

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

4289 Private
Arthur Edward
Postlethwaite

46th Battalion



2180701J

A.I.F. 12th M.G. Coy.
late 14th Btn
46th Btn (HQ)

POSTLETHWAITE
Arthur Elbrick 4289

"K. in A. 14-2-17"

Killed in Action 14-2-17 - buried at Chalk Cliff Sheet 57
E. Sq. 27A by Rev. H.A. Clack
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 8-6-17.

M.

London
8-6-17

46 A. I. F.

Postlethwaite A.E. 4239,

K. Feb: 14/17.

Det: D/B.

"I saw Postlethwaite put on a stretcher after he was killed by a shell at Stormy trench, Nr. Guendecourt. He was killed in my part of the line in a Barrage. I did not see him hit but his death must have been instantaneous. He was buried next morning (Feb: 15/17) at Chalk Cliffs Cemetery, near Guendecourt and a cross erected with Name, Battalion, and Religion on it. I would have written to his people but had no address. He came over with me and I knew him well."

Eye Witness: No.

Description:

Informant:-- Lt. C. Wright,
46th A.I.F., B. Company, 7 Platoon,
Morton Gardens Hosp: S.W.

Home address:-- 322, Niel St,
12.7.17. Ballarat.
N. Bueford Hancock.

A.I.F. 46

POSTLETHWAITE, A.E. 4289

K.Feb.14th.1917. Det:

He was killed by a shell in the front line trench before Gueudecourt Wood on the Somme. He was carried to the mouth of the dugout on a stretcher, but he died ten minutes later. He was buried close to the Chalk Pits in the open and his grave was marked with a cross and I have visited it. He was of my Company.

Informant: A.W.Beasier. 2378. B.Coy.
No.8 Stat.

BOULOGNE. 19.6.17.

M.
FD

Reference: - Cpl. T. Nelson. 1938. 46. B. 3. VI.
No. 7 Can. Gen. Hosp.

A. I. F. 46.

POSTLETHWAITE, A.E. 4280.

M.

K. February 14th, 1917.

On the night of the 14th February our battn. was in a trench captured some time previous. Fritz was in the same trench to our right and the 87th A.I.F. were in it still further to the right. We were raiding Fritz out of the intervening strip of trench, meanwhile his artillery was shelling us very severely. I was on an observation post and Postlethwaite was on the next one to me not more than 10 yards away. I saw a shell burst on the parapet right behind him. It wounded me. Then all was confusion. I went to the dugout to get my wound dressed. The dugout was full and while there I saw S/Bs. dressing a man's wounds on the entrance steps. The S/B told me it was Postlethwaite. He said he had a frightful wound in his back and could not last long. He did not last more than a quarter of an hour. I did not know Postlethwaite, not even by sight. It was the S/B who told me who the man was who was next to me in the trench and who died on the step. He said he and his mates would do their best to get all the dead back and give them a decent burial. I do not know what became of his body. The S/B's name was Pte. J. Jackson, B. Coy, now a H. gunner and still with B. Coy. The other S/B handling Postlethwaite was Pte. Butterworth of B. Vill. now in England wounded. S/B Jackson said he had taken his paybook and would give it to the Coy. clerk Cpl. R. Maddern but I see he is missing now.

Encl. 23.6.17
20.7.17
J. Jackson
Butterworth

F.R.P.

Reference: - Cpl. F. Nelson. 1908. 43. B. VI.
Can. Gen. Hosp.

A. I. E. 43.

February 14th, 1917.

POSTLETHWAITE, A. E. 4280.

911.

On the night of the 14th February our battery was in a trench captured some time previous. Fitch was in the same trench to our right and the 7th A.I.F. were in it still further to the right. We were adding fire out of the intervening strip of trench, meanwhile his artillery was shelling us very severely. I was on an observation post and Postlethwaite was on the next one to me not more than 10 yards away. I saw a shell burst on the parapet right behind him. It wounded me. Then all was confusion. I went to the dugout to get my wound dressed. The dugout was full and while there I saw S/Bs. dressing a man's wounds on the entrance steps. The S/B told me it was Postlethwaite. He said he had a frightful wound in his back and could not last long. He did not last more than a quarter of an hour. I did not know Postlethwaite, not even by sight. It was the S/B who told me who the man was who was next to me in the trench and who died on the spot. He said he and his mates would do their best to get all the dead back and give them a decent burial. I do not know what became of his body. The S/B's name was Pto. J. Jackson. Now a M. Gunner and still with B. Coy. The other S/B handling Postlethwaite was Pto. Butterworth of B. VII. now in England and wounded. S/B Jackson said he had taken his paybook and would give it to the Coy. clerk. Pto. Cpl. R. Madden and I see he is missing now.

Staples. 23.6.17. 20.7.17.
Written by Jackson
Butterworth

Staples. 23.6.17. 2-7-17

977.

A. I. F. 46. POSTHUMOUSLY A.E. 4280.
11. February 14th, 1917.

On the night of the 14th February our battn. was in a trench captured some time previous. Fritz was in the same trench to our right and the 57th A.I.F. were in it still further to the right. We were raiding Fritz out of the intervening strip of trench, meanwhile his artillery was shelling us very severely. I was on an observation post and Postlethwaite was on the next one to me not more than 10 yards away. I saw a shell burst on the parapet right behind him. It wounded me. Then all was confusion. I went to the dugout to get my wound dressed. The dugout was full and while there I saw S/Bs. dressing a man's wounds on the entrance steps. The S/B told me it was Postlethwaite. He said he had a frightful wound in his back and could not last long. He did not last more than a quarter of an hour. I did not know Postlethwaite, not even by sight. It was the S/B who told me who the man was who was next to me in the trench and who died on the step. He said he and his mates would do their best to get all the dead back and give them a decent burial. I do not know what became of his body. The S/B's name was Pte. J. Jackson. A day or two a M. Gunner and still with N. Coy. The other S/B handling Postlethwaite was Pte. Butterworth of N. VII. now in England and wounded. S/B Jackson said he had taken his paybook and would give it to the Coy. clerk. Pte. Cpl. R. Maddern but I see he is missing now.

References: - Cpl. T. Nelson. 1968. 46. B. VI
Can. Gen. Hosp.

46th A.I.F.

S
Portlethwaite Pte. A.E. 4289.

(K. Feb. 14/17 Det. D/B)

"Portlethwaite was out with a wiring party at night at Gueudecourt. He was shot through the head and died immediately. He is buried behind the lines there. There is a cross put up over his grave with his name on it".

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Sgt. J. Slater 1809,
46th A.I.F.,
Brampton V.A.D. Hospt.,
Northampton.

July 5th 1917,
G. McKinnell.

Self
M G d

46th Battn
I.F.

POSTLETHWAITE
A. E 4287 99

"Killed 14.2.17."

In reference to the deceased soldier A.E. POSTLETHWAITE who was killed in Action I cannot give full particulars as to the registration of his grave but I can safely say that he was buried in the presence of myself and two or three more stretcher bearers at a place called Guedecourt along with three or four more of his mates. It was not a soldiers' cemetery and you would need to apply to the O.C. Graves Registry Office. He was unconscious from the time he was wounded right up till he died-it was a most severe wound through the shoulder and out through the spine.

Letter from:-

L/Cpl. J.H. Jackson.
France. July 25.17.

Typed
London.
13.9.17.

M

Rec J. JACKSON 14.7.17
MGS. B. Co
46 Batt AIF
BEF

Pls Butterworth S/Bearers B. Co
BEF

for 4289 A. E. POSTLETHWAITE
(Postlethwaite)
46 Batt A.I. F

c K. 14. 2. 17

F.M
21.7.17

10.8.17.

L/Cpl. J.H.JACKSON.
M.G.S.Co. 46th. Battn. A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear E/Cpl. JACKSON/
very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiries
concerning: ^{4286 2} 4287. Pte. A.E. POSTLETHWAITE,
46th. Battn. A.I.F.

Your information will be of assistance to us and of value to
our enquirers.

Re enquiry for particulars of Pte. W.F.KIDD, could you
kindly send us his Battalion, and No? as we have no hospital record of
W.F.KIDD and with no details but his initials we are unable to trace
him, but we shall be very pleased to try, if you can supply the
further information.

Yours faithfully,

V. Deakin
Secretary
Per P. L.

287
10.5.17
46 Batten

A. E. POSTLETHWAITE France

N. 14.2.17. = ~~12.11.16~~ July 25-17.

To Sect Aust. Red Cross Society

46 Batten AIF

Dear Sir M 3 (d)

In reference to the deceased soldier A. E. Postlethwaite who was killed in action I cannot give full particulars as to the registration of his grave but I can safely say that he was buried in the presence of myself and two or three more stretcher-bearers at a place called Guedecourt along with three or four more of his mates - it was not a soldiers cemetery and you would need to apply to the U.S. graves registry office. He was unconscious from the time he was wounded right up till he died but was a most severe wound through the shoulder and out through the spine - thinking I have told you all I can I will close being only too pleased to be at your services.

I remain Yours

Dedicated Servant

W. J. P. H. Jackson.

Respectfully

P.S. I would be only too pleased if you could give me the full particulars of Pte W. J. Field who is somewhere in hospital in England and the state of his wounds.