

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2944 LANCE CPL.

L. W. WILSON

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31ST MAY, 1917 Age 25

In Memory

Of Our Beloved Son Leslie

L. & K. Wilson

God's Will Be Done

Leslie Wallace WILSON

Leslie Wallace Wilson was born at Sheffield, Tasmania on 10th July, 1893 to parents Leslie and Kathleen Alicia Wilson (nee Riley).

Leslie Wallace Wilson was a 23 year old, single, Grocer from Russell Street, Woonona, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 16th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2944 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr L. Wilson, of Russell Street, Woonona, NSW. Kathleen Wilson, mother of Leslie Wilson, state din information provided for the Roll of Honour that her son had been with G.P.O. Burnie, Tasmania for 4 years.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson was posted to 9th Reinforcements of 2nd Battalion.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 30th September, 1915 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson joined 2nd Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 6th January, 1916.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 on Troopship *Ivernia*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson was sent to Field Ambulance on 20th May, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 23rd May, 1916 then transferred to 50th Casualty Clearing Station on 24th May, 1916. Private Wilson was admitted to 50th Northumbrian Casualty Clearing Station on 24th May, 1916 with a Septic Arm, Scabies & Tonsillitis. He was transferred & admitted to 14th General Hospital in France on 15th June, 1916 with Dermatitis. Private Wilson was transferred to Wimereux, France on 22nd June, 1916 with Scabies then transferred the same day to Boulogne. He was invalided to England on 22nd June, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* with Scabies – severe.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson was admitted to Chatham Military Hospital, England on 22nd June, 1916 with Scabies. The Hospital Admissions form listed the hospital as No. 14 V.A.D. Hospital, Hayle Place, Maidstone. He was discharged on 28th August, 1916 to Chatham.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 30th August, 1916 & medically classified A. Private Wilson was marched in to (N.S.W.) 1st Training Battalion, No. 7 Camp, Perham Downs, Andover, Hants, England on 16th September, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England as well as convalescing. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson embarked overseas to France on 23rd September, 1916 from 1st Training Battalion, England. He was taken on strength of 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 24th September, 1916. Private Wilson rejoined 2nd Battalion in the Field in Belgium on 5th October, 1916.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson was sent sick to Field Ambulance on 6th December, 1916. He rejoined 2nd Battalion on 8th December, 1916.

Mr Leslie Wilson, father of Private L. W. Wilson advised 2nd Military District, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW, in February, 1917 of his change of address to c/o Co-Operative Store, Cessnock, NSW. The 2nd Military District advised Base Records on 24th February, 1917.

Private Leslie Wallace Wilson was appointed Lance Corporal on 9th April, 1917.

Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson was wounded in action in France on 7th May, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Field Ambulance on 8th May, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to right thigh. Lance Corporal Wilson was transferred & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 8th May, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train 11 on 9th May, 1917. He was admitted to No. 13 General Hospital, Boulogne, France on 10th May, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot

wound/s) to right thigh. Lance Corporal Wilson embarked from Boulogne, France on 14th May, 1917 for England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* with multiple G.S.W.

2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.

In early 1917 the German Army withdrew to the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line. As the 2nd Battalion advanced towards these defences in April 1917, Private T. J. Kenny attacked several enemy machine gun positions with grenades, earning the 2nd Battalion's only Victoria Cross. The battalion spent much of the rest of 1917 fighting in increasingly horrendous conditions around Ypres.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 2nd Battalion

Front Line – 7th May, 1917:

0345 – C Co 9th Bn commenced movement to West along OG2 and with slight opposition established for posts.

0456 – Bde informed that objectives had been gained.

Enemy shelled front line. Capt T. K, Westbrook killed.

Weather up to now fine & clear became overcast and light rain commenced.

Relief by 8th Bn commenced.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson was admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England on 15th May, 1917 with multiple shrapnel wounds.



Mr L. Wilson, c/- Co-Operative Store, Cessnock, NSW, father of Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson, was advised by Base Records on 24th May, 1917 that Lance Corporal Wilson had been wounded. Mr Wilson was advised by Base Records on 31st May, 1917 that Lance Corporal Wilson had been admitted to the Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, England on 15th May, 1917 suffering from multiple gunshot wounds – mild.

Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson died at 10.20 am on 31st May, 1917 at Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) multiple Buttock and both legs. The Hospital Admissions form recorded the following information: “G.S.W. both legs & buttock (rt). Aftwds doing well. F. b. removed rt leg 24-5-17. Wd began to heal rapidly.

31-5-17 Patient 8.30 am suddenly developed shock & collapse & died in 1.5 hr. Autopsy revealed nothing so provisionally supposed that he died of ____ by ____ shock from his dose of antibiotic serum received in France about May 8th or 9th/17.”

A death for Leslie W. Wilson, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson was buried at 3 pm on 4th June, 1917 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIF. 99 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass furniture. Corteg was proceeded from Hpl to Cemetery by the Band of 20th Hussars and followed by Lieut. C. W. Bebner, 53rd Battn, A.I.F. and 9 Australian comrades from the Hospital, also Miss Kathleen Warde, V.A.D. who came all the way over from Maidstone where she was one of his nurses. The service was rendered by Chaplain Captain C. R. Spencer of the Canadian Expeditionary Force attached to the Hospital and a bearer party were supplied from the Canadian A.M.C. a Firing Party was sent by the Royal Field Artillery stationed at Brighton and the last post was sounded by Trumpeters of that Regiment. Flowers were sent as follows:- Crosses from the Misses Warde and comrades at the Hospital, wreaths from Lt. C. W. Brebner, 53rd Battn, A.I.F. and the Australian Red Cross Com'te per M. E. Miller and Hilda E. Lennox and a bunch of white flowers from comrades in Hospital.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain any details of the nature of his wounds, death and burial.

A letter was sent from Capt. Registrar, for Lt. Colonel, O.C., Kitchener Military Hospital on 9th October, 1917 which reads: “Reference the death of No. 2944 L/Cpl L. Wilson, 2nd Btn A.I.F. who died in this hospital 31.5.17. In answer to an enquiry from you, we gave you particulars respecting the cause of death and manner of burial.

In a letter from the relatives of deceased received this morning we learn that first a cable was received stating his death, then on the 5th of July, a cable came saying he was alive and would arrived in Sydney on the 6th of same month. The mother made enquiries, but found her son was not with the returned soldiers. Naturally these distressing circumstances have greatly upset her, and her friend wrote asking us for the truth of the matter.

Some very lamentable mistake has been made in some dept of the A.I.F. Enquiry Bureau.”

The O.C., Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton had advised on 16th June, 1917 the following information: “Died of Wounds – I beg to inform you that No. 2944 L/Cpl Leslie Wilson, 2nd Battn, A.I.,F. died of Anaphylaxis shock – secondary cause, G.S.W. left buttock and both legs. He was buried at Brighton Cemetery (Soldiers section) on Monday June 4th at 3.30 pm. Service taken by C of E Chaplain. Other details have already been sent to the parents of deceased by private letters.”

A witness account by Lieutenant S. N. Telfer, 2nd Battalion D. Company. Home address Rathven, 116 Boulevard, Dulwich Hill reads: “Died of wounds 30.5.17 – Wilson was in D. Company, 13th Platoon and his initials were L.W. and his number 2944. He was a Lance-Corporal.

At Hermies in April, 1917 he was moving from one post to another on a very dark and muddy night when a stray shell wounded him in the leg. It was a “whizbang.” Sergeant McPhee and I were both Sergeants at the time. We went out and found him in a shell hole and brought him in to near our post and rang up Headquarters for stretcher bearers who carried him back. I had never heard of his death till I saw the book. He was very severely wounded b ut conscious and very game. He was tall, medium complexion and on the slight side in build.”

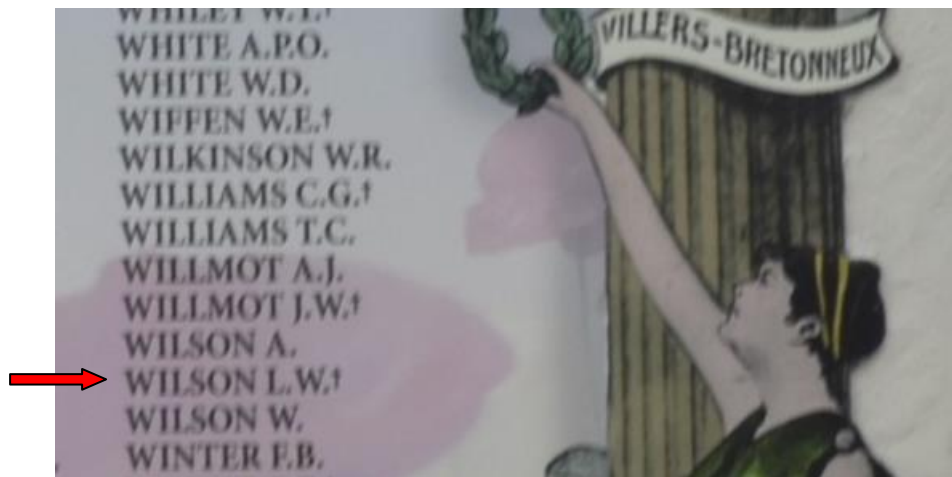
Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Wilson's father – Mr L. Wilson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson – service number 2944, aged 25, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Leslie and Kathleen Alicia Wilson, of Cooper St., Cessnock, New South Wales.

L. W. Wilson is remembered on the Kentish Roll of Honour Mural, located Main Street, Sheffield, Tasmania.



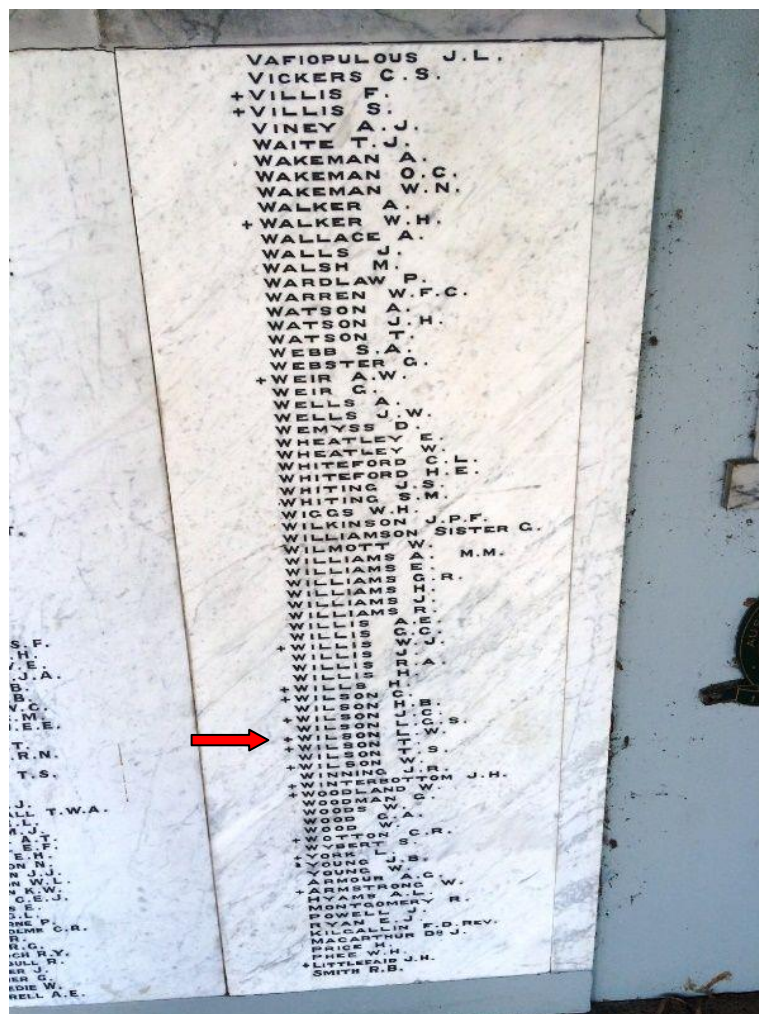
Kentish Roll of Honour Mural (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



L. W. Wilson is remembered on the Cessnock War Memorial, located on North Avenue, Cessnock, NSW.



Cessnock War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



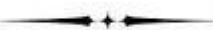
Lance Corporal L. W. Wilson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 35.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(48 pages of Lance Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson'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



Newspaper Notices

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

The 307th list of Australian war casualties was issued yesterday...

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

L,-cpl LESLIE WALLACE WILSON, Cessnock

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 June, 1917)

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

Mr L, Wilson, Cessnock,(N.S.W.) has been advised of the death of his son, L.Cpl. Leslie Wallace Wilson, who died in the Military Hospital at Brighton, England (30/5/17), of multiple gunshot wounds. He enlisted in July, 1915, and sailed for the front on September, 1915. The late Pte Wilson was _____ - Sheffield, Tasmania.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 14 June, 1917)

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

The 312th list of casualties sustained by Australian troops abroad... was issued yesterday...

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

L,-cpl LESLIE WALLACE WILSON, Cessnock, 31/5/17 (previously reported wounded)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 19 June, 1917)

In Memoriam

WILSON – In loving memory of our dear son, Lance-Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson (2nd Batt.) Died of wounds, Brighton, England, May 31st, 1917.

Inserted by L. and K. Wilson, High Street, Cessnock.

(The Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland Recorder, NSW – 30 May, 1919)

On Active Service

WILSON – To the memory of my beloved son, No. 2944, L.C. Leslie Wallace, who died in hospital, Brighton, England, on May 31, 1917.

Still I walk with him and keep unbroken
The bond which nature gives,
Knowing my sorrow, though unspoken,
Will reach him where he lives.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother, Kathleen A. Wilson, Cessnock.

WILSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, L.-cpl. Leslie Wallace Wilson, who died of wounds, May 31, 1917.
Inserted by his loving sisters, Doris and Denise.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 31 May, 1919)

CESSNOCK ROLL OF HONOR

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

The names of two soldiers, which were submitted, were inadvertently dropped during the revision of the proof-sheet: Corporal William Wallace Phee, killed in action in France on 9.6.17, and Private Douglas Wilson, killed in action at Passchendaele Ridge on 12.10.1917.....Lance-Corporal Leslie Wallace Wilson died in Brighton Hospital, England, on 31-5-1917. of wounds received in action at Bullecourt, France, earlier in the month.

(The Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland Recorder, NSW – 30 April, 1920)

On Active Service

WILSON – In loving remembrance of our dear brother, Leslie Wallace, who died of wounds, May 31, 1917. From his twin sisters, Doris and Denis.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 31 May, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOR

WILSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Leslie Wallace, who died of wounds 31st May, 1917.

“To live in hearts we leave behind
Is not to die.”

Inserted by his loving twin sisters, Doris and Denise.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 31 May, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

WILSON – In memory of my beloved son, Leslie Wallace (Boy) Wilson, who died from wounds, 31st May, 1917:

Still I walk with him and keep unbroken
The bond which Nature gives,
Knowing my sorrow, though unspoken,
Will reach him where he lies.

Inserted by his loving mother, Kathleen Wilson.

(The Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland Recorder, NSW – 1 June, 1926)

IN MEMORIAM

WILSON – In loving memory of our dear father, Leslie, passed away August 28, 1944; also our dear mother passed away January 11, 1945; also our dear brother, L/C Leslie Wallace, died of wounds, May 31, 1917.

Sadly missed by their family. (Delayed in transit)

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 29 August, 1945)

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)

Lance Corporal L. W. Wilson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of Our Beloved Son Leslie

L. & K. Wilson God's Will Be Done

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Lance Corporal L. W. Wilson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham)



(Photo from CWGC)