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

2431 Private Walter William Bruce Reid

45th Battalion



2270402H

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON 2555/13/20

C O P Y

Statement made by No.3958 Pte Williamson T. 45th Btn.

re No.2431 Pte Reid W.W.B. 45th Battn.
Missing 13.10.17:
Bel K

As we were proceeding from Ypres to Passchendaele front line about October 17/ a couple of shell burst on Rouelles Railwaycutting, resulting in the death of Private Schwebel and others. Private Reid was one of the number. At the time was in charge of the Lewis Gun section. He was never heard of again. I last saw him at about 5.30 on the above morning.

2nd Lieut Sn S

Dated at Chichester this 17thnday of April 1918.

(SGD) T. Williamson.
X His Mark.

Statement made and signedbefore me

(SGD) W. Armstrong. 2nd Lt.

45th Battn.
A.I.F.

REID
W.W.B. 2431

"Missing 13-10-17"

We were marching to the front line behind Passchendaele Ridge, about midnight of Oct.12th, and were about ½ mile from the line when a shell dropped amongst the M.G.Section. Reid was a Lewis Gnr. of B.Coy. 6th Pltn., and was in the section at the time as S/B. to B.Coy., and helped to carry those wounded by the shell to the dressing station in Zonnebeke Church. Reid was blown to bits. There was no trace of him after the shell burst. I was 15 yds. away when it burst. I had known him for 2 years.

Informant. Brannock W.G. 5332
B.Coy. 8th Pltn., 45th Battn.,
No.1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny.

B.F.German
London
13-5-18

S.

45th Battn.
A.Coy
A.I.F.

REID,
W.W.B. 2431

"Missing 13.10.17."

We were marching up to relieve the 19th Batt at night. Reid was in front of his platoon carrying a Lewis gun, a shell exploded and killed Schwebel, but Reid was not see again, we had several other casualties, who were taken back. We were in a railway line used as a track up to the trenches at Passchendaele. The stretcher bearers were all questioned, but no one had found him, it seems certain that he was killed. Ground was held.

Eye-witness:- No. Christian name. Bruce

Description:- 5ft 8ins, dark, well built,

Informant:- Pte. T.Williamson, 3958, (Intelligent)
45th Battn, B.Coy, VII Pltn,
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester,

Home address:
20 North Norton St,
Surrey Hills,
Sydney, Australia.

S.

E.M.Nander,
10.4.18.
London. 12.4.18.

A.I.F. 45. REID W.W.B. 2431.

N. 13.10.17.

Bel K

I knew W.W.B. Reid of my Co. - B. He came from Braidwood, NSW. I think he was a labourer, about 22 years old. We were going up into the trenches on 8th.Oct. at night and he was just behind me. When we were between the front line and the supports a shell burst right on him and I could see nothing of him afterwards. I am quite convinced that he was blown to pieces. There were several of our men wounded by that shell and one other killed - H.J. Schwebel, on your list for Details of Death.

ROP.

Reference: Pte.L.A. Burgess. 4134. B.Co.
H.B. Depot.

Etaples.
6.5.18.

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A. I. F. 45. REID, W.W.S. 2431.

L.R.K
M. October 13th, 1917.

I last saw him on October 13th about 200 yards behind our front line at Passchendaele about 1.30 a.m. He was No. I on the L/gun and had the gun on his shoulder. We were on our way to relieve men in the front line. I was next man in front of him. It was a fairly dark night. A shell lobbed right where he was and exploded and no more was seen of him. I saw this happen. A man named Schwebel was killed by same shell and 7 others either killed or wounded. No trace was found of Reid. He was a nuggetty sort of a chap, bright complexion, 5 ft 6, he was in R.V.

PHE.

Reference:- V.R.Carroll. 3288. B.VIII(form.in V.)
1 Can. Gen. Hp.

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Etaples
4.4.18.