

**Durrington Cemetery,  
Wiltshire, England War Graves  
World War 1**



*Lest We Forget*



**32602 GUNNER**

**J. T. A. WISE**

**Of TASMANIA**

**18TH MAY, 1917 Age 26**

*"Greater Love Hath No Man Than This"*

*Private Headstone for Gunner J. T. A. Wise is located in Grave Plot # 245  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## John Thomas Alexander WISE

John Thomas Alexander Wise was born in Hobart, Tasmania on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1891 to parents Theophilus William Paul & Caroline Wise (nee Tedman).

John Thomas Alexander Wise was a 24 year old, single, Locomotive Fireman from Launceston, Tasmania when he enlisted on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 32602 & his religion was Anglican. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr T. Wise of Talbot Road, Upper High Street, Launceston, Tasmania.

Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise embarked from Melbourne on RMS *Osterley* on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 with the 25<sup>th</sup> Howitzer Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, Australian Field Artillery & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1917. Gunner Wise was admitted to Ship's Hospital on the voyage to England from 22<sup>nd</sup> February until 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise was marched in to Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery (R. B. A. A.) at Larkhill, Wiltshire from Australia on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1917.

Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise died at 7.55 p.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Acute Appendicitis & Uraemia.

A death for John T. A. Wise, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 245. He does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone as his Comrades from the A.I.F. provided a Headstone for him. From the burial report of Gunner J. T. A. Wise – *Military Funeral. Coffin was Black Oak with brass fittings & name plate.– Re our late comrade Gunner J. T. A. Wise who died of acute appendicitis at Fargo Military Hospital. He was a good soldier and well liked by all ranks being a man who always and under all conditions carried out his duty in a cheerful and brisk manner. He was given a Military Funeral with full honours, which was largely attended by his many comrades, of the R. B. A. A. who also attended the service at the Durrington Church prior to the Burial. – Thos. J. Saunders R.B.A.A. Camp 20 Larkhill.*

Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise requested in his Will that he bequeathed all his real & personal estate to his mother – Caroline Wise & also appointed his mother as Executrix of his Will, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1916.

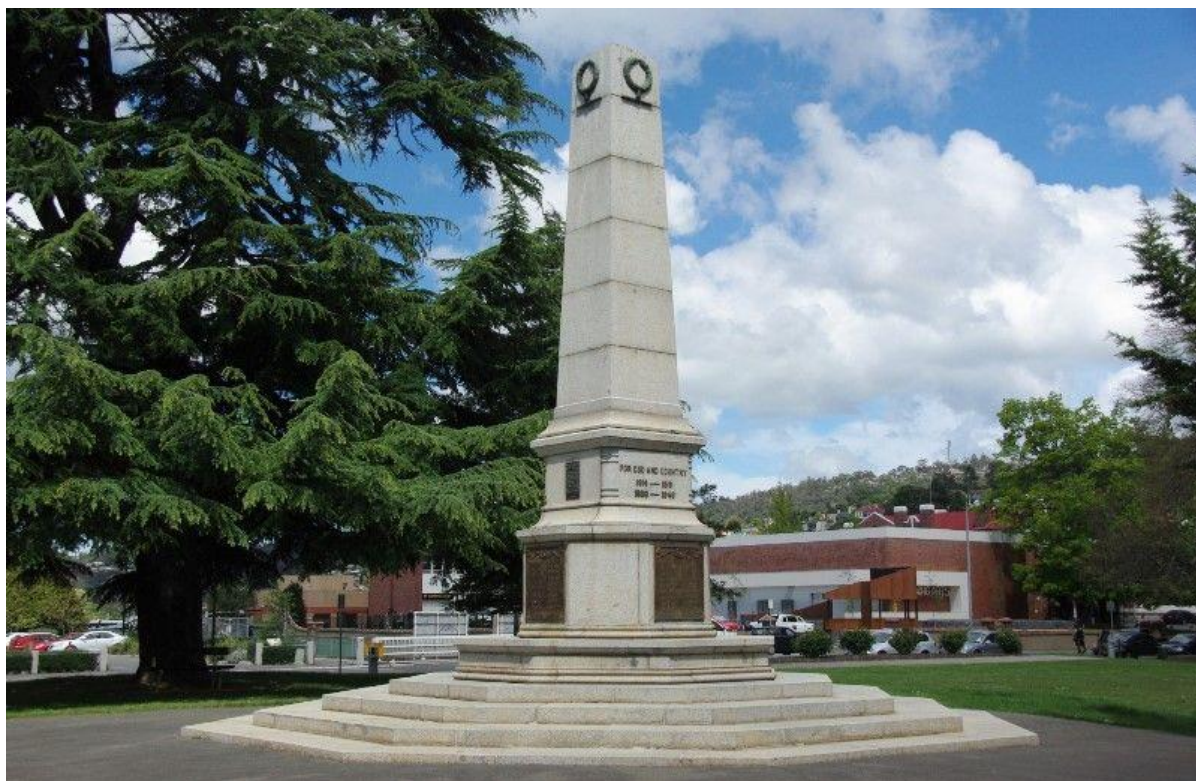
Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Wise's father – Mr T. W. P. Wise (sent August, 1921 & January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise – service number 32602 as being 26 years old & served with 25th Brigade, Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Theophilus William Paul & Caroline Wise. Born in Tasmania.

A War Pension was granted to Caroline Wise, mother of the late Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1917.



J. T. A. Wise is also remembered on the Launceston Cenotaph located at Paterson Street, Launceston, Tasmania. He is also remembered on the Launceston Roll of Honour which is preserved at the Community History Museum.



**Launceston Cenotaph** (Photos from Monument Australia)





J. T. A. Wise is also remembered on the Launceston Roll of Honour, located in History Department, Queen Victoria Museum, 2 Invermay Road, Invermay, Tasmania.



Launceston Roll of Honour  
(Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)





J. T. A. Wise is remembered on the Federated Locomotive Engine Drivers, Firemen and Cleaners' Association Roll of Honour, located in History Department, Queen Victoria Museum, 2 Invermay Road, Invermay, Tasmania.



(Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



J. T. A. Wise is also remembered on the Pilgrim Uniting Church Honour Roll, Paterson Street, Launceston. This Honour Roll was formerly in the Paterson Street Methodist Church.

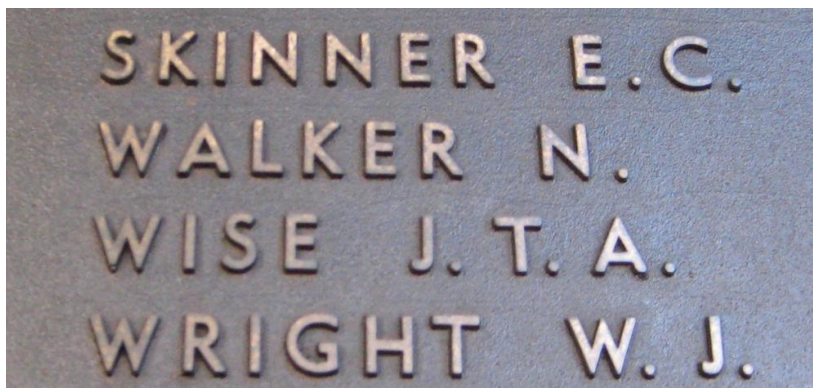


Launceston Paterson Street Methodist Church Honour Roll

(Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



Gunner J. T. A. Wise is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 19.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(59 pages of Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise'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*







**Gunner John Thomas Alexander Wise**



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

Word was received yesterday of the death in Fargo Military Hospital, England, from acute appendicitis, of Sapper J. T. A. (Snowy) Wise of Launceston. Deceased was a well-known northern footballer, and a prominent member of the City Club. He was in his 27<sup>th</sup> year.

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Friday 25 May, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

306TH CASUALTY LIST  
DIED – OTHER CAUSES

#### **TASMANIA**

Gunner Wise, John Thos. Alexr., Launceston, of illness, 18/5/17.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Saturday 2 June, 1917)*

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## **RETURN THANKS**

Mr and Mrs T. W. P. Wise and family, Talbot-road, tender their sincere thanks to all kind friends for card and letters received in their sad bereavement in the loss of their dear son and brother, Gunner J. T. A. Wise, who died on active service at Fargo Military Hospital, England. "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away."

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Tuesday 26 June, 1917)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

WISE --In loving memory of Gunner J.T. A. Wise, "Snowy," son of T. W. P. and C. Wise, died on active service at Fargo Military Hospital, England, on May 18th, 1917.

It only was his body

His loving comrades placed beneath the sod;

His soul had gone to blossom

In the paradise of God.

Though cast down,

We are not forsaken,

God loves to have our confidence,

And even as we plead,

Bright spirits wait to minister

To every pressing need,

For darkness, light, for sorrow, Joy, the future will repay

So every child of God who loves to keep his blessed way.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, and brothers.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Saturday 18 May, 1918)

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## **ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

WISE - In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, 32602 Gunner J. T. A. Wise ("Snowy"), who fell asleep in the Fargo Military Hospital, England, May 18, 1917.

Always happy and cheerful,

With a heart that knew no fear,

He went to fight life's battle

For those he loved most dear.

But now we are far away, dear Snow,

And your grave we cannot see,

But we are always thinking

Where your footsteps used to be.

So dearly loved, so sadly missed.

Inserted by his sorrowing father, mother and brothers

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Monday 19 May, 1919)

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## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Gunner J. T. A. Wise does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone. His headstone was "erected by his Comrades of the A.I.F."

*Greater Love Hath No Man Than This*

### **Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England**

Durrington Cemetery contains burials of both wars. The 204 First World War burials were mostly from nearby Larkhill Camp. Many of the graves are of Australian servicemen and there is a separate Australian memorial in the cemetery. The Second World War burials number 22. In addition to the war graves, there are a number of post-war service graves in the cemetery, mostly of the Royal Air Force. *(Information from CWGC)*



**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo by Dave Healing 2013)



Photo of Gunner J. T. A. Wise's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo © Ian King - with permission)*