, England – 1 May, 1920)

Reports of the Anzac Day Ceremonies held at Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath were noted in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Bath, Somerset, England for the following years:

1921, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1945

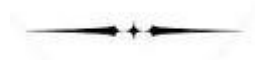


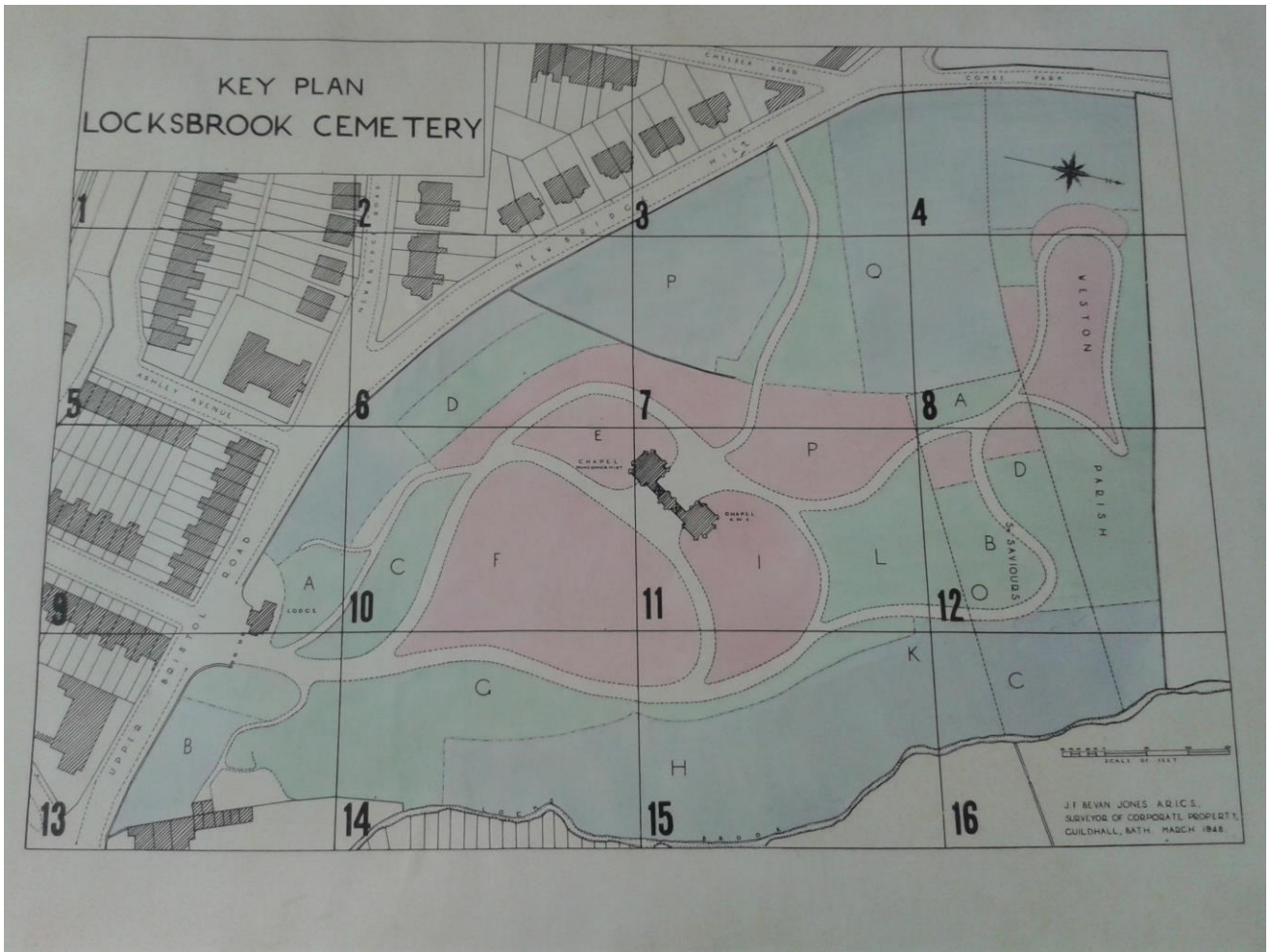
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00374.001

Locksbrook Cemetery, Bath – 25th April, 1935 – Anzac Day Ceremony

A crowd of civilians and servicemen listen to an address by a Minister at an Anzac Day service in the Churchyard Cemetery at Locksbrook.





(Photo by Mike Clark – Find a Grave)