

PORTER, Wilfred Horne



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Wilfred Horne Porter was born in the Grafton district of northern NSW. He attended HAC from January 1909 until mid-July 1911, completing the Diploma and also the Full Dairy Certificate.

His father, Tindal P Porter, was working as a surveyor at Herberton, near Cairns in northern Queensland when Wilfred commenced his studies, but by 1912 he was the manager of the Ramornie Meatworks, near Grafton, northern NSW, and it was here in 1911 that Wilfred first gained employment after he left College. Ramornie Station was owned by Charles F Tindal, father of Archibald A Tindal, Wilfred's cousin and a student at HAC during 1907.

In 1912, Wilfred worked for a time on Callinugal Station, then returned to Ramornie after a few months and the April 1915 issue of the College Journal recorded he visited HAC in July 1914 prior to sailing from Sydney a few days before war was declared. He was two days out of Adelaide when the declaration of war was announced on board. He continued on to England via Durban, where he received news of his father's death, and the vessel was commandeered as a troopship. He continued via another vessel and arrived in England in October where he met three of his brothers, two of them already serving, which was the catalyst for him enlisting with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussar Yeomanry. He wrote again, and his correspondence was again published in the Journal a year later, expressing his frustration at still being in training and noting the loss of fellow HAC men, Barraclough and Rosenthal. By this time one of Wilfred's older brothers had been killed, and he also remarked that his cousin, Archibald, was now serving in France with the Royal Field Artillery. In March 1917, the Journal printed correspondence from his widowed mother, along with his portrait in uniform;

"If you have not already heard, I have to inform you that my dear son, W.H. Porter, was killed in action in France, on November 5, at Les Boefs".

Lance Corporal Wilfred H Porter, Worcestershire Regiment, 2nd Battalion, is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing. He was about 23 years old.

Wilfred's cousin, Archibald A Tindal was killed in September 1916 (see Tindal's entry on the Open Archives website). Wilfred's brother, Rupert A Porter, who had studied at the College 1912-1914, attempted to enlist but was rejected on medical grounds, and in 1921 was dairying in northern Queensland.