Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6104 LANCE CPL.

G. S. L. WALL

37TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD AUGUST, 1918 Age 25

Father In Thy Tender Keeping

Leave We Now Our Loved One Sleeping

George Savoury Lipscombe WALL

George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was born at Thorpdale, Victoria in 1893 to parents Francis Gordon Wall & Blanche Wall (nee Lacey).

George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Outtrim, Victoria when he enlisted at Leongatha, Victoria on 18th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6104 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs L. Wall, of Kongwak, South Gippsland, Victoria. George S. L. Wall stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 2 years with A.L.H. (no discharged – removed from Training Centre).

Private George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was posted to Depot on 17th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 19th Reinforcements of 7 Battalion at Castlemaine on 18th April, 1916.

Private George Savoury Lipscombe Wall embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles (A32)* on 28th July, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th September, 1916.

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.

Private George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was marched in to 2nd Training Battalion at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 11th September, 1916.

Private George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was transferred & taken on strength of 37th Battalion in England on 23rd September, 1916.

Private George Savoury Lipscombe Wall proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 22nd November, 1916.

Private George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was sent to Hospital sick on 16th January, 1917. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance with Mumps then transferred to 7th General Hospital at St. Omer. Private Wall was discharged to Base Details on 6th February, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion from Hospital on 22nd February, 1917.

Private George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was appointed Lance Corporal on 5th April, 1917.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was wounded in action on 7th June, 1917. He was admitted to 9th Field Ambulance then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station. L/Cpl. Wall was admitted to 8th Red Cross at Le Tonquet on 8th June, 1917 with gunshot wounds to left forearm. L/Cpl. Wall was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* on 12th June, 1917.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was admitted to 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford, England on 13th June, 1917 with gunshot wounds to left forearm (slight). He was discharged to furlo on 2nd July, 1917 to 16th July 1917 & was then to report to Training Depot at Perham Downs.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 6th August, 1917 from Overseas Training Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 8th August, 1917. He was marched out to join his Unit in 18th August, 1917. L/Cpl. Wall rejoined his Battalion on 22nd August, 1917 from being wounded.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was to be Temporary Corporal from 12th October, 1917 vice 649 Cpl. Murphy appointed Lance Sergeant.

Temporary Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 19th November, 1917. He was admitted to 9th Field Ambulance then transferred to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to right leg & bruised back. T/Cpl. Wall's rank reverted to that of Lance Corporal on 19th November, 1917 on being evacuated wounded.

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War Diary - 37th Battalion

In the Trenches: 18th November, 1917 to 19th November, 1917

The battalion still holding the line. Nothing of importance happened. Enemy used trench mortars a good deal on our front line, reserving artillery mostly for back areas. Two men were wounded.

(War Diary extract from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was admitted to 55th General Hospital at Boulogne on 20th November, 1917. He was transferred to 12th Convalescent Depot at Aubenque on 25th November, 1917. He was discharged to Base on 1st December, 1917 & was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 7th December, 1917. Lance Corporal Wall proceeded from 3rd A.D.B.D. to the front on 16th December, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 18th December, 1917.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was sent to Hospital sick on 20th December, 1917. He was admitted to 11th Field Ambulance with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) then transferred on 21st December, 1917 to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Lance Corporal Wall was admitted to 1st Canadian General Hospital on 23rd December, 1917. He was transferred from 1st Canadian General Hospital on 13th January, 1918 to Hospital Ship *Peter de Coninck* & embarked for England.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was admitted to Military Hospital at Edmonton, England on 13th January, 1918. He was reported on 21st January, 1918 with P.U.O. slight & Trench Fever. Lance Corporal Wall was transferred to 2rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 25th January, 1918 then discharged to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 4th February, 1918.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was medically classified on 5th February, 1918 at No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire as B1 A2 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in three to four weeks). He was medically classified on 11th February, 1918 as B1 A2. On 18th February, 1918 Lance Corporal Wall was medically classified as B1 A3 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in two to three weeks). Lance Corporal Wall was classed as B1 A4 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit) on 25th February, 1918.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 18th March, 1918.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 17th April, 1918 from Overseas Training Brigade.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was marched in to Base Depot at Rouelles, France on 18th April, 1918. He was marched out to the Front on 23rd April, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 24th April, 1918.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was congratulated by G.O.C. (General Officer Commanding) 3rd Australian Division for gallant conduct during a raid on 21/22 July, 1918.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was sent sick to Hospital. He was admitted to 10th Field Ambulance on 22nd July, 1918 with Colitis then transferred to 5th Casualty Clearing Station on 22nd July, 1918 before being transferred again to 12th Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd July, 1918 with Dysentery. Lance Corporal Wall was transferred & admitted to 16th General Hospital at Le Treport on 26th July, 1918. Lance Corporal Wall was listed for transfer to Hospital Ship on 1st August, 1918 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Warilda* on 2nd August, 1918.

37th Battalion

After training in both Australia and Britain, the battalion moved to France on 23 November 1916. Within a week it had begun to occupy trenches on the Western Front, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17. During this time the 3rd Division was heavily involved in raiding the German trenches. In February 1917 the 37th Battalion provided 400 troops, with a similar party from the 38th Battalion, to form a special raiding "battalion". After several weeks of training this force staged a single 35-minute raid on the night of 27 February and was then disbanded.

The 37th fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7 - 9 June 1917. For his actions during this battle, Captain Robert Grieve was awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion fought in another two major attacks in © Cathy Sedgwick 2017

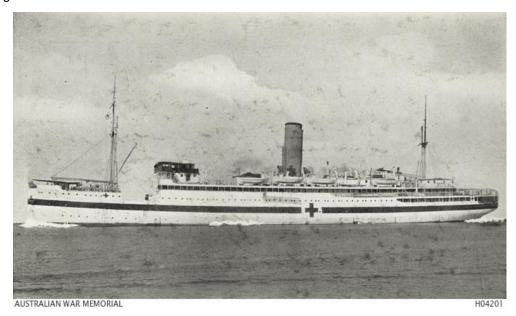
this sector - the battle of Broodseinde on 4 October, and the battle of Passchendaele on 12 October. Belgium remained the focus of the 37th Battalion's activities for the next five months, until it was rushed south to France in late March 1918 to meet the German Army's Spring Offensive.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was reported as Missing, believed drowned on Hospital Ship *Warilda* on 3rd August, 1918 which was transporting wounded soldiers from Le Havre, France to Southampton, England.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall drowned on 3rd August, 1918 while a patient on Hospital Ship *Warilda* which was torpedoed by the German submarine UC-49 while in the English Channel. His death was a result of enemy action. The body of Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was recovered at Sea & was taken to 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

A death for George Wall, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



The Hospital Ship *Warilda* was carrying 801 persons on board when she was torpedoed by a German Submarine on 3rd August, 1918. 123 people lost their lives.

Warilda

In August 1915, the SS *Warilda* was requisitioned by the Commonwealth and fitted out as a transport ship. HMAT *Warilda* made two trips to Egypt and one to England, carrying more than 7,000 troops. Following the *Warilda*'s conversion to a hospital ship in July 1916, she spent a few months stationed in the Mediterranean, before being put to work transporting patients across the English Channel. Between late 1916 and August 1918 she made over 180 trips from Le Havre to Southampton, carrying approximately 80,000 patients.

HMAT *Warilda* survived two potential disasters in early 1918. She narrowly missed being sunk in February when she was struck by a torpedo which failed to explode. Then, in March while her regular captain was having a month break, she collided with the SS *Petit Gaudet* near the Isle of Wight. The *Petit Gaudet* was seriously damaged and had to be run ashore in St Helen's Bay.

On 3 August 1918, the *Warilda's* luck ran out. The night was very dark, the sea was smooth and visibility was about half a mile. At 1.35am, a torpedo fired from the German submarine UC-49 took out *Warilda's* starboard propeller. The port engine could not be shut down as the engine room had been flooded and the steering gear blown away, so the ship continued moving in a circle at about 15 knots. Life boats could not be lowered until the engine ran out of steam.

HMS P.39, one of the escorts, attempted to tow the *Warilda*, but had to cut the line when it became clear the *Warilda* was going to sink. She finally sank by the stern at 4.10am.

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That night, the *Warilda* had 801 people on board. Sadly 123 lost their lives, including all the engine room staff, all the occupants of "I" ward (the lowest ward containing 101 "walking" patients), and 19 people from capsized lifeboats.

The fifteen Australians who died in the sinking of the *Warilda* are commemorated on the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour.

The *Warilda* now lies about 50m underwater, approximately mid-way in the English Channel between Le Havre and Portsmouth.

(Information on Warilda from the Australian War Memorial)

<u>Extract from Book - World War One Channel Wrecks - Vessels Lost in the English Channel 1914 - 1918 by Neil Maw:</u>

WARILDA was an Australian steamer, registered at Port Adelaide but requisitioned by the British government for use as a hospital ship. She was loaded with injured soldiers. The holds on the Warilda had been hastily converted into wards and the lowest ward was I-Ward containing 102 patients. I-Ward was purposely allocated to walking wounded with the idea that if the ship had to be evacuated they could get on deck more quickly. It was a good idea but few were to survive in I-Ward.

She left Havre on August 2, 1918, and was being escorted by two destroyers to Southampton. HMS P39, commanded by Lieutenant J.W. Durnford RN. and HMS P45, commanded by Lieutenant Rudolph Thompson RN. They made good progress, at 15 knots, steering north 10 degrees east.

Even though it was a cloudy and a dark night, the second mate on watch on the bridge spotted the shape a submarine about 100yds off the port bow at 1.35 am. He shouted to the helmsman to turn directly towards the submarine with the intention of ramming it. A few seconds later the master arrived on the bridge and endorsed the second officer's actions but the submarine was too fast and too manoeuvrable. The helm was put hard over again, this time to bring the enemy directly astern. The master watched intently to see what the German commander intended to do, when suddenly a white streak appeared from it followed seconds later by a deafening explosion deep on the port side between the engine room and tragically, number four hold....I-Ward.

The force of the explosion caused a great deal of damage. One engine had been knocked out of action, and the engine room began to fill rapidly. But the scene in I-Ward was one of utter carnage. The explosion had occurred directly under the ward and had killed most of the patients outright. Survivors of the blast were drowned by the sudden inrush of water as the ward completely filled, setting Warilda heavily down by the stern. At least 101 patients died in I-Ward.

The master realised that if the engine room bulkhead held he would stand a chance of getting the rest of the people off. He ordered all the patients to be assembled on the promenade deck and the boats to be lowered down to them. Several boats were soon ready to go but the master shouted that no boat was to leave until the way had gone off the ship. One engine was still running even though the water was up to the cylinder heads, but slowly it slowed as the steam ran out and a last Warilda came to a halt. The first boat with wounded and nurses in it reached the water evenly but for some inexplicable reason the front fall jammed and swamped the boat resulting in the loss of two nurses. Most of the boats got clear although another on the port side fouled the Otter mine defence boom and overturned, with the loss of two officers, eight male patients and four crew.

HMS P39 came alongside the stricken steamer and took off the rest of the patients and crew. It was no easy task. Most of the remaining patients were unable to walk so a bosun's chair was rigged, and the patients were winched across by hand. Two men in particular, Lance Corporal Booth, number 100015 and Pte Hamber, number 102681, were mentioned for their actions.

After Warilda had been cleared of survivors the commander of P39 decided it might be worth trying to take the steamer in tow and lines were attached, But after 10 minutes towing the steamer could not take the pressure put upon her weakened bulkheads and she sank at 4.10 am.

The Court of Enquiry was held on board HMS Victory at Portsmouth was told that 113 patients, one nurse, two RAMC staff and seven crew died in the sinking, but found no negligence.

UC-49 was the submarine involved, commanded by Oberleutnant H. Kükenthal (see site 5/7).

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was buried on 7th August, 1918 in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England – Plot number Section M, Row 6, Grave No. 20 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall - Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and surmounted by beautiful wreaths sent by the following:- Father & Mother (Australia); Uncle & Aunts of Wallington, Surrey; Australian Patients in Hospital; Matron, Sisters and Nursing Staff of 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. A party of 30 Australians (Patients) in the 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth followed the remains to the Cemetery. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Names of relatives present at the funeral – Uncle – Mr Charles R. Wall, The Hollies, Harcourt Road, Wallington, Surrey & Aunts Misses Ethel & Dorothy Wall, 21 Maldon Road, Wallington, Surrey.

A letter was sent from Base Records on 20th April, 1920 to Mr F. G. Wall, Wells Road, Mordialloc, Victoria, father, of the late Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall, advising that his son's remains had been exhumed from their former place in Milton Cemetery & had been re-interred in Plot H. Row 19. Grave No.6 in the same cemetery. It was explained that "this work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain".

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall contains a letter to the Red Cross from Major E. J. Davis Taylor, R.A.M.C. for O.C. 5th Southern General Hospital which reads: "..the only body brought to this hospital from the wreck of the "Warilda" was that of No. 6104 L/Cpl. G. Wall, 37th Battn. A.I.F. who was identified by relatives who attended the funeral. Nothing os known here of any others."

George S. L. Wall requested in his Will, dated 2nd July, 1917, that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his father – Frances Gordon Wall of Outtrim, Victoria.

Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lace Corporal Wall's father - Mr F. G. Wall, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall – service number 6104, aged 25, of 37th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Francis Gordon Wall & Blanche Wall, of Wells Rd., Mordialloc, Victoria. Born at Thorpdale, Victoria.

Lance Corporal G. S. L. Wall is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 129.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. S. L. Wall is remembered on the Thorpdale War Memorial, located on Pioneer Park, Station Street, Thorpdale, Victoria.



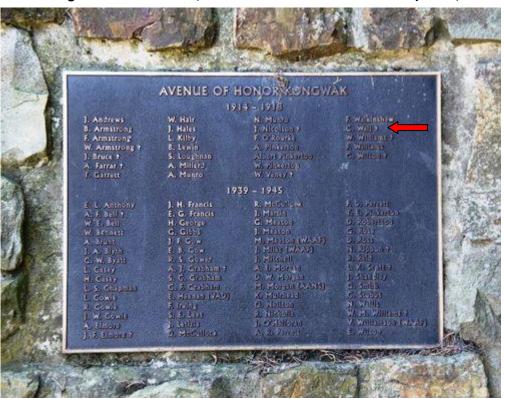
Thorpdale War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)



G. Wall is remembered on the Kongwak War Memorial, located at Wonthaggi Road, Kongwak, Victoria & the Avenue of Honour, Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road & Kongwak-Inverloch Road, Kongwak, Victoria.



Kongwak War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Nancy Alford)





Avenue of Honour, Kongwak, Victoria

G. Wall is remembered on the Kongwak State School Honour Roll, located in Kongwak Public Hall, 1440 Korumburra – Wonthaggi Road, Kongwak, Victoria.



Kongwak State School Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Brendan Manson)

G. Wall is remembered on the Kongwak Volunteers Honour Roll, located in Kongwak Public Hall, 1440 Korumburra – Wonthaggi Road, Kongwak, Victoria.



Kongwak Volunteers Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Brendan Manson)

(83 pages of Lance Corporal George Savoury Lipscombe Wall'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

DIED ON SERVICE

WALL – Officially reported as drowned, 3rd August, on hospital ship "Warilda", Lance-Corporal George S. L., son of F. G. and B. Wall, of Mordialloc (late Outtrim), brother of Isabel, Emily, Mrs Caldwell, Grace, Mercy, Nona, Dorothy, Eileen, and Frank, and nephew of A. H. Wall, East Caulfield, and Wm. Wall, Noble Park.

Father, in They gracious keeping,

Leave we now our loved on sleeping.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 August, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

WALL – On the 3rd August, 1918, officially reported drowned at sea on the "Warilda," Lance-Corporal G. S. L. Wall, after 2 years on active service, aged 25 years 4 months. R.I.P.

No more his welcome footsteps

Will tread our dwelling floor;

No more I watch for his coming home,

As I did in the days of yore.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Your prayers for him extol;

O Sacred Heart of Jesus

Have mercy on his soul.

-Inserted by his sorrowing fiancé, Nellie Hales, Kongwak.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria - 15 August, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

WALL – On the 3rd August, 1918, officially reported drowned at sea on the "Warilda," Lance-Corporal G. S. L. Wall, after 2 years on active service, aged 25 years 4 months. R.I.P.

Mother of Sorrows, to thee we pray,

Comfort the many sad hearts to-day;

Ask thy dear Son, at our request,

To grant my dear one eternal rest.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on his soul.

-Inserted by his sorrowing fiancé, Nellie Hales, Kongwak.

(Advocate, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 August, 1918)

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TORPEDOED HOSPITAL SHIP

THE AUSTRALIAN VICTIMS

A special casualty list was issued by the Defence Department on Saturday, containing the names of the following Australian soldiers who are believed to have lost their lives when the hospital ship Warilda was torpedoed and sunk in the British Channel on 3rd August:-

Victoria

DROWNED (Body Recovered)

6104, Lance-Corp. G. S. L. Wall, 37th Btn. (late 7th Btn.) Kongwak.

Missing (Believed Drowned)

3231 Pte Thos. Foulks, 29th Btn. Korong Vale.

8206 Pte Donald McIntyre, 37th Btn (late 57th Btn.) Sutherland Creek

7999 Dvr. H. O. Richardson, 18th A.S.C., Creswick.

NEW SOUTH WALES – Pte R. H. Purcell, 17thh Btn. (Redfern); Pte J. Roxburgh, 38th Btn. (Manly); Pte Norman Abbott, 33rd Btn. (E. Sydney); Pte Arthur Lawson, Mech. Transport Co. (Charters Towers, Q.)

QUEENSLAND – Pte R. O. J. Claridge, 41st Btn. (Gympie); Pte E. L. Laidlaw, 31st Btn. (Dalby); Pte C. N. Power, 42nd Btn. (Wagga).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Lieut. A. H. Moss, 2nd D.A.C. (Smithfield); Pte V. H. Pike, 5th Pnrs, (Tunkill); Pte E. Wilkins, 32nd Btn. (Glanville).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA - Pte P. Retell, 5th Pnrs (Albany)

(Leader, Melbourne, Victoria- 17 August, 1918)

Roll of Honour

LANCE-CORPORAL GEORGE WALL

(Drowned at Sea)

Lance-Corporal George Wall was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs F. G. Wall, of Mordialloc (late of Outtrim). He was drowned at sea on the Warilda on the 3rd August, having been on active service for over two years. His genial and kindly disposition endeared him to all, and much sympathy is felt for his fiancée, Miss Nellie Hales, of Kongwak. R.I.P.



Lance-Corporal George Wall.

(Advocate, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 September, 1918)

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 G. S. L. Wall does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Father In Thy Tender Keeping

Leave We Now Our Loved One Sleeping

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth contains 426 Commonwealth War Graves – 192 relating to World War 1 & 234 relating to World War 2. There are 12 Australian War Graves from World War 1 in this cemetery.

It was opened in 1911, and contains war graves of both World Wars. The 1914-1918 burials are mainly in Plot 1. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on the northern side of the chapel in honour of all the servicemen buried in the cemetery. The 1939-1945 War burials are widely spread throughout the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Australian War Graves in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth (Photo by Mr Peter Bennett)

Photo of Lance Corporal G. S. L. Wall's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers)





Re-Interred 11 WW1 Australian Soldiers in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble 2020)



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble 2020)