

FWW SOLDIER'S TURFSTONES RELAID

Forty-five turf-stones inscribed with the names of soldiers who died in the First World War were relaid by soldiers from the 266th Battery, Royal Artillery in the Soldiers Corner of Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol. The turf-stones had been removed and stored in a crypt within the cemetery for a number of years. The Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust and Friends of Arnos Vale have been undertaking a planned long term restoration of the cemetery. Established in 1839 the forty-five acre cemetery fell victim to widespread neglect and faced closure and clearance in the late 1980s. A local campaign to save the cemetery was ultimately successful and its management and care became the responsibility of the Arnos Vale Trust.



As part of the First World War Centenary the Trust received a grant from the Heritage Lottery

Fund to enable the soldier's turf-stones to be replaced near to the original positions in the Soldier's Plot. Many soldiers wounded in the First World War received treatment in Bristol notably at the 2nd Southern General and the Beaufort Hospitals and some of those who died were interred in Arnos Vale Cemetery. A total of 356 casualties of the First World War are buried in the cemetery, 239 of them in the Soldiers Plot. One of those who died in 1924 is Harry Blanshard Wood V.C., M.M. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his conspicuous gallantry at St. Python, France on the 13th October, 1918 whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards. Overlooking the Soldiers Corner is a war memorial. Erected on the rear wall of colonnaded memorial archway are bronze tablets inscribed with the names and regiments of the 239 casualties who lie in the Soldiers Plot.

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[Source: Arnos vale Web-Site ~ www.arnosvale.org.uk

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