

BLANDFORD WW1 MEMORIAL

WATTS + WILFRID

**Born:** 1893 Blandford Dorset

**Rank:** Lieutenant

**Date of Death:** 17/01/1916 Killed in Action Belgium

**Age:** 23

**Regiment/Service:** Royal Flying Corps 1st Sqdn

**Awards:** Croix de Guerre with Palm (France)

**Grave Reference:** XIV D 2

**Cemetery:** Harlebeke New British Cemetery

**Family:**

**Father** Clarence Edward John Watts b 1855 Shaftesbury Dorset  
Fellmonger

d 1918 Christchurch Hampshire

**Mother** Jessie Jane George b 1860 Milton Abbas Dorset

m 1881 Blandford Dorset

d 1912 Weymouth Dorset

**Siblings** Reginald Clarence Watts b 1884 Blandford Dorset

John Watts b 1891 Blandford Dorset

d 1892 Blandford Dorset

**Census:**

1901 61 East Street Blandford Dorset given age 8

1911 Hill Crest Salisbury Road Pimperne Dorset given age 18 Boarder  
Clerk

**Notes:**

*In 1911 the rest of his family were living in Charlton Marshall*

*03/01/1913 Wilfrid Watts Currier aged 19 sailed from London to Melbourne Australia*

*on the SS Otoway no details of return journey*

*National Archives WO 339/49017 Wilfrid Watts Royal Flying Corps*

*Summary of Service Record*

*Formerly Dorset Yeomanry*

*Attested Royal Flying Corps 15/10/1914 Farnborough Hampshire*

*Promoted to Sergeant 16/10/1914*

*Graded 2<sup>nd</sup> class flyer 02/11/1914*

*Graded 1<sup>st</sup> class flyer 01/03/1915*

*Promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant 13/11/1915*

*Next of Kin Father John Watts Hillcrest Salisbury Road Blandford Dorset*

***Croix De Guerre with Palm***

*No details found of what it was awarded to Wilfrid for.*



*(example only unsure if this is the correct ribbon it should have green stripes on red)*

*Croix de Guerre (1914-1918 ) Probably the best known French decoration, this cross was awarded to all those who were mentioned in dispatches since the outbreak of war (2 August 1914).*

*It was instituted on 8 April 1915 as an outward recognition for being mentioned in the order of the day of an army, corps, division, brigade or battalion. Award of the Legion of Honour for valour displayed on the field or of the Military Medal automatically brought entitlement to the War Cross.*

*According to the nature of the mention, emblems were affixed on the ribbon:*

*Bronze palm for mention on army level (5 bronze palms to be replaced by a silver one by decree of 8 January 1917)*

*Gift star for mention on corps level*

*Silver star for mention on division level*

*Bronze star for mention on brigade or battalion level.*

*By 1 March 1920 already more than 2,055,000 crosses had been awarded. The reverse side bears the year 1914 together with the year in which they were struck (1915, 1916, 1917 or 1918).*

*(Wikipedia)*

*With thanks to Bill Lovell for the information.*