

As a timely tribute to my great-uncle Norman Watts (my nana's eldest brother) on this, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his major battles as a soldier with the 41<sup>st</sup> Battalion A.I.F.; it was felt that his story should at last be told (however brief for now) "This is for you, great-uncle Norm" - - -

Norman Alfred Henry Watts was born at Rockhampton Queensland on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1885 to Withers Cazalette Watts (music teacher) and Violet Ingelby Watts (nee Blakesley).

As the grandson of a proud Tutu-Warrior Island woman and a Captain in the British Mercantile Marines, it was sometimes said that Norman was cursed with a 'no-nonsense, no-fear' fighting spirit. However, it's believed that it was a far more personal reason that motivated him to enlist with the Australian Imperial Forces at Southport Qld on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1916; (more than likely, the death of his young wife during child birth, just eight months earlier).

[The 'Western Front' – 24<sup>th</sup> September 1917:]

It was during the Battle of Menin Road, that some 'action' resulted in Private Watts being promoted to rank of Lance Corporal. Not much more than a week further on, his Battalion, the 41<sup>st</sup> ("never lost a man as a prisoner") was again involved in a successful major 'push' as part of the 3rd Division in the Battle of Broodseinde; beginning on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1917.

During heavy fighting on the following day, LCPL Norman Watts received an almost fatal shrapnel wound. It had punctured his right lung, but seemingly, he was 'meant' to survive. After some six months recovering in England, Norman returned home to his family and lived long enough to re-marry and father a healthy son. Sadly, his wound finally took its toll.

Lance Cpl. Norman Alfred Henry Watts 41<sup>st</sup> Battalion A.I.F. - passed away 6<sup>th</sup> March 1924.

It is intended to recover great-uncle Norman's war medals one day, & tell his complete story. (Raymond F. Nancarrow; on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my great-uncle's 'contribution' to WW1)