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

4980 Private
William Charles Owen

58th Battalion



2070609O

A. I.F. 59th Btn
not 58th Btn
late 29th 12/6.

W.O. OWEN 4980

"K/A. 14-10-17"

Died of wounds in 31st Amb. Train 14-10-17 - previously reported Killed in action ~~XXXXXX~~
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 30-1-18.

M

London
1-2-18

58th Btn.

late 29th Btn.

OWEN, W. C.
Pte. 4980

Officially reported Killed in Action 14th October, 1917.

This soldier is officially reported as killed in action 14th October, 1917, but his sister received a letter from Chaplain R. Howie, as under:-

2nd Canadian Cas. Clearing Station
B. E. F.
12/10/17

Dear Miss Owen,

I regret to tell you that your son Pte. W. C. Owen was severely wounded last night in the head and neck.

You will be thankful to know that he has been brought here and you may be sure he will receive every possible attention from skilled surgery and nurses.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU–MELBOURNE.

Writh O. C. 2 Can. C. C. S. 25-2-18.

-2-

He sends you his best love.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) ROBERT HOWIE,

CHAPLAIN.

From this letter it would appear that this soldier died of wounds and we would esteem it if you would have the above report verified.

Sister:- Miss A. Owen,
Church Street,
Carrum, Victoria.

27/12/17
Cable to "Questman" London 20th Dec. 1917.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU–MELBOURNE.

69th Bn.
A.I.F.

OWEN
W.C. 4980

Killed 14.10.17.

Not sent on.

N.B. We are informed at H.Qrs. that 2448 Norman Forster Owen - 69th Battn - is absent without leave since 25.10.17 - Do not confuse him with 4980 W.C.Owen killed ten days earlier.

London.
24.1.18

A. I. F. 59.C. OWEN, W.C. 4980.

K. October 14th, 1917. ? Sever

His body is buried in the St Lever Cemetery Extension, Rouen.

Reference:- A.S.Cattanach. 1621. Battn clerk.
Enquin.

He was hit by a shell at Westhoek Ridge on October 14th or thereabouts while in our first reserve line. I was alongside him at the time and saw him hit. He had wounds in the head and the back. We would not allow him to walk out though he wanted to. He was taken to the D/S on a stretcher. I heard later, officially, he had died of wounds. He belonged to IX pl.C.Coy.

Reference:- F.W.Strughs. 4956. C.Coy.

I saw him taken out on a stretcher at Westhoek Ridge on October 14th. He did not seem bad and said he wanted to walk. That is the last I know of him. SA.

Reference:- A.L.Moffatt. 1967.C.Coy. Enquin.
Identity cert.from Battn records. Etaples.24.1.18.

59th Battn.
A.I.F.

Owen.
Pte. W.C. 4980

"Killed in Action"

re 4980 Pte.W.C.Owen. The above mentioned man was entrained from a C.C.S. for removal to Base Hospital. He was very seriously wounded and died before arrival at the Base. The body was detrained at Rouen and burial took place there.

Letter from:- The O.C.
31st Amb.Train.
17.3.18.

London.
26.3.18.

M.

K.M.A.

No. 81
AMBULANCE TRAIN.
Date 7/3/18.

The Secretary
Aus: Red Cross Society.

Re 4980 Pte. W.C. Owen 59 Batt. A.I.F.
The a/m man was entrained from a C.C.S. for removal to Base Hospital. ~~and~~ He was very seriously wounded and died before arrival at the Base. The Body was detrained at Rouen & Burial took place there.

J. Macdonald
Capt Ram C.
C.C. 31. A.T.

M.

O. C. Draft.

5. 3. 18.

The O. C.
31st Ambulance Train
B. E. F.

4980. Pte Owen. 5th Batt. A.I.F.

D. of W. 14. 10. 17.

A.I.F. 8th Stn

LARSON
6789

"Killed 4-10-17"

Larson

At Passchendale I saw him killed by a shell, he was killed instantly, I helped to bury him just alongside the trench, but I don't remember any mark or cross up. We were always together in camp at Liverpool N.S.W. and been together since.

Witness: Kembler 6787
Ward 34
Hatfield

D.P.Dickson
London
27-2-18

The O.C.,
2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Stn,
B. E. F.

February 26th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We have been asked by our Melbourne Bureau to send particulars concerning the death and burial of

4980 Pte. T.C.OWEN, 59th Battalion, Aust.Imp.Force.

This soldier is officially reported to have died of wounds in the 31st Ambulance train 14-10-17, but the following letter was received by Miss Owen, sister of the above.

"Dear Miss Owen,
I regret to tell you that your brother Pte.T.C.Owen, was severely wounded last night in the head and arm. You will be thankful to know that he has been brought here and you may be sure he will receive every possible attention from skilled surgery and nurses.
(Signed)
R.Howie, (Chaplain)
2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.
B. E. F. 12-10-17.

We cannot of course get any information concerning the above named soldier, from the Ambulance, therefore we shall be most grateful to you if you can give us some particulars of the nature of his wounds.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY," WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON, S.W. 1.

February 26th, 1918.

The O.C.,
2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Stn,
B. E. F.

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(Signed)
R.Howie, (Chaplain)
2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.
B. E. F. 15-10-17.

We cannot of course get any information concerning the above named soldier, from the Ambulance, therefore we shall be most grateful to you if you can give us some particulars of the nature of his wounds.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

SECRETARY. pro A.S.

Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau.
36 Grosvenor Place - London SW.1.

K in A

Reference reverse -
4980 Pte OWEN W.C. 59th Batn A.I.F. was admitted to this C.C.S. from 3rd Australian Field Amb - on 12.10.17 with G.S.W. Fract Spine, Head & Back - He was evacuated to the Base on 13.10.17 by Amb Train No 31. We have no further record of him -

H E Paul Major CAMC
in A/C 2nd Canadian C.C.S.

M