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

6098 Private
William John Richards

11th Battalion



2290207M

11th Bttn. A.I.F.

RICHARDS.
W.J. 6098.

"Killed in Action 21-3-18."

Bailleul
Bailew and Hetern between the two places in Spoil Bank Cemetery. I saw his grave and a cross up. He was a cobber of mine in the same platoon and I went specially to look for it.

Informant -
6823 Temple.
W. 37. 1st A.A.Hpl.
Harefield.

D.P.Dickson.
London.
23-9-18.
HG.

P.

A.I.F. IIth Batt RICHARDS W.J. 6098.

K March 21st 1918.

I didn't see Billy Richards A. Coy killed by our own machine guns bullets while getting through the wire on returning from patrol early in the morning at Spoilbank. He was hit in the chest and killed instantly . Sgt. Mullins of A Coy. told me about it, and would be able to give information, though I don't think he was actually with him. He was buried alongside of W I.Rowe 3452, same battalion, and I have seen his grave which has a cross over it.

Richards was from W Australia where he used to work on the gold fields, a little short, Solid chap, middle aged.

Inf. Pte P.S. Holman 3363. IIth Btn B.VII
No I S. Af. Hosp½
ABBEVILLE, 27.9.18. HKH.

Written Sgt Mullins 10.10.18

11th Battn.
A.I.F.

RICHARDS.
W.J. 6098.

"Killed in Action 21-3-18"

Was a private in A?Company, 11th Battalion, short, muggety, snowy headed. He was on patrol at Spil Bank on left of Messines, on 21st March about 10.p.m. and was killed accidentally by one of our own machine gunners. A Fritz patrol was cut but was lost sight of, and instructions were given to fire if anybody was seen. In the meantime one of our own patrols went out and no warning being given that they had gone, they were fired on and Richards got three bullets in the stomach. I did not see him hit, but heard him yell, and ran to him. He was unconscious when I got there and died before we could get him on the stretcher. We carried him to Platoon Headquarters and left him there. Did not see burial or grave. We came over together on the Miltiades from Fremantle on 7th August 1916. He was well liked in the Company and we were all very sorry to lose him.

Informant:- Pte.F.H.Davies, 6034.
11th Battalion. Transport.

H.S.Cowan.
London.
25-2-19.
H.G.

P.

G C

To Sgt Mullins
a. Co 11 Battn
a.I.F

Also
6098 Pte W.J. Richards
11 Battn
a.I.F.

K March 21./18

Written 10.10.18
MES

THIS REFERENCE MUST BE QUOTED IN CORRESPONDENCE

INQUIRY BUREAU, 39 BROAD STREET, BRISTOL.

Cross Index No. Bath/11977

BATH WAR HOSPITAL.

NAME (Surname first) James Clive H.C No. 312 Rank Pte

Regiment 59 A.I.F. Coy. A Plat. III

Hospital Bath Ward Y 2

Arrived 16.9.18. At Front from 9.16. To 9.18.

Home Address 273 Brunswick Road, East Brunswick, Melbourne.

Depot

GIVES INFORMATION REGARDING:—

Missing man Wheeler G.W. Casualty? D/W 25.4.18. Det D/B

Regiment A.I.F. Battln. 59 Coy. AA No. 2894

Red Cross List dated 1.9.18. page 42 A

B.E.F.

Wheeler was hit by a machine gun bullet in the action at Villers-Bretonneux [illegible] 25th [illegible]