Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

5292 Private
Preston Edwin Argall

17th Battalion



0120802D

THE SALVATION ARMY
WITH THE
BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE,

ARMY POST OFFICE 3
B.E.F.

26th January 1918.

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
36 Grosvenor Place, S.W.

Sir,

5232 - Private P. F. Argall,
17th Battalion, A.I.F.,
Wounded & Missing 30/9/17.

Would you please institute enquiries with a view to ascertaining this man's present whereabouts?

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

O.C.
Salvation Army with B.E.F.

W.J. Haines, Esq,

C.C. Salvation Army with B.E.F.

A.P.O. 3, B.E.F.

13th May. 3

Re 525 PRESTON Edwin ARGALL, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing and [illegible] and is now reported Killed in Action on 26-10-17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) [illegible]

SECRETARY.

Col.W.J. Haines,O.C.,
Salvation Army with B.E.F.
A..O.S., B.E.F.

2nd May, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received through our Sydney Bureau a letter to the Mother of -

5298 Pte. P.E.ARGALL, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

from 4661 Pte. T.H. Back of A.Coy, 21st Bttn, A.I.F. He states that Pte. Argall was killed instantly and that he himself buried him on the battlefield marking the grave with a small cross. He also arranged to have his personal effects forwarded to the next of kin, to whom he has written - adding that Pte. Argall was respected and loved by all with whom he came in contact.

We are still making enquiries as although the above report is probably true it is strictly unofficial nd Pte. Argall is still only officially reported Missing.

We will at once advise you of any information we may obtain.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. F.G.

SECRETARY.

[redacted]

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 8858.

Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau
AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John.
54, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

To The Officer Commanding

Northampton W. Hpl

5th April, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our Australian Bureau to obtain a bulletin and ascertain the nature of the sickness or

wounds of 5292 Argall (Pte) 17th Batn A.I.F..

who was admitted to your hospital 23.2.17

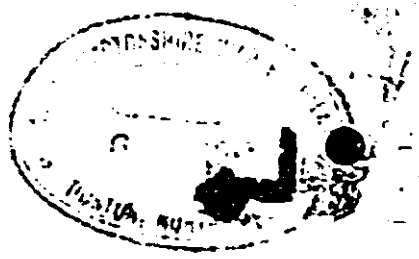
We should be most grateful for any particulars you can supply.

We regret having to trouble you in the matter, but are desirous of allaying the anxiety of the relatives so far distant in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

for The Secretary.

Ward 5.



Ref. reverse

Pte. Hall is suffering from septic ulcer of heel - almost healed. — on transfer list

[illegible]

~~Sister Hall~~

~~Please send down [illegible] board of this~~

~~[illegible]~~

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[redacted]

A.I.F. 17th Bn

ARGALL
5292

"ILL"

Discharged furlough and report Perham Downs 25-6-17 - 9-7-17
Cert. by Apl Index

London
11-7-17

A.I.F. 17th Btn

ARGALL
Preston Edwin 5292

"WOUNDED"

Missing and Wounded 20-9-17 - previously reported Wounded
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 1-11-17

London
2-11-17

S

[redacted]

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

Argall.
P.E. 5292

"Wounded & Missing 20.9.17"

Bullecourt out in the open about 50 yards from Fritz trenches. He was very badly wounded in side of head half his head appeared blown off. We were driven back beyond where he was and 2 hours after retook the ground when we gathered up the wounded we could not find him. I knew him in Australia well and a real good kid. He was about 19 years old.

Witness:- Cpl.Crothers 5526
D.P.Dickson. W.3[illegible] Harefield.

London.
15.1.18.

S.

AIF 17Btn.

To Mrs. A. Argall, ARGALL 7292. P France, 20/10/17.

My Dear Madam,-

I am very sorry to extend my most heartfelt sympathy in the very sad bereavement which you have suffered in the loss of your dear son, who was Killed in Action on or about the 20th of Septr I quite understand it was a severe and sad shock to you all. He has died a hero's death, which he is honoured and to be proud of for the great cause for which he died. I can assure you, Dear Madam, that he suffered nothing, because his death was instantaneous, so his sufferings were very little, and I took upon myself the sad duty to bury him, which I did the best I could, under the circumstances, on the battlefield, and placed a little cross to mark the spot of a faithful comrade, respected and loved by all whom he came in contact with in his own unit, and out of it; and Dear Madam, as regards his personal effects I have carefully arranged to have forwarded to you, and should you seek further information, I am only too willing to assist you as far as I am able, should you write to this address :- No.4661 Pte. W.H.Back, A.Coy., 21st Battalion, A.I.F., France, and I will be only too pleased to do what I can. I must apologize for not letting you know before, but I have since been wounded myself and was unable, and I must ask you to excuse me for taking the liberty of writing you, so wishing you and family the Compliments of the Season, I remain,

Obediently yours,

Pte. W.H.Back. One of his comrades.

COPY OF STATEMENT FROM ECHELON 1627/1/12

C O P Y

Statement made by No.4661 Pte [illegible] 21st Batn.

re No.[illegible] [illegible] 17th Batn.
Missing [illegible]

On the night of [illegible].17. I [illegible] a number of [illegible] at Sheet [illegible].4.6. and took from them their personal belongings. Amongst these were the paybooks and other personal belongings of No.[illegible]92 Private P.[illegible] Argall and [illegible] Private McGinley J.[illegible] both of the 17th Battalion A.I.F. I personally wrote to the next-of-kin in each case.

(SGD) [illegible] Back. 4661 Pte

Witness (SGD) A.[illegible] Reed. Major.
O.C. "A" Coy. 21st Bn AIF.

17th Battn., A.I.F. ARGALL, P.E Pte., No.5292.

W. A.-F. 20/9/17

Informant described Argall as about 5'5" high, slight build, fair complexion, aged about 20. Left Australia with Informant in the "Wiltshire" on 22/9/16, was with Informant in Liverpool Camp, and right up to the time he was wounded.

Informant states that they both belonged to "B" Co. On 29/9/17 the Battalion was attacking Bullecourt. At about 3 p.m. Informant saw Argall lying badly wounded just near the German lines. They had to retire, and Argall had to be left where he fell, so that it is possible that he was picked up by the Germans. He was unconscious.

Informant added that Argall was very popular with his mates, and always had a smile for everybody.

Informant - Act/Cpl. W.G.Carruthers, No.5326,
17th Battalion, "B" Co.,
Home Address - Aileen St.,
Killoughby.

A.I.C.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
Randwick.
2/4/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F. 17th Btn

ARGALL
Preston Edwin 5292

"Wded & Missing"

Killed in action 20-10-17 - previously reported Wded & Missing
Cert by A.I.F.Hqrs 8-5-18.

S & P.I.

London
10-5-18