

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



469 PRIVATE

W. LEWIS

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

30TH APRIL, 1917 Age 23

*Great Love Hath No Man
That He Lay Down His Life
For His Friends*

William LEWIS

William Lewis was born at Adamstown, Newcastle, NSW in 1893 to parents John & Florence Mary Ethelberta (Ethel) Lewis (nee Date).

William Lewis attended school at Adamstown, NSW.

William Lewis was a 22 year old, single, Plumber when he enlisted on 22nd July, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 469 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Ethel Lewis, Popran Street, Adamstown, Newcastle, NSW.

Private William Lewis was transferred from P 3 Company to B Company of 30 Battalion on 1st August, 1915.

Private William Lewis embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 9th November, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, "B" Company & disembarked at Suez on 11th December, 1915.

Private William Lewis embarked from Alexandria on 16th June, 1916 on Troopship *Hororata* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private William Lewis proceeded to England on leave from 20th December, 1916 & rejoined 30th Battalion in France on 16th January, 1917.

(NOTE: page 22 of Private William Lewis' Service Record file is a typed back page of a Casualty Form – Active Service dating between 25th March, 1916 & 17th December, 1916 but the name is not visible. It appears that this page has been incorrectly filed in Private Lewis's file as it relates to several AWL's & Imprisonment. The dates also do not match up with Private Lewis')

Private William Lewis was evacuated sick on 16th February, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Divisional Rest Station on 16th February, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 1st SM Casualty Clearing Station on 17th February, 1917 with Pneumonia. Private Lewis was transferred to Ambulance Train on 28th February, 1917 then admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux, France on 1st March, 1917. He was transferred to Boulogne & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* on 2nd March, 1917.

30th Battalion

The 30th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Liverpool in New South Wales on 5 August 1915. Most of its recruits hailed from the Newcastle region and other parts of country New South Wales, but almost an entire company was composed of former RAN ratings from Victoria.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916. The 30th Battalion's first major battle was at Fromelles on 19 July 1916. It was tasked with providing carrying parties for supplies and ammunition but was soon drawn into the vicious fighting. Following Fromelles, the battalion was rotated in and out of the front line along with others in the brigade, but played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.

In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line. During the general advance that followed, the 30th Battalion had the honour of occupying Bapaume, one of the original objectives for the Somme Offensive of 1916. The 30th missed much of the heavy fighting of 1917, being employed in flank protection and reserve roles at the second battle of Bullecourt and the battle of Polygon Wood.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Lewis was admitted to Military Hospital at Edmonton, England on 2nd March, 1917 with Broncho Pneumonia (slight). He was transferred to No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, England on 16th March, 1917 with Bronchitis & Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "*Evac from Somme 14.2.17 left Pneumonia. Had a previous attack of Pleuro Pneumonia (left) 15 mths ago*". A later report: "*He is not very strong yet but has improved considerably & requires rest & tonics. Not fit for furlough.*" Private Lewis was discharged from No. 2 Auxiliary Hospital to No. 2 Australian Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 20th March, 1917.

Mrs E. Lewis, Popran Road, Adamstown, NSW was advised by Base Records on 17th March, 1917 that Private W. Lewis had been admitted to Edmonton Military Hospital on 2nd March, 1917 suffering from Broncho pneumonia – mild.

Private William Lewis was marched in to No. 2 Australian Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 20th March, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form recorded “ *Out of bed week, Chest clear*”. He was marched out from No. 2 Australian Command Depot at Weymouth on 4th April, 1917 & marched in to No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England the same day.

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. Convalescing was also completed in Wiltshire.

Private William Lewis was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 or 3 weeks) on 6th April, 1917 while posted at No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott. The Hospital Admissions form recorded for 5th April, 1917 “*Feeling well.*” On 16th April 1917 “*Not strong yet. Short winded.*”

Private William Lewis was transferred to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 23rd April, 1917 from No. 3 Depot at Hurdcott with Bronchitis.

(Note: The Casualty Form – Active Service for Private Lewis has a record that he was admitted to Hospital at Fovant on 29th April, 1917 with Bronchitis.)

Private William Lewis was admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 24th April, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). They suspected that Private Lewis had Cerebro Spinal Fever. The Hospital Admissions form recorded “*Admitted as ? 5. C S Fever. CS fluid negative. Was suffering from Pneumonia both lungs.*”

Private William Lewis died on 30th April, 1917 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for William Lewis, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private William Lewis was buried on 2nd May, 1917 in St Lawrence’s Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 118 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private William Lewis - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass furniture. The Vicar of the Parish visited the patient in Hospital during his illness and ministered the consolations of religion to him, for which he seemed very grateful and was comforted. Military Funeral.*

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Ethel Lewis, mother of the late Private William Lewis, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 5th July, 1917.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Lewis, Popran Road, Adamstown, NSW, on 14th December, 1920 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin of the late Private W. Lewis but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if 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.

Mrs Ethel Clark replied to Base Records on 20th December, 1920 stating that “*I am the mother of late 469 William Lewis. I may state that I divorced my husband about 15 years ago on account of desertion, having to work to support my children. I do not know if his father is dead or alive nit having heard from him. I have always been recognised by the Military department in all matters connected with him, having this day received the Bond for my deceased son & still receiving a pension. I remarried in May 1919, trusting this is sufficient information.*”

Private William Lewis was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Lewis' remarried mother – Mrs E. Clark, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).



Memorial Plaque for Private William Lewis

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Lewis – service number 469, aged 23, of 30th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mrs Ethel Lewis, of Popran Rd., Adamstown, New South Wales.

Private W. Lewis is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 117.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. Lewis is remembered on the Adamstown War Memorial, located outside the RSL at 282 Bruncker Road, Adamstown, NSW.



Adamstown War Memorial (Photos by Glen Ramplin)



W. Lewis is remembered on the Adamstown Methodist Church Honour Roll, located in Adamstown Uniting Church, 228 Bruncker Road, Adamstown, NSW.



Adamstown Methodist Church Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

(44 pages of Private William Lewis' 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

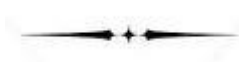
Connected to Private William Lewis:

Younger brother Oswald Osprey Lewis (b. 1895) – Enlisted 11th September, 1915. Service number 2790. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT Nestor (A71) on 9th April, 1916 with 30th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements. Returned to Australia 4th May, 1917.

According to information provided by Mrs Ethel Lewis, mother, for the Roll of Honour for Private William Lewis – she stated “Brother Oswald Osprey returned both feet amputated.”

Newspaper item *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, NSW – 9 July, 1917:

Private O. O. Lewis returned home on Saturday night, and was received at his mother's home in Popran-road by members of the patriotic committee. Appropriate addresses of welcome were made by Mr W. Brown, town clerk, secretary of the Patriotic Committee, and Aldermen Carmeron and Thompson, and Messrs. A. Davis and A. Shaw. Mr. T. Millen, uncle of the returned soldier, thanked Mr. Brown and other friends for so heartily joining in welcoming home Private Lewis. Private Lewis, who suffered from trench feet, that resulted in both his feet being amputated above the ankle, looks remarkably well, and appears in the best of health and spirits, regardless of his serious affliction. He is fitted with two artificial feet, and walks about without any apparent difficulty. Private Lewis was not aware till he returned to Sydney that his brother, Private W. Lewis, died in England.



Newspaper Notices

DISTRICT CASUALTIES

ILL

PRIVATE LEWIS – Mrs Lewis, of Popran-road, Adamstown, has received a cable message, intimating that her son, Private W. (“Pug”) Lewis, was admitted to Edmonton Military Hospital on March 2nd suffering from broncho-pneumonia, mild. Private Lewis left in November, 1915, and has been nine months in the trenches.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 23 March, 1917)

MORE CASUALTIES

THE 282ND LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte W. LEWIS, Adamstown

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 27 March, 1917)

ADAMSTOWN

Private William Lewis, whose death from illness is reported in the list of district casualties published to-day, was 23 years of age, and son of Mrs. E. Lewis, of Adamstown, and brother of Miss Alma Lewis. He was familiarly known as “Pug” Lewis, and on several occasions took part in boxing contests. His brother, Private Oswald Lewis, suffered from trench feet, and suffered amputation of both feet. He has recovered from the operation, and will be home shortly.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 9 May, 1917)

DIED OF ILLNESS

PRIVATE LEWIS – Mrs E. Lewis, of Popran-road, Adamstown, received a message yesterday that her son, Private William (Pug) Lewis, died on April 30th, from pneumonia.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 9 May, 1917)

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

The 297th list of casualties sustained by Australian troops was issued yesterday....

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. LEWIS, Adamstown (p.r.w.)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 May, 1917)

Roll of Honour

LEWIS – Private William Lewis died of illness 30th April, 1917 – Greater love hath no man but this, that he lay down his life for his friends. – Inserted by his loving mother, sister, and brother, Adamstown.

LEWIS – Private William Lewis died on illness 30th April, 1917. – The path of duty is the way to glory. – Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt and family, Mr and Mrs T. Mallin, Merewether.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 26 May, 1917)

PATRIOTIC FUNDS

The patriotic workers of Adamstown have contributed splendidly to the various funds initiated for the benefit of soldiers....

There have been 200 enlistments from Adamstown. Of these, the following have been killed in action:- Lieutenant A. McMaster, Corporals O. Bruce, A. O. Denton, Moates, R. Smart, W. Dever, W. Love, J. Roberts, C. L. Davis, B. J. Dixon, W. Lewis, Banfield, Moffatt, G. Elliott, and F. W. Waugh. The relatives of each of the fallen men will be presented with a gold emblem, placing on record the citizens' sympathy.

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 21 July, 1917)

ADAMSTOWN

SOLDIERS' WELCOME AND SEND-OFF

.....

At the invitation of the Mayor the returned soldiers, Privates O. Lewis, D. Tripney, R. Antcliffe, and W. R. Whitford, appeared on the stage, with Privates W. Phillips and J. Rae, who are about to leave for the front. Privates W. Hall and F. Morgan, who are in camp, were unable to be present.

The Mayor said that since the last function of a similar character, great changes had taken place; some local men had fallen in action, and he asked the audience to stand in silence for a few moments to show respect to their fallen heroes. The request was complied with. Referring to the soldiers present, the Mayor said the men on his left were those who had returned and those on his right were going to fill the gaps. He wished them every success in their mission. Of the returned men Private Lewis had the misfortune to lose both his feet. His brother, Private W. Lewis, died of wounds. Their sympathy went out to their mother in her sad bereavement.....

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 23 July, 1917)

DISTRICT NEWS

ADAMSTOWN

On Saturday the Mayor, Alderman Robin. and town clerk, Mr. W. Brown, president and secretary respectively of the Citizens' Patriotic Committee, visited the parents of Adamstown boys who died on active service, and presented suitably inscribed gold medals as a memento of the part their sons had taken in the war. The parents of the following deceased soldiers received the citizens' medal : Privates G. H. Banfield, W. Love, R. Stewart (Hamilton West), Corporal O. Bruce, Private C. L. Davies, Lieutenant A. McMaster, Corporal A. O. Denton, Privates Ronald R. Stuart (Thomas-street, Adamstown), W. Dever, B. J. Dixon, J. Roberts, W. Lewis, George Elliott, and Private F. W. Waugh,

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 31 July, 1917)

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 20th July, 1921, to Mrs E. Lewis, Popran Road, Adamstown, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late Private W. Lewis 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 W. Lewis does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Greater Love Hath No Man That He Lay Down His Life For His Friends

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 W. Lewis' 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)



Original Grave Markers

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)