

**All Saints Cemetery,
Nunhead, Greater London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1560 PRIVATE

L. R. T. GILBERT

14TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

20TH JANUARY, 1916 Age 19

Thy Will Be Done

Leslie Raymond Talbot GILBERT

Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert was born at Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, England on 27th January, 1897 to parents William Henry & Amy Gilbert (nee Hall). He was baptised on 11th March, 1897 at Biggleswade, Bedford, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Leslie R. T. Gilbert as a 4 year old, living with his family at 33 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. His parents were listed as William H. Gilbert (Art Master & Photographer, aged 39, born Lancaster, Lancs) & Amy Gilbert (age 34, born Lennington, London). Leslie was one of five children listed on this Census – Madeleine D. Gilbert (aged 11, born Chelsea, London), Jane M. Gilbert (aged 9, born Chelsea, London), Amy M. Gilbert (aged 8, born Willesden, London) then Leslie & Cyril F. Gilbert (aged 1, born Shrewsbury, Shrops). Also listed were 2 Boarders - Henry Bailey (Insurance Agent, aged 45, born Prees, Shrops) & Charles V. Lawson (Photographer, aged 28, born Denmark).

Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert attended Bristol Grammar School, England from 1907 to 1909.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Leslie Gilbert came to Australia when he was 13 years old.

Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert was a 19 year old, single, Wool classer from Walsham Road, Blackburn, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 22nd October, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Amy Gilbert, 16 Weinberg Avenue, Hawthorn, Melbourne, Victoria.

Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert was posted to 14th Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements on 21st October, 1914. He was promoted to Sergeant on 1st December, 1914.

Sergeant Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, Service number 1554, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Runic* (A54) on 19th February, 1915 with the 14th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements.

Sergeant Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Dardanelles on 4th May, 1915.

Sergeant Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert was found guilty & reduced to ranks by Field General Court Martial held at Anza on 19th August, 1915. He was charged: "*When on Active Service in the presence of the Enemy 15/8/15 left his post whilst in charge of a section of the trenches without Orders or permission from his Superior Officer.*"

Sergeant Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert was reduced to rank of Private on 19th August, 1915 by F.G.C.M. (Field General Court Marshal) This was confirmed by Brigadier General J. Monash, Commander, 4th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F. at Anzac on 30th August, 1915.

Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert was reported wounded at Dardanelles on 21st August, 1915. He embarked from Mudros on *Franconia* on 26th August, 1915.

14th Battalion

The Headquarters of the 14th Battalion opened at an office at 178 Collins Street, Melbourne in the last week of September 1914. On 1 October it relocated to Broadmeadows Camp where the battalion's recruits, principally from Melbourne and its suburbs, were taken on strength and trained. With the 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions, the 14th formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash. It embarked for overseas on 22 December and, after a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, arrived in Egypt on 31 January 1915. In Egypt, the 4th Brigade became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division with which it would serve at Gallipoli.

The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC Cove on the afternoon of 25 April 1915. On 19 May the Turks launched a massive counter-attack. During this fighting Lance Corporal Albert Jacka of the 14th was awarded the AIF's first Victoria Cross. Jacka's leadership and courage became legendary within the AIF and he was eventually commissioned in the 14th Battalion, which came to be widely known as "Jacka's Mob". From May to August 1915 the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the ANZAC front line. In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost, although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. At the end of

the month, the 14th Battalion suffered further heavy casualties when it was committed to the unsuccessful attack on Hill 60. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 14th Battalion

21st August, 1915:

Morning quiet. Attacking force for afternoon's operations issued with rations, water, ammunition, sandbags & tools.

11.00 the six Officers concerned reconnoitered the ground to be attacked over, and orders for attack issued.

14.45 Artillery bombardment opened and heavy rifle fire kept up from our trenches to prevent movement of enemy.

15.30 First line consisting of 100 of 13th Bn advanced immediately bombardment ceased.

15.45 Second Line 4 Officers and 100 others of 14th Bn under MAJOR C. M.M. DARE advanced on Hill 60 and suffered heavily in crossing Southern Bank of KAIAJIK DERE from enemy's machine gun and rifle fire.

16.00 Third Line 100 each of 13 & 14th Bns attempted to advance to support First and Second lines but suffered heavily and were unable to get forward at all. Also an attempt made by Hampshire Bn was also driven back. The first and second lined which had crossed the Kaiajik Dere and occupied the Northern bank were unable to get forward without support so Major C. M. M. Dare assumed command and ordered the position to be consolidated and firepits were dug and sandbags filled. These two lines which now consisted of 100 all ranks were holding a line over 200 yards long, and as all communication was cut off with the rear the position was strengthened as far as possible.

Between 21.30 & 22.00 The Third Line under Major Herring arrived under cover of darkness and bringing picks and shovels, so the fire pits were connected to form a trench. During the night the enemy opened heavy fire at frequent intervals on our trenches and several bombs were thrown on our left flank. Our artillery shelled the enemy's trenches on our immediate front throughout the night. All remained quiet in front of No. 2 Post held by 14th Bn less 250 detached.

Strength: - 15 Officers 460 others.

Casualties:-

Killed:- 1 Officer 14 others Lieut K. G. W. Crabbe

Wounded:- 2 Officers 53 others. Lieut F. H. Dadson Lieut V. G. Coultie

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert was admitted to King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England on 9th September, 1915 – wounded severe.

The Secretary, Defence advised Mrs A. Gilbert, Tunstall, Victoria, on 16th September, 1915 that her son Sergeant L. R. T. Gilbert had been wounded on 21st August – not reported seriously.

Amy Gilbert, mother of Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, advised Base Records on 18th September, 1915 that her new address would be 10 Riverside Rd, Camberwell, Victoria.

Base Records advised Mrs A. Gilbert, 10 Riverdale Road, Camberwell, Victoria on 25th September, 1915 that her son Sergeant L. R. T. Gilbert was in Hospital in London.

Base Records advised Mrs A. Gilbert, 10 Riverdale Road, Camberwell, Victoria on 7th January, 1916 that her son Sergeant Leslie R. T. Gilbert was seriously ill with gunshot wound to right chest at Isleworth, England. Mrs Gilbert was advised again on 13th January, 1916 that her son was still seriously ill. She was advised on 16th January that Sergeant Leslie R. T. Gilbert was progressing favourably.

Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert died at 2.20 am on 20th January, 1916 (a week before his 19th birthday) at King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England from wounds received in action at Gallipoli – gunshot wound(s) to right Chest.

A death for Leslie R. Gilbert, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1916 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert was buried on 24th January, 1916 in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England.

The Officer in Charge of Military Records, Australian Military Office, 130 Horseferry Road, Westminster, London advised The Secretary, Department of External Affairs, on 1st February, 1916:

"In confirmation of my cablegram of the 20th January, 1916., I have to report that, at 2.20 am on the 20th January, 1916, No. 1560, Sergeant Leslie R. Gilbert, 14th Battalion, died at the King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London. The cause of death was a gun-shot wound in the chest, and Tuberculosis had set in.

The funeral took place on the 24th January, from the Hospital at 1.30 pm, the deceased being interred at 3 pm in grave No. 32163, Square 89, at the Nunhead Cemetery, London, S.E. The Rev. I. G. Byrne, C.F. officiated at the burial...."

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Gilbert, "Talbot" Valley Street, Kogarah, West, NSW on 20th April, 1920 with the following: *"With reference to my communication of 19th March, 1916, regarding the regrettable loss of your son, the late No.1560 Sergeant L. R. T. Gilbert, 14th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave No. 6, Australian Section, Nunhead Cemetery, Nunhead. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photographs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin."*

This is now recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as buried in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England – Plot number 16.33431 V and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Amy Gilbert, mother of the late Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, advised Base Records in March, 1916 that the same temporary address would still find her at Doncaster Road, Box Hill, Victoria. The letter continues with *"...I received a letter from the Sister in charge of the Ward. He had three under (?) operations. 2 at the post mortem they found his lungs were riddles & shrapnel in his liver. As late as the 1st of Jan he was out & spent the day with my sister. The Sister of his ward says it was impossible to tell me how ____ & good he was all ____ & his last words were Mum said three times."*

A War Pension was granted to Amy Gilbert, 157 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill, mother of the late Sergeant Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 27th March, 1916. Reginald William G. Gilbert, Box Hill, brother of the late Sergeant Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert & Eunice Eveline F. Gilbert, Box Hill, sister of the late Sergeant Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, both applied for War Pensions but were both rejected – *"not dependent"*.

A. Gilbert, mother of the late Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, advised Base Records in August, 1918 that her permanent address would now be "Walthamstow" Henry Street, Kogarah W, NSW.

Mrs A. Gilbert, Henry St, Kogarah, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 24th March, 1919 with the following: *"I beg to make application for medal. I am the mother of 1560 Sergt L.R.T. Gilbert 14th Batt AIF wounded 21st Aug 1915 died Jan 20th 1916."*

Base Records replied to Mrs A. Gilbert on 28th March, 1919 *"...and enclose herewith form of application for nearest female relative badge, and if you have not already done so, you should fill same in and forward to the Military Commandant, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Victoria. The badge which is to be issued in connection with deceased members of the Australian Imperial Force is not yet available, and applications for same should be with-held for the present. Later advice will be published in the Press."*

The Deputy Commissioner, War Service Homes Commission, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 21st July, 1919 with the following: *"The undermentioned is an applicant for assistance under the War Service Homes Act:- GILBERT, Leslie Raymond, "Truro", Henry St, Kogarah. No. 1560, Sgt. 14th Battn. Would you please inform me as to the service of this applicant of the Military Expeditionary Forces."*

Base Records replied to Deputy Commissioner, War Service Homes Commission, Sydney, NSW on 28th July, 1919 regarding the late No. 1560 Sergeant Leslie Raymont Talbot Gilbert, 14th Battalion, *"...furnished hereunder are particulars of his service as a member of the Australian Imperial Force: 22/10/14 Enlisted in the A.I.F.; 19/2/15 Embarked for active service abroad; 4/5/15 Proceeded to Dardanelles; 21/8/15 Wounded in action; 20/1/16 Died of wounds."*

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Gilbert, "Talbot" Valley Street, Kogarah, West, NSW on 3rd May, 1920 with the following: *"It is understood that Mr Gilbert, the father of the late No. 1560 Sergeant L. R. T. Gilbert, 14th Battalion, is residing at Midland Junction, North, Western Australia. I shall be much obliged if you will advise me whether this is correct. This information is required in order that deceased's military affairs may be finalized."*

Amy Gilbert replied to Base Records on 8th May, 1920 with the following: *"... My husband was in WA but has left there & as he does not contribute anything to the support of myself & two younger children I am not in communication with him, everything connected with my son is ___ to me by his will I am entitled to anything that would have been ___ to him."*

Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Gilbert's mother – Mrs A. Gilbert (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

Amy Gilbert, 3 Foley St, Kev, Victoria, mother of the late Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, wrote to Base Records advising that she had lost her next of kin badge.

Base Records replied to Mrs A. Gilbert on 29th April, 1932 advising that *"..it may be replaced on your forwarding to this office a Statutory Declaration setting out the circumstances under which the badge was lost, and enclosing postal notes to the value of six shillings and four pence (6/4d), made payable to the Receiver of Public Moneys, Defence Department, this being the cost of replacement and postage thereon."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert – service number 1560, aged 19, of 14th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Henry & Amy Gilbert, of Henry St., Kogarah West, New South Wales.

Private L. R. T. Gilbert is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 72.

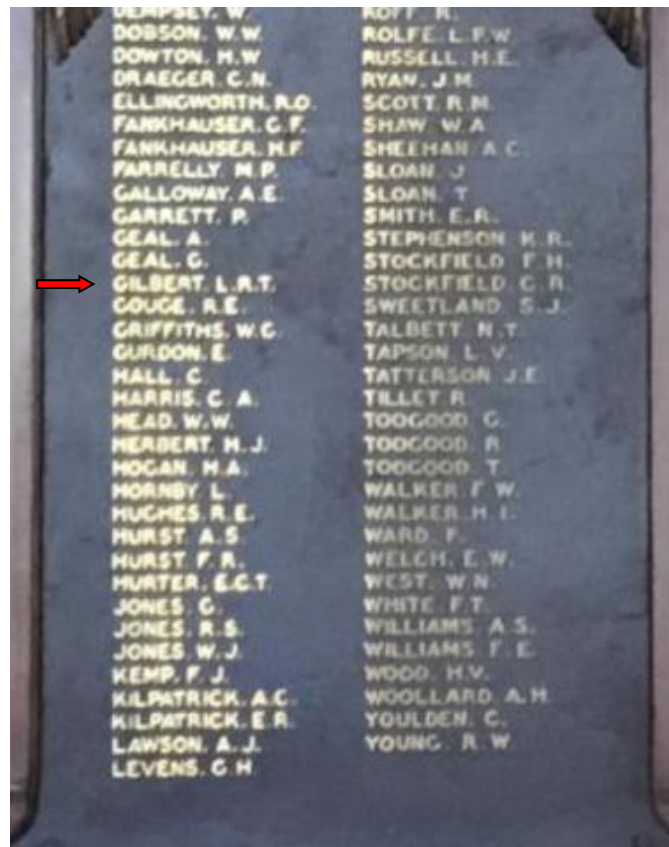


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

L. R. T. Gilbert is remembered on the Shire of Nunawading Roll of Honour, located in Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, Victoria.



Shire of Nunawading Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Edward Fleming)



L. R. T. Gilbert is remembered on the Box Hill War Memorial, located in Box Hill Gardens, Nelson Road, Box Hill, Victoria.



Box Hill War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

L. R. T. Gilbert is remembered on the Mitcham War Memorial, located in Halliday Park, Mitcham Road, Mitcham, Victoria.



Mitcham War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)



(77 pages of Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert'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

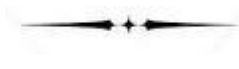




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H05973

Private Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert



From Bristol Grammar School Magazine:

1916



Deceased

The first loss of 1916 was Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, and with him the number of deceased O.B.s reached double figures. Attempting to put this into the bigger picture, the Chronicle notes that *"in comparison with the casualties suffered by many the School may well count itself fortunate, since a very large number of those serving have been in the firing line, and the price paid, however great in itself, is small to what it might have been"*.

Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert

27th January 1897 to 20th January 1916.

"At the school from 1907 to 1909, when he left at an early age because his family migrated to Australia. He was very bright and promising, and would have done very well from a School stand-point, if he had been able to stay on. Had he been a little older he would have obtained a commission in the Australian Force: but as it was he joined the ranks, and rapidly rose to be Sergeant in the 14th Battalion. At the battle on Lone Pine in the Dardanelles, where the Australian Division so much distinguished itself, he was severely wounded. He was able to stand the journey to London, and was looking forward to convalescence, when a sudden relapse intervened, and he died on January 20th of this year. Those who remember him liked him well, and he gave to the Empire a life of much promise."

Newspaper Notices

497 ANZAC CASUALTIES

34 KILLED IN ACTION

Four hundred and ninety-seven names are included in the eighty-sixth list of casualties, sustained by the Australians in the Dardanelles, issued by the Defence Department....

WOUNDED

Sgt L. R. T. Gilbert, Tunstall

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria – 5 October, 1915)

DIED ON SERVICE

GILBERT – On the 20th January, at King George's Hospital, London, of wounds received on the 21st August, Sergeant L. R. T. Gilbert, 14th Batt., eldest dearly loved son of Mrs Gilbert, White Horse road, Box Hill, late Camberwell, age 19 years.

A brave soldier gone to rest.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 January, 1916) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 February, 1916)

Australian Casualties

139th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Sergeant L. R. T. Gilbert, Camberwell

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 9 February, 1916)



THE ROLL OF HONOR: VICTORIANS KILLED AND WOUNDED AT THE DARDANELLES



Sgt. L. R. T. Gilbert
14th Bn., Died Wounds.

(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 February, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

DIED ON SERVICE.

Private H. W. Jagg	Corporal E. H. Briggs
Private S. E. Arbery	Private W. H. Thomson
	<p>AUSTRALIAN MOTOR CAR. AUSTRALIAN AIRCRAFT PRODUCTS. A DRIVING MACHINE. <small>... ..</small></p>
Sergeant L. R. T. Gilbert	



Sergeant L. R. T. Gilbert.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 February, 1916)

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

LEE – On the 16th August, killed in action, Private E. Norman Lee, the dearly loved husband of Madge D. Lee, loving daddy of Norma, and brother-in-law of the late Sergeant Leslie R. T. Gilbert, aged 26 years and 2 months.

Oh for the touch of a vanished hand,

The sound of a voice that is still.

Our loved one gone to rest.

-Inserted by his loving wife and child.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 September, 1916)

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 L. R. T. Gilbert does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Thy Will Be Done

All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England (also known as Nunhead Cemetery)

Nunhead (All Saints) Cemetery contains 592 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war. The majority are in three war graves plots; the United Kingdom plot (in Square 89) has 266 graves, the Australian plot (near the main entrance) has 23 and the Canadian plot (in Square 52, also containing New Zealand and South African burials) has 36. The graves in the Australian and Canadian plots are marked with individual headstones. The graves in the United Kingdom plot and the remaining war graves scattered throughout the cemetery could not be marked individually; the casualties buried in these graves are therefore commemorated by name on a Screen Wall inside the main entrance gate to the cemetery.

A second Screen Wall commemorates the 110 burials of the 1939-1945 war in a further war graves plot in Square 5 and elsewhere in the cemetery whose graves could not be marked by headstones.

There is also 1 Belgian burial of the 1914-1918 war and 7 Non-war Service burials, all commemorated on the Screen Wall. *(Information from CWGC)*



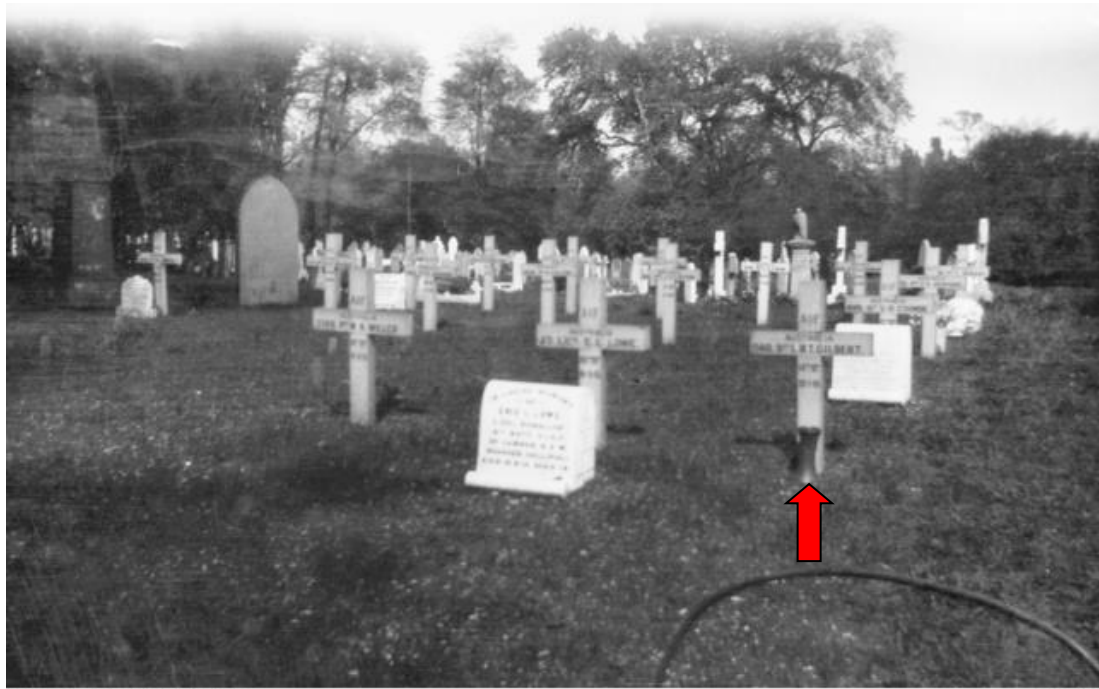
All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead





Australian War Graves in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead *(Photos courtesy of Neil Bright)*





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00776

The Australian area at Nunhead Cemetery. The grave in the centre front is 27 Lance Corporal Eric Lyndon Lowe, 18th Battalion, from Clarence Town NSW, who died on 10 September 1915 aged 18 years. **The grave to the right is 1560 Private (Pte) Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, 14th Battalion, born in England, from Kogarah West NSW, who died on 20 January 1916 aged 19 years.** The grave 2nd row right side is 1019 Sergeant (Sgt) Victor Ronald Coombe, 15th Battalion, of Campbelltown, Tas, who died on 29 September 1915 aged 26 years. From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.



Original Cross marker for Private L. R. T. Gilbert

Photo of Private L. R. T. Gilbert's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Greater London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Roberto Lagnado)