

D190 William George Agate

- Creator:** William 'Bill' George Agate, ?-1917
- Historical Note:** William George Agate was the eldest son of Moses and Minnie Agate. The Agate children included:
- William, known as Bill
 - Beatrice Florence, known as Foddie or Florrie
 - Mary, known as Molly
 - Richard, known as Dick or Pud
- The family migrated from England in the first decade of 1900 and initially lived in Marrickville, before finally settling at Rockdale or Brighton-le-Sands. William Agate enlisted from Marrickville in December 1915 and completed his training on 11 March 1916. His war records were kept by his uncle James Holder, who was the brother of Minnie Agate. Mrs Agate was in turn the grandmother of Joan Whiting (nee Woolley), who donated the collection to the University Archives in June 1995.
- William Agate's eldest sister was Beatrice Florence. She married Thomas James Woolley in 1924 and the subsequently had a daughter Joan. Joan Woolley in turn married Charles Raymond Whiting on 13 October 1945.
- Record Summary:** Personal records – Photographs [b&w], letters, postcards, diary, artefacts
- Date Range:** 1915-1918
- Quantity:** 15cm. (1 box)
- RAAM No:** 5344 (1023)
- Access Conditions:** Available for reference. Contact the Archives in advance to request access.
- Inventory:** Compiled 17 October 2001. Revised 13 June 2006

D190 William George Agate

Items:

1. Biographical notes by Joan Whiting
2. Photograph of William Agate in military uniform (circa 1915)
3. Wrist identity badge: inscribed 'No 5027/W.G. Agate C.E./1st Battn./ A.I.F.'
4. Letter from 'Bill' to 'Dear Mum', in camp at Warick Farm, Sydney. YMCA letterhead. [? September 1915]
5. Letter from 'Bill' to 'Dear Mum'. Complains of 'rotten' food in camp. YMCA letterhead. 18 September 1915
6. Envelope. 20 September 1915
7. Lettercard from 'Bill' to 'Dear Mother'. Member of 'B Company, 9th Battalion, 7th Platoon.' 29 September 1915
8. Envelope. September 1915
9. Small notebook, Signature Album. Inscribed 'To Will. From your loving Sister Florrie. 1st/10/15'
10. Red Cross Knitting Book [? 1915]
11. The Keystone – the Authorised Company Newspaper of the No. 1 Battalion, Liverpool, Saturday, 22 January 1916, Vol.1 no.6, 4p.
12. Souvenir . . . of Australia's Fighting Sons – Liverpool Camp. 8 Views
13. 'Syllabus of Training. B Coy. 1st Batt. 11th Week. 4th March 1916'
14. 'Notice of Allotment of Military Pay' to Mrs Minnie Agate. 7 April 1916
15. Money transfer form to the commonwealth Bank, London [c. April 1916?]
16. Pass for Sydney. Private of C Company, No 1 Battalion, Liverpool. [? April 1916]

On Board Ship

17. Letter to 'Dear Mum' re leaving harbour for overseas without saying goodbye. Speaks of friends 'Digger' and Gus Woods'. [? April 1916]
18. Postcard/letter 'T.S.S. [Makurina]'. [? April 1916]
19. Letter to 'Dear Mum', on board ship. 11 April 1916
20. Newspaper cutting – fighting match on board S.S. Makurina. Bill in foreground. [? April 1916]
21. Letter to 'Dear Mum', aboard S.S. Makurina. 27 April 1916. Tells his mother his 'doing bosker' and called in at 'Clombo'

D190 William George Agate

22. Envelope. 3 May 1916

Overseas

23. Letter to 'Dear Mum'. 6 May 1916. Informs her he 'will be leaving for the front'
- 24 – 28. Postcards (6) of Egypt. Colour. [n.d.]
29. Postcard 'Mowther' 6 June 1917
30. Postcard 'Dad' 6 June 1917
31. Postcard 'Good old Dick' 6 June 1917
32. Postcard 'Molly' 6 June 1917
33. Postcard 'Uncle Jim' 6 June 1917
34. Postcard 'Ginger' 6 June 1917
35. Envelope 23 June 1916
36. Postcard of Ypres, to 'Dear Mum' 24 June 1916
37. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate. 27 June 1916
38. Silk postcard 'Remember' plus letter to 'Dear Mum' 2 July 1916
39. Silk postcard 'Remember' plus letter to 'Dear Dad' 2 July 1916
40. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate 27 July 1916
41. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate 28 July 1916
42. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate 29 July 1916
43. Letter to 'Dear Mum' 1 September 1916. Talks of not writing as they have 'been on the move and in the firing line' Encloses postcards and silks
44. YMCA envelope 4 September 1916
45. YMCA envelope [? September 1916]
46. Silk postcard 'To My Dear Mother' plus letter to 'Dear Mum' 28 September 1916
47. Silk postcard 'United for Liberty' addressed to 'Dear Dad' [n.d. ? September 1916]
48. Letter to 'Dear Mum' [? October 1916] Speaks of a week in Egypt then off to France. Digger is in hospital. Gives Address as '16th Run, 1st Batt., 1st Dpt. Batt., 1st A.D.B.F., Sec. 17 B.E.F., France.'
49. Letter from mother to 'My dear Son' 15 October 1916 2p.
50. Field Service post Card to Mrs M. Agate 4 November 1916
51. Envelope 'Return to Sender' 9 November 1916
52. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate 13 November 1916
53. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate 20 November 1916

D190 William George Agate

54. Field Service Post Card to J. Agate 20 November 1916
 55. Envelope 1916
 56. Letter to 'Dear Mother' France, 29 November 1916 2p. Speaks of life on the Front in France
 57. Envelope. 29 November 1916
 - 58.– 62. Postcards (5) plus letter to 'Dear Mother'. 11 December 1916
B/w postcards of 'Guerre 1914 – 1916' series
 63. Letter to 'Dear Mum' France, 16 December 1916 2p. {Erroneously date '16.12.19' }
 64. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate. 19 December 1916
 65. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate. 29 December 1916
 66. Silk postcard 'A Kiss from France' plus letter to 'Dear Mum'. Part 1[n.d. ? December 1916]
 67. Silk postcard 'A Happy Christmas' plus letter. Part 2 [n.d.]
 68. Silk postcard 'A Kiss from France' plus letter. Part 3 [n.d.]
 69. Silk postcard 'Christmas Greetings' plus letter. Part 4 [n.d.]
- 1917
70. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate. 14 January 1917
 71. Letter to 'Dear Mum' France, 26 March 1917. 2p. After 11 months in France, speaks of an imminent leave in England
 72. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate. 1 April 1917
 73. Partial letter to 'Dear Mum' France, 6 June 1917 2p. Speaks of resting by the sea, after six weeks of hard fighting. Also, 'I received one of Fodies letters the other day and it said that you was going to let young Jim come over here, but I wont you to keep him home for if you do Mum I will never forgive you for it.'
 74. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate. 14 June 1917
 75. Envelope, to Mrs J Holder. 16 June 1917
 76. 'Unveiling the memorial' Poziers, 8 July 1917
 77. Letter from Bill's brother 'Foddie' 4p. 22 July 1917
 78. Letter from Bill's brother 'Foddie' 3p. 5 August 1917
 79. Envelope. 7 August 1917
 80. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate. 8 August 1917
 81. Letter from mother 4p. 12 August 1917

D190 William George Agate

- 82. Letter to 'Dear Mum' 1p. On leave in France. 21 August 1917
- 83. Field Service Post Card to J. Holder. 23 August 1917
- 84. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate. 23 August 1917
- 85. Field Service Post Card to Mrs M. Agate. 24 August 1917
- 86. Field Service Post Card to J. Holder. 24 August 1917
- 87. Envelope, to Mrs M. Agate. 31 August 1917
- 88. Registered letter envelope to Mrs M. Agate. 21 October 1917
- 89. Letter to 'Dear Mum' 26 October 1917 2p. Not happy about being a 'runner' carrying messages from 'the front line to supports', as follows: 'Since I came back from leave we have had a very bad time for we have had plenty of fighting as you have read in the papers and I am pleased to say that I came out without a cut. I am a runner now and it is very bad work for I have to take messages from the font line to supports. But never mind – if your going to get killed you are, so it matters not what you take on. The way things are going on here the war seems as if it has no end.'
- 90. Registered letter envelope to Mrs M. Agate. 27 October 1917
- 91. Envelope. 1917

Death

Private William Agate, No 5027, 1st Battalion A.I.F., died of wounds suffered during a German gas attack on 7 November 1917. The family was officially informed by telegraphic advice form Major Sherbon on 21 November and letter of 5 December.

- 92. Small cloth Kit Bag, with Bill's name and address: 'O.H.M.S./ Anzas Section/ 3rd Eichelon/ B.E.F. France.'
- 93. 'Inventory of effects of 5027, Agate, W.G., 1st Btn. A.I.F. Reciept No. 28936'.
[n.d.]
- 94. Daily Telegraph obituary notice.
- 95.–96. Letter and envelope to Mrs Agate from Lt. [.....]. France, 12 November 1917
1p.
- 97. Letter to Mr Agate re death of Bill, from Chaplain. [? November 1917]
- 98.–99. Sympathy card plus envelope, from Ivy Ferguson. [n.d. ?November 1917]
- 100.–101. Sympathy card plus envelope, from Charles W. Coombe 21 November 1917
- 102.–103. Sympathy card plus envelope, from Mr and Mrs Morrison and family 22
November 1917

D190 William George Agate

104. – 105. Sympathy card plus envelope 23 November 1917
106. – 107. Sympathy card plus envelope, from Mrs J. Daines and family 25 November 1917
108. Envelope. 25 November 1917
109. – 110. Sympathy card plus envelope, from Mr and Mrs A.O. Daines 26 November 1917
111. Envelope, from Mrs Will Young and family 26 November 1917
112. 113. Sympathy card plus envelope, from Mrs and Alice McGarlock 26 November 1917
114. – 115. Sympathy card plus envelope, from Mr and Mrs L Atlee and family 27 November 1917
116. – 117. Sympathy card plus envelope, from Sgt. J.D. McCredie 29 November 1917
118. Envelope, to Mr Agate 19 December 1917
119. – 120. Sympathy card plus envelope, from Ethel Ferguson 1 December 1917
121. Letter to Mrs Agate re the death of Private W.G. Agate, from Major Sherbon 5 December 1917
122. Envelope, to Mr Agate. 19 December 1917
123. Letter re termination of allotment payments 8 January 1918
124. Registered letter envelope to Mrs M. Agate 14 January 1918
125. Letter of Condolence from the King: 'George R.J. Buckingham Palace' (2) [1918]
126. Scroll from King George, inscribed 'Pte. William George Agate. 1st Bn. A.I.F.' [1918]
127. Medals and Stripes
128. Bronze medallion: inscribed 'He Died for Freedom and Honour. William George Agate'. In original cardboard case [c. 1918]

Undated

129. Envelope
130. Letter on envelope
131. Small photograph of a 'pin-up' girl which Bill thought delightful and worth; keeping
132. Postcard – British Lion
133. Photograph - ? Bill's mate 'Digger'
134. Postcard of 'La Grand Guerre 1914 – 15 – 16', addressed to 'Dick'
135. Postcard of 'La Grand Guerre 1914 – 15 – 16', addressed to 'Molly'
136. Postcard of 'La Grand Guerre 1914 – 15 – 16', addressed to 'Big Jim'

D190 William George Agate

137. Postcard of 'La Grand Guerre 1914 – 15 – 16 – Amiens'
138. 'War Honours for the A.I.F.', The ANZAC Bulletin, pp. 9 – 10
139. Postcard to 'Dear Billy' from 'Sister Toddie'
140. Postcard to 'Dear Billy' from 'Sister Toddie'
141. Postcard 'No More Bluff'
142. Postcard 'At Our Camp'
143. Postcard 'Revised Battalion Orders'
144. Postcard 'The War Nap'
145. Bookmark – Flags

German Material

Letter and a photograph found on a German soldier

146. Photo/postcard 8 January 1917
147. Letter 4pp. 12 September 1917
148. Letter 2pp. 14 September 1917
149. Letter 4pp. 28 September 1917
150. Bert Flugelman transcript of letter, 1985