

**Cheltenham Cemetery**  
**Cheltenham, Gloucestershire**  
**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**923 PRIVATE**

**J. WARREN**

**5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS**

**2ND MAY, 1918 Age 33**

## James WARREN

James Warren was born at Sea (England) on *Waroonga* on 18th December, 1883 to parents John James Truro Warren & Rose Warren (nee Littlefield).

James Warren attended Fremantle Boys' State School, Western Australia.

Rose Warren, mother of James Warren, married James Torrance in 1897 at Fremantle, Western Australia.

James Warren was apprenticed with the West Australian Railways. He entered service as a Messenger on 1st July, 1898 at Fremantle, Western Australia. On 23rd January, 1899 James Warren commenced his apprenticeship with the Western Australian Railways. His time expired on 23rd January, 1904.

James Warren was a 30 year old, single, Engineer when he enlisted at Randwick, Sydney, NSW on 27th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 923 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Beaufort Street, Mount Lawler, Perth, Western Australia. James Warren stated on his Attestation Papers that he had completed 5 years with the West Australian Infantry.

Private James Warren was posted to 2nd Infantry Battalion on 20th August, 1914 for recruit training.

Private James Warren was absent without leave on 8th October, 1914 & forfeited 3 days' pay.

Private James Warren embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) on 18th October, 1914 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion "H" Company.

Private James Warren joined 2nd Battalion at Gallipoli on 7th May, 1915.

Private James Warren was transferred to Divisional Headquarters at Anzac on 24th July, 1915 – temporarily.

Private James Warren was sent sick to Hospital on 29th August, 1915 then admitted to No. 3 Field Ambulance Advanced Dressing Station on the same day. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Mudros on 29th August, 1915 with gastroenteritis. Private Warren was admitted to H.T. *Huntsend* on 2nd September, 1915 & disembarked at Malta on 6th September, 1915.

Private James Warren was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital at Birmingham, England on 19th September, 1915.

Mrs Warren, of Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley, Western Australia, mother of Private James Warren, was advised on 5th October, 1915 that her son had been admitted to Birmingham Hospital sick.

Private James Warren reported to London Office of A.I.F. Depot on 26th November, 1915.

Private James Warren left for M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 25th March, 1916 with 26 Draft. He disembarked from *Huntsbill* at Alexandria on 5th April 1916.

Mrs Warren, of Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley, Western Australia, mother of Private James Warren, was advised on 6th April, 1916 that Private J. Warren had returned to duty in Egypt with 2nd Battalion on 25th March, 1916.

Private James Warren was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Tel el Kebir on 16th April, 1916. He was transferred to 5th Divisional Pioneers on 25th April, 1916 at Ismailia & taken on strength of 5th Pioneer Battalion at Ferry Post on 25th April, 1916.

Private James Warren embarked from Alexandria on Troopship *Canada* on 19th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th June, 1916.

Private James Warren was detached for duty with 1st Army Forest Control on 10th October, 1916.

Private James Warren was admitted to 1st New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Amiens, France on 22nd January, 1917 with a wound to head. He was discharged to his Unit on 27th January, 1917.

Private James Warren was written up for an Offence - drunk & disorderly on 24th June, 1917. He forfeited 21 days' pay by OC 4th Army Forest Control.

Private James Warren rejoined 5th Pioneer Battalion from 4th Army Forest Control on 28th June, 1917.

### **5th Australian Pioneers**

The 5th Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 5th Division. The battalion was formed in the aftermath of the failed Gallipoli campaign when the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) was expanded as part of plans to transfer it from the Middle East to Europe for service in the trenches along the Western Front. This expansion saw several new infantry divisions raised in Egypt and Australia, as well as specialist support units such as machine gun companies, engineer companies, artillery batteries and pioneer battalions, which were needed to meet the conditions prevalent on the Western Front.[4]

Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. The pioneer concept had existed within the British Indian Army before the war, but had not initially been adopted in other British Empire forces. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

*(Pioneer information from Wikipedia)*

Private James Warren was on leave to UK from 27th September, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 10th October, 1917.

Private James Warren was wounded in action – gas on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 2/3 H. H. Field Ambulance on 17th April, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station on 18th April, 1918. Pte Warren was transferred to Ambulance Train 14 & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th April, 1918 with effects of gas. He was invalided to England on 21st April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

### War Diary – 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

#### **BLANGY-TRONVILLE**

*16 April, 1918 – Started work on digging support line of 2nd zone system of defence (AUBIGNY LINE) 16 strong posts \_\_\_ and 2 CT's between support & front line. 4 Officers & 84 other ranks arrived during afternoon – this brings our strength in Officers to 38 OR 1 under establishment. Enemy shelling active in back areas.*

*17 April, 1918 – Work on support system on 2nd zone continued. Right flank now well under way. Camp shelled in evening by HN gun at 6.30 7.35 & 7.55 pm. 3 men killed & 4 wounded. Reports were sent & \_\_\_\_\_ countered – we had no further trouble during night.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private James Warren was admitted to Voluntary Aid Hospital, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England on 22nd April, 1918 – gassed – severe. The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Private Warren contracted Influenza & Broncho-Pneumonia.

Mrs Warren, of Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley, Western Australia, mother of Private James Warren, was advised on 30th April, 1918 that Pte J. Warren had been reported “gassed (classed as wounded)”. A Cablegram was sent on 29th April, 1918 to advise that Private Warren was dangerously ill.

Private James Warren died at 3.30 pm on 2nd May, 1918 at Cheltenham area Voluntary Aid Hospital (Suffolk Hall Hospital), Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England from wounds received in action – Gassed severe.

A death for James Warren, aged 35, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

Private James Warren was buried at 2 pm on 4th May, 1918 in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England – Plot number M. 9160 (Soldiers Plot) and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Private James Warren - *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 the V.A.D. Hospital Staff and patients. Band, Firing Party, Bugler and Company of men, under the command of an Officer, were supplied by the Gloucester Volunteer Regt. About 200 soldiers (patients in hospital), 20 members of St. John's Ambulance Brigade and 30 members of the Red Cross Society followed the remains to the Cemetery. Canon Cox officiated at the grave-side. 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.*

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 file for Private James Warren contains a letter from Robert Kirkland – Suffolk Hall V.A. Hospital, Cheltenham which reads: "923 Pte Warren 5th Pioneers Aust. He was admitted on April 22nd, suffering from Gas poisoning contracted in active service. On the 24th his temperature rose to 102.8 due in my opinion to the supervention of an attack of influenza which affected all the inmates of the same ward and also the staff of this ward. On the 26th he had severe dyspnoea (?) dusky colour, was somewhat delirious and there was dullness at the base of the right lung with fine and coarse crepitations. This spread to the left lung and the respirations became very rapid 60 per minute. On the 2nd he died suffocated."

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private James Warren also contains a letter from an Informant regarding his wounding on 1st May, 1918 but due to the date & his age quoted as 21 – this report does not relate to Private James Warren.

Private James Warren requested in his Will dated 14th December, 1916, and another dated 9th August, 1917, that in the event of his death, the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mrs Rose Torrance, 720 Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley, Western Australia.

Mrs Torrance, of 720 Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley, Perth, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records in July, 1918 to advise that her name was Mrs Rose Torrance & that Private James Warren was the son of her first husband.

Base Records contacted Mrs R. Torrance, "Allbrook", 720 Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley, Western Australia, mother of Private James Warren, in May, 1920 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & in particular of his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. A reply was received stating that the late Private James Warren was her eldest son from her first marriage & his father died over twenty years ago.

Private James Warren was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Warren's mother – Mrs R. Torrance, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Warren – service number 923, aged 33, of 5th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of John James Truro Warren & Rose Torrance Warren.

Private J. Warren is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

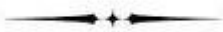
J. Warren is remembered on the New South Wales Railway & Tramways Roll of Honour, located on Grand Concourse, Central Station, Eddy Avenue, Haymarket, NSW.



**New South Wales Railway & Tramways Roll of Honour** (Photo from Monument Australia – Peter Williams)

(86 pages of Private James Warren's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

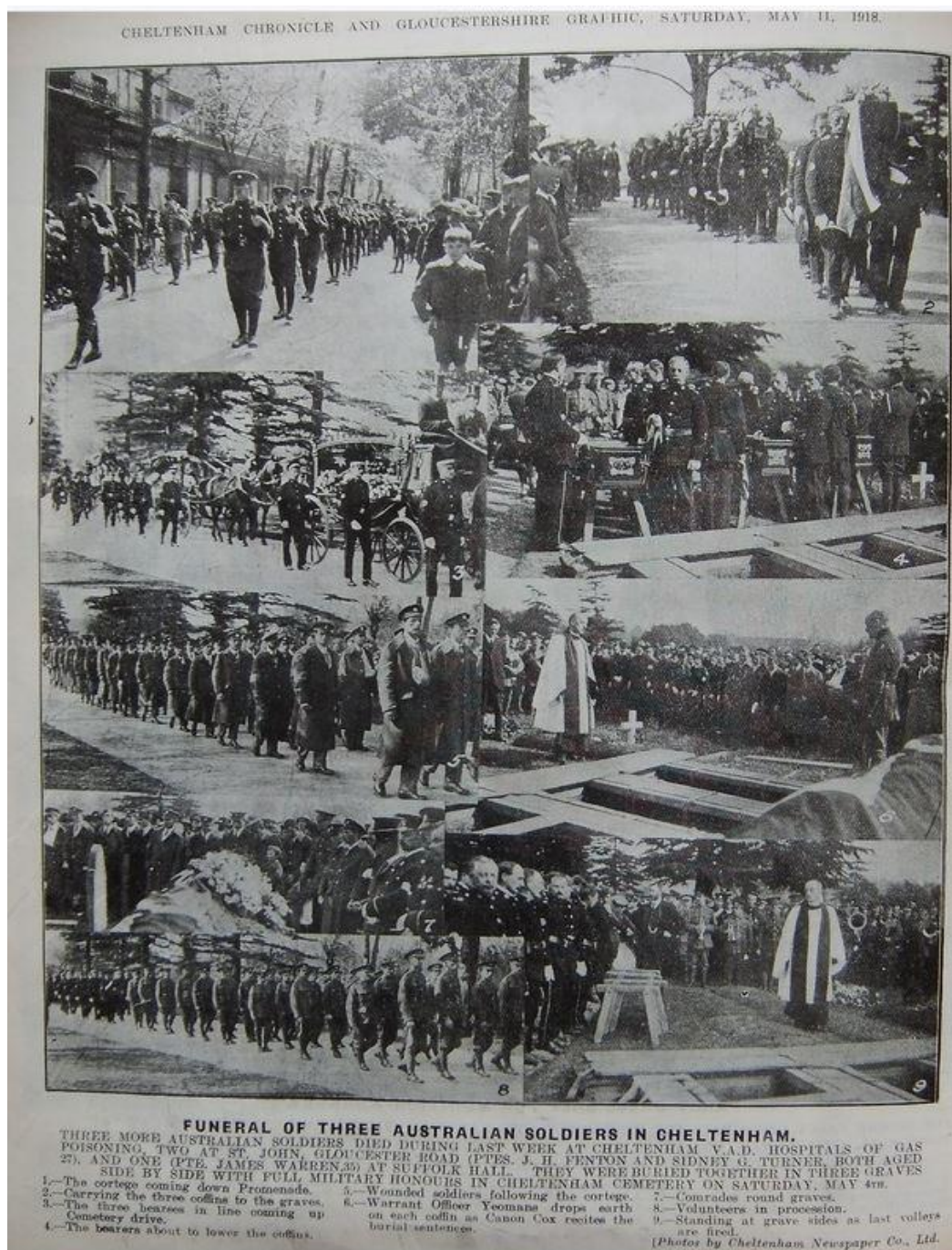
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



## Newspaper Notices

### FUNERAL OF THREE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS IN CHELTENHAM

(Clipping courtesy of David Drinkwater)



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

## DISTRICT CASUALTIES

### DIED OF WOUNDS

PRIVATE WARREN – Mrs W. G. McGregor, of Tighe's Hill (late of Carrington), received word yesterday that Private James Warren (previously reported wounded) had died from wounds. Private Warren, whos was employed on the M'Myler hoist as engineer, enlisted from Carrington, where he loved with Mr and Mrs McGregor, in Little Gipp-street.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 24 May, 1918)*

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### KILLED IN ACTION

WARREN – Died on May 2, 1918, from the effects of gas and wounds, Private James (Darkie) Warren, after 3 ½ years' active service; eldest son of the late J. J. Warren, of Quon, South Australia, and Mrs R. Torrance, 720 Beaufort-street, Mount Lawley, Perth, W.A.; brother of Eric, Jack (on active service), and Lucy, V.A.D., Southampton, England, also Peter.

-Inserted by his sorrowing mother.

*(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 21 July, 1918) &*

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 29 July, 1918)*

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### BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mrs R. Torrance (nee Warren), of 720 Beaufort-street, Mount Lawley, wishes to THANK her many friends for their kind and sympathetic messages at the loss of her son, James (Darkie) Warren.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 July, 1918)*

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**LATE PTE. JAMES WARREN**

Pte Warren, who died in the Cheltenham Hospital, England, from wounds received in action, was prior to enlisting, engineer at the M'Myler hoist at Carrington. He was also a well-known member of Victoria Lodge, I.O.O.F., Newcastle.

*(The Newcastle Sun, NSW – 5 October, 1918)*

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## 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)*

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### 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.

## 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.

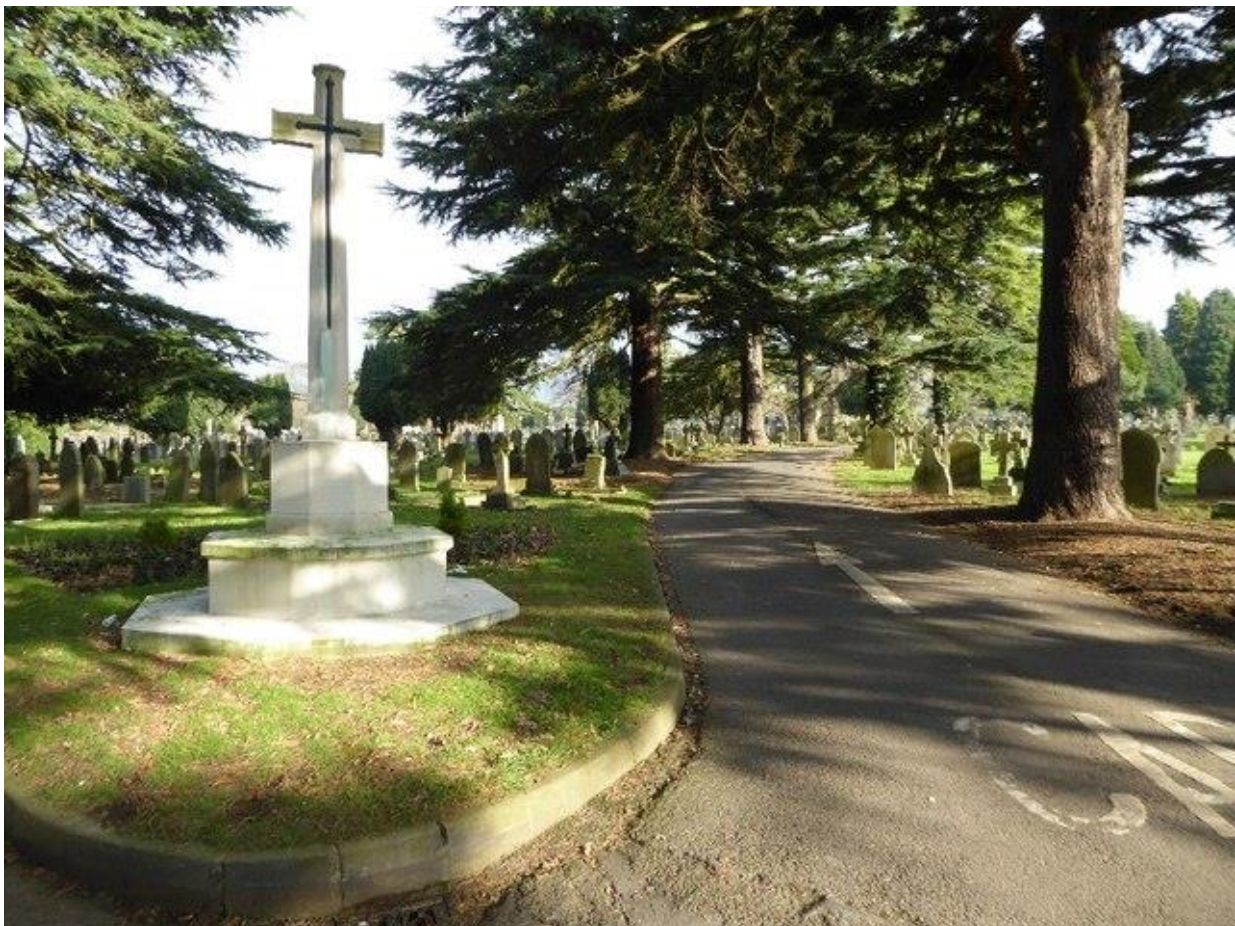
*(Information from CWGC)*



**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)*

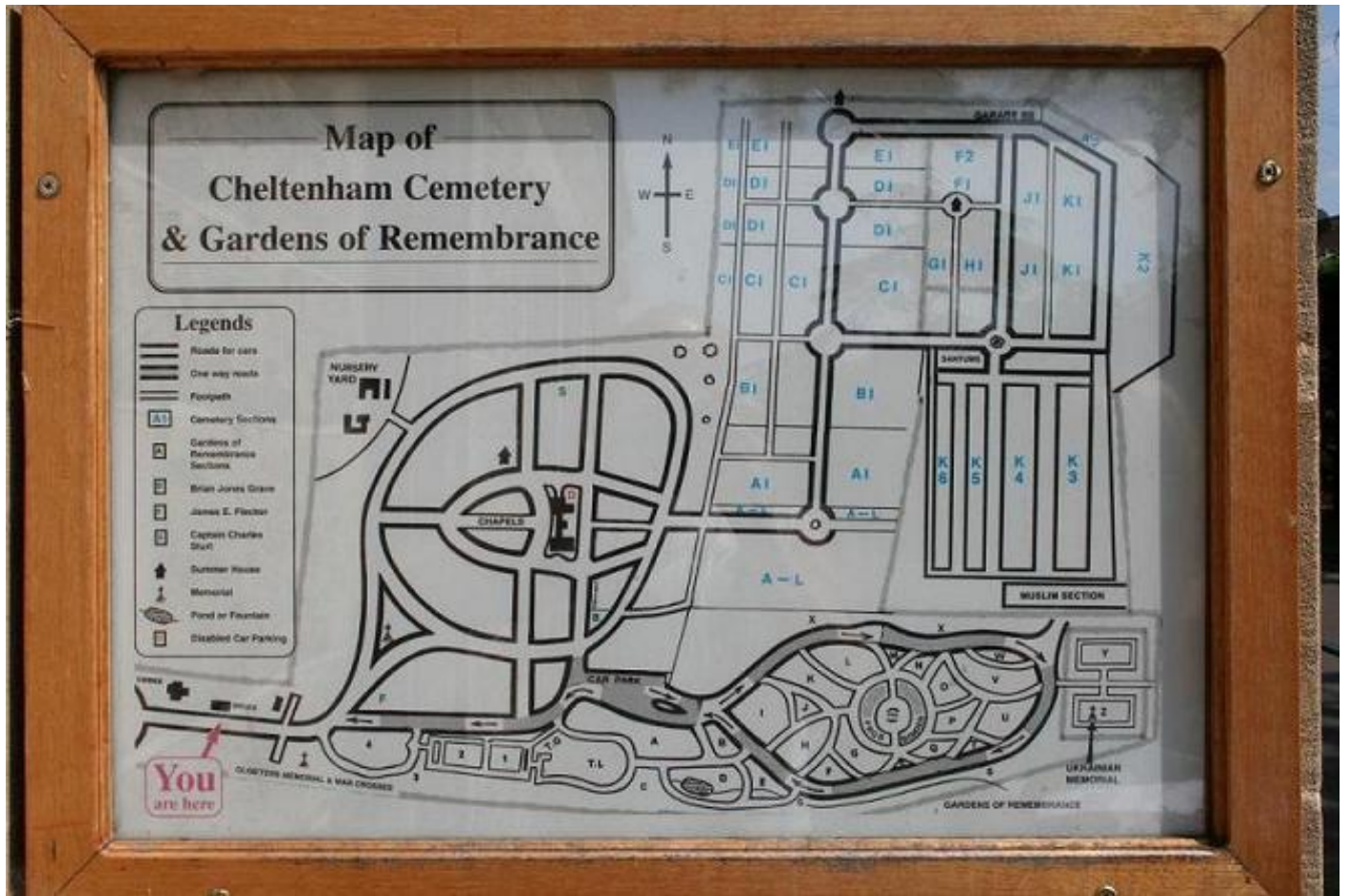
Photo of Private J. Warren's Private Headstone in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire, England.



*(Photos by ColinA – Find a Grave)*



**JAMES WARREN**  
**AUSTRALIAN IMP. FORCES**  
**BORN 26TH DEC. 1883**  
**DIED 2ND MAY 1918**  
**DEEPLY MOURNED**  
**R.I.P.**



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