

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



G. J. W. WALPOLE

SERVED AS

3 PRIVATE

J. WILSON

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH FEBRUARY, 1918 Age 31

George John Watts WALPOLE

George John Watts Walpole was born at Norfolk, England on 21st January, 1884 to parents George Frederick and Emma Constance Walpole. He was baptised on 13th July, 1884 in the Parish Church at Rollesby, Norfolk, England. George Frederick Walpole was listed as a Fisherman.

[The 1891 England Census recorded a "George Walpole", aged 6, born Rollesby, Norfolk as an Inmate at Workhouse along with his sisters Laura Walpole (aged 10) & Emily Walpole (aged 9).] (Note: unsure if this is the above person).

George John Watts Walpole enlisted with the Cameron Highlanders on 4th January, 1899 for 12 years & was given the rank of Boy & a Service number of 4694. He stated he was aged 14 years & 11 months & an Errand Boy. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Emily Walpole, Lady Scott's Schoolhouse.

Boy George John Watts Walpole was appointed Drummer on 1st April, 1899.

Drummer George John Watts Walpole was posted to Gibraltar from 22nd October, 1899 until 29th April, 1902.

Drummer George John Watts Walpole was posted to Malta from 30th April, 1902.

Drummer George John Watts Walpole was Absent without leave on 2nd November, 1902. He was tried for ___ on duty, convicted & sentenced to 28 days imprisonment with Hard Labour & fined 10p. He was in Prison from 8th November, 1902.

Drummer George John Watts Walpole was posted to South Africa from 16th April, 1904.

Drummer George John Watts Walpole was deprived of his Appointment of Drummer from 3rd March, 1906.

Private George John Watts Walpole was awarded 14 days Imprisonment with Hard Labour from 15th May, 1906. He was returned to duty on 29th May, 1906.

Private George John Watts Walpole was posted to China from 10th February, 1907.

Private George John Watts Walpole was awarded 10 days Detention by Commanding Officer from 28th August, 1907 & returned to duty on 7th September, 1907.

Private George John Watts Walpole was awaiting Trial on 20th January, 1908. He was tried by District Court Martial for using violence to his superior officer being in the execution of his Office and sentenced to 1 year Imprisonment with Hard Labour from 4th February, 1908.

Private George John Watts Walpole was on Home Service from 20th November, 1908. He was discharged from H.M. Service on 21st November, 1908.

George John Watts Walpole enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) at Kensington, Sydney, NSW on 22nd August, 1914 stating his name as John Wilson. He stated he was a 27 year old, single, Miner (born Norwich, Norfolk). His service number was 3 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Laura Rowland of 124 Moore Street, Mansfield, Nottingham, England. John Wilson stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Cameron Militia for 3 years. (Note: the Medical History Form in the service record file recorded the birthplace as Yarmouth, Norfolk, England).

John Wilson was posted as Sergeant (Bugler) on 17th August, 1914.

Sergeant (Bugler) John Wilson embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 20th October, 1914 (Casualty Form – Active Service & Statement of Service form both have date as 18th October, 1914) with the 3rd Infantry Battalion Headquarters & disembarked at Egypt in December, 1914.

Sergeant Drummer John Wilson reverted to the rank of Corporal on 9th December, 1914.

Corporal John Wilson reverted to the rank of Private on 20th March, 1915.

Private John Wilson embarked on *Derflinger* on 5th April, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force).

Private John Wilson was given 24 hours Detention at Lemnos on 21st April, 1915 for Gambling on Troopship A10 at 5 pm on 20th April, 1915.

Private John Wilson was wounded at Gallipoli between 25th & 30th April, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Itonus* with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left thigh. Private Wilson was admitted to No. 17 General Hospital at Alexandria on 30th May, 1915 then transferred to Mustapha Convalescent Depot on 12th June, 1915. He was discharged to duty at Southland on 14th June, 1915.

Private John Wilson rejoined his Unit at Anzac on 20th June, 1915.

Private John Wilson was wounded (2nd occasion) slightly at Anzac on 18th July, 1915. He rejoined his Unit on 20th July, 1915.

War Diary – 3rd Battalion

18th July, 1915 – ANZAC

The new firing line having been opened up much more, was manned for defence & improvements pushed on with. The old Firing Line was still held strongly and was our main line of resistance. Heavy artillery bombardments by the enemy took place at 1100 and 1630 during which the possession of a new large trench mortar was evidenced.

Casualties 4 other ranks wounded.

Following this heavy bombardment & news that the enemy was receiving large reinforcements an attack was expected at night.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Wilson was transferred to Hospital Ship *Delta* on 7th August, 1915 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right leg – 3rd occasion. He was then admitted to No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Gezireh on 12th August, 1917. Bugler Wilson was transferred & admitted to Mena Convalescent Depot on 23rd August, 1915.

A Medical Report was completed on Bugler John Wilson while stationed at Mena, Egypt. His disability was recorded as “*Bomb wound R. knee & bullet wound L. thigh. Nervous debility. Cannot straighten R. leg*”. The Bullet wound (left thigh) occurred on 25th April, 1915 & the Bomb wound (back of knee) happened on 7th August, 1915 – both on active service at Gallipoli. An operation had been performed to remove the bullet. Bugler Wilson's present condition was recorded as “*Nervous – emaciated & suffering from general ill health. Cannot straighten R. leg.*” The Medical Officer in charge of the case recommended on 25th September, 1915 that Bugler Wilson have a change to England. The Medical Board recommended that Bugler Wilson was fit for light duties in Egypt as a Bugler. They did not recommend a change to England. This was approved by Administrative Medical Officer at Cairo on 2nd October, 1915.

Private John Wilson was admitted to No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital at Mena on 2nd February, 1916 & was discharged to duty at Heliopolis on 29th February, 1916.

On 24th April, 1916 Private John Wilson, of 1st Training Battalion, had a rupture of one of adductors of right thigh. The Medical Case Sheet recorded “*This man was _____ & at this time injured his thigh. With care & appropriate treatment he ought to be able to rejoin his Unit. I would suggest massage & graduated exercises for three weeks or a month.*”

Private John Wilson was transferred to No. 4 Hospital Train from 1st Training Battalion then admitted to 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 29th April, 1916 with a ruptured muscle of right thigh. He joined 1st Training Battalion on 15th May, 1916 from No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital.

Private John Wilson was written up Overstaying leave from 06.00 hrs on 19th June, 1916 until 18.00 hrs on 24th June, 1916. He was awarded 6 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 6 days' pay.

Private John Wilson was written up for a Crime on 13th August, 1916 – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 9.30 pm on 1st August, 1916 until 11.30 am on 6th August, 1916. He was awarded 10 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 6 days' pay.

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves and served there until the evacuation in December. In August, the battalion took part in the attack on Lone Pine. For his valorous action in defending Sasse's Sap at Lone Pine on 9 August, Private John Hamilton was awarded the Victoria Cross.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England as well as convalescing. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

(Note: The records do not show when Private John Wilson was returned to England)

Private John Wilson was appointed Acting Corporal Bugler on 4th November, 1916 while posted with 1st Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire.

Acting Corporal Bugler John Wilson was admitted to Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 16th January, 1917 with Scabies. He was discharged on 23rd January, 1917 & marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire, England the same day.

Acting Corporal John Wilson was written up for an Offence at Durrington, Wiltshire, England on 1st June, 1917 – *“Conduct to the prejudice of good order & Military Discipline in that he imposed on a comrade.”* As a result he reverted to the rank of Private from 2nd June, 1917 as per orders of Lieutenant Colonel G. Coulter.

Private John Wilson was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital on 5th June, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was admitted to Fargo Hospital the same day & diagnosed with Influenza. The Hospital Admissions form recorded *“Somewhat mild case. Treated with Quinine.”* He was discharged to Depot on 9th June, 1917.

Private John Wilson was marched in to 1st Training Battalion from Fargo Hospital on 9th June, 1917.

Private John Wilson was admitted to Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 20th July, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined) but later recorded as due to Alcoholism. He was discharged to duty on 24th July, 1917. He was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Durrington on 24th July, 1917 from Fargo Hospital.

Private John Wilson was sent sick to No. 1 Group Hospital at Sutton Veny on 23rd October, 1917. He was admitted to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England on 24th October, 1917 with Influenza (recorded on Casualty Form – Active Service as Bronchitis). He was discharged on 19th November, 1917 & was marched in to 1st Training Battalion the same day.

Private John Wilson was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 2nd December, 1917. He was admitted to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England on 3rd December, 1917 with Inflammation of knee joint (right) (Synovitis). He was discharged to Training Depot on 18th December, 1917.

Private John Wilson was medically classified on 9th January, 1918 at No. 1 Command Depot Sutton Veny as B1 A1 (fit for light duty only for 4 weeks).

Private John Wilson was sent sick & admitted to Sutton Veny Hospital on 9th February, 1918 with Gastritis from No. 1 Command Depot.

Private John Wilson died at 6.30 pm on 18th February, 1918 at Salisbury Isolation Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

A death for John Wilson, aged 31, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private John Wilson was buried on 21st February, 1918 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 132 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private John Wilson – *Polished coffin. Military Funeral. Six Sergeants, original members of the 3rd Battalion, and comrades of the late John Wilson were in attendance. The body was taken to the Churchyard on an 18 pounder Gun Carriage. The Regimental Band playing the Funeral March. Pte Wilson was well known in the 3rd Battalion, and his death will be keenly felt in that Battalion.*

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, wrote to Base Records, Melbourne, Victoria on 27th June, 1918 regarding No. 3 Pte WILSON, John 3rd Battalion, A.I.F. (deceased) stating "*Information has been received from Mrs E. Walpole, c/o The Hon. Lady Montgomery Moor, Gipsy Lodge, Norwood S. E. which shows the correct name of the above-mentioned deceased soldier as WALPOLE, George John Watts, and that she, his mother, is next of kin. Documentary evidence has been produced in support of this and all necessary action taken in this Office in accordance with K.R. 1901.*"

Documentary evidence was produced showing the true name of the late Private John Wilson to be WALPOLE, George John Watts – dated 11th July, 1918 as recorded on Casualty form – Active Service.

Base Records contacted A. A. G., 2nd Military District on 31st August, 1918 regarding the late No. 3 Pte J. Wilson, 3rd Battalion, to notify them that A.I.F. Headquarters, London had advised that documentary evidence had been "*produced by Mrs E. Walpole, c/o The Hon. Lady Montgomery, Moor, Gipsy Lodge, Norwood, S.E. which show that the above named deceased soldier enlisted under an assumed name his correct name being George John Watts WALPOLE and that she, his mother, is next-of-kin...*"

The Public Trustee, Culwulla Chambers, 67 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 18th December, 1918 stating "*I am advised by the Paymaster, A.I. Force, that the deceased enlisted under the assumed name of John Wilson, his correct name being George John Watts Walpole. Kindly furnish me with amended Certificate of Death if this is correct.*"

Base Records wrote to The Public Trustee, Culwulla Chambers, 67 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW on 19th August, 1920 stating "*It is noted that you administered the estate of the late No. 3 Private G. J. W. Walpole, alias J. Wilson, 3rd Battalion, and as it is desired to dispose of War Medals, etc., I shall be much obliged if you can furnish me with the present address of the abovementioned late soldier's parents. In case they are already deceased kindly advise me of the names and addresses of the eldest surviving brother and the eldest surviving sister.*"

The Public Trustee replied to Base Records on 27th August, 1920 stating that "*the abovenamed deceased left a Will in favour of Mrs Laure Rowland of 124 Moor Street, Mansfield, Nottingham, England, but at her request the proceeds in the above estate were paid to deceased's mother, Mrs E. G. Walpole, c/o Mrs Watts, 61 Wymer Street, Norwich, Norfolk, England, who, so far as I am aware is the nearest blood relation of the deceased.*"

Bugler John Wilson requested in his Will in his Paybook that in the event of his death all his wages back pay & deferred money entitled from the 3rd A.I.F. to be payable to Mrs Laura Rowland, 124 Moor Street, Mansfield, Nottingham, England.

Private George John Watts Walpole, who served as John Wilson, was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to his mother in England – Mrs E. Walpole, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George John Watts Walpole – service number 3, aged 31, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. (Served as WILSON). He was the son of George Frederick and Emma Constance Walpole of 3 Sainsbury Rd., Gipsy Hill, Upper Norwood, London, England.

Private G. J. W. Walpole is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 38.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(107 pages of Private John Wilson'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOR

SEVENTEENTH CASUALTY LIST

Wounded

All in 3rd Battalion:

Bugler J. Wilson, England

(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 18 May, 1915)

CASUALTIES

64th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Bglr. J. WILSON, England (2nd occasion)

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 16 August, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOR

74th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Buglers F. C. White (Sydney), J. Wilson (England)

(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 7 September, 1915)

Latest Casualties

385th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Pte J. Wilson, England

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 15 March, 1918)

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 G. J. Walpole (served as J. Wilson) does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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



(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 G. J. Walpole (served as J. Wilson)'s 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 - Pte J. Wilson (marked with red arrow)





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

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)