

**All Souls Cemetery,
Kensal Green, London, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3052 PRIVATE

W. L. WATTS

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH JULY, 1916

William Leslie WATTS

William Leslie Watts was born on 7th August, 1894 near Tamworth, NSW to parents William & Phoebe Watts (nee Mabbott).

William Leslie Watts attended Corella Public School, Wonga Creek, near Manilla, NSW.

William Leslie Watts was a 21 year old, single, Farmer from Wonga Creek, Manilla, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 8th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3052 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mrs William Watts, of Wonga Creek, Manilla, NSW. William Leslie Watt's older brother – Bertie Watts, aged 24 years, enlisted the same day & was given the service number of 3051.

Private William Leslie Watts was posted to "D" Company on 8th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company of 30th Battalion on 6th March, 1916.

Private William Leslie Watts & his older brother Private Bertie Watts embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 9th April, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements. He then embarked from Alexandria on 6th June, 1916 on H.M.A.T. *Franconia* & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th June, 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.

Private William Leslie Watts died on 5th July, 1916 at Western Hospital, Seagrave Road, Fulham, England from Measles. The Death Certificate recorded William Watts of New South Wales a Private 8th Training Battalion Australian Expeditionary Force.

A death for William Watts, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Fulham, London, England.

Private William Leslie Watts was buried on 7th July, 1916 in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter was written from Base Records on 21st November, 1917 to Mr W. Watts, of Corella School, Wonga Creek, via Manilla, NSW, father of the late Private W. L. Watts, advising that the remains of his son had been exhumed from the former site & re-interred in Grave No. 14, Soldiers Plot, Square 213, Row 6 on 7th July, 1916 in Kensal Green Cemetery, London. The letter stated that "*This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

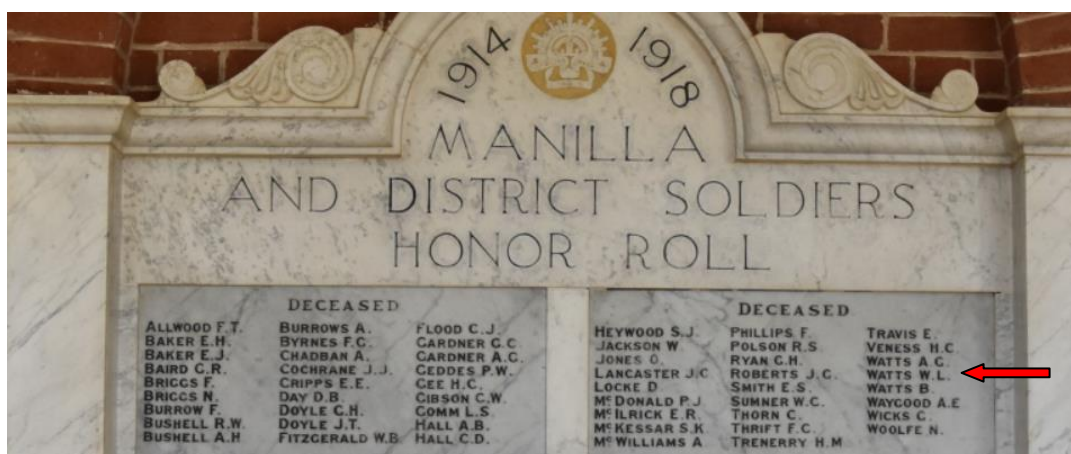
Private William Leslie Watts was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Watts' father – Mr William Watts, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Leslie Watts – service number 3052, of 30th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Phoebe Watts, of Corella School, Wonga Creek, Manilla, New South Wales.

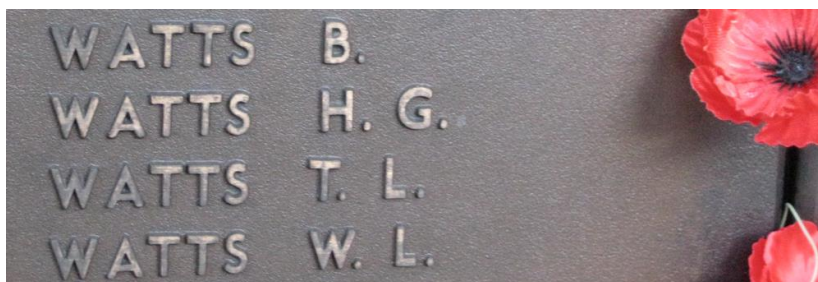
W. L. Watts is remembered on the Manilla and Districts Soldiers Memorial Hall Plaque, located at 193 Manilla Street, Manilla, NSW.



Manilla and Districts Soldiers Memorial Hall Plaque (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



Private W. L. Watts 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.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(31 pages of Private William Leslie Watts' 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 Leslie Watts:](#)

Older Brother – Private Bertie Watts, 3051, 30th Battalion, died on 26th June, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital Wiltshire from Pneumonia. He was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire. Entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War.

Older Brother – Pte Reginald Watts – 336, 13th Battalion was wounded at Gallipoli Landing on 1st May, 1915 – Gunshot wound with Fracture to Right Forearm (serious). He was returned to Australia in 1915 & discharged from Service on 27th April, 1916. He received the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.



Newspaper Notices

HONOR ROLL

List of Manilla Boys and recruits who have given their services in the great war of Life and Liberty:-

B. Watts

L. Watts

(*Manilla Express*, NSW – 11 March, 1916)

N.S.W. HONOR ROLL



**PRIVATE W. L.
WATTS,**
of Wongo Creek,
near Manilla,
died of wounds.



**PRIVATE B.
WATTS,**
of Wongo Creek,
died of illness.

(*Evening News*, Sydney, NSW – 17 July, 1916)

MORE CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES LOSSES

186TH LIST

Died of Illness

Pte W. L. Watts (Wongo Creek), 5/7/16

(*Evening News*, Sydney, NSW – 20 July, 1916)



Private William Leslie Watts

(Photo from "Manilla's Men in Marble" via Bill Durrant)



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 W. L. Watts does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green contains burials of both wars - 538. Half of the 482 First World War graves form a plot in the south-west section of the cemetery, the rest form small groups or are scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 5s Second World War graves are scattered. There are also 2 non war burials here. A screen wall in the First World War plot (Sect. 213) records the names of casualties of both wars whose graves could not be individually marked. Also recorded on the wall are the names of five servicemen whose remains were cremated in Kensal Green Crematorium.

(Information from CWGC)



All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green *(Photo by Rodney Burton)*



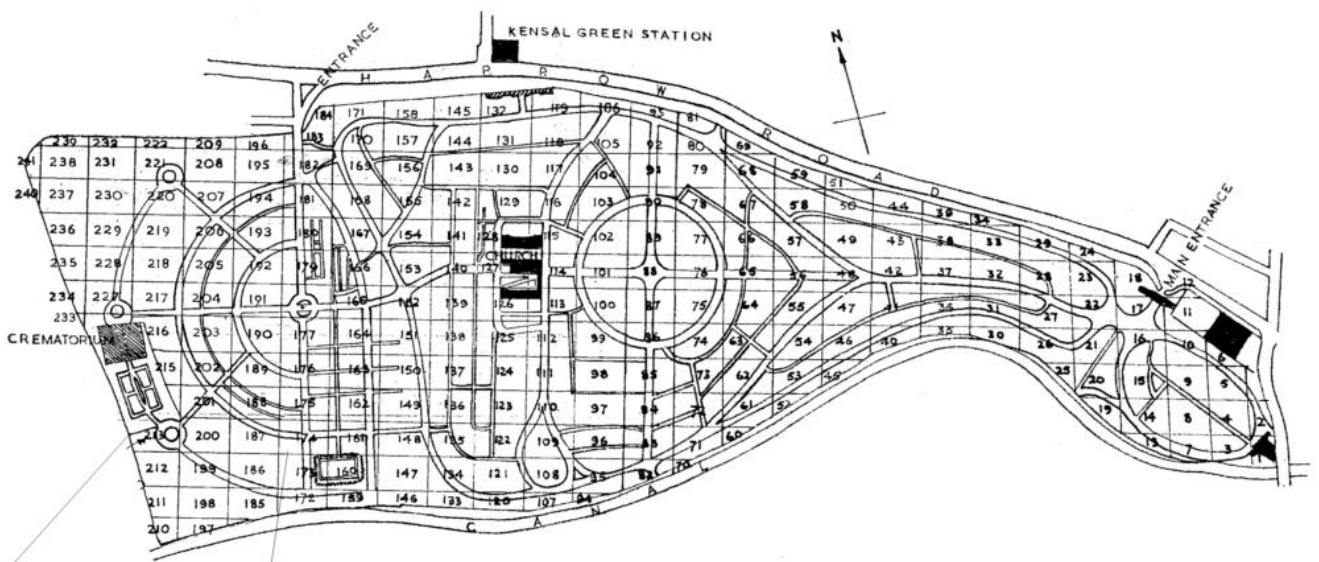
All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green *(Photo courtesy of François Greeff)*

Photo of Private W. L. Watts' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England.





Cross of Sacrifice - All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green (Photo by Chris Doran)



Sect. 213 : Main U.K. and N.Z. Plot.
 Sect. 173 and 174 : Main Dominion Plot