

**Harehills Cemetery,
Leeds, West Yorkshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4333 PRIVATE

W. P. WRIGHT

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH SEPTEMBER, 1916

William Patrick WRIGHT

William Patrick Wright was born in London, England in 1894.

A birth was registered for a "William Patrick Wright" in the September quarter of 1894 in the district of Edmonton, Middlesex, England.

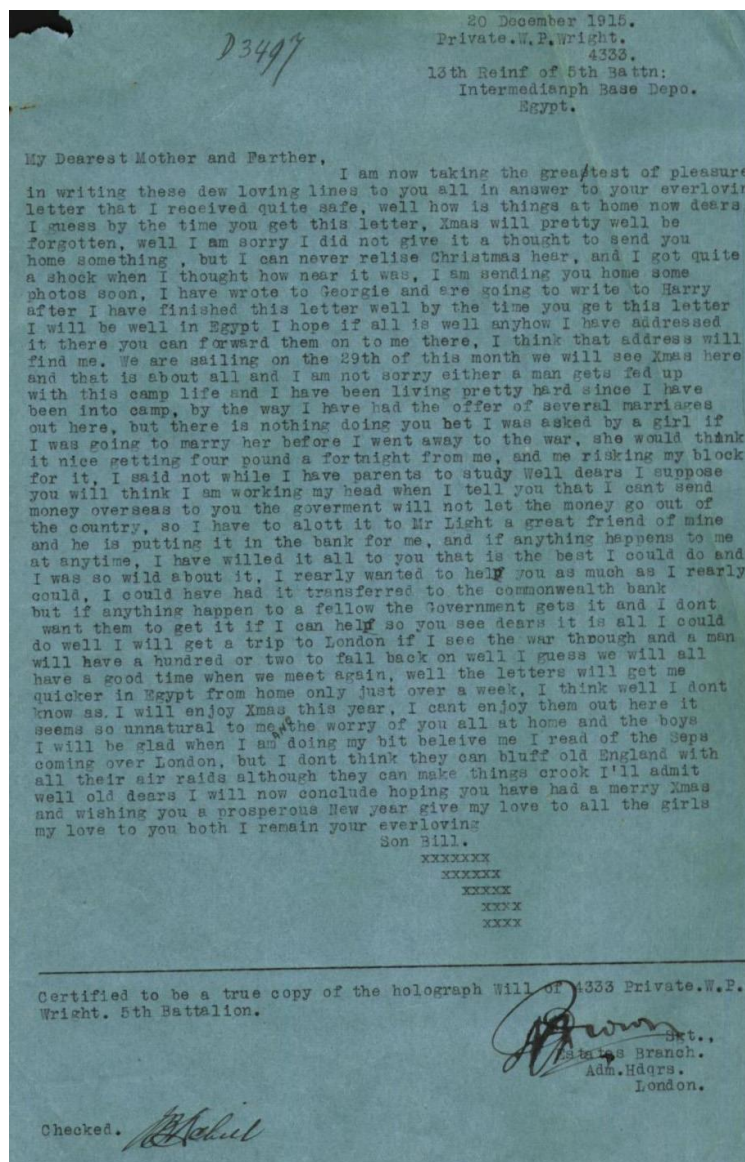
[There is insufficient information regarding his parents' names to correctly identify William Patrick Wright in any of the England Censuses.]

William Patrick Wright was a 21 year old, single, Teamster from Orbost, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 12th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4333 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Wright, 99 Glenwood Road, Tottenham, London, England.

Private William Patrick Wright was posted to "A" Company 20th Castlemaine Depot Battalion Camp, Victoria on 26th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion at Williamstown, Victoria on 26th November, 1915.

Private William Patrick Wright embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 29th December, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements.

Letter written by Private W. P. Wright on 20th December, 1915 from Intermediate Base Depot, Egypt:



Private William Patrick Wright embarked from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 on Troopship *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916.

Private William Patrick Wright proceeded from Australian Base Depot on 17th May, 1916 & was taken on strength of 5th Battalion in France on the same day.

Private William Patrick Wright was wounded in action in France on 17th August, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance on 18th August, 1916 then transferred to Divisional Rest Station. He was transferred on 18th August, 1916 & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station with Shell Shock. Private Wright was transferred to No. 6 Ambulance Train on 20th August, 1916 & admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 3rd September, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Bladder. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *St David* on 4th September, 1916 for England.

5th Battalion

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

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After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders then returning to the Somme for winter.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 5th Battalion

16th August, 1916 – Forward Line Trenches Pozieres:

7 Other Ranks wounded, 1 Other Rank evacuated sick.

17th August, 1916 - Forward Line Trenches Pozieres:

Two Coys relieved in front line by two reserve Coys. 2 officers 2ND LIEUTS KING and PINCHES and 48 Other Ranks wounded.

Working Party of 2 Officers LIEUT T. A. HOOPER and 2nd LIEUT N. J. TRAVEY and 150 other ranks preparing jumping off trench.

Heavy shelling by enemy on our front line and communication trenches.

18th August, 1916 - Forward Line Trenches Pozieres:

2nd LIEUTS KING & TRACEY died of wounds. LIEUT T. A. HOOPER and 30 other ranks killed, 2ND LIEUT A. PINCHES and 89 other Ranks wounded.....

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Patrick Wright was admitted to East Leeds War Hospital, Harehills Road, Leeds, England on 5th September, 1916 with G.S.W to Pelvis.

Private William Patrick Wright died on 12th September, 1916 at East Leeds War Hospital, Harehills Road, Leeds, England from wounds received in action in France. (as per Field Service form – Report of Death of a Soldier (Army Form B. 2090A), however the Casualty Form – Active Service & Statement of Service form both recorded he died of Suprapubic Cystotomy).

A death for William P. Wright, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Leeds, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

Private William Patrick Wright was buried in Harehills Cemetery, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England – Soldiers Plot.

The Officer in Charge, East Leeds War Hospital wrote to the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London, England on 25th September, 1916 with the following: *“Station:- Harehills Road, Leeds. With reference to your letter A.R. 84 we have had no instructions previously as to sending on this information and we are sorry to cause you any inconvenience. The site of burial is one given by the Leeds Corporation for the burial of soldiers dying of wounds received in action, in East Leeds War Hospital. The site is a very pretty one, and it is proposed to erect a memorial at the conclusion of the War with the names, regiment and designation of forces, upon the Monument. If the site has to be visited by any of your representatives we feel sure you will be quite pleased with the arrangements made. There is no site number, nor grave number, as it is a big plot known as the Soldiers Plot at Harehills Cemetery, Harehills Lane, Leeds.”*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission now records Private William Patrick Wright's burial place as Plot number H. 7. and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Alex Senior, c/o 155 Morehead St, Redfern Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 31st December, 1930 asking *“..if you would kindly furnish me with the address of the relatives of the late W. P. Wright, 5th Batt Infantry, No. 4333 who died 12th Sept 1916 and is buried at Leeds, Yorkshire.”*

Base Records replied to Mr Alex Senior on 6th January, 1931 advising *“....that as the records of members of the Australian Imperial Force are regarded as strictly confidential, I am precluded from furnishing the information unless satisfactory reasons are adduced for requiring same.”*

Alex Senior replied to Base Records on 10th January, 1931 stating *“...My reason for making the request is simply this. I am a resident of Leeds, and in our local cemetery Private Wright is buried, the only Australian soldier in that cemetery. I have interested myself in the keeping of Private Wright's grave in a neat and good condition – other people assist I might say – and it struck me that it might be a source of satisfaction to his people to know that such is the case so that in the event of your furnishing me with the necessary address I would be pleased to write his relatives informing them of the care and attention paid to the grave. Thanking you in anticipation of your kind consideration.”*

Base Records replied to Mr A. Senior in January, 1931 advising *“..that next-of-kin of the late No. 4333 Private W. P. Wright, 5th Battalion, is recorded as (Sister) Mrs E. Banks, 1 James Terrace, Woodville Grove, Tottenham, London, N.15. I may add that the above address was recorded in 1922, and in the event of same providing obsolete, it is suggested that you communicate direct with the Official Secretary (Military), Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2 for any later information that may be available in this connection.”*

Private William Patrick Wright was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Wright's mother – Mrs W. Wright, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in December, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Patrick Wright – service number 4333, of 5th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private W. P. 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 45.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. P. Wright is remembered on the Shire of Orbost Roll of Honour, located in Orbost Museum, Ruskin Street, Orbost, Victoria.



Shire of Orbost Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – David Brighton)

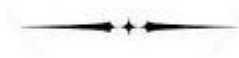
The Orbost War Memorial / Memorial Clock Tower, located at Salisbury & Nicolson Streets, Orbost, Victoria does not have individual names.



Orbost War Memorial / Memorial Clock Tower (Photo from Monument Australia)

(30 pages of Private William Patrick 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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

TWO LISTS ISSUED

Two lists of Australian casualties – Nos. 222 and 223 – were made available by the Defence department yesterday...

WOUNDED

VICTORIA

W. P. WRIGHT, England;

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 September, 1916)

AUSTRALIA'S ROLL OF HONOR

The 229th and 230th casualty lists, issued by the Defence department on Saturday morning....

DIED OF INJURIES

Victoria

Wright, W. P. England

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 October, 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 W. P. Wright has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but no inscription.

Harehills Cemetery, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

During the First World War, the major hospitals in Leeds were the 2nd Northern General with 1,800 beds and the East Leeds War Hospital with 1,900. Leeds was also one of the principal hospital centres in Yorkshire during the Second World War.

Leeds (Harehills) Cemetery contains burials of both wars, many of them in a war graves plot in Section G, the rest scattered. The First World War casualties in the plot are commemorated on a screen wall, as are 15 Second World War casualties buried elsewhere in the cemetery whose graves could not be individually marked. There are also special memorials to a number of servicemen buried in other cemeteries whose graves could no longer be maintained*.

In all, 177 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War and 147 from the Second World War are now commemorated in the cemetery; there are also three war graves of other nationalities. The Cross of Sacrifice stands in the war graves plot.

Casualties buried in the following chapelyards are now alternatively commemorated in Leeds (Harehills) Cemetery:

Little London (Craggs) Baptist Chapelyard & Yeadon Wesleyan Methodist Chapelyard.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Mike Berrell)



Cross of Sacrifice & Screen Wall (Photos from CWGC)





(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private W. P. Wright's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Harehills Cemetery, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Robert West)



(Find a Grave – Mike Berrell)