

## WISEMAN FAMILY

## WISEMAN

### William Alexander

Service No: 7578



## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: William Alexander Wiseman

Service number: 7578

Date of enlistment: 10/1/1916

Age at Enlistment: 18

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British  
War medal, Victory medal

Height: 5 Ft 4 inches

Weight: 115 Lbs.

Chest measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Francis Robertson Wiseman

Mother: Ellen Ann Ovens

Siblings: John George, Jim, Frank and Archie



Photograph courtesy of:  
National Archives of Australia

## Family History

James Henry's father, Francis Robertson Wiseman, was born in Victoria in 1858. He travelled to Western Australia to work in the Goldfields before returning to Victoria to marry Ellen Ann Ovens around 1878.

In 1905, Francis travelled back to Western Australia with Ellen and their five sons: John George, Jim, Frank, Archie and Alex. They took up land at Talbot Brook, clearing the land, building their own home and cutting timber to sell. They named their farm "Stanhope", after a district in Victoria.

## Life Story

William Alexander, known as Alex, was born in Victoria in 1899. He was educated at the Talbot Brook School, and the first public mention of his name in print was in October 1910 when his "thank you" letter for his badge and button, written to "Aunt Mary", was published in the Western Mail.

Alex signed his attestation papers on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1915, after being examined by Dr Ward. His parents appear to have given permission, even though he was only sixteen years old at the time. His daughter, Nancy Trigwell, stated that the family believe he had forged his parents' signatures. There is a strong similarity in the handwriting of the two signatures.

Alex enlisted at Blackboy Hill on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1916 and was assigned to A Company, No. 7 Depot before being transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements. However, he did not embark for active service abroad until the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1917. Again, his daughter stated that the family believe Alex's mother contacted the authorities about his true age when his parents discovered what he had done. His mother refused to confirm or deny this when Alex confronted her about it years later. Nancy also stated her father had been kept at Blackboy Hill Camp, working as a runner and doing other general duties until April 1917.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. Alex was marched in to the 4<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Codford in the U.K. On the 13<sup>th</sup> November, he transferred to the 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion before proceeding overseas to France on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December, Alex was Taken on Strength with the 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion before transferring to the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1918. Nancy Trigwell stated he was transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion to be under the control of his brother, Sergeant Archibald Wiseman, and later his brother, Lieutenant James Wiseman, upon James' return from Duntroon, Australia.

Alex was detached to the D.A.C. (Division Ammunition Column or Division Artillery Column) on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918, but was admitted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Artillery as NYD (Not Yet Diagnosed). He spent time at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Havre before re-joining his unit in early September.

Over the next four months, Alex was admitted to various medical facilities to treat his illness before finally returning to the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1919. On the 10<sup>th</sup> May, after being fined three days' pay for being absent Without Leave, he finally left France, embarking for Australia on the *Konigin Luise*.

Alex arrived home on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1919 and was finally discharged one month later. After being discharged, it appears that he returned to farming at Talbot Brook, as he placed a notice looking for the owner of an aged mare that had strayed into his paddock. However, in May 1926, Alex successfully applied for a land grant at Ninghan (location 2324) near Dalwallinu. This application was granted eighteen months before that of his brother, James', application for land in the same location was granted.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1927, Alex married Jessie Young at the Methodist Church in York. They went on to have six children: (Patrick Alexander born York), Malcolm George (born 1931 York) Nancy Jessie (born 1932) York Margaret Rose (born 1936) Leslie Lewis (born 1934) John Francis (born 1928).

At some point, the couple appear to have moved to Kulja, near Bonnie Rock, where Alex continued to farm for some years, winning many prizes for his livestock and produce in the local agricultural show. He was also elected to the committee of the Kulja Race Club, and his horse, "Lady Tom", won the Newcarlbeon Handicap race at the Club's meet that same year.

It would appear that Alex and Jessie left the Kulja district in 1937, around the same time as his brother, James, who departed for Mt Barker after the death of his wife in May, 1935. By 1938, Alex was known to be a farmer at Cowaramup, where the family remained until 1958.

During World War Two, Alex joined the Citizens' Military Forces. His sons, Patrick and John, also enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> A.I.F. Alex was stationed at Onslow, Northam and Margaret River, where he cooked for Prisoners of War.

By 1963, the year of Alex's death, the couple were living at 73 Adelaide Street, Busselton. After Alex died, Jessie remained at the house until at least 1980. She died in 1987.



## Acknowledgements:

Marilyn Kulpinski

Heather Harvey

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Unpublished document.

# WISEMAN

## Archibald

Service No: 6463





## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Archibald Wiseman (Archie)

Service number: 6463

Date of enlistment: 29/03/1916

Age at Enlistment: 25 years

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: Medaille Barbatie si Credinta 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (A Romanian medal)

Height: 5 feet 4 inches

Weight: 128 Pounds

Chest measurement: 34 ½ inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Hazel

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Francis Robertson Wiseman

Mother: Ellen Ann Ovens

Siblings: John George, James Henry, Francis, William Alexander



Photograph courtesy of: H.H. Dinsdale

### Life Story

Archie Wiseman was born in Jindivick, Victoria, in 1890 to Francis and Ellen Wiseman. In 1905, his father travelled to Western Australia to take up farming land at Talbot Brook, near York. The rest of the family followed soon after. The farm was named "Stanhope". The Wiseman men cleared the land, cutting timber to sell and to build their own homes.

In 1913, Archie and his brother, Frank, were farming on a block at Ajana, about halfway between Northampton and Kalbarri but, by 1916, Archie was back at Talbot Brook.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1916, Archie enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces. After initial training at Blackboy Hill, he joined the 21<sup>st</sup> Reinforcements 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion as a Private and left Fremantle on the "Port Macquarie" on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1916, bound for Plymouth, England.

After his arrival in England, Archie attended a training camp at Codford, interrupted by a stay in Parkhouse Hospital with mumps in early 1917. He finally proceeded overseas to France on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917.

Archie served in France throughout 1917 and 1918 with short periods of leave. He was wounded on two occasions; a gunshot wound to the knee in October 1917 and, in June 1918, he suffered a shrapnel wound to his shoulder. Archie's family recall that the shrapnel was never removed, and he carried it until his death.

Archie returned to Western Australia on the ship *Kildonian Castle*, which left from Devonport, England on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1919. He disembarked at Fremantle on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1919 and was finally discharged from the army on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1919. He held the rank of Sergeant at the time of his discharge.



Archie Wiseman with  
friend

While Archie was in London, he met a Welsh girl named Sarah Louisa Morgan (known as Louie). Love blossomed and, three years after Archie returned home to W.A., Sarah Louisa arrived in Fremantle. Archie and Louie were married in North Perth on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1922, the day after her arrival.

Archie and Louise built a mudbrick house on "Stanhope Farm," planted fruit trees and made a home for themselves and their son, William Morgan, who was born in 1923.

Their main source of income was wool from Merino sheep, and grain crops were grown for hay and stock feed. To supplement their income, Archie would spend time away from home shearing.

Archie's parents were living on a neighbouring farm by then, and his brothers had their own blocks of land nearby.

In the years that followed, Archie, with other members of his family, became very involved in events in the Talbot district. Archie was one of the foundation members of the Progress Association and a keen cricket and tennis player with local clubs.

In 1925, the residents of the district formed a Social Welfare committee. Archie and his brother, George, were committee members. One of the first resolutions of the Committee was to hold a monthly dance in the newly built Talbot Hall. Archie was very fond of music and played the violin, as did his father, and together they provided a lot of the music for the dances. Archie also played a tin whistle and the piano. It is thought that he never had any formal music lessons and played by ear.

In the following years, Archie and Louise farmed "Stanhope" and, in 1926, his parents sold their farm and came to live with them.



Archie and James Wiseman  
with Sarah Louise Morgan  
in London shortly after they  
met

In 1939, Archie joined the Citizens' Military Force and remained a member of that force for the duration of World War Two. Their son, Morgan, enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in 1941 and was away from home until 1946. When he finally returned to the farm, Archie and Louise were able to take their first holiday, to the South West of the State.

Archie died, aged sixty-one, in 1951 and is buried in the York Cemetery with his beloved Louise, who died in 1974.

## Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Elliott, Ceri  
Harvey, Heather  
Trigwell, Nancy

## References

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## WISEMAN

## Francis

## Service No: 15255





## Basic Information

Name: Francis Wiseman

Service Number: 15255

Date of Enlistment: 6/5/1915

Age at Enlistment: 26

Civil Occupation: Farmer

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

Height: 5 feet 4 ½ inches

Weight: 121 Pounds

Chest Measurement: 34 ½ inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Black and grey

Father: Francis Robertson Wiseman

Mother: Ellen Ann Ovens

Siblings: John George, James Henry, Archibald, William Alexander



Photograph courtesy of:  
<https://www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/>



## Life Story

Francis Wiseman (known as Frank) was born in Rushworth, Victoria, in 1888 to Francis and Ellen Wiseman. In 1905, his father travelled to Western Australia to take up farming at Talbot Brook, near York. The rest of the family followed soon after. The farm was named "Stanhope" and the Wiseman men cleared the land, cutting timber to sell and to build their own homes.

In 1911, Frank arrived at Geraldton, where land had been released for selection by settlers and, by 1913, he was farming with his brother Archie on a block at Ajana, about halfway between Northampton and Kalbarri.

Frank returned to York and on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1915, enlisted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He embarked from Fremantle on the A68 *Anchises* on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1915 as part of the 8/10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Reinforcements, bound for Egypt.

For the next three years, Francis served in Egypt. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1917 and by 1919, had become a Sergeant.

Francis had several bouts of illness and suffered from malaria. In November 1918, while he was in the 14<sup>th</sup> Australian General Hospital in Port Said, one of Frank's letters was published in the Eastern Districts Chronicle. In the letter, he described his malaria and the living conditions in the Jordan Valley. He also mentioned several others local men who were with him at the hospital.

Francis returned to Australia on the *Oxfordshire* and was discharged from the Armed Forces on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1919.

In 1922 he married Isabella (Etta) Henrietta Thieleman of York and managed a store owned by her father. The couple lived above the store. Later they moved to another house in York and Francis was employed by Cooperative Bulk Handling as an inspector.

By 1931, Francis was farming in the Talbot area but, by 1937, he and Etta were living at Tenth Road, York, and his occupation was listed as labourer.

During World War Two, Francis enlisted in the Citizens' Military Forces at Three Springs.

Frank died in 1958. He, and Etta, who died in 1978, are both buried in York Cemetery.

## Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Harvey, Heather

Ceri Elliott

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## WISEMAN

### James Henry

### Service No: 647



No.647.Lt.J H Wiseman. From York.  
1st.Rfts.Enl.19/10/14. Rt. 2/6/19.

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: James Henry Wiseman

Service number: 647

Date of enlistment: 19/10/1914

Age at Enlistment: 22 years 4 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

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

Height: 5 Ft. 7 ½ inches

Weight: 144 Lbs

Chest measurement: 33 ½ inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Dark

Father: Francis Robertson Wiseman

Mother: Ellen Ann Ovens

Siblings: John George, Frank, Archie and Alex



No.647.Lt.J H Wiseman. From York.  
1st.Rfts.Enl.19/10/14. Rt. 2/6/19.

Photograph courtesy of:  
State Library of Western Australia

### Family History

James Henry's father, Francis Robertson Wiseman was born in Victoria in 1858. He travelled to Western Australia to work in the Goldfields before returning to Victoria to marry Ellen Ann Ovens around 1878. In 1905, Francis travelled back to Western Australia with Ellen and their five sons: John George, Jim, Frank, Archie and Alex. They took up land at Talbot Brook, clearing the land, building their own home and cutting timber to sell. They named their farm "Stanhope", after a district in Victoria.

### Life Story

James Henry, born in 1892, was the fourth of five boys born to Francis Robertson and Ellen Ann Wiseman. Known as Jim, he was the first of his siblings to enlist with the A.I.F. in October 1914.

After his medical examination, Jim was given the rank of Private and posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Reinforcements, 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse. He was sent to the training base at Rockingham before returning to Claremont to prepare for embarkation from Fremantle aboard HMAT A52 *Surada* heading for the Middle East.

After further training in Egypt, Jim joined the Mediterranean Expedition Force (M.E.F.) embarking HMT *Kingstonian* in Alexandria for Gallipoli. The 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Reinforcements were badly needed, as so many men were being wounded in the Field. Conditions in the trenches were terrible: food always seemed to be covered in flies and water was heavily contaminated. Jim inevitably succumbed to enteric fever (typhoid). He was hospitalised and put on a diet of boiled rice water while waiting to be transferred to the hospital ship *Glenart Castle* on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1915.

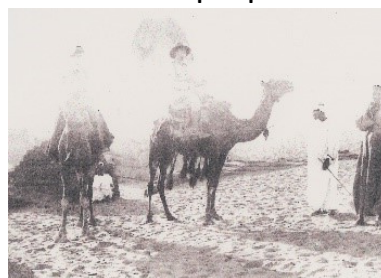


Photo courtesy: Nancy Trigwell

Jim was evacuated to Egypt, where he spent several weeks recovering before being classified as Unfit for Active Service and sent back to Australia on the hospital ship *Wandilla* in December 1915.

Arriving in Australia in January 1916, Jim spent three months recuperating at the family home before being posted to 22 Depot Company at Blackboy Hill Camp in April. He then transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse.

Over the following months, Jim went to NCO (Non Commissioned Officer) school at Claremont, where was promoted to Corporal 6<sup>th</sup> Depot Squadron Light Horse, then on to Musketry School, after which he was promoted to Sergeant. Several more stints at different training schools resulted in Jim being sent to the No. 5 Officers' Training School at Duntroon. By April 1917, He had returned to W.A. to spend time with the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Depot Company.

In 1918, Jim was promoted to Second Lieutenant. He embarked on the Transport Royal Mail Steamer *Ormonde* with other Special Draft A.I.F. Officers, bound for the Australian Camp at Suez, then Port Tewfik and, finally, Europe.



By April, Jim was in England. He spent three months there before being sent overseas to France, posted to the Australian Infantry Base Depot at Wimereux. Three days later, Jim joined the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion and served with them in the Field until he was sent back to England to prepare for his return to Australia. Jim arrived home in Australia on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1919 and was discharged from the A.I.F. a month later.



Upon his return, Jim started work with Millers Timber and Trading Company at Nanga Brook. It is here that he met Jessie Beatrice Taylor whom he married in 1920.

They had four daughters, Gladys May, Evelyn Mary, Margaret Ellen and Jessie Barbara. Sadly, Jessie died in May 1935, aged 36 years.

Six years later, in 1942, Jim married a second time to Miss Agnes Caroline Taylor, Jessie's sister. They had one daughter, Joy Lorraine.

## Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Harvey, Heather

Ceri Elliott

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