

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



3216 PRIVATE

E. J. WRIGHT

2ND AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS.

13TH MARCH, 1917*

*The date of death on Pte Wright's CWGC headstone is incorrectly inscribed as 14th March, 1917.

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte E. J. Wright is located in Grave Plot # 220
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Edwin James WRIGHT

Edwin James Wright was born at Ballarat, Victoria in 1876.

Edwin James Wright served 3 years with Vic. Rangers – 1898.

Edwin James Wright married Jane Henrietta Augusta – surname unknown.

Edwin James Wright was a 40 year old, married, Blacksmith from Middle Park, Victoria when he enlisted on 2nd October, 1916 with the 2nd Pioneer Battalion, 7th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3216 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Henrietta A. Wright of 69 Canterbury Rd, Middle Park, Victoria.

Pte Edwin James Wright embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 23rd November, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 29th January, 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.

Pte Edwin James Wright was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 5th March, 1917. He was reported to be suffering from Pneumonia, severe on 7th March, 1917 & his wife was advised.

Private Edwin James Wright died at 8.30 p.m. on 13th March, 1917* at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia. (Date of 14th March, 1917 inscribed on the CWGC headstone is incorrect).

A death for Edwin J. Wright, aged 42, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Edwin James Wright was buried on 16th March, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 220 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Wright - *The deceased soldier was buried with full military honours, and prior to proceeding to the cemetery, a service, conducted by the Rev. H. D. Peel, was held in the Durrington Church.*

Private E. J. Wright is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Edwin James Wright was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were usually sent to the next of kin, however the widow of Pte Wright had remarried (23rd July, 1918) – Mrs J. H. A. Morgan of Bendigo, Victoria & her address details were not up to date. (Plaque sent September, 1922 but it appears the communications to the address had previously been returned – Base Records made enquiries as to the whereabouts of the Plaque. The Scroll was marked as “Held – address not known – December, 1921”.)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edwin James Wright – service number 3216 as being 40 years old & served with 2nd Australian Pioneers. No family details are listed.

A War Pension was granted to Jane Henrietta Augusta Wright, widow of late Pte Edwin James Wright, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 17th May, 1917.

(69 pages of Pte Edwin James 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

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Newspaper Reports

282ND CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private E. J. Wright, Middle Park

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – Wednesday 28 March, 1917)

CASUALTIES ABROAD

The name E. J. Wright of Middle Park appeared in the casualty list, published on March 27, as one of those who died from natural causes. By a coincidence there were two of the same name enlisted from Middle Park. The one whose death was announced as above was not the son of Mrs Wright, Nimmo street, Middle Park (commonly known as Dick), who is in the Light Horse, and is in Egypt.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Tuesday 3 April, 1917)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08893.001

Pte Edwin James Wright

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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)

Pte E. J. Wright does not have a personal inscription on his headstone. His headstone has the incorrect date of death – should be 13th March, 1917.

Photo of Pte E. J. Wright 's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)