

Cheltenham Cemetery
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3495 PRIVATE

S. G. TURNER

53RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND MAY, 1918 Age 27

Though Far Across The Sea

You Are Ever Dear To Me

Sydney George TURNER

Sydney George Turner was born at Steel Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW on 12th August, 1891 to parents Harry and Emily Rose Turner (nee Sare).

Emily Rose Turner, mother of Sydney George Turner, died in 1892 & her death was registered in the district of Granville, Sydney, NSW.

Harry Turner married Elizabeth Stockdale in 1896 in the district of Sydney, NSW.

Sydney George Turner stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been apprenticed to Commonwealth Cement Company, Portland, NSW for 5 ½ years.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Hartley, subdivision of Portland listed Sydney George Turner, Engine Driver, of Portland. His parents Harry Turner, Engine Driver & Elizabeth Turner, Domestic duties were also listed at Portland, NSW.

Sydney George Turner was a 23 year old Mechanic when he enlisted with the Australian Naval and Military Expedition on 11th August, 1914. His service number was 549. His next of kin was listed as Mrs H. Turner, of Bale Street, Portland, NSW. Sydney Turner stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 3 years with Senior Cadets.

Private Sydney George Turner was posted to E Company, 1st Tropical on 11th August, 1914.

Private Sydney George Turner embarked from Sydney on H.M.A.T. *Berrima* (A35) on 19th August, 1914. His service was terminated on 28th January, 1915 having served for 171 days – the period of engagement.

Newspaper Item – *Lithgow Mercury*, NSW – 1 February, 1915:

PORTLAND

Syd. Turner, who was a member of the expeditionary force that went to New Guinea returned home on Saturday. He should have returned home a couple of weeks ago, but was suffering from malaria. He was in hospital at Rabaul for about a fortnight, and was bad off and on for about five weeks. During his period of service he was in the military police. Though pleased at the experience gained by the expedition, Syd is not at all enamoured of the country, and would not be to undertake another trip to the tropics. Though not quite recovered the returned soldier is improving, and hopes to soon be quite well, as his many friends wish to see him.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Sydney George Turner was in the Garrison Military Police at Madang, New Guinea then came back & went to England to make munitions then came back to Australia & enlisted for the front.

A death was registered in 1915 in the district of Portland, NSW for Harry Turner, father of Sydney George Turner.

Newspaper Item – *Lithgow Mercury*, NSW – 19 July, 1916:

PORTLAND

Mr. Syd. Turner who has been in England for some months, returned by the Malwa last Monday, and arrived home on Tuesday. He volunteered and went to Rabaul, and was present at the occupation of the German possessions. Unfortunately, he contracted fever in New Guinea, and was invalided home. In Sydney he was for some time in hospital. After some months he volunteered again for service abroad, but failed to pass the medical test. Not to be deterred, he went to England as a munition worker, and was for some months in Birmingham, in a munition factory. His health, however, prevented him from working longer in England, and he was forced to leave. He is still somewhat affected by the malaria, but is feeling the benefit of the sea trip. He feels very disappointed at not being able to take part further in some way in the present struggle.

Sydney George Turner was a 25 year old, single, Mechanical Engineer from Cleveland Street, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 20th November, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3495 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Turner, of Bates Street, Portland, NSW.

Private Sydney George Turner was posted to Recruits at Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 20th November, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 17th Battalion at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 22nd November, 1916 then transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 53rd Battalion on 15th January, 1917.

Private Sydney George Turner embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 24th January, 1917 with the 53rd Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th March, 1917. Private Turner had been admitted to Ship's Hospital on the voyage from 28th February, 1917 to 2nd March, 1917 with Influenza.

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 Sydney George Turner was taken on strength of A.A.V.C. (Australian Army Veterinary Corps) Details at Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England on 4th May, 1917 from 53rd Battalion.

Private Sydney George Turner proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 16th May, 1917. He was taken on strength at Calais on 17th May, 1917 from A.A.V.C. Details from England.

Private Sydney George Turner was sent to Hospital sick on 19th May, 1917. He was admitted to 30th General Hospital at Calais, France on 19th May, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Private Turner was discharged to duty on 28th May, 1917 & rejoined his Unit the same day (Australian Veterinary Hospital).

Private Sydney George Turner was written up for a Crime at Coquelles on 7th October, 1917 – Absent from Tattoo Roll Call at 9.15 pm. He was awarded 1 extra picquet by O.C. Australian Veterinary Hospital on 8th October, 1917.

Private Sydney George Turner was struck off strength on 14th October, 1917 of Australian Veterinary Hospital on proceeding to Base Depot at Havre to join 53rd Battalion.

Private Sydney George Turner was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France on 15th October, 1917 from A.V.H. (Australian Veterinary Hospital). He was marched out to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 17th October, 1917.

Private Sydney George Turner was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 17th October, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit from 5th A.D.B.D. on 24th October, 1917 & was taken on strength of 53rd Battalion in the Field on 26th October, 1917. Private Turner was re-allotted a Regimental Number of 3495A (due to duplication of numbers).

Private Sydney George Turner proceeded on leave to UK from 16th February, 1918 & rejoined his Unit (53rd Battalion) in the Field on 9th March, 1918.

Private Sydney George Turner was wounded in action – Gassed on 18th April, 1918. He was admitted to 2/3rd HC – gassed mustard then transferred to Field Ambulance on 18th April, 1918. Private Turner was transferred & admitted to 12th Casualty Clearing Station on 18th April, 1918 then transferred to Ambulance Train the same day. He was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th April, 1918. Private Turner embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle* on 21st April, 1918.

53rd Battalion

The 53rd Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 1st Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 1st, the 53rd was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Sydney. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

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With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie. The 14th Brigade took up positions to the north of Villers-Bretonneux and held these even when the village fell, threatening their flanks.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 53rd Battalion

17 April, 1918 – Front Line:

At 4.30 am the enemy artillery bombarded VILLERS BRETONNEUX and vicinity with gas shells and continued until about 9 am. Our support and reserve lines were also shelled very heavily with gas shells, and in all about 8,000 gas shells including YELLOW, BLUE and GREEN + of calibre from 77mm to 8 inch were used by the enemy in this intense bombardment. The wind was very favourable to enemy. All ranks wore their respirators for five hours. The following Officers became Gas casualties[9 Officers listed] and 155 O/Rs.....

18 April, 1918 – Reserves:

A very clear day. A Court of Inquiry was held in the morning to inquire into the gassing of personnel on previous day. A party of 80 men were on duty at night as a working party with 14th F. Coy Engineers, Enemy Artillery quiet all day.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Sydney George Turner was admitted to Voluntary Aid Hospital, Cheltenham (affiliated with 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol), Gloucestershire, England on 22nd April, 1918 having been gassed & was listed as dangerously ill. (The Hospital Admissions form lists the Hospital as St. John, Cheltenham).

Private Sydney George Turner died at 1 pm on 2nd May, 1918 at Cheltenham Area V.A.D. Hospital, Gloucestershire, England from wounds – gassed.

A death for Sydney G. Turner, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

Private Sydney George Turner was buried at 2 pm on 4th May, 1918 in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England – Plot number M. 9161 (Soldiers' Plot) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Sydney George Turner - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths which were sent by friend, patients and Hospital Staff of St. John's V.A.D. Hospital, Cheltenham. Band, Firing Party and Bugler and Company of men, under the command of an Officer, were supplied by the Gloucester Volunteers. 200 soldiers (patients in Hospital), about 20 members of St. John's Ambulance Bde and 30 members of the Red Cross Society followed the remains to the Cemetery. Canon Cox officiated at the graveside. 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 – *Fiancée – Miss Pallister, Gateshead, Sunderland.*

Newspaper item – Gloucestershire Echo, England – 4 May, 1918:

HEROES FROM THE ANTIPODES

Australians' Funerals in Cheltenham

Touching Scenes

The funerals of four Australian soldiers who have given their lives for the Empire took place in Cheltenham on Saturday. The first, that of Corpl. Herbert Chamberlain Vale, third son of Mr B. Vale, of 3 Suffolk-square, Cheltenham, who died at the County War Hospital, Epsom, of wound, was private, but in accordance with military

regulations, the remains being laid in the local cemetery during the morning. The other three, who had died in Cheltenham military hospitals, in each case was the result of gas poisoning, were buried in the afternoon with full military honours. Of these Private J. H. Fenton, and Private Sidney G. Turner, both aged 27, _____ at the St. John Hospital, Gloucestershire and the third, Private James Warren _____ at Suffolk Hall.

There were present at the funeral of Cpl. Vale his parents, four sisters and two brother (Sec.-Lieut. H. A. Vale, _____ter Regt., and Air Mechanic C. B. Vales, R.N.A.S.) and his brother-in-law (Sergt. G. L. Swann, of the Canadians). with _____ was a regimental sergeant-major representing the Australian Administrative _____ London. The coffin was draped with a Union Jack, and the colours of Australia were on the hearse. The Rector of Cheltenham (Rev. H. A. Wilson) officiated. In addition to the family wreaths there was one from the nursing staff of the County War Hospital, Epsom, and one from Sir John and Lady Searle.

The united funeral of the three _____ fellows who died in the local hospitals were witnessed by many thousands of the town people in the afternoon, the death of these sons of the Empire in our midst _____ vibrated a very sensitive and tender chord in the hearts of the townspeople, who watched the procession through the streets and the ceremony at the graveside with great sympathy. The tow hearses from St. John Hospital were joined at the Promenade Fountain by that from Suffolk Hall, and the three proceeded together to the Cemetery, the band of the Cheltenham Company of the Gloucester Volunteer Regiment playing the "Dead March" from Handel's "Saul" on the way. A firing party of the Volunteers also started from the St. John Hospital, The bears for both Pte Fenton and Pte Turner were men of the St. John Ambulance. The private mourners following their remains were Pte Fenton's two aunts, a brother (Pte Arthur Fenton), himself recovering from gas poisoning, was attending from a Birmingham military hospital, and Miss Pallister (Pte Turner's fiancée). The hospital and other officials present were Warrant Officer Yeomans (representing the Administrative Headquarters of the Australian Imperial Staff, London), Miss Woodward (Commandant of St. John), Miss Grounds (matron), Miss Molesworth (quartermaster), Mr Ward Whittard (hon. secretary), Sisters Roberts and Symonds (who were in charge of the cases), several nurses, and a large number of patients.

With Pte Warren's remains were a detachment of Red Cross men, who included the bearers, about 20 wounded soldiers, Miss M. Hattersley Smith (Commandant), Miss Marriott (Quartermaster), Miss Mott (Assistant Quartermaster), Miss Pownoll Williams (housekeeper), Miss Hattersley Smith (head cook), Miss Layng (V.A.D. Nurse), Mr Nettleton (hon. staff), Sisters Price and Oldman, Mr W. R. Carles (president of the Victorian League), and Mrs Waterfield (wife of Cannon Waterfield, principal of Cheltenham College, who attended as a countrywoman of the fallen soldiers).

The funeral service was a most impressive one, and very solemnly read by Canon Cox, vicar of Christ Church, at the gravesides. The three coffins were carried from the hearses by members of the St. John Ambulance, and deposited on trestles in front of the grave. As each coffin was lowered into its last resting place in the beautiful position selected by the Australian authorities, Canon Cox recited the committal sentences, and Warrant Officer Yeomans threw earth on each coffin.

The immense crowd present repeated the Lord's Prayer and a verse of "Jesu, Lover of my Soul," led by the band, was sung, after which Canon Cox pronounced the blessing, and the solemn but beautiful ceremony was over. The sun was glaring hot, and the long march back by the band, Volunteers, and St. John Ambulance, was, as is usual, enlivened by stirring march tunes.

In each case several wreaths were sent. Those for Pte Fenton were on behalf of his father and mother in Australia; his sisters and brothers (Arthur, Fred, Eric, Ethel, Bert, and Isabel); Mona (Australia); Aunt Gert, Aunt Kate, Uncle George, Fannie and Jem (Nottingham); Mrs Reginald Waterfield (a "fellow Australian"); his hospital comrades; the St. John Commandant and Staff; Miss Dorothea Dobson (official visitor of the Australian Red Cross), with grateful memory and sympathy for his absent relatives and friends; and the V.A. nurses from A to E wards.

Pte Turner's wreaths were from his mother; his hospital comrades; the Commandant and staff of St. John; the V.A. nurses of the St. John ward; an anonymous token of sympathy; Miss Dorothea Dobson (Australian Red Cross); the Cheltenham branch of the Victoria League; Mrs Reginald Waterfield; H. Martyn; Ethel (his fiancée, Gateshead); Ma Pallister, Ivy Carleon, and Lorna (Gateshead); Mr and Mrs J. L. Pallister (Gateshead).

For Pte Warren flowers were sent by his mother, the Commandant and staff of Suffolk Hall; the Victoria League; Mrs Reginald Waterfield; and two from the patients of the hospital.

Within a stone's throw of the Australians' graves is that of Captain Charles Sturt, the famous explorer who penetrated to the interior of Australia and discovered the River Murray, and in whose memory a statue by Adrian Jones was recently erected in Adelaide by public subscription."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing has two files for Private Sydney George Turner. The first file contains a letter from O.C. St. John's Hospital, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham regarding Private S. Turner, 3495 which reads: "*Died of Wounds – Re the above. I have written two long letters to Mrs Turner – one immediately after her son's death and one after the funeral. I have sent her a local paper with pictures of the funeral and a list of the flowers sent and a set of excellent post cards taken by the Processions Service in the Cemetery. I believe one Australian visitor has also written and the Chaplain intended to do so. I will send you all the information you ask for if you think it desirable after hearing what I have already done, for of course I want the relations to have the fullest information and to know of our efforts to all that we possibly could for their son during his illness, and to show honour to him after his death.*"

The second Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Sydney George Turner contains a letter written by A. S. Woodward which reads: "*Re 3495 Pte S. G. Turner 53 Battn. A.I.F. My letters went to Australia by quite different mails, but inasmuch as they were quite different letters I will give you briefly what information I can for your use. Pte Turner was admitted here April 22nd with 23 other Australians, 18 of who were gassed. He was very ill and Pneumonia set in. Everything possible was done and though he could not say much he would smile as if he were comfortable and contented. We sent for his Fiancée – Miss Pallister – from Gateshead and at time he was able to talk a little to her. She stayed 2 or 3 days and then had to go back to her work. We wheeled him into a tiny single ward and he had special nurses. The Chaplain visited him and an hour or two before the end, the Chaplain had prayer by his side, and though we had thought him unconscious, he looked up and smiled and quite evidently had been comforted. He passed away quite peacefully on May 2nd in the afternoon.*

The funeral was on May 4th and I think the relatives would have been a little comforted if they had seen the respect and sympathy of the crowds. Our St. John men turned out as a Guard of Honour and to act as Bearers and about 40 of the Patients formed part of the Procession; and the local Volunteers formed another part, and they provided the Band and Firing Party. I have sent Photos to Mrs Turner and I am afraid I have not another set to send you.

The Australian Government have bought a piece of ground in the Cemetery here and the Graves will be cared for by the Girl Guides under the supervision of the Rector's Wife.

Flowers Sent In Memory Of Pte Turner

PRIVATE SYDNEY TURNER

Died Thursday May 2/18.

Funeral Saturday May 4/18.

1. SHEAF OF IRISES *From his Mother in loving remembrance.*
2. WREATH *" his comrades in St. John Hpl. Cheltenham*
3. CROSS *" the Commandant & Staff, St. John Hospital with deepest sympathy.*
4. CHAPLET OF FLOWERS *" the V.A. Nurses of St. John Ward with deepest sympathy.*
5. FLOWERS *" "A token of Sympathy" – Anon.*
6. WREATH *" In grateful memory of Pte Turner From Miss Dorothea de Dobson. Official visitor for the Aust Red Cross.*
7. WREATH *With respect and sympathy from the Chelt: Branch of the Victoria League.*
8. CROSS *A token of sympathy. From fellow Australian. Mrs Reginald Waterfield.*
9. NARCISSI *From H. Martyn, with kind sympathy.*
10. ANCHOR *With heartfelt sympathy from Sorrowing Ethel, 46 Coburg Street, Gateshead.*
11. WREATH *With deepest sympathy, from Ma Pallister and Ivy Carleon and Lorna, Gateshead.*
12. WREATH *With deepest sympathy from Mr and Mrs J. L. Pallister Gateshead.*

Mrs E. Turner, stepmother of the late Private Sydney George Turner, wrote to Base Records in May, 1918 to advise of a change of address from Bates Street Portland to 202 Oxford Street, Paddington, NSW.

Mrs E. Turner, stepmother of the late Private Sydney George Turner, wrote to Base Records in August, 1918 & November, 1918 enquiring about the personnel effects of her late son – Private S. G. Turner.

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. Turner, of 202 Oxford Street, Paddington, NSW in February, 1919, stepmother of the late Private Sydney George Turner, to advise that a package of personal effects of the late Private S. G. Turner, 53rd Battalion was included in a consignment which had been shipped from England on S.S. *Barunga*, which had been lost at sea on its way to Australia, with all its cargo, due to enemy action. Base Records forwarded an inventory list in October, 1919 of the items that belonged to the late Private Turner & which had been lost at sea with the “*ill-fated Barunga*”. They advised that there was no hope of recovery of the articles lost.

Private Sydney George Turner was entitled to 1914/15 Star (from his earlier service with the Australian Naval and Military Expedition in 1914), British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Turner’s (step) mother – Mrs E. Turner, as the closest next-of-kin as his father was deceased. (Scroll & Plaque sent January, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sydney George Turner – service number 3495, aged 27, of 53rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Harry and Elizabeth Turner, of 202 Oxford St., Paddington, Sydney, New South Wales.

Private S. G. Turner is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 158.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(84 pages of Private Sydney George Turner’s Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

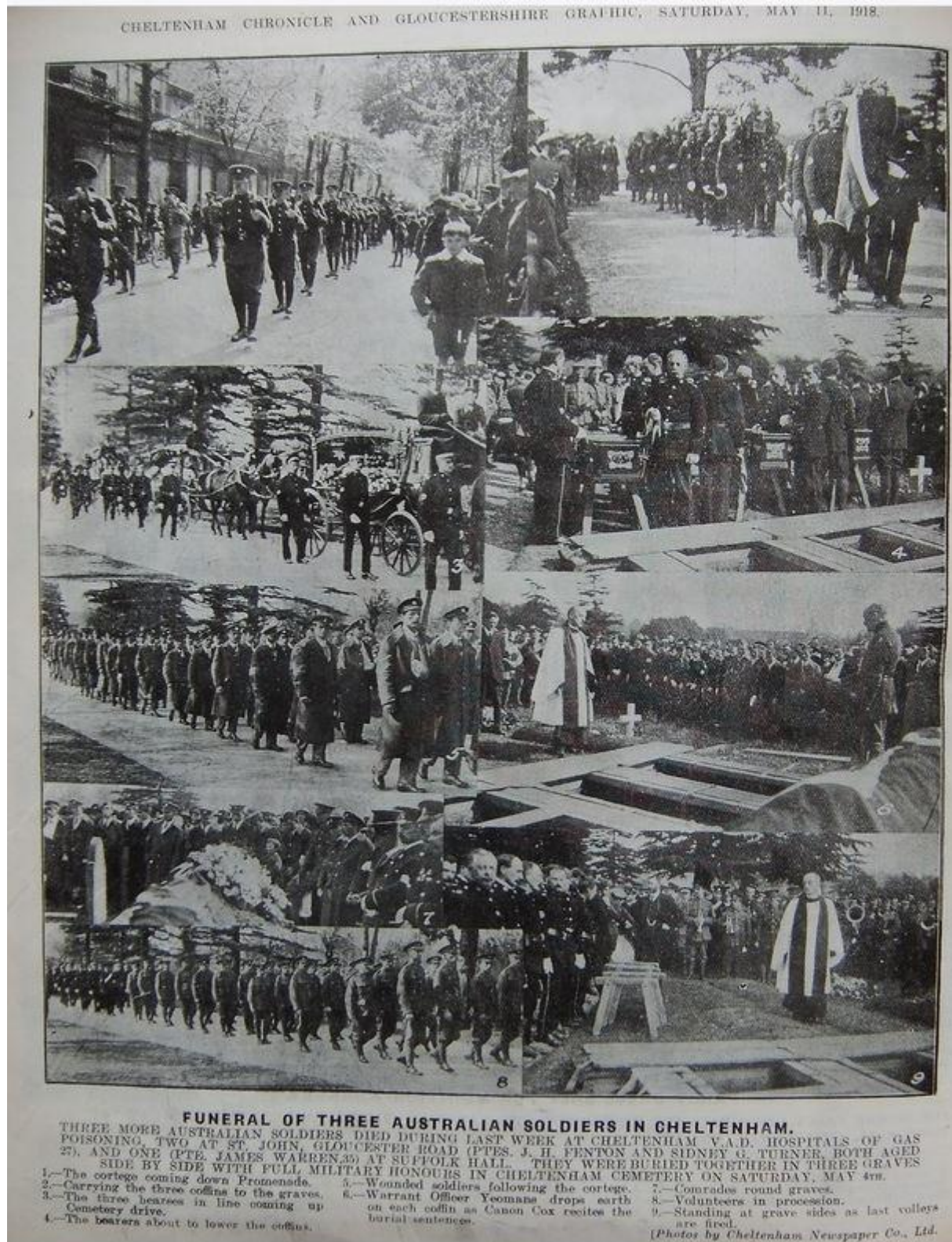
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

FUNERAL OF THREE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS IN CHELTENHAM

(Clipping courtesy of David Drinkwater)



(Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic, England – 11 May, 1918)

402nd CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Pte SYDNEY GEORGE TURNER, Portland

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 23 May, 1918)

TRIBUTE TO “AUSSIES”

Anzac Day in Gloucester

The Gloucestershire Echo of May. 1 devotes a column to reports of the Anzac Day demonstrations, which were held the day before at Cheltenham, and in which Boy Scouts and Girl Guides took a prominent part. Beautiful wreaths were placed by the Scouts and Guides on the well-kept graves of 10 Australian soldiers, after the Deputy-Mayor gave a fervent address. The names of the 10 Australian were:— Pte. J. Warren, 5th Pioneer Battalion; **Pte. S. G. Turner, 53rd Battalion**; Pte. J. H. Fenton, 15th Field Ambulance; Sgt. W. R. B. Johnson, 15th Field Ambulance; Pte. A. R. Callaghan, 54th Battalion; Pte. W. R. Jerrom, 3rd Machine Gun Battalion; Pte. A. W. Stevens, 7th Battalion; Pte. R. W. Resso, 54th Battalion; Pte H. C. Vale, 3rd Pioneer Battalion; Lce.-Cpl. P. J. Penketh, 17th Battalion (the wreath of the last named was deposited by Miss Hattersley Smith). The following is a copy of a letter sent to the next-of-kin to those Australian soldiers by the Cheltenham Remembrance Day committee (represented in the signatures by Aid. C. H. Margret, Acting Mayor and Mr. T. H. Packer, acting Secretary: — We fell sure that you will be pleased to know that on Cheltenham's Anzac Day, the graves of the 10 Australian soldiers who died in Cheltenham from wounds and other, injuries received, in battle, and were buried in our beautiful cemetery, were visited and wreaths and flowers deposited thereon. In this way the memory of those sons of the Empire who have found a last resting place far from their homes, at the foot of the historic Cotswold Hills, will be kept fresh in the minds of Cheltonians. From our charmingly placed cemetery there are beautiful views of a long stretch of the hills and of the wide expanse of the vale of the Severn— indeed, there is no more charming or picturesque spot in the whole of the Western Shires. And bordering the cemetery are: — “A rise steeply sloping, a fence with stone coping, the last - we diverged round the base or the hill.”— The scene of Adam Lindsay Gordon's (a Cheltonion) famous poem "How We Beat the Favourite." Within sound are the “Chimes of sweet St. Mary's On far English ground,” and can be seen from it — “the mist of the Cotswold Hills Where I once heard the blast of the huntsman's horn, Not far from, the Seven rills.” —the source of the River Thames. The proceedings arranged by the Remembrance Day Committee commenced at the War Memorial — erected in memory of 1,400 men of Cheltenham, who, like their Australian comrades, “died that we might live.” To this spot were brought many wreaths and bouquets of flowers, which were conveyed to the cemetery — two miles away— by over 500 Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, a selected number of whom proudly carried large bouquets of red, white, and blue flowers— the national colours— and both wreaths and flowers were garnished with ribbons of the same colour, while a wreath sent by an Australian mother bore the black and green colours of the battalion to which her dead son belonged. The long procession headed by the bugle band of the scouts had a striking effect as it passed along the principal streets and timbered avenues, crowded by townsfolk, on its way to the cemetery. ... At the close of the proceedings the beautiful hymn, “Fight the good fight” was sung by the whole audience—more than 2,000 – the “Last Post” was sounded, and scarcely had its rallying echoes along the hillside died away when “God save the King” had been sung, and the simple, effective, yet reverent ceremony had come to an end, and the dead soldiers were “left alone in their glory.”

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 July, 1922)

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 S. G. Turner does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Though Far Across The Sea You Are Ever Dear To Me

Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England

(Also known as Bouncer's Lance Cemetery and Prestbury Cemetery)

This cemetery contains burials of both wars. The 110 First World War graves are mainly of men who died in the local voluntary hospitals. The burials are scattered except for a small plot of 10 Australian graves. The Second World War burials number 71, half of them forming a war graves plot in the eastern part of the cemetery. There are 2 Polish war burials and a further 4 Non World War service burials within C.W.G.C. care in this cemetery. Cheltenham Crematorium is situated within the cemetery and 28 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on bronze panels within the crematorium cloisters.

(Information from CWGC)



Entrance to Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



War Graves in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire *(Photo from CWGC)*

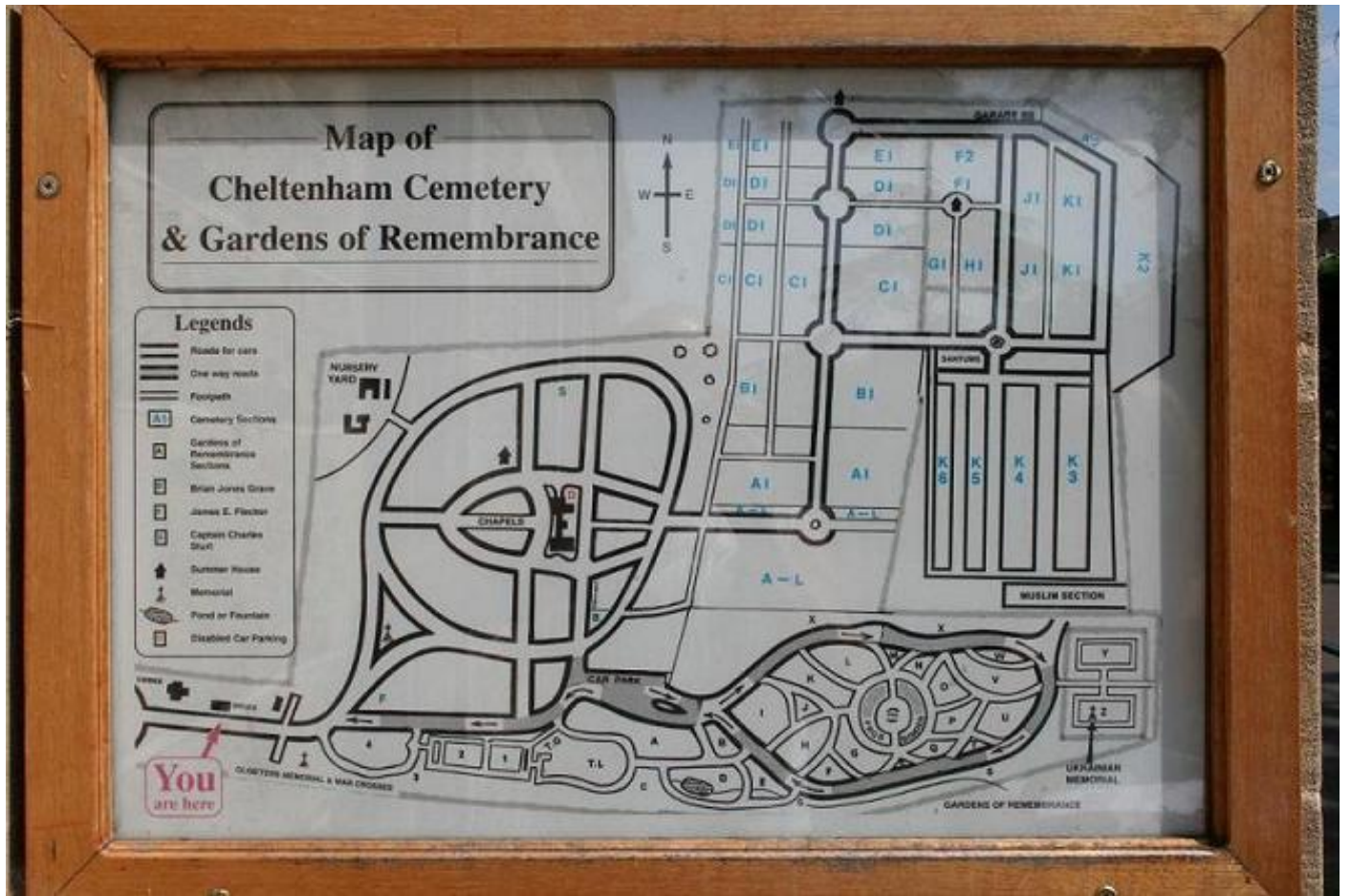


Cross of Sacrifice in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire *(Photo by Philip Halling)*

Photo of Private S. G. Turner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England.



(Photo by Alf – Military Images)



Map of Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)