

Arthur James WIGLEY

Timaru Herald. 30 Oct 1917 (Papers Past) [29/05/2018]

ARMY HONOURS.

GALLANTRY IN THE FIELD.

Lieutenant Arthur James Wigley, Eng.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of a mining party close to the enemy. At a most critical moment, when the discovery of our mines seemed certain, owing to their being exposed by shell fire, he personally superintended the apparently impossible task of reconstructing and disguising our work, thus veiling our plans from the enemy when secrecy was of supreme importance.

Press. 19 July 1923 (Papers Past) [29/05/2018]

Obituary.

The late Mr Arthur James Wigley, M.C., C.E., who met a tragic death near Haifa (Palestine) on July 13th, being shot by robbers while on duty, was the youngest son of the late Hon. T. M. Wigley, Opuha, and Mrs Wigley, Park lane, Timaru. He was 36 years of age, and was educated at Waitaki High School and Canterbury College, where he graduated as a civil engineer, later becoming a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. He then joined the Public Works Department, and over a period of years was engaged on the Central Otago irrigation scheme, the North Auckland railway, and at the Otira tunnel. In December, 1915, he left New Zealand as a first lieutenant in the New Zealand Tunnelling Corps. He was an associate member of the English Institute of Civil Engineers. 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 14 New Zealanders who, as the result of distinguished services, were singled out for commissions. He was made a lieutenant in the First 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. About three and a half years ago he was married in England, and leaves a widow and one child to

mourn their loss. In Timaru the sympathy of a wide circle of friends will go out to the deceased's mother and the rest of the family. Mr Wigley was a well-known footballer during his earlier days in New Zealand. He was a member of the first New Zealand University Rugby team which toured Australia in 1908, and represented Canterbury College and North Auckland in Rugby contests. His wife was Miss V. Ronayne, of Youghall, County Cork, a niece of Mr T. Ronayne, I.S.O., former General Manager of the New Zealand Railways.