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

4731 Private Charles Webb

4th Machine Gun Company



2880909-

A.I.F. 4th Machine Gun Coy.

WEBB
Charles 4731

Prisoner of War

(Translated copy of Death Voucher received from Capt. Mills 23/9/19 and sent on to A.I.F.Hdqrs)

It is hereby certified that there is here the grave card of the Ref.11.D. according to which the English Prisoner of War, Webb Charles, died at the English Prisoner of War Camp Brebières near Corbehem, Department Pas de Calais on 1st May 1917, and was buried at the local Cemetery at Corbehem S-Grave 65.

London [illegible] 30/9/19	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] P. P.I.

[illegible]

A.I.F. 4th. Machine Gun Coy.

WEBB 3
Charles 4761

"PRISONER OF WAR"

Killed 1/5/17, while working on an ammunition dump by our own shell fire. Died at Clearing Station - Mons-en-Bareuil. Buried Municipal Cemetery Corbehem Grave 65.
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs for Capt. Mills 10/4/19

London
17/4/19

P
P.I.

4th M. Gun Coy
A. I. F.

Webb
Charles, 4731

"Prisoner of War"

Died 1.5.17 at Mons en Bareuil

Cert, by German Death List dated 20.11.17

London 12.12.17

P & P I.

4th M. Gun Coy,
A.I.F.

Webb,
Charles, 4731.

"Prisoner of War"

Died in ~~General~~ Generalk 2 B.A.K. Sammellager Mons-en-Bareiul

Buried in District Cemetery Corbehem - Grave 65

Cert, by German Death List dated 24.9.17

London 18.10.17

P.& P.I.

4th Machine Gun Coy,
A.I.F.

Webb,
Charles, 4731.

"Missing 11.4.17"

Prisoner of War - Interned Limburg, captured Reincourt 11.4.17

Cert, by information from German List dated 23.6.17

London 31.7.17

P. & O I

A.M.G.C. 4.

WEBB, C. 4731.
SELLARS, A.J. 1546

M. April 11th 1917.

Sellars was a 6ft Queenslander and Webb an Englishman of independent means about 23, who was travelling in Australia when war broke out. I was in a shell hole close to the German line, and I saw Sellars and Webb start to come back, but they changed their minds and surrendered. This was at about 1 p.m. on April 11th when we were getting out of the German lines at Bullecourt.

Inf: Pte D.A.Benson. 278.
2nd Army Rest Camp.
BOULOGNE, 28.7.17.

HMH

P R.W
Sd. P.I

4th Mach.Gun Coy.
A.I.F.

Webb.
Chas. 4731

"Died Prisoner of War"

In answer to your enquiry for Charles Webb, I am sorry to say I do not know much about him since he was taken prisoner. He was taken prisoner the same day as myself. As he was not wounded I did not see anything of him since 12th April.

Postcard dated Soltau X 20.12.17.
from - Francis Carr 3020
4th M.G.Coy.

London.
23.1.18.

P.
P.I.

4th Machine Gun Coy.
A.I.F.

WEBB, Chas 4731.
McEntyre, Cpl. C.W. 2505
Toll, T. 2695.

M. 11.4.18.
Died as P/W

"We were all together working behind the lines at Brebires, all accommodated in one hut. They were killed at Corbieham near Dernai by our own shells, along with 4 other of our men. They were all buried in one grave in French Cemetery at Corbisham. Were buried by 3 of our men and 1 Frenchman. No cross erected. I was not with at the time, the men who were told us particulars.

Informant:- Pte. R.R. Hurst, 3492,
4th M.G.Coy.,
A.I.F.

A.D.G.
London,
19-12-18.

P.I. P. ~~& H.~~

A.I.F.
4th M.G. Coy.

Chas.Webb 4731
L/Cpl.C.W.L.McEntee 2505
T.Tcll 2695
L/Cpl. C. Goddard 2232.

"Died as Prisoner of War."

We were working behind the lines at Brebieres. These four men were killed by same shell on the 1st May 1917 at Corbehem along with three others. I did not see it happen, and we were not allowed to go to the Funeral. They were all buried in French Cemetery at Corbehem.

Informant:- Pte. L.S. Whitbread, 3954,
4th M.G. Coy, P/W
Red Cross.H.Q.

A.D.G.
London
31.12.18.
H.G.

P.P.I.

Hampstead
6236.

ans 11.6.17

20 Belsize Grove
Hampstead
N.W.3.

RECEIVED
4 JUN. 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

Webb

Dear Sir, I am writing you re my son Private Charles Webb. 4731. Machine Gun Corp. A. I. Force. He has been reported as "missing" since April 11th. It appears he went into action at Bullecourt accompany his gun and when last seen was

Hampstead
6236.

20 Belsize Grove
Hampstead
N.W.3

Dear Sir. I am writing you re my son Private Charles Webb. 4731. Machine Gun Corp. A. I. Force. He went into action at Bullecourt with his gun on the 11th of April and when last seen was practically surrounded by the enemy. He has been reported

practically surrounded by the enemy. You may possibly have got into touch with some of the men who were with him at the time. I should be so grateful for any further information. Thanking you, believe me

Sincerely yours

Frances Hebb.

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as "missing" I should be so grateful if you could give me any further information possibly you may have come into contact with some of the other men who accompanied him.

Thanking you, believe me

Yours sincerely

Frances Hebb.

CENTRAL PRISONERS OF WAR COMMITTEE. — JUN 1917 —

RECORDS

13.1.19. Woodside
Hindhead
Surrey.

4731
Pte C. Webb
4th M. Gun Co.

RECEIVED
16.1.19

Dear Madam. I am just writing you on the barest possible chance that the information you received of my dear Sons death in May 191 may have been incorrect. I read in "The Times" of so many that were reported "missing" & "dead" that have been alive that it stirs up some faint hope. But in the event of his death being accurate I presume his grave will be intact being in the parish graveyard. I should like you to note my change of address, this being my

permanent residence
With apologies for troubling you
Yours faithfully
F. Cordingley
Lee Webb.

Please return enclosed, which I am sending to help facilitate looking up the record.

Dec. 25th. 1907

101, EARLSFIELD ROAD,
WANDSWORTH COMMON,
S.W.

Dear Madam, I am greatly indebted to you for your kind letter about Charlie Webb. — I will send it on to his mother in Australia. This is a bad business — He was a fine young fellow. —

Sister many thanks
yrs. sincerely
John Todd Thyne
Sip Vera Deakin —

Prisoner's Draft July 26

to Francis Webb by

20 Belsize Grove

Hampstead

NW 3

about

4731 Pte Charles Webb

4th Machine Gun Coy

A.I.F

Late 10th Bn.

Interned Limburg.

Information obtained

from German list

23.6.17

53rd A.I.F. Hudson, R. 4798,

(K. March 16/17. Det D & B)

"Opposite La Transloy on the night of 16th March/17 on patrol in Heavet trench Hudson was hit by a machine gun bullet which killed him instantly. I was in the same patrol and saw his dead body lying in front of the trench, on the other side of the barbed wire. He was buried where he fell by Lieut Cooper and Cpl J.M. Stewart of B. Coy, the next morning (17th). Lieut Cooper has been killed since. The Germans evacuated their trench on the 17th and we advanced. Hudson was a Pte in B. Coy, VIII Platoon. He came from Sydney with the 15th Reinforcements of the 1st Battn. A.I.F. His Christian name was Roy".

~~Eye-witness:~~ L Cpl Lancelot Eric Carter, 4752,
Informant: 53rd A.I.F., B. Coy, VIII Plat.,
3rd London General Hospital,
Home address: Wandsworth.
Ret. Nil. Office.

Eye-witness: Saw dead body

16. 10. 17.

Oct 16 1917

TELEPHONE, 6236 HAMPSTEAD.

20, Belsize Grove,
Hampstead,
N.W.

No 4731 Pte Charles Webb
4th Lincolnshire Regt

Dear Madam.

I received the enclosed letter this morning. and am sending you it for your perusal. I shall esteem it a favour if you will kindly return it to me. Do you think my boy was wounded when he was taken prisoner and has died from his wounds or do you think he contracted an illness while he was a prisoner. Is there any possible means of obtaining any further

information as to the date of his death etc.

I had began to fear the worst when the weeks & months passed by and I never had a line from him. Still there was that faint glimmer of hope. Now that has gone & that my boy is dead, without ever a line or word coming to me. I am indeed heartbroken.

I am enclosing you a guinea and shall hope to send you the same amount from time to time. just a mite to help you carry on your splendid work. May God bring comfort to many an aching heart. I wish I could

Send a big donation, but alas this war has robbed me of half my income. Please do not forget to return the letter.

Yours faithfully
Frances Hebb.

Can you understand the word following General that I have marked by X. and what does 2 B-A-K-- mean

24. 4. 17.

TELEPHONE,
6236 HAMPSTEAD.

20, Belsize Grove,
Hampstead,
N.W.

Dear Madam.

Thank you for your letter of the 26th inst. It is indeed a happy relief to me to know that my boy is alive and I hope well.

I should be grateful if you would send me the particulars of sending the parcels to the Prisoners of W.

Yours faithfully

(Mrs.). Frances Webb.

Prison. C. Webb. 473.1

Ad. 4 M.G. Coy.

April 23rd, 1919.

Mrs.F. Cordingley.
Woodside. Hindhead.
Surrey.

Dear Madam.

With further reference to your enquiry for 4731 Pte. CHARLES WEBB. 4th Machine Gun Coy. A.I.F. We have received a report to the effect that Pte. Webb was taken prisoner unwounded on 11.4.17, and was killed while working behind the lines on 15.17 and taken to the Casualty Clearing Station at Mons-en-Barceul. He was buried in the Municipal Cemetery Corbehem, Grave 55. We deeply regret the distressing character of this information and should we receive further details will immediately advise you.

With most sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

G W G.

SECRETARY.

Mrs J. Cordingley
Woodside,
Hindhead,
Surrey

Dear Madam,

With reference to your letter of 13.1.19
about your son 4731 Pte Charles Webb, 4th M.G.Co.
the death & burial of
we regret that we have received no report to contradict
exceedingly
that given in our last letter to you
that your son died as a prisoner of war. We
shall hope to obtain further information
about the graves of the prisoners as this
question is being discussed at the peace
conference & shall advise you at once, if
any particulars come to hand.
We trust that we may still be of some
use to you & again assure you of our deep sympathy
We return your letter as requested

Yours faithfully,

HOSPITAL Military Herne Bay Kent FRONT France

K.R.A.—Y. 1357.

INFORMATION AS TO

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Casualty.
	Ditzell	F.	-	Lieut	35th Australian Infantry			Killed October 12th 1917. Details of Death and Burial Required. Enquiries

GIVEN BY

SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank.	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Home Address.
Moyle	Matthew	1188	Private	35th Australian Infantry	D	XV	C/o J. Moyle Esqr Minmi, New South Wales Australia

STATEMENT OF INFORMANT

(to be taken in first person).

NOTE. In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

I last saw Lieutenant Ditzell on the 11th October 1917 at Cavalry Farm Ypres. We made an attack on the 12th October. I was informed by two of my Comrades that Lieutenant Ditzell was killed on the 12th October 1917 during the attack but they gave me no details of the casualty or burial.

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:—

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? Informant was not eye-witness.

2. If not, give name, number, etc., of the man who told him. Told by Private E. Hodge 1145. 35th Australian Infantry D Company and Lance Corporal D. H. Parkes. 35th Australian Infantry D Company

3. Was the ground held or lost? Ground was lost

4. If Informant says a man was killed, (a) was death instantaneous? (b) was the body buried, & if so where? Not known if death was instantaneous or if body was buried.

5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? no.

6. Was there any other man of same name in Co. or Battalion? no other man of same name in Battalion

7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. 5 ft 8. dark, no scars, no nickname, age about 30.

8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence* Informant is intelligent and most reliable.

Reports should always be written very clearly in ink, or typewritten.

Signature of Searcher Mary Deeton

Date of Report 25th April 1918.

October 22nd, 1917.

No 3720 Pte.Francis Carr,
4th Australian Machine Gun Coy,
Gefangenenlager Soltau Z,
Hannover, Germany.

Dear Sir,

We hope that you may know some of the circumstances of the capture of No 4731 Pte.Charles Webb, of your unit who was taken prisoner at Reincourt on 11.4.17, the same day as yourself and has since died on a date as yet unspecified in the German Casualty Clearing Station at Mons-en-Bareuil. His Mother who is in England is naturally very distressed about her son's death and has appealed to us for help. She especially wishes to know if he were wounded before being taken prisoner or if he contracted some illness afterwards, and we hope that you may be able to throw some light on the first of these questions.

Do no bother to write us a spearate letter but send us any information you possess, when next acknowledging a food parcels to Miss Chomley, the Secretary of the Prisoners of War Department, 54, Victoria St, S.W..

With many apologies for troubling you and trusting that you are receiving your parcels regularly. Yours faithfully p/p

SECRETARY.

3-6-17,-

4731

Pte Chas. Webb, Machine Gun Coy, A.I.F. off: rept. Missing 11-4-17

Miss Ryan

Pte Chas. Webb,

Mrs. F. Webb,
20 Belsize Grove,
Hampstead,
N.W.3

October 12nd, 1917.

Mrs.F.Webb,
20, Belsize Grove,
Hampstead, N.W.3.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your letter of16th inst., we are indeed very sorry to know that your son No 4731 Pte.Charles Webb, 4th Australian Machine Gun Coy, A.I.F., died while a prisoner of War in Mons-en-Bareuil. All the information that you possess was also sent us by the German Red Cross from whom we hope to obtain the date and we are writing to an officer and two men of his unit who were captured on the same day and who may be able to tell us something about him.

We fear that he must have been very seriously wounded and was probably unconscious till his death. This supposition is based on the fact that he died in a casualty clearing station which as you know is close to the line for he must have been too ill to be sent back. We hope in his , case as in many others that your son died almost immediately after admission to the hospital.

The word you mark with a X in the letter from Geneva is "Kommando" which we believe is the German technical term for a

"grouping of prisoners" but we cannot tell you the meaning of "2 B.A.K."

As soon as we receive any further news of him you may rest assured that we shall advise you immediately as we realise how very anxiously you must await details of his death.

We enclose a receipt for your very kind donation of £1.0.0., for which we thank you most sincerely.

Assuring you of our very deep sympathy with you in your great loss.

Yours faithfully,

V.O

SECRETARY.

October 22nd, 1917.

2nd Lieutenant E.C.Dodd,
4th Australian Machine Gun Coy,
Offizier-lager Strohen,
Hannover, Germany.

Dear Sir,

We hope that you may know some of the circumstance of the capture of No 4731 Pte.Charles Webb, of your unit who was taken prisoner at Reincourt on 11.4.17, the same day as yourself, and has since died on a date as yet unspecified in the German Casualty Clearing Station at Mons-en-Bareuil. His mother who is in England is naturally very distressed about her son's death and has appealed to us for help, She especially wishes to know if he were wounded before being taken prisoner, or if he contracted some illness afterwards, and we hope that you may be able to throw some light on the first of these questions.

Do not bother to write us a separate letter but send us any information you possess when next acknowledging a food parcel to Miss Chomley, the Secretary of the Prisoners of War Department, 54, Victoria Street, S.W.

With many apologies for troubling you and trusting that you

are receiving your parcels regularly.

Yours faithfully,

V.O

SECRETARY.

kAw

October 22nd, 1917.

No 459 Pte.Clarence Blake,
4th Australian Mahhine Gun Coy,
Gefangenenlager Dulmen,
Westfalen, Germany.

Dear Sir,

We hope that you may know some of the circumstances of the capture of No 4731 Pte.Charles Webb, of your unit who was taken prisoner at Beincourt on 11.4.17, the same day as yourself, and has since died on a date as yet unspecified in the German Casualty Clearing Station at Mons-en-Bereuil. His Mother who is in England is naturally very distressed about her son's death and has appealed to us for Help, She especially wishes to Know if he were wounded before being taken prisoner or if he contracted some illness afterwards, and we hope that you may be able to throw some light on the first of these questions.

Do not bother to write us a separate letter but send us any information you possess when next acknowledging a food parcel to Miss Chomley, the Secretary of the Prisoners of War Department, 54, Victoria Street, S.W.

With many apologies for troubling you and trusting that you

are receiving your parcels regularly.

Yours faithfully,

V.O

SECRETARY.

A.H.

Australian Red Cross Society.
Prisoner of War Mission.
BERLIN W. 8.
Wilhelmstrasse. 70.

Postal Address:
A.P.O. 240.
COLOGNE.
(British Army on Rhine)

4731. Pte. WEBB, Charles, 4th Mach. Gun.Coy.

25.7.19. Berlin Information Buro. 5 cards exist, 4 Death and 1 Lager card. Reported from Limburg:-

Captured 11.4.17.
Died in Collective Lager Mausen - Bareuil (probably Mons-in Bareuil) Reported by Etappen Inspection 6.11e 25783/17.
Buried in Collective Grave No.65.
Ref. 11D Bez.L.W. 11IV Page Oa I.

✓

"E". List.
Progress Report. No. 9.

Australian Red Cross Society.
Prisoner of War Mission.
BERLIN W. 8.
Wilhelmstrasse 49.

4731 Pte WEBB Charles. 4th Mach.Gun.Coy.

18.9.19. Z.N.Buro.Berlin.
Died.1.5.17.Corbehem.Pas de Calais.
Buried.Town cemetery Corbehem.Collective Grave, No 65.
Death voucher received.

19.9.19. Above checked by Germans at War Office and found correct

FINALISED.

TT

Rec'd from Capt. Mills
23.9.19.