

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1626 PRIVATE

J. WILLIAMSON

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH JUNE, 1915 Age 30

Though His Face

We Cannot See

We Hold Him Dear To Memory

John Harold (Jack) WILLIAMSON

John Harold Williamson was born at Carlton, Victoria in 1886 to parents Peter Williamson & Mary Williamson.

John Harold Williamson attended Cambridge Street School, Collingwood, Victoria.

John Harold Williamson married Grace Mabel George on 28th January, 1907 in the district of Fitzroy, Victoria.

Births were registered for the following children of John Harold & Grace Mabel Williamson: Mary Lucretia Williamson (born 1907, died 1907); John Alfred Williamson (born 1908, died 1908); Kate Clara Williamson (born 1909); Dorothy Annie Williamson (born 1910); Una Grace Williamson (born 1912) & Jean Edna Williamson (born 1913).

John Williamson was a 28 year old, married, Labourer from 75 Rupert Street, Collingwood, Victoria when he enlisted on 7th December, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1626 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife - Grace Mabel Williamson, of 75 Rupert Street, Collingwood, Victoria. John Williamson stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 years with 6th A.I.R & had left without discharge to go to India.

Private John Williamson was posted to Depot on 7th November, 1914 (date as per Statement of Service form) for recruit training. He was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 16th January, 1915.

Private John Williamson embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 19th February, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements.

Private John Williamson was taken on strength of 5th Battalion at Anzac on 3rd May, 1915 from 3rd Reinforcements.

Private John Williamson was wounded in action at Dardanelles on 11th May, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle* with a bullet wound to head – severe. Private Williamson was admitted to No. 17 General Hospital at Alexandria on 16th May, 1915. He was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Delta* on 1st June, 1915.

5th Battalion

The 5th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. It was led by Lieutenant Colonel D. S. Wanliss, the officer who had raised the battalion. Ten days after the landing the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions forming the 2nd Brigade returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 5th Battalion

10/11th May, 1915 – CAPE HELLES

In trenches. Bde was relieved from trenches by East Lancashires during night of 10th/11th.

12th May, 1915 – CAPE HELLES

Bde reassembled at 168Y2 and proceeded during morning to 162D where dugouts were made.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Williamson was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England. He was listed as dangerously ill on 21st May, 1915 then progressing favourably on 31st May, 1915.



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Private John Williamson died on 14th June, 1915 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action.

A death for John Williamson, aged 29, was registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private John Williamson was buried on 17th June, 1915 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number C.E. 1703 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private John Williamson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Williamson's widow – Mrs G. M. Williamson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1921).

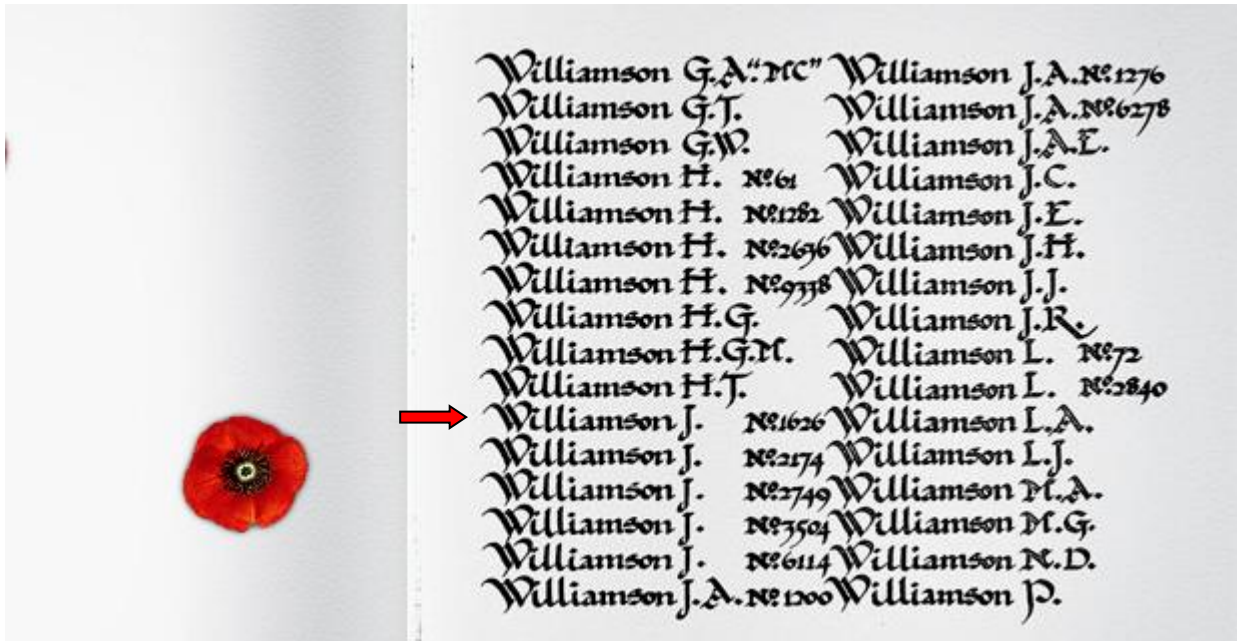
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Williamson – service number 1626, aged 30, of 5th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mary Williamson, of 57 Nicholson St., Abbotsford, Victoria, Australia, and the late Peter Williamson.

Private J. Williamson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 45.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Williamson is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(32 pages of Private John Williamson's 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





—(M'Geohan.)
Private J. Williamson.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 July, 1915)



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

On Active Service

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of my dear husband, Private Jack Williamson, the loving husband of Grace, and beloved father of Kitty, Dorrie, Euna and Jean, and loving son of M. Williamson, who died at Netley Hospital, England, from wounds received at the Dardanelles, late of 75 Rupert-street, Collingwood.

A soldier, a loving husband and a man.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 June, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

PRIVATE JOHN WILLIAMSON

(died of wounds) 3rd Reinforcements, 5th Battalion. He resided at Rupert street, Collingwood, and leaves a wife and four young children. He was born in Carlton, and was connected with the building trade. His age was 29.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 July, 1915)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of my dear husband and father, Private John Williamson, who died of wounds at Netley Hospital, received at Gallipoli, on 14th June, 1915.

In a soldier's grave he is sleeping,
One of earth's noblest and best;
In our hearts we shall miss him for ever,
Still we know he is only at rest.

-Inserted by his loving wife, Kitty, Dorie, Euna and Jean.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of our dear father, Jack Williamson, who died from wounds received at Cape Helles, Gallipoli, on 14th June, 1915.

Father, the soul of your country glows with pride
At the deeds you did and the death you died.

Anzac

-Inserted by his loving children, Kitty, Dorie, Una and Jean.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of our dear daddy, who died from wounds received at Cape Helles, onn 14th June, 1915.

Dearest daddy, thou hast left us,
We thy loss most deeply feel,
He died a hero.

-Inserted by his loving children, Kitty, Dorrie, Euna and Jean.

WILLIAMSON – In proud and loving memory of my beloved adopted son, Act. Sergt. Jack Williamson, 5th Bat., died 14th June, 1915, of wounds received at Cape Helles, aged 29 years.

Lest we forget.
He died as many brave men have died,
Fighting to save a world's morality;
He died the noblest death a man may die,
Fighting for God, and right and liberty,
And such a death is immortality.

-M. Williamson, late Islington-street., Collingwood.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of our dear father, Private John Williamson, who died on 14th June, 1915, at Netley Hospital, England, of wounds received at Cape Helles.

'Tis sweet to be remembered,
And this our wish we show
We hold you still in memory
As the years they come and go.

-Inserted by his loving children, Kitty, Dorie, Una and Jean.

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of Sergeant Jack Williamson, 5th Battalion, died 14th June, 1915, of wounds received at Cape Helles.

And every night as the sun goes west,
And the toil of the day is o'er;
I long for the one I loved so well,
And the smile of the lad that is gone.

-Mother.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of our dear father, John Williamson, who died 14th June, 1915, of wounds received at Cape Helles, Gallipoli.

We sadly miss you, daddy dear,
As each year passes by;
You gave your life for all of us,
Prepared to do or die.

-Inserted by his loving children, Kitty, Dorrie, Una and Jean.

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of Sergt. Jack Williamson, 5th Btn., died of wounds received at Cape Helles, May 1915. Lest we forget. Loved and remembered.

-Mother

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

WILLIAMSON – In loving remembrance of our dear daddy, Sergeant John Williamson, who died from wounds received at Cape Helles, Gallipoli, on the 14th June, 1915, at Netley Hospital, England.

Memory keeps our loved ones near us.

-Inserted by his loving children, Kitty, Dorrie, Una and Jean.

WILLIAMSON – In proud and loving memory of Jack Williamson, 5th Battalion, died in England on the 14th June, 1915, of wounds received at Cape Helles. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them. Sod early loved.

-Mother

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

The Anzac Heroes

WILLIAMSON – In proud and loving memory of Sergt. Jack Williamson, 5th Battalion, died in England 14th June, 1915 of wounds received at Cape Helles. Memories.

-Mother

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of our dear daddy, Pte J. Williamson, who died on active service on the 14th June, 1915.

Just a sweet, fond remembrance,
Just a memory, fond and true;
Just a heartache, always longing,
Daddy dear, for you.

-Inserted by his loving children, Kitty, Dorie, Una and Jean.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1922)

****Memorial notices were also placed in 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 & 1927**

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 J. Williamson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Though His Face We Cannot See

We Hold Him Dear To Memory

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Private J. Williamson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.





Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery