

**St. Olaf Churchyard,
Poughill, Cornwall
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1046 AIR MECHANIC II

A. W. C. WAKELY

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

29TH JUNE, 1917 Age 36

Argent William Clissold WAKELY

Argent William Clissold Wakely was born at Poughill, Bude, Cornwall, England in 1881 to parents William Edward & Barbara Wakely (nee Clissold). His birth was registered in the name Argent William C. Wackley in the June quarter, 1881 in the district of Stratton, Cornwall, England.

Argent William Clissold Wakely attended Stratton National School, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Argent W. C. Wackly as a 9 year old, Scholar, living with his family in the Village at Poughill, Cornwall, England. His parents were listed as William E. Wackly (Carpenter's Assistant, aged 39, born Poughill, Cornwall) & Barbara Wackly (aged 33, born Salisbury, Wiltshire). Argent was one of four children listed on this Census, all born at Poughill, Cornwall – Mabel M. (Scholar, aged 12) then Argent, Frederick L. (Scholar, aged 4) & Mildred (aged 6 days), Also listed was Fanny A. Gilbert (Sick Nurse, aged 34).

The 1901 England Census recorded Arwent Wackly as a 19 year old Carpenter, living with his family in the Village at Poughill, Cornwall, England. His parents were listed as William E. Wackly (Carpenter & Builder (Employer), aged 49) & Barbara Wackly (aged 43). Argent's sister – Mildred (aged 10) & a servant (Annie Vanstone (General Domestic Servant) were also listed on this Census.

Argent William Clissold Wakely was listed as a member of the Gillingham Lodge of Benevolence. He was aged 27 & living at Gillingham when he was initiated on 14th April, 1908, Passing on 12th May & Raising on 9th June, 1908.

The 1911 England Census recorded Argent William Clissold Wakely as a 30 year old, Ship Joiner, living with his family in a 10 roomed dwelling – Marland House, Poughill, Bude, Cornwall, England. His parents were listed as William Edward Wakely (Builder & Carpenter & Joiner, aged 59) & Barbara Wakely (aged 53). William & Barbara Wakely had been married for 33 years & had 5 children, 1 having since died. Argent's sister – Mildred Clissold Wakely (aged 20) was listed on this Census. Also listed on this Census - a Boarder – Percy Bynz Morris (Private Means, aged 40) & a Servant – Lilly Sly (General Domestic Servant, aged 20).

Argent William Clissold Wakely, Carpenter, aged 30, was a passenger of *Orsova* which had departed from the port of London on 22nd November, 1912, bound for Australia.

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Canterbury, Victoria listed Argent W. C. Wakely, Carpenter & Joiner of 34 Mangarra Road, Canterbury, Victoria.

Argent William Clissold Wakely was a 31 year old, single, Carpenter when he enlisted on 22nd April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1046 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Edward William Wakely, Marland House, Poughill, Bude, England. Argent Wakely stated on his Attestation Papers that he had volunteered with 2nd Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry & had previously been rejected for serving in His Majesty's Service due to his height (Argent Wakely at the time of enlisting was 5 feet 4 ½ inches).

Private Argent William Clissold Wakely was posted to 20th Depot Battalion for recruit training on 13th May, 1916.

Private Argent William Clissold Wakely wrote to O.C. Isolation Camp, Castlemaine on 27th June, 1916 requesting a transfer to Engineering Reinforcements, stating that he had been connected with machinery all his life and was prior to enlisting, a senior partner in a Joinery Works, He stated he had constructed houses of all descriptions and made all kinds of joinery, including staircases. Pte Wakely also stated in his letter that he had worked "*on the fitting of H.M. Ships as a millwright doing all kinds of work in the engine room and engineer's store. I have also worked on some of the largest guns on H. M. Battleships eg. H.M.S. Triumph...*"

Private Argent William Clissold Wakely was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements, 3rd Pioneers on 10th July, 1916. He was then transferred to Engineer Reinforcements, Seymour as Sapper from 10th July, 1916. Sapper Wakely was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 2nd Pioneers on 18th October, 1916 & his rank was changed to Private. Private Wakely was transferred back to Engineer Reinforcements, Seymour on 20th October, 1916 & his rank was Sapper. Sapper Wakely was transferred to Miners Reinforcements on 24th October, 1916 then transferred back to Engineer

Reinforcements, Seymour on 25th October, 1916. Sapper Wakely was transferred to 4th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps at Laverton, as Private, on 8th November, 1916.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Argent William Clissold Wakely embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Omrah* on 17th January, 1917 with the No. 4 Squadron "B" Flight, Australian Flying Corps & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 27th March, 1917. Air Mechanic 2nd Class Wakely had been admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea on 26th February, 1917 with "otitis media" & had been discharged pm 1st March, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Argent William Clissold Wakely was marched in to A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 27th March, 1917.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Argent William Clissold Wakely was transferred to 71st Squadron, Australian Flying Corps at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham on 2nd April, 1917.

Australian Flying Corps

The Australian Flying Corps (A.F.C.) was the branch of the Australian Army responsible for operating aircraft during World War I, and the forerunner of the Royal Australian Air Force (R.A.A.F.). The A.F.C. was established in 1912, though it was not until 1914 that it began flight training. In early 1917, the A.F.C. began training pilots, observers and mechanics in the United Kingdom.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Argent William Clissold Wakely was sent sick to 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England on 9th April, 1917. Air Mechanic 2nd Class Wakely was seriously ill & his condition was reported as severe on 21st June, 1917.

Air Mechanic Class II Argent William Clissold Wakely died at 3 pm on 29th June, 1917 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England from Cerebellar Abscess. A report to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London from 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham stated that 2nd A.M. Wakely's sister was present at the death.

A death for Argent W. C. Wakely, aged 36, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Birmingham, Warwickshire, England.

Air Mechanic Class II Argent William Clissold Wakely was buried on 4th July, 1917 in St. Olaf Churchyard, Poughill, Cornwall, England in a private grave and has a private headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Air Mechanic Class II Argent William Clissold Wakely was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Air Mechanic Class II Wakely's father - Mr W. E. Wakely, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll s & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Air Mechanic 2nd Class Argent William Clissold Wakely – service number 1046, aged 36, of 71st Sqdn., Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of William Edward and Barbara Wakely, of Poughill, Bude, England.

Air Mechanic Class II A. W. C. Wakely is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



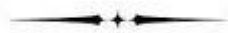
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

2nd Air Mechanic A. W. C. Wakely is remembered on the Roll of Honour Plaque for World War 1 located inside St. Olaf's Church, Poughill, Cornwall, England.



(35 pages of Air Mechanic 2nd Class Argent William Clissold Wakely's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

WAKELY – ON the 29th June, 1917, died of illness in England, Argent William Clissold Wakely, dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs Wakely, of Poughill, Cornwall, England.

A patient sufferer at rest.

-(Inserted by his loving cousins, Mr and Mrs E. J. Squire, Canterbury)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 July, 1917)

St. Olaf Churchyard, Poughill, Cornwall, England

St. Olaf Churchyard, Poughill contains 4 Commonwealth War Graves, 3 of them from World War 2.



Poughill Church (Photo by Philip Halling)

Photo of Air Mechanic 2nd Class Argent William Clissold Wakely's Private Headstone in St. Olaf Churchyard, Poughill, Cornwall, England.



(Photos from British War Graves Project)



In
Loving Memory
Of
ARGENT WM. CLISSOLD WAKELY
Who Departed This _____
On June 29, 1917
Aged 36 Years
