

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

**718 Lance Corporal
William Henry Etchell**

3rd Battalion



1020406D

3rd Batta. A.I.F.

RITCHIE

L/Cpl. W.H. 718

Killed 7/10/19

Buried Hooge Crater Cemetery, Zillebeke, 2 miles due E. of Ypres,
177.21E. SSP. 2485

Extracted from Capt. Spedding's List of 16/10/19

Walsburne

○ 18/12/19

3rd Batt
A.I.F.

ETCHELL,
W.H. 718

"Killed 7.10.17."

Was a runner in C.Coy, att. to Coy Hqrs. Was called William. He was in a dug-out just below Anzac Ridge, and a shell got it. He got a piece through the chest, and was brought to our Aid Post (3rd Batt). He was dead when I saw him. He had died while carrying from the line to the Aid Post about 200 yds. I saw his grave. He was buried between Anzac and Westhoek Ridge, near a Pill box. There was a rough cross erected on his grave by the 3rd Batt Aid Post.

Informant:- H.I. Mason, 785,
3rd A.M.C.
Harefield.

W.G.J.

London
25.4.18.

S.

3rd BATTALION.

D. Company

ETCHELLS, W.H. Private.

No. 718

"KILLED 7-10-17"

I knew Etchells. His name was Bill, and he was in C. Company and was a Lance Corporal, recently promoted at the time of the Passchendaele stunt October 1917. He was tall, thin, and dark. He was sitting alongside me in a little dug out on 7-10-17 up near Passchendaele, when a shell came over and wounded him severely. He was carried to the Dressing Station - I think Fred. Peck was one of the Stretcher bearers. I was wounded by the same shell, and whilst on the operating table at this Dressing Station I heard Etchells call out for me. I was pretty bad at the time, and did not see him to speak to, but asked him how he was. He said he was doing alright. The Stretcher bearers told me he was as lame as a lion. I did not know he had died, though they did not think he could live. This was in an Australian advanced Dressing Station near the Menin Road, and had been a German Pill box. I did not know any Etchells in D. Company."

INFORMANT:- Private J. J. Yabsley, No. 7095

3rd Battalion C. Company 9th Platoon.

Home Address:- Leicester, Bondi Road, Bondi.

E.S. Australian General Hospital
No. RANDWICK. 30-8-18

D.S. 1/5

3rd BATTALION.
D Company

ETCHELLS F.H.
Private 718.

"KILLED 7/10/17."

Informant states that on 7/10/17 Etchells was wounded at Anzac Ridge on the Ypres front near Passchendaele by a shell. The Company was in the trenches at the time. Informant was about 50 yards away - a shell came over and burst in the trench and killed several and wounded others. Informant went over from where he was to help to rescue the wounded. He saw Etchells lying badly wounded in the trench; Informant helped to lift him up and he was put on a stretcher and carried back to the dressing station about half a mile behind the line. Informant did not see Etchells again but heard a day or two afterwards that Etchells had died of his wounds. Etchells was a tall fair clean shaven man, called "Bill".

Informant Private A. G. McRae. No 1207.
3rd Battalion.

Home address:
The Willows,
ARMIDALE.
C.B.V.
No 4 Australian General Hospital,
RAHEWICK.
20/11/18

S. Ed. 2/11/18

SYDNEY BURLING.

v

1. Attalion A.I.F.
"D" Company.

"Killed In Action 7/10/17."

Informant states that he recognised Stchells by his photo, posted on th
the Red Cross Information Board at Randwick Hospital. He also states that
they both belonged to "C" Company, No. 9 Platoon. On the 7/10/17, the
Battalion was in supports at Anzac Ridge, behind Broodseinde Ridge. They
had been in action on the 4th. Just after darkness came on, the rations
were brought up and while some of the chaps were crowding round them,
Stchells was sitting in the trench. While this was going on, a shell drop-
ped in amongst them, killing 14 men, including Stchells. Informant was not
ten yards away from him, and saw him after he was hit. He was alive and
cheerful and spoke freely to his mates, and also smoked a cigarette.
Informant saw him taken away on a stretcher, Leslie Edwards being one of his
bearers. He was taken to a Dressing Station, and although Informant never
saw him again, he was told that he died two days later.

Informant added that Stchells was a very game chap, and was very
popular with his mates.

Informant - Private A. H. Taylor, No. 4910, S. 8
"C" Company, 3rd Battalion. def
Home Address - Woodbine,
Forbes, New South Wales.
Present Address - "Q" Ward, Randwick Military Hospital.

W.E.O.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
SYDNEY. 9/1/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

<p>3rd Btn. A.I.F. London 16.10.19.</p>	<p>7 Killed in Action 18.12.17 No trace Germany Cert. by Capt. Hills, 16.10.19.</p>	<p>ETHEL William Henry L/Cpl. 718.</p>	<p>8.</p>
<p>NAME</p>	<p>UNIT</p>	<p>ORGANISATION</p>	<p>CAUSE OF DEATH</p>

ANALYTICAL FILE
 CYMONE

A.I.F. 3rd Btn

W.H. STCHELL
718

"Wded & M. 7-10-17"

Killed in action 10-11-17 - previously reported Wded & Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 23-11-17

OFF.M.

London
28-11-17

3rd A.I.F.

Etchell. Pte. W.H. 718.

¹⁰⁻¹¹⁻¹⁷
K. A. P. Rep. (W. & M. Oct. 7/17)

"On the 7th or 8th Oct. 1917. I was at an aid post on the Ypres front about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Anzac Ridge. I saw a man lying on a stretcher. One of the bearers told me it was Etchell who had been wounded in the legs and that they were taking him to the base. I heard no more of him. Etchell was in C Coy., and I think in Platoon IX."

Eye-witness: Yes. Don't know.

Description: No information.

Informant: Pte. William David Mattheson. 5134.
3rd A.I.F. C Co., XI Pl.,
Horton Hospital. Epsom.

Home address: c/o J. Matheson Esq.,
Pioneer Foundry.
Junes. N.S.W.

11.2.18.
J. MacMahon.

S

3rd A. I. F.

W. H. ETHELLE, 718.

W in A.
put up, Wounded & Missing 7.10.17.

We were road-making at the time when Etchells got both his legs shot off by a piece of shell. We were fully 3 miles behind the lines and I saw the S/Bearers start with him back to the D/Station. I am sure he must have reached the D/Station as it was a very quiet day and nothing to prevent it. Etchells was very tall and thin, light-haired, clean shaven. This happened just in the afternoon.

Reference: E.S.Anderson, 2780,

No.1 Aust.General, Rouen, 12.2.18.

HJM. S