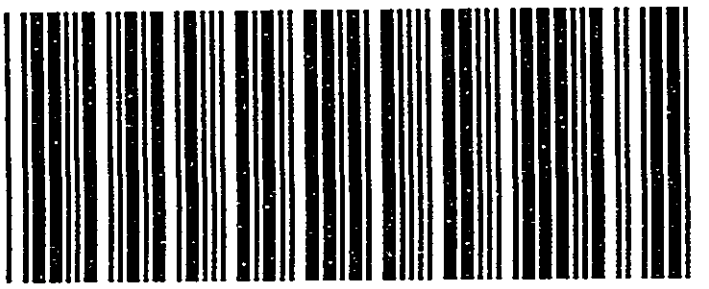
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6103 Private
Mitchell Wightman

37th Battalion



2940507R

A.I.F.
37th Bttn.
late 7th Bttn.

WIGHTMAN.
H. 6103.

Killed in Action 28.1.17.

Buried in the Honour Cemetery, Armentieres in Grave 164.
Section III. Block III. Row E. German list of graves in Cemetery.
Cert. by letter from Capt. Mills 28.7.19.

London.
2.10.19.

H.

A.I.F.
57th. Batn.
late 7th Bn

WIGHTMAN.
M 6105

"Killed in Action 28.1.17."

Reported Missing 28.1.17.
Cert. by A I.F. Headquarters 14.2.17.

Killed in Action 28.1.17. previously reported Missing.
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters I.B. 1c9

London.
22.5.17.

M.

37th Battn.,
A.I.F.

WIGHTMAN,
Pte.M. 6103.

Missing on 28-1-17.

Missing on 28-1-17.
Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters on 14-2-17.

Killed in Action on 28-1-17 - previously reported Missing.
Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters' List I.B.159.

Off.M.

London,
22-2-17.

A.I.F. 37 WIGHTMAN H. 6103.

K.Jan.28 1917. Det: D & B

This man was a mate of mine, and I have seen his grave in Armentieres British Cemetery, and it is close to Pte Billingham's grave. He was killed in a raid, shot through the head. He comes from the same district as I do, and Pte Billingham we as well.

Informant: Cpl.E.W.Williams. 1325
38th Battn
No.13 General
BOULOGNE. 8.6.17.

EFH

A.I.F. 37 WIGHTMAN, M. 6103

K.Jan.28th.1917. Det:

I knew him. We went on a raid that night, and on his return he was shot by machine gun bullet or rifle I am not sure which. He was killed by this shot, and he is buried in Erquinghem Cemetery.

Informant: Cpl.H.B.Labner. 1640.
No.1 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 6.6.17.

RAOI

A. I. F. 37. WIGHTMAN, M. 6103.

K. January 28th, 1917.

I have seen the grave of a Pte. Wightman of 37th battn. in Armentieres cemetery. It has a cross over it with his name on. I do not know his initials or No. but a particular chum of mine named Pte. W.H. Gould, No. 879, was out on a raiding party with a Pte. Wightman on January 28th and their bodies were brought in together. Details of this have been sent to Gould's people by several men in the battn. I forget their names. It was from them I got this association of the two names. The grave I am referring to is near to that of my friend Gould.

FEP.

Reference:- R.T. Warner. 1010. 37 A.I.F.
No. 7 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
11.617.

37th A.I.F. M. WIGHTMAN, 6103.

Killed 28.1.17. Det. D & B.

Informant states that Wightman was in B Co. and that to the best of his knowledge he was killed in No Man's Land instantaneously by M.G.Fire during a raid on the night of the 27th January. He was picked up and put on a stretcher, and brought back part of the way to our lines, but had to be left. Some weeks later his body was recovered and buried in the Military Cemetery at Armentieres, where his grave has been seen by Ptes. E. and R. Edwards, 575 and 574 respectively.

Reference: C.S.M. Cumming, 1722.
No.8 General, Rouen. 11.6.17.

GJS.

A.I.F. 37. WIGHTMAN, M. 6103.

K. Jan 28th 1917. Dets D/B.

Wightman - name Mitchell - was killed in a raid at Houplines early in the year. It might be Jan 28th. He was missing, but Vic Grey a chum of his and some others said he had been shot through the head. He was a nice chap. About a week afterwards, he was fetched in the by the Tyneside Scottish who found his body lying on a stretcher when they were out on a raid at the same place. He was buried at Armentieres in the cemetery where the Australians are buried - near the Laundries. I have seen his grave.

Inf: Pte C.Crawford. 5990. B.
No. 32 Stationary.
BOULOGNE. 11.6.17.

JT M

Written Pte Grey 15.7.17

37th A.I.F. WIGHTMAN M. No.6103.

K. 28th January 1917. Det D/B.

I saw him killed; it was on a raid. He was buried at Erquiem Cemetery near Armentieres and I have seen his grave. I went out there one Sunday to make sure, for his Sister, that his body was brought in.

Inf:- L/Cpl Wall No.6104 B.Co.
Amb.T. "Brighton".
Calais. 12.6.17. CR.

M.

FRANCE

37th BATT. A.I.F. WIGHTMAN. M. 6103

K. Jan 28th.1917. Det D/B.

He was a Corporal and went out on a small raid to the German line. He was wounded by shrapnel and died before he could be brought in, and he was left out on a stretcher. His body was recovered two weeks later and was buried in a cemetery on the Erquinghem Road, where a great number of the 3rd Div. A.I.F. are buried. I have seen his grave there.
WSI.

Ref --- Pte F.M.Davis. 1933.
No 2 Can. Gen. Hospital

NOTE. Another man confirmed this report, adding that the Germans had gone out and attached wires both to the body and the stretcher so that we could not touch either.

Le Treport. June 13th.1917

M

37th Australians

Wightman, 6103, M

(K. Jan 28/17 Det D & B)

Informant states that on Jan. 28th/17 at Houplines, Armentieres Pte Wightman was shot during a raid, death was instantaneous. Stretcher bearers got him, but the enemy opened fire, making it too hot for them, so they were forced to leave him and find cover. Later on they tried again and then found that the Huns had attached wire from their own trench to Wightman's feet in order to shoot anyone who attempted to move him, finally the stretcher bearers managed to cut the wire and bring him into our own lines. Pte Wightman is buried in Armentieres cemetery and his grave is marked with a cross with the date on it, name, number and Battalion."

Eye-witness: He saw him shot

Description: Short, stout, well built, fair, clean-shaven

Informant: Eric Oldham, 517, 37th Australians, B.Coy, No. III Military Hospital, Exeter.

Home address:
Chez Moi,
Grace Park,
Melbourne, Australia.

18th June 1917.
E. Benson.

M Ed

37th A. I. F.,

Wightman, Pte. M., 6103,
B.Coy.,

K. Jan. 28/17 Det: D/B.

"I saw Wightman go over from Houplines trench with a raiding party. I was told that his body was brought in on a stretcher by Scotties about a week after. I have seen his Grave in the Cemetery at Armentieres."

Eye Witness: No, cannot tell who told him.

Description: Stout, clean shaven, was a Cpl. before joining 37th Battalion.

Informant:-- Pte. H.A. Elliott, 1589,
37th Australian I.F., B.Coy.,
Southall Auxiliary Mil: Hosp:
Middlesex.

Home address:-- Victoria Road,
Beechworth, Victoria.

M Ed

19.6.17.
C.A.Linthenbank.

37th A. I. F.,

Wightman, Pte. M., 6103,
C. Company,

K. Jan. 28th 1917.

"Wightman was in a raid about Jan. 28th 1917, there was deep snow at the time and Wightman was lost. A little later his body was found by Scouts and buried at the A.I.F. Cemetery, Armentieres."

Eye Witness: No, told by friends of Wightman.

Description: A little dark man, hair turning grey.

Informant:-- Pte. J.H. Fleming, 868,
37th A.I.F., C. Coy.,
Graylingwell Hosp:
Chichester.

Home address:-- Billy's Lock out,
Via West Wyalong,
N.S.W.

Cd. Staff
M

25.6.17.
V. Beaumont.

A.I.F. 37th Btn
late 7th Btn

WIGHTMAN
M. 6103

"K. in A. 28-1-17"

Buried Cité Bonjean Military Cemetery Armentières
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 24-7-17.

M

London
24-7-17

37th Battn
A.I.F.

Wightman
6180 M
03

"Killed in Action 28.1.17."

Writing for Pte. Victor Grey to whom you supplied I have to state as follows. Pte. Grey was present when Pte. Wightman was hit in the back of the head during a raid on 28.1.17. Grey reckons that Wightman died almostimmediately. Grey and another tried to carry him in but the enemy fire was so hot and Grey was injured by falling on barbed wire they had to desist. Other attempts were made Wightman was got on to a stretcher but had to be left because of hit fire andhe lay outside the wire entanglements on our side of No Man's land. Several attempts to get him failed. Ultimately his body was recovered and buried in the Cité Bon Jean Cemetery Armentieres.

Letter from:- Pres. Chaplain.
37th Battn A.I.F.
France.
23.8.17.

London,
12.9.17.

M

37th Btn.

WIGHTMAN, H.
Pte. No. 6105

Killed in action 28/1/17.

"Casualty was killed at Armentieres on the 28th January, 1917 by a sniper. The bullet went through his head killing him instantly. He was buried at Armentieres Cemetery. I was not far away when he was killed."

Informant:- W.H. Haggar
No. 6024 37th Btn.

Private address
Sarsfield,
Bairnsdale.

R.A.B
18/10/17.

Note:- Cpl. Roberts still with the unit in France was with Casualty.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

Pte Victor GREY
37 Batt AIF
BEF

for

C

6103 M. WIGHTMAN
37 Batt AIF

K. 28. 1. 17

C

20. 7. 17
FM.

Ack F.M. 29.8.17

KA. 28.1.17

M (Ed) In France 23/5/17

From Chaplain Davidson 3
To Secretary
Enquiry Bureau
Australia H.C.S.

Re 6103 Pte M. Wightman

Writing for Pte Victor Grey to whom you applied I have to state as follows:-
Pte Grey was present when Pte Wightman was hit in the back of the head during a raid on 28/1/17 Grey reckons that Wightman died almost immediately Grey & another tried to carry him in but the enemy fire was so hot & Grey was injured by falling on barbed wire they had to desist. Other attempts were made Wightman was got on to a stretcher but had to be left because of hot fire & he lay outside the wire entanglements on our side of No Mans Land. Several attempts to get him in failed - Ultimately his body was recovered and buried in

the Cité Bon Jean Cemetery, Armentières

A. Irving Gardon
Presbyterian Chaplain
37 Battn. A.I.F.

G C

30.8.17

Captain Davidson,
Chaplain, 37 Battn. A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter received to-day in answer to our enquiry (made to Pte. Cray) concerning: 6108 Pte M. WIGHTMAN, 37 Battn. A.I.F.

The clear and detailed statement you have sent is exactly what we desired, and we shall now be able to apply to the Graves Registration and Enquiries for a photographfor the next of kin .

We regret that of late we seem to be adding to the already heavy burden of your correspondence but the excellent statements you send us are of great value to our enquirers.

With beptated thanks,

Yours faithfully, V.D

Secretary

37th A. I. F.

Wightman, M. 6103

(K. Jan 28th. Det D & B)

Informant states that on Jan 28th/17 at Armentieres, Wightman who had become L/Cpl was killed while on a raid and his body left to be brought in. After 2 days it was brought in and buried in Australia cemetery at Armentieres. Informant particularly remembers that case because when the attempt to bringing in the body 2 days after was made, it was found that the enemy had attached a bomb under the arm with a view to destroying rescuers.

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: G.T. Mahoney, 559,
37th A. I. F.,
Lea Court Hospital,
Faversham.

Home address:
Wangarita,
Victoria.

11th June 1917.
Colborne.