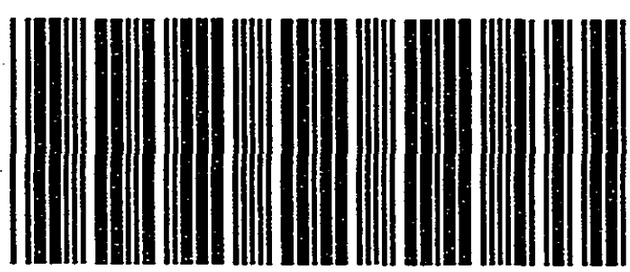
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

4742A Private
William James Barham

5th Pioneer Battalion



0230303B

A.I.F. 5th Pion: Btn(HQ)
late 15/7th Btn

Barham
Will James 4742

"X in A 10-8-17"

Killed in action 10-8-17
Cert by A.I.F.Hqrs 29-8-17

London
10-10-17

5th Pioneer Batt. A.I.F.

BARHAM W.J. 4742.
"D" Coy.
No 15 Platoon.

"K. May 10th.,'17. Det D & E".

~~xxxxxxxxx~~

" On May 10th.,'17 we were ~~billeted~~ in tents on the hill just behind Vaux, near Baupaume, when the Germans commenced shelling, and a shell exploded in the tent where Barham was, killing 16 out of the 17 men there at the time. They were all buried in the cemetery in the Church yard at Vaux, and Barham was amongst the number. I was present at the time. A Padre conducted the service, and crosses were erected later on.. Barham came from Victoria,"and we knew each other well, being in the same company and platoon".

Description. Hgt 5ft10. Medium complexion. Big build.

Witness. Kahill W.C. 1842.
"D" Coy.,

Taken at No 3 Command Depot,
Hurdcott.
September 3rd.,'17. J.G.W.

S. Whitmee.
No 4 Command Depot,
Codford.

5th Pioneer Battn
Dd Coy.
I.F.

Barham
W.J. 4742

"Killed 10.5.17."

I saw him killed at Vaux near Bullecourt. He was caught by a shell one evening when at tea, death was instataneous. I saw his grave at Vaux, and it was marked by a cross bearing his name and Unit. I knew him well, for on the enquiry list he appears as belonging to the 2nd Pinneers and it should be the 5th Pioneers. I was only a few feet away at thetime of casualty.

Witness:-
L/Cpl. J.H. Kay 2626
5th Pioneers Battn D. Coy.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Omann
London
20.9.17.

M

Havre 4th October.1917.

AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS
2nd Batt.

BARHAM, W.J. 4742

K. May 10th.1917. Det. D/B.

He was in D. Co., XV. Pltn. 5th AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS. I know him well. He was short and fond of boxing. We were having tea in a tent near Vaux on May 10th, about 5p.m. when the enemy put a shell right into the tent, and killed 7 men on the spot. He was one of the killed. 10 were wounded. I do not know where he was buried. I was in the next tent, but saw his body.

Informant: Pt. Panton, 2924
5th Australian Pioneers, D.Co.
Australian Camp, Bouclles.

GLT.

M