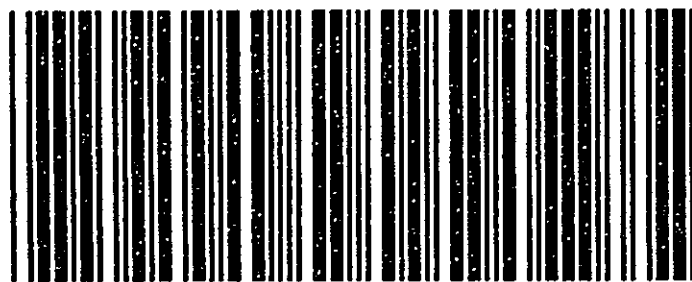


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**2nd Lieutenant
Ronald Malcom
McMillan**

6th Battalion



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7th Nov. 1917

6th AUSTRALIANS

HAMILTON, Lieut. R.
Forbes, Lieut. J.W.

K. 25.9.17. Det. D/B.

Both these Officers were killed in the Marik Road Stunt in Sept. 1917. The U. of M. Padre, Capt. Carter will be able to give location of their graves. The bodies were taken out and I understand that Capt. Carter was at the Burial.

Informant: Corpl. A.D. McPherson, 3397
6th Australians, 1 Co., 4th Pltn.,
Australian O camp, Rouelles.

RM

P.1

Written Capt. Carter 12.11.17

6th A.I.F.

Lt. R. McMillan.

K. 25.9.17. Det. D & B.

I saw him get killed by a shell at Glencourse Wood on the Zonnebeke front. It was in a short trench or post on the supports. Casual shelling was going on, there was no particular attack at the time. About a dozen men were in the post, it was about 2.30 p.m. The shell landed right in the trench and Lt. McMillan was killed instantly, being badly injured. Four others were killed by the same shell, Sgt. Fowley, two officers, and another. I was only a few yards away. I saw Lt. McMillan taken away for burial at Hooze Crater - it is about a mile on the German side of Zillebeke Lake.

Reference: G. Woods. 2902.

No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 9.11.17.

REP.

P-1

FRANCE

6th BATT. A.I.F.

McMILLAN. Lt R.

K. Sept 25th. 1917. Det.

He had been my Platoon Sergeant but had just got his star and was with D. Coy. On the day of our first attack on Polygon Wood I saw him caught by a shell after we had gone about 150 yards; he was killed outright. I am in D. Coy, but the two companies were somewhat mixed up at that time. The Pioneers were burying the dead after us.

JHA

Ref ---Cpl Gordon. 3761. D. Coy.
No 47 Gen. Hospital.

NOTE. According to informant the date would be Sept 20th, not Sept 25th, so I think that perhaps he is mistaken and the statement requires confirmation.

Le Treport. Nov 10th. 1917

P.1

A. I. F. C.

McMILLAN, Lieut. R.

K., September 25th, 1917.

He was killed close beside me about September 25th (but I cannot fix the date) on the Ypres front in a trench in our line. Time about 2 or 3 p.m. A shell came over and struck him, killing him instantly. It also killed 3 others and wounded 4. I saw it happen. He was buried where he fell by Cpl Morris and Pte Palmer of B. Coy. I saw him buried and a cross was erected with his name and rank on which I have also seen. He was a B. Coy officer.

Reference:- Pte F.O.W. Shaw. 2858. B.VI.
No. 1 Can. Gen. Sp.

PHE.

2.1

Etaples
12.11.17.

William Morris Palmer
20/11/17

6 Australians.

McMillan. Lt: R.

(K. Sept: 25/17)
Det D/B.

"I saw Lt: McMillan our platoon officer killed by a shell in the trench on the Ypres front about Sept: 21st 1917. He was buried near where he fell in the support trench."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Not very tall; rather stout; fair complexion; and hair, He had just got his commission.

Informant: Frank Smith. 5496.

6th Batt. A.I.F. B Co: 6 Pl:
Kitchener's Hospital.
(Ward E. 1.2.3.)

Home address Leicester Street,
Preston.

13.11.17.
C. de H. Harpent.

Mr. Melbourne.

6th A.I.F.

Lt. R. McMILLAN.

K. 25.9.17. Det. D & B.

We went over at 6 a.m. at Zillebeke. Mr. McMillan was hit in the head by a sniper and died almost at once. I did not see him hit, but it was generally talked about. He was my Pl. Officer, he had only just got his Commission and was most popular. He came to us from another Co. about 2 months before he was killed. I don't know about burial.

Reference: L/Cpl. F. R. Smith, 2882. B Co. 6 Pl.

No. 5 General, Rouen. 14.11.17.

WS.

P. I.
Ed
Suff

6 A I F.

McMillan, Lt. R

K Sept. 25/17. Det. D/B.

This date should be Sept. 21, the day after the advance on the Menin Road. The attack opened about 6 am on Sept. 20; our Batt. was in the first wave of the assault and had about 600 yards to go for our final objective (FitzClarence Farm); we got there and established ourselves. On the following day Lt. McMillan was in a dug-out with Serg. E Ferrally and another man when a shell penetrated and killed all three. I heard about it from Serg G A Backham 2074 who saw it happen and was acting as C S M and collecting reports; he told me directly after. I cannot give any information about his burial.

Inf:- Q M S W G Wright 636 B Co
No 10 Sta. Hosp.
St Omer. 15 II 17.

WG

P.1
6d
Suff

6th A.I.F.

McMillan Lt. R.
C. Coy. X Plt.

(K. Sept. 25/17 Det D/B)

"Lt. McMillan was my Plt. Officer and had only gained his commission about a month before he was killed behind Polygon Wood and he would be buried near there".

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: L/Opl. W. Parish 6332,
6th A.I.F., C. Coy. X Plt.,
Queen's Hospt.,
Birmingham.

Home address:
Green Park,
Horsham,
Victoria.

P.1
6d
Suff

Nov. 16/17,
F. Jervis.

6th A.I.F.

McMillan, Lt. R.

(K. Sep. 25/27, dets D/B)

"At Ypres in the afternoon on 24 or 25th of September, we were in a strong point in support, a shell fell in the trench and killed Mr. McMillan, Sgt. Farrelly, Ptes. McDonald and Montague and wounded four others. I was an eye-witness, the remains of all four were buried on the spot. We put up crosses on the four graves. They would be on the enemy's side of Ypres, but I cannot define closer. Mr. McMillan was my platoon officer."

Eye witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Pte. F.C. Shaw, 3858, 6th A.I.F.,
Southmead Hospital, Bristol.

Home address:

17.11.17.
H.W. Ward.

P1
6-2-11

6th Battn.
A.I.F.

McMillen.
2/Lieut. Ronald

"Killed in Action"

2/Lieut. R. McMillen was killed at his post by enemy shell fire on 20.9.17. He was very badly hit and death was instantaneous. It was impossible to carry his remains to the rear for burial first on account of the danger of the position, and secondly on account of the shattered condition of the body, so his body was buried at the post where the fatality occurred in Glencorse Wood East of Ypres. I do not know if the grave is registered probably not, The whole locality is badly churned up with shell fire. I have written his next of kin.

Letter from:- The Chaplain,
6th Battn.
16.11.17.

London.
27.11.17.

P.I.

6th Batt. A.I.F.

McMillan, R. Lieut.
L.M.G.C.

Killed Sept 25th 1917. Det. D.B.

He was killed instantly by a piece of shell hitting him in the head, about midday on the 20th of Sept. This happened at Glencose Wood, near Polygon Wood. I could not say if he was buried, I saw him lying there for some time after. He was an old Batt man. He came from Melbourne.

Description. Age. 23. Height. 5-7. Complexion. Fair. Well Built.

Witness. Pte. Dowling, H. NO. 76. D. Coy. 6th Batt.

Taken at
NO. 4. C.D. Hurdcott.
21-12-17.
F.G.H.

S. Whitmes.
NO. 4. Command Depot
Hurdcott,

P. 1
Ed. 8. 11

6th Bat
A.I.F.

ILLIAN.
Lieut. Ronald.

"KILLED IN ACTION" 25.9.17

Ref. R. McMillan, B. Coy. 6th Battn. Firstly he was killed on the 20th Sept not 25th as stated by you. He had just a few weeks personally been promoted to Lieut. and was in charge of No 6th Platoon of B. Coy. At the time he met his death he was sitting in a trench talking to his Serge and a few others, when a shell came in and killed 5 and wounded 5. I buried him where he lay and put a cross over his grave. I took from him his wallet and other personal belongings and handed them to the Colonel of the Battalion. I am not much at describing persons, but Lieut McMillan was a extremely lively personage, he was exceptionally brisk and always moved about in quick time, fair to sandy in hair, and complexion, well built and of medium height. I believe that his grave has been registered. He had been with the sixth Battery as long as I can remember over about eighteen months in France, I trust that this information is all that you require. I have your note to Pte Palmer but he is away, wounded and he does not know anything more than what I have described.

Letter from:- E. F. Morris. Cpl.

France. 24.11.17.

Note:- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work, and shortage of machines.,
London. 9.8.18.

P.I.

6th Batt. A.I.F.

McMillan. Lieut R.
B.Co. 6th Plt.

K. Sept 25/17 Det D/B

Informant states that:- "On September 20th about 3.0 o'clock afternoon, near Glencorse Wood, the 6th platoon were in a trench, when a shell came and killed 8 men, Lt. McMillan was one of them, he was killed instantaneously. His remains were buried in the trench where he was killed. Informant was in the trench at the time and helped to bury him. A wooden cross was put up with Lieut. McMillan's name on it. Informant was in the 6th platoon; but is now in the 5th platoon."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Lieut had a couple of moles on his cheek. Informant says 'he was one of the best.'

Informant: Sgt. Reuben H. Wheeler, 4935
6th A.I.F. B Co. 5th Pl.
Temple Rd. Mil. Home
Birkenhead.

Nov. 8/17.
D.B. Irvine.

Home address: said he had none; but gave 6th Aus. Batt
B.E.F. France.

Lt. Ronald

McMillan

6 B. T. G. 2, 7

Rin A. 25th Sept?

Details

Aug: -

Miss Seaton.

♡

15.10.17.

Cpl NORRIS 9C
Lt PALMER

B. Coy.

6 A. I. F.

B. S. 7.

about

Lt. R. M. J. MILLAN

6 A. I. F.

B. S. 7.

K 25.9.17.

DW.
20.11.17

GC
ROBERT MCGREGOR

6A.1.F

B.9.7

about.

LIEUT. R. MCMILLAN

6A.1.F.

Killed 26.9.14.

En.
14.11.17,

Kia A. In the Field.
16-11-17.

Reply to enclosed 2nd Lt. R.
McKenna of 8th Bn. A.I.F. was
killed at his post - by enemy shell
fire on 20.9.17. He was very badly
hit and death was instantaneous. It
was impossible to carry his remains
to the rear for burial - on account
of the danger of the position and
especially on account of the
physical condition of the body, as his
body was buried at the post where
the gatahly occurred in Glencora
Wood East of Ypres.

Yours sincerely

George W. Carter

On behalf of the A.I.F.

I do not know if his grave is registered -
probably not. The whole locality is badly
damaged up to the shell fire, I am
within his post of mine.

P.I.

Oct
by P.C.
F.M. 30.11.17

24/1/17

Lt Ronald McMillan

KA 20.9.17

6 Batt

P.1 (2)

Dear Madam, I am in receipt of your enquiry for information re the reference of Lieut. R. H. Millan B. 1st 6th Batt.

He was killed on the 20th Sept not 25th as stated by you. He had just a few weeks previously been promoted to Lieutenant and was in charge of No 6 Platoon of B. Co. At the time he met his death he was sitting in a trench talking with his Sergeant & a few others when a shell came in and killed 5 and wounded 3. I buried him when he laid and put a cross over his grave. I took from him his wallet and other personal belongings and handed them to the Colonel of the Battalion.

I am just now at Resembly. Persons but Lieut. H. Millan was an extremely heavy platoon. He was exceptionally brisk and always moved about

10/11/1914
Very much like - fair to sandy in
hair & complexion well built
and of medium height.

I believe that his
features are then registered.

He has been with the South
African as long as I can
remember - about eighteen months
in France. I trust that the
information is all that
you require. I have
been not to the General but
he is away wounded and he
does not know anything more
than what I have described.

Yours faithfully
Lieut. Morris Cpl.

Genl. Morris 832

Robert Morris

G-C

Captain Carter, C. F.
6th Battn. A. I. F.
B. A. F.

Nov. 12th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We have been making enquiries concerning -

Lieut. P. McMillan - 6th Battn. A. I. F. Killed in Action
26.9.17 and have lately been informed that if we applied to your-
self we should be able to obtain details of the burial of this
officer and the location of his grave. Though we feel certain that y
you must have written the relatives in Australia, we should be most
grateful for any details you could send us concerning Lt. McMillan
as we have an enquirer in England who is anxious to obtain all poss-
ible information.

With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in
anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

V. D
Secretary. Jlu