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

Lieutenant Ernest Augustus Higham

51st Battalion



1330512F

51st Batty.
A.I.F.

R.A. HIGHAM.
Lieut.

"Died of Wounds".

Died of Wounds 27-4-18, at 47th C.C.S.,

Burial particulars not yet to hand.
Cert: by A.I.F.Hqrs 17-6-18.

London.
17-6-18.

P I.

A.I.F. 51st Battn. HIGHAM
E.A. Lt.

"Died of Wounds April 27th/18"

I think that Lieut.E. A. Wood (51.A.) would know as much as anyone about Lieut. E.A. Higham and Lieut. Barrett. He wrote and told me that they were missing. He did not give me any particulars in his letter dated 15th May, though possibly he could give details to the Red Cross. Perhaps Lieut. Higham was reported missing first. It will be very difficult to trace anyone at that time, as there was very heavy shelling indeed. The Village of Bretonneux had been lost, and we were called up tomake a counter attack, and retook all the ground. Lieut. Wood was the only officer left after 24-25th April I will write and tell him to get all the information he can, as the Red Cross are going to communicate with him. I know he will do all he can. Ground was held.

Eye-witness:- No.
Description:- I did not know him personally.
Informant:- 3598 L/Cpl. John C. Johnston, (Very intelligent
51st. Battn., A.I.F., (& seemed accurate)
3rd Southern General Hospital,
Home address:- 10 Rankin Rd, The Base, Oxford.
E.M.Pickard-Cambridge, West Sueraco,
18/8/18 W. Australia.
London. 1/7/18. NOTE:- Written Lt. Wood.29/8/18. P.I.

Havre 19th June 1918.

A.I.F. 51 Higham Lieut. E.A.

D/W 27th April 1918. Det D/B.

On the 27th April he was at the back of Villers Brettoneux. We had done a push on the 24th, and were in supports. The Lieut was with his Company when he was hit by a shell in the stomach. I saw him being taken to the D/station and I heard that he died subsequently. I have no knowledge as to his burial.

Inf:- Pte D. Cohen No. 3136.
A.I.F. 51. C. 9 Pltn.
Aust. Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

P.1

CWSG.

J.E.A.

51st Australian Imperial Force Higham, Lieut. E A.

(D/W April 27. 1918
Dets D & B).

" I was with Lieut. Higham (51. C 2nd In Com.) when he was wounded about April 27th in supports at Villers Bretonneux. A shell came over when he was in a small trench or dug-out, and he was badly wounded in the stomach, thigh and chest. He was conscious and spoke to us. I helped to carry him to the Dressing station. I heard a week later that he had died, but I am sorry I do not know where he was buried. "

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description - Little short and nuggetty, Out all the time.

Informant :- Pte. George MacKenzie, 2913. Stretcher-bearer,
51st Australian Imperial Force, C Coy. 9th Pl
3rd Southern General Hospital.
The Base, Oxford.

P.1

Home address :-
C/O Mr. C Street,
Fitzroy, New Plymouth,
New Zealand.

J.E.A.

25. 6. 18.
H.M.PickardCambridge

51st Australian Imperial Force Higham, Lieut. E.A.

(D/W April 27. 1918. Dets D & B)

" I saw Lieut. Higham wounded in the thigh by a shell about 27th April in supports at Villers Bretonneux. This was two days after the attack was over. We were in a little bit of a trench at 5 p.m. when he was hit. Lt. Kitchen was killed by the same shell. Lieut. Higham was carried out by the stretcher-bearers. I heard nothing more"

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description - W.Aus. Nuggetty, from goldfields I think, but am not sure.

Informant :- ~~Pte. Edwin Thomas, 8072,~~ 2012 C/Cpl Percival Tasker 51
7th Pltn. A Coy. 51st Aus Imp Force
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.

Home address :-
Salisbury Avenue,
Victoria Park,
W Australia.

25. 6. 18.
H.M.Pickard-Cambridge

J.E.A.

P.1

"F"
5th Battn.
A.I.F.

HIGHAM
Lt. E.A.

"Died of Wounds 27-4-18"

Re Lt.S.A.Higham. This Officer was admitted to this Clearing Station on 26-4-18, suffering from machine gun bullet wounds in the chest (penetrating) thighs, forearm and hand. He died on 27-4-18 as you state. He was buried in Plot 2, Row A. Grave 11, in the British Cemetery, at Crouy, some 10 miles N.W. of Amiens.

alfred Harris C.F.
Letter from:- The Chaplain,
47th C.C.S.,
23-6-18

London
27-6-18
J.E.A.

P.I.

Havre.

28th June 1918.

A.I.F. 51.

Higham Lieut E.A.

D/W 27th April 1918. Det D/B.

About the 27th April we were at Villers Bretonneux. We had been in action, and in the evening about 5 p.m. Higham was in support trenches when he was hit by a shell and wounded in the back. I was close by and saw him. He was taken to the D/Station and I heard he died there.

Inf:- Pte R. Porteh No. 3432.
A.I.F. 51. D. XV.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

P.1

J.E.A. CWSG.

51st BATT. Higham R.A. Lt. A.I.F.
D/W April 27th. 1918.

Lt. Higham died in hospital in the next bed to me in the 47th C.C.S. He was carried out, the Union Jack covering him and was buried outside Amiens. He was badly knocked about in the attack at Villers Bretonneux. He was talking a lot before he died, but whether he was conscious or not, I don't know. He suddenly sat up & then fell back dead".

Eye witness: Yes.

Description: Short, thick set, medium colouring, fairly good looking.

Informant:- Capt. R.L. Rhodes,
50th Batt. A.I.F.
No. 3. London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

Home address:- Bank of Adelaide,
Leadenhall Street. E.C.

15.7.18. W. Arnoll Davis.

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

HIGHAM.
R.A., Lieut.

"Died of Wounds 27-4-18"

Of D.Company. At Villers Bretonneux we were in reserves near Chalk pit. This was 2 days after our Battn had attacked- uncertain of date. Lieut Higham was hit by shell, wounded in chest. Taken by S/Bs to D/S. I saw him after he was hit - he was then bandaged up and quite conscious. Word came back to Battn, H.Q. that he had died, about a week later.

Informant:- Pte.A.T. ~~Evershed~~ Everhard. 1904.
51st Battn. D.Co.
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.
London.
5-7-18.
J.E.A.

P I.

61st Battn.
A.I.F.

D/W 27-4-18

Lt E.A. Higham

"Killed in Action 26-4-18"

Lieut Higham,E.A. 61st Battn.A.I.F. was wounded by a shell near Villers Bretonneux on 26th April 1918. I saw him being taken away on a stretcher past my post, and I think he was hit in thigh. I fancy there were other wounds as well. Lieut.E.Smith 61st Battn C/O Mrs Smith, Globe Terrace, Doneton-on-Tyne, Co Durham, England would be able to perhaps give you better news regarding his wounds as he was with Lt Higham when hit. Lt Smith has since been hit.

Letter from:- O.C.
61st Battn.A.I.F.
FRANCE.

London
11-7-18.

P I.

E.A.

F.G.Lasenby, Esq.,

Enquiry Bureau,

89 Broad St.,

Bristol.

June, 19th 6

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry, we regret to inform you that Lieut. H.A. Higham, 51st Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. is officially reported to have died of wounds at the 47th Casualty Clearing Station on April 27, 1918.

No further particulars are yet to hand, but we are making enquiries, and will at once advise you of any information we obtain.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

F.S.G.

WILLIAMSON.
Walter.

"whereabouts"

Believed to be in America - also believed by sister to have been in [illegible] wounded 5 times.

13.7.18

Lt. E. A. Higham

51 Bttn

See under

Lt. J. F. Barrett

D.C.M.

51 Bttn

Sgt. V. Bateman,
S.M.O. Office,
4th Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

F.G. Lagenby, Esq,
Enquiry Bureau,
59, Broad Street,
Bristol.

July 24th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for -

Lieut. F.A. HIGHAM, 51st Battalion, M.I.".

We regret to inform you of the following unoffical report given by Capt. H.L. Rhodes of the same unit when in the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth recently.

He stated:- "Lt. Higham died in hospital in the next bed to me in the 47th Casualty Clearing Station. He was carried out, the Union Jack covering him and was buried outside Amiens. He was badly wounded in the attack at Villers Bretonneux. He was talking a lot before he died, but whether he was conscious or not I don't know. He suddenly sat up and then fell back dead."

He describes him as short and thick set, of medium complexion, and colouring and fairly good looking."

Should we obtain further details of Lt. Higham's death we shall advise you and trust that these will be of some assistance.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) LPW

Secretary.

F.C. Lazenby, Esq.,
Enquiry Bureau,
39, Broad Street,
BRISTOL.

Sgt. V. Bateman,
SMO. Office,
No 4 Command Depot,
Hurdcott, Wilts.

July 11th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry concerning -

Lieut. W.A. HIGHAM, 51st Battalion, A.I.F.,

We beg to inform you that we have received the following unofficial report given by 2913 Pte. George Mackenzie, stretcher bearer, 51st Battalion, 3rd Southern General Hospital, The Base, Oxford, who states:- "I was with Lt.Higham (51 C.2nd In Com) when he was wounded about April 27th in supports at Villers Bretteneux. A shell came over when he was in a small trench or dugout, and he was badly wounded in the stomach, thigh and chest. He was conscious and spoke to us. I helped to carry him to the Dressing station. I heard a week later that he had died, but I am sorry I do not know where he was buried."

This report is confirmed by by 1904 Pte.A.E. Verhard, 8072 Pte. Thomas, and 5432 Pte. Morton all of the same unit.

We have now concluded our enquiries and hope that the details we have been able to obtain may be of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS) K

BECK TARY.

Sgt.V.Bateman,
S.H.O.Office, No.4 Command Depot,
Hurdcott, Wilts.

28th June, 1918.

F.G.Lazenby, Esq.,
Inquiry Bureau,
39, Broad St., Bristol

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry concerning Lt.R.A. Higham 31st Infantry Batt.A.I.F. we beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from No.3136 Pte.D. Cohen, of the same unit. He states that on the 27th April Lt.Higham was at the back of Villers Brett Wood, in the supports Line with his Coy.when he was wounded in the abdomen by shell fragment. Informant saw hi being taken to the Dressing Station and he heard afterwards that he died there. The following report has been received from the O.C. of the 47th Casualty Clearing Station, he states "Lt.Higham was admitted to this Clearing Station on 26.4.18. suffering from machine gun bullet wounds in the chest (penetrating) thighs, forearm and hand. He died on 27.4.18. He was buried in Plot 2, Row A.Grave 11, in the British Cemetery, at Crouy, some 10 miles S.E. of Amiens. We are continuing our enquiries, and hope to send you still further particulars at a later date. Hoping that these details may be of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

K.C.

Lieut E.A. Higham
57th Batt'n 47.C.C.S.
Bof W 27.4.18 BEF. 23.6.18.
P/2

Lieut. E. A. HIGHAM, 57 Batt. A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

This officer was admitted to this Clearing Station on 26.4.18. suffering from machine gun bullet wounds in the chest (penetrating) thighs, forearm and hand. He died on 27.4.18 as for stab. He was buried in Plot 2; Row A; Grave 11 in the British Cemetery at CROUY, some 10 miles NW of Amiens.

Yours faithfully
Alfred G. Harris C.F.
Chaplain
for O.C.
47 CCS.

T.A.

A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION
FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS.
OFFICIALLY ACTING FOR
2ND SOUTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, BRISTOL
AND
THE BEAUFORT WAR HOSPITAL, BRISTOL
AND THEIR
AUXILIARY AND SUBSIDIARY HOSPITALS.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE HON. SECRETARY.

QUOTING..... SECTION. REFERENCE. NO. 1347

TELEPHONE Nos. {4485. 4486.

INQUIRY BUREAU,
39 BROAD STREET,
BRISTOL.

~~18th. May~~ 191 8

P.C. 21.5.15.

Lieut. E. A. Higham, 51st. A. I. F.

The above named we are informed was wounded in France on April 26th. and died on April 27th. We should be greatly obliged if you would let us know details which you have, or can obtain, with regard to the death and burial of Mr. Higham.

F. Lazenby

For Inquiry Bureau.

The Australian Red Cross,
36, Grosvenor Place,
London, S. W.