

**Comely Bank Cemetery,
Edinburgh, Scotland
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3241 PRIVATE

W. F. WATERS

58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 32

Abide With Me

William Francis WATERS

William Francis Waters was born in Auburn, Melbourne, Victoria in 1886 to parents Joseph & Elizabeth Waters (nee Youren).

William Francis Waters was a 29 year old, single, Driver from Warburton, Victoria when he enlisted on 31st October, 1916 with the 58th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3241 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Joseph Waters of Warburton, Victoria. William Waters stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with the Light Horse for 12 months.

Private William Francis Waters embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th February, 1917.

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.

Private William Waters was marched in to 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917.

Private William Waters proceeded overseas for France from 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott via Folkestone on 14th May, 1917.

Private William Waters was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples on 15th May, 1917.

Private William Waters was marched out to join his Unit on 2nd June, 1917 & was taken on strength in the field with 58th Battalion on 10th June, 1917.

Private William Waters was on furlough to UK on 20th July, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 8th August, 1918.

Private William Waters was wounded in action in France on 8th August, 1918. He was taken to 15th Australian Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to right toe. Pte Waters was transferred on 9th August, 1918 to 20th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred again to 20th General Hospital at Camiers. Pte Waters was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Brighton* on 15th August, 1918.

Private William Waters was admitted to Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury on 15th August, 1918 with gunshot wounds to right foot. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 28th August, 1918 with gunshot wounds to right big toe & fracture dislocation (?) phalanx. He was discharged to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 6th September, 1918.

Private William Waters was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 6th September, 1918 from 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital.

[An entry on Pte Waters' Service & Casualty form states "*M/in from Hosp. W'mouth 19.10.18*" – this possibly should read "On leave from 19.10.18"?]

Private William Francis Waters was admitted to 2nd Scottish General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland on 1st November, 1918, while on leave, suffering from Influenza.

Private William Francis Waters died at 12 noon on 5th November, 1918 at 2nd Scottish General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland from Influenza & Pneumonia,

Private William Francis Waters was buried on 12th November, 1918 in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number D. 51 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Waters - *Coffin was white pine covered with black cloth. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by beautiful flowers sent from The Australian Y.M.C.A. Victoria League. The burial service was*

conducted by the Rev. Col Scott and the "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. 35 Australian Soldiers were present at the funeral.

Pte William Francis Waters requested in his Will, dated 5th July, 1917, that all his real estate he bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Waters, of Warburton, Victoria.

Pte William Francis Waters was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Waters' father – Mr J. Waters, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1922 & Plaque sent June, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists William Francis Waters – service number 3241, aged 32, of 58th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Waters of 26 Southampton St., Footscray, Victoria, Australia. Born at Melbourne, Victoria.

W. Waters is named on the Warburton War Memorial Obelisk located on Warburton Highway, Warburton, Victoria.



Warburton War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

Private W. F. Waters is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 166.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(48 pages of Pte William Francis Waters' 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 HONOUR

VICTORIAN LIST

WOUNDED

Pte W. F. Waters, Warburton

(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 September, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

WATERS – Private W. F. Waters, No. 3241, officially reported died in Second Scottish General Hospital, 5th November, from influenza, after being wounded.

We pictured your safe returning, Willie,
And longed for the clasp of your hand;
But God has postponed our meeting,
It will be in a better land.

-Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers.

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WATERS – Passed to a higher life, 5th November, after 2 years' active service, William Francis Waters, highly respected and loved by all who knew him.

-Inserted by Mrs Farndon and Essie, Rochester House, Sassafras.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 November, 1918)

VICTORIA'S ROLL OF HONOUR

LIST 449

DIED OTHER CAUSES

W. F. Waters, Footscray (illness)

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 December, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

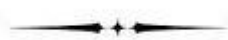
The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & 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*)

Pte W. F. Waters does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Abide With Me



Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains 302 War Graves. There are only seven Australians buried in this cemetery from World War 1.

During the First World War, Edinburgh was headquarters to the 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Battalions of the Royal Scots, with the 7th Battalion at Leith. The 2nd Scottish General Hospital (1,000 beds) occupied Craighleith Poorhouse, the Edinburgh War Hospital (2,600 beds) was in the Asylum buildings at Bangour and the Leith War Hospital (585 beds) in the infirmary at Leith. The port of Leith was used by hospital ships from north Russia and about 4,500 officers and men passed through it.

Second World War military hospitals were in Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Bangour. The city was also Scottish Command Headquarters.

Edinburgh (Comely Bank) Cemetery contains 225 burials of the First World War, most of them forming a war graves plot in Section D. The Second World War plot is immediately in front and contains more than half of the 76 Second World War burials. The cemetery also contains a Finnish war grave and two non-war service burials.

(*Information & photos from CWGC*)

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Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland



Communal Commonwealth War Graves plot in Section D

An unusual feature of the War Graves plot is that the granite headstones lie flat. This was a decision made by the architect, Sir Robert Lorimer. The plot contains WW1 and WW2 casualties/Spanish Flu victims and a member of the Finnish Legion.

Photo of Pte W. F. Waters' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Drysdale)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00524

Australian Graves at Comely Bank Cemetery in Edinburgh, Scotland.

(From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp, who was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War.)