

Theodore Wright was born on the 15th.May 1883.His father,William Wright, was the Minister at the Catholic Apostolic Church.The family lived at Weston House and later at Talgai,Albury Heath.

Theodore was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant,Royal Engineers 1st.October 1902;promoted Lieutenant 21st.June 1905,and Captain 1st.October 1913.He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders in 1914.

Mons,23rd.August 1914.A company of the Royal Scots Fusiliers was holding a barricade at the north end of a bridge over the Mons-Conde Canal.By this time the firing on the position had become so violent and the casualties were so numerous that a retirement had been decided upon.Corporal Alfred Jarvis of the Royal Engineers was then called upon to destroy the bridge but was without the exploder and leads.It was then that he met Captain Theodore Wright,who had been wounded in the head,who told him to go back to the bridge and he would bring the necessary equipment.

It was whilst attempting to connect the leads under the bridge to blow it that Theodore Wright earned his Victoria Cross.Time and again he tried to get at the end of the leads but each time he raised his head above the level of the towpath he was fired upon from about 30 yards off.Eventually he gave up the attempt and in swinging himself back under the girder of the bridge he lost his grip and owing to exhaustion fell into the canal and was pulled out by a Sergeant Smith.(Corporal Alfred Jarvis was also awarded the Victoria Cross for this same action).

At Vailly,on the 14th.September 1914,Theodore Wright assisted the passage of the 5th.Cavalry Brigade over a pontoon bridge,and was mortally wounded whilst assisting wounded men into a shelter.An officer of the Scots Greys wrote in a letter later "We got across the river the day before yesterday a bit before our time and we had to go back over a pontoon bridge considerably quicker than was pleasant,under very heavy fire too.At the end of the bridge was an Engineer officer repairing bits blown off and putting down straw-the finest thing I ever saw.The poor fellow was killed just after my troops got across.No man earned a better Victoria Cross."

Theodore Wright's nephew,the late Peter Heath of Cookes Place,donated his medals to the Royal Engineers Museum in Chatham.

1. Memorial
2. 1901 Census
3. 1911 Census
4. De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour
5. UK Victoria Cross Medals

In Memory of

Captain

Theodore Wright

V C

Royal Engineers who died on 14 September 1914 Age 31

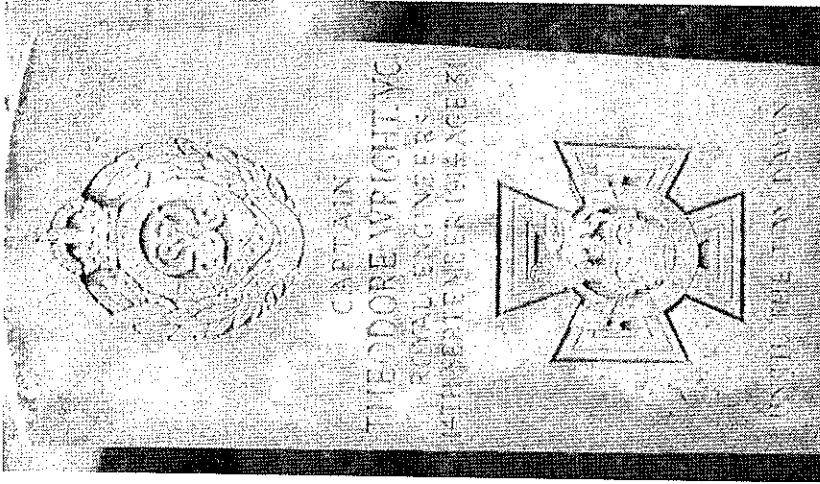
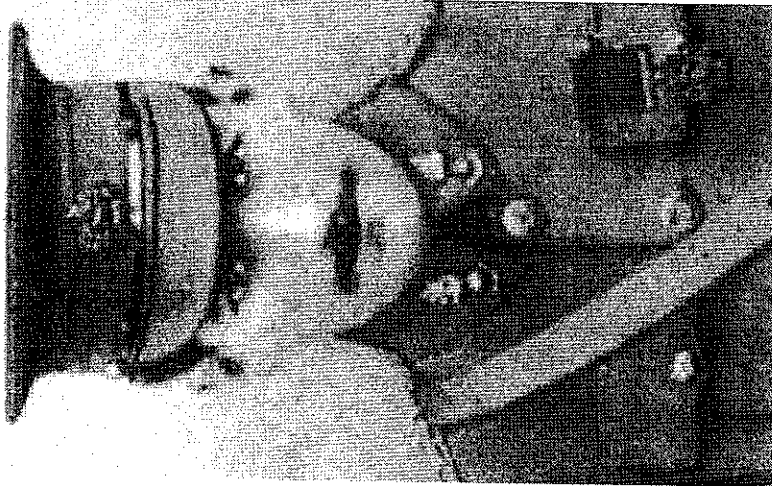
Son of the late William Walter and Arabella Wright, of "Talgai", Albury, Guildford.

Remembered with Honour

Vailly British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



526

WRIGHT Theodore VC Captain 57th Field Co., Corps of Royal Engineers

Born: 15 May 1883 - Brighton, Sussex

Died: 14 September 1914 aged 31. Killed in action at Vailly, France during second part of VC deed

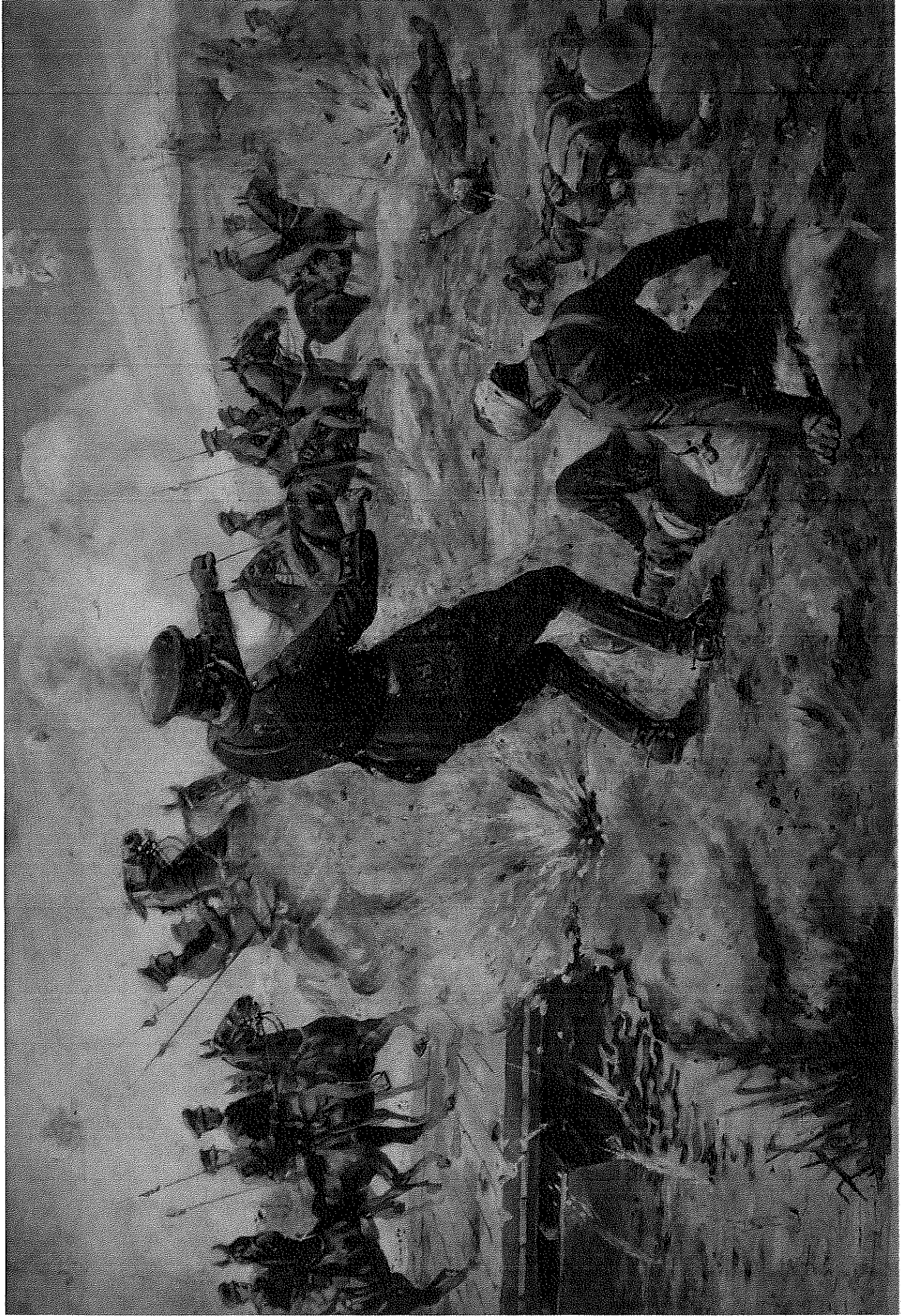
Buried: Vailly British Cemetery, France, 10 miles E of Soissons. Plot II. Row B. Grave 21. Headstone (See Map A - 42)

Deed/Service: 23 August 1914. Under heavy fire, he tried to connect up wiring to demolish a bridge, despite a wound in the head. On 14 September, when the 5th Cavalry Brigade were crossing a pontoon bridge, he was mortally wounded whilst trying to move a wounded man to safety

Commemoration: i) Headstone ii) Medals in Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham

Mons, Belgium and
Vailly, France
POSTHUMOUS
1334

Gazette: 16 November 1914



Captain Theodore Wright VC by George Derville Rowlandson

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Explanatory and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink. The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one that must be included. Of a color of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE last birthday/last date.		SEX.		MARRIAGE.		PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	INDUSTRY or SERVICE with which worker is connected. This includes Social Goods and the business carried on by the employer. If the person is engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the actual period of work done, should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards.	BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of person born in a Foreign Country.	DEFERMENT.
		Male	Female	Single	Widow	Married	Divorced						
1 Arabella Wright	Head	66	Widow	7	6	1					London	London	
2 Emily Wright	Daughter	30	Single								London	London	
3 Helen Wright	Daughter	26	Single								London	London	
4 Emily Jarboe	Sister	64	Single								London	London	
5 Maggie Green	Maids Servant	28	Single								London	London	
6 Mary Gomer	Servant	23	Single								London	London	
7 Miss May Smalley	Servant	17	Single								London	London	
8													
9													
10													
11													
12													
13													
14													
15													

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Write below the number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Parlours, or Apartments), and the number of persons sleeping in each room, including the landlady, unless otherwise stated.

19

Signature *Arabella Wright*

Printed Name *Arabella Wright, House, Albany, Embury*

(To be filled up by the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

WRIGHT, MELVILLE EUGENE, Bombardier, No. 781251, D Howitzer Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, 2nd s. of Edwin Henry Wright, of 4, Mount Parade, Harrogate, Chemist's Assistant, by his wife, Emma; and brother to Lieut. H. R. Wright (*q.v.*); *b.* Shipley, co. York, 9 Nov. 1897; educ. Boys' High School (Salt Schools) there; volunteered for active service, and enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery 13 May, 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 6 Jan. 1917, being employed as a Signal Instructor, and was killed in action at Passchendaele 28 Oct. following. Buried in Belgian Battery Corner, Menin Road, near Ypres; *unm.*

WRIGHT, THEODORE, Capt., Royal Engineers, *s.* of the late William Walter Wright, of Albury, co. Surrey; *b.* 15 May, 1883; gazetted 2nd Lieut. Royal Engineers 1 Oct. 1902; promoted Lieut. 21 June, 1905, and Capt. 1 Oct. 1913; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, and was killed in action in 1914.

WRIGHT, THOMAS, Private, 2/7th (Territorial) Bn. The Manchester Regt., *s.* of Joseph Wright, Carter, by his wife, Elizabeth, dau. of James Bostock; *b.* Birkenhead, co. Chester, 18 Dec. 1896; educ. Our Lady's School there; was employed in the Timber Department of Messrs. Lever Brothers; joined the 7th Bn. The Manchester Regt. 14 Aug. 1916; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, and was killed in action 21 March, 1917. His Captain wrote that he was a good soldier, and died at his post, having fulfilled his mission; *unm.*

WRIGHT, WILLIAM, Private, No. 15944, 1st Bn. (57th Foot) The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regt.), *s.* of Henry Simson Wright, by his wife, Caroline, dau. of John Chapman; and brother to Private C. Wright (*q.v.*); *b.* Tottenham, London, N., 22 March, 1897; educ. Bruce Grove County Schools there, and was subsequently employed as a Coal Porter at Southend-on-Sea; enlisted in June, 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, and died at No. 35 Casualty Clearing Station 23 July, 1916, from wounds received in action; *unm.*

WYATT, ARTHUR THOMAS ELFORD, Capt., The Lincolnshire Regt., only surv. *s.* of the late Rev. William Wyatt, Rector of Broughton, near Brigg, co. Lincoln, by his wife (—) (Warmworth, Doncaster); and brother-in-law to Lieut. F. L. Davies (see Vol. III, page 73); *b.* 11 Feb. 1883; educ. Eaton House, Aldenburgh; Repton, and Exeter College, Oxford; obtained a commission as 2nd Lieut. in the Reserve of the Lincolnshire Regt., being promoted Lieut. 22 May, 1905; volunteered for Imperial Service on the outbreak of war; served

in France and Flanders from July, 1915; was in hospital suffering from gas poisoning the following Oct., and was killed in action before Itevin 8 June, 1917, while leading his company in the face of a very heavy fire with the object of taking an enemy machine gun, by which they were delayed. Buried at Bully-Grenay. A brother officer wrote: "I defy anyone to find one more fitted than Ernest to be the original of Donald Hawkey's 'Beloved Captain'." He was a fine athlete, and while at Uppingham was a member of the cricket, Aves, Rugby football and hockey teams, being Captain of the first two; *unm.*

WYNNE, CREME CHAMLEY, Lieut., The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry), 2nd s. of General Sir Arthur Singleton Wynne, of Hayberkell, Warcop, Westmorland, G.C.B., by his wife, Emily Mary, dau. of the late Charles Colville Turner, of Bideford, Devon; *b.* 27 April, 1889; was gazetted 2nd Lieut. The Yorkshire Light Infantry 9 Oct. 1907, and promoted Lieut. 10 April, 1912; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, and was killed in action in 1914.

WYNTER, EDWARD CHARLES, Air Mechanic, No. 1 (Wireless Observer), Royal Naval Air Service; *b.* Seaford, co. Sussex, 21 Dec. 1896; educ. there; was a Surveyor's Assistant; joined the Sussex Yeomanry; subsequently transferred to the Royal Naval Air Service as a Despatch Rider; studied for the wireless work, and passed as a fully qualified Wireless Observer; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, and was accidentally killed 5 Feb. 1916, while flying at Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey; *unm.*

WYNTER, HUGH TALBOT, Major, 22nd Battery, Royal Field Artillery, *s.* of Hugh Bold Wynter, of Canon's House, Taunton; *b.* 26 Sept. 1872; gazetted 2nd Lieut. Royal Artillery 1 Feb. 1893; promoted Lieut. 1 Feb. 1896; Capt. 21 May, 1903; was Adjutant of the Royal Artillery from 16 April, 1906, to 23 June, 1908, and obtained his Majority 13 Feb. 1910; was Ordnance Officer, 4th Class, from 28 Sept. 1898, to 27 Sept. 1903, and Adjutant to the Territorial Force from 24 June, 1908, to 3 Nov. 1909; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, and was killed in action at the Battle of the Aisne 16 Sept. 1914. He *m.* Eva (—).

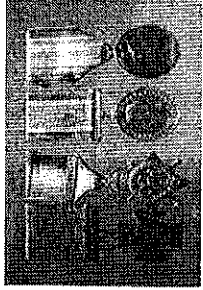
WYTHE, ALFRED CHARLES, Private, No. 87147, 37th Field Ambulance, Royal



THE CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS MUSEUM HAS BEEN LEFT THE VICTORIA CROSS AWARDED TO CAPTAIN THEODORE WRIGHT, 57TH FIELD COMPANY, ROYAL ENGINEERS.

29 June 2004

The Victoria Cross awarded to Captain Theodore Wright during the retreat from Mons in August 1914 has been left to the Royal Engineers Museum in Gillingham, Kent. Descendants of Captain Wright, who was killed three weeks later on the River Alsne, presented his VC, campaign medals and Memorial Plaque to the museum, together with the letters relating to the award of the VC and the wooden cross which originally marked Wright's grave in France.



(select to enlarge)

Medal entitlement of Captain Theodore Wright,
57th Field Company, Royal Engineers

- Victoria Cross
- 1914 Star + clasp "5th Aug-22nd Nov 1914"
- British War Medal (1914-20)
- Victory Medal (1914-19)

Mons, 23rd August 1914, a company of the Royal Scots Fusiliers was holding a barricade at the north end of a bridge over the Mons-Condé canal. By this time the firing on the position had become so violent and the casualties were so numerous that a retirement had been decided on. Corporal Alfred Jarvis of the Royal Engineers was then called upon to destroy the bridge but was without the exploder and leads. It was then that he met Captain Theodore Wright, who had been wounded in the head, who told him to go back to the bridge and he would bring the necessary equipment.

It was whilst attempting to connect the leads under the bridge to blow it that Theodore Wright earned his Victoria Cross. Time and again he tried to get at the end of the leads but each time he raised his head above the level of the towpath he was fired upon from about thirty yards off. Eventually he gave up the attempt and in swinging himself back under the girder of the bridge he lost his grip and owing to exhaustion fell into the canal, and was pulled out by a Sergeant Smith. (Corporal Alfred Jarvis was also awarded the Victoria Cross for this same action).

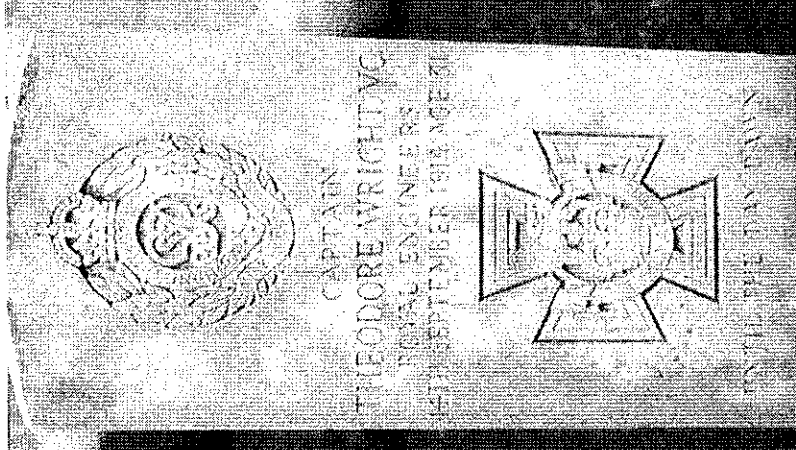
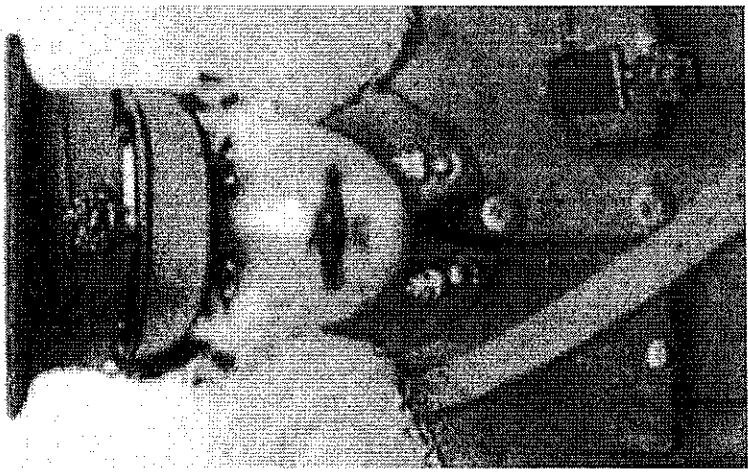
At Vailly, on the 14th September 1914, Theodore Wright assisted the passage of the 5th Cavalry Brigade over a pontoon bridge, and was mortally wounded whilst assisting wounded men into shelter. An officer of the Scots Greys wrote in a letter later "We got across the river the day before yesterday a bit before our time and we had to go back over a pontoon bridge considerably quicker than was pleasant, under a very heavy fire too. At the end of the bridge was an Engineer officer repairing bits blown off and putting down straw as cool as a cucumber - the finest thing I ever saw. The poor fellow was killed just after my troops got across. No man earned a better Victoria Cross."

For the award of the Victoria Cross.

[London Gazette, 16 November 1914], Mons, France, 23 August 1914, Captain Theodore Wright, 57th Field Company, Corps of Royal Engineers.

For gallantry at Mons on 23rd August 1914 in attempting to connect up the lead to demolish a bridge under heavy fire, although wounded in the head he made a second attempt. At Vailly on 14th September 1914, he assisted the passage of 5th Cavalry Brigade over the pontoon bridge and was mortally wounded whilst assisting wounded men into shelter.

Captain Theodore Wright is buried in the Vailly British Cemetery, 10 miles East of Soissons, France.



526

WRIGHT Theodore VC Captain 57th Field Co., Corps of Royal Engineers

Born: 15 May 1883 - Brighton, Sussex

Died: 14 September 1914 aged 31. Killed in action at Vally, France during second part of VC deed

Buried: Vally British Cemetery, France, 10 miles E of Soissons. Plot II. Row B. Grave 21. Headstone (See Map A - 42)

Deed/Service: 23 August 1914. Under heavy fire, he tried to connect up wiring to demolish a bridge, despite a wound in the head. On 14 September, when the 5th Cavalry Brigade were crossing a pontoon bridge, he was mortally wounded whilst trying to move a wounded man to safety

Commemoration: i) Headstone ii) Medals in Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham

Mons. Belgium and Vally, France
POSTHUMOUS
1334

Gazette: 16 November 1914

Theodore Wright

b. 15/05/1883 Hove, Sussex. d. 14/09/1914 Vailly, France.

Theodore Wright (1883-1914) who was known as "Dodo" to the family, was born at 119 Lansdowne Place, Hove, Sussex on 15th May 1883. His father William Walter Wright, who was born in Philadelphia, USA, was a Minister in the Catholic Apostolic Church. His mother was Arabella nee Tarbet. His parents married in the Catholic Apostolic Church in Liverpool in 1874. The family lived at Weston House and Talgai at Albury Heath, Guildford, Surrey. Theodore had a brother and four sisters. His maternal grandparents lived in Abercromby Square, Liverpool, where Noel Chavasse VC and Bar would later live.

Theodore was educated at Clifton College and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. At the Academy, he represented the Army at cricket. Having been commissioned on 1st October 1902, he continued training at Chatham, being promoted to Lieutenant in 1905. He served with the Balloon Section at Aldershot, then in Gibraltar until December 1906, followed by the 2nd Fortress Company in Cairo and returned to Aldershot in 1912. Having attended an advanced course at Chatham, he was posted to 56th Field Company at Bulford Camp, Wiltshire as Adjutant 3rd Division Royal Engineers. He was promoted to Captain shortly afterwards. On the outbreak of the Great War, he disembarked at Rouen, France on 17th August 1914.

On 23rd August 1914, near to the Jemappes Station, near Mons, Belgium, several men including Charles Jarvis VC were attempting to destroy several bridges. Whilst Jarvis was withdrawing from his bridge, Captain Theodore Wright, who was detailed to supervise 57th Field Company's preparations, arrived. While attempting to cross the 20 metres of open ground south of the canal, Wright was wounded in the head by shrapnel and then departed to find out the situation elsewhere. He met up with Lieutenant Boulnois and found out orders to retire had been received. Wright then set off in a car to give the order to destroy the bridges at Nimy.

Later in the afternoon, Wright headed for the bridge at Mariette with Sergeant Smith, and they discovered that the free ends of the explosive leads only reached the towpath. With longer leads tied around him, Wright managed to reach the girder bridge over the smaller canal and gained shelter. When under the bridge, he swung hand over hand and reached the far bank, but every time he lifted his head he came under heavy fire. It was impossible to reach the leads, and Wright was exhausted and fell into the water.

On the 14th September 1914, at Vailly, on the River Aisne, Captain Wright was assisting the passage of the 5th Cavalry Brigade over a pontoon bridge built by the 56th and 57th Field Companies the previous night. While supervising repairs to the bridge he was constantly exposed to heavy fire and was eventually mortally wounded as he assisted some wounded men to shelter. He was buried in the Vailly British Cemetery.

His Victoria Cross (gazetted 16th November 1914) was presented to his mother by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 16th November 1916. In addition to his VC, he was awarded the 1914 Star with Mons clasp, British War Medal 1914-20 and Victory Medal 1914-19 with Mentioned in Despatches oak leaf. His medals, letters and memorial plaque were passed to his nephew, Peter Heath, who donated them to the Royal Engineers on his death. They are displayed at the Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham.

LOCATION OF MEDAL: ROYAL ENGINEERS MUSEUM, CHATHAM, KENT.

BURIAL PLACE: VAILLY BRITISH CEMETERY, VAILLY, FRANCE.

