

**Bridport Cemetery,
Bridport, Dorset
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



953 PRIVATE

A. B. WADHAM

8TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD JANUARY, 1916 Age 32

Alfred Brooks WADHAM

Alfred Brooks Wadham was born at Bridport, Dorset, England to parents Joseph Brooks Wadham & Mary Jane Wadham (nee Spiller). His birth was registered in the March quarter of 1885 in the district of Bridport, Dorset, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Alfred B. Wadham as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at Rax Lane, Bridport, Dorset, England. His parents were listed as Joseph B. Wadham (Iron & Brass Founder, aged 40, born Stamford, Lincoln) & Mary J. Wadham (aged 42, born Salwayash, Dorset). Alfred was one of six children listed on this Census (all born at Bridport, Dorset) – Emma J. Wadham (Pupil Teacher, aged 16), Frederick Wadham (Iron Moulder, aged 14), Joseph B. Wadham, (Scholar, aged 12), Jesse B. Wadham, (Scholar, aged 9) then Alfred & Alice Wadham (Scholar, aged 4).

The 1901 England Census recorded Alfred B. Wadham as a 16 year old Gas Fitter, living with his family at 3 Rax Lane, Bridport, Somerset, England. His parents were listed as Joseph B. Wadham (Iron Founder, aged 50) & Mary J. Wadham (aged 51). Alfred was the eldest on three children listed on this Census – Alfred then Alice Wadham (Pupil Teacher, aged 14) & Maud Wadham (aged 8, born Bridport, Dorset).

The 1901 England Census recorded Alfred Brooks Wadham as a 26 year old Gas Fitter living as a Boarder at 37 Chiswell St. Portland, Dorset with the Brown family – Francis Brown (Carpenter & Joiner, aged 37), Laura Louisa Brown (aged 38) & their 3 children Francis Bernard Brown (aged 13), Frank Hansford Brown (aged 11) & Laura Marion Matilda Brown (aged 5).

Alfred Brooks Wadham married Frances Ellen Harvey on 22nd April, 1911. Alfred Brooks Wadham was a 26 year old Gas Fitter & Frances Ellen Harvey was aged 27.

Mr A. B. Wadham, Carter, aged 26 & Mrs F. E. Wadham (aged 27) were passengers on *Gothic* which had departed from the port of London on 21st October, 1911 bound for Australia. Mr & Mrs Wadham had contracted to land at the port of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

A son, Alfred Brooks Harvey Wadham, was born on 24th June, 1912 at Mildura, Victoria, Australia.

A death was registered in the district of Mildura, Victoria for Frances Ellen Wadham in 1912.

Alfred Brooks Wadham was a 29 year old, widowed (with 1 child), Plumber from Ginquam, Victoria when he enlisted at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 27th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 953 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr F. G. Wadham, Irymple, Victoria. Alfred Wadham stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Prince Albert Somerset Light Infantry for 3 years. He also stated he had been an apprentice for 4 years with Bridport Gas Works.

(Note: Alfred Wadham stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born at Mildura.)

Private Alfred Brooks Wadham was posted to 8th Battalion on 27th August, 1914 for recruit training.

Private Alfred Brooks Wadham embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 19th October, 1914 with the 8th Infantry Battalion "H" Company.

Private Alfred Brooks Wadham was sent sick to Hospital on 26th August, 1915. He was admitted to No. 2 Field Ambulance at Anzac Cove on 27th August, 1915 with Diarrhoea. He was transferred to Base at Mudros. Private Wadham was admitted to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station at Imbros on 27th August, 1915. He was discharged to Camp Commandant at Kephalos on 30th August, 1915.

Private Alfred Brooks Wadham was admitted to 15th Stationary Hospital at Mudros on 11th September, 1915 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Caledonia* on 8th October, 1915 & admitted to General Hospital at Gibraltar on 15th October, 1915 with Dysentery (slight). Private Wadham was transferred to Hospital Ship *Minneapolis* on 23rd November, 1915 for England.

8th Battalion

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised from rural Victoria by Lieutenant Colonel William Bolton within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

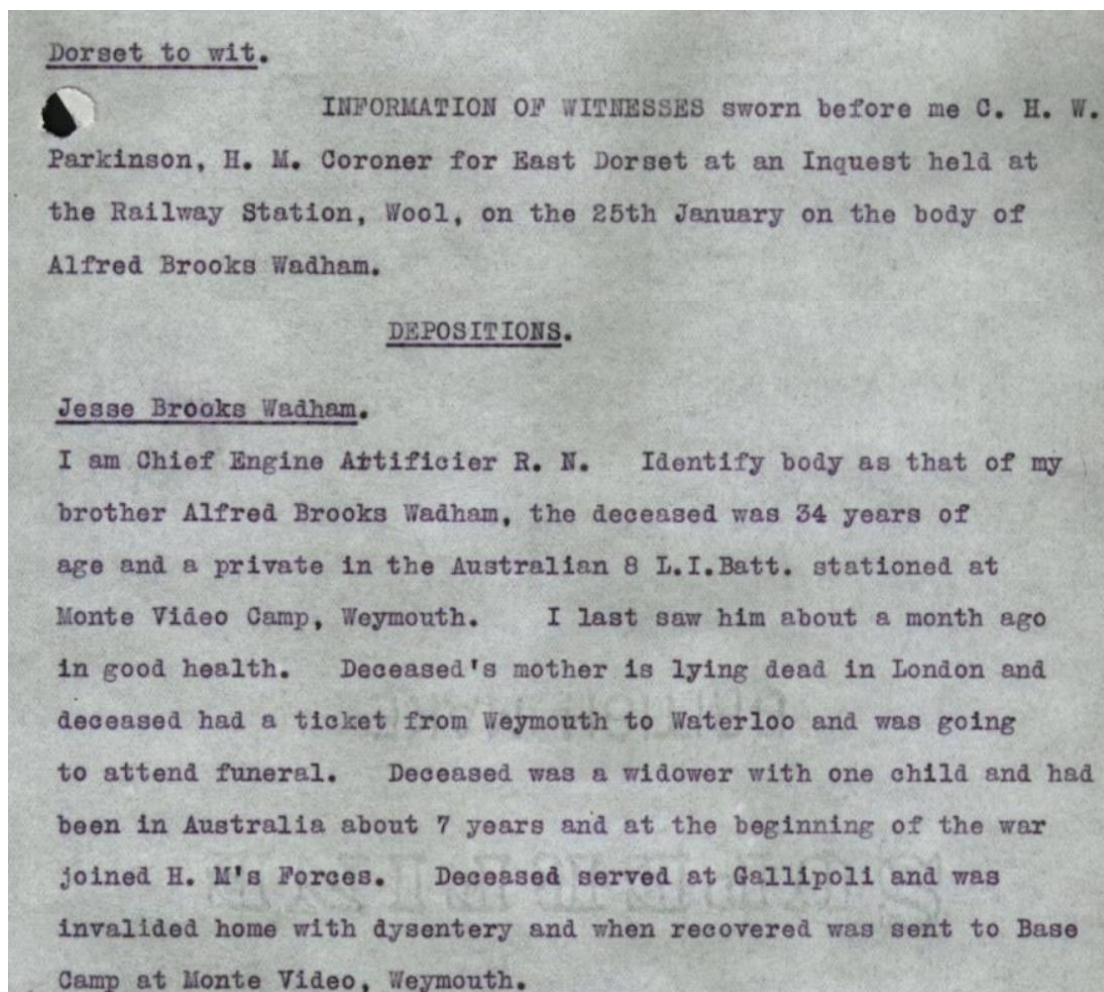
Private Alfred Brooks Wadham was admitted to The Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England on 28th November, 1915 with Dysentery & Jaundice. He was discharged on 7th December, 1915.

Joseph Brooks Wadham, father of Alfred Brooks Wadham, died on 16th December, 1915 at Dorset, England.

Mary Jane Wadham, mother of Alfred Brooks Wadham, died on 22nd January, 1916 at Bridport, Dorset, England.

Private Alfred Brooks Wadham was accidentally killed on 23rd January, 1916 at Wool, Dorset, England as a result of a Railway Accident on the London and South Western Railway by the relief train from Bournemouth.

A Coroner's Inquest was held on 25th January, 1916 at the Railway Station, Wool, Dorset.



Philip Joshua Jarman.

I am a boiler maker employed at Eastleigh L. & S. W. Motor Works. Last Sunday I was coming from Weymouth to Eastleigh where my home is from my week-end visit. I went by mail train. When we left Weymouth deceased and another got in. At Dorchester the gentleman got out leaving deceased. 3 soldiers got in at Dorchester and got out at Wool. On the way up there was a general conversation, deceased was quite sober and when we left Wool I was alone with deceased and took down my bag to make a pillow to sleep. Deceased said "Going to have a downer then". I said "Yes", and deceased said "When I have eased myself I will have one also". He walked to carriage door off side from the platform. I then had my back to him. I felt a rush of air and looked round just in time to see deceased disappear out of the door. At the moment deceased fell the down train rushed by. Deceased was quite good company and not at all depressed. The blinds were down and the door shut properly and there was a self locking fastening and the door could be opened by the spring lock inside. Deceased had a haversack full and his slouch hat on the rack. I pulled the communication cord but the train did not stop until we got to Wareham. When I jumped out and reported to the Station Master. When we got to Southampton the communication cord was examined by the Officials and also the lock of the door and both were found correct.

Alfred Wallace Lawford.

I am a porter at Wool Station. On Sunday night the driver of the 9.40 from Bournemouth Central due at 10.20 but not arriving that night until 10.46 told me he noticed something unusual with his engine when near Wool Station and felt he had hit some obstruction. After the train had gone I walked along to line and when I got to the Cross over Road about 100 yards from the Station I found by light of the lantern the body of a soldier, apparently quite dead. I came back and reported to Station Master and informed Police.

Augustus Bailey.

I am a Police Constable stationed at Wool. On Sunday last just before 11 p.m. the Station Master told me that a man was knocked down on the line. I walked about 100 yards up the line by the Cross over Road and saw body of deceased lying on his back between the rails on the down line. His face was towards station, right leg lying across the outside rail and severed; left hand lying just inside near rail crushed, back of head smashed and quite dead but warm.

2.

Next morning we found evidence that body had been dragged down the line about 50 feet, with assistance we moved the body to the station yard. Searched body. Found return ticket Weymouth to Waterloo, 8/9 money, and various other articles including pass from 23rd to 29th.

Officer, Lieut. J. C. Barrie.

Deceased was a good soldier and a steady man. Clean record, quite temperate habits, quite sober. Sunday afternoon gave him pass and leave to attend mother's funeral in London.

Sergeant Brown. L. & S.W.R. Police.

The communication cord was apparently not pulled as at Wareham Guard found disc not turned. At Southampton the disc was found to turn easily.

Alfred Brooks Wadham, deceased.

Verdict of Jury at Inquest held 25th Jan. 1916

Cause of death: *The deceased was run over by a train on the London & South Western Railway in the parish of Wool, Dorset, whereby he was accidentally killed.*

(Signed) R. D. Maddock Deputy Coroner for East Dorset

A death for Alfred B. Wadham, aged 31, was registered in the March quarter, 1916 in the district of Wareham, Dorset, England.

Private Alfred Brooks Wadham was buried on 27th January, 1916 in Bridport Cemetery, Bridport, Dorset, England – Plot number Gen. W. 97 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Alfred Brooks Wadham requested in his Will dated 5th August, 1915 at Gaba Tepe, that everything he possessed to his *“son Alfred Brooks Wadham, one half share of plot of land, situated on corner of Ginquam Avenue and 16th Street, Irymple, Mildura to remain in the hands of my brother Frederick George Wadham, until my son comes of age (18 year) when he shall be either a partner or have one half of the estate at valuation, and all moneys in bank under my name Alfred Brooks Wadham shall remain till same period also Life Insurance money shall be placed in the same account, interest from that account to be drawn yearly for his upkeep, with the Government Grant, if I fall in action while fighting for King and Country.”*

A War Pension was granted to Alfred Harvey Brooks Wadham, of Irymple, son of the late Private Alfred Brooks Wadham, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 5th April, 1916 to trustee Mrs Ada L. Wadham, Irymple, Victoria.

Private Alfred Brooks Wadham was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Wadham's son – Master A. H. B. Wadham, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Alfred Brooks Wadham – service number 953, aged 32, of 8th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private A. B. Wadham is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 54.

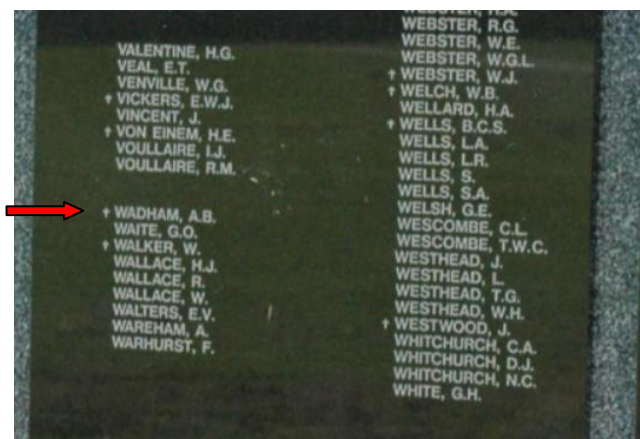


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

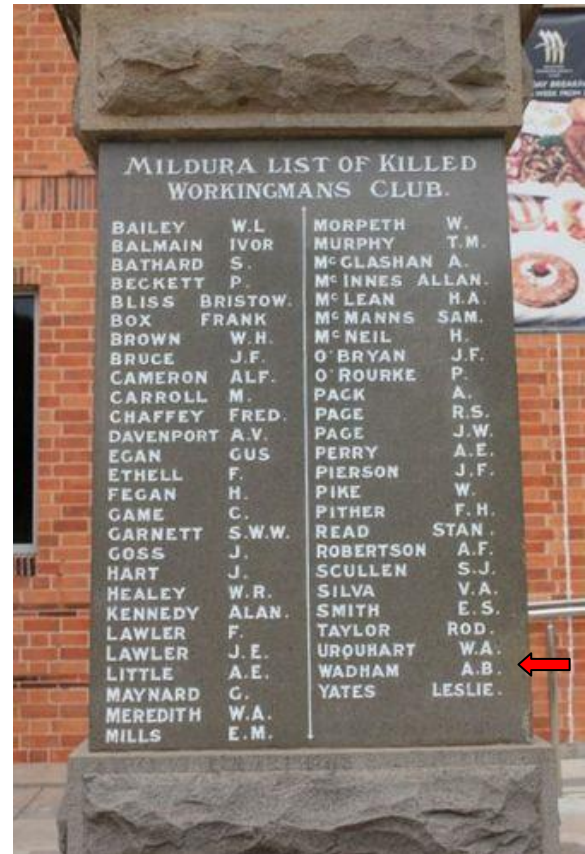
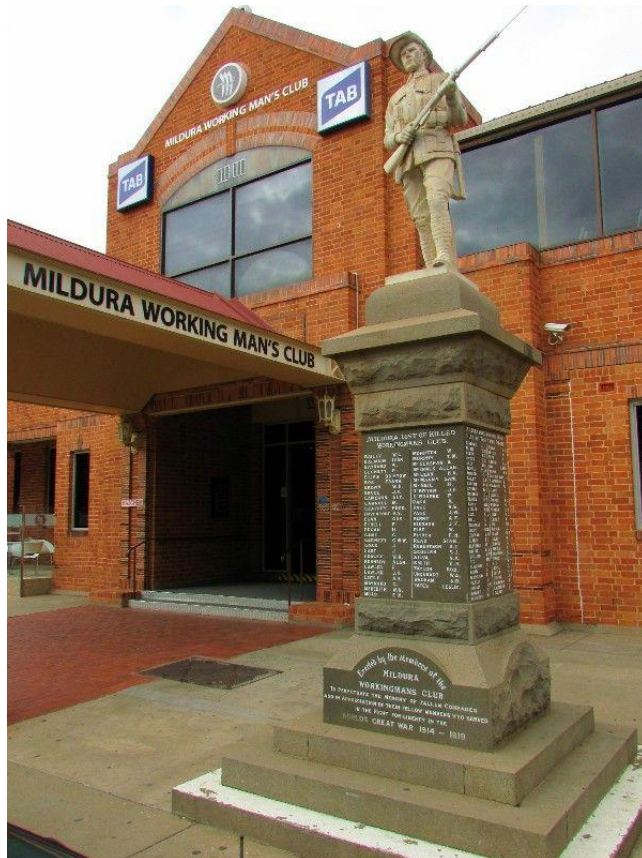
A. B. Wadham is remembered on the Mildura War Memorial, located at Thirteenth Street, Mildura, Victoria.



Mildura War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

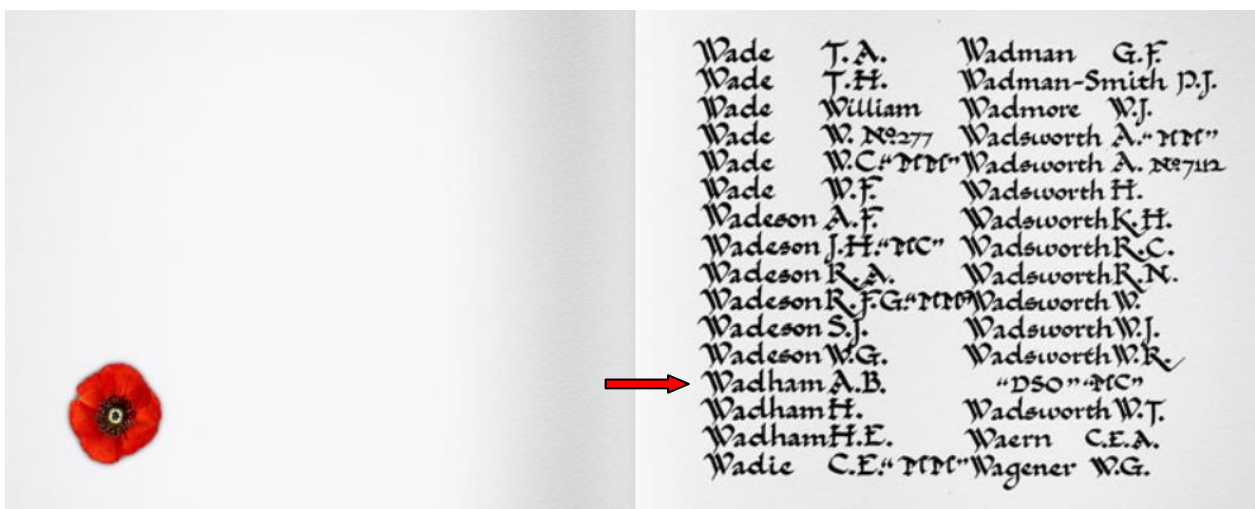


A. B. Wadham is remembered on the Mildura Working Man's Club War Memorial, located at Mildura Working Man's Club, 90-124 Deakin Avenue, Mildura, Victoria.



Mildura Working Man's Club War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

A. B. Wadham is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





Alfred Brooks Wadham is remembered on the St Mary's Church Wall Memorial, South Street, Bridport, Dorset, England.





St Mary's Church Wall Memorial, Bridport (Photos from War Memorials Online)

(76 pages of Private Alfred Brooks Wadham's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

A SOLDIER'S DEATH

FALL FROM TRAIN NEAR WOOL

TRAGIC INCIDENT

Alfred Brookes Wadham, a widower, aged 31 who, on the death of his wife in Australia, came to England and joined the Army, met with a shocking death on Sunday evening near Wool whilst travelling from Weymouth to London with the intention of attending his mother's funeral. He was a passenger in the up-mail, which left Wool at 10.44 pm, and apparently opened the carriage door and fell out on to the line, and the down train (which arrived at Wool at 10.46 pm) ran over him, killing him. Deceased had been invalided home from the Dardanelles with dysentery, but got better, and had been in training with the Australian Infantry at Monte Video Camp, Weymouth.

CORONER'S ENQUIRY

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The Coroner sympathetically commented on the tragic circumstances of the case.

The jury returned a verdict that death was due to an accident.

(Western Gazette, Yeovil, Somerset, England – 28 January, 1916)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

141st Casualty List

VICTORIA

KILLED IN RAILWAY ACCIDENT

Private A. B. Wadham, Irymple, January 25; previously reported ill.

(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW – 13 February, 1916)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private A. B. Wadham does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Bridport Cemetery, Bridport, Dorset, England

Bridport Cemetery contains 24 Commonwealth War Graves – 11 from World War 1 & 13 from World War 2.



Bridport Cemetery *(Photo by Grave Concerns - Find a Grave)*

Photo of Private A. B. Wadham's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Bridport Cemetery, Bridport, Dorset, England.



(Photo by Phil Wood – Great War Forum)



Bridport Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*