

WIGHAM

Robert Jardine

Service No: 5036



Basic Information

Name: Robert Jardine Wigham

Service Number: 5036

Date of Enlistment: 21/9/1916

Age at Enlistment: 19 years 5 months

Civil Occupation: Farm Labourer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 Ft 9 inches

Weight: 134 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: John Simon Wigham

Mother: Emily Mary Redmond

Siblings: Margaret (1897), John (1900), Thelma (1901), George (1903),
Donald (1905), Edward (1909)

Married: Eveline Florence Louisa Turpin

Life Story

Robert Jardine Wigham (known as Bob) was born in Abbotsford, Victoria, to John Simon Wigham and Emily Mary Redmond in 1896.

His mother, Emily, died tragically on the 6th February 1898 when she caught fire in a cooking accident in her kitchen in Abbotsford and, with a young child to care for, his father remarried, to Alice May Brown, in 1900.

By 1903, the family were living in Padbury Street, Perth. They then moved to York, where John Wigham worked as a carrier and, later, as a railway employee. Bob attended the State School in York.

Bob married Eveline Florence Louisa Turpin, in York, in 1915, and Eveline was pregnant when Bob enlisted in September of that year. Their daughter, Ethel, was born in March 1916 but died five months later and was buried in the York cemetery.

As Bob was underage, both parents gave permission for him to enlist and his medical was undertaken in York. He was appointed to the 11th Battalion, 16th Reinforcements and embarked from Fremantle on the 31st March 1916 on HMAT *Shropshire A9*.

Bob arrived at Suez on the 25th April 1916, where he stayed for a month. From there Bob went to Salisbury Plain, in England, for two months before proceeding to France on the 31st July 1916. He arrived at Base Depot on the 2nd of August and finally joined his battalion on the 13th August.

On Boxing Day, Bob was Wounded in Action when he received a gunshot wound to his left forearm. He was transferred to the 38th Casualty Clearing Station and then, on the 29th, to the 11th Stationary Hospital. Finally discharged to duty on the 31st of December, Bob re-joined his unit three weeks later.

Alice Wigham, Bob's stepmother, died in York in January 1917.

On the 12th April 1917, Bob was hospitalised for two weeks with debility. He returned to his battalion on the 1st May.

Just six days' later, on the 6th of May 1917, Robert Wigham was Killed in Action. There are no details in his Service Record as to how he died, and his body lies "Somewhere in France". His Memorial Plaque, Victory Medal, Memorial Scroll and 1914/15 Star were sent to his widow and a letter from Base Records to Eveline Wigham clarified that he held the rank of Acting Corporal during the voyage overseas and returned to the rank of Private when he disembarked at Suez.

Acknowledgements

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References

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