

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

Lieutenant
William Maxwell

38th Battalion



1740808S

38th Battn
AIF

MAXWELL
Lieut. W.

"Killed Oct 12th 1917"

Was in D. Coy., He was killed by shell near Passchendaele. I did not see it happen but Capt. Orchard D. Coy., 38th Battn France can give full details regarding Maxwell's D and B. He was with him at the time.

Witness:-

J. Dodds 2547
38th Battn
Harefield

W.G.J.
London.
14.1.18

Noted written Capt. Orchard M 9.1.18

A.I.F. 38th Batta

MAXWELL
Lieut W.

ILL -Oct.

Admitted Fargo Military Hospital 22-10-15 - Syno knee.

Trans - Endsleigh Palace 16-11-16
Cert. by Hospital Index

Going on very well indeed - Will be discharged in a week
or 10 days.

Cert. by 'phone message 15-12-16.

London
16-12-16.

M.

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

Maxwell.
Lieut. W.

"Killed in Action 12.10.17"

Re Lieut. Maxwell. I am sorry to say at the outset that I am afraid I cannot give you any very definite information on certain points. Mr. Maxwell went over on the 12th Oct., early morning. He got up a good way with the Company and they couldn't get further. He was shot by a sniper (and the bullet went through) at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon through the arm and the bullet went through his stomach. He only gasped "I'm shot!" The query you ask about his burial I'm sorry I cannot answer. I think I can say definitely that he was not buried in a soldier's cemetery. It was this way - our flank was "in the air" the troops on our left were held up by wire which had not been destroyed. Don't know if I am giving news the censor will pass but we had the orders to retire shortly afterwards. The company were getting it badly, we had no alternative but to withdraw. We never got up that far again. When we left his body was not brought in but we know he was dead. It may seem callous to you to read that he was left there, but I can assure you he had many good friends in the company and what they couldn't do, no British troops could do. He was of a firm build, slightly more than medium, his shoulders were very slightly rounded. Very dark complexion, his hair was black (very) and curly but getting thin on top. Clean shaven, good white teeth and if I remember rightly one or two at the side had been gold plated. Eyes dark brown & I'm nearly sure - a roundish face. I wish I could give

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

-2-

Maxwell.
Lieut. W.

you the news you ask for. It's no use my guessing and I don't know, and I think nobody else does. He was a great pal of mine.

Letter from:-

Captain W.H.Orchard
15.1.18.

London.
29.1.18.

M.

38th Australian Imperial Force

Maxwell, Lieut. W

(K. Oct. 12. 1917 Dets D
& B).

" I know Lt. Maxwell. He was killed at Passchendaele on the morning of Oct. 12. 17. He was sitting in a shell hole smoking. He put up his head to look at something and was instantly shot by a sniper through the head. I saw him as he lay dead, but I was hit myself soon after, and cannot say if he was buried, but I am afraid not as we had to vacate. We have since regained and it is possible he may have been found and buried then. "

Eye witness - Yes.

Description

Informant Lieut. J.S. Browne,
10th A.I.F. Light Trench Mortar Batty
1, Moreton Gardens, London, S.W.

Home address :-

Roberts Avenue,
7.2.18. Horsham,
Surford-Mancock, Victoria.

M

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

MAXWELL
Lt. W.

"Killed 12-10-17"

I can't say exactly but, Pte. Parnell D. Coy., 38th Battn.,
now at Camp 9, Sutton Veny, but will be going shortly to O.T.B.
can tell all about Lt. Maxwell.

Informant. Sullivan E.D. 2897
38th Battn., D. Coy.,
WESTHAM.

W.A. Rand
London
28-3-18

H.

Note:-

Written to Pte. Parnell 21-3-18

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

Maxwell.
Lieut. W.

"Killed in Action 12.10.17"

I am very sorry not being able to enlighten you on the matter you
require referring to Lieut. W. Maxwell of 38th Battn.

Letter from:- Pte. F. Parhell
38th Battn.

London.
5.4.18.

H.

Havre

25th April 1918.

38th A.I.F.

Maxwell Lieut. W.

E. 12th Octr 1917. Det D/B.

He was in C.Coy. He was in charge of the Company. I think his wife lived in England. I know they sent his things to her. On the 12th Octr we were attacking at Passchendaele. I was about 7 or 8 yards from Mr. Maxwell, just as we started over I saw him hit between the eyes and killed instantly.

Inf:- Pte R.D. Alberd No. 2764.
38th A.I.F. C.Co. X Pltn.
Havre Hospital.

HFG.



38th Bn.

MAXWELL, W.
Lieut.

Killed in action 12/10/17.

Was killed in the advance at Passchendaele on the
12/10/17. He was afterwards buried by there. He was killed
by shell fire. About 5 ft 8, medium build, about 28 to 30
years of age.

Informant:- W.J. Grevaschis,
No. 1315, Coy. Clerk, D. Company
38th Battln.

Private address:-
James Street,
Box Hill.

19/5/19

Recd supp.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

38th Battn.
A.I.F.

MAXWELL
Lt. W.

"Killed in Action 12-10-17"

Maslin D.Coy., his batman was with him when he was killed.
Don't know his initials or number.

Informant. Henderson J. 3281
38th Battn.
ANZAC BUFFET.

W.Alison
London
11-6-18

Note:-

Written Pte.Maslin 11-6-18

M.

Capt. DREHARD

D. Coy.

38 A.I.F.

B.S.F.

About.

Lieut. W. MAXWELL

38 A.I.F.

R-12-10-17.

Sw.
9-1-18

Call by
W. G. H.
19-1-18

L. W. MAXWELL

38 Bth

K/A 12-10-17

13/1/18

The Secretary,

Australian Red Cross Society
London. SW.

M
3

Dear Madam,

Lieut. L. W. Maxwell - K/A 12/10/17

I have received yours of the 17th inst. re
the above officer and I am sorry to say at the
outset that I'm afraid I cannot give you any very
definite information on certain points.

Lt. Maxwell "went over" on the 17th October
early morning. He got up a good way with his
company and they couldn't get further. He was shot
by a sniper at about a short in the afternoon though.

He came out the bullet went through his stomach. He
only gasped: "I'm shot".

The query you ask about his burial I'm
sorry I cannot answer. I think I can say definitely
that he was not buried in a soldier's cemetery.

It was his way. Our front was "in the air". The
hoops on our left were held up by wire which

had not been destroyed. Don't know if I am giving
 you the correct name, but we had a very ~~small~~
 afterwards to withdraw. The company were getting ~~at~~
 badly. We had no alternative ^{but} to withdraw. We never
 got up that far again. When we left his body was
 not brought in, but we knew he was dead. I ~~my~~
 never allows to go to read that he was left there,
 but I can assure you he had many good friends in
 the company, and what they couldn't do, no British
 troops could do.

He was of a fine build, slightly more
 than medium. His shoulders were very slightly
 rounded. Very dark complexion. His hair was
 black (very) and curly, but getting thin on top. Clean
 shaven. Good white teeth and if I remember
 rightly one or two of the ribs had been got so. His
 eyes dark brown - I'm nearly sure - a roundish
 face.

I wish I could give you the news you
 ask for. It's no use my guessing, and I don't know, and
 I think nobody else does. He was a great pal of mine.

Yours faithfully,

W. D. O'Connell

21/3/18.

Lt. Pte Parnell

D. Coy.

38th Battn.

Camp. 9. A. I. F.

Sutton Verry.

About Lieut. W. MAXWELL.

38th Battn.

A. I. F.

H. 12/10/17.

21.3.18.
A. I. F.

(11.6.18)

Pte. Maslin (Bulman) D

2 Coy

38th Batt. G.I.D.

abroad

abt. officer

Lt Maxwell

38th Batt. G.I.D.

K/A 12.10.17

11.6.18.
A.I.B.

2.3.18, LIEUT. W. MAXWELL.
38th BATT.

KIA. 12.10.17.

3
M

Dear Miss

I am very sorry not been able to
enlighten you on the matter you require

referring Lt. W. Maxwell of 38th Batt

Yours faithfully

Pte. F. Parnell

38th Batt

Clerk by P.L.
3.4.18
G.I.

CC

Captain W. H. Orchard,
38th, Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force,
ABROAD.

25th, January, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

Lieut. W. Maxwell, 38th. Battalion.

The information you have supplied will be of much assistance to us, and of value to our Enquirers, and though, with you, we wish you could have given us more definiteness of what happened to this Officer.

May we offer you our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

[Handwritten signature]