



Hester
Wigley

Arthur
James
Wigley

Annie
Caroline
Wigley



Arthur
James
Wigley



Sandy in pram Jessie Wigley Harry Wigley Arthur James Wigley Hester Wigley Annie Caroline Stella Wigley



Arthur J Wigley Stella Wigley

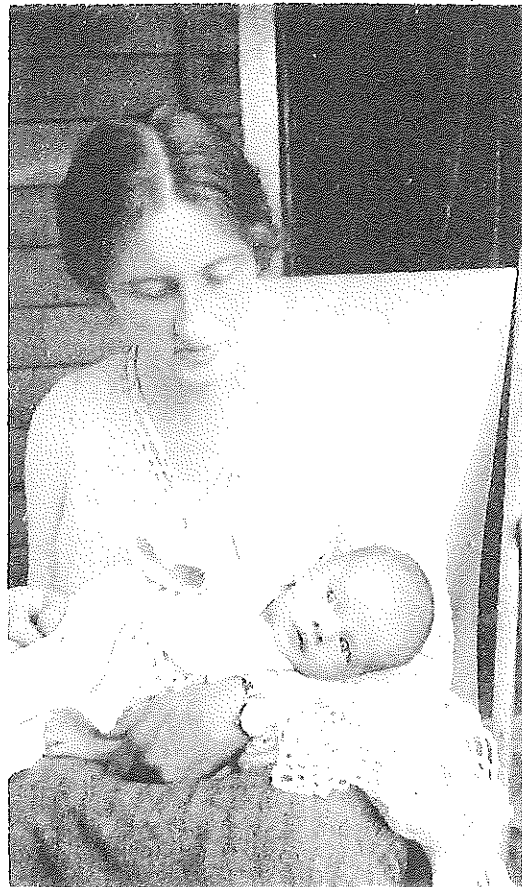
At Rodolph Wigley's house in Fairlie N.Z



Arthur + Violet
Wigley



Arthur James Wigley



Violet + Jim
Wigley

October 8, 1917. *Commis*
Tunnelling Company.
Lieutenant A. J. Wigley, having
been granted a commission in the In-
fantry (Reserve of Officers), is
sent off the strength of the New
Zealand Expeditionary Force. Dated
October 8, 1917.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

The death is announced of Mr Joseph Mackay, ex-principal of the Wellington College and previously on the staff of the Nelson College.

Lieutenant Arthur James Wigley, M.C., late of the New Zealand Tunnelling Company, has been transferred to the Railway Depot, First King George's Own Sappers and Miners, at Rookee, India.

The many friends of the Rev. James Flanagan, of London slum mission fame, who visited New Zealand about four years ago, will learn with regret of his death at Nottingham on March 20, after a lingering illness extending over two years.

A successful competitor at the recent Dunedin competitions was Miss Cissy Kyle, of Timaru, who won a gold medal for first place in the Highland Fling under thirteen years. There were twelve competitors. Miss Kyle is a pupil of Miss Rita Burns.

PERSONAL. April 1920

Mr J. Craigie, M.P., was a passenger for Christchurch by the second express this afternoon.

Mr J. S. Rutherford was yesterday re-elected unopposed, as member of the Harbour Board for Mackenzie County. General Townsend, the hero of Kut has arrived in New York on a five months' sight-seeing trip.

Mr Joseph Donnelly has been nominated for one of the vacant seats on the Timaru High School Board.

A London Press Association message says that Lieutenant-Colonel F. V. Willey has resigned the Controllorship of Wool Supplies.

A London cable message states that a Knighthood of the British Empire has been conferred on Paymaster Share Lord Jellicoe's secretary.

Major McKibbin, D.P.H., C.B.E. and Mrs McKibbin, who recently reached the Dominion, arrived in Timaru to-day by the second express.

News has been received that Captain Arthur J. Wigley, M.C., C.E. has been appointed district engineer between Kantara, on the Suez Canal, and Beersheba in Palestine.

A Press Association message from Dunedin states that the Selection Committee of Knox Church, Dunedin unanimously decided to recommend that the congregation should address a call to the Rev. Tulloch Mille, M.A. B.D., at present minister of the Ebenezer Church.

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NEW ZEALANDERS.

AN IMPORTANT PART.

PRaise FOR TUNNELLING COMPANY.

WONDERFUL MINING WORK.

(From the New Zealand Official War Correspondent).

WELLINGTON, May 18.

Now that our victorious armies are far in advance of Arras, it may be stated that New Zealand has played a not unimportant part in the success of the initial stages of the great battle.

For some time the Tunnelling Company of the New Zealand Engineers and Miners has been burrowing underground in the region of an old town, yet nothing could be said about their splendid work. You could walk for a distance through their drives and tunnels connecting the old caves. It was military mining on a vast scale. There were tunnels eighty and ninety feet below the surface and there were great caverns and chambers lit from dynamo working underground.

The New Zealanders, and the others too, had laid mines that on the fateful morning when the German line was broken, hurled into the air vast quantities of earth, trench material and, we believe, many German soldiers.

During the last twelve months the New Zealand Tunnelling Company has done most praiseworthy work. The men are mostly coal and gold miners, but time after time they outwitted the German miners and obtained the initiative and gradually blew the enemy back, till the safety of the British front trenches was ensured. They worked with great vigour, breaking all records in tunnelling. They had little sickness and very few casualties. After long waiting for the fulfilment of their great work, they well deserve their meed of praise.

Timaru Post May 21st 1917

NEW ZEALAND TUNNELLERS.

REFERENCE to the work of the New Zealand Tunnelling Corps is made by Lieutenant T. E. Y. Seddon, writing to Mr. J. Colvin, M.P., from the headquarters of the Fourth New Zealand Brigade, on April 11. Lieutenant Seddon quotes remarks made by General Richardson, who had come from France, and who had seen a report from "a very exalted general," stating that the tunnelling work done by the New Zealanders was magnificent. Lieutenant Seddon continued: "Old Fritz's fireworks and heavy bombardment had not the slightest effect upon the men who were safe underground in the shelter provided by our New Zealanders. These large dug-outs were lit up by electric light, and the great, white, chalky walls looked like the interior of a great town hall. From these places of assembly tunnels were dug in the direction of the German trenches. The bombardment supposed to smash our battalions fell harmlessly in the rear. The general was enthusiastic about the effectiveness of our men's work. As many of the men came from your district of Westport and Buller, I thought their comrades who are carrying on mining operations in New Zealand would be pleased to know what a great part in this world-struggle for freedom the West Coast miners in France are playing."

Auckland Weekly
July 12th 1917

THE BIG ATTACK AT ARRAS.

WEST COAST MINERS' PART.

LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT SEDDON.

Writing to Mr James Colvin, M.P. for Buller, dated "Fourth New Zealand Brigade Headquarters," April 11th, Lieutenant T. E. Y. Seddon, M.P., says:—

"Yesterday General Richardson, who has just come back from France, lunched with us, and I want to tell you what he said. He was at Arras, where the recent big fight was launched. The amount of gas discharged by our men, and liquid fire, etc., was enormous, but the finest thing of all was the effectiveness of the tunnels and places of assembly dug by the New Zealand Tunnelling Corps. Now this is what I want to tell you: General Richardson told me he had seen a confidential report from a very exalted general, wherein he states that the tunnelling work done by our men was magnificent. The work was wonderfully well carried out. General Richardson says that great halls had been dug where the battalions assembled, and old Fritz's fireworks and heavy bombardment had not the slightest effect upon the men who were safe underground in the shelter provided by our New Zealanders. These large dug-outs were lit up by electric light, and the great white, chalky walls looked like the interior of a great town hall. From these places of assembly there were dug in the direction of the German trenches tunnels which let out our men 80 yards off the Hun. The bombardment supposed to smash our battalion fell harmlessly in the rear. The general was enthusiastic about the effectiveness of our men's work. As many of the men came from your district of Westport and Buller, I thought their comrades who are carrying on mining operations in New Zealand would be pleased to know what a great part in this world struggle for freedom the West Coast miners in France are playing."

Daily Press
June 26th 1917

MASTER TUNNELLERS.

I asked a very highly-placed English officer his opinion as to the qualities in which the New Zealanders shine. He summed them up by saying that as individual fighters they were equal to any in France. He spoke particularly well of their work on the Somme, which has been described so often that I will not recapitulate it, but he mentioned something of which I had not heard—the New Zealand tunnelling company which was allotted for work in a special area. In tunnelling work they have outwitted the Germans every time. Many of them perfected their skill in the coal and gold mines of New Zealand, and there are well-trained engineers at their head. They can not only out-tunnel the Germans, but there is no case on record in which the Germans have surprised the British troops provided with New Zealand tunnellers. What this means in peace of mind to an army can only be imagined by those who, like myself, have been at points in the line when there was grave anxiety as to whether or not mysterious sounds heard sometimes by microphone, sometimes by the more simple miners' device of placing the head in a bucket of water and listening, are the approach of subterranean Huns.

When it is remembered that the population of both the islands of New Zealand is less than that of any large London postal district—it is only a little over a million all told—it will be understood that this live and finely-organized band of Antipodean Crusaders constitutes an offering which is a splendid contrast to the levied masses of unwilling Poles, Czechs, Turks, Ruthenes, Slovaks, and the rest whom Prussia has huddled into her trenches.

From the Times
Feb 1917

“speak to Him, the Judge of all? Why think you I am here in this land of Arabia if not to stop the abuses that come when men forget their Faith and take to the building of *Jamaas* (mosques) and places of worship? You are mad to offer such an excuse to me, and you are no man to be the sheikh of one of my tribes. Take them,” he turned to his Wazir, “and let that old man be degraded from his chieftainship, appointing another in his stead.”

Then he turned to the young man, as the others were being led away, and said: “You have done well, Saifeddin. What would the world have called your king if his guests had been foully slaughtered by yonder old man? Would they not have said that Ibn Saoud was a treacherous, murdering hound, and never have believed my protestations of innocence? You have done well by me, Saifeddin, and saved me from great shame. Go to my Treasurer, take as much gold as your two hands can grasp, then go to Mecca and buy yourself the fairest and most virtuous of women for a bride; and when you return to camp, know that a place is kept for you in the ranks of my body-guard.”

At long last the Treaty was signed, one that has been faithfully kept, and Palestine was safe from any sudden invasion in force by the fierce Wahabite raiders of Nejd. There were a few sporadic raids, the work of irresponsible chieftains, but they were easily repulsed and the leaders punished with the help of Ibn Saoud's regular forces.

1923
Back in Palestine things had been moving rapidly; there had been three attacks on Britons, and in each case there had been fatal results. One man, Wigley, a New Zealander, was killed defending the pay-car on the railway; two warrant officers of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment were shot dead on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road as, unarmed and defenceless, they were going to Ramleh to see their wives; and the Paymaster of the Gendarmerie was also shot dead on the same road, near Jaffa.

It was decided to hunt down these brigands and to make a lasting example of them. Indian cavalry were pressed into service while hundreds of gendarmes and police were moved into the Ramleh district. The man we particularly wanted was named Abdel Khadr Darwish. He was an old “wolf's

"Sorry and ashamed am I, that I, a man of nearly forty years of age, have not killed more of you *Kaffir* dogs of English. Some I killed in the war and now two others have I slain, but there ought to have been many more. *In al Din el Ingliz!*" (the ultimate curse on anyone—literally, "May God curse the Religion of the English"); and so he died, completely unafraid. The slayers of Wigley, the railway-man, were caught in a most ingenious fashion. He was the New Zealand railway official who was murdered in the course of an ambush on the railway pay-car. When the police arrived on the scene, a small cutting on the main line near Qalqilieh, they found only the decapitated naked body of an Arab lying in the ditch. This was obviously the man who had been shot by Taylor, the other member of the escort, who had gallantly saved the money. There was nothing to help the police to establish the identity of the dead man, but a particularly clever Palestinian Jewish officer took the shoes off the corpse and went up to Nablus, the market and business town for that area. There, without disclosing his purpose, he went around all the cobblers until he discovered one man who recognised the shoes as his handiwork. The craftsman said that he had made them for a certain man of Jiljulieh village, and, more, that the man had been in Nablus the previous week to have his shoes repaired.

The officer went back to Jiljulieh, close to the scene of the ambush, and started inquiries for the owner of the shoes. He was told lie after lie, until it became almost certain that the man was missing. Then he fetched the wife of the missing man to Tulkarm, where the corpse had been put on ice, and she immediately identified it as that of her husband to burst into a storm of weeping, screaming in a paroxysm of mourning: "I knew that no good would come of his going out with Mohamed Ahmet. Poor Abdullah! You said that you would buy me fine new clothes for Beiram and here you lie now, with me having to buy a shroud for your burial. A lot of good listening to Musa abu Mustapha and Mohamed Ahmet has done you!"

The names were carefully noted, the men mentioned arrested, and in due course the penalty for that ambush on the railway line was paid on the gallows at Jerusalem, for at that time there was no scaffold at Acre.

IN MEMORIAM.

July 31 1923

ARTHUR JAMES WIGLEY.

The news of the tragic death of Arthur James Wigley must have come as a severe shock to all his friends. He was the youngest son of the late Hon. T. H. Wigley, Opuha, and Mrs. Wigley, Park Lane, Timaru. He was thirty-six years of age, and was educated at Waitaki Boys' High School and Canterbury College. Possessed of an exceptionally fine nature—bright and cheerful, kind and generous, honest and fearless—his sterling character was writ large on his face, one glance being sufficient to inspire the confidence of all with whom he came in contact.

At Waitaki Boys' High School he was one of the most popular boys. A born leader, he was followed by reason of admiration and affection. In particular he was worshipped by the junior boys, who fully appreciated his unflinching championship of the weak and the readiness of his valuable aid to those in trouble. He was a member of the first fifteen in 1904, when Waitaki High School played first grade football, and won the championship.

He was one of the finest forwards that have played for Canterbury College in recent years. After playing in the second fifteen in 1905, he played for the first from 1906 to 1909, a period during which the standard of play was steadily improving. In 1908 he visited Sydney with the first New Zealand University team, and again represented New Zealand University against Sydney in 1909, the year in which Canterbury College defeated Sydney by 14 to 5. Not only was Wigley a good forward, but his pace and dash made him a fine leader of his pack in attack, and his tackling of the opposing half and five-eighths upset many an opposing back attack. Football was his favourite game, but he took a hand in every game that was going—was a member of the committee of the Athletic Club and the Boxing Club, was a fair handicap performer on the track, a member of the first College shooting team that won the first competition for the Haslam Shield.

Soon after leaving College he was employed by the Public Works Department on railway construction in North Auckland, and while there his enthusiasm raised and trained a team which did a great deal towards resurrecting the game in that part of the country. He was also engaged, while with the Public Works Department, on the Otago Central irrigation scheme, and at the Otira tunnel. In December, 1915, he left New Zealand as a first lieutenant in the New Zealand Tunnelling Corps. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry when in command of a mining party at the capture of Messines Ridge, on June 7th, 1917. He was one of fourteen New Zealanders who, as the result of distinguished services, were singled out for commissions, being made a lieutenant in King George's Own Sappers and Miners. At the time of the Armistice his company was transferred to Palestine, where he was made a captain. Later he obtained his discharge, and was appointed District Engineer of the railway from Jerusalem to Gaza, a stretch of line that was being re-laid.

He was married in England about three and a half years ago, to Miss V. Ronayne, a niece of Mr. T. Ronayne, I.S.O., former General Manager of the New Zealand Railways. He leaves his widow and one child to mourn their loss.

He was an Associate Member of the British Institution of Civil Engineers. He was shot by robbers whilst on duty near Haija (Palestine), on July 13th, 1923.

at Otago
from India
in Alexandria