

This file contains:

1. The Birth Certificate of James Wilton (b 1885)
2. A reference given for him as a young man
3. A transcript of his short war diary
4. His will

Richard Rawson, April 2008

EXTRACT ENTRY OF BIRTH, under the 37th Sect. of 17 and 18 Vict. Cap. 80.

Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
James Wilton	1885 December Sixteenth 4h. Am.  63 Withenhead Road Glasgow	M	Charles Wilton Mason / Journeyman /  Mary Ann Wilton ms. Reid 1858 March 30th Glasgow	(Signed) Charles Wilton Father  present	1886 JANUARY 6th At GLASGOW (Signed) JAMES NIMMO, ASSISTANT Registrar. G.N.T.D.H.

Extracted from the Register Book of Births, for the DISTRICT of HUTCHESONTOWN, in the COUNTY of LANARK, this 6th day of JANUARY 1886.

Don. Hamilton Registrar.

Baptized in Kinning Park Free Church, 7th Feb. 1886.  
Arch. Russell. Min.

Education Authority of Glasgow.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED  
TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

TEL DOUGLAS 3674.

Education Offices,

47 Dixon Avenue

129 Bath Street,

Glasgow 25th 1922

I have much pleasure in bearing  
testimony on behalf of Mr James Wilton.  
I have known him for 20 years &  
can therefore speak with knowledge  
& authority. He is a young man  
of the highest character, with the  
best of ideals, who could be  
trusted in any way. I am  
quite sure he would faithfully discharge  
any duties committed to him.  
He has had much experience of

of a varied kind & therefore well  
qualified to be a useful worker.

I wish him all success  
in the new world of the South;

& cordially consent him to any  
where might be able to use his  
services.

Alex Hay

J.P. of the City of Glasgow

& Member of the Education Authority

& of Advisory Committee under the  
Ministry of Labour

## Diary Notes – James Wilton

What follows is a transcription of some diary notes kept by James Wilton (born 16 Dec 1885) when he was in the British Army in France during World War 1. The notes are difficult to interpret in places, as the transcription will show. His son, James Wilton, held the original notes at the time of transcription. Within the transcription, anything in bold means that I was not sure of the word or words concerned, and anything in italics is an addition or explanation I have made. A bracketed italic question mark or marks means a word or words I could not decipher at all.

**Richard Peter Rawson (January 2005)**

### Diary Notes (the evidence is that these notes were started in 1917)

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> April. Left London 1.30am. Arrived Boulonge (*which is on the French coast south of Calais*) about 12.30pm. Put up at **Ostrohove** Camp about 2 hours then 23 hours journey to Le Havre (*on the Normandy coast where the Seine River reaches the sea*).

Left Le Havre 21<sup>st</sup> April and proceeded up the line to the Arras district. Arrived about 7pm 22<sup>nd</sup> April at Headqrs of 31<sup>st</sup> Divl **Train. (Outron)** Left **Outron** 2pm 23<sup>rd</sup> April, reported at No. 2 Coy (*Company*) Office 31<sup>st</sup> Divl **Train.** On 25<sup>th</sup> left **Divl** and proceeded to **Villun Bruva** which is like the rest of the villages I've seen here – tumbled down looking and dirty. On 29<sup>th</sup> April we packed up and went on to **Maroentle** and it was miserable walking as the road was very dirty and there was one continuous line of heavy motor wagons running which stirred up the dust till we were white. Had to work late on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> getting things fixed up. Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April (*he seems to have confused a couple of dates here*) worked till 9.30pm. Monday 30<sup>th</sup> complained about working so late painting wagons and were (*sic*) ordered to work till 8pm till further notice.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> saw an air battle and a German aeroplane brought down. Splendid weather, no rain so far. May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> worked till 8pm but saw Colonel and didn't have to work late after that.

Got first letter from home on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Cold at night. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> very windy and cold. Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May notified to report to 221 Coy. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May transferred to 221 Coy. Very pleased. (*Does this mean he was transferred at his request to get away from a tyrant?*) Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> shifted to **Angin** (*also something here about St Vaast a town in Normandy which is where he appears to have ended up – see below*) about two kilos from Arras. Visited Arras which is a complete wreck and still being shelled occasionally. Haven't been feeling well for some time – troubled with indigestion.

About end of August left **Neuville St Vaast** and proceeded to Le Targette near Vimy. (*On the internet doing a search to see if I had the name Le Targette correct, I found the following web site that may tell more about these times - <http://www.shiawasseehistory.com/cox.html> )* Weather very bad. Encamped just at the rear of observation balloon and have to sleep in dug-outs. Balloon is shot at occasionally. Get sent to Boulonge on 28<sup>th</sup> July (*date seems wrong given above reference to August*) for remounts. Journey back takes six days. Splendid weather. One night Fritz send a shell at balloon which bursts in front of it. Observer gets out in a hurry. Second shot cuts wire and sends balloon adrift. Few days after another balloon goes up then same performance starts again.

Weather very bad for August. Three dry days in month. Picture show quite near camp. Change of pictures (?) daily. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September weather improves and **bands visit** camp in evening.

About (?) Sept got sent back to base **and** there 18 days then got sent to No 6 (??) Army. After six days located them at **Hassen** but was sent to 1<sup>st</sup> Sect at Barlin. Spent one week there then we all moved to **Duhobres** near Ypres taking four days to do the journey, passing through Bailleul, Bethune,

Hazebrouck. Very warm **corner** this. Bombs dropped every night. Very wet weather. We are now with (?maybe attached to) 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Anzacs. Lost 14 wagons, 8 horses and 1 man wounded in first week. Nov 31<sup>st</sup> had to leave camp at 2am for a trip up the line to try and bring back a wagon which was thrown off the **plank** road but couldn't find it. Got back safely after a piece of shrapnel struck wagon. Driver in front got killed instantaneously and brought into camp next day. 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov (*dates mixed again?*) same day told to report at Headqrs for instructions to proceed to base. Slept overnight at **Eichebusch** and left on 2<sup>nd</sup> for Bailleul where I (?) for the night and left on 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8am by train for Hazebrouck. Changed there and got through (*sic*) train to Le Havre.

Left Le Havre on Sat 17 Nov for 19<sup>th</sup> Div Train via Hazebrouck, and joined it at **Rackenham**. Was there one week then went into **15 GGS** at **Ebblinghom** on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov with **IGT** groin. Was put on light duty fortnight later, but had to go back to bed on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec with pain in back and legs. (Temp 102) Sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> Can **Stng** Hos. Boulonge 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. Left Hos. on 9/1/18 for Blighty and arrived at Glasgow on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan.

After about 13 weeks in **Murryflats Har Hos.** (?) was sent convalescent to Lanark for two weeks then had 10 days sick leave. Reported to Depot at Bradford on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Left Bradford Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May and reported to 240 Coy Brocton Camp, Staffs. (*Staffordshire?*) Sent to **Rugeley** Camp on detachment. On pass from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May.

THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of me JAMES WILTON the elder of 15 Broadhurst Avenue Reservoir in the State of Victoria Builder I HEREBY REVOKE all Wills and other Testamentary Writings heretofore made by me and DECLARE this to be my last Will and Testament I GIVE -- DEVISE AND BEQUEATH all my real and personal estate of - whatsoever nature and kind and wheresoever situate to my - wife MARGARET HAMILTON WILTON absolutely and I APPOINT - my said wife to be sole Executrix and Trustee of this my - Will. IN WITNESS whereof I have hereto set my hand this Sixth day of May One thousand nine hundred and fifty-four.

*James Wilton (sen)*

SIGNED by the said Testator JAMES WILTON as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us both present at the same time who at his request in his sight and presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses.

*J. Cohen  
Solicitor  
Melbourne*

*L. Lipson*  
WILSON  
Horne, Wilkinson & Lowy  
Solicitors, Melbourne

This is the last Will and Testament OF ME

*James Wilton of North Preston, Melbourne,  
Victoria, Australia.*

I GIVE DEVISE and bequeath unto *my wife all my real  
and personal estate*

AND I HEREBY APPOINT

EXECUTOR of this my Will.

set my hand this

of our Lord One thousand nine hundred

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto  
day of in the year

Signed by the said *James Wilton*  
the Testator and by *him* declared to be his  
last Will and Testament in the presence of us  
present at the same time who in *his* presence  
at *his* request and in the presence of each  
other have hereunto subscribed our names as  
Witnesses.

*W R Sawbels*  
*Newe Ague Preston Witness*  
*Robert Pollock*  
*Pinker Melbourne*  
*18724*  
*Witness*