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

5438 Private
Edward Bell

18th Battalion



0320802F

Bell D43594 Gen Corres - 5438 ✓

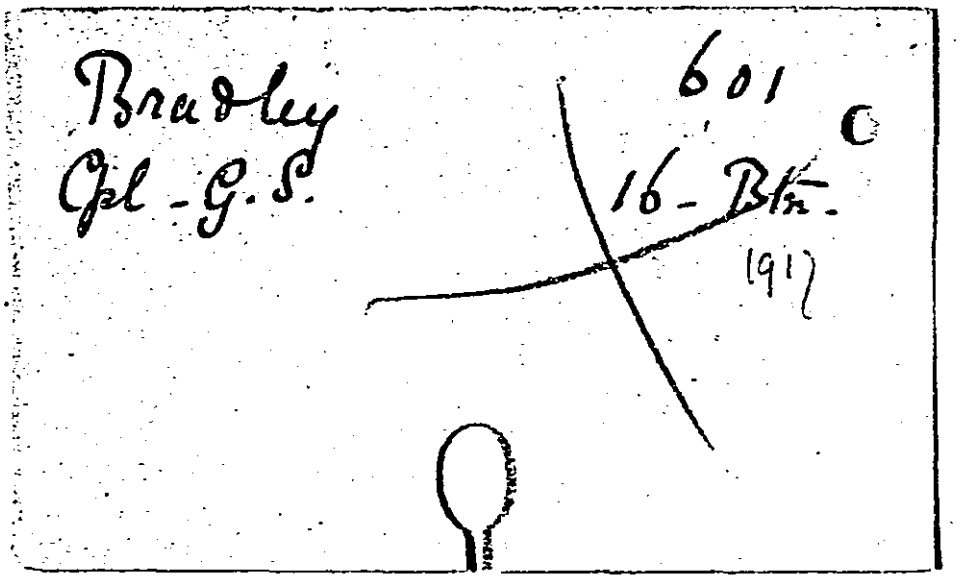
Pte Edward. 18 Bln ✓

D/w. 15.4.18. at 55th Fld Amb. S.N. off arm Amputn

Where? Burial? Name?

Buried by Revd L.H. Bailey - attd 18th Div. H.Q. at St. Pierre Nr. Amiens

Amiens. D.G.R.E.
L.S.S. 146 R.
H.Q S.G. 16
D.S. 4.9.18


Bradley
Cpl - G. S.
601
16 - Btn.
1917
C

18th BATTALION, A.I.F. BELL E. PRIVATE No.5438

"Died of Wounds 15.4.18"

Informant described Bell as about 5 feet 3 inches high, slight build, dark complexion, aged about 19. His mother lives at Mascot.

Informant states that they both belonged to "B" Company but were attached to Headquarters as runners. On 15.4.18 the Battalion was at Hangard Wood in action attacking the Germans. At about 4 or 5 a.m. Bell was helping Informant and two others to carry out Lieutenant H.H. Thompson who had been wounded when a shell dropped near them wounding the Lieutenant again also wounding Bell and Informant. He came down after Informant to the ambulance and Informant heard Bell asking where he (Informant) was but Informant had no opportunity of speaking to him. Informant hear that Bell's arm was amputated and that he died at Amiens shortly afterwards and was buried there.

According to Informant Bell was very well liked by his mates.

INFORMANT ; Private B. Connelly, No.6
"B" Company, 18th Battalion

Home address "Staffordshire," Campsie Street, CAMPSIE

W.E.G.
21 Australian Auxiliary Hospital,
. GEORGE'S HEIGHTS
26.9.18

SYDNEY BUREAU

O.C's Draft 3-9-18

Memo.

5th Field Ambulance.

RE 2

5438. Pte E. Bell. 18th Bn A.I.F.

... died of wds 15-4-18.

Havre 30th Aug st 1916.

Australians. 22. Curnick L.V. No. 5937.

E. 19th May 1916. Bot D/B.

He was medium build, very dark. He was killed at Villers Serang in an attack, by a shell. I buried him in the open about 700 yards in front of Morricourt Wood, and about the same distance on the right of Villers-Serang. The grave is marked with a cross.

Inf:- Pte G.W.Tilly No. 4560.
A.I.F. 22. H.Q.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

CEBG.

PP.

To

Cpl J. Crow
18th Batt. A.I.F.
C.T. B Warminster

C Amt

5438 Pte E. Bell
18th Batt
A.I.F.

D/W Apl 15/18

Written 12.9.18
M.R.S

Any Nickname? no *Christian Name?* Jim

Any Tattoo Marks? no *Scars?* no

When last seen, and where? Billy le Sec *Date* 26th Mar 1916

Was it light or dark at the time? light

If killed, was body buried, and where? not buried

Engagement or Circumstance? in Store *Place?* Billy le Sec

Was the ground held or not? no man's land

Were you an eye-witness? no

If not, who told you, and when? Lieut R. Williams M.C. R.W.F., 2.Co 41st M.I.F.
Give man's No. and Rank, if possible

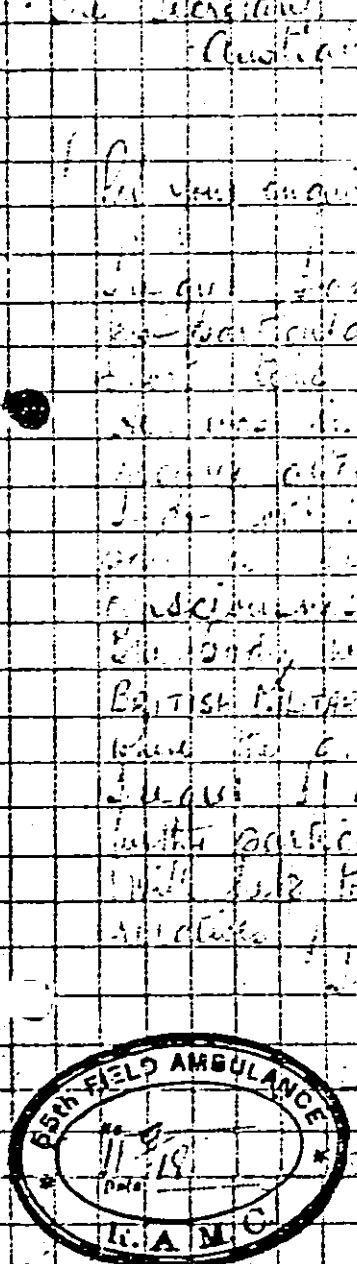
Any other man of same name in Battln.? no

Searcher's opinion of Informant untrustworthy

Searcher's Name T. F. Wrigley

Dated 26th Mar 1916 PB

5438



5438
Edward Bell
18 Batt
Died 15-4-18
S
2

Col Pet 18th Bn

No 9 Sqt Mers.
No 1 Command.
Written Very plainly
With 13/9/18

Dear Miss Jeakin.

With reference to 5438 Pte. Bell. E.
J. B. Coy. 18th Battalion. of whom you enquire.
I know he died of wounds received in an operation
we carried out on the Hollis Buttoneaux Sector.
He died in a Clearing Station just outside of
Amiens. And was buried in a Military Cemetery.
I took a Cross down to the Clearing Station
and gave it to a Military Chaplain. who promised
to have it erected over Pte Bells Grave.
The Grave is registered. Because when I asked if
he was buried there. They looked up the Books and
his Grave was registered. He was of dark Complexion.
with dark wavey Hair. very pleasent features. He was
greatly esteemed by all in his Battalion.
I forget the name of the Clearing Station. but
it is on the main Amiens Albert Road. about
three Miles from Amiens.
Trusting this information is all you require.
I remain Yours &c 23rd Jr Crown Sgt
18 Battalion

18th A.I.F. Bell. Pte. E. 5428.

(D/A. Ap. 15/18)
Dets. D/B.

" I was near Bell when he was hit. He died of wounds at C.C.S. just outside of Amiens. He was buried and a cross erected quite near."

Eyewitness:Yes.

Description: Called "Ding-dong" Runner in B Coy. Short, cheery little man, came from Roselle in Sydney.

Informant: Pte. H.J. Parker. 1403.
18th A.I.F. B Coy. VII Pl.
1st London General Hospital,
Camberwell.

Home address:
14 Bally St,
Neutral Bay , City, N.S.W.

25.8.18.
A.F.H.BALDWIN.

18th Battn.
A.I.F.

BELL
Edward 5438

Died of Woun ds 15-4-18 at 55th Fld.Amb. - S.W. left arm amputated - Buried by Rev.L.H.Bailey, att. to 18th Div.Hqts. at St.Pierre Military Cemetery, Amiens. (D.G.R.E. L.S. 5.1462).

Cert. by N.C. Searcher at A.I.F.Hqts. 5-9-18

London
10-9-18
J.E.A.

S.

18th Battn. B.Coy.
A.I.F.

BELL
Pte. E. 5438

"Died of Wounds 15-4-18"

I helped to carry Bell to the dressing station. He was sent down to the C.C.S. outside Amiens, but died of his wounds. Cpl.J.Crow, 18th Battn. at present at one of the C.T.Battn. Camps at Warminster, Salisbury, could give full particulars of E.Bell.

Eye-witness:
Description: Small youngster, very cheerful, nicknamed "Ding Dong".

Informant. Kidd. Pte.H.F. 583
18th Battn. Hqts. B.Coy.,
Horton War Hpl.,
EPSOM.

E.A.Braidwood
27-8-18
London
14-9-18
S.A.

Note:- Written Cpl.Crow 12-9-18

S.

18th
~~19th~~ Battn.
A.I.F.

Bell.
Edward. 5438.

"Died of Wounds 15-4-18".

Re 5438 Pte Edward Bell. of B.Coy. 18th Battalion, of whom you enquire. I know he died of wounds received in an operation we carried out on the Villers Bretonneux sector. He died in a clearing station out side of Amiens, and was buried in a Military Hemetery. I took a Cross down to the clearing station and gave it to a Military Chaplin, who promised to have it erected over Pte Bell's grave. The grave is registered, because when I asked if he was buried there, they looked up the Books & his grave was registered. He was of dark complexion, with dark wavey hair, very pleasent features, he was greatly esteemed by all in his Battalion. I forget the name of the Clearing Station, but it is on the main Amiens Albert Rd about 3 miles from Amiens.

Letter from;- 2354 J.Crowe Sgt.
18th Battn, A.I.F.
Vi I.C.D.
Sutton Veny. Wilts.
13/9/18.

S

London
23/I/18
J.E.A.

[redacted]

18th Battn.
A.I.E.

BELL.
Edward. 5438.

"Died of Wounds 15&4-18"

Re the above named soldier. I regret I am unable to furnish but few particulars as he lived but a short time after arrival. He was in a low state and did not recover after his arm was amputated I do not think he suffered much pain as the shock stunned his consciousness. The body was buried in St Pierre British Military Cemetery near Amiens where the graves are well cared for. I regret I am unable to furnish further particulars so trust this will help to console the bereaved relatives.

Letter from:- O.C.
55th Fld Amb.
A.I.F.FRANCE. 11-9-18.

London.
24-9-18.
J.E.A.

S.

8th Battn.
A.I.F.

BELL.
E. 5438.

"Died of Wounds 15.4.18."

E Bell was in B. Company. I saw a Cross at H.Q. painted with his name ready ~~to go to his~~ grave ~~in~~ near Bouesnear the Somme. He came from N. S.Wales.
Eye-Witness. Yes of cross.
Description:- Short, dark, 18.
Informant:- J. H. Kent 4001
18th Battn. C Co. 9th Plat.
Netley Red Cross.

G.R.B.
London.
24.9.18.
J.E.A.

S

[redacted]

18th Battn.
A.I.F

BELL
E. 5438.

"Died of Wounds 15.4.18."

Bell was in B Company and was wounded in arm and leg by bullet wounds, in a raid by us at Villers- Bretonneux. I saw him being taken out after he was wounded. The report came back that he had died at Casualty Clearing Station more from exposure than wounds. He is buried in a military cemetery near the outskirts ofAmiens. I have not seen his grave and cannot say if a cross was erected.

Informant:- Groncmen, J.H. 542.
18th Batn. B Coy.
Hut 11
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand.
London.
27.9.18.
S.A.

S

18th Battn.
A.I.F.

BELL
E. 5438

"Died of Wounds 15-4-18"

He was of B.Coy. Was runner, only young boy 18/19 years. He used to come with us when out of the line. At Hangard Wood about 15th April at 8-30 in morning, I saw him being carried out in front of me to the dressing station. I heard he was taken to C.C.S. at Amiens, where we heard he died. I believe he was hit in arm, it was a very cold day, and that may have affected him. We have written his people all particulars we know. Christian name, Eddie, came from N.S.W.

Informant. Beattie. Pte.E. 2859
18th Battn. B.Coy., S/B
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.
London
27-7-18
J.E.A.

S.

Havre 5th August 1918.

A.I.F. 18. Bell E. No. 5438.

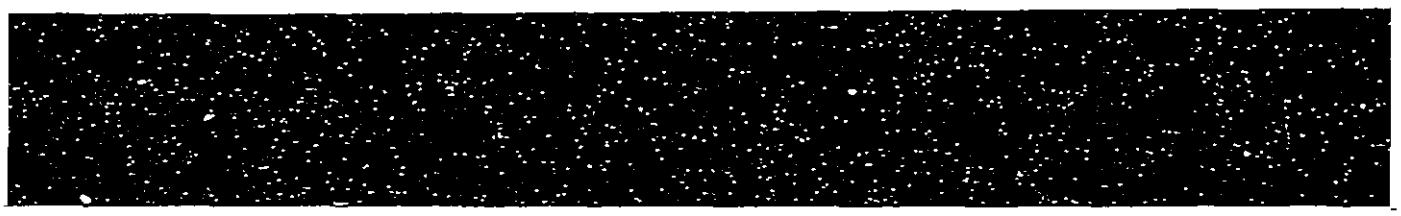
D/W 15th April 1918. Det D/B.

He was in B.Coy. from H.S.Wales, single. He was killed by a M.G. Bullet in between our lines at Hangard Wood being hit in the legs and chest, and was buried in a cemetery near Amiens.

Inf:- Pte G. Hoskin B. 2871.
A.I.F. 18. B.
H.S. 'Carrisbrooke Castle'.

RBS.

2P.



18th B'n. A.I.F. Bell, Pte. E. 5438,

D/W April 15/18. Det D/B.

Bell was our Coy. runner. He had taken a message on April 15th about 3 a.m., and was wounded by machine gun fire on the spot where he delivered it. He died at the dressing station the same day and was buried near Amiens. I was there when he was wounded. It was in the Hangard "stunt" in front of Gentilles.

Eye-witness:- Yes.

Description:- Short, fair, called "Ding-dong".

Informant:- Pte. A. Hoskin, 2871,
18th B'n. B.Coy,
A.I.F.
Bermondsey Military Hospital.

Home address:- Cootermundra,
New South Wales,
Australia.

12.8.18.
H.I. Prior.