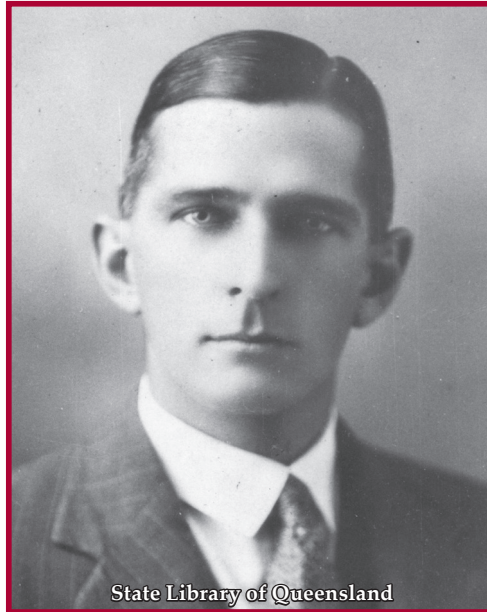


STEWART BYRON WATKINS

Date of Birth:
11 November 1894
Student Number:
1163
Enrolment:
February 1908
Age Entered IGS:
14 years
Final Day at IGS:
December 1912



State Library of Queensland

Unit:
Munitions
Regimental Number:
Chemist
Enlistment:
26 October 1916
Age at Enlistment:
22 years
Final Day of Service:
12 July 1917 - MD

One of the biggest decisions made in the writing of this book, was to examine the cases of all Old Boys who contributed to WW1 - not just those who 'picked up a gun'. This then opened up a whole new field, as I found many past students who were seconded to serve the Australian and British governments. In particular, pharmacists and chemists were in great demand.

Harper Wright (2015) wrote, "In response to this shortage of skilled workers, the Australian and Imperial Governments agreed a programme to recruit chemists and other skilled men to bolster munitions production in the UK. The Australian Munitions Workers scheme started seeking volunteers in the middle of August 1916...During the Great War a total of 2,838 Australian volunteers worked in UK factories under the Australian

Munitions Workers scheme. On the 19th November 1919 the British Secretary of State conveyed,

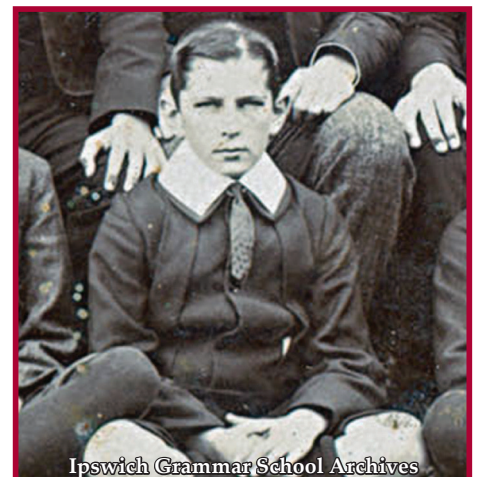
"His Majesty's appreciation of the value of the services rendered during the war by the men from Australia who volunteered for work in the production of ships and munitions in this country.

He understands the excellent behaviour of these volunteers and the sustained and steady application displayed by them in their work has earned the highest praise."

Stewart 'Bubs' Byron Watkins was one such volunteer. He excelled in both academics and sports while at IGS. He went on to achieve his First XV rugby colours, was a drama student (playing the role of Cassius in the 1911 play), a Colour-Sergeant in our Cadet Corps and a prefect. In 1912 Watkins earned a

scholarship to study Science at the University of Queensland, and in 1916 won a University Scholarship for the Encouragement of Original Chemical Research. However, by the end of October he was in England, to help with the war efforts - along with 25 other Australian chemists [see image from the UK Incoming Passenger List 1878-1960]. Watkins was released on the 12th of July, 1917, from his work in the munitions plant due to ill health (chronic bronchitis and asthma as a result of having been gassed). He completed his Masters in Science in 1918 and went on to lecture at UQ for a year, before taking on the role of Supervisor of the Central Technical College until 1941.

Date of Arrival		NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS.									
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6) AGE OF PASSENGER					(7)	(8)
Port of Departure	Place at which Passenger last saw	NAME OF PASSENGER	CLASS	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passenger	Age	Height	Weight	Complexion	Hair	Country of last Residence	Country of Usual Residence
Sydney		H. C. Eastaugh	1st	Chemist	35					Australia	
Sydney		M. S. W. Hudson	"	"	21					"	
Melbourne		J. J. Field	"	"	25					"	
		M. Kitchen	"	"	34					"	
Sydney		A. P. Gibbons	"	"	30					"	
		J. B. Watkins	"	"	22					"	
Melbourne		W. T. Kelly	"	"	22					"	



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