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

Lieutenant
Thomas Robert Irwin

3rd Machine Gun Battalion



1410606I

A.I.F. 3rd Bn. M.G.

IRWIN
Lieut. T.R.

"K/A.Sept:"

Died of wounds 8-8-18 - H.F.R.
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 2-10-18.

London
2-10-18

A.I.F.3rd Bn.M.Gun. IRWIN
Lieut. T.R.

Died of Wounds 8.8.18.

Buried Villers Bretonneux Mil.Cem.Sh.62.D.O.17.C.d.3.Plot 8.
Row D. Grave 6.
Cert. by Capt. Spedding's List. Sheet 167

London.
7.10.19. B.

A.I.F.
3rd M.G.Btn.

IRWIN.
Lieut. T.R.

"Died of Wounds 8.8.18. Det. D/B"

Lieut. Irwin was being carried out whilst wounded by shell near Peronne, during daytime. Another shell came over killing him and the stretcher bearers. Cpl. Frank Ogg volunteered to carry out Mr Irwin with another stretcher bearer (name unknown) when the said shell exploded killing the whole party. He was buried but the Chaplain 3rd Division could give information as to the cemetery. The ground was held.

Eyewitness:- No.
Description:- called "Toc. i.e. T for Toc.tel."
Informant:-
Gnr.Bertram Le Grand
3rd A.M.G.Btn.
A.I.F. (taken at
Y.M.C.A. 61
Battersea Rise.
S.W.11.)
(intelligent)
B.

Home address:-
27 Alma Road.
Wandsworth.

E.A.Wookner.
23.1.19.
London.
13.2.19.
H.C.

3rd Machine Gun Battn.
A.I.F.

IRWIN.
Lieut. T.R.

"Died of Wounds 8-8-18"

In front of Hamel Wood in the hop over on August 8th at 4.30.a.m. He was hit in the stomach by a piece of shell and was carried by two of his own men - Cpl Higg, and another. While on the way to Dressing Station, a shell burst and killed the three. No details of death and burial.

Informant:- Greenenger. W.S. 433.
23rd MachineGun Coy.

T.St.J.P P.
London.
6-1-19.
H.G.

B.

A.I.F.3Machine Gun Co.

IRWIN
T.R. Lieut.

"Died of Wounds 8.8.18."

We were attacking in front of Hamel - the hop-over being 4.30 a.m. The Lieut. was hit with a piece of shell about 8 a.m. I saw him being carried out; F.W. Ogg was helping. Later in the afternoon we had been relieved. At the Dressing Station it was reported that these two men, Lieut. Irwin and F.W. Ogg, had not come in. I, and two other men(do not know their names) went to look for them. We were told where they were lying; we found their dead bodies about ½ mile from the line. Lieut. Irwin had been hit, blown up by a shell. We came back and reported. No details of burial.

Informant:- L.N. Neville, 6594,
3rd Machine Gun Co.
Southall.

W.D.
London
23.12.18.
H.G.

B.

Havre. 13th. March 1919.

3rd. M.G.Battn. A.I.F. Irwin. Lieut. T. R.

D/W. August 8/1918. Det. D/B.

He was first wounded in front of Hamel at night, and was being carried out by some of our men, when he was killed outright by a shell. One of the S/Bearers was killed as well. His body was recovered and buried some where close by in a cemetery.

Inf:- Pte. G. L. Walker, 651.
3rd. M.G.Battn. A.I.F.
Austr. Demob. Base.

RBS.

RRB.

A.I.F. 3rd M.G.Coy.

IRWIN Lieut.
T.R.

"Died of Wounds 8/8/18."

'He was wounded near Hamel by a shell, and another shell burst when he was being carried back, killing him and all the stretcher bearers. He came from Queensland and used to be a Sergeant. He was a popular N.C.O. and Officer and was known as "Tok R." Refer to Pte. Abbot, 23rd Coy, 3rd M.G. Battn., who is now in one of the Hospitals in England.

Informant:- Dvr. W. Quihampton,
23rd Coy, 3rd M.G. Battn.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

H. Priddle.
London
23.11.18.
H.G.

B.

Havre. 17th. March 1919.

3rd. M.G. Battn. A.I.F. Irwin. Lieut. T. R.

D/W. August 8/1916. Det. D/B.

I was only a short distance from him on the next Gun, when he was wounded in Hun's walk trench, near Hamel. He was taken out by a Corporal and another man, but another shell must have got them, as the Corporal was killed. I put a bayonet in each corner of the grave, and telephone wire all round it. I think he was removed to Baux Cemetery. I erected a cross.

Inf:- Sergeant. C. A. Cocks, 2785,
3rd. M.G.Battn. A.I.F.
Austr. Demob. Base.

CRR

B Bd. Gr.

RRB.

A.I.F. 3rd Bn. M. Guns.

IRWIN
Lieut. T.R.

"Died of Wounds 8/8/18."

I am sorry to say that the information I can give you concerning the death of Lieut. Irwin is only very meagre. He was in charge of my Section in the "Stunt" on August 8th. Just before the barrage lifted he was badly wounded. He was carried out and the next information I had about him was that he had died of wounds. I am sorry that I cannot give you any more information, but if you are writing to his people, you might say that he was one of the most popular Officers in the Company and was a splendid fellow and we all felt his death very much.

Letter from:- S. Easy,
France.

London.
18.11.18.
J.E.A.

B.

Havre. 16th. November. 1918.

3rd. Australian M.G.C. Irwin, Lieut. T. R.

D/W. August. 8/1918. Dets. D/B.

He was in Command of a Battery in the 23rd. Company, M.G. 3rd. Battalion. I was about three yards from him in front of Hamel Wood on August 8th. 1918 daybreak, about 4.30. a.m. when he was hit by a shell splinter in the stomach. Sergeant Bennett of the same Coy ordered Corporal Hogg or Ogg, same Company and another man to carry Mr. Irwin back. I heard that they had not got far before a shell got them and they were all killed. Mr. Irwin, is, I think, buried in a Military Cemetery at Hamlet close to Vaare.

Inf:- Private. J. J. Moore. 6922.
3rd. Battalion. 23rd. Coy. M.G.C.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM.

CP.

A.I.F. 3rd Battn.

IRWIN
T.R.Lieut.

"DIED OF WOUNDS 8/8/18"

On the 8th August, early morning at Accroche Wood near Hamel in the primary barrage position, Lieut Irwin was severely wounded by a shell. He was put on a stretcher and was being carried out by a Corporal Ogg and another man, when a shell landed on the party and killed Lieut Irwin and Cpl. Ogg and the other man died in the dressing station. Lieut. Irwin was buried where he was killed at Accroche Wood near Hamel and a cross was erected later over his grave. He was buried by some of the 35th Battn., A.I.F. I was not an eye-witness, but I made these enquiries later. - Lieut. Irwin was in the 23rd Coy., and his christian name was Robert. I was not an eye-witness but I made these enquiries later - There was no other man of the same name in Battn., or Coy. - Desoription: 21 or 22 years - 5ft 9 or 10 - clean shaven - brown hair, fresh complexion Grey eyes.

Informant:- Lieut George Brain, (Accurate)
35th Battn.,
Aust. Machine Gun Battn.
23rd Coy.

E. Liddell
28/2/19
London
3/3/19

B

A.I.F. M.G. 3 Btn. 23 Coy IRWIN Lt. T.R

D/W Aug. 8th 1918.

I saw Lt. Irwin hit in the abdomen by shell at Hun's walk, Hamel about 8.a.m. but he was hit again when he was being carried out by Cpl. Ogg and others. (Don't remember their names) and I think they were all killed. He was buried at Hamel.

Inf. L/Cpl. W.J.Hose 461. 3rd Btn. 23 Coy. M.G.
No 3 Aus Gen Hosp.
ABBEVILLE. 14.II 18.

HHH.

C. Sutt
RB

A.H.M.G. 3. IRWIN, Lt. T. R.

D/W Aug. 8th, 1918.

I saw Lt. Irwin hit in the abdomen by shrapnel at Hamel on the morning of the 8th in the fog. He was about 10 yards from me on the next gun. He was conscious and was carried away by Cpl. Hogg (who was on the same gun) and another man, but on the way back to the A.D.S. they were all killed by a shell just outside Hamel village. They were buried at Daours Cemetery.

Lt Irwin came, I think, from Queensland. Had only held a commission about 3 months. Was in 23 Co.

Inf. Gunner G. T. Baylis, 6221, 3.battn. 23.Co.
No.3. Aust. Gen. Hosp.
Abbeville. 7.11.18. HEH.

H.E.A. B

3rd M.G.Battn.
A.I.F.

IRWIN.
Lieut. T.R.

"Died of Wounds 8-8-18"

I saw him wounded near Hamel when he was hit badly in the stomach by a piece of shell. He was in 23rd Company and casualty happened at ± 4.45.a.m. on August 8th 1918. He was taken to a Dressing Station and was conscious when taken away. Casualty happened during hop over. I knew him well and went to school with him at Condalba, Queensland. I cannot give any details of burial, but refer to Cpl Easy.C. 23rd Company. 3rd M.G.Bn. who is now in France, for he will be able to supply details of burial.

Informant:- Pte Christie.A.W. 410.
23rd Coy. 3rd M.G.Battn.
3rd A.A.H.DARTFORD.

W.Cman.
London.
7-11-18.
M.I.S.

B.

Note:- Written Cpl Easy 1-11-18.

3rd Battn.
Mach. Gun.

IRWIN.
Lt. T. R.

Died of Wounds 8.8.18.

Arcroshe Wood near Hamel wounded by H.E. shell in the stomach on 8th, I saw him wounded, he was carried in just in front of me.

Informant:- Levis F.J.
3102
W.35.3.A.A.H.
Harefield.

D.P.Dickson,
23/10/18.
London,
31/10/18.
J.E.A.

B.

M.G.Coy.
3rd Battn. A.I.F.

IRWIN. Lieut. T.R.
Ogg. F.W. 426D.

"Died of Wounds 8-8-18."

(Ogg)
He was a Cpl. In my gun team. I knew him well. He came from Sydney. He was about 5'8" in height, neither fair nor dark and about 21 years old. He stuttered a little in his speech.

At Hamel-sur-Somme on Aug.8/18 at about 11 a.m. he was assisting to carry Lt. Irwin out ~~the~~ to the Dressing Station along with a Stretcher-bearer when a shell killed him and Lt. Irwin outright, Lt. Irwin was previously wounded. I was close when both were killed and I saw the casualty.

Ogg was buried on the hillside at the place of casualty on the right of Hamel-sur-Somme. It was not in a cemetery. I saw the grave with a cross erected. (No reference)

Informant:- 3067 H. Davidson,
M.G.Coy. 3rd Bttn. A.I.F.
Aldwych. 18-10-18.

London.
25-10-18.
W.H.K.
JEA.

B.

23rd Machine Gun Company) √(Lieut Irwin T. R.
3rd " " Battn.) √(Corporal Ogg F. W. 426d $

D/W Aug 8/18 Det D/B.

He was badly wounded in the stomach at Hamel in the morning and I saw him lying on a stretcher when a shell landed right alongside killing both the officer and the Corporal outright. They were both buried there behind the line with durable wooden crosses erected. I knew Lieut Irwin personally and generally called him "Bob" or "Tok R"; I was given his job of Section Sgt when he was promoted on the field at Plug Street; he was well known as a very fine fellow. He came from the Bundaburg (Q) district where his father is a Cane grower.

371 Sgt L. E. Hudson 23rd M. G. coy, 3rd Battn.
Dartford 19/10/18.
N. B. P.

mgs. B.

A.E.R. P.C. 13.11.18

. A Gift from
The Australian Comforts
Funds.

Lieut. T.R. Irwin.
3rd Bn. M. Guns.
D.W. 8.8.18.
B.
2

France.
November 6 1918.

Dear Mrs Deakin,

I am in receipt of your letter of 1st inst. I am sorry to say that the information I can give concerning the death of Lieut Irwin is only very meagre.

He was in charge of my section in the "stunt" on August 8. Just before the barrage lifted he was

A Gift from
The Australian Comforts Funds.

(2)

badly wounded.
He was carried out & the next information I had about him was that he had died of wounds.
I am sorry that I cannot give any more information but if you are writing to his people you might say that he was one of the most popular officers in the company & was a splendid fellow & we all felt his death very much.

Yours Sincerely
Lyd Casey