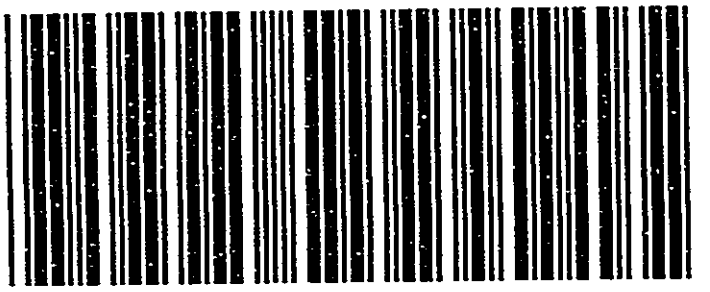
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3952 Private
William Wailes

23rd Battalion



2830114J

NOTE TO MELBOURNE.

WAILES

23rd Batt.
A.I.F.,

W 3952

Wounded

These letters have come to us from a hospital, but on enquiry we found Pte Wailes was killed in action 20.3.17. so we forward them to you to return to next of kin - his mother Mrs E Wailes Dundas Street, South Preston, Victoria. We are trying to obtain details of his death and burial.

Aust. Branch.
B.R.C.S.
54 Victoria St.
S.W.1.

London
4.5.17.

Havre 24th May, 1917.

23rd AUSTRALIANS WALES, W. 3952

K. 20.3.17. Det. D/B.

He was in D Co. I saw him badly wounded at Noreuil on March close to me. Both his legs and one arm were blown off by a shell. He spoke to me and begged [illegible]. He was 5ft 9", fair, and came from near Melbourne.

Informant: Pte J. McWilliam, 3880
23rd Australians, D Co.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

M

ORB

23rd Battn.
A. I. F.

Wales.
W. 3952.

"Killed 20.3.17."

I was one of a patty sent out to explore the ground between Vaux and Lagnicourt. It was our duty to identify the bodies that we might find in this locality. On April 14th 1917 we dug up this man's body. It was amongst others that had been hastily buried by the 7th Brigade towards the end of March. We secured his disc and other effects, and again buried him in the same locality. He had probably been killed by a shell. We put a cross (with name and No.) at head of grave. This ground was held.

Witness:-
I. S. J. Jones. 5463.
C. Coy. 23rd Battn.
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.
18.6.17.

M.

NOTE TO MELBOURNE.

23rd Battn.
A. I. F.

WALES.
W. 3952.

The above having been killed in action 20.3.17 we send these letters - to be retdrned to his people - We did our best to deliver them on hearing he was at Weymouth, but he had returned to the front when they reached there. They have now been returned to us from the battalion where we next sent them. We are making enquiries for details of his death and burial which will be forwarded in due course.

London.
19.6.17.

35rd A.I.F. N. WALKER, 3982.

Killed 20.3.17. Det. D & B.

He was killed at Noreuil and I know he was buried close by. I have seen his grave abd was there when he was buried.

Reference: Pte. N. Brown, 5312.

No.11 Con.Camp Buchy Nr.Rouen. 6.7.17.

FS.

M.

rd A. I. F.,

Wailes, W., 3952,

K. March 20/17. Det: D/B.

"I knew Wailes, he was badly wounded on 20th March 1917 nr. Lagnicourt (?) or Ville called Le Barque. He had to be buried where he lay. The head was torn from the body. He was literally in pieces, but he was identified. Hit by a shell. I was about 20 yards away when it happened, and it was about say 400 yards from our line."

Eye Witness:
Description:

Informant:-- Sgt. Patrick Connolly, 1890,
23rd A. I. F., D. Coy. XVI Pltn.,
Harborne Hall V.A.D. Hosp:
Birmingham.

Home address:-- Broken River, Banalla,
Victoria.

29.6.17.
G.Bullock.

County Hotel.
Canterbury

Superintendent
Enquiry Depart:

Private N. Wailes. (High Beach Hospt Woodgate)
3952 - 23rd Battalion.

Wishes me to express to you his sincere thanks & gratitude for your promptitude in putting him in touch with his boom friend, Pt W.J. Smith, same battalion.

R. Short
Australian Red Cross Representative in East Kent