

**Southern Cemetery,
Manchester, Lancashire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



31023 GUNNER

A. WILLIAMS

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

5TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 41

Albert Williams

Albert Williams was born in Manchester, Lancashire, England around 1876.

Albert Williams married Kate Horan in Queensland on 24th May, 1905.

A birth was registered in Queensland for Esther May Williams in 1905 to parents Albert & Kate Williams (nee Horan).

The 1908 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, Queensland, subdivision of Fortitude Valley recorded Albert Williams, (Occupation – Marker) & Kate William (Home Duties) living at Newstead Terrace.

A death was registered in 1909 in Queensland for Kate Williams.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, Queensland, subdivision of Brisbane North recorded an “Albert Williams” (Occupation – Packer) living at 171 Wharf Street.

Albert Williams was a 40 year old, widower with 1 child, Packer from Lutwyche Road, Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 26th June, 1916 with the 9th Field Artillery Brigade, 7th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 31023 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his daughter – Miss Ester May Williams of Lutwyche Road, Lutwyche, Brisbane, Queensland. Albert Williams stated on his Attestation papers that he had previously served for 3 years with Royal Australian Artillery in the Boer War & had been discharged for time expired. He had also been previously rejected from serving due to his teeth.

Private Albert Williams was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 26th July, 1916. He was transferred to Field Artillery Depot on 2nd September, 1916 & assumed the rank of Gunner. Gunner Albert Williams was granted 4 days Home Leave from 13th September to 15th September, 1916 while posted at Artillery Camp, Enoggera in order to transfer domestic & financial business. Gunner Albert Williams was transferred to 24th Field Artillery Reinforcements on 27th September, 1916 then transferred to 9th Field Artillery Brigade 7th Reinforcements

Gunner Albert Williams embarked from Sydney on RMS *Orontes* on 19th December, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 17th 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.

Gunner Albert Williams was marched in from Australia to Details No. 3 Camp at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917. He was marched out to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 26th March, 1917.

Gunner Albert Williams was absent without leave on 27th July, 1917.

Gunner Albert Williams was admitted sick to King's Lance Military Convalescent Hospital, Blackpool with Pleurisy on 29th July, 1917. He was reported severely ill with Pulmonary Tuberculosis on 10th August, 1917.

Gunner Albert Williams was transferred to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, Lancashire, England on 24th August, 1917.

Gunner Albert Williams died at 11 am on 5th September, 1917 at 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, Lancashire, England from Tubercle of Lung.

A death for Albert Williams, aged 42, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Stockport, Lancashire/Cheshire, England.

Gunner Albert Williams was buried at 11 am on 8th September, 1917 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number 168, Section Q. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Albert Williams - *The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral and the “Last Post”*

was sounded at the graveside. Chaplain Rev. Frost, Canadian Military Forces officiated at the graveside. A number of beautiful tributes from relatives were placed on the coffin. Two representatives of the Australian Branch of the Red Cross Society were also present. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. Relatives and friends present at the funeral: (Sister and Brother-in-law) Mr and Mrs Rees; (Brother) Mr G. Williams, 68 Victoria Road, Whalley Range, Manchester; Mr Burgess; Mr Johnson; Mr Oldseld.

A War Pension was granted to Esther May Williams, daughter of the late Gunner Albert Williams, 31023, in the sum of £1/5/- per fortnight from 10th November, 1917. (Theresa Bridget Horan, of Lutwyche Rd, Lutwyche was the Trustee of Esther May Williams).

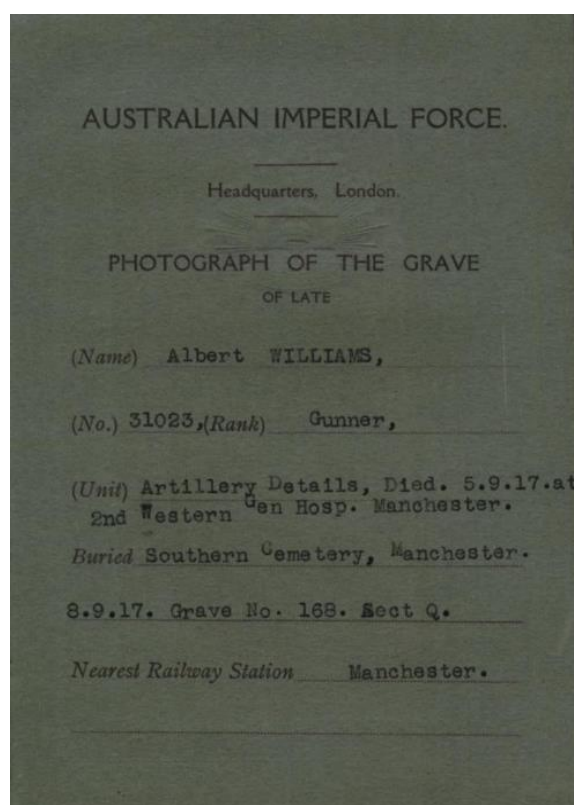
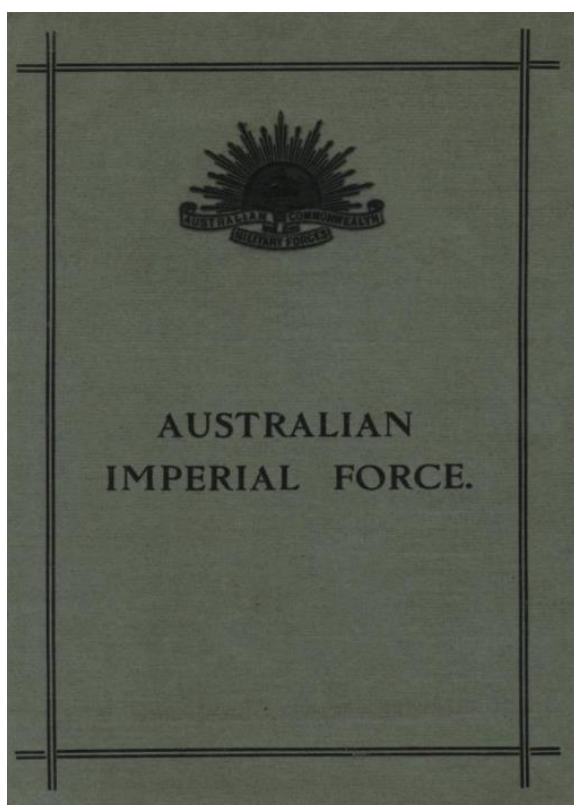
Communications were sent in 1919 to the daughter of the late Gunner Albert Williams at Lutwyche Rd, Lutwyche but were returned unclaimed. Notifications were also placed in the Press without results. In October, 1921, Esther Williams of Lutwyche Rd, Lutwyche, wrote to Base Records advising that she had seen in the Daily Mail advertising for the next-of-kin of Gunner Albert Williams & declared she was his daughter.

Base Records posted four photographs of the grave of the late Gunner A. Williams to his daughter at Lutwyche Rd, Lutwyche on 21st October, 1921. She was advised that they had previously been despatched to the same address but were returned unclaimed.

In April, 1922 Base Records again contacted Miss E. M. Williams to enquire if she had received the photographs of her late father's grave & also to enquire if she had received the Memorial Scroll which had been forwarded to her in March, 1922 but no acknowledgement of receipt had been received. No reply was received in reply to this communication.

Gunner Albert Williams 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 Gunner Albert Williams' daughter - Miss Esther M. Williams, as the closest next-of-kin. The Memorial Scroll was sent November, 1921 and a signed receipt from Esther M. Williams was sent dated 18th March, 1922 for the Memorial Scroll. The British War Medal & the Memorial Plaque were sent to Untraceables section as Miss Williams had not replied to their numerous communications.

Unclaimed photo folder



Name and Address of Correspondent to whom
Photograph sent.

(Name) Miss E.M. Williams,

(Address) Lutwyche Road,
Lutwyche, Brisbane,
Queensland.

Communications respecting this Photograph or the
grave of the deceased Soldier should
be addressed to—

The Officer i/c Records,
A.I.F. Headquarters,
130 Horseferry Road,
London, S.W. 1.

or

The Officer i/c Base Records,
Department of Defence,
Melbourne,
Victoria.

S.I.S.S.I.M. 10721-08



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner A. Williams – service number 31023, aged 41, of Australian Field Artillery. No family details are listed.

Gunner A. Williams is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 22.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(120 pages of Gunner Albert Williams' 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

AUSTRALIAN LOSSES

LAST NIGHT'S CASUALTY LIST – No. 339

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF ILLNESS

Gnr. Albert Williams, Lutwyche, 5/9/17

(The Daily Mail. Brisbane, Queensland – 22 September, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WILLIAMS – In loving memory of my dear father, Gunner Albert Williams, late 9th Field Artillery (Details) Brigade, died of illness in England, on the 5th of September, 1917.

Inserted by his loving daughter, Esther May Williams, and nephew of Mr and Mrs Horan, Lutwyche.

(The Telegraph. Brisbane, Queensland – 5 September, 1918) & (The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 13th September, 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)

Gunner A. Williams does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

Casualties buried in the following cemeteries and churchyards are now alternatively commemorated on Screen Wall Memorials in Manchester Southern Cemetery:

Ashton-under-Lyne (St Michael) Churchyard Extension
Birch-in-Rusholme (St James) Churchyard
Bury (Brunswick) United Methodist Cemetery
Cheetham Hill (St Luke) Churchyard
Eccles (St Mary) Churchyard
Ecclestone (St Thomas) Churchyard Extension
Edgeworth Congregational Chapelyard
Hey (or Lees) (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension
Manchester General Cemetery
Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery
Openshaw (St Barnabas) Churchyard
Swinton Unitarian Chapelyard.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1

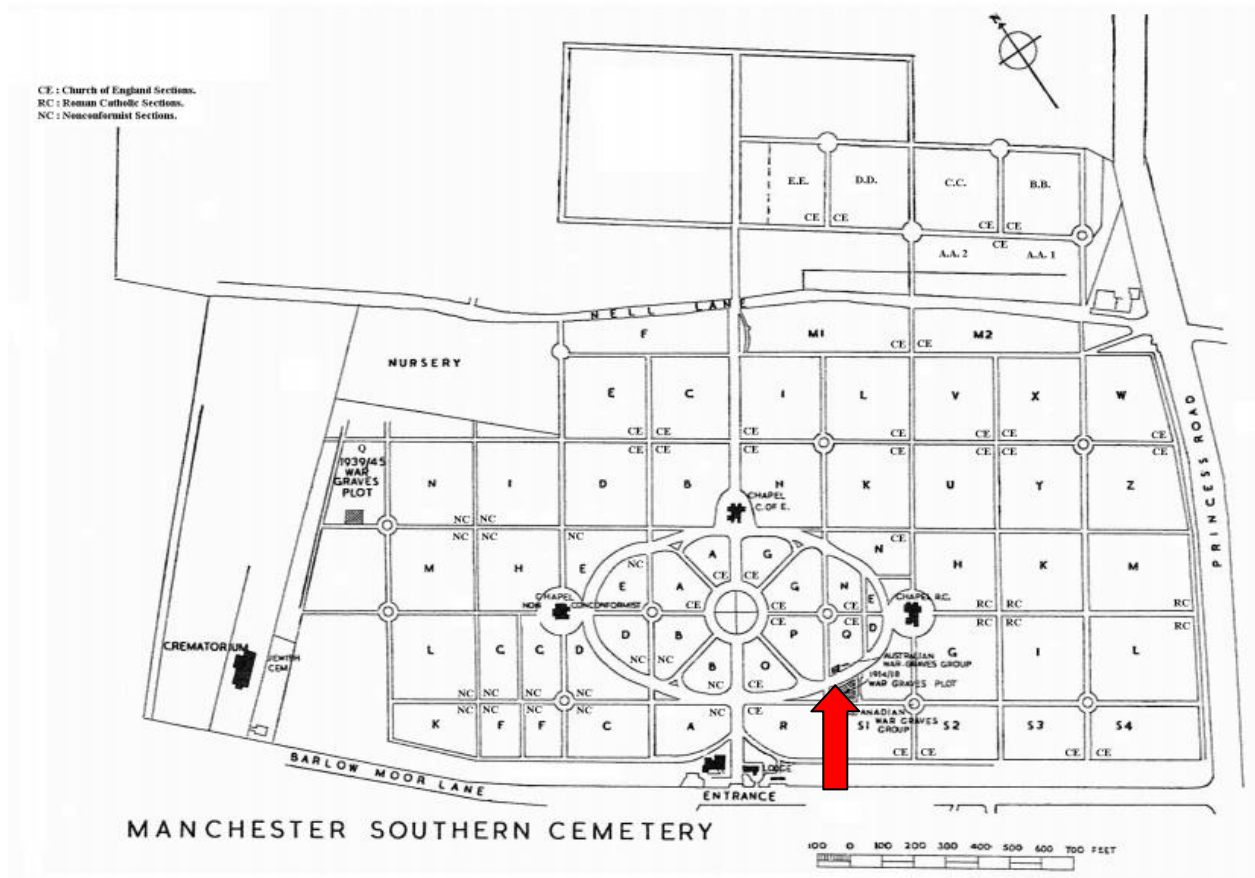


Original Grave marker for Gunner A. Williams

Photo of Gunner A. Williams' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)



Southern Cemetery, Manchester (Australian War Graves Group marked with arrow)

