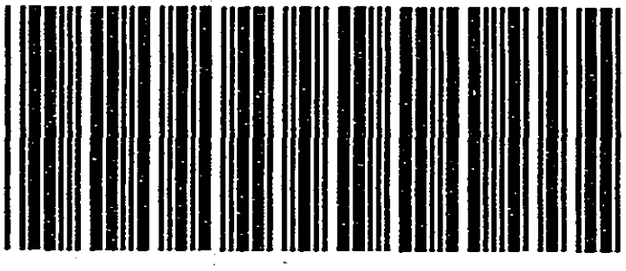
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

834 Private Charles Octavius Barclay

38th Battalion



0221006B

38th Battn:

Barclay, C.O. 834.

K. 18/6/18.

I was sitting at the door of his dugout in a railway cutting at the back of Villers Bretonneux when the enemy started shelling us. A shell came right through the top of the dugout. Charlie Barclay, (C. Company), died instantly from concussion - there were no marks found on his body - I was present when he was buried in a grave in an Australian cemetery near Villers Bretonneux and I saw the cross on it. Pte. Gee was badly wounded on the arm by the same shell and has been invalided to Australia, he left England on the 15/9/18. Charlie was always given scouting and other important jobs and we thought him one of the best in the Battn:. He certainly will be very much missed.

38th Battn:

Hogan, W.J.Sgt. 3401

A 5. Dartford. 24/9/18.

R.D.B.

M.

[redacted]

38th Battn:

Barclay, C.O. 834.

K. 18/6/18.

I saw Charlie Barclay (C. Company) killed outright while in a dugout in a railway cutting just behind Villers Bretonneux by a shell. He had some wounds on him but it is supposed that he died from concussion. I do not know where he was buried.

38th Battn:

Allen, J. Cpl. 802.

A 5. Dartford. 24/9/18.

R.D.B.

M.

38th
5th Battn.
A.I.F.

BARCLAY.
C.O. 834.

"Killed 18-6-18"

At Villers Bretonneux. We were cut of line in Reserves Shell hit the Dugcut in the roof and killed him. I saw him after he was killed but did not see his grave.

Infcrmant:- Murray.3339.
W.40.HAREFIELD.

London.
30-9-18.
H/G.

M.

Havre

4th Octr 1918.

Australians. 38.

Barclay C.O. No. 834.

K. 18th June 1918. Det D/B.

He was killed by a shell in a dugout at Villers Bretonneux railway cutting. It came right through the roof. I saw him just before he died, and helped to dig hi out. He was taken to the Battb R.A.P., and would be buried there. He was in the same platoon, and was a scout. He was an Englishman.

Inf:- Pte C.A.DeLoon No.3290.
A.I.F. 38. C. X.
Australian Base.

ORR.

PP.

38th. Battn. A. I. F. — Barclay, C. O. No. 834.

Killed. June 18th. 1918. Det. D/B.

I saw him killed instantly by concussion from a shell whilst we were in the Railway cutting in front of Villers Brettonneux. His body was carried out down to the dressing station and laid alongside. He was buried two days after in the cemetry alongside the dressing station. He was very popular in the company, and was just due for leave to Blighty to see his Brother who was off to Mesopotamia.

Description. Height. 5-7. Dark Complexion. Thin Features.

Witness. Pte. Collins, T. C. No. 3283. 38th. Battalion.

Taken at.
No. 4. C. D. Hurdcott.
14. 10. 18.

C. H. Brown,
No. 4. Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

BARCLAY.
C.O. 834.Pte.

"Killed in Action 18-6-18"

The 40 th Battalion was in the line and had the 38th lads in reserves. Barclay was in his dugcut when he was killed by a shell coming through the roof. This was on the cutting of the Amiens and Villers Bretonneux Railway line just outside Villers Bretonneux. He was buried in the outskirts in a Military Cemetery. A number of Australians were buried there. He was a chum of mine and I went round and saw him before he was buried and was present at the funeral. As far as I remember this was on June 18th. The ground was hell.

Eye-Witness:- Yes.
Description:- "Charlie" a small man, rather dark, age perhaps 30.

Home address:-
Batchicha.
Warrickabual.
Victoria. Australia.

Informant:- Gould.C W. 691 Pte.
38th Battn, A.I.F. C.H.Q.
(Accurate and Intelligent)

Jessie.E.Wilson.
London.
15-10-18.
J.E.A.

5th S.E.Hpl. Milton Section
PORTSMOUTH.

M.

A.I.F. 38th Battn.

BARCLAY
C.O. 834

"Killed 18/6/18."

I knew Barclay, he was killed in front of Amiens near Villers Bretonneux. I was a pioneer and it was my job to make the cross for his grave, which I did, but some else wrote Barclay's name on the cross. He was buried in a new Cemetry which was made near the village of Villers Bretonneux. Sgt. E. Brockhouse of our battalion Headquarters could give further information about Barclay.

Informant:- 2189 Pte. Arthur Henry Fox.
(Both accurate and intelligent)
38th Battalion,
Headquarters,
Queen Alexandra Hospital,
Cosham.

Home address:-
Ouyen,
Victoria.

Frank Heller.
11.10.18.
London
12.11.18.
E.G.

M.

A.I.F.38th Battn.

BARCLAY
C.O. 834

"Killed 18/6/18."

I saw Pte. Charlie Barclay (38.C.11) lying on a Stretcher after he had been killed instantaneously by a shell in June about mid-day, while in a dugout. He was buried the same day in a Cemetry on the right of the Railway line, as you go to Villers Bretonneux. I have seen his grave. There was a cross put up. The ground was held. He came from Mildura, Victoria - married, came over the Battalion.

Informant:- 1883 Pte. Andrew McDonald, (Very intelligent
38th Battn. and anxious to
C. Coy. 11. Platoon, help.)
3rd Southern General Hospital,
New College Gardens,
Oxford.

Home address:-
c/o T. Halligan,
Club Hotel,
Horsham, Victoria.

Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge.
London.
13.11.18.
H.G.

M.

[redacted]

38th Btn.

BARCLAY, C. O.
Pte. 834.

K. in act. 16/6/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 5 ins. slightly built, dark complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "Charlie". Casualty was in support lines at Villers Bretteneux, on the railway embankment. An H.E. shell exploded near Casualty killing him instantly. I was 50 yds. away at the time the shell exploded but I saw Casualty's body afterwards. The cause of death was concussion. He was buried at Villers Bretonneux, on the side of the railway embankment and I saw his grave. A cross was erected with his name, number and unit on it."

Informant:- Pte. B. Nelson,
No. 2963, 38th Btn.

Private address:-
Leongatha.

T.C.W.
7/2/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

38th Btn.

BARCLAY, C.O.
Pte. No. 834

Kld. in act. 18.6.18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, slightly built, fair complexion, about 30 years of age, known as "Charlie". Comes from England. He was an original man, embarked on the troopship "Runic". Casualty was sitting down in his dugout at Villers Betonneux. An H.E. shell exploded on the top of the dug out killing Casualty instantly. I was 10 yards away at the time the shell exploded, but I saw his body immediately afterwards. He was most severely wounded about the body and head. I saw his body again at the D.A.P. laying on a stretcher wrapped in a blanket. I do not know where he was buried."

Informant: Hogarty.
No. 1675

Private address
Almurta P.O.
South Gippsland.

T.C.F.
14.3.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.