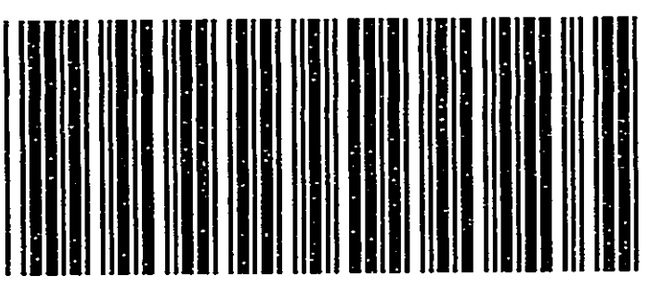
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2674 Lance Corporal William Barker Hart

55th Battalion



1281012F

5 th Battn.
A I.F.

HART.
W.B.. 2674. Cpl.

"Killed in Action 4-7-18"

I know he was killed and brought out from the firing line, and taken 4 miles back. Killed instantaneously. He came over with me. I saw him go by to the firing line but did not see him killed ~~hit~~. He was safely buried. I knew him well. He was sergeant and Australia, and had not long rejoined the Battalion and had one stripe if I remember rightly when he was killed. Bois de Vert Wood was the place we were fighting then, but I get confused with all the places. They were so much the same. The ground was held.

Home address:-
Diocesan Registry.
Goulburn.
N.S.W.

Informant:- Cobb.B.W.2636.Pte.
55th A.I.F. D.10.
No I Section.EXETER.

A.W.Fursdon.
London.
23-9-18.
J.E.A.

S.

55th Battn.
A.I.F.

HART W.B. 2674
Hamilton R. 1665

"Killed 4-7-18"

They were killed about 5 yds. from me, on my left, at Sailly le Sec. We were lying on the tape ready to go over the top, when one of our own 6" Stokes Mortars burst behind them, and Hamilton was hit in the back and killed outright. Hart died while S/Bs were binding him up. He was wounded in the head but not disfigured. I saw this happen. They were just getting up at the time They were not knocked about very much. I went out on the night of the 6th, and helped to carry them in. They had to be left till then because we had to advance. They were brought back to the R.A.P. and were taken away to Francvillers, where they were buried. I saw the Pioneers making their Crosses on which I saw their names, with the Battn. colours, chocolate and green. Hamilton was short, about 5'4", and ginger haired, with a reddish complexion. He came from Wagga, and came over on 14-7-16, in the "Ceramac". He was fond of sports, and very game, not afraid of anyone. He was a Cpl. Hart, I believe, has people in Manchester He used to get a Manchester paper. He was about 5'7", and fair, quiet, but very sociable.

Informant. Lyttle. Cpl.R.F. 5399
55th Battn. B.Coy. 5th Pltn
Aust. Command Depot.

London
14-10-18
R.R.B.

J.F.A.

C.S.W.

S.

Havre

21st August 1918.

Australians 55.

Hart W.B. No. 2674.
MacDonald J. 3186.

K. 4th July 1918. Dot D/B.

Hart was a tall thin chap, fair, a very jolly chap, about 24. MacDonald was also a tall thin chap, fair, and was a S/B. About the 4th July we were near Heilly holding the line. During the night we went on a raid and these two men were killed right out at the start by some of our own shells which fell short. I helped carry the body back. Most of our men were taken on a limber to Borre and I have little doubt that Hart and MacDonald were buried there.

Inf:- Pte C. Eastman No. A1073.
A.I.F. 55. B. Vl.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

CWSG.

PP.

55th Battn.
A.I.F.

HART.
W.B. 2674.

"Killed 4-7-18"

5 He was of B.Company, 7th to right of Morlancourt on 4th July in morning about 3.15.o'clock during our attack - hit by shell. I was hit within 15 yards of him. Enemy had put over heavy bombardment when we advanced. As far as I could see he had his leg shattered, he was groaning but I could not get over to him. We were brought in the following night, had to lay out on the field all the time. He was dead when brought in. Was L/Cpl. knew him as Hart. Know nothing of burial.

Informant:- Cpl.R.Leigh.741.
55th Battn. B.Coy. V Pl.
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.
London.
4-9-18.
J.E.A.

S.

A. I. F. 55th Bn. HART, W. B. 2674.

K. July 4/18. Det.D/B.

I saw him after he was killed. We had made a raid on the German front line at 3.0 a.m. on July 4th near Sailly-le-Sec. It was fairly successful; we took back a few P/Ws and M.G.s. He was killed just as we started; before we had reached the tape line. It was a shell; his body was almost blown to pieces; it must have absolutely instantaneous death. Our dead were all brought back and buried at Bonnay, a few kilometres behind Sailly-le-Sec. He was 25/26. He came from Australia in the same ship with me, the "Ceramic" about 2 and a half years ago. He was a L/Corpl. and initials "J.B."

Reference: Pte.C.E.Chalker, 2630, D.XV.

No.5 General, Rouen, 9.9.18.

ET.

A.I.F. 55th Bn. HART, W.B. 2674.

K. July 4/18. Det.D/B.

I only remember Hart from his name. I buried him at Franvillers at the same time as I buried Hamilton and Harvey. I remember putting his cross up. He was buried close to the other two.

Reference: Corpl.H.Hamilton, 1666,

No.1 Aust.General, Rouen, 10.9.18.

GPO.

A.I.F. 55 HART, W.B. 2674.

K.July 4/18. Det. D/B.

At 3.10 a.m. on the 4th July we were on the tape in the trench ready to hop over, at Bailly le Sec. Hart was struck by a "Flying Pig" i.e. H.T.M. and killed. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ I was a few yards away and saw it happen. Hart was killed by the same shell which killed Hamilton. Hart lived for about 15 minutes and died as the S/Bs were bandaging him up. His right foot and part of his head were blown away. He was taken back for burial I think at Franvillers. Hart was a Manchester boy. The "Manchester Guardian" was sent to him regularly. Owens or Queens College was stamped on it. He was quiet, about 5 ft. 6, sociable, single and clean shaven, of fair complexion.

Reference: L/Cpl.R.F.Little, 5599.
No.11 Con.Camp Buchy Nr.Rouen. 12.9.18.

JHA

A. I. F. 55.

HART, W.B. 2674. (and 2 others).

Hamilton E 1665
Harvey W.R 2684

K. July 4th, 1918.

Above three men went out in a big raid about 4.30 a.m. July 4th. under Capt. Wyllie, between Morlancourt and Hamel. Hamilton and Hart were killed instantly by one shell. Harvey was also killed by a shell and his body found next day. We had men out for three nights to get the missing. All three bodies were brought in and were buried in Heilly Cemetery. I was back in support lines at the time and did not see them killed. Capt.Wyllie will have written to all the parents.

Hart (L/Cpl.) B.Coy. V., was a fair chap, medium height, I think he was a schoolmaster in N.S.W.

HEH.

Informant:- Major F. Holder. 55.B.
3rd. Aust. Gen. Hp.

Abbeville
12.9.18.

F.a.

Havre

17th Septr 1918.

Australians. 55.

Hart W.B. No. 2674.
Allen W.O.H. No.1612.

K. 4th July 1918. Det D/B.

I know the S/B who brought these and other men back after the action. Arrangements had been made to occupy a position in the Mericourt Sector. I saw the crosses with the names &c of Allen and Hart and the others (about 12 altogether) ready for erection. They were all buried in the same Cemetery between Heilly and Aubigny. Hart was a great friend of mine, he came over with me in the same boat (A.40).

Inf:- Pte F.G.Goodchild No. 2659
Aust. 55. A.F.W. (attd H.Q).
H.S. 'Essequibo'.

WSH.

PP.

t Battn.
A.I.F.

HART.
W.B. 2674.L/Cpl.

"Killed in Action 4-7-18"

I saw L/Cpl Hart lying dead, killed by a shell in July 4th 1918. at Villers Bretonneux. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- Yes.

Description:- Fair, medium height.

Home address:-
Ccombe.
N.S.Wales.

Informant:- Seears.Arthur.H.H.2550.Pte.
55th Battn. B.7.
Ford House Hpl.
DEVONPORT.

G.M.Jackson.
London.
18-9-18.
J.E.A.

S.

55th Battalion
A.I.F.

HART.
W.B. 2674.

"Killed. 4.8.18."

He was in B. Company, and I saw him killed near Morlancourt, when death was instanteneous, he being hit by a shell on the body, not badly knocked about. Casualty happened during a raid in the early morning of July 4th, 1918. I knew his family well and he came from New South Wales, though originally from England. His body was brought out for burial, but I did not see his grave. He would probably be buried at Heilly or Aubigny, but I cannot refer to anyone.

Informant:- Pte. Heyland. T.R. .160
B. Co., 55th Battn.
Srd. AIF.
DARTFORD.

W. Oman.
London.
20.9.18.
J.E.A.

S.