

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

1657 Private
Walter Goodwill

49th Battalion



11809050

France.

A. I. P. 49.

GOODWILL, W. 1657.

M/September 3rd. 1916.

A man belonging to the 49th. Batt. whose name I do not know, told me he picked his paybook up at Moquet Farm on Sept. 3rd. out in No Man's Land. The body alongside which it lay had been blown to pieces. The man in question picked it up, looked at the name, and then left it. It must have been Goodwill's body that had been blown to pieces there ~~was~~ where the book was found. Goodwill belonged to A. Coy. I knew him quite well.

Reference: Pts. A. Kelly, 1682. A. Coy.

No. 4 A.D.B.D.,

Staples. 24.10.16.

SA.

OK M

49th Australian Imperial Force.

Goodwill, W. 1657.

(M. Sept. 3rd 1916.)

Informant states that: On Sept. 5th 1916, at Mouquet Farm, we made an attack at 6 a.m. it was successful, but we had a hard time. The Germans bombarded us heavily, any of our wounded left out must have been killed, it was too hot for the stretcher bearers to go out to the wounded, but as soon as possible they made a complete search of the ground, but found all killed. In many places the bombardment had been so heavy they were blown to pieces and buried in. It was not possible for Goodwill to have been taken prisoner.

Reference: Lieut. J.M. Divine,
49th Australian Imperial Force,
1 Moreton Gardens Hospital,
S.W.

Home address: c/o The Cemetary Lodge,
Nov. 21st 1916. Looxcoomba,
H. Burford. Oland,
Australia.

49th Australian I. Force.

Goodwill, W. 1657.

(M. Sept. 3/16).

Informant states that " Goodwill was a reserve machine gunner. About September 2nd at Mouquet Farm, he was hit by an explosive shell and killed on the spot. I was near him when this happened, but did not actually see him killed. I know him well, as we had come over together. "

Eye Witness No.

Reference :- Pte. F. Marchant, 1694,
2/49 Australian I.F
Bath War Hospital,
(Ward 7).

Home address,
Bath War Hospital.

7/12/16.

John E. George.

49th Batt.
A.Co.,
A.I.F.,

GOODWILL,
Pte W 1657

"Missing Sept. 3/16"

Refer to Cpl Forbes and L/C Siddle both of A.Co. 49th and serving with the unit now. They can give all information.

Reference:- Pte W Morgan 1705b
49th Batt. M.G.S. A.I.F.,
Southall Hospital.
19.3.17.

Note: Written Cpl Forbes 22.3.17.
" L/Cpl Siddle "

London
23.3.17.
F.C.

Off.H.
P.I.

49th Batt.
A.I.F.,

GOODWILL
Walter 1657

"Kissing 3.9.16"

Concerning the Death of Pte Goodwill Reg. No 1657 49th Batt.
W. Goodwill joined the Batt. Montselat and went into action at
Mouquet Farm. He was with a fatigue party carrying rations when
the poor chap was blown up with an high explosive shell. The
description of Pte Goodwill was a stout built man, about 5ft 4ins
in height. Age about 33 yrs. complexion dark.

Cert. by letter from Cpl A.E. Forbes,
49th Batt. A.I.F.,
B.E.F.
10.4.17.

London
5.5.17.

Off.M.
P I.

49th A.I.F.

Goodwill, Pte.W. 1657

(M. Sept. 3/16)

"I saw the body of Goodwill at Mouquet Farm the day after the attack on Sept. 5/16. His body was much disfigured and I should think death was instantaneous. I came over from Australia with him on April 19/16".

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: About 5ft.7. middle aged dark, clean shaven, nicknamed Watty.

Informant:- Pte. Patrick Stack, 1730
49th A.I.F. C.Co. 1X Pl.
1st London General Hospital, Camberwell.

Home address:

Sandgate Central
Brisbane, Queensland.

Mag. 12
H. Caldwell

P.I.
off d/c
1

49th Battn.

A. I. F.

W.

Goodwill.

1657.

"Missing 3.10.16."

Our Battn. was attacking at Mouquet Farm on Sept. 3rd 1916. I was near this man when we were going over the top. I saw a shell land quite close to him, which killed him instantly - blowing him to pieces. This ground was held. In this case no burial was possible. He came from Australia (Queensland I think) with 2nd Reinfs. of 49th Battn. per Troopship "Hawkes Bay" to Egypt and per troopship "Franconia" to France. He was short, medium build, dark, 30 to 35 years. Had been a carpenter in some South Pacific Island.

Witness:-

W. Ball 1623.

a Coy. 49th Battn.

Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.

25.5.17.

Off.M.

P.I.

49th Batt,
C.I.F.

Goodwell
Walter, 1657

"Killed in Action"

Killed in Action 3.9.16 - Previously reported missing believed killed
Cert, by A.I.F. Headquarters 10.8.17

London 13.8.17

Off M & P.I.

49th Batt.
S.I.C.

Goodwill
Walter, 1857

"Killed in Action"

Killed in Action 3.9.16 - Previously reported missing believed killed
Cert, by A.I.P. Headquarters 10.8.17

*Written to P.I.
forwarding this
information
14.8.17*

London 13.8.17

Off H & P.I.

RECEIVED
22 FEB 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Answered
24-2-17
8 Whitechapel Aisle Street
St. Bonaventures House.

Dear Sir.

20 Feb 1917

Referring to your paragraph in the "Daily Sketch"
of today's date re inquiries for missing soldiers
I shall be very pleased if you can gain any
information regarding my brother in law.

1654 Private Goodwill (Walter) 49th Battalion
Australian Imperial Forces.

the battalion went to France near the end of July of last
year. I was more officially informed that he has been
missing since Sept 3rd

Thanking you in anticipation.

I remain

Yours respectfully
Alfred Clarke

The Wounded & Missing Inquiry Dept

London.

1 Whitehall
Arlene St

Boulevard

House

Aug. 17/17

Dear Madam.

I am in receipt of your
letter of the 15th inst referring
to the Consolidated of the A. S. F.
We have received Office
information from the W. O.

of the sad news.

Please accept my thanks

for your kind inquiries

prompt attention

Our letters have certainly
made the heavy blow
much lighter.

A. R. X. S.

I remain

Yours faithfully
A. R. X. S.

8 Whitdale

Quaker Street

Cancelled ~~at~~ Bonewood
Box 1919 Honolulu

Dear Lady.

I thank you for letter
of the 1st inst.

I'm afraid we shall
not hear any more of Private W
Goodree No. 1657. 49th Regt. A. I. F.

If any news should be heard.

I shall be pleased if you

Red Cross Enquiry Bureau will

forward direct to "Mr Dobell of

Suva. Fiji Islands" as we

are in constant communication

& he will send any information

you may have.

Again thanking you for your

past attention. I remain

Yours faithfully
Edw Cooke

Final draft. 1-10-19.

Alfred Cooke Esq.

8 Whitehall Circle Street.

in Boulevard.

Hull.

C

1657 Goodwill. W. 49" Bu

The Australian Red Cross Society

(B.R.C.S.)

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

WOUNDED AND MISSING ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Enquiry No. 7239

Date June 18 1918

Regimental Details of
Soldier enquired about.

No 3078 A
Pte Tom Butler
5th Pioneer.

Details of Casualty.

Information wanted.

Information obtained.

Wounded last time when
not missing since
other details

~~15.8.17.~~
15.8.17.

Alfred Cooke, Esq.,
8 Whitdale Airlie St. N. Boulevard. Hull. re
1657 Pte. Walter Goodwill. 49th. Btn. A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have now received from H.Q. the official information that Pte. W. Goodwill was "killed in Action 3.9.16. previously reported Missing believed killed."

This bears out the unofficial information that we have already sent you and our enquiries concerning Pte. Goodwill are now closed.

If any further news should come to hand, however, we shall let you know.

Yours faithfully,

✓ D
Secretary.
(K E M)

26th Feby.,

/7

Mr. Alfred Cooke,
8 Whitelake Airlie Street,
H Boulevard,
Hall.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your letter of inquiry for No. 1657 Pte Walter Goodwill, 49th Batt. A.I.F. and regret to state that we have only sad news to give you. Pte Goodwill is officially reported "Missing 3-9-16" and we have to hand several unofficial reports from his comrades. Evidence of this kind we can only quote, but we cannot in any way vouch for its accuracy.

No. 1682 Pte A Kelly, A. Coy. 49th Bn. C. gave evidence that a man belonging to the battalion had picked up a paybook at Mouquet Farm on Sept. 3rd out in No Man's Land. There was a dead body alongside the paybook which they believed to be Goodwill's. He adds that Goodwill belonged to A. Coy and that he knew him quite well.

Lieut. W.M. Divine, 49th Batt. A.I.F., who was at 1 Moreton Gardens Hospital, S.W. on Nov. 21st 1916 reported "On

-2-

Sept. 5th 1916 at Mouquet Farm we made an attack at 6 a.m. It was successful but we had a hard time. The Germans bombarded us heavily, and any of our wounded left out must have been killed. It was too hot for any of our stretcher-bearers to go out, but as soon as possible they made a complete search of the ground but found all killed. In many places the bombardment had been so heavy they were blown to pieces and buried in. It was not possible for Goodwill to have been taken prisoner"

No 1694 Ete F Marchant, 49th Batt. Ward 7 Bath War Hospital, on 7.12.16 stated:- "Goodwill was a reserve machine gunner. About Sept. 2nd at Mouquet Farm he was hit by an explosive shell and killed on the spot. I was near him when this happened, but did not actually see him killed. I knew him well as we had come over together."

We are very sorry to have to forward such distressing news but only trust that it may be some comfort to his people to know that he was evidently killed instantly. Should any further news come to hand we shall immediately advise you.

May we express our very sincere sympathy in their sorrow.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary. 211 for A.C.

FEB 28 1917

8 Whitelake

Surbiton

N. Bourne

Hull

Dear Miss Deakin

I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th inst.
I note the sad contents. It is very what I expected.
Thanks very much for your kind & immediate
attention also your sympathy. It is a precious loss
to us all. We must now wait for official
information before any legal proceedings can be
taken as to the effects.

I remain

Sincerely

Alfred Cooke

Goodwill Plt Walter 1657. 49 Bath

May 8th

Alfred Cook Esq.
8 Whitedale

~~Alfred Cook Esq.~~
H. Boulevard Hall

Dear Sir,

We beg to advise you ^{of} the receipt of a further unofficial report about your brother in law No. 1657 Pte. Walter Goodwill 19th Btn. A.I.F. which confirms our worst fears as to his fate.

Informant, Cpl. A.E. Forbes writing from France says that Pte . Goodwill was killed instantaneously by a high explosive shell while carrying rations on fatigue duty at Monquet Farm.

He describes the soldier as 5 ft. 4 in. in height, of stout build and dark complexion and about 35 years of age.

Assuring you that every effort is being made to obtain further particulars,

Yours faithfully

Secretary.

10/4/17. Ack.
FM.

49th Batt.

Dear Sir,

All for lines in answer to your
enquiry concerning the Death of Pte Goodwill
Reg No 1657. 49th Batt, W. Goodwill joined the
Batt at Montpelier and went into action at
Thouquet Farm. He was with a 'Falcon' machine
carrying the team when the front wharf was
blown up and an 18 lb explosion took place.

The description of Pte Goodwill was a stock
built man, about 5 ft 4 in in height,
age about 23 years
complexion Dark.

1657 Walter

GOODWILL

Yours faithfully,

Ch. Foster

49 Batt AF 1st Div

M. 3. 9. 16

O. M.

P. 1.

4.

8 Whitehall.

Ardie Street

Boulevard

12/5/17 Hill

The Secretary.

Dear Mr. Deakin

Thanks for your letter dated the 28th with further unofficial evidence respecting my brother in law Mr. 1657 The Walter Goodwill 40th St. A. I. F.

As you say it seems to help to confirm our worst fears, but we have not given up hope entirely.

Any further news will be anxiously awaited.

Yours faithfully

Hepero Cooke.

May 30th, 1917.

Alfred Cooke, Esq.,
8 Whitdale,
Airlie Street,
N. Boulevard, Hull.

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to advise you of the receipt of further unofficial evidence about your brother-in-law No. 1657 Pte W. Goodwill, 49th Battn., A.I.F., informant being No. 1750 Pte. Patrick ~~Stace~~ of the same Unit, who was in the 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell.

He says that he saw his body at Mouquet Farm on Sept. 4th. the day after the attack had been made, and he believes that death must have been swift and painless. They had come over on the same boat from Australia, and he describes him as middle-aged, 5 ft. 7 ins. in height, dark and clean shaven, and says he was nicknamed "Watty".

No. 1623 Pte W. Ball of the same Unit who on May 25th, was in No. 1 Command Depot, Peñham Downs, says that he saw Pte Goodwill killed instantly by shell explosion while going over in the attack on Mouquet Farm on Sept 3rd, 1916. He came from Queensland with the 2nd reinforcements of the 49th Battn., on the troopship "Hawkes Bay", and had previously been a carpenter in some South Pacific Island, informant describing him as dark and short, of medium build and 30-35 years of age.

We deeply regret the distressing character of these reports, and have now closed our enquiries believing that further search would reveal no fresh particulars.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss -
Yours faithfully,

40
Secretary. (Au)