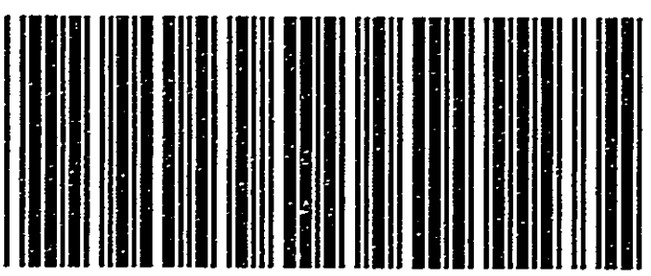
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6296 Private
Hugh Main

17th Battalion



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A.I.F. 17th Btn
late 13th

MAIN
Pte. Hugh 6296

"WHEREABOUTS"

Killed in action 3-10-18 - no details yet
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 26-10-18.

P.I.

London
28-10-18

A.I.F. 17th Battn.

MAIN
H.6296.

"Killed 3/10/18."

At Joncourt north of St. Quentin, Killed by shell when on Outpost, killed at once. I saw him killed, and I also saw his grave near Joncourt Village where our Outpost was. I knew him well. Came from Erskineville, Sydney.

Informant:- 6406, Cummings,
Ward 25,
Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.
London
27.11.18.
H.G

P.I.
S

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

MAIN
H. 6296

"KILLED 3-10-18"

He was in B.Coy. I did not see the Casualty, but he was hit by pieces of Shell all over the body and was very badly knocked about, death being instantaneous. Another lad named Humphries a L/Cpl. was killed with him. They were on a Machine Gun Post at the time of Casualty, which happened about 11 a.m. on Oct.2/18 when we were holding the village of Johniecourt.

I knew him fairly well and ours was a New South Wales Battalion. They were the only two on post at the time, though another man named Wren had just left it.

I buried him on the morning of Oct.3/18 on the field at Johniecourt - the grave was not marked at the time but would be later. I cannot refer to anyone further.

Informant - Jones.Pte.J. 4748.
17th Battn. B.Coy.,
3rd A.A.H.
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
21-11-18
London
27-11-18
J.E.A.

P.I.
S.

A.I.F. 17th Battn. MAIN
H. 6296.

"Killed 3.10.18."

St. Quentin, to the South on outpost, was killed by shell; half his head was blown off, and otherwise badly hit. I saw him the night of the 2nd; he was sleeping alongside till he went to the post. I saw him after he was killed. We left his body in a short sap at the post; did not see his grave. We hopped over a few hours after he was killed and went forward.

Informant:- 5850 Maskiell,C.A.
Ward 9,
Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.
London
26.12.18.
J.P.A.

S.
P.I.

17th Battalion.
(late 13th Battn. 20R.)

MAIN, Private
H. No. 6296

"Killed 3/10/18"

Informant described Main as about 5'10" high, medium build, fair complexion, aged about 22/25, thought to have come from Newtown. Had a brother named "Jack" in the same Battalion. He was in "B" Company.

On the 2/10/18 the Battalion was holding the line at outside Joncourt, having gone in on the night of that date. About 11 p.m. while Main was on outpost duty he was killed outright by a shell that blew up the outpost. Informant was two outposts away. An Officer brought the news and Informant then went over to the post and saw Main lying dead on the ground, together with the other occupants of his post. Informant had seen Main leave that night when they were going into the line. About 3 o'clock next morning they had a hop-over and Informant could not tell me where Main was buried.

Informant;- No. 4549, Pte. W. Theobald,
"C" Coy. 17th Battalion.
Private adress;- 528 Crown Street,
Surry Hills, Sydney. N.S.W.
W.E.G.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
Randwick, Sydney.

7/2/19. SYDNEY BUREAU.

17th BATTALION
late 13th Battn 20th Reinforcements

MAIN H. Private
No. 6296.

"KILLED 3.10.18."

Main was in B. Company VIII platoon under me; he was a big chap and his initial was H. He had a brother whose name was Jack in the same Battalion, but Jack was in England when H. Main was killed. H. Main was on a post with one other chap- Lance-Corporal Humphreys- at Johncourt on 3.10.18.. The Company Sergeant Major came along and told me this post had been blown in by a shell- I went out to investigate and found Main and L/Corporal Humphreys dead at the post having been killed instantly, being wounded in the head. This was early in the morning and I am sure it was Main and Humphreys and that they were killed instantly. They were buried that night where they fell.

Informant: Sergeant J. Dolan. 1346.
17th Battalion A. Company,
"Osterley"

Home address: Hooramie Avenue,
KENSINGTON.

No. 4 General Hospital, RANDWICK. SYDNEY BUREAU.
21.2.19.
H.S.O.

Main
John

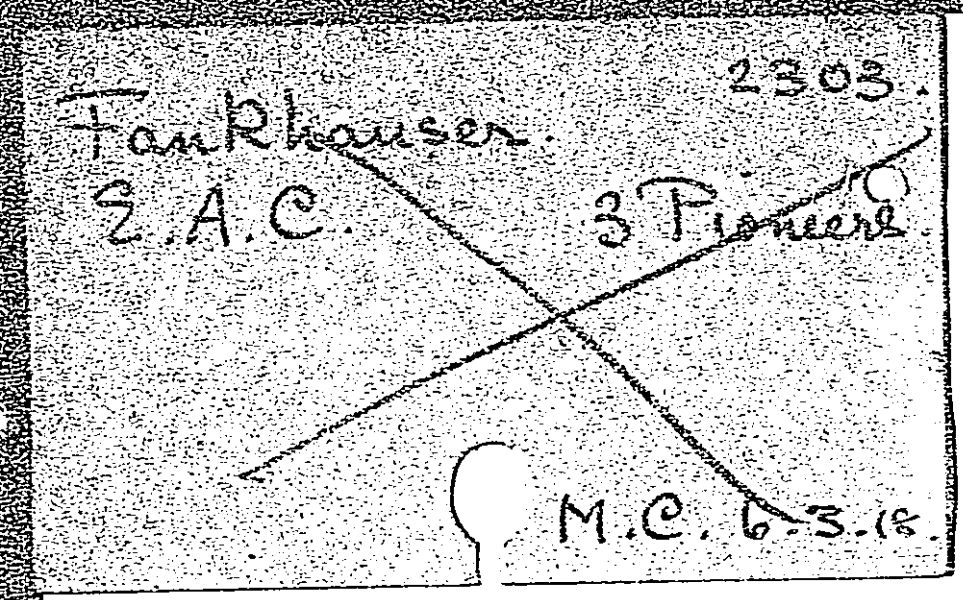
5862
17th Batt.

Where about?
R.T.A. Warwick 2-1-19

N/H Mother Mrs G. Main
10 Albert St
Erskineville N.S.W.

Filed under
Pte. Hugh Main
17th Batt. C.I.F.

Letter Section


Fourhouser.
2303.
2 A.C.
3 Pioneers
M.C. 6.3.16.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY,
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,
38 GROSVENOR PLACE,
Telephone—8577 Victoria. VICTORIA, S.W. 1.

ENQUIRY.

Name & Initials Hugh Main

No. 62296 Rank Pte

Unit 17th Batt A.I.F.

Casualty

If Official

Next-of-Kin (if possible) Mrs J. Main

10 Albert Street Erskineville

Sydney N.S.W. Australia

Remarks— Have not had any word of my Brother Hugh Main since 27th Sept 1918
Sir
Would you kindly inform me if any thing has happened to oblige
5862 Pte John Main
17th Batt A.I.F
25 10 18 C/o Command Depot
Littlemoor Camp
Weymouth

26. 10. 18

3862 Pte John Main
17 Battalion A.I.F.
2nd Command Depot
Littlemore Camp
Wyn Mr Tb

Dear Sir

In reply to your enquiry dated 25.10.18 for 6296 Pte Hugh Main & 17th Battalion A.I.F., we deeply regret to inform you that he was killed in action on 3.10.18.

We are making all possible enquiries for details of his death and burial and will notify you as soon as they come to hand —

We assure you of our sincere sympathy and regret very much the sad nature of this news.

~~With good wishes~~

Yrs —

5862 Pte John Main
17th Btn
Command Depot
Littlemoor Camp
Weymouth

9.1.19.

Dear Sir

With reference to your enquiry for 6296 Pte Hugh Main ~~we beg to~~ 17th Batn A.I.F. we beg to inform you we have received the following unofficial information from 5850 C.A. Maskiell.

Pte Main was killed instantaneously by a shell at an outpost to the South of St Quentin on October 3rd 1918. I saw him the night of the 2nd, he was sleeping alongside me

ll he went to the post. I saw him after
he was killed we left his body in a short
Sap at the post and did not see his grave
as we went over the top a few hours after-
wards and ~~went forward~~.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy

Yours

Name.	Number and Unit.	Inquiry and Remarks.
Turton G.M.S./A.B	2264 - 7 Bty. F.A.	died pneumonia 2-L G.Hos 27/8/18

5862 Pte. John Main,
17th Battalion. A.I.F.
Littlemoor Camp,
No 2 Command Depot.
WEYMOUTH.

December 4th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for your brother - 5296 Pte.H.Main. 17th Battalion. A.I.F. We beg to inform you that we have now received two unofficial reports about him from men in his unit.

4748 Pte. J.Jones interviewed recently at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he was Killed instantly by a shell, when at a machine gun post, in the village of Johnicourt Our informant buried him on the field, and though the grave was not marked at the time he thought he it would be later. *

6408 Pte. Cummins interviewed at the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, confirms the above report in every particulars

We are continuing our enquiries and will advise you as soon as any further information reaches us. Trusting it may be of some comfort to know your brother was killed instantly, and with good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

* which they were holding at the time