

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



63372 PRIVATE

E. H. WILKES

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH FEBRUARY, 1919 AGE 19

Sadly Missed

*CWGC Headstone for Pte E. H. Wilkes is located in
Grave Plot # 64. J. 4. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Ernest Henry WILKES

Ernest Henry Wilkes was born at Launceston, Tasmania on 24th January, 1900, a twin, to parents Simeon & Elizabeth Ann Wilkes (nee Barnes). He was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from Launceston, Tasmania when he enlisted at Launceston, Tasmania on 20th August, 1918 with the 3rd (T) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 63372 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. A. Wilkes of Sandhill, Launceston, Tasmania (Father deceased - 1907). Hector Burns Wilkes, twin brother of Ernest Henry Wilkes also enlisted on the same day. He was given a service number of 63373. As both Ernest Henry & Hector Burns Wilkes were under the age of 21 years, they needed their parents' consent for them to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Mrs Elizabeth Ann Wilkes signed her consent for her twin sons to enlist.

Private Ernest Henry Wilkes embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918 & disembarked at London, England on 5th December, 1918.

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 Ernest Henry Wilkes was marched in to 1st Training Battalion, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 5th December, 1918 & allotted to Reinforcements of 12th Battalion.

Private Ernest Henry Wilkes was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 27th January, 1919 with Influenza. He was reported as dangerously ill with Pneumonia later that day.

Private Ernest Henry Wilkes died at 7.45 am on 12th February, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Ernest H. Wilkes, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Ernest Henry Wilkes was buried on 15th February, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 64. From the burial report of Pte E. H. Wilkes - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from No. 1 Australian Command Depot. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral was (Brother) Sapper W. G. Wilkes, 483, 4th F.C.R.*

Pte Ernest Henry Wilkes requested in his Will dated 1st October, 1918 that all his property & effects be left to his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Ann Wilkes of Sandhill, Launceston, Tasmania.

Pte Ernest Henry Wilkes 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 Pte Wilkes' mother – Mrs E. A. Wilkes (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

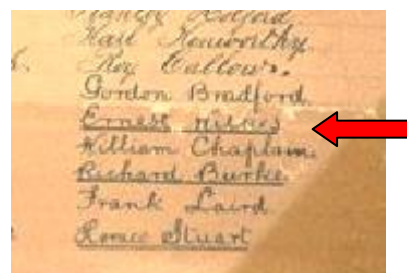
The CWGC lists Private Ernest Henry Wilkes, 63372, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Simeon and Elizabeth Ann Wilkes of Sand Hill South, Launceston, Tasmania.

Pte E. H. Wilkes is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 68.



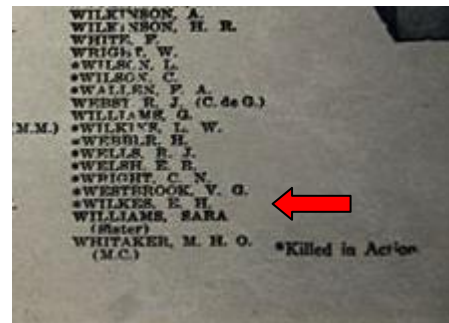
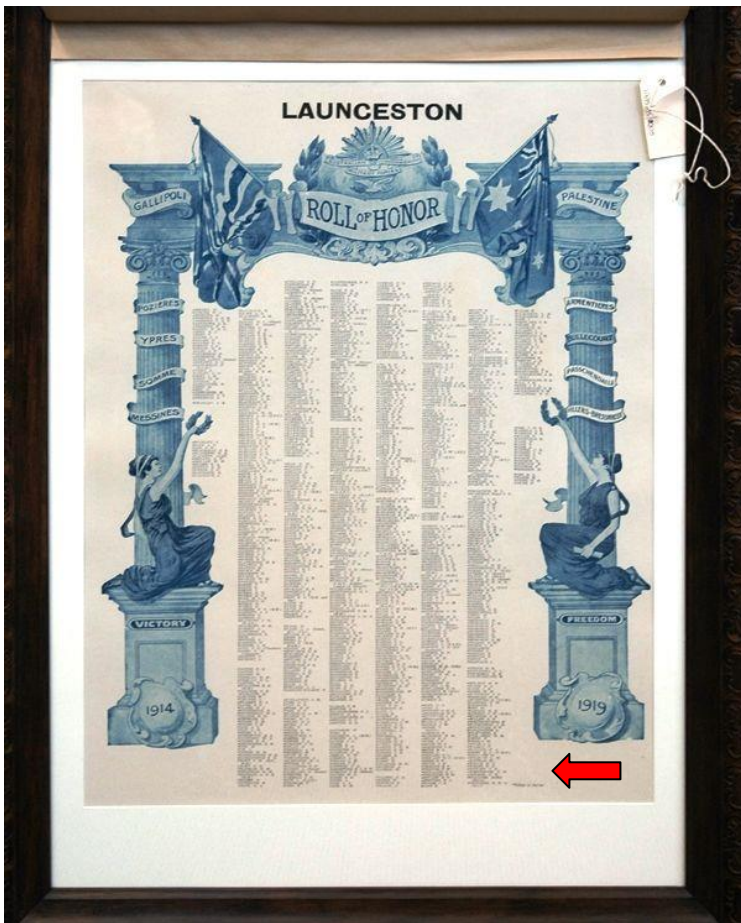
Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Ernest & Hector Wilkes are remembered on the Glen Dhu Primary School Roll of Honour located in Glen Dhu Primary School, Wellington Street, South Launceston, Tasmania. (Ernest - 3rd Column 5th name from bottom). (Hector – 1st column, 2nd from bottom)



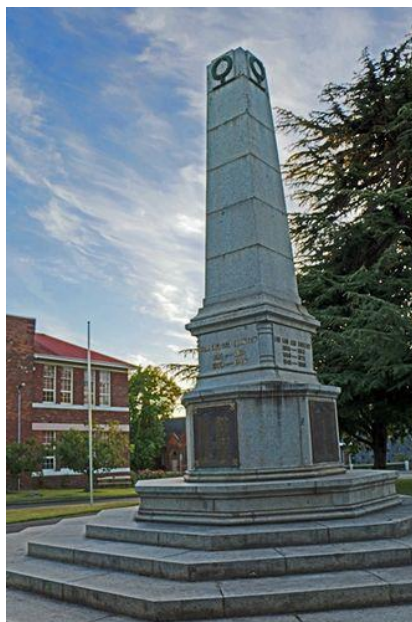
Glen Dhu Primary School Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

E. H. Wilkes is remembered on the Launceston Roll of Honour located in the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Community History Museum located at 2 Invermay Road, Inveresk, Tasmania. (7th column, 3rd name from bottom).



Launceston Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

E. H. Wilkes is remembered on the Launceston War Memorial located at Paterson Street, near Bathurst Street Overpass, Launceston, Tasmania.



Launceston War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

E. Wilkes is remembered on the Nunamara War Memorial which is located on the Tasman Highway & Patersonia Road, Nunamara, Tasmania.



Nunamara War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

(50 pages of Pte Ernest Henry Wilkes' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



Connected to Pte Ernest Henry Wilkes:

Twin brother – Pte Hector Burns Wilkes, 63373, 12th Battalion. Admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. Returned to Australia from England on 3rd May, 1919. Entitled to British War Medal only. Hector Burns Wilkes died on 8th June, 1968 in Launceston, Tasmania.

Older Brother – Sapper Walter Gordon Wilkes, 483, 4th Field Company Engineers. Enlisted 28th February, 1916. Returned to Australia from England 12th May, 1919. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. Walter Gordon Wilkes died 28th August, 1968 at Heidelberg, Victoria.



Newspaper Reports

PERSONAL

Mrs E. A. Wilkes, Sandhill, Launceston, has been advised by the Base Records Office that two telegrams of February 11, stating that Private Hector Wilkes, 12th Battalion, was dangerously ill and admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital, suffering from broncho-pneumonia, were incorrect and referred to Private N. B. Wilkes's twin brother, Private Ernest Wilkes, who died on February 12.

(*Daily Telegraph*, Launceston, Tasmania – Friday 7 March, 1919)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mrs E. A. Wilkes and Family of Sandhill, wishes to thank the many kind friends for letters, cards, telegrams and all expressions of sympathy during their sad bereavement of the loss of her twin son.

(*Daily Telegraph*, Launceston, Tasmania – Friday 7 March, 1919) & (*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Saturday 8 March, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Tasmanian Casualties

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte E. H. Wilkes, Sandhill, 12/2/19.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Wednesday 19 March, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WLKES - In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, E. H. Wilkes, who died at Sutton Veny, England, on the 12th February, 1919.

This is the day to sad to recall,
This is the day remembered by as all;
Lonely is the grave where our dear one is laid,
Dear is the memory that never will fade.

No more his welcome footsteps
Will tread our dwelling floor;
No more we'll watch for his coming home
As we did in days of yore.

He went with hope of returning
Along with his comrades brave,
With many a hero he is sleeping
In a soldier's honoured grave.

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

WILKES - In sad and loving memory of my dear twin brother, Private E. H. Wilkes, 12th Battalion, who died at Sutton Veny, England, on the 12th February, 1919.

I have lost my sole companion, a life linked with my own,
Day by day I miss him, as I wander through life alone.

In a soldier's grave my brother is sleeping,
 One of earth's bravest and best;
In my heart I shall miss him for ever,
 Though I know he is only at rest.

My thoughts are always with you
 In your sad and lonely grave,
Sweet thoughts will always linger
 Round my dear brother's grave.

Forget not him who died
 Now peace has reigned once more,
Remember still that lonely grave
 Beyond a distant shore.

-Inserted by his loving twin brother, Private H. B, Wilkes, Sandhill.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Thursday 12 February, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

WILKES — In sad and loving memory of my dear twin brother, Private E. H. Wilkes, 12th Battalion, who died at Sutton Veny, England, on the 12th February, 1919.

I have lost my soul companion,
 A life linked with my own;
Day by day I miss him,
 As I wander through life alone.

In a soldier's grave my brother is sleeping,
 One of earth's bravest and best;
In my heart I shall miss him for ever,
 Though I know he is only at rest.

My thoughts are always with you,
 In your sad and lonely grave;
Sweet thoughts will always linger
 Round my dear brother's grave.

— Inserted by his loving twin brother, H.B. Wilkes, Sandhill.

WILKES — In fond and loving memory of my dear son and brother, Private E.H. Wilkes, who died at Sutton Veny Hospital, England, 12th February, 1919.

Days of sadness still come o'er us,
 Hidden, secret tears still flow,

For memory keeps our dear one near us,
 Though he died two years ago.

T'was joy for us when two returned,
 But still our hearts are sad,
For one we loved will never return
 Our blue-eyed soldier lad.

— Inserted by his loving mother, sisters, and brothers, E. A. Wilkes, Sandhill.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Saturday 12 February, 1921)

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 St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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 Ernest Henry Wilkes does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Sadly Missed



Photo of Pte E. H. Wilkes's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)

War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*