

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



33512 GUNNER

N. D. WILLIAMSON

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

20TH FEBRUARY, 1918 Age 34

Brave, Noble, Gentle

Noel Dequoy WILLIAMSON

Noel Dequoy Williamson was born on 25th December, 1883 at Toorak, Melbourne, Victoria to parents James & Emma Mary Williamson (nee Parker).

Noel Dequoy Williamson attended Melbourne Church of England Gramma School, Victoria.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Henty, subdivision of South Elsternwick recorded Noel Dequoy Williamson, Clerk, from Oak Gr., Brighton.

James Williamson, father of Noel Dequoy Williamson, died on 19th September, 1914 at Helenslea, Oak Grave, North Brighton, Victoria. He was buried in St. Kilda Cemetery, Melbourne, Victoria.

Emma Mary Williamson, mother of Noel Dequoy Williamson, died on 18th October, 1914 at Brighton, Victoria. She was buried in St. Kilda Cemetery, Melbourne, Victoria.

Noel Dequoy Williamson was a 29 year old, single, Farmer, c/o F. R. Power, Inglenook, Victoria (according to information provided by his brother for the Roll of Honour – Noel Williamson's other training was as a Bank Clerk) when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 22nd September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 33512 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Ernest W. Williamson, c/o Executor Trustee Coy., 22 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, South Australia.

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson was posted to Field Artillery Reinforcements at Maribyrnong, Victoria on 2nd October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 25th Field Artillery Brigade, 11th Reinforcements on 3rd February, 1917.

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 11th May, 1917 with the Field Artillery Brigade, February, 1917 Reinforcements as Acting Sergeant – Voyage only & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19th July, 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 Noel Dequoy Williamson was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire, England on 19th July, 1917. He reverted to rank of Gunner on 19th July, 1917 on marching in the R.B.A.A.

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from R.B.A.A. at Larkhill on 11th September, 1917. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 13th September, 1917. Gunner Williamson was marched out from A.G.B.D. on 15th September, 1917 & was taken on strength of 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) on 16th September, 1917.

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson was transferred to 5th F.A. Bde (Field Artillery Brigade) on 30th September, 1917. He was taken on strength of 5th F.A.B. on 30th September, 1917 & was posted to 14th Battery.

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson was wounded in action (Gas) in Belgium on 6th November, 1917. He was admitted to 13th Field Ambulance on 6th November, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 37th Casualty Clearing Station with Shell Gas the same day. Gunner Williamson was transferred to Ambulance Train 22 on 7th November, 1917 & admitted to 1st S.A. General Hospital at Abbeville, France on 7th November, 1917 with Gas poison. He was listed for transfer to England on 17th November, 1917 & embarked on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle* for England on 18th November, 1917.

War Diary – 5th Field Artillery Brigade

Westhoek 6th November, 1917:

5.40 am – Enemy bombarding Westhoek & Bellewarde Ridges – Counter Batteries asked for.

6.12 am – F.O.O. reports little retaliation to our bombardment on our Section and the Divn. on our Right. Unable to see retaliation north of Ypres-Roulers Railway. Enemy sent up split green flares & later sent up green & red flares & golden clusters.

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6.28 am – F.O.O. reports visibility still too poor to see if enemy is retaliating on Canadian Front, but increased shelling on front of Divn. on our right.

6.45 am – Smoke barrage is low & good straight line. Thick white cloud, a little patch on account of wind, but cloud too thick to be seen through. Retaliation still heavy on right Divn. front and a light barrage on our front. Reported to D.A.HQ

7.14 am – Smoke barrage improving

7.18 am – do do very good

7.19 am – do do quite even, no patches at all, a good high dense cloud which certainly could not be seen through. Reported to D.Q.H.Q.

7.38 am – Tactical O.P. reports enemy shelling Bellewarde Ridge & Corduroy Road to Birr Cross Roads with 5"9's – Flares seen going up on Front. – Green red & yellow.

7.43 am – Smoke barrage stopped, A great number of enemy planes about flying very low. One E.A. brought down in flames & two of ours driven down out of control.

8.3 am - F.O.O. reports heavy shelling in vicinity of Passchendale. 12 white lights had been fired.

8.15 am – DAHQ report Heavies intercepted E.A. wireless message giving maps refs Zonnebeke

9.25 am – Enemy shelling with heavy shells between Zonnebeke & 12th Battery.

12.6 pm – T.O.P. reports enemy shelling near Passchendale

5.8 pm – A number of counter attacks have been in progress during the day, especially on the Canadian Front. Canadian Artillery has been very active.

5.14 pm – As a protection to the Canadian Right Flank our Artillery has opened fire on S.O.S. Lines, in bursts of fire. Numerous S.O.S. rockets (Red over green over yellow) were sent up by the Canadian Infantry in vicinity of Passchendale between 5 pm and 7 am.

(Extract War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson was admitted to 3rd Western General Hospital, Newport, England on 20th November, 1917 – gassed mustard. The Hospital Admissions form reports "*Eyes better, still has cough....*" He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England on 19th December, 1917 with Typhoid & Broncho Pneumonia.

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson was reported to be dangerously ill & paralysed on 9th February, 1918.

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson was reported to be in a critical condition with Broncho Pneumonia (as dated London 12th February, 1918).

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson died at 6.10 am (as recorded on Medical Case Sheet, however the "Morning State of Sick" – Army form A 27 recorded the time of death as 6.15 am) on 20th February, 1918 at No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England (Ward B. 27) from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Noel D. Williamson, aged 31, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Dartford, Kent, England.

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson was buried at 1 pm on 23rd February, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Grave No. 180605. From the burial report of Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Party, and Pipe Band being supplied by the South African Regiment stationed at Farnborough. The service was conducted at the graveside by Chaplain the Rev. E. G. Petherick, Presbyterian Denomination, stationed at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford. The "Last Post" was sounded by 2 buglers of the South African Regiment and the "Lament" by a Piper. Wreaths were sent by the following:- Matron and Sister of 3rd A.A.H. Dartford; Major and Mrs G. E. Cole; Sisters Plant and Noyes and boys from Wards B. 27, 29, 30 and 31 of No. 3 A.A.H., Dartford and by Mrs Morlet, 16 Edith Grove, Chelsea (Friend) who also attended the funeral. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. An oak cross was erected and a photograph taken of the grave.*

Base Records wrote to Mr J. A. Williamson, c/o Executor Trustee Co., 22 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, South Australia, brother & next-of-kin of the late Gunner N. D. Williamson, on 17th April, 1923 stating that the site of his brother's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row A Grave 14. *"While the actual place of burial remains unchanged the previous registration allotted thereto has been altered to conform with the uniform layout of this Cemetery."*

Gunner N. D. Williamson's grave is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference - XI. A. 14. He now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson contains 2 letters regarding his illness.

- Major Cole, M. O. (Dartford) wrote: *"Ill. Suff: from Bronchial Pneumonia – until 48 hours ago, hope to pull him through; sudden collapse – died 20-2-18 – every possible care and attention – practically unconscious for the last 48 hours."*
- W. Oman, Red X Searcher, 3rd A.A. Hpl, Dartford wrote the following: *"Died suddenly. This lad died here at this hospital on 20-2-18 at 6.15 am. He arrived here from Newport Hospital 19-12-17, convalescent, having been gassed and also suffering from Bronchial Pneumonia. When coming here he seemed to all appearances to be recovering nicely and was considered almost fit for discharge. He was always bright and cheerful. After being here a little while, he suddenly complained of headaches and rheumatism and on examination shewed a temperature and was immediately transferred from the convalescent ward into a general ward, where he was attended by Major Cole, D.S.O. from Victoria and also Major Brown D.S.O. and special nursing sisters, despite which, he passed away. He was suffering from Typhoid & Pneumonia. He suffered terribly and was unconscious the last 24 hours. Major Cole said he regarded that fatal issue of his illness, was due to the fact that he was badly gassed in December last and felt sure, especially the last three days, that he would not recover. He knew him personally in civil life and naturally took a deep interest in him. Sister Morehead was the sister who attended him all through his illness and also did everything possible for him. Major Cole wrote to his brother in Adelaide, telling him all about his illness. Captain Chaplain E. G. Petherick, spent much time with him, especially the night previous to his death when he prayed constantly with him. A memorial service was held in the hospital Chapel to-day for him, which was very largely attended and which was very impressive, after which, his body was sent to London for burial, at the direction of the A.I.F. Headquarters. Beautiful wreaths were given by – Major Cole, The Matron, The Sisters and some of the boys in the hospital. A young friend of his named Williams, attended to all his letters for him during his illness. His next of kin is Mr E. W. Williamson, Adelaide Club, Adelaide S.A. AIF Headquarters, London will be able to give full details of burial."*

Base Records contacted Mr E. W. Williamson, c/o Executor Trustee Co., 22 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, South Australia on 20th May, 1921 stating that he was registered in the records of the late No. 33512 Gunner N. D. Williamson, 5th Field Artillery Brigade as next of kin & requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Base Records specifically asked if there were any older brothers & to state the eldest giving the name & address.

Mr E. Williamson replied to Base Records stating that he was the youngest of the brothers. The eldest brother was James A. Williamson, Nerida, Boomey, New South Wales. Mr E. Williamson stated that he was nominated to collect allotment money, deferred pay and was Executor to his Will.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. A. Williamson, Nerida, Boomey, NSW on 6th July, 1921 stating that they had been informed that he was *"the eldest surviving brother of the late No. 33512, Gunner N. D. Williamson, 5th Field Artillery Brigade, and shall be glad to learn whether you desire deceased's war medals, etc., transmitted to you as the person entitled to received, in keeping with the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918, or whether you would have any objections to their being handed over to your brother, Mr E. W. Williamson, who was nominated as next of kin."*

Base Records wrote to Mr E. W. Williamson on 30th September, 1922 stating that it was proposed to hand him the War Medals , etc of his brother, the late Gunner N. D. Williamson *"but only on the distinct understanding that they will be preserved with due care....If you are agreeable to accept them under these conditions kindly complete the attached declaration before a Justice of the Peace and return to me at your earliest convenience."*

Mr Ernest Woolmer Williamson, 22 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, South Australia signed a Statutory Declaration on 4th October, 1922 stating he would *"preserve with due care any War Medals or other items given into my custody on account of the service rendered by the late No. 35512 Gunner N. D. Williamson, 5th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Imperial Force, and will return them to the Department of Defence at any time upon receipt of its demand in writing."*

Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. Mr E. Williamson signed for receipt of the two medals on 10th November, 1922. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Williamson's brothers -Scroll sent to Mr J. A. Williamson in September, 1922 & Plaque sent to Mr E. W. Williamson in November, 1922.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson – service number 33512, aged 34, of 5th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of James and Emma Mary Williamson, Native of Toorak, Melbourne.

Gunner N. D. 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 14.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

N. D. Williamson is remembered on the Melbourne Grammar School Honour Roll, located in Melbourne Grammar School, Domain Road, Melbourne, Victoria.



Melbourne Grammar School Honour Roll (Photos by Chris McLaughlin)



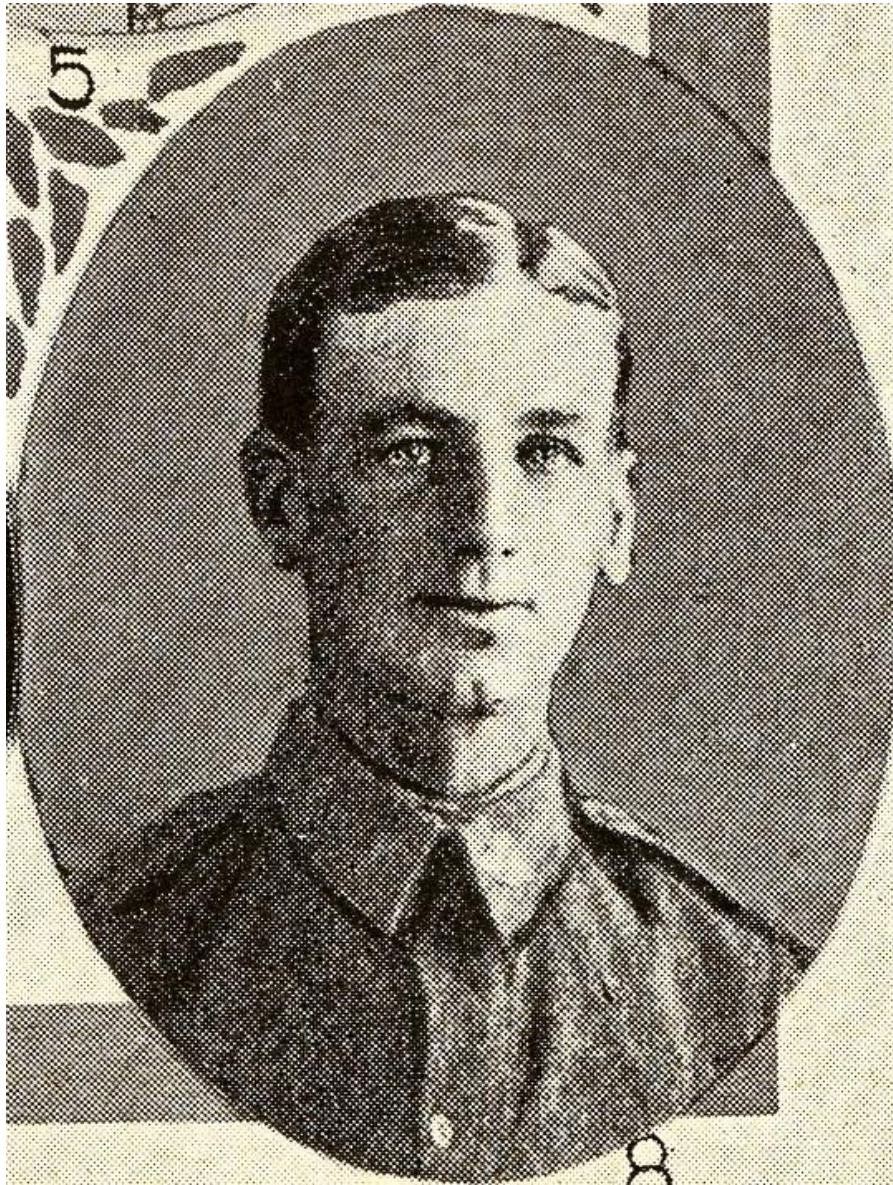
N. D. Williamson is remembered on the Ultima War Memorial, located at Vernon & Dillon Streets, Ultima, Victoria.



Ultima War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

(86 pages of Gunner Noel Dequoy 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Gunner Noel Dequoy Williamson

(Photo from Old Melburnians 1914– 1918 – Magazine of Melbourne Grammar School)

Noel Dequoy Williamson who died on 20th February 1918 in England of bronchial pneumonia, the result of being gassed, was the youngest son of the late Mr James Williamson. He was born in 1883 and was at the School in 1898 and 1899 and on leaving went in for a country life. With his brother he owned Springfield Station, near Berrillock, in the Mallee, and was there wheat farming when he enlisted in the artillery in 1916. He left Australia in April 1917 and was sent to France in August 1917 as a Gunner in the 5th Field Artillery Brigade. He was wounded in the leg by a shell and was badly affected by gas, which poisoned his wound. He was invalided to England in December 1917 suffering from trench fever and gas and was admitted to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, where he developed broncho-pneumonia, from which he died and was buried in Brookwood Cemetery.



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

On Active Service

WILLIAMSON – On the 20th February, on England, of bronchial pneumonia, from the effects of being gassed, Bombardier Noel De Quoy Williamson, the youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs James Williamson, Helenslea, Brighton.

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 February, 1918)

DEATH

WILLIAMSON – Bombardier Noel De Quoy, from pneumonia, result of being gassed, seventh son of the late Mr and Mrs Williamson, of Toorak: nephew of Joseph Parker.

(Castlemaine Mail, Victoria – 28 February, 1918)

Australians and the War

Death From Effect of Gas

Bombardier NOEL DE QUOY WILLIAMSON died in England on 20th February from bronchial pneumonia, caused by having been gassed. This news was received yesterday by cable message. Deceased was the seventh and youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs James Williamson, of Toorak and Brighton, and was educated at the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. On leaving school he joined the staff of the Colonial Bank of Australia, but retired from the service of the bank several years ago to take up wheat farming in the mallee.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 February, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

WILLIAMSON – On February 20, 1918, 32nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, England, of bronchial pneumonia, Gunner N. D. Williamson, 5th (late 25th) Field Artillery, son of the late Mr and Mrs James Williamson, Helenslea, Brighton.

WILLIAMSON – On the 20th February, in England, of bronchial pneumonia, from the effects of being gassed, Bombardier Noel De Quoy Williamson, the youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs James Williamson, "Helenslea," Brighton.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 February, 1918)

CASUALTY LIST NO. 385

Died of Illness

Spr N. D. WILLIAMSON, Adelaide, S.A., 20/2/18 (prev. rep. wounded, gas)

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 March, 1918)

LAWN TENNIS

TOLL OF THE WAR

The ranks of lawn tennis in Victoria have been further depleted, and another brave young life has been offered up as a sacrifice on the altar of duty in the death of Noel Williamson, who succumbed to an attack of pneumonia following on being gassed while fighting in France.

The late Noel Williamson was a life member of the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria, and a well-known tournament player, who was exceedingly popular by reason of his courteous manner and genuine sporting qualities.

(Leader, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 March, 1918)

Mainly About People

Bombardier Noel de Quoy Williamson, whose death took place in London on February 20, was the youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Williamson, whose residence, 'Tintern,' is one of the landmarks and oldest residences in Toorak. Mr. and Mrs. Williamson also lived for many years at Helenslea, Brighton. The news of the death of the young soldier was received by cable, the cause being bronchial pneumonia, following the effects of his being gassed. He was a Melbourne Church of England Grammar School boy. Mr. Alfred Williamson, who now lives in South Africa, is one of his brothers, Mrs. F. R. Power, of Balmerino-avenue, Toorak, being a sister.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 15 March, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of Gunner Noel D. Williamson, 5th F.A.B., called to higher service, 20th February, 1918.

WILLIAMSON – To the memory of a man who did his duty in spite of everything, Noel Williamson, who died in England 20th February, 1918.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 February, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WILLIAMSON – In memory of Noel Williamson, who died in England on 20th February, 1918.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 February, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of my brother, Noel D. Williamson, February 20, 1918.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 February, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of my brother, Noel D. Williamson, February 20, 1918, in England.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 February, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WILLIAMSON – In loving remembrance of my brother, Noel D. Williamson, 20/2/1918.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 February, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of my brother, Noel Dequoy Williamson, February 20, 1918.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 February, 1925)

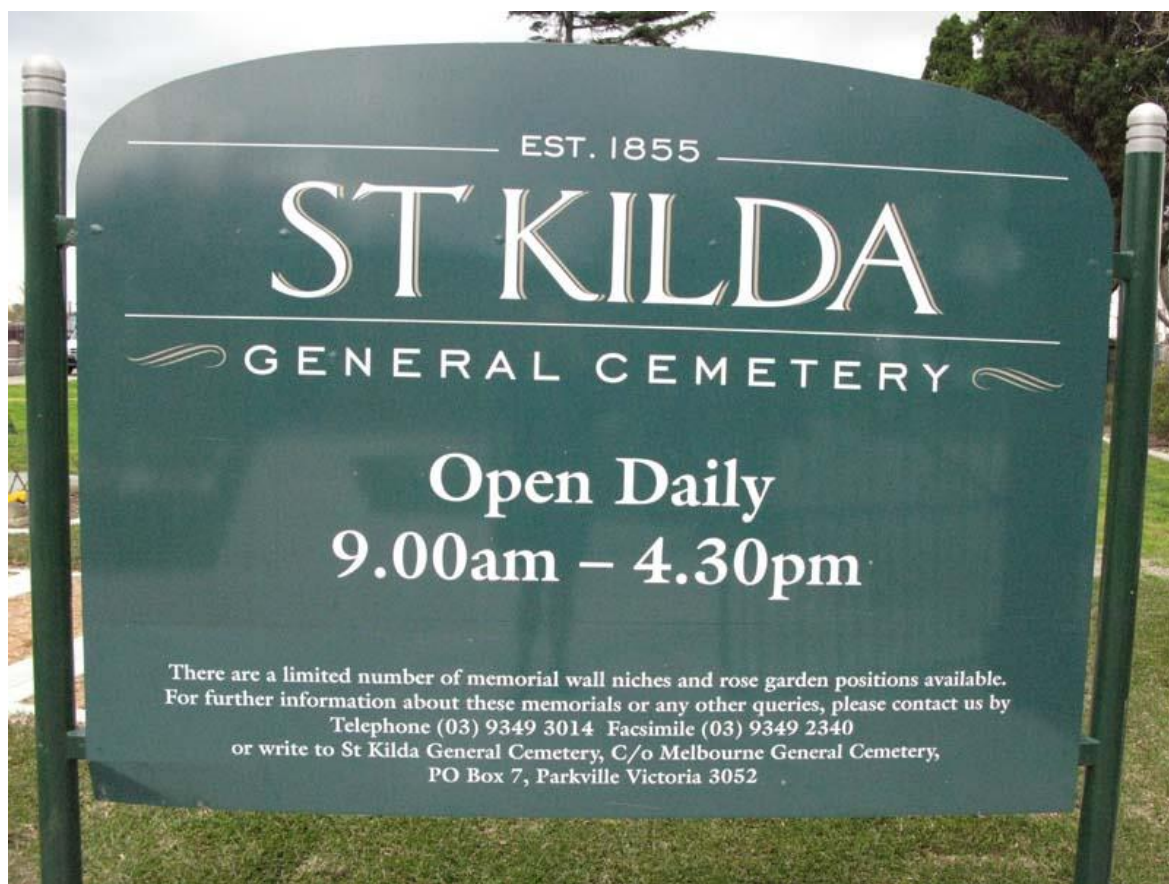
IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

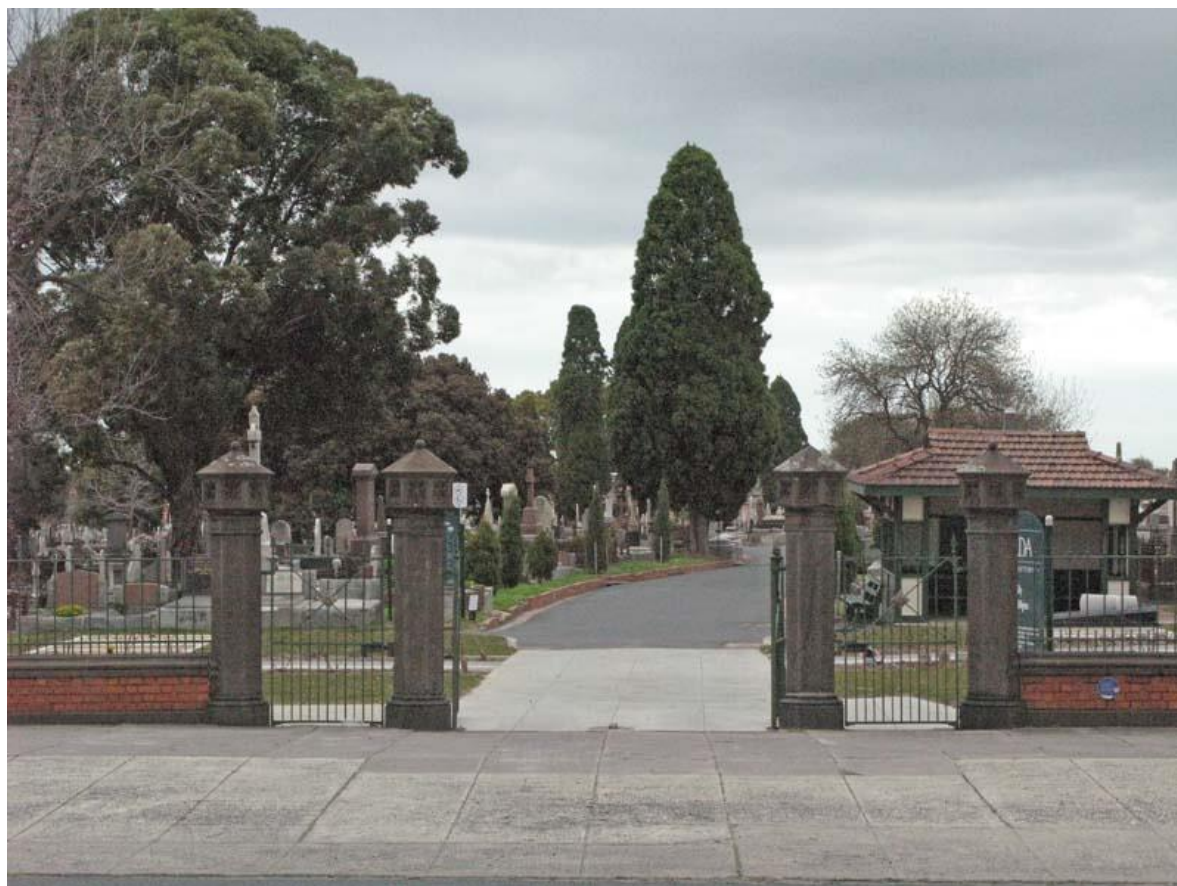
WILLIAMSON – In loving memory of my brother, Noel D. Williamson, February 20, 1918.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 February, 1926)

Noel D. Williamson is remembered on his parents' headstone located in St. Kilda Cemetery, Melbourne, Victoria.



St. Kilda Cemetery, Melbourne (Photos from Find a Grave – Iain MacFarlane)





Williamson Family Headstone in St. Kilda Cemetery (Photo from Find a Grave – Tim Reynolds)



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

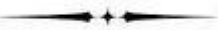
In Loving Memory of

NOEL D. WILLIAMSON

Seventh Son of J. & E. M. Williamson

Melbourne 25.12.1883. England 20.2.1918.

"Great Love Hath No Man Than This."



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)

E. Williamson wrote to The Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne on 27th April, 1922 stating "*In reference to the particulars required for inscription on my late brother's grave No. 33512 Gunner N. D. Williamson, I sent the particulars asked for on 1st Sept. last but at that time we had not decided on an inscription. I shall be very much obliged if you will arrange to have the following personal inscription on the headstone "Brave, Noble, Gentle". I very much regret the delay in sending in this inscription but my brothers & sisters are so scattered that it took a long time to find out the right words that we could all agree on. I trust that you will be able to arrange this.*"

Base Records wrote to The Official Secretary, (Military), Australian House, Strand, London on 6th May, 1922 requesting the inscription on Gunner N. D. Williamson's headstone.

Mr E. Williamson was advised by Base Records in 23rd August, 1922 that the inscription requested for his brother had been accepted by the overseas authorities.

Gunner N. D. Williamson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brave, Noble, Gentle

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.

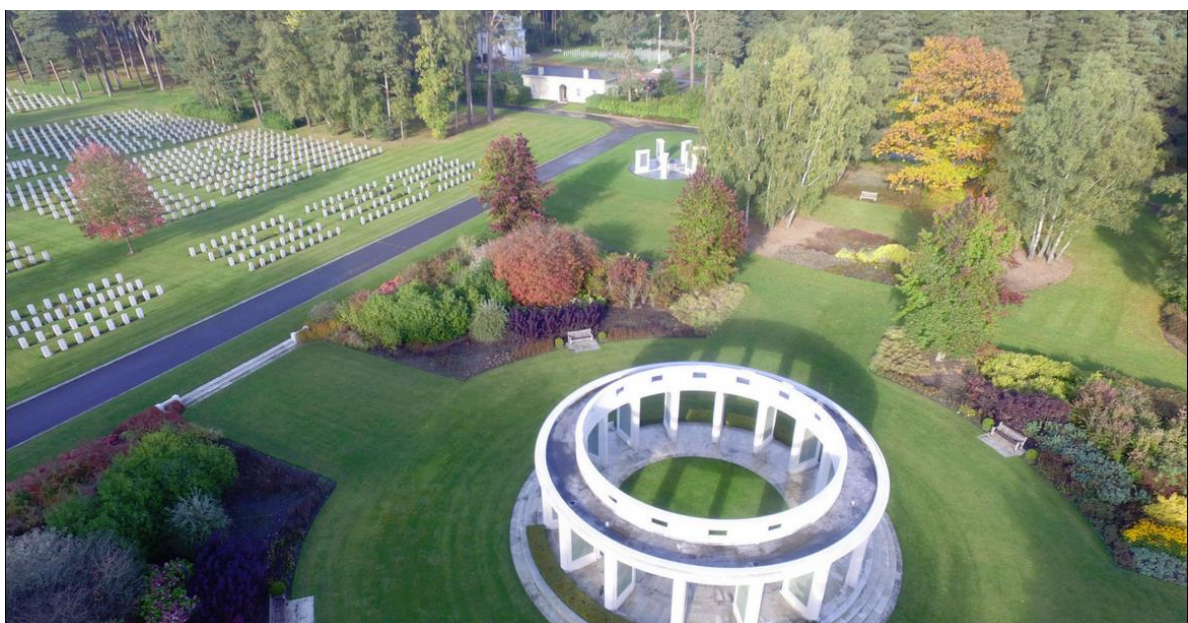


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918. Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Photo of Gunner N. D. Williamson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo by Neil Bright - 2020)



Australian War Graves (Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)

