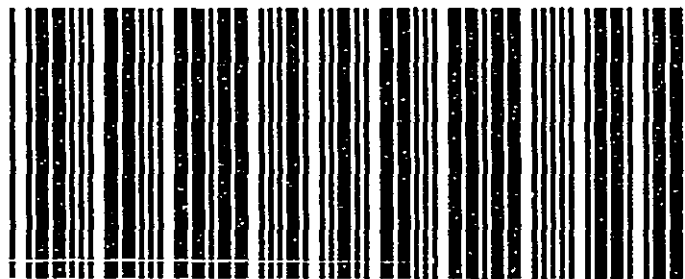


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2897 Private
William Robert Richard
John Airey

12th Battalion



00310037

12th Australian Imp. Force
B.Co.

Airey, W.R. 2897,
3 Company.

(H. Aug. 19/22, 1916).

A shell burst and blew Airey practically to pieces
at 10.10 a.m. in the middle of August. I was about 15 yards
away from him.

Informant :- W. R. Lindsay, 3316,
Aus. I. Force B Co.,
Road 4, Bath War Hospital.

Home address :-
c/o Bath War Hospital.

3/2/17.
John George.

12th Battn. B.C.
A. I. F.

Airey.
Wm.R. 2897.

"Missing 19-22.8.16."

Cpl. Chivers 12th Battn. Lark Hill Camp - told me that Airley had been blown to pieces. He stated that he saw him hit by shell. He could give further details.

Witness:-

J. Allen. 3002.
12th Battn.
Dartford.

W. G. J.

London.
12.6.17.

Note Written Cpl. Chivers 12.6.17.

H.

A.I.B. 10th Bn B Coy.

W.R. 11111
8697

(10m. R.)

"MISSING"

Killed in action 19-22-8-16 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I. 11111 5-7-17.

E. 11111
17-8-17

France.

A.I.F. 12. G.C.

AIREY. War. 2897.

M. Aug. 19-22nd. 1916.

Mouquet Farm.

Airey came from Lancaster and I knew him well.
He went over with me that day. We took our objective.
Airey had only gone about 20 yards when he was knocked out
by a shell. A L/C. whose name I have forgotten also saw
this. I was acting as runner. At the time the shelling
was too heavy to allow of our men being brought in and
buried.

Infy G.A. Green. 3936.

25, Gen. Hosp.

Hardelet.

BOU'OM. 25.1.17.

A.P.M.

H

France.

A. I. F. 12. B.C.

AIREY, WmR. 2897.
Sweeney, H.D. 3344.

M/August 19-22nd. 1916.

Sgt. J. Dawson of same Coy, and platoon B.VII,
told us that in the attack at Mouquet Farm these
two boys were blown to pieces by shell.

Reference: Groen, H.B. Sgt. 3904, B.VIII.
No. 1 A.D.B.D.

Staples.
29.12.16.
FJZ.

Written Sp Dawson 11.1.17

12th Australian Imperial Force
B.C.

Airey WmR. 2897,

(X. 19/22 Aug. 1916)

Informant states that he was told by Pte. Davies at present
serving in France with the 51st A.I.F. that he saw Pte. Airey killed.
No further details.

Informant: J. Miller 3320,
12th A.I.F.,
Boscombe.

Jan. 11th 1917,
J. Burnt.

Written J. Miller 11.1.17

12th Batin. B.C.
A. I. P.

Airey.
Wm.R. 2897.

"Missing 19-22.8.16."

Pte. Airey was in my section until we entered Mouquet Farm August 1916. I was then put in charge of a bombing Platoon and he was told off to fill vacancy (as I was one man short) just before we went over the top. The last that I saw of him was climbing over the top with a bag of bombs, as we were going into the ~~popapet~~ attack. He was a big fellow standing about 5'9" to 5'10" and of dark complexion, his hair when long was inclined to be curly and dark colour. He was a great pal of mine and on coming out of this stunt I made enquiries to see what had become of him, but not a man knew anything about him. This is all the information I can give you about Pte. Airey.

Letter from:-

Cpl. R. Chivers 425.

D. Coy. 3rd T.B.

Durrington Camp,

Salisbury Plain. 16.6.17.

London.

6.7.17.

H.

12th A. I. F.

(B. 2.)

Airey, Wm. R. 2397.
Johns, C. H. 2037.
B Coy.
(M. 19-22/16.)

Informant states that in August 1916 at Pozieres we left Airey and Johns wounded very badly. It seemed they would be sure to die.

Reference:-- Alfred H. Douglas 1513,
12th A. I. F.
R.M. Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital
Southend-on-Sea.

Home address:-- c/o Mrs. D. Richy,
Geaveston,
Below,
Tasmania.

Oct: 28th
Cutler.

TELEPHONE City 639

CABLES: AUSTYMCA.LONDON
TELEGRAMS: AUSTYMCA.STRAND.LONDON

**THE AUSTRALIAN
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**
WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ADMINISTRATION ABROAD
W. E. SARGOOD,
HON. EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER.
R. O. CLACK,
SUPERVISING SECRETARY.



HEADQUARTERS.
NO. AUSTRALIA HOUSE, STRAND.

LONDON, 28th April 1917
W.C.

*Received
Miss Deakin
inquiry
S.W. (1)*

Miss Deakin,
Australian Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
S. W. (1)

Dear Madam,

We have received a letter from Mrs.
^{Airy}R. Airy, 34, Wellington Street, Launceston, Tasmania,
enquiring about her son No. 2897, W. R. ^{Airy}Airy, B.Co.
12th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade. She states
that he has been missing since between 19th and 22nd
October, and is fairly dying for some information about
him. Would you please let us know what you have
collected in this connection?

Yours faithfully,
AUSTRALIAN Y.M.C.A.

Walter Finch

Office Secretary.

WF/G

A.C.K.S. 17
m. 2. 6.
22. 6.

D. Coey 3rd T.B.

Durrington Camp.

Salisbury Plains.

June 16th 1917

To Secretary,
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau;

Dear Miss Deakin; -

Yours of 12th inst reached me this evening asking for information of 2894 Pte W. R. Airey 15th Battln.

Pte Airey was in my section until we entered Mouquet Farm August 1916.

I was then put in charge of a bombing

Platoon & he was told of to fill vacancy (as I was one man short) just before we went over the top.

The last that I saw of him was climbing over the top with a bag of bombs, as we were going into the attack.

He was a big fellow standing about 5ft 9 to 5ft 10 in. & of dark complexion, his hair when long was inclined to be curly & dark colour.

He was a great Pal of mine & on coming out of this Stunt I made enquiries to see

2.

what had become of him, but not a man knew anything about him.

This is all the information I can give you about Pte Airey.

If there are any other members of 12th Btt who are missing & you can not gain information I will be only too pleased to help.

I remain

yours faithfully

425 Cpl R Chivers.

2874
2879

W. R. AIREY

12 BATT AIF

M/19/22. 4.10

3

26th June 1917.

25. Cpl. R. Chivers,
Training Batt, A.I.F.
Durrington Camp,
Salisbury Plain,

Dear Cpl Chivers,

Many thanks for your letter of June 16th, in reply
to our inquiries concerning:-

2897. Pte. ^{W.}H.R. Airey, 12th Batt, A.I.F.

The Details you have sent, will be of much assistance to us and of
great value to our enquirers. We also wish to thank you for your
kind offer of assistance should we need information about other men,
of your Unit and will be very pleased to avail ourselves of this
should the occasion arrive.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in your anxiety
for your friend,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,

V.D.
Jh