

**Southern Cemetery,  
Manchester, Lancashire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**282 PRIVATE**

**C. W. WILLIAMS**

**14TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH JUNE, 1915 Age 27**

## Charles Walter (Wally) WILLIAMS

Charles Walter Williams was born at Katunga, Victoria on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1887 to parents Charles Walter and Harriett May Williams (nee Jones).

Harriet May Jones died on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1897.

Charles Walter Williams attended Sandmount State School.

The 1913, 1914 & 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Echuca, Victoria, subdivision of Numurkah recorded Charles Walter Williams, Labourer, of Numurkah. His father was listed as Charles Walter Williams, Farmer, of Katunga.

Charles Walter Williams (known as "Wally") was a 27 year old, single, Labourer from Numurkah, Victoria when he enlisted on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1914 with the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, "B" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 282 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr C. W. Williams, of Numurkah, Victoria.

Private Charles Walter Williams was posted to 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Camp on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1914

Private Charles Walter Williams embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1914.

Private Charles Walter Williams was wounded in action between 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1915 at the Dardanelles. Pte Williams was admitted to No. 17 General Hospital at Alexandria on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1915 with gunshot wounds to Lumbar region – severe. He embarked for England on *Delta* on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1915.

### **14th Australian Infantry Battalion**

The Headquarters of the 14th Battalion opened at an office at 178 Collins Street, Melbourne in the last week of September 1914. On 1 October it relocated to Broadmeadows Camp where the battalion's recruits, principally from Melbourne and its suburbs, were taken on strength and trained. With the 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions, the 14th formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash. It embarked for overseas on 22 December and, after a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, arrived in Egypt on 31 January 1915. In Egypt, the 4th Brigade became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division with which it would serve at Gallipoli.

The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC Cove on the afternoon of 25 April 1915. On 19 May the Turks launched a massive counter-attack. During this fighting Lance Corporal Albert Jacka of the 14th was awarded the AIF's first Victoria Cross. Jacka's leadership and courage became legendary within the AIF and he was eventually commissioned in the 14th Battalion, which came to be widely known as "Jacka's Mob". From May to August 1915 the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the ANZAC front line.

*(Information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Private Charles Walter Williams died on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1915 at Manchester Hospital, Lancashire, England from Enteric Fever & wounds received in action.

A death for Charles W. Williams, aged 28, was registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of Prestwich, Lancashire, England.

Private Charles Walter Williams was buried on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1915 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number 347.

A letter was sent to Mr C. W. Williams, Sandmount via Katunga, Victoria, dated 29<sup>th</sup> May which reads:

"With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No.282, Private C. W. Williams, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice from Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, London, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1919, as follows:-

- *“In the Southern Cemetery at Manchester there were buried in common graves nine deceased members of the Australian Imperial Force. The remains of these have now been exhumed from the common graves and in each case have been re-interred in separate single graves in virgin soil in a site specially set aside as an Australian plot. The work was successfully carried out last week under the supervision of a senior Non-commissioned Officer from these Headquarters, and the new graves have since been marked by the provision of the standard oak cross enamelled white with black lettering. Photographs of the new graves will be taken at an early date and sent to you for transmission to the next-of-kin.”*

Your son is now buried in Grave No. 213, Section Q.”

Private Charles Walter Williams requested in his Will dated 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1915 that the whole of his property, money and effects to go to Miss Ruth Prideaux, Numurkah, Victoria.

Pte Charles Walter Williams was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Williams’ father – Mr C. W. Williams, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

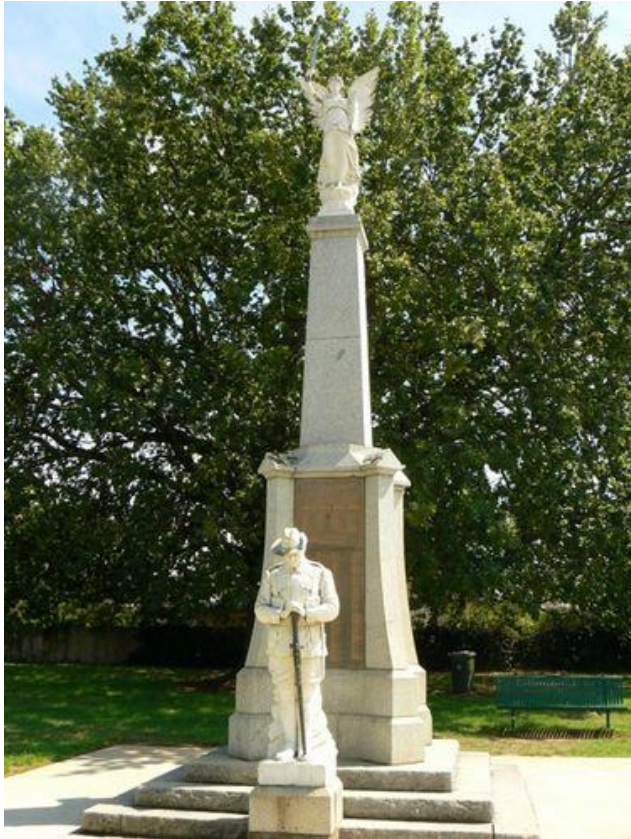
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Walter Williams – service number 282, aged 27, of 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles Walter and Harriett Williams, of Sandmount, Victoria, Australia. Born at Katunga, Victoria.

Private C. W. 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 74.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

W. (Wally) Williams is remembered on the Numurkah and District War Memorial, located at Tocumwal Road & Saxton Street, Numurkah, Victoria.



### Numurkah and District War Memorial

(Photos above from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Graeme Saunders/ Sandra Brown & below Victoria Heritage Database)

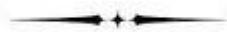


(41 pages of Pte Charles Walter Williams' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



**Private Charles Walter (Wally) Williams**



**Letter published in Newspaper – Mentioning “Wally” Williams & Gallipoli**

Mrs R. Callander and Mrs W. A. Campbell have received letters from Private Bert Callander, from which we have been kindly permitted to take the following extracts ; —

I am getting on well up to date and never felt better. It is just a little over five weeks since we landed here, and we have been in the trenches practically all the time only out for a few hours spell occasionally — so we have had a fair share of the fighting. The fighting all the time has been very heavy. During our time in the trenches the Turks made several bayonet charges, but we were too good for them, I can tell you it makes one think when he see a Turk, with his rifle and bayonet coming straight at him about five yards away. They got to within a couple of yards of our trenches three or four times, and some of them did get right in, so you can imagine how they got on (out, of course) — right out on the points of our bayonets, Wally Williams was wounded early in the battle, but I do not know where he was hit, R. Lee, G. Morrison and H. Baker were also wounded, but the others from Numurkah are all well. We all have scratches, but nothing to speak of.

One would think it impossible to land where we did. In fact, the Germans considered the position we now hold impregnable, so that will give you some idea of what it was like. We got as near to the shore as possible in little fishing boats, then we had to walk through water to the shore. When we got ashore we found the enemy was on top of the hills, between 300 and 400 feet high, and up these hills we had to go to drive them out. We are not yet allowed to write a full description of our doings, but I will do so as soon as possible. We are now out of the trenches having a rest for 8 days, and it was not before we wanted it.

I received your letters and papers while we were in the trenches, and we thought it very good of our officers to give them to us while we were there. Give Mr and Mrs Kratli my sympathy for poor little Linda. Hope you are having a good season. It is a grand climate over here; not too hot or not too cold. Don't worry about us. We will be all right, but if anything happens I will let you know straight away. Harold Krutli and Sam Lambert wish to be remembered to you all, and we hope that it will not be long before we are with you again. I will have a lot of funny experiences to tell you. It was funny the first night we reached the top of one of the hills. We took up our positions, and had to take cover in what we call dug-outs — like rabbits. The occupants of the one above that in which Sam and I were kept knocking dirt and stones down into ours. Of course a few strong words were exchanged, and when we were called out we were surprised to find that the one who caused the hot words was Mick Ford, and his first words were, "How would a pint of — 's beer go, Scott?" Of course, I said "Down." Tell Mrs Lambert Sam is all right. Paper is scarce, and one is lucky to get any.

*(Numurkah Standard and Wunghnu, Cobram, Yarroweyah and Strathmerton Advocate, Victoria – 21 July, 1915)*

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## **Letters Home from "Wally" Williams – published in the newspapers**

### **Letters from Egypt**

Mr H. J. Glenny, J.P., has permitted us to take the following extracts from a letter received by him from Private C. W. ("Wally") Williams from Heliopolis, Egypt. Wally has since had his desire for a fight realised, and has been wounded while in action : —

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and well, and hope that you and the family are in the best of health. Well, now a little about being a soldier. It means a lot of hard work and also a lot of marching in the dust and sand, as it is nothing but sand and dust over here. I have been out to see the Pyramids and the Sphinx, and also the ancient tombs of hundreds of years ago. All the boys from Numurkah are in good health and look well on it. Our battalion has made a good name for itself since we landed in Egypt, and are going along in the best of spirits, and all happy and waiting to go away to the front to have a go at either the Turks or the Germans; we don't care which it is. Cairo is a fine city but not as nicely laid out as Melbourne, as the streets are so narrow. It has a population of some 800,000 people, so we are told over here. Now, as to our little town, Heliopolis, that is where the Australian base hospital is situated and the house that they have for the hospital was at one time used as a public house, run by a firm of French people, but it did not pay so they closed it down. It is about the biggest house that I have ever seen in all travels so far. In the hospital we have some of the best doctors in Australia, and the nurses are all young Australian nurses. I have had a fortnight in the hospital since we landed with a bad cold. In our battalion we have had three deaths only since we left Melbourne on 22nd December. Both Sam and Bert are in the best of health.

*(Numurkah Standard and Wunghnu, Cobram, Yarroweyah and Strathmerton Advocate, Victoria – 26 May, 1915)*

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### **From the Injured**

Yesterday's midday mail brought letters from our wounded soldiers to friends and relatives. Writing to a friend Private C. W. ("Wally") Williams says—

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and doing fairly well. I am wounded in two places. I think I was very lucky that I was not shot dead where I sat, as two of my mates were shot dead alongside of me. The wound in my left side is a nasty little one, as it just missed my hip bone and my bowels — I was lucky. The other bullet went

right through my third finger on my right hand and broke it to pieces, but I don't think I will lose it. It is very awkward writing. I am quite happy, although wounded. My comrade, Jim Harding, was only in action five minutes when he was shot. It will be some time before I am able to go back to the firing line ; but better late than never, Scottie and Sam are all right) and still going strong, My tent mates are all shot I was wounded 3rd May. Remember me to all friends.

*(Numurkah Standard and Wunghnu, Cobram, Yarroweyah and Strathmerton Advocate, Victoria – 23 June, 1915)*

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## **Newspaper Notices**

Messrs Bert Callander, Wally Williams and Sam Lambert, members of the second Australian Expeditionary Force, visited Numurkah last week-end to bid farewell to their relatives and friends. They were warmly welcomed, and on Monday evening, when they left to rejoin the regiment, they were "sent off" with much enthusiasm, the Town Band helping by playing patriotic airs. The football club committee took advantage of the visit to present Messrs Williams and Lambert with souvenirs—the former with a shaving outfit and fountain pen, and the latter with a set of military brushes. Each speaker expressed the confident belief that the young warriors would play the "game of war" in the same manner as they had football.

*(Numurkah Leader, Victoria – 30 October, 1914)*

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## **PERSONAL**

Telegrams have been received announcing that Wally Williams, a member of the Australian Forces fighting in the Dardanelles, has been wounded. No particulars beyond the bare intimation of a wound having been sustained have been received, and hosts of friends are awaiting with anxiety further information regarding his condition.

*(Numurkah Leader, Victoria – 28 May, 1915)*

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## **PRIVATE C. W. WILLIAMS**

"Wally" is well-known and popular right through the Numurkah and surrounding districts, where he has resided all his life. He is a splendid athlete, and had great successes as a cyclist, a footballer and a shooter. He has always been noted for "playing the game" in a sportsmanlike manner, and for the love of sport.

*(Numurkah Standard and Wunghnu, Cobram, Yarroweyah and Strathmerton Advocate, Victoria – 9 June, 1915)*

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## **THE TOLL OF THE WAR**

### **THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN**

Hereunder is given a list of soldiers from the district who have been wounded in the war.

.....

Private Wally Williams, Numurkah

*(Numurkah Leader, Victoria – 2 July, 1915)*

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## **NEWS AND NOTES**

.... Another soldier for whom we have been praying – "Wally" Williams – has, we hear, died of wounds at the Manchester Hospital. We trust that this sacrifice will give much food for thought to all his comrades with whom he was reckoned a good sport. Our lads are beginning to show now that they can take and give hard knocks in the fighting field as well as at play. And there are more going too.

*(Numurkah Standard and Wunghnu, Cobram, Yarroweyah and Strathmerton Advocate, Victoria – 14 July, 1915)*

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## Death of Private C. W. Williams

The news of the death in England of Private C. W. ("Wally") Williams was received in Numurkah on Friday morning, and it is many a day since such universal expressions of regret were heard. The deceased soldier was wounded at the landing at the Dardanelles, in the side and on the hand, and was conveyed to England, where it is reported he died from fever on the 28th June. Letters received from Wally gave the news that he was doing fairly well, though in the corner of one he had written, "Good-bye to home sweet home." Whether he was then suffering from fever is not known at present, but it appears as if the young soldier knew his end was near, but out of consideration for his relatives and friends did not mention it. The deceased was the son Mr C. W. and the late Mrs Williams, of Katunga, where he was born 28 years ago on 21st of June. He was a splendid athlete, and was one of best and leanest footballers who has ever played in this district, He had played with the Drumanure, Muckatah and Numurkah clubs, and was captain of the latter last year, He always played a hard game, but was ever fair, and he did not have an enemy on the football field. He had been injured several times, but his enthusiasm was so great that he was anxious to be again in the team. As a cyclist he had success and when he started trap shooting he quickly showed his ability, and was successful on several occasions in winning sweeps. He was also a useful cricketer and as an all-round athlete was an example of what a sportsman should be. As a citizen he was quiet and unassuming, though always ready to do his share of any work required of him. He was among the first volunteers in this district, and at his send-off by his friends he said he would do his best. That he did that none of his friends doubt, and he was amongst those gallant Australian boys who made history on their first experience of war at Gallipoli. Though he did not die on the battlefield, Wally nevertheless died a hero, and his name will be long remembered in the district as one of its noblest sons. He was born and reared in this district, and lived a life that was an example to all— full of enthusiasm for all manly pastimes, but scorning to take part in anything mean and underhand. He has fought and died for his country, and the deepest sympathy goes out to his relatives and close friends in the loss of a promising life. If Wally could speak he would undoubtedly quote the lines of the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon : —

I've had my share of pastime, and I've done my share of toil;

And life is short — the longest life a span.

I should live the same life over, if I had to live again,

And the chances are I go where most men go.

*(Numurkah Standard and Wunghnu, Cobram, Yarraweyah and Strathmerton Advocate, Victoria – 14 July, 1915)*

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## Honoring Volunteers

### PRIVATE JOHNSON ENTERTAINED

On Friday night, in the Presbyterian Hall, the members of the Numurkah branch of the I.O.O.F. entertained Private Alf Johnson, who is a member of the branch, at a social and presented him with a token of their appreciation of his patriotism in answering his country's call for men. There was a good attendance, with Bro. S. Callander in the chair. Light refreshments were provided, but owing to the death of Private "Wally" Williams a musical programme that had been arranged was abandoned. ....

*(Numurkah Standard and Wunghnu, Cobram, Yarraweyah and Strathmerton Advocate, Victoria – 14 July, 1915)*

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## THE ROLL CALL

### 52nd CASUALTY LIST

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte C. W. Williams, 14<sup>th</sup> Bat., Numurkah (enteric)

*(Mount Alexander Mail, Victoria – 15 July, 1915)*

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## PERSONAL

The sad news of the death of Mr "Wally" Williams was received with great regret in this district. "Wally" was wounded with so many others of our brave lads at the landing at Gallipoli, and was conveyed to England, where he died in hospital on June 28. Private Williams was the son of Mr C. W. and the late Mrs Williams, of Sandmount, and was 28 years of age. He was a native of the district, and was much esteemed for his many sterling qualities. As an athlete he had few superiors, and his fair dealing in all classes of sport was fully recognised by friend and opponent alike. He captained the Numurkah football team last season, and it is partly owing to his death that the club has been disbanded this season. The fullest sympathy of his many friends has gone out to the bereaved relatives in the death of a young man highly esteemed.

(*Numurkah Leader*, Victoria – 16 July, 1915)

## Bereavement Card

Mr C. W. Williams and Family desire to extend Sincere THANKS to their friends for their many expressions of sympathy on the death at the front of "Wally"; also to the Rev. J. A. Lee for his great kindness when breaking the news.

(*Numurkah Standard and Wunghnu, Cobram, Yarroweyah and Strathmerton Advocate*, Victoria – 21 July, 1915)

## In Memoriam

WILLIAMS – A tribute of love in memory of Private C. W. Williams (Wally), who died of wounds and illness at Manchester Hospital, 28th June, 1915.

In doing his duty, a crown was won.

(*Numurkah Leader*, Victoria – 30 June, 1916)

# The "Leader" ROLL OF HONOR.

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## DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS.

We give herewith a list of district residents (and those who by reason of birth or residence of parents are entitled to inclusion) who have heard the Call—For King and Country. We invite relatives and friends to co-operate in making this list as complete a record as possible.

### Numurkah District.

Wally Williams	George Morrison
Bert Oallander	Don Ross
Sam Lambert	T. Ridley
D. Donovan	J. J. McOague
R. Orockatt	Carl Treacy
J. Darbyshire	Cyril Brown
Will Perry	Roy Oallander
Harold Keatell	Frank Sellaek
Capt. Patterson	Constable Fenton
E. Harblson	O. Branton
W. Block	"Son" Norman
Bruce Kinnaird	R. D. Ward
W. Trengove	J. Law
J. Ritchie	Simon Coates
Les Farrands	William Coates
Harold B. Farrall	William Murray
Rupert Lee	R. Fawcett
Egbert Lee	Will Hooper
Harry Baker	Tom Pike
Jack Carter	Charlie Pike
Jas Hussey	Edward Pike
J Coonerty	W Brown

Full list



(*Numurkah Leader*, Victoria – 2 June, 1916)

## **In Memoriam**

WILLIAMS – In loving memory of my dear son (Wally), who died in the Manchester Hospital, England, from wounds, on 28th June, 1915; aged 28 years.

For duty and his country's call

He went both true and brave

Upon the battlefield to fall

And fill a soldier's grave.

- Inserted by his loving father and family.

*(Numurkah Standard and Wunghnu, Cobram, Yarroweyah and Strathmerton Advocate, Victoria – 27 June, 1917)*

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## 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 C. W. 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.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*

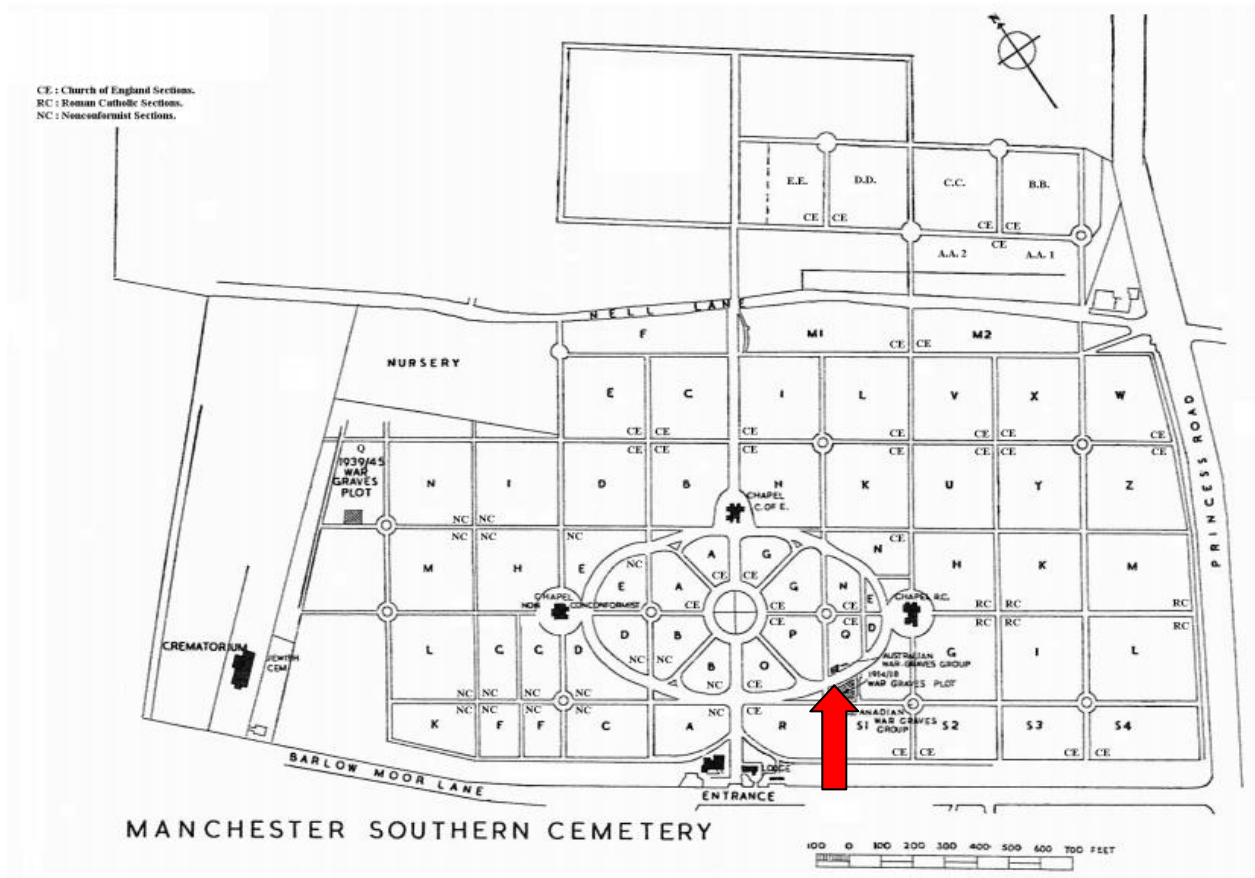


**Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1**

Photo of Pte C. W. 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)

