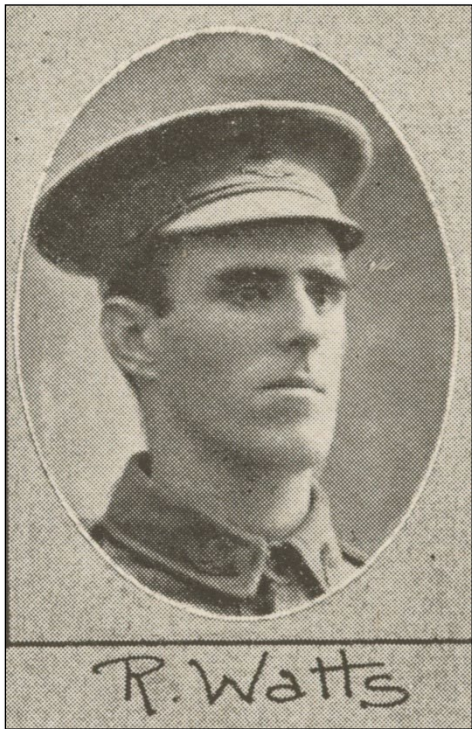


WATTS, Richard



R. Watts, one of the soldiers photographed in *The Queenslander Pictorial*, supplement to *The Queenslander*, 1917. (2014). John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Rank: Lieutenant

Service Number: 238

Unit: 11th Machine Gun Company

Place of Birth: Murwillumbah, NSW

Date of Birth: 1891 Parents Richard and Bridget. Reg No. 23555/1891 NSW.

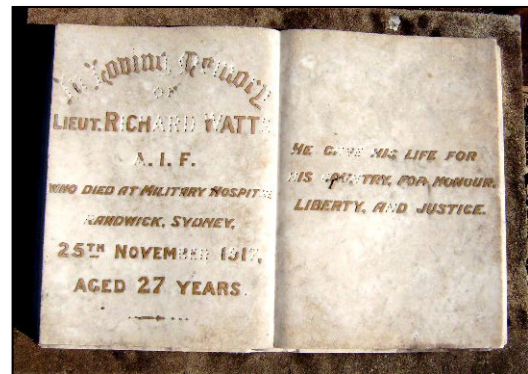
Enlisted at: Rockhampton, Qld on 17 February 1916 aged 25 years.

Next-of-kin was wife Lucy Pearle WATTS (nee Coase), Glenlyon Street, Gladstone, Brisbane, Qld. Married 22 July 1914. Lucy re-married on 30 January 1922 to Gilbert Mitchell Percy Lamington IRWIN in Qld.

On enlistment he was 5 feet 10.5 inches and weighed 9 stone 10 lbs. His chest measurement was 33.5 inches. His occupation was accountant. Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A30 *Borda* on 5 June 1916. Served Western Front. Promoted Corporal on 30 December 1916. At Armentieres 10 November 1917 went sick with laryngitis. Swelling of face and albuminuria. Not previous attack. Treated one month in France, then

Eastbourne, then London. Contracted nephritis and was oedemic and invalided to Australia. Returned to Australia by hospital ship 16 July 1917. Died at Military Hospital, Randwick, Sydney, 25 November 1917 aged 27 years. Buried Gladstone Cemetery, Queensland. "He gave his life for his country, for honour, liberty, and justice."

Expressions of regret could be heard on all sides on Monday, when it became known that Lieutenant Richard Watts had passed away on Sunday night at No. 4 Military Hospital, Randwick, Sydney. The deceased officer was universally respected and esteemed by a large circle of friends throughout the district. He was 27 years of age, and the cause of his death was dropsy and other complications. He enlisted about two years ago, and sailed from these shores as a private. He quickly settled down to military life, showing a quick alert aptitude for the work. However, he contracted trench fever and was invalided back to England. Eventually, he was able to return to Australia, but on his arrival in Sydney was admitted to the above-named hospital. After lingering for some time he passed away as above stated. Prior to enlisting he was accountant in the employ of Messrs. H. and J. Friend Limited. He leaves a young widow and little child to whom much sympathy is extended in this the hour of trial. The body is being brought to Gladstone and the funeral will take place this afternoon, moving from the residence of his father-in-law, Mr. J. W. Coase.—"Gladstone Observer."



Gladstone Cemetery headstone Richard Watts

Bundaberg News Mail, Friday 30 November 1917 (From TROVE
Trove.nla.gov.au 19 May 2024

Service Record: [View digital copy \(naa.gov.au\)](http://naa.gov.au)

Paulette Flint, 2024