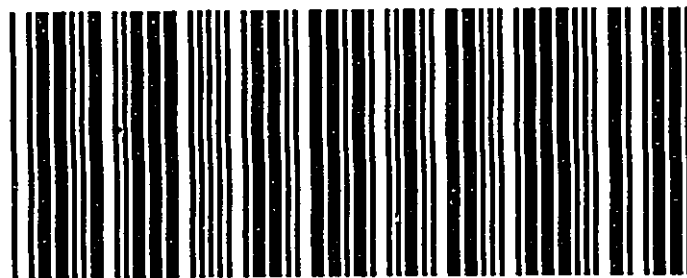


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

364 Private
Octavius Rouse

43rd Battalion



2370107K

43rd Batta.
A.I.F.

ROUSE.
Octavius, 364.

"Wounded and Missing" 31-7-17.

Killed in Action 31-7-17. Previously reported Wounded and Missing.
Cert: by A.I.F. Hqs 14-6-18.

London.
17-6-18.

P I.
Off.M.

A.I.F. 43rd Bn.

ROUSE
Octavius 364

Killed in action 31/7/17

Card found in Nachweise Büro, Berlin.

Translation of German Death Voucher received from Capt. Mills
and passed on to A.I.F. Hdqrs 17/10/19.

A.H.Q. 7/8/17.
Transcribed Extract from H.H. 1380

Chief Command of 4th Army,
Intelligence Officer at
B.No. 14720

To the
Central Office for Left Property
Berlin W.

Joachimstalerstr. 10.

The Austr. Pte Rouse, Octavius, No 364, Austr.Bn. 45, fell on 31.7.
in the neighbourhood of Warneton.

Captain & Intelligence Officer

Undersigned

Attested Berlin, 22/9/19

Seal of Imp. Pruss. War Office,

(Signed) JACOBI
Lieut. of Reg.

Med. Section,

Cont. Off. for Left Property.
16/9/19. Berlin San Abt. Reported by nachrichten Officer Oberkommand of
Army on 7/8/17 Killed in action 31/7/17, near Warneton, Left property
Paybook 20 francs and envelope. Handed over to 19/9/17 with Nachlassliste
28 under No. 2379.

Brought back by Capt. Mills 10/10/19.

London
20/10/19

OFF.M.
P.I.

43rd Battn.

ROUSE
Octavius - 364 -

"Killed in Action 31/7/17"

No trace of Burial in German Army Records.

LONDON BUREAU
Melbourne 25.10.1920.

CENTRAL NACHWEISE BUREAU

30. 3.1920.

- P.I. & Off. M. -

N8- Sent out.

75 Pears Craft - P.O.
Fulham

S.W. 6.

PC.
15/9/17. 6th 9. 14

Dear Sir

Will you be kind
enough to try and see
if any one by name
Private Octavius ^{Rouse} Rouse
Nos. 364 & 46 Both of the
Australian Regt. he
was in the Hospital
at the Base in France
being gassed, he
was written to again
and the letter was
returned envelope marked
Present Address uncertain
later on the 31. of the
7. Month 1917

wounded and missing
he is our son and
we are very anxious
about him but think
he may have been
taken to some hospital
and too ill to let
us know...

Thank you for your
anticipation

Yours faithfully
E. T. Pouse

A.I.F. 46th Btn

ROUSE
ROWE
Octavius 364

"WHEREABOUTS"

Wded & Missing

Missing 31-7-17

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 17-9-17.

LONDON 24-9-17

PI

43rd Batt. A.I.F.

Rouse, O. Pte. NO. 364.
B. Coy.

W. and M. July 31st 1917.

I received a letter from the batt stating this man was killed.
Lieut Wald. M.C. of the batt can supply any information concerning this man. The man was in my coy.

Witness. Captain Cope. 43rd Batt.

Taken at
NO. 4. C.D. Codford.
8-10-17.
S.W.

S. Whitmes.
NO. 4. Command Depot
Codford.

*OK db
cd*

*Letter to Wald. M.C.
18-10-17*

43rd. A.I.F.

Rouse, O. 384.
B CO.

W.A M. July 31/17.

" We had certain strong points to take at Warneton, and we had taken the windmill. Fritz had counter-attacked. Rouse was then wounded. He got his leg fractured & we were obliged to leave him there. We took the windmill again at midnight, & Rouse couldn't be seen. He was never found again & we thought he had been either taken prisoner or killed by the Germans."

Eyewitness:- Saw him wounded.

Description:-

Informant:- O'Reilly, 148.

43rd. A.I.F. A Co., III Plat.
1st London Genl Hosp., C/well.

Home address:- 30, Regent St.,
Adelaide, S.Australia.

15/10/17.

A.A.Needham.

04/11/17
P.1
1-2-17

C O P Y

Statement made by No. 148 Pte O'REILLY T.H. 43rd Bn.

re No. 364 Pte ROUSE O. 43rd Bn.
Ind and Missing 31.7.17

Private Rouse was in the same company as myself 43rd Battalion. On the 31/7/17 at 3.50 a.m. our company made an attack on some strong points near Warneton. Private Rouse was a member of a digging party. Whilst he was engaged in digging I saw him drop and he remained on the ground in a sitting posture, holding his leg which was apparently badly wounded. We were then forced to withdraw and again attacked the position about a quarter of an hour later. On retaking the position Private Rouse was not to be seen and nobody to my knowledge has seen him since.

List sent on

Dated at Hurdcott this 14th day of December 1917.

(Sgd) T.H. O'REILLY

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) E.T. PLAYFORD

A.I.F.
LOG. 43.

ROUSE, O. 364.

W/M July 31st 1917.

He was badly wounded at Warneton after we had taken our objective a short time before the counter attack started by the Germans. We were forced to retire and I carried him some time on my back together with the help of another man named J. Bowes. But we had to leave him as the enemy were right on us. We returned in an hour and a half and retook the trench, but could find no trace of him. He was a Londoner, a very little man and his father was a tailor there. He joined us in Adelaide in January 1916, and we came over together and were in the same platoon and company.

Inf: P.E. Jones. 322. B.V.
No. 2 Aust Gen
BGULOGHE. 16.10 17.

Written by Bowes 27.10.17

FD

Off 11/16

P.1

1 more

43rd Batt,
A.I.F.

House,
O. 364

"Wounded & Missing 31.7.17"

Pay-Book transmitted by a Recording Officer 21.8.17 - The
Owner of same could not be traced but the matter is presumably
concerned in most cases with the dead.

German List dated 24.9.17

(Note to letter writer P.I.gives Batt as 46th)

P.I.& Off M.

London 19.10.17.

A.I.F. 43.

ROUSE. O. 364.

W/M July 31st 1917.

I knew him, he was in B.Coy. He was un at an advanced post where he got badly wounded, I think by a shell, we had to leave him there. Afterwards when we took the post again he had been taken away, so that in any case he would be a prisoner. ~~But-if-you-will-write-to-Cpl.~~ But Cpl. Errington ~~ed of B.Coy~~ was with him at the time and might know something definite. He was in this camp,

Inf: Pte B.D.McKechnie. 345.

No. 1 C.O.

BOULOGNE. 22.10.17. RAOI

Note: I will try and trace Cpl. Errington,

Written Cpl. Errington 7-11-17

P.1
J.B.N.
1,000

43rd A. I. F.

Rouse, Pte O. 564,

(W & H July 31/17)

"I was told by Sgt Freak of the Australian Pioneers that he found Rouse's dead body, and they buried him in Bo Man's Land. Rouse was wounded in the attack at Warneton on July 31st 1917. The Germans counter-attacked again and regained the ground, and the Pioneers found Rouse and buried him."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Pte C.W. Tile, 1136,
43rd A.I.F., S/B. Coy,
4th London General Hospital,
Denmark Hill, S.E.

Home address:
Tanunda,
S. Australia.

24th Oct. 1917.
U. Lannox.

Written Lt. Frank 7-11-17

P1
ON 1/2/18

43rd A.I.F.

O. ROUSE, 364.

H.E. LANCASTER, 2913.

W & M. 31.7.17.

I had the following from Pte. Moffatt 43rd H.Q. Signaller (still there). He said these two men were lying very seriously wounded for hours in an advanced post before our front line at Messines on August 1st. He said he was with them. That night the enemy rushed the post and the defenders retired. Lancaster was left in the post and Rouse was carried a little way and then left in a shell hole. Other men who were there told me these men were too seriously wounded to move themselves, and that stretcher bearers were not to be got because the snipers were so busy. They said Rouse was unconscious when he was left. Rouse was an original as I am. Lancaster I did not know personally. Others than Moffatt told me the same thing. I know also from some of the men in it that we rushed the post again six hours later, and I heard men say at the Regimental enquiry that these two bodies were gone when they finally regained the post.

Reference: H. G. Melville, 338. B Co.

No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 23.10.17.

REP.

P. I. *CA M.*

Written Pte. Moffatt 7-11-17

43rd Australian Inf.

Rouse. Pte O. 364.

W & M. July 31/1917.

"I was told by Pte J. Bowers, 43rd Australian Inf. that he was carrying Rouse, who had a broken leg, back to safety, the Germans broke through and he had to put Rouse down. This was about 8 pm. We retook the ground about midnight, Bowers looked for Rouse but he was not there. This was at Warneton on July 31/1917. There was heavy shelling during the time that the Germans held the ground, and he was probably buried."

Eye-witness: No, told by Pte J. Bowers, B Co. 5 Plat.
43 Australian I.

Description:

Informant: Pte James Kuslake Oliver, 540,
43 Australian Inf. B Co. 5 Plt.,
V.A.D. Shropshire 26. Hospital,
Whitchurch.

Home address: Goodenough St, Mile End, Adelaide.
24.10.17.

R. Lambert. *N.B.*

Brown written to

12/17

*Off M
P.I*

Hayre

1st November.1917.

43rd AUSTRALIANS

ROUSE, O. 364

W. & M. July 31st.1917.

I know Pt. Oscar Rouse of B.Co., V.Pln., an original man. He came from Port Pirie, South Australia. S.M. Mc.Ginness of B.Co., told me that he had seen Rouse on a stretcher very badly wounded at Messines, and that he was left behind when we retired. Mc.Ginness is, I think, still with his unit.

Informant: Corpl. F.A. Errington, 1789
43rd Australians, B.Co., V.Pln.
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

KDX.

off ab
P. 1
12/11/17

A.I.P. 43.

W. & M. 31.7.17.

HOUSE O. 364.

He was wounded during the attack at Warneton on 31st. July. He was lying in the trench we had taken from the Germans and were consolidating over near the Windmill. I saw him. The Germans counter-attacked and we had to retire and leave him there. We counter-attacked later and found his dead body in the trench where we had left him. He had been bayoneted by the Germans. I saw the body. He belonged to VI Fl.B.Co. His people live in London but he came from some part of South Australia. He and I were old hands in the Bn. I know nothing as to burial.

SA.

Reference: Pte. A.S. Teakle. 396. B.Co.
26 Gen.Hpl.

P.I.
Hobbs
Staples.
2.11.17.
1917

43rd A.I.F.

Rouse O. 364,

(W/M 31.7.17.)

"Rouse went into a raid described as the Windmill stunt. The Company had to retire and were compelled to leave some wounded behind. We returned to the attack and found Rouse dead with a bayonet through his chest, murdered by Germans. He was a tugler. I saw his body".

Eye-witness: Saw body.

Description:

Informant: Pte. J.R. Mitchell 1058,
43rd A.I.F.,
Bath War Hospt.

Off dl
P.I
Ed
Bd K

11.11.17,
G. Orford Smith.

Extra

43rd Battalion
A. I. F.

Rouse.
Octavius 364

"Wounded & Missing 3.7.17"

Re No. 364 Pte. C. Rouse. I am afraid I cannot give you more detail than that he is wounded and missing and there is very little chance of saying what might turn up. He was a short thick set young fellow say 5ft in height, cheerful, bright and always looked upon as the wit of his platoon. If I remember he screwed his eyes up when talking and especially when laughing. When he spent his first leave in London he called on his people, who he says never knew him, explaining that they had heard that he had died in Australia some years back. When getting the boys back we all met on the station Waterloo Road, and he would not move until he had introduced me to a number of his relations who were all sorts of people, Aunts, Uncles and cousins. I was Coy. Sgt. Major at the time. I mention the latter so that if any of these people are enquiring they may remember the night.

Letter from:- Lt. Wald. H. C.
43rd Battn.

France 28.10.17.

London.
28.11.17.

P.I.
Off.H.

Havre

12th Nov. 1917.

43rd AUSTRALIANS

BOUSH, O. 384

W & H. 31.7.17.

He was in B Co. He was medium height, dark. I heard in the battalion that he was sniped at No. 8 Strong Post in the Warneton Stunt, opposite Warneton, in front of Messines. It was a 24 hours stunt. We took the strong points and were then relieved. The next day a burying party went up and buried all the dead who were lying there. I saw 7 or 8 bodies lying near No. 8 Strong Post, but did not see all the faces. I am pretty sure he was amongst them, but cannot say I saw him.

Informant: Pte. W.F. Cannan, 2040
43rd Australians, D Co., 14th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

GLT

43rd Battn.
B.Coy.
A.I.F.

Rouse.
O. 364

"Wounded & Missing 31.7.17"

I saw him wounded at Warneton. He was caught in the leg by shell fragments. S.Bearers endeavoured to get him out to the dressing station and so did some of his mates, but the barrage was too intense and we had to leave him. We lost the ground, but retook it 7 hours later but no trace of him could be found. He was either killed or taken prisoner of war.

Witness:-

Sgt. L.S. Jennings 1010
43rd Battn. B.Coy.
3rd A.A. Hospital.
Bartford.

W. Oman.

London.
5.12.17

Off.H.
P.I.

C O P Y

Statement made by No.1010 Sgt Jennings L.S. 43rd Btn.re No.364 Pte Rouse O. 43rd Btn.
Missing and Wnd 31.7.17

On July 31st 1917, when in an attack at Warneton, Flanders I saw No.364 Private Rouse O. 43rd Battalion A.I.F. lying wounded on the ground, with a gunshot in the thigh. I also saw the above named soldier bayoneted by a Bâche. After retaking the lost ground, we made a search but failed to discover the body. In my opinion the above named soldier was killed.

not sent on *01/11/18 M. P. Ca killed*
(Dated at Weymouth this 12th day of January 1918.

(Sgd) L.S. Jennings

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) M.J.Clausen.

1st Lieut
2/Lieutenant

Name	R o u s e , Octavius,		
Dienstgrad	Pte.	Nr. der Erf. Marke	364.
Truppenteil	43. Bstl. A. I. F. Rb.		
Zeit u. Ort der Gefangennahme	ob tot? Soldbuch überwiesen		
Aufenthaltort	v. Oberkommando d. 4. Armee dch. S. 1. 7.8.17. (Z.N.). 28.8.17.		
Bemerkungen Heimatsort	Jk 157380		

31.7.17 in General
Warner's gefallen.

Generalkommando IV. A.-A.

Abt. Auswärt.

Magdeburg, den

19.8

1917

Nr.

1190 B

Dem General-Kommando W. A. R.
Berlin

gefälligen
Zur Befriedigung — Weitergabe übersandt

H. G. v. d. S.
D. G.

Von Seiten des Generalkommandos

H. G.
Hauptmann

2 Anlagen

Kriegsministerium.

General-Rathweiser-Büro.

Nr.

Berlin NW. 7, den 13. 8. 1911
Dorotheenstr. 43.

H. R.

Central. Kriegsgefangene

Pfe. Mr. Caster, Charles, Edward
42. Bati. A. I. S. Erk. Mark. 173

Pfe. Rouse, Octavius
43. Bati. A. I. S. Erk. Mark. 364

Goldstücke wurden von dem A.C. d. A.C.H. 4
durch P. I. Q der Central. f. Warst. am 28. 8. 17 in.
13. 9. 17 übernommen.

1/229/2. 17.

216t. A. Mr.

191

Querschnitt 1:

Cinq. 1/9 S. 107631 Nul. 3

2. 4. Drag-St.

Abg. 2/2 Anl. 3

The Obs. Nite
A. O. K. 4 Hysteria
B. E.

21.

Dem

2. Garde Dragoon Regt.

Polen 24. 2. 1879

als zuständig überfandt.

3 Anlagen.

A.O. 4
12-17-45
Hos. Kdr

Ar. 1779.

1440, 13.9.19

Von H. F. J. (Gräber)

Von Seiten des Generalkommandos

Für den Chef des Generalstabes

PL 3.

H. B.
Hauptmann

4. Выводы

azitrozybin.

r. Merrill

Kriegsministerium.

Zentral-Nachweise-Büro.

Nr.

Wilson

U.R.

St. O. K. 4,

Berlin NW. 7, den

13. August

1919.

Geilt

Magdeburg

mit dem Ersuchen um Angabe, ob in den dortigen Akten etwas Näheres
über den in den Anlagen näher bezeichneten Kriegsgefangenen verzeichnet ist

18. AUG. 1919

10 1190

MM

Lage u. Nummer des Grabes
sowie Abschrift der
Todeseintragung erbeten

I.A.

Rehule v. Ardenitz,

Hauptmann.

St. O. K. 4

173 Mc Casker 42 1/2

Berlin Row 43

A. La Page

Z.A.K.

den 30 März 1920.

V.22912.19.A.1.

U.R.

an Abt.VII (Frl.Krüger)

mit der Bitte um Rückgabe des Vorgangs betr. Mc C a s k e r
und R o u s e an Herrn Wilson.

Die Ermittlungen mussten vorläufig ohne Erfolg abgeschlossen
werden, da laut Mitteilung des Grossen Generalstabes, Nachrichten
Gruppe Nr.293/Archiv Z.K.E. die betreffenden Akten des N.O.A.O.K.4
nicht mehr vorhanden sind und daher keinerlei Angaben gemacht werden
können.

Anlagen.

J.A.

Sl/K.

September 28th, 1917.

Mrs. E. Rouse,
75, Pearscroft Rd,
Fulham, S.W.6

Dear Madam,

In answer to your inquiries about

No 364 Pte. Octavins Rouse,
46th Battalion,
A.I.F.

we very much regret to state that we have heard
officially that he was wounded and Missing on
31.7.17. We are making further inquiries and
will let you have any information that may come
as soon as received by us..

With our sincere sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.



(18-10-17)

LI-WALD M.C.

43-Balt

AIF

BEF

About

364

PL- O. ROUSE

B. Cuy.

43-Balt

AIF

W/M 31-7-17

20-10-17
G. P. B.

Reg. BOWES { 6.10.17

43 Batt AIF
BEF

abt

364 O. ROUSE

43 Batt AIF

W/M. 31. 7. 17

17.10.17.
A.I.F.

Dec
PM 5.11.17

364

O to me ROUSE 43 Bell 5
W-M 3.7.17 11.10 AM

Tham
28/10

Secretary.

In reply to your letter of 20/10/17 Re No. 2
P/O Rouse.

I am afraid I cannot give you more detail. Man
was he so wounded & missing, there is very
little chance of saying what might turn up.
He was a short thick set young fellow say 5 ft 6 in high
cheerful, bright and always looked upon as a
wit of his platoon. I'll remember the scenes
his eyes up when talking & especially so when
laughing.

When he spent his leave in London he
called on his people, who he says, never knew him
explaining that they had heard he had died in
Australia & so appear lost.

When getting the boys back we all met on the
station, Nataloo Road, & he would not move until
he had introduced me to a number of his relations
who were all short people, aunts, uncles, cousins
Lwas they Sgt. Warr at the time.

I mention the latter, so that if any of these people
are enquiring they may ~~remember~~ remember the rights
Trusting that you will be able to secure
the administration

C. P. Bureau

Yours for inquiry

W. M. C.

Lt. Wald M. C.
43 Balto.

October 31st, 1917.

Mrs. E. Rouse
75, Pearscroft Rd.,
Fulham, S.W.6

Dear Madam,

With reference to your inquiry for

364 Pte. Octavius Rouse,
43rd Battalion,
A.I.F.

who is officially reported wounded and missing 31.7.17.
we beg to inform you that according to a German list
dated 21.9.17, his paybook was picked up by a Recording
Officer on 21.8.17, but no trace was found of the owner.

We are doing our utmost to obtain definite news
of Pte. Rouse and will advise you as soon as we succeed.

Assuring you of our sympathy for you in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

MR.
SECRETARY.

November 6th, 1917.

Lieut. Wald, M.C.,
3rd Battalion,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer
to our enquiry concerning 364 Pte. O. Rouse,
3rd Battalion,
A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance to us
and of value to our enquirers.

With repeated thanks.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

F M

(7-11-17)

Cpl Errinton

B Coy

43rd Batta. A. 9. 7.

B. 8. 7.

abt.

364 Plt. O. Rouse

Mc

43rd Batta. A. 9. 7.

W/M. 31-7-17

7-11-17
A. 9. 7.

(7-11-17)

Pt. Moffatt

O.H. Q. Liguilla

43rd Bn. A. I. 7.

B. I. 7.

alt.

364. Pt. O. Rouse

43rd Bn. A. I. 7.

W/M 31-7-17

7-11-17
a. i. 7.

Mrs. E. Rouse,
75, Pearscroft Rd,
Fulham, S.W.6.

November 7th, 1917.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your inquiry for

~~36~~ Pte. Octavius ROUSE,
43rd Battalion,
A.I.F.

who is officially reported Wounded & Missing since 21.7.17,
we are forwarding an unofficial report we have just received
concerning him.

Informant - 322 Pte. E. F. Jones, states "Rouse was badly
wounded at Warneton after we have taken our objective, a short
time before the counter attack started by the Germans. We were
forced to retire and I carried him some time on my back with
the help of another man. But we had to leave him as the enemy
were right on us. We returned in an hour and a half and retook
the trench but could find no trace of him. He was a Londoner, a
little man, and I think his father was a tailor there. He joined
us in Adelaide in January 1916, and we came over together and
were in the same platoon and Company".

We are still our utmost to obtain definite news of Pte.
Rouse, but we are very much afraid that he must have sustained
some further casualty after he was left, as his name has never
come through on any German List as a prisoner of War, and it is
now over three months since he was posted missing.

Assuring you that we are doing all in our power to trace
him and with sincere sympathy for you in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully, *Wm. Ryan*

(7-11-17)

Sgt. FreaK

913 Australian Pioneers

A. I. F.

B. I. F.

Libt.

364 Plt. O. Rouse

439d Batta. A. I. F.

W/M 31-7-17

10.11.17
A. I. F.

Mrs. E. Rouse,
75, Peasecroft Rd,
Fulham, S.W.6.

January 6th, 1918.

Dear Madam,

We deeply regret to inform you of further unofficial evidence given by men of his unit about

No 338 Pte. OCTAVIUS ROUSE, 43rd Battalion, A.I.F.

which only confirms the facts we have already entertained as to his fate.

While emphasising the purely unofficial nature of these reports we greatly fear that there is now little reason to hope that he is alive for so many months have elapsed since his casualty occurred.

Lt. Wall, M.C., who knew Pte. Rouse fairly well gave the following report which you might like to have. "I am afraid I cannot ~~ask~~ give you more detail than that he is wounded and Missing and there is very little chance of saying what might turn up. He was a short thick set young fellow, say 5ft 10 height. Cheerful, bright and always looked upon as the wit of his platoon. If I remember he screwed his eyes up when talking and especially when laughing. When he spent his first leave in London he called on his people, who he says never knew him, explaining that they had heard that he had died in Australia some years back. When getting the boys back we all met on the station Waterloo Road, and he would not move until he had introduced me to a number of his relations, who were all sorts of people, Aunts, Uncles, and cousins. I was Coy. Sgt. Major at the time. I mention the latter so that if any of these people are enquiring they may remember the night.

No 338 Pte. H.G. Melville, stated "I had the following from Pte. Moffatt 43rd Battalion, H/Q Signaller (still there) He said these two men Pte. Rouse & Pte. Lancaster were lying very seriously wounded for hours in an advanced post before our front line at Messines on August 1st. He said he was with them. That night the enemy rushed the post and the defenders retired. Lancaster was left in the post and Rouse was carried

"a little way and then left in a shell hole. Other men who were there told me these men were too seriously wounded to move themselves, and that stretcher-bearers were not to be got because the snipers were so busy. They said Rouse was unconscious when he was left. Rouse was an original as I am. Others than Moffett told me the same thing. I know also from some of the men in it that we rushed the post again six hours later, and I heard men say at the regimental enquiry that these two bodies were gone when they finally regained the post."

From other informants we learn that Pte. Rouse was wounded by a sniper, his leg being fractured during the counter attack by the Germans who forced our men to retire. Stretcher-bearers tried to carry him to the dressing station but the Germans were so close that they were forced to leave him in a shell hole. He was unable to move himself and when they recaptured the ground some time later they found him lying dead and some men report that he was buried.

No 148 Pte. O'Reilly, gave this report "We had certain strong points to take at Warneton, and we had taken the windmill. Fritz had counter-attacked. Rouse was then wounded. He got his leg fractured and we were obliged to leave him there. We took the windmill again at midnight, and Rouse could not be seen. He was never found again and we thought he had been either taken prisoner by the Germans".

While No 1136 Pte. C.W. Tile, 43rd Battn said that he was told by Sgt. Freak of the Australian Pioneers, that he had found Pte. Rouse's body and that they had buried him in No Man's Land at Warneton on July 31st.

In the face of all this unofficial evidence we think that you will agree that there seems little hope of his being alive but we are pursuing the enquiry as we realise how anxious you must be and when further news is received you shall be advised.

Assuring you of our sincere regrets that this news is so distressing.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY. *L.B. for L.H.*

45 Pearcroft Rd
Fulham
364 O. Rouse 43rd St.

Dear Sir

Respecting my son
of enclosed we are very
glad of any information
we get. And could

you help us in the matter
following - He was in the
habit of sending us

a few pound occasionally
& it being a long time
now since the last
and things tiring
hard with us. We should
be very glad if a sum
could be sent us of
his account.

Greatfully
Yours O Rouse
P. J. We.

Mrs E. House,
75, Pearcroft Road,
FULHAM.

23rd, January, 1918.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your letter enquiring about the allotment
for :-

301. Pte. Octavius House, 43rd, Battalion, A.I.F.
who has been missing since 21. 7. 17. now officially believed
killed.

We advise you to write to the.,

The Pay Office,

A.I.F. Headquarters,

130, Horseferry Road,

LONDON, S.W.

All information can be obtained from them.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Mrs E. Rouse
75. Pearsclott Rd
Licham
S. W. 6.
Coff
filing
written by hand

Dear Madam

We have received a ^{and} ~~the~~ report concerning your
~ No 364 P^{te} O. Rouse 43rd
Bn A. I. G. from a man
in his unit. No 1058 P^{te} J. R.
Multhell 43rd Bn states that
your son went into a ^{and was wounded} ~~and~~ ^{was} ~~was~~
described as the Windmill Point
the company had to retire & were
compelled to leave ^{some} wounded behind
& when they returned they found
him lying dead.

We are very sorry to have to
send you such sad news - which
though a unofficial we are afraid
is probably true. Please accept
renewal of our sympathy - yours

1st Tun. Coy.

SKILLMAN.
J. 278

Was in No. 1. Section called "Jimmy". He was killed during a stunt at Westhook on Oct 2nd. Was killed by shell. I did not see it happen, but was told by Sgt. William Scott, 1st Tun. Coy. French, who was with Skilton at the time and saw him killed. He can give full details regarding it.

Informant: Sumner, J. 3390.
1st Tun. Coy.
Hartford.

London.
1.2.18

Notes written by Sgt. Scott 25.1.18

51-4403-1000
2.10.18

18th June, 1918.

Mrs. E. Rouse,
75, Pearscroft Rd.,
Fulham. S.W.6.

Dear Madam,

We deeply regret to inform you that as we feared from the nature of the unofficial evidence already sent you, Ho. 364 Pte. O. Rouse, 48rd Infantry Battalion, A.I.F., is now reported officially as killed in action on 31.7.17, having been reported previously as missing on that date.

With our sincere sympathy in your great loss,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Lpw
Secretary.