

George Wright



Private (Pte) 2552 George Wright enlisted in the 54th Infantry Battalion in the 14th Infantry Brigade of the 5th Australian Division at Dubbo on 9 March 1916. He embarked overseas on 19 August and disembarked in Plymouth on 13 October, where he joined the 14th (Brigade) Training Battalion in Wiltshire.

He left England on 14 December and landed in France the next day, where he was taken on strength of the 54th Battalion, in the field at Buire, on 24 December 1916.

The conditions in the trenches during the northern winter were atrocious and Pte Wright came down with a fever on 12 February 1917. He was initially treated at the 15th Field Ambulance, then transferred to the Canadian General Hospital at Etaples between 2 – 9 March, before he rejoined the 54th Battalion on 12 April.

During the Second Battle of Bullecourt, the 54th Battalion moved into the new front line between 13 – 18 May to defend the gains made by the 2nd Division. They fought off several strong German counterattacks and lost 282 men, including 81 killed or missing.

Pte Wright contracted influenza on 1 June and was treated at the 10th General Hospital at Rouen until 17 June, when he was transferred to England. He was admitted to the Bath War Hospital between 18 June – 17 July, then granted leave.

While recuperating at Perham Downs Camp, Pte Wright was charged with drunkenness and violently resisting arrest on 26 July, for which he was awarded ten days' Field Punishment No. 2 – which essentially meant extra work duties.

Not long after, it was discovered that Pte Wright suffered from a loss of cartilage in his right knee joint, and he was returned to Australia for Home Service on 27 August.

Private 2252 George Wright disembarked in Sydney on 24 October, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 5 December 1917.

Name: Wright, George	
Service Number	2252
Date enlisted	9 March 1916
Place enlisted	Dubbo, NSW
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	54 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	19 August 1916 HMAT A42 <i>Boorara</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	23 years 3 months
Place of birth	Stratford, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Labourer
Religion	Roman Catholic
Next of kin and address	Holden, Mrs Frances, mother, St Leonards, Victoria
Permanent address	St Leonards, Victoria
Appearance	Medium complexion, light brown hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 9 ½ inches, weight – 8 stone, 12 lbs, chest measurement – 32/34 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	54 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	27 August 1917 HT <i>New Zealand</i>
Date discharged	5 December 1917
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (right knee)
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Brother of Arthur Wright. Died 1 November 1986. Remembered on the St Leonards Honor Roll, St Paul's Anglican Church Honor Roll, Portarlington Honor Roll and Portarlington War Memorial.