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

2038 Corporal
George Henry Childs

17th Battalion



0721208K

2.I.F. 17th Btn CHILDS

G.H. 2038

"Wded-May"

Rejoined Btn from Hospital 1-3-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 9-10-17

No further report
Cert. by Rouen letter 16-10-17.

S

London
19-10-17

A.I.F. 17th Btn

CHILDS
G.H. 2038

"Wded-May"

Rejoined Btn from Hpl 1-3-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 9-10-17

No further report
Cert. by Rouen letter 16-10-17

Wded & Missing 3-5-17 - previously reported wounded in action
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 30-10-17.

S

London
5-10-17

17th Battalion.
B. Coy

CHILDS, 2038,
G.H. Temporary-Corpl.

K/A
"~~Wounded and Missing~~ 3/5/17"

Childs was a Corporal at Bullecourt he was in B. Coy V111 Pltn His name was George and he had the D.C.M. He was wounded in both legs at Bullecourt on 3/5/17 and was lying in a shell hole for 48 hours. I saw him afterwards when he was put on a stretcher and taken down to the Dressing station. He was the only Corpl. Childs in B. Coy at the time, and I am quite sure it was he I saw carried towards the Dressing Station. We were under shell fire at the time and had to wait some hours before we could move the wounded. Dick Groom from Fiji and Groom's mate also from Fiji carried Childs away I did not know that Childs was missing until I met his wife at the Sydney Railway Station about 10 days ago. Childs was alive and conscious when I saw him last. Groom was with the Batt. when I left.

26/2/18
No 4 General Hospl.
Randwick.

Informant: Pte. J. Higgins, 5582,
17th Battalion B. Coy, Como Hotel
Como.

Note: There is a number 4431, Pte Arthur Groom, 17th Batt. who came from Fiji and has been reported wounded and gassed.

S

Written A. Groom 2-5-18

Letter Sent 11-4-18

A.I.F. 17th Btn

CHILDS
G.H. 2038

"Wded & Missing"

Killed in action 3-5-17 - previously reported Wded & Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 22-3-18.

S

London
25-3-18

No.2038. Temp.Corporal G.H.Childs, 17th Battalion.

K/A. 3.5.7

A returned soldier states that he carried Childs into No.1, Dressing Station, France, after he had laid in the trench with his legs badly shattered, after the battle of Bullecourt; he states he was then conveyed to a place in France called La Puvre, and from there he was going to be sent to England.

Extract from letter from Mother of above soldier, dated 23.2.18.

Note:- We are unable to find the returned soldier referred to; apparently the Mother interviewed this man in the Street, and omitted to obtain his name.

No trace H.1.
29.4.18 ? Sydney bureau

S

~~26 FEB 1918~~

A.I.F. 17th Battn.

CHILDS
G.H. 2038.

KILLED in ACTION 3/5/17

Re Cpl. G.H.Childs. I am sorry to say that I cannot possibly throw any light on the subject, as, I left the battalion on the 9th November 1916. At that time Childs was still alive and going strong. My brother, No. 4214 L/Cpl. E. Groom, 17th Battn., A.I.F., No. 12 Con. Camp, Hurdcott, Wilts, who is, and always was in the same platoon as myself and Childs could possibly give you all the information required, as we were all through the "Bullecourt Stunt" without a scratch At the latter end he was called upon to do stretcher-bearers work. He is at present in England, when I last heard from him he was on furlough I think address given will find him. This is the nearest description I can give of No. 2038 Cpl. G.H.Childs of B Company 17th Battalion. Height about 5' 6" - Build - on the stout side - weight about 11st. 6lbs Hair - dark and straight - Chin - rather sharp. No marks on face - His feet from the knees down looked always a bit swollen.

Letter from:- Arthur Groom, No. 4431,
No. 1, Command Depot,
Sutton Veny.
4th May 1918.

London
11/5/18.

S

A.I.F. 17th Battn.

CHILDS
G.H. 2038.

Killed in Action 3/5/18

Re No. 2038 G.H. Childs, who was reported Killed in action on the 3/5/17, I am sorry to say that I cannot give you any definite information about him, although we were in the same platoon which was No. 8 of B Company of the 17th Battalion, A.I.F., Of course I knew him very well, and at the time of his death he was a Corporal, and he had won the D.C.M. at Pozieres. I do not think he could have been buried for I was told that he was killed close to the enemy's lines, which was at Bullecourt. He was short in statue, but strongly built, and was always of a happy disposition, which always made him very many friends. I am very sorry I am unable to tell you anything definite but am inclined to think he was not buried in a cemetery or a soldiers grave.

Letter from:- No4124 Edgar Groom L/Cpl,
17th Battalion, A.I.F.,
Fovant,
Wiltshire.

London
3/6/18

S.

17th BATTALION.
"B" Company.

CHILDS, Temporary-Corporal
G.S. No. 2038

"Killed 3/5/1917".

Informant described Childs as about 5ft.6" high, medium build, about 28. On 3rd May, 1917 the Battalion was in action at Bullecourt. They hopped over about 8 a.m. and about 4 hours later when they had reached the Hun second line trenches Informant came across Childs lying on the ground wounded in the legs. He bandaged Childs, who spoke to him while doing so, but he was in a very bad way. Informant then had to leave Childs and never saw him again. According to Informant Childs was well thought of by his mates.

Informant;- No. 4275, Private H.J. Smith,
17th Battalion.

Private address;- 72 Bridge Road,
CAMPERDOWN.

W.E.G.,
Anzac Buffet, Sydney.
25/7/29.

Typed

SYDNEY BUREAU.

A.I.F. 17th Btn

CHILDS
George Henry 2038

"K/A.3-5-17"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt.Mills 10-10-19.

S

London
17-10-19

2038
G. H. Childs
17 Battn
Km A 3-5-17

Ackd by P.C.
7-5-18
N.T.

No. 1. Comm. Depot
Sutton Veny
4th May 1918

Dear Madam

Your letter of the 2nd Inst. to hand, making enquiries about Cpl. G. H. Childs. I am sorry to say that I cannot possibly throw any light on the subject, as, I left the battalion on the 9th Nov. 1916, at that time Childs was still alive & going strong.

My brother, whom is, & always was in the same platoon as myself & Childs could possibly give you all the information required, as we was all through the "Bullecourt Stunt" without a scratch.

At the latter end he was called upon to do stretcher-bearers work.

He is at present in England, when I last heard from him he was on furlough, I think a/d. stated below will find him.

Yours Faithfully
Arthur Groom
No. 4431

a/d
No 4214 L/Cpl. E. Groom
17th Batt.
A.I.F.
No. 12 Con Camp
Hurdcott
Wilts

Note written
L/Cpl E Groom
9-5-18.

This is the nearest description I can give of, No 2038 Cpl. G. H. Childs of B. Coy. - 1st Batt.

Height – about 5'-6"
Build – on the stout side – weight about 11-6 5. st
Hair – dark & straight
Chin – rather sharp
No marks on face
His feet from the knees down looked always a bit swollen.

Arthur Groom
4-5-18

[redacted]

Ackd'g PC 30.5.18

2038 (Cd)
G.H. Childs
17 Battn
Km A 3-5-17

Fovant
Wiltshire
26/5/18

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH
MILITARY FORCES

To the Secretary

Dear Madam,

I received your letter of 9.5.18 in which you made inquiries "about No 2038 G.H. Childs who was reported K.I.A. on the 3-5-17.

I am sorry to say that I can't give you any definate information about him, although we were in the same platoon, which was No 8, of B. Company of the 17 Battalion A.I.F. Of course I knew him very well, and at the time of his death he was a Corporal, and he had won the D.C.M. at Pozieres.

I don't think he could have been buried for I was told that he was killed close to the Enemy's lines, which was at Bullecourt. He was short in statue, but strongly built, & was always of a happy disposition, which always made him very many friends. I am very sorry I am unable to tell you anything definate, but am inclined to think he was not



buried in a cemetery, or a soldiers grave.

I am

Yours faithfully

No 4124 Edgar Broom L/Cpl

14th Battalion A.I.F.