

Yardley Cemetery, Birmingham

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



831790 GUNNER

P. R. WILLIAMSON

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

13TH APRIL, 1919 Age 31

Service Sacrifice

And Greater Love Than This

Hath No Man

Percy Reginald WILLIAMSON

Percy Reginald Williamson was born at Markyate, Herfordshire in 1887 to parents Charles and Annie Maria Williamson. Percy Reginald Williamson was baptised on 6th August, 1887 at Market Street, Herfordshire.

The 1891 Wales Census recorded Percy R. Williamson as a 3 year old living with his parents as 44 Main Street, Pembroke, Pembrokeshire. His parents were listed as Charles Williamson (Organist & Teacher of Music, aged 40, born Bridgnorth, Shropshire) & Annie M. Williamson (aged 31, born Westfield, Shropshire).

The 1901 England Census recorded Percy Reginald Williamson as a 13 year old living with his parents as 19 Richmond Road, Worcester, Worcestershire. His parents were listed as Charles Williamson (Organist, aged 50, born Bridgnorth, Salop) & Annie Maria Williamson (aged 33, born Hilton, Salop). A visitor – Horac Reginald Higgs (Tram Conductor, aged 19, born Bridgnorth, Salop) was also listed.

The 1911 England Census recorded Percy Reginald Williamson as a 23 year old Clerk – Leather Manufacturer living with his family at 10 Albert Road, Worcester in a 7 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Charles Williamson (Professor of Music & Organist, aged 61) & Annie Williamson (aged 43). Percy's parents had been married for 25 years & had 2 children. Percy's younger brother was listed as Cyril Charles Williamson (aged 8, born Worcester). Also living with the family was Violet Mary Lane (Private Means, aged 19, born Sth Hampsten, Middlesex).

Percy Reginald Williamson married Beatrice Roberts in the December quarter, 1911 in the district of Worcester.

[Possibly related - A birth was registered for Reginald D. Williamson, mother's maiden name Roberts, in the September quarter, 1912 in the district of Worcester. A birth was registered in the June quarter 1916, in the district of Worcester, mother's maiden name Roberts, for Edith I. Williamson.]

Percy Reginald Williamson enlisted with the Royal Field Artillery. His service number was 4235, later renumbered to 831790.

Gunner Percy Reginald Williamson died on 13th April, 1919 – died from wounds (gas). (*Source – Commemorative Roll, Australian War Memorial*).

A death for Percy R. Williamson, aged 31, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Aston, Warwickshire.

Gunner Percy Reginald Williamson was buried in Yardley Cemetery, Birmingham – Plot number A. 17046 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

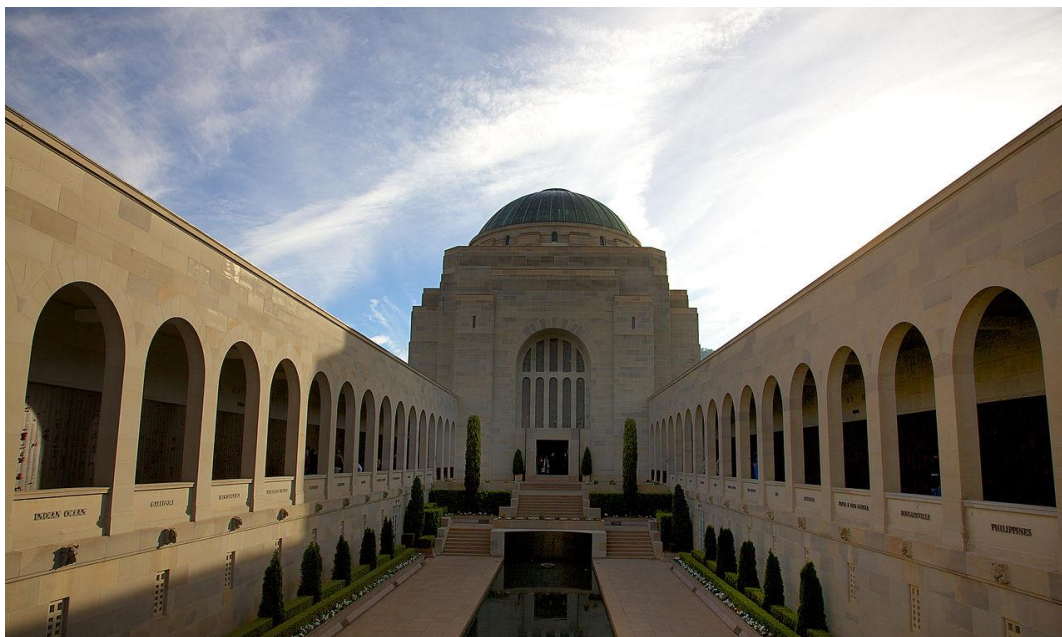
Gunner Percy Reginald Williamson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

[Possibly related – Mrs Beatrice Williamson & her 2 children were passengers on board Moreton Bay which had departed from London & arrived at Fremantle, Western Australia on 6th January, 1921.]

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Percy Reginald Williamson – service number 831790, aged 31, of 306th Bde., Royal Field Artillery. He was the son of Charles and Annie M. Williamson, of 52 Stratford St., Sparkhill, Birmingham; husband of Beatrice Williamson, of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

The UK Army Register of Soldiers' Effects records Gunner Percy Reginald Williamson of 206 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery & his widow Beatrice & son.

P. R. Williamson is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)



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 Percy Reginald Williamson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Service Sacrifice And Greater Love Than This Hath No Man

Photo of Gunner P. R. Williamson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Yardley Cemetery, Birmingham, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)

Yardley Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands (Warwickshire)

Yardley Cemetery, Birmingham contains 513 War Graves.

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum.

Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

Yardley Cemetery, Birmingham contains 262 First World War burials, 62 of which form a war graves plot. Screen Walls commemorate those buried in the plot and in graves elsewhere in the cemetery not marked by headstones. Second World War burials number 250, 31 of them forming a small plot towards the centre of the cemetery, the rest scattered. The names of six men buried in graves not marked by headstones have been added to the existing Screen Wall. *(Information & photos from CWGC)*



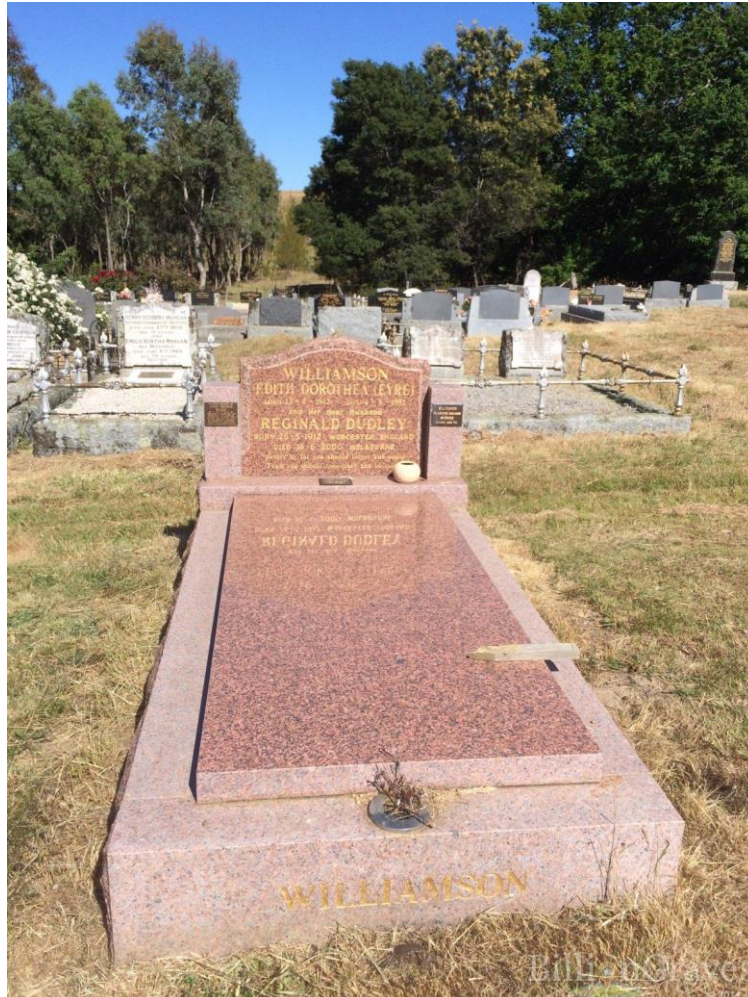
Yardley Cemetery, Birmingham



Possibly related:

Son of Percy Reginald Williamson ? - Reginald Dudley Williamson, born 26th May, 1912 in Worcester, England, died 16th June, 2000 in Melbourne. Buried in Franklford Cemetery, Victoria.

Widow of Percy Reginald Williamson ? - Beatrice Williamson – death registered in 1983 in Victoria – parents – Richard & Mary Ann Roberts.



Franklford Cemetery, Sartori Road, Franklford, Victoria,



Arrow showing Beatrice Williamson's plaque – died 6th January, 1983



Beatrice Williamson's plaque on right of Reginald Dudley Williamson's headstone



Plaque on left of Reginald Dudley Williamson's headstone