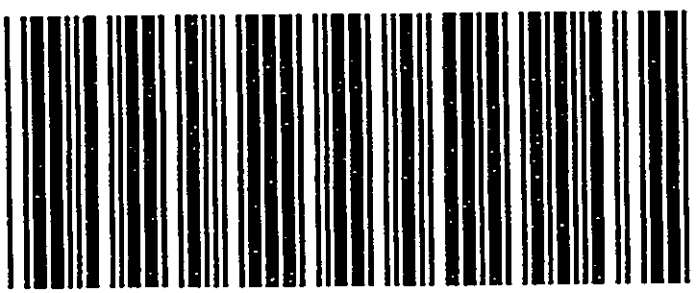
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3230 Private William Edward Watson

51st Battalion



2871108R

A.I.F. 51st Btn

WAR OFFICE
Wm. Pdtr. 3830

"K/A. 11-5-18"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

?

London
24-10-19

51. A.I.F. Watson. W.E. Pte. 3230.

(K. May 11/18.) Det. D/B.

"I saw Pte Watson (51. A. Sig.) after he had been killed, about May 11th. in front of Villers-Bretonneux, we were on an outpost, and he was sentry on the look-out, at about 11pm. he was shot right through the forehead, by an enemy sniper. Those beside him said that he never spoke. I saw him afterwards. I know he was buried near the trench the same night, but I have not seen his grave."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Next man due for leave, thick set, medium height, from the West, out twelve months.

Informant: L/Cpl. Percival Tasker. 2010.
A. Coy. 3rd Pl.
51. Batt. A.I.F.
3rd Southern General Hospital.
The Base.

Home Address:- Salesbury Avenue, Oxford.
Victoria Park,
W. Australia.

Hilda M. Pickard.
Cambridge. 18.7.18.

NO ENQUIRY

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

WATSON
W.

"Killed about 2-5-18"

Probably

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

WATSON
W.E. 3230

"Killed in Action 11-5-18"

Watson had been a Sig., but at time of his death was in M.G.Section. He was sniped in an outpost to the left of the railway at Villers-Bretonneux, being hit through the head and killed, remaining unconscious for about 20 minutes, I was in the out-post and saw him killed. I helped to bury him that night at the back of the outpost. His address is Perth - Lord Street, I think. A married man.

Informant. Cosh.E.C..7112
51st Battn. A.Coy.,
Hut 12,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
6-8-18
H.G.

On this identical with Sgt Watson W. 3230. K. May 11/18.

P.

FRANCE

51st BATT. A.I.F. WATSON. W.E. 3230.

Z.May 11th.1918.

He belongs to A.Coy and was sniped through the head while we were holding the line at Villers Bretonneux early in May, after having taken the ground on April 24th. It happened on the far side of the village. He was carried back for burial; but I don't know where he was buried.

JHA.

Ref ---Pte Naughton. 3566.
No 2 Can. Gen. Hospital.

Le Preport. August 10th.1918

A. I. F. 51st Bn. WATSON, W. E. 3230.

K. May 11/18. Det.D/B.

He was in my Section. We were holding the line at Villers-Bretonneux. He was killed - shot through the brain by a sniper - at 8.0 a.m.: he was acting as sentry. I was asleep when he was hit, but they woke me and I helped dress his wound. He died about half an hour afterwards. Our line was 100 yards from the German line. I helped to bury Watson the same night in a shell hole just behind our line, 300 yards in front of Villers-Bretonneux, and 80 yards from the Railway. He had not been long with the Coy. and was in my Plat. and Sect. He was young (about 20), fair and of average height.

Reference: Pte.A.G.Reynolds, 2859, A.Coy. 2 Plat.

No.3 Stationary, Rouen, 8.8.18.

ABMH.

P