

WILLANS, George William



Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres
Photograph © John Knight 26 June 2016

George William Willans was born in Narrandera in the Riverina region of NSW. His mother died when he was about two years old, and his father died two years later. George was 20 when he arrived at the College in July 1910, leaving at the end of 1911, during which time he studied on the Dairy and Piggery. George was working with his uncle (his mother's brother, Thomas) in his butter factory at Muswellbrook in the Hunter region of NSW to which he returned after College. By 1914 when he visited HAC, he was jointly managing operations. He enlisted with the infantry, joining C Company of the 34th Battalion, in January 1916, departing Sydney in May and disembarking at Plymouth, England in June. In November he transferred to the 9th Light Trench Mortar Battery and embarked from Southampton bound for France on 21 November.

A month later, on the 20 December, he was killed and buried at Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres. He was 26 years old. His sister, Una E Willans, served as a nurse attached to the 2nd Australian General Hospital with the Australian Army Nursing Service, in Egypt, France and England.