

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,  
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**5972 PRIVATE**

**H. ADAMS**

**13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**7TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 26**

*Gone But Not Forgotten*

## Harry ADAMS

Harry Adams was born at St. Marys, NSW on 20th April, 1891 to parents Charles William and Elizabeth Adams (nee Rope). He was baptised on 17th May, 1891 at St. Mary's Magdalene Church, St Marys, NSW.

Elizabeth Adams, mother of Harry Adams, died on 11th August, 1895 at St Marys, NSW.

Charles William Adams, father of Harry Adams, died on 18th February, 1897 at St. Marys, NSW.

Harry Adams was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Putland Street, St. Marys, NSW when he enlisted at Bathurst, NSW on 6th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5972 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Nelly Dollin, of Putland Street, St. Marys, NSW.

Private Harry Adams was posted to Depot Battalion at Bathurst, NSW on 6th March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "C" Company, 13th Battalion on 17th April, 1916 then transferred to "A" Company of 13th Battalion on 1st May, 1915. Private Adams was transferred to 19th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion on 15th May, 1916.

Private Harry Adams was reported as A.W.L. (Absent without leave) & Drunk on 4th June, 1916 while posted at Kiama, NSW. He was fined 10/-.

Private Harry Adams was A.W.L. (Absent without leave) for 4 days – from 23rd to 26th June, 1916 while posted at Kiama, NSW. He was Fined £3.

Private Harry Adams embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 22nd August, 1916 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 13th October, 1916.

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 & also in the county of Dorset.

Private Harry Adams was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Wool, Dorset on 13th October, 1916 from Australia.

Private Harry Adams was written up for an Offence at Bovington Camp on 5th November, 1916 - absent from 7.15 am on 1st November, 1916 to noon on 1st November, 1916. Private Adams was awarded 1 day confined to Camp.

Private Harry Adams was marched out from No. 3 Command Depot at Wool, Dorset to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 17th November, 1916.

Private Harry Adams was sent sick to Codford General Hospital, Wiltshire on 21st December, 1916 from 4th Training Battalion & admitted the same day with Pneumonia. He was transferred & admitted to No. 3 New Zealand Hospital at Codford with suspected C.S.M. (Cerebro Spinal Meningitis) on 21st December, 1916.

Private Harry Adams was transferred & admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital, Wiltshire on 22nd December, 1916. The Hospital Admissions form recorded the following information: "*The weather was too severe to send him to Salisbury last night. Extremely ill on admission. Semi comatose...*"

Private Harry Adams died on 7th January, 1917 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. (Note: The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Private Adams died on 8th January, 1917. All other forms have the date of death as 7th January, 1917).

A death for Harry Adams, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private Harry Adams was buried on 10th January, 1917 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 105 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Selina Burgess, Gidley Street, St. Marys, NSW, Foster mother of the late Private Harry Adams, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 29th March, 1917. (Advice Slip states "Previously rejected.")

Base Records contacted Mrs N. Dollin, Putland Street, St. Marys, NSW in April, 1921 stating it was noted on the records that she was the registered next-of-kin of the late Private Harry Adams, but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father and mother were living, or did he have any brother or any sister older than her, 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.

No reply had been received from Mrs Dollin by 30th March, 1922 so Base Records contacted Headquarters, 2nd District Base stating that they had contacted Mrs Dollin for her to furnish the names of the late soldier's parents etc in order that the War Medals etc issuable on account of the late Private Adams may be properly disposed of but had received no reply. Base Records noted *"from the file that a pension has been granted to Mrs S. Burgess, Gidley Street, St. Marys, in the capacity of foster mother and I shall be glad if you will ascertain whether she has any claim to the items in question."*

The 2nd Military District, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW replied to Base Records on 5th September, 1922 stating that the case had been submitted to the Press in May, 1922. *"Perusal of Gratuity claim reveals that the deceased soldier was adopted by Mrs Selina Burgess as Aunt and Foster-mother at the age of six, both his Father and Mother being deceased. The Gratuity was paid to Mrs Burgess and the authority to do so was signed by the eldest surviving brother, Mr Geo. Francis Adams, of Sainsbury St, St. Marys, NSW."*

Base Records then wrote to Mr G. F. Adams, Sainsbury St, St. Marys, NSW, on 16th September, 1922 stating that they had been informed he was the eldest surviving brother of the late Private H. Adams and *"shall be glad to learn whether you would have any objections to deceased's war medals, etc., being handed over to Mrs S. Burgess, who, I understand, acted as his foster-mother from the age of 6 years. I shall also be much obliged if you will furnish me with the present address of Mrs Burgess..."*

(Note: a death was registered in 1923 in the district of Penrith, NSW for a Selina Burgess.)

George Adams replied to Base Records on 4th October, 1922 stating he had no objections whatever to Mrs Burgess receiving the War Medals, etc. He stated that her present address was c/o Mrs H. Dollin, Sainsbury Street, St. Marys, NSW.

It was decided on 10th October, 1922 to award the War Medals etc to Mrs Dollin, sister of the late Private Harry Adams.

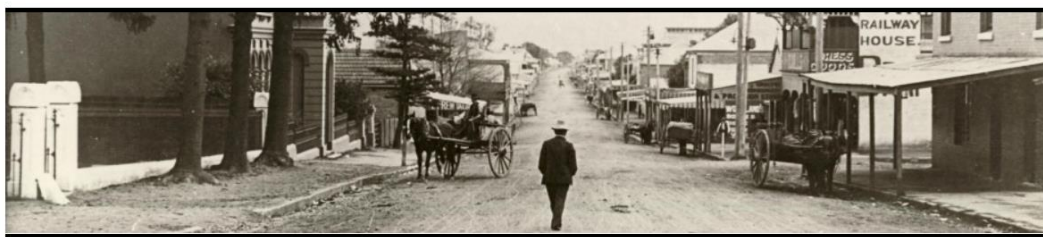
Private Harry Adams was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Adams' sister – Mrs N. Dollin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922). The British War Medal was signed for by Nellie Dollin on 27th October, 1922. E. E. Dollin signed for the Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque (not dated).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harry Adams – service number 5972, aged 26, of 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Adams.

Harry Adams is remembered on the Penrith City Local History website.

## Penrith City Local History

Portal to access information about the Penrith local government area



Harry Adams is remembered on St. Marys Public School Roll of Honor (as listed on Penrith City Local History website).

Harry Adams is remembered on St. Marys Mechanics Institute Honor Roll. (as listed on Penrith City Local History website).

H. Adams is remembered on St. Marys War Memorial, located in Victoria Park, Great Western Highway, St. Marys, NSW.



**St. Marys War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Stephen Woods)

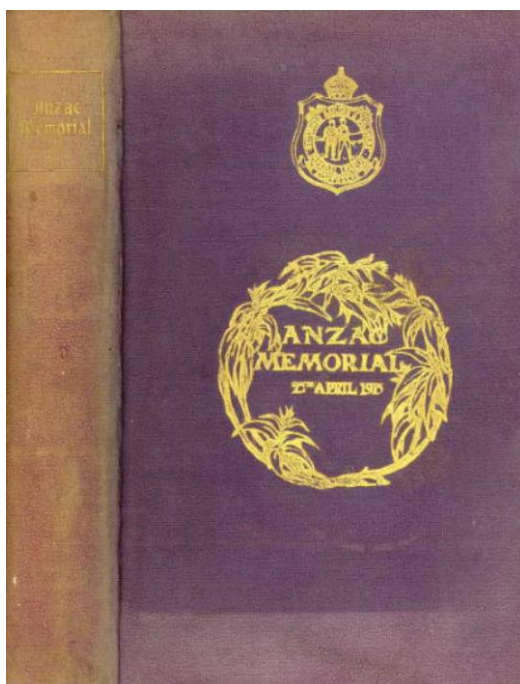


Private H. Adams is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 68.



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

Pte H. Adams is remembered in the ANZAC Memorial Book 1914 – 1918 (page 16).



ANZAC MEMORIAL				
No.	Name and Rank.	Unit.	Cause of Death.	Date.
4352	Adams, F. P., Pte.	19th Battn.	K. in A.	23/12/16
1611	Adams, F. C., Pte.	56th Battn.	K. in A.	3/12/16
5972	Adams, H. Pte.	13th Battn.	Meningitis	7/1/17
2367	Adams, A., Pte.	54th Battn.	K. in A.	17/10/17

(50 pages of Private Harry Adams' 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*



**Private Harry Adams**



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **MORE CASUALTIES**

#### **THE 265TH LIST**

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte H. ADAMS, St. Marys.

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 18 January, 1917)*

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#### **St. Marys**

The Casualty List : The sad intelligence was conveyed to relatives early in the week, per cable from the War Department, that Private Harry Adams, a native of St. Marys, had passed away, as result of a fatal attack of that dread malady, meningitis. Private Harry Adams, who is a brother of Mr Geo Adams, St. Marys, and grandson of Mrs Burgess, was a fine robust type of the Australian soldier, and acquitted himself with characteristic national valor against the enemy in operations on the Western Front. The death took place, we understand, in a London hospital, and we hope to be in a position to record more definite particulars in a subsequent issue. Meanwhile we have, with friends and relatives, and Australia generally, to mourn the loss of a gallant and sturdy compatriot, whose decease was in the course of duty in his country's and Empire's interests.

*(Nepean Times, Penrith, NSW – 20 January, 1917)*

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### **CASUALTIES**

#### **TWO MORE LISTS**

The 266th casualty list gives the total for all states.....

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS OR OTHER CAUSES

Pte H. ADAMS, St. Mary's.

*(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 23 January, 1917)*

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#### **Two Big Lists**

The 266th and 267th casualty lists, issued on Monday, give the sad information that Private G. T. Laman, of Lidcombe, has been killed in action, and that Corporal J. W. R. McLoughry (Hornsby) and Private A. Sheppard (Auburn) have died of wounds; while Private H. Adams (St. Marys) and Private W. T. Addis (Ryde) have succumbed as the result of illness.....

*(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 27 January, 1917)*

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## **St. Marys**

ANGLICAN : ..... On this Sunday (28th) a memorial service in commemoration of the late Private Harry Adams, who recently passed away at a London Military Hospital, will be held in the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene....

*(Nepean Times, Penrith, NSW – 27 January, 1917)*

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## **St. Marys**

### **ANGLICAN**

On last Sunday morning (28th Jan) a memorial service was held at the Parish Church in commemoration of the late Private Harry Adams, who, in the course of active service, was invalided to a London Hospital, where he passed away, a victim of that dread malady, meningitis. The church was crowded by a very devout congregation. The rector (Rev W R Bowers) preached a touching and appropriate sermon from John 11, 34, 35, "Where have ye laid him? Lord come and see him. Jesus wept." The service was attended by a number of cadets under charge of Lieut. A Hope, and the Penrith District Band accompanied the singing of the hymns, etc., and rendered appropriate music prior to and after the service.

*(Nepean Times, Penrith, NSW – 3 February, 1917)*

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## **St. Marys**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM THE FIRING LINE**

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The following letter, also in acknowledgment of the receipt of Xmas cheer, etc., from St. Marys Soldiers' Cheer and Comforts Club, has been received (per Mr M Bennett) from the late Private Harry Adams, under date 10th December, 1916, and written from the trenches somewhere on Western Front. A pathetic interest attaches to this well-phrased letter, as the gallant writer has since passed away to the bourne of the heroic dead. The letter runs:— "From 5972, Private H Adams, 13th Batt., on active service. To St. Marys Cheer Fund. Dear Friends,— Your parcel of Christmas good to hand this morning. I thank you heartily for sending them to me. You know the boys heartily appreciate a letter or a parcel from home. Things are not the same here as at home. It is bitterly cold, and snowing and raining all the time. The snow is falling thickly whilst I am writing this. I have had six days' furlough, which I spent in London. It is a great city — full of beautiful buildings and scenery, which is quite different to good old Sydney. The people here cannot make us chaps out, because we are so cheerful. Well, I would not mind being home for a few days at Christmas; but never mind, I can only hope to be back for the following one. I was expecting to have a month's spell, but it cannot be done, as we have to relieve the 2nd Division. They will be able to have Christmas out of the firing line — lucky beggars. It was quite a shock when I got the parcel this morning. I came in from outpost duty, and one of my mates said to me, "I say, Digger, there's a parcel up top for you!" We call everyone "Digger" here, as we have to dig ourselves in from being outed by Fritz."

*(Nepean Times, Penrith, NSW – 3 February, 1917)*

*[\*\*\*Note: According to details in the Service Record file for Private Harry Adams – he did not go to the Western Front. He was in training in Training Camps in England. He did not serve in France which is explained by him only being awarded the British War Medal. The Victory Medal was awarded to those who had entered a Theatre of War & Private Adams did not receive the Victory Medal as he had not entered a Theatre of War.]*

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## St. Marys

### FROM THE FRONT

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Mrs G Dollin, St. Marys, has received a sympathetic letter from Lieut G Waynflete Adams, who was in charge of A Coy, 4th Batt— to which Mrs Dollin's brother, the late Private Adams, belonged— at the period of Private Adams' death from an attack of meningitis while at camp, Salisbury Plains, England; and in the course of his letter Lieut Adams refers to the deep regret felt by the company at the decease of Private Adams, who was a general favorite amongst his comrades. Lieut Adams was in charge of the firing party at the late soldier's funeral, and remarks that he was impressed with the sweetness and solemnity of the service. Private Adams' grave is about two miles out of Salisbury, in a pretty little cemetery, from which the spire of the great Cathedral can be seen.

*(Nepean Times, Penrith, NSW – 3 February, 1917)*

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### 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 1st July, 1921, to Mrs N. Dollin, Putland Street, St. Marys, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her brother, the late Private H. Adams, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private H. Adams does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Gone But Not Forgotten*

## St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. (*Information from CWGC*)



**St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle**



**Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice**



*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*



*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*




*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*

Photo of Private H. Adams' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*

## Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army			NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B			Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

*(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*