

**St. George's Churchyard,  
Fovant, Wiltshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1992 CORPORAL**

**J. WRIGHT**

**41ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH MARCH, 1918 Age 22**

*He Gave His Life  
For The Sake Of His Home  
And Country*

## John WRIGHT

John Wright was born at Hatton, Derbyshire, England in 1896 to parents John and Elizabeth Wright.

The 1901 England Census recorded John Wright as a 5 year old, living with his family at Ashbourne Road, Hatton, Derbyshire, England. His parents were listed as John Wright (Blacksmith, aged 36, born Manchester, Lancs) & Elizabeth Wright (aged 35, born Bedon, Worcester). John Wright was one of seven children listed on this Census – Albert Henry Wright (aged 10, born Marston Montgomery, Derbyshire), William Wright (aged 9, born Marston Montgomery, Derbyshire), Elizabeth Wright (aged 7, born Hatton, Derbyshire), then John, Florence Wright (aged 3, born Hatton, Derbyshire), Margaret Wright (aged 1, born Hatton, Derbyshire) & Ernest Wright (aged 5 months, born Hatton, Derbyshire). Also listed was a Boarder - Bernard Wright (Blacksmith's Apprentice, aged 20, born Tissington, Derbyshire).

The 1911 England Census recorded John Wright as a 15 year old Office Boy for a Coal Merchant, living with his family in a five roomed dwelling at Broughton Road, Hatton, Derby. His parents were listed as John Wright (Shoeing & General Smith, aged 46) & Elizabeth Wright (aged 45). John & Elizabeth Wright had been married for 21 years & had 10 children, with 1 child deceased. Eight of their children were listed on this Census – Albert Henry Wright (Assisting in the Business, aged 20), William Wright (Assisting in the Business, aged 19) then John, Florence Wright (aged 13), Margaret Wright (At School, aged 11), Ernest Wright (At School, aged 10), Alice Mary Wright (At School, aged 7, born Hatton, Derbyshire) & Frank Wright (At School, aged 6, born Hatton Derbyshire).

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour, John Wright came to Australia when he was 15 years old. The Wright Family consisting of nine – Mr J., Mrs E., Mr, Mr J., Miss F., Miss M., Master E., Miss A., & Master F. were passengers on the *Paparoa*, which departed from London, England on 19th September, 1911 bound for the port of Brisbane, Queensland.

John Wright was a 20 year old, single, Packer from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 10th January, 1916 with the 49th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1992 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Wright, of Carl Street, South Brisbane, Queensland.

Private John Wright was posted to No. 11 Depot Battalion on 1st February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to No. 14 Depot Battalion on 9th March, 1916 then transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 49th Battalion on 1st April, 1916 ready for embarkation.

Private John Wright embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 1st May, 1916 & disembarked at Egypt on 13th June, 1916.

Private John Wright embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 6th August, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on *Megantic*.

Private John Wright was marched out from 13th Training Battalion & was transferred & taken on strength of 41st Battalion on 23rd September, 1916 in England.

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.

Private John Wright was written up for an Offence while posted at Larkhill, Wiltshire - Absent without leave from midnight on 30th October, 1916 to 6 am on 9th November, 1916. He forfeited a total of 17 days' pay

Private John Wright proceeded overseas to France via Southampton, England on 24th November, 1916.

Private John Wright was appointed Lance Corporal on 14th July, 1917.

Lance Corporal John Wright was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 8th August, 1917.

Temporary Corporal John Wright was sent to Hospital sick with abdominal pains on 27th August, 1917. His rank reverted to Lance Corporal on being admitted to Hospital. L/Cpl Wright was discharged to duty on 29th August, 1917. He rejoined his Battalion in the field on 30th August, 1917.

Lance Corporal John Wright was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 8th October, 1917 then reverted back to Lance Corporal on 9th October, 1917.

Lance Corporal John Wright was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 27th October, 1917.

Temporary Corporal John Wright was promoted to Corporal on 8th November, 1917.

Corporal John Wright proceeded to Overseas Training Battalion on 31st December, 1917. He was marched in from France to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire, England on 4th January, 1918.

Corporal John Wright was admitted to No. 2 Group Clearing Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 15th January, 1918 with Phthisis.

A Medical Report was completed on Corporal John Wright on 4th February, 1918 at No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire. He was reported to be suffering from the disability of Phthisis (otherwise Tuberculosis) which had first occurred in October, 1917 in France. Cpl. Wright had been evacuated to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant for a change in environment. The Medical Board stated the disability was due to infection which was attributed to stress & strain of service & this was aggravated by exposure to wet & cold in the trenches on active service. The Medical Board recommended that Corporal John Wright be discharge as C3 – permanently unfit for General Service & permanently unfit for Home Service.

Corporal John Wright was transferred to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 8th February, 1918 with Influenza.

Corporal John Wright died at 9.30 pm on 28th March, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Tuberculosis of Lung.

A death for John Wright, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

#### **41st Battalion**

The 41st Battalion was raised at Bell's Paddock Camp in Brisbane in February 1916 with recruits from Brisbane, northern Queensland and the northern rivers district of New South Wales. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division.

After training in Australia and Britain, the 41st Battalion arrived in France on 25 November 1916. It entered the front line for the first time on Christmas Eve and spent the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between service in the front line, and training and labouring in the rear areas.

Compared to some AIF battalions, the 41st's experience of the battles in Belgium during 1917 was relatively straightforward. It had a supporting role at Messines on 7 June, captured its objectives at Broodseinde on 4 October with little difficulty, and was spared the carnage of Passchendaele on 12 October. It was some of the battalion's more "routine" tasks that proved its most trying experiences. At the end of June 1917, the 11th Brigade was ordered to establish a new front line west of Warneton, in full view of the Germans. Work carried on night and day under heavy shellfire and the period became known to the battalion as "the 18 days". The start of August found the 41st holding ground captured by two of its sister battalions in a feint attack on 31 July. Enduring continual rain, flooded trenches and heavy shelling many of the battalion's platoons dwindled from 35 men to less than ten.

Belgium remained the focus of the 41st Battalion's activities for the five months after its action in October 1917 as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Corporal John Wright was buried on 1st April, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England, – Plot number II. C. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal J. Wright - *Coffin was Ash. Body was buried in Fovant Churchyard with full Military Honours. Major C. R. Lowe, V.D., 2nd in command of Bn. with a company of the deceased's comrades followed the gun carriage. Methodist Chaplain*

*H. Green officiated. Numerous wreaths were presented. A photo of the grave will be sent to the late Corp. Wright's parents. His brother was the chief mourner present.*

Corporal John Wright was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Wright's father – Mr John Wright, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal John Wright – service number 1992, aged 22, of 41st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Wright, of Stanley St., East Coorparoo, Brisbane, Queensland. Born in Derbyshire, England.

Corporal J. Wright is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 134.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

(59 pages of Corporal John Wright'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

WRIGHT, Corporal John, 41st Battalion, died on Salisbury Plain, after 18 months' service in France, 28th March, 1918.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 11 April, 1918)*

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### **CASUALTIES**

#### **LIST NO. 389**

DIED - CAUSE NOT STATED

Cpl. J. Wright, South Brisbane, 28/3/18

*(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 15 April, 1918)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

WRIGHT – In sad but loving remembrance of my dear pal, Corporal Jack Wright, died on Salisbury Plain, 28th March, 1918, two years and six months' active service.

Australia mourns her hero's fate,  
Who died to bring her fame,  
True to country, King and mate,  
Leaving a spotless names.

Sleep on, dear Jack, in a soldiers' grave,  
Your life for Australia you nobly gave,  
Sweet is the memory that will never fade,  
Roses may wither, eyes cease to see,  
But ever your memory, dear Jack, will cleave fondly to me.

Inserted by his pal, Norris Davis, munition worker, London.

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 March, 1919)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

WRIGHT – In loving memory of our beloved son and brother, Corporal John Wright, who died of illness at Fovant Hospital on 28th March, 1918, after two years of active service.

Inserted by his father, mother, brothers and sisters.

WRIGHT – In sad but loving remembrance of my dear pal, Corporal Jack Wright, died on Salisbury Plain, 28th March, 1918, two years and six months' active service.

Australia mourns her hero's fate,  
Who died to bring her fame,  
True to country, King and mate,  
Leaving a spotless names.

Sleep on, dear Jack, in a soldiers' grave,  
Your life for Australia you nobly gave,

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Sweet is the memory that will never fade,  
Roses may wither, eyes cease to see,  
But ever your memory, dear Jack, will cleave fondly to me.  
Inserted by his pal, Norris Davis, munition worker, London.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 March, 1919)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

WRIGHT – In loving memory of our beloved son and brother, Jack, who died of illness at Fovant Hospital, Salisbury Plain, on 28th March, 1918.

Inserted by father, mother, brothers and sisters.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 27 March, 1920)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

WRIGHT – In loving memory of our beloved son and brother, Corporal John Wright, who died of illness, at Fovant Hospital, on 28th March, 1918, after two years of active service.

Inserted by his father, mother, brothers and sisters.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 March, 1921)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

WRIGHT – In loving memory of our beloved son and brother, Corporal John Wright, who died of illness at Fovant Hospital on 28th March, 1918, after two years of active service.

Inserted by his father, mother, brothers and sisters.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 March, 1922)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

WRIGHT – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Jack, who died 28th March, 1917 at Fovant Camp, England while on active service

Though lost to sight, to memory ever dear.

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

*(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 March, 1924)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

WRIGHT – In loving memory of our beloved son and brother, Corporal John Wright, who died of illness, at Fovant Hospital, on 28th March, 1918, after two years of active service.

Inserted by his father, mother, brothers and sisters.

*(The Brisbane Courier, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 March, 1925)*

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### 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)*

Corporal J. Wright does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Gave His Life For The Sake Of His Home And Country*

### **St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England**

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

*(Information from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

*Graves of Australian soldiers in the Fovant Churchyard. Identified, left to right, front row: 3662 Private (Pte) Louis Watt, 28th Battalion, killed in action 1 November 1917; 3284 Pte William Coleman, 36th Battalion, died 20 November 1917, aged 34 years; 7179 Pte Frank Leslie Gardner, 17th Battalion, died of sickness 7 March 1918; **1992 Pte John Wright, 41st Battalion, died of sickness 28 March 1918.** (Photo c 1919)*





**St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front** (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)





Photo of Corporal J. Wright's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.







**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



**St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at rear** (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)

