

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

2637 Corporal
Walter Charles
Edwards

17th Battalion



10002014

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

EDWARDS.
Cpl. W.C. 2637

"Killed in Action 12-5-18"

Merlancourt front. I saw him dead in the trench. There was no wound but black and blue by concussion. He was pitched from one side to the other and back broken. He was reading letter at the time. I knew him well - same company.

Informant:- Lorimer, 2165.
W40. HAREFIELD.

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

S

A. I. F. 17.

EDWARDS, Col. W. C. 2637.

E. May 12th, Det. D/B.

Edwards' No. was 2637. He was sniped at Morlancourt just at dusk on May 12th. I was further along the trench and out of sight at the time but I saw his body afterwards. He had a bullet through his head. He was buried just behind the parapet on the Bray-Corbie Road. He belonged to B.VIII, came over with about the 4th. reinf. and came from Balmine, Sydney. He held all this ground afterwards.

GB.

Informant:- Balmine, Sgt. 3454. B.V.
12 Gen. Hosp.

Rouen
9.10.18.

5.4

5

Havre.

11th. October. 1918.

17th. Australians.

Edwards, Corporal, W. C. 2637.

K. May. 12/1918. Dets. D/B.

He was killed by a bullet from a Sniper; he was shot in the head at Morlancourt on about May 12th. 1918. I saw his body after he had been killed. He was buried just outside Morlancourt. I have seen his Grave; it has a Cross on it. I knew him well; he was about 5 feet 5, slight, rather dark, about 25 years of age. He lived at Sydney. He used to sell fish at Manly Wharf, Sydney before the War.

Inf:- Private. J. W. Seward. 5896.
17th. Australians. B.
No. 74. General Hospital.

\$1

HJG.

J. W.

CP.

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

EDWARDS.
W.C. 2637.Cpl.

"Killed in Action 12-5-18"

I knew Cpl Edwards. On the 12th May 1918 he was killed at Morlancourt by a shell when in the trenches. His death was instantaneous. I did not see him killed but was close to. I saw him buried just behind the front trench at Morlancourt.

Eye-Witness:-

Description:-

Home address:-
43 Marmion Street.
Camperdown
N.S.Wales.

Informant:- Williams. 722.Sgt.
(Intelligent)

17th Battn. A.I.F.
2/1st S.G.H.
Dudley Road.
BIRMINGHAM.

T.J. Currie.
London.
15-10-18.
J.E.A.

S.

Hayre.

16th. October. 1918.

17th. Australians.

Edwards, Corporal, W. C. 2637.

K. May. 12/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Corporal Edwards, B. 8. he came from Sydney, about 35, short, thick set, dark, clean-shaven; married. I saw him killed instantly by a dud shell when in his dug out in front of Morlancourt in May 1918. I saw his Grave which is at the back of our front line trench and there was a temporary Cross put on it. I could point out the spot.

Inf:- L/Corporal. A. Duncan. 4407.
17th. Australians. B. 5.
Australian Camp.
Rouel les.

RDM.

CP.

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

EDWARDS
W.C.Cpl. 2637

"KILLED 12-5-18"

I, Ernest Williams, knew Cpl. Walter C. Edwards very well indeed, as he was my chum, and in "B" Coy., but 8th platoon.

I was a Stretcher Bearer, and the Battalion were just holding the line at Morlancourt, near Albert, there being no actual engagement at the time. However, a 9.2 shell came over, which burst about 7 yards away from Corporal Edwards, the concussion therefrom killing him. His mates immediately called out for bearers, and I was one of the Stretcher Bearers to answer. We carried him back to the support line about 250 yards to the rear and he was buried the following night in the Cemetery at Bonnay. His grave, which I have seen, is marked with a Cross, with his name on. The ground was held. Death was instantaneous. There was another man of same surname in Coy. but different platoon (6). He was a L/Cpl.

Eye-Witness:- Yes

Description:- Short, medium build, and dark. A very lively little fellow.
Home Address:- Ulmarra.

Clarence River. Informant - Williams. Pte. E. 6912
N.S.W. (very satisfactory)

M.E. Ikin
8-10-18
London
29-10-18
J.E.A.

17th Battn. B. Coy. 5th Pltn.
1st Southern Gen. Hosp.
Stirchley, Sec.
BIRMINGHAM

S

17th Battn., C. Coy.,
A.I.F.

EDWARDS,
W.C., Cpl. 2637

"Killed in action - 12-5-18."

"This man is buried in a gully, a big grave with the bodies of 10 men in it. It is on the right of Morlancourt, and lies under a small embankment. I helped to bury him. The grave is registered with our Headquarters and a map made of the spot. Sgt. Jack Rees, who is in France now, Pioneer 17th Battn., made the crosses.

Informant:- McKay Magnus, J. 781 Sgt.,
(Reliable),
17th Battn., C. Coy., A.I.F.
Bath War Hospital.

John E. George,
London,
12-11-18.
H.G.

S.

17th Battalion.

EDWARDS, W.C.
Corporal No.2637.

"Killed 12.5.18".

We were holding the line near Albert in front of a little town called Heilly (?). The Germans were shelling us and a shell fell right in the trench, Edwards was killed by the concussion, and there was not a mark on him. We buried him outside the trench where he fell.

Informant:- No.5435, D.Williams,
17th Battalion.

J.V.M.
No.4, Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

24. 9. 18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

EDWARDS.
W.O. 2637.Cpl.

Killed in Action 12-5-18"

I was not an eye-witness, but was not far from Edwards at the time of the occurrence. We were in the front line ~~of~~ ^{in front of} Merlancourt. In the afternoon of May 12th when the enemy were shelling heavily, Edwards was struck by a piece of shell and killed instantly. Three or four more in the company were killed at the same time. The Company stretcher bearers buried the bodies that night just behind the line. I heard that the Battn had erected a cross to mark the place of Edwards' grave. The ground was held at the time.

Eye-Witness:- No.

Description:- Of medium build and height, rather stout figure, dark hair.

Home address:-

14 Manchester Street. Informant:- Edwards, Alfred. 381².Cpl.

Auburn, N.S. Wales. (the inf: made this statement without hesitating, and in an intelligent

Elizabeth M. Stokes.

London.

8-10-18.

manner 17th Battn. A.I.F. B.5.

Section 5. WAR HOSPITAL. EXETER.

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