

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

514 Lance Corporal
Alexander Conrad Le
Maitre

22nd Battalion



1580806S

M/August 5th.1916.

After the taking of Pozieres, and during the attack on Pozieres ridge, Le Maitre found himself without an officer in the trench and with 20 men who for various reasons had not yet gone over. He asked instructions from the O.C. who replied "You're an N.C.O., rise to the occasion - take them over". This he did. I heard this from L/Opl. (then Pte) Y.H. Moore (still signaller in the Batta) who said he heard the interview with the O.C. I was further told by a comrade whose name I forget "I've seen Brick (that's the name we knew Le Maitre by) lying a good way out in No-mansland dead, hit in the head with a piece of shell". He had been in every stunt from the start and never shirked danger. He was always an optimist full of humour and very popular with his sectn. He was an H.Q.sig.

Reference: L/Opl.F.O.Russell, 524.H.Q.Sgrs

No.2 A.D.B.D. Staples.

24.3.17.

Written

P.L. N

of Sgt V.H. Moore

REP. 5.4.17

22nd Australian I. Force

Le Maitre L/Cpl. A. 514.
Signaller.

(Missing Aug. 5th, 1916)

Informant states that on August 4th, 1916, at Pozieres,
L/Cpl. Le Maitre A, was killed by shell.

Eye Witness - No.

Informant :- Cpl. G. C. Hughes, 1060,
22nd Batt. Aus. I. F.
3rd London General Hosp,
Sandsworth, S. E.

Home address:-
H.Q.A.I.F.
103, Horseferry Road,
Westminster. S. W.

Dec. 12/16.

W. Walker.

G.H.
P.I.
1

France.

A. I. F. 22.

LE MAITRE, A. 514.

H/August 5th. 1916.

Believe he was killed. Refer to Cpl. G. Hughes,
Signalling Sect. 22nd. Battn. 6th. Brigade, A.I.F., at
Baira.

(No other reference given).

1 Canadian General,
Staples.
4.11.16.
FJZ.

5/11
P.L.
1

Written Hughes 10.11.16

France.

A. I. F. 22.

LE MAITRE. A. 514.

M/5th. August 1916.

I know a man named Le Maitre in the 22nd. He is one of the old originals and a Battn. Signaller. I never heard of his being wounded. I saw him at Pozieres in September. He is a tall light-haired fellow, about 19-22 years old. I only remember one of his name in the Battn. He was in my tent in Egypt.

Reference: Stevenson, 543, VI M.G.C. (Aust.),
No. 18 General.

Staples.
10.11.16.
EBA.

22nd A. I. F.

Le Maitre, L/Cpl. A. 514.
A Coy.

(Missing Aug: 5/16.)

Informant states that on August 5/16 at Pozieres L/Cpl 514 Le Maitre, A. was killed. Informant was told by several who saw him killed, and it was the general opinion of the Battalion.

Reference:-- Pte. F. Wilkinson, 4239,
22nd A. I. F.
3rd. London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

Home address:-- H. Q. 130, Horseferry Rd,
Westminster, S.W.

Nov: 14th
Walker.

22nd Batt.
A.I.F.,

Le MAITRE
L/Cpl A.C. 514

"Missing 5.8.16"

I am thankful that I can supply you with information concerning him, so as to leave no doubt as to his death. I have spoken to Sgt. Burrage L/Cpl G.S. of my Batt. and he informs me that he personally saw Le Maitre on the night of the 4-5th of August, lying dead on the field of Pozieres. He had been hit in the head with a piece of shell, which must have killed him outright. I have got Sgt. Burrage to verify his statement by signing at the foot of this letter. Le Maitre had been with my section since leaving Australia so I knew him intimately. He was of a lively disposition, one you would call a good sport. He had wavy brown hair, slightly round shouldered, and inclined to be bow-legged. L/Cpl Russell who suggested to your representative at Etaples that I could supply information, also signs this letter as substantiating his proposal of my name. Hoping this information will be of value to you and thanking you for your endeavours in proving Le Maitre's death both in the interests of his parents and in ours as comrades.

Cert. by letter from L/Cpl H.N. Moore, Sig. Sec. 22nd Batt.
G.T. Burrage, L/Cpl F.C. Russell, Sig. Sect.
I.M.G. Sect. France. 11.4.17.

London
30.4.17.

Off. M.
P.H.

FM 17-4-17
The Secretary,

France,
April 11th 1917

Dear Adams,

I have just received your letter of 5/4/17 so am answering you at once, hoping by doing so I am helping on your good work, and also supplying what details I can concerning A.C. Lemaire of my unit.

I am thankful that I can supply you with information concerning him, so as to leave no doubt as to his death.

I have spoken to Sgt. Burrage, L.M.G. section of my Co., and he informs me that he personally saw Lemaire on the night of the 4-5th of August, lying dead on the field of Posieux.

He had been hit in the head with a piece of shell, which must have killed him outright.

I have got Sgt. Burrage to verify this statement by signing at the foot of this letter.

Lemaire had been with my section since leaving Ouskalia, so I knew him intimately.

He was of a lively disposition, one you would call a good sport. He had heavy brown hair, slightly wavy, shouldered, and inclined to be bow-legged.

Sgt. Russell who suggested to your representative at Staples; that I could supply information, also signs this letter, as substantiating his proposal of my name.

Hoping this information will be of value to you and thanking you for your endeavours in proving Lemaire's death, both in the interests of his parents and in ours as comrades.

I am
Yours sincerely,

Left
V. D. G. G. G.
Sgt. Section
23 Bally
Left to Russell
Sgt. Section

Sgt. Burrage
L.M.G. section

514 / Lefl A. E. le MAITRE
22 BATH AVE

M 5.8.16

Off M. P. 14

Q

Q

708

17th November | 16

Cpl. G. Hughes,
Signalling Section
22nd Australian Inf. Battalion
P.B.F.

Dear Cpl. Hughes,

We are making inquiries for a Member of the 22nd Battalion, A.I.F., S14 Cte A. LeMaitre 22nd Battalion, who is reported Missing 5-8-16, and have been told that you may be able to help us by giving us some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could send us concerning Pte LeMaitre, and would also be glad if you could add a short personal description, in order that we may satisfy the relatives that no error has been made.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

23rd April 1917.

L/Cpl. V.H. Moore,
Sig. Section,
22nd Australian Inf. Battn.
B. E. F.

Dear Corporal Moore,

Very many thanks for your letter of April 11th. in answer to our enquiry for:-

No. 514. L/Cpl. A.C. Le Maitre, 22nd Battn. A.I.F.

It is very seldom in the course of our enquiries, that we receive such a clear and detailed statement as you have sent us, and you have made it more valuable by your thoughtfulness in asking Sgt. Burrage - an actual eye witness and also L/Cpl. Russell to sign your letter.

We shall send a copy of your letter to our enquirers and are sure it will comfort them to learn, through you, that death was instantaneous and that L/Cpl. Le Maitre was generally held in high esteem.

We should very much like to have your permission to apply to you should we later need to make enquiries about other men of your Battalion, as your assistance would be most helpful in our

I/Cpl. V.E. Hoobe.

-2- 28.4.17.

work.

Will you kindly convey our thanks to Sgt. Barrage and I/Cpl. Russell for their testimony.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

V.P.

Secretary.

See -