

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

**5457 Private  
Richard Henry Ward**

**16th Battalion**



2860210J

A.I.F. 16th Btn

R.H. WARD 5457

"M. 31-8-16"

Killed in Action 31-8-16 - previously reported Missing  
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 8-6-17.

London  
15-6-17

P.

16th A..I. F.

R. H. WARD, 5457

Missing 31.8.16.

Informant knew two brothers named Ward. They were young fellows, late reinforcements, and their numbers would be about 5000. At Pozières about the 31st August, they caught a prisoner in a dug-out and brought him up. Sergt. McCarty, A Coy. 2 Pl. sent him back in charge of the two Wards. We never heard any more of them party. It was at night.

Reference: Pte. G. Reid, 793, A Coy. 2 Pl.

No. 11 Stationary, Rouen, 30.11.16.

RHL.

16th A. I. F.

R. H. WARD. 5457.

Missing 31.8.16.

Informant knew R.H. Ward and his brother F.G. Ward. They were in A Co. 2 Pl. Informant was told by Sgt. McCarthy of A Co. that at Mouquet Farm on the night of the 29th August, the above two men were sent back in charge of a prisoner <sup>or</sup> of prisoners from a German trench which we had captured to our trench, about 200 yards in the rear. They were never heard of again.

Reference: Cpl. T. Wootton, A Co. 3 Pl. 416.

No. 6 General, Rouen, 15.12.16.

RHL.

16th A. I. F.

Ward, R.H. 5457

(M. Aug. 31st/16)

Informant states that on 31st August 1916 at Mouquet Farm near Pozieres a German was taken prisoner and was handed over by the Sergt. of the platoon and two Ptes of whom Ward was one. They were told to take the prisoner back to the English lines, but neither they nor their prisoner were seen again as far as has been ascertained. It was surmised at the time, either that the prisoner had made the escort return to the German lines, or else that he shot them, and escaped back to his own side. Both the escort were named Ward but were not related.

Eye-witness: Yes, saw the P. given over to Ward.

Description: Both the Wards were of the same build, rather short. One was dark, one fair but Informant does not know which was R.H. Ward.

Informant: James Golding, 3471,  
16th A. I. F.,  
Eye & Ear Hospital, Tunbridge Wells. P

12.1.17. Home address:  
Ada C. Hadwen. 122, Piccadilly St, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

A.I.F. 16

WARD, R.H. 5457  
WARD F.G. 4927

M. Aug. 31st. 1916.

The two Wards - no relation to each other - were in A.Coy, 11 platoon. At Mouquet Farm, I forget the date, but it was our second time in, Sergt. McCarthy (now C-S-M-) sent them down to escort a German prisoner to Battalion Headquarters. I saw them going off in the early morning. None of the three were ever seen again. They would have been about half a mile to go, and were probably knocked out or possibly got into the enemy lines by mistake. It was a regular mix up there.

Informant: Pte J. Harvey. 3487. A.11.  
No. 32 Stationary Hospital.  
BOULOGNE. 4.4.1917. P

JT