

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

1963 Private  
Francis Patrick Rich

38th Battalion



2280701K

38th Ptn

RICH  
F.P. 1963

"M. 28-5-17"

Killed in Action 28-5-17  
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters ~~28-5-17~~ 4-7-17

OFF.M.

London  
-7-17

A.I.F.  
38th Btn.

RICH

STEWART

Francis Patrick 1963

Killed in Action 28.5.17.

Holland Germany

WALLARTSUA

Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

Cause of Casualty	Casualty	Unit	Name
London. 23.10.19.		H.	

A.I.F. 38.

RICH. F.P. 1963.

M. May 28th 1917.

I knew him. We went on a raid at Ploegsteert. He was missing then but two or three weeks after we found his dead body and our burial officer Lt Ives was in charge when we found him, but Lt Ives is now dead. Lt Ives buried him I think at Ploegsteert where we found him. He was identified him by his disc.

Inf: Pte H.W.H. Tutor. 465  
No. 7 C.C.  
BOULOGNE. 10.7.17.

RAOI

*cl no K n a* *[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Rich.  
P. P. 1963

"Killed 28.5.17"

Rich was killed at Ploegsteert Wood in front of Messines but I can't  
tell you any particulars as to burial though pretty sure to be buried  
there.

Witness:-

Lieut. Kennedy  
38th Battn.

Officers Mess. Westham.

W.A. Rand.

London.  
20.11.17.

M.

38th A.I.F.

Rich  
Rich F.P. 1963,

(K. May 28/17)

I did not know Rich before I joined the Batt: In Australia he was a Cpl. but when he came over with reinforcements to France he was reduced to Pte. He and I came over in the same boat. On the 28th May 1917 we were outside Messines in trenches. Rich was going over the top with a party on that day. I was a member of the party. We were out to take a closing line of trenches in front of us. It was in the evening abt. 9 o'clock when we went over the top. It was dark. We came under shell fire and I was told afterwards by several members of the party that Rich was struck with a piece of shell and killed instantaneously. I was ahead of him at the time it happened. I was told he had a body wound and that his heart was hit. I cannot give the names of any of the men who told me. I did not see the body. The burial Officer, Lt. Herring of the 38th A.I.F. told me the same night when we came back from the raid that Rich had been buried with others in a shell hole where he fell.

Written L. Herring 22.12.17 P.T.O. M

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: I/Cpl. P.W. Jephion 1858,  
38th A.I.F., C. Coy., XI Plt.,  
3rd Western General Hospt.,  
Cardiff.

Home address:  
Murrayville,  
Victoria.

Nov. 28/17,  
T.P. Leonard.

38th Btn.

RICH. F. P.  
Pte. 1963

"Killed in action 28/5/17."

"I knew Casualty. He was a medium built man about 23 years of age. Casualty was in a raid before the attack on Messines. He was killed by a machine gun bullet and he laid out for four days before he was brought in. I don't know where he was buried as we went out just after that attack."

Informant:- M. McPherson,  
No. 476, 38th Btn.

Private address:-  
20 St. Vincents Place,  
Albert Park.

T.C.F.  
24/1/18.

M

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

38th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Rich.  
F.P. 1963

"Killed in Action 28.5.17"

re 1963 Pts.F.P.Rich. I am sorry I cannot give you any particulars at present and as I expect to be here for some weeks yet I would advise you to send any enquiry to Capt.F.B.Fairweather C.Coy. 38th Battn. On 28th May I was away from the Battalion sick but as far as my memory serves me this man was killed in a raid we made on enemy trenches near Ploegsteert Wood and Capt.Fairweather was in charge, if so the probabilities are that he would be buried in a cemetery but of course I cannot be in any way certain.

Letter from:-

Lieut.P.V.Henwig

Overseas Tr.Bgde.

Warminster. 17.1.18.

London.

27.2.18.

M.

NoteWritten Capt.Fairweather 26.2.18.

38th Battn.  
A.I.F.

*Ph. Rich R.F.*  
~~Fairweather, M.C.~~  
Capt. F.E. 1963

"Killed in Action 28.5.17"

This soldier was killed in action during a raid on the German trenches on the night of 28.5.17. I cannot inform you where he was buried, or, in fact, if he was buried at all, as he was killed in the German trenches and it was impossible to recover his body.

Letter from:- The O.C. *Gen. Fairweather M.C.*  
38th Battn.  
10.3.18.

London.  
19.3.18.

M.

A.I.F. 38th Battn.

RICH  
F.P. 1963  
Marra  
H.E. 345  
Worthy  
P.W. 2169

KILLED 28/5/17.

They were with me on a raid at Ploegstart at 2 a.m. on May 28th and Marra was wounded in several places by a shell. I was wounded myself the same morning and was taken to the C.C.S. at Steenwerke where I saw him. He was unconscious and was then on the point of death and died a few minutes after. He was the only Marra in the Battalion Name Harry About 5ft 8 and 25. Dark and thickset Was in A Company III platoon. Rich was killed outright by a shell on the same raid. I dont think his body was found. The only Rich in the Company. Name Frank. Thin small, delicate looking. Came with 2nd reinforcements. Worthy was killed outright in the same raid, Lieut. McKay A Company III platoon 38th Battalion A.I.F. told me he was blown to pieces. Worthy was a big dark well-built man belonging to A Company IV. A fine fellow. Name Percy. He came from Horsham Victoria 3rd reinforcement. Lieut. McKay (38th Battn., A.I.F. A III) led the raid and could give further details of all three.

Informant:- 1784 Pte R. F. Anderson,  
38th Battn., A.I.F. A II,  
Richmond Military Hospital.

G. Campbell

London  
6.5.18

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38th A.I.F.

RICH  
Pick Pte. F.P. 1963.

(K. May 28th 1917)

I state that Pte. Rich was killed in a raiding party from Ploegsteert Wood Sector. We lost very heavily and many bodies had to be left and were recovered a week later, but no trace was ever found of Pte. Rich. We held a Board of Enquiry.

Eye-witness: No, common knowledge.

Description: Abt. 5ft 7, dark, abt. 20.

Informant: Lt. L.J. Birchill,  
38th A.I.F.,  
3rd London General Hospt.,  
Wandsworth.

Home address:

6.5.18,  
W. Arnold Davies.

M

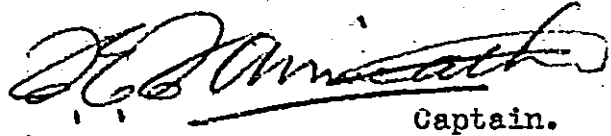
38th Battalion, A.I.F.  
10th March 1918.

From. Captain F.E. FAIRWEATHER. M.C.

To. Secretary, Australian Red Cross Society,  
36 Grosvenor Place, LONDON. S.W.1.

- Re No. 1963 Pte RICH F.P. - 38 Bath 1/A 28-5-17

This soldier was killed in action during a Raid on the German Trenches on the night of 28.5.17. I cannot inform you where he was buried, or, in fact, if he was buried at all, as he was killed in the German Trenches and it was impossible to recover his body.

  
Captain.

38th Battalion, A.I.F.

38th Battalion, A.I.F.  
10th March 1918.

From. Captain F.H. WAINWRIGHT. M.C.

To. Secretary, Australian Red Cross Society,  
36 Grosvenor Place, LONDON. S.W.1.

- Re No. 1968 Pte RICH F.P. -

This soldier was killed in action during a Raid on the German Trenches on the night of 28.5.17. I cannot inform you where he was buried, or, in fact, if he was buried at all, as he was killed in the German Trenches and it was impossible to recover his body.

Captain.

38th Battalion, A.I.F.

19.0.17

LOUI HERRING

38 Bto AIF

B 8 f

C

abt

1963

F. P. RICH

38 Bto AIF

K. 28. 5. 17

26-12-14  
JH

1963. F. P. RICH  
38 Batta Overseas Training Bde  
K/A 28-5-17 Warminster  
In 17/1/18  
3

My dear Miss Dlatkin

One of your enquiring letters (undated) has just reached me re 1963 Pt. F. P. Rich 38<sup>th</sup> Batta. K. 28-5-17.

I'm sorry I cannot give you any particulars at present as I expect to be here for some weeks yet I could advise you to send any enquiry to Capt. F. E. Fairweather, 'B' Coy. 38<sup>th</sup> Bn.  
On 28<sup>th</sup> May I was away



25/2/68

Captain F. E. Fairweather

C. Coy 36 Bn

A.I.F.

Abroad.

abn

1963

F. P. RICH

36 Bn

A.I.F.

M

K May 28/17

26-8-18  
A.I.F.