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

2621 Private
William Richard Page

38th Battalion



2080304H

38th Battn
A.I.F.

W.R. Page.
2621

"Killd 9.6.17."

I beg to state that Pte. W.R. Page was killed in the battle of Messines on the right of Messines Township, and we s buried where he fell in the field of battle. He was killed by a shell and lived about ½ hour I was talking to a friend of his and the last words he said was to send all his things home. I also may state that I seen his dead body and I am certain that the body was Pte. W.R. Pagealso two other mates of his seen his body. His grave would have a number and also a cross on it by now.

Letter from:- Pte. J. Walsh 2675
France. 20.7.17.

London.
10.9.17.

S

38th Battn
A.I.F.

PAGE
W. R. 2621

Killed in Action 7-9/6/17

Re W. R. Page, D. Coy 38th Battn - I can only tell you that he was killed almost instantly. He only lived quite a few minutes. He was buried on the battlefield. There is not the least doubt about his identity. I wrote to his father just after he was killed and told him all I knew. I also wrote a note to a Pal of his in England who has since gone back to Australia, and I know he wont lose any time getting to Mr. Page's home.

I regret to say I have kept you waiting a reply, but I've been trying to get more information, but anyhow you need not worry any longer. I feel sure his people will know all now.

Letter from Pte Jas. Wheatley. B.E.F.
16.9.17.

S

London 27.9.17

38th Battn. PAGE, W.R.

2621 Pte

7-9

Killed in Action 9/6/17.

Page was a 5th Reinf. and left Australia with me in the Berglla on 9/11/16. He was wounded and died of wounds in the battle of Messines in June last. I did not see it happen but was told about it by Pte H.Parsons also a 5th Reinf. who told me in England in September last that he was with Page just before Page was wounded and saw Page's body after his death. I met Page's father since my return and told him what I knew. His father lives at Botany.

Informant: Clothier, I.G. 2538
38th Battn.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

A careful witness. S. Ca Army

H.S.O.
8.1.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

38th Battalion A.I.F
D. Coy

PAGE W.R. P'te.
No. 2621.

1-9

"Killed 9/6/17."

Informant described Page as about 6ft 1 inch high, heavy build, dark complexion, aged about 30. He was the son of the ex-M.L.A. for Botany.

Informant states that on 9/6/17 the Battalion was in action during the big stunt at Messines. Page was in "D" Coy' and Informant in A. Coy, but both companies were together. At about 10 o'clock a.m. Page was sitting or lying in a shellhole when a shell burst in on top of him. Informant afterwards went over to the shellhole and saw Page lying there wounded and unconscious. He afterwards died and Informant helped to bury him at about 6 o'clock that afternoon near where he fell at a place called Schnitzel Farm. A temporary cross was put on his grave but was replaced later by a better cross with name &c thereon.

Page was looked upon as a very decent fellow.

Informant: P'te. P. Byrne, No. 2525, A. Coy
38th Battalion.
Home address: Native Rose Hotel, Cleveland Street, Sydney.

W.R.G.
No. 4 A.G.H Sydney
26/2/18.

38th Australians

Page W.R. 2621.

(K. June 9/17 Det. D/B)

"Pte. William Page was killed in the advance at Messines in June; one or both of his legs were blown off and he died almost at once. Pte. J. Walsh (late of 28) now 10th Bde. T.M.B. Aus: was a stretcher bearer and picked him up".

Eye-witness: No, told by Pte. J. Walsh, Aus: T.M.B. 10th Bde. picked him up.

Description: Son of the Lord Mayor of Botany, Sydney, N.S.W. Married.

Informant: Pte. W.H. Martin 2599,
38th Australians, A. Coy., III Plt.,
3rd Southern General Hospt.,
Oxford.
Home address: 444 Old South Head Rd.,
Waverley,
Sydney, N.S.W.

Aug. 3/17,
J.M. Payne.

S. written Pte Walsh 13.8.17

38th Battn
D. Coy.
A.I.F.

Page
W.R. 2621

"Killed 9.6.17."

Refer to Pte. J.W. Wheatley 38th Battn D. Coy. who is in France and who saw him killed, and who can give particulars of death and burial.

Witness:- Pte. H.J. Stephens. 2640
38th Battn B. Coy. 6th Pltn.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
5.9.17.

S

Note written Pte. Wheatley 9.9.17.

11.8.17

Rte J. WALSH
(late 28 Batt)
10 Bgde T.M. Battery
A I F
BEF

for
2621

W. R. PAGE
38 Batt A I F

K. 9.6.17

[illegible]
16.8.17

C.C. 5.9.17

Pte J. WHEATLEY
D Co
38 Batt AIF
BEF

for

2621 W. R. PAGE
D Co
38 Batt AIF MF

K. 9. 6. 17

L. B. H.
7-9-17.

PLEASE HELP US TO ECONOMIZE BY WRITING ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER.

CHURCH ARMY OPEN TO ALL

Church Army Recreation Hut
OR TENT.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH · THE · BRITISH · EXPEDITIONARY · FORCE

acpd by P.C. 28.8.17. E.L.

Re. W. R. Page No 2621 France

20-7-17

Secretary Red Cross Society

For your information I beg to state that Pte W. R. Page was killed in the battle of Messines on the right of Messines township and was buried where he fell in the field of battle. He was killed by a shell and lived about ½ hour. I was talking to a friend of his and the last words he said was to send all his things home I also may state that I seen his dead body and I am certain that the body was Pte W R. Page also 2 other mates of I seen his body. His grave would have a number and perhaps a cross on it by now

Yours faithfully
Pte J. Walsh No 2675

2621. W. R. PAGE.
38. Battn 2.1.7
K. 9.6.17. G. 3

Pte J. Walsh
10. Bgde T. H. Batt.
A. 1 4
B. E. F.

Church Army Recreation Hut
OR TENT.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH · THE · BRITISH · EXPEDITIONARY · FORCE

16 9. 17.

Dear Miss Deakin

In reply to yours a few days ago re W. R. Page 2 Coy 38th Bttn I can only tell you that he was killed almost instantly he only lived quite a few minutes he was buried on the Battle field their is not the least doubt about his identity I wrote to his father just after he was killed and told him all I knew I also wrote a note to a Pal of his in England who has since gone back to Australia and I know he wont loose any time getting [illegible] to Mr. Page's home.

I regret to say I have kept you waiting a reply but I've been trying to get more information but any how you need not worry any longer I feel quite sure his people will know all now.

Yours faithfully
Pte Jas Wheatley

G. C

24.8.17

Pte. J.WHEATLEY
38th. Battn. A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear Pte. Wheatley,

We wish to thank you for your letter in reply to our enquiry concerning: Pte. W.R.PAGE
38th. Battn. A.I.F.

The information and details yyou have supplied will be of much assistance to us, and of value to our enquirers.

It was very thoughtful of you to write to your late comrade's Father we are sure he will appreciate your kindness, aslo a visit fro his son's friend, when he arrives in Australia.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,
V A
Secretary
Bas.