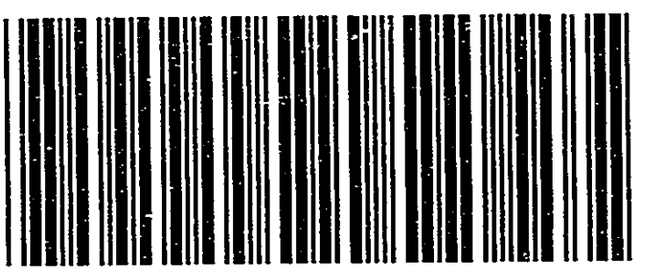
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

605 Company Quartermaster Sergeant Ronald Keith Wilson

40th Battalion



2990503S

A.I.F.
40th. Battalion.

WILSON, 605.
C.S.M. Ronald Keith.

"Killed in Action 12.10.17".

"o trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London. 22.10.19.

H

40th Battn.
A.I.F.

WILSON.
Ronald Keith. C/S/M. 605.

(65-22)

"Wounded and Missing" 12-10-17.

Killed in Action 12-10-17. Previously reported Wounded and Missing.
Cert: by A.I.F.Hqrs 10-6-18.

London.
15-6-18.

P.I.
H.

40th Battn.
A.I.F.

Wilson.
C/S/M. R.K. 605

"Wounded & Missing 12.10.17"

I saw him dead killed by a shell which blew his leg off at Passchendaele. Don't know if buried. Came from Tasmania 5'9" and dark. A good man one of the best. Probably buried.

Informant:- R.Hunt 561
40th Battn.
Anzac Buffet.

W.Alison.

London.
16.3.18.

H.
P.I.

40th Batn
A.I.F.

WILSON
Ronald Keith 606

"Latest Information"

T/C S.M. Awarded French "Medaille Militaire at Armentieres on the night of 12/13 April 1917 on the occassion of an attempted enemy raid on our trenches under the cover of a heavy bombarument, his officer being wounded, he with great coolness and conspicuous devotion to duty organised the defence of his post and succeeded in repelling the enemy attack. His example encouraged his men in their gallant resistance.

Cert. by A.I.F. HdQtrs 31.10.17.

H. and P.I.

London.
2.11.17.

A.I.F. 40th Btn

WILSON
Ronald Keith 605
65 (2nd cble)

"Progress Wded 3rd occ"

Wded 12-10-17 - 3rd occ: no further report
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 12-11-17 & 21-11-17

No further report - unit has been queried
Cert. by Rouen letter 17-11-17

H & P.I

London
26-11-17

40 Btn.
A.I.F.

WILSON
C/Sgt R.K. 605

"Wounded and Missing Oct:12/17"

Wilson was Sgt. in my platoon and is now at Harefield. L/C Spelman of 40th (now at Hurdcott) wrote to S/Mr Miller (now at Harefield) and received a reply, which I saw, stating that C/S/M Wilson was at Harefield.

Informant: Smith H.L. 636,
40 Btn,
C. Coy.
20 Hut Westham,

W.A. Rand
16.1.18

Note: 3106 W.Wilson 40 Btn.
Harefield. 4.1.18
2169 J.E. Wilson 40 Btn.
Ad. Harefield 20.12.17

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON 2809/17/39

COPY

Statement made by No.733 L/Cpl Spellman J.J. 40th Btn.

re No.605 CSM Wilson R.K. 40th Btn.
Missi ng andWnd 12.10.17.

I last saw the above named CSM Wilson R.K. on the 7th June 1917, at about ¼ to 3 o'clock in the morning at Camrac Dump, Plugsteert Wood. He walked up past me, moving from rear of the column, forward. The Battalion was then going in to action at Messines. I have not seen or heard anything further of him.

Not sent on H P1 3 copies

Dated at Hurdcott this 1st day of March 1918.

(Sgd) J.J. Spellman.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) N.P. Monnity Capt.

A.I.F. 40 C. WILSON C.S.M. R.K. 605

W. & M. Oct. 12th 1917.

This was at Passchendaele. I did not see him. I made inquiriss afterwards, and one of my men told me he had been seen with his leg and part of his body blown off He was in such a bad way that they though it no use to stop and bandage him. He said he was told by a man of the 37th Battalion who wa in a shell hole opposite that he saw the body blown out of the shell hole. He came over from Devenport Tasmania, was a timber merchant, in business with his father. Came out July 1916., Single, thick set, 24 fair cleanshaven. 2nd Sgt.

Inf. Sgt. Maj. E.M. Airey 552 C.
83 Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. I.4.18.

WG.

A.I.F. 40. WILSON CSM. R.K. 605.

W/M. Oct. 12th 1917.

Ronald Keith Wilson - C.S.M. of C. Coy. - was last seen lying in a shell hole at Passchendaele on the night of Oct. 12th/13th, terribly wounded - so badly wounded that it was impossible to do anything for him. I was not there myself but Sergt Charlesworth of C. Coy. (now wounded in England) who was in the shell hole with him, said he was dying and couldn't live. Sgt. Maj. E.M. Airey who succeeded Sgt. Wilson knows all about it, but was not with him at the time. He is in England too. I wrote to Wilson's mother at Davenport Tasmania but didn't like to say he was dead.

Inf. Cpl. E.F. Biggs. 785. C. H.Q.
54 Gen. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 9.4.18.

JT.

Letter Airey 24.4.18

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON 2809/ 17/39

C O P Y

Statement made by 552 S.M. Airey E.M. 40thBn:

re 605 C.S.M. Wilson R.K. 40th Bn:

Wounded and Missing 12.10.17.

On or about 15th, October 1917, at Passchendaele France, I saw was with my Platoon of 40th Bn; making enquiries re missing men, and was told by a private (name unknown) that he had seen C.S.M. Wilson R.K, of the 40th Bn; lying in a shell-hole on 12th October 1917 badly wounded about the legs and buttocks. I have never seen or heard of him since.

Dated at , Dartford Kent. 1st Lond Bn (SGD) E.M. Airey.

Statement made and signed before me. (SGD) B. Sutherland Lt Col.

40th Battn.
A.I.F.

WILSON.
C.S.M. R.K.605.

"Wounded and Missing" 12-10-17.

He was last seen in a shell hole at Passchendaele with his foot blown off. He was never seen again and although inquires were made it was impossible to get information of his fate. He must either have ~~bee~~ succumbed to his injuries which were very bad or have been killed by another shell and buried in the mud. I knew him.

Letter from.Capt.F.C.Green.
Adj. 40th Battn.
LONDON OFFICE.

London.
14-6-18

H.
F I.

A. I. F. 40th Bn. WILSON, C-S-M. R.K. 605.

Killed Oct.12/17. Det.D/B.

Sergt.Wilson was killed at Passchendaele near Ypres on the 12th Oct. during the daytime. He was in a shell hole with another man, who told me the story, and, as the cover was insufficient for both the man made a dash for another shell hole close by. He had hardly gone a minute when a shell landed in the hole Sergt.Wilson was in and blew him to pieces. I made a report to this effect at once to my Bn.Hdqrs. and some of our men at once started off to see what they could do for the Sergt. - to bandage him up, etc. but found he was blown to bits. I did not heard if they did anything in the way of burying him but I believe not.

Reference: Pte.J.F.Nunn, 753,

No.6 General, Rouen, 12.7.18.

HNT. 12.6.19

Written by Nunn for name of man in shell hole, reply attached 6.9.18

40th Battn.
A.I.F.

WILSON
Ronald Keith 605

"Killed in Action 12-10-17"

Re 605 C/S/M R.K.Wilson, 40th Battn. I did not know the man who was in the shell hole with him. He was in my Battn. 40th, but was a Rft. I heard his name once, but unfortunately cannot rememner it. I am sorry I cannot. help you further in the matter.

Letter from:- The Chaplain, for J.E.NUNN
Ward 16,
6th Gen.Hpl.,
FRANCE. 3-8-18

London
6-8-18

P.I.
H.

40th Battn.

C.S.M. WILSON, R.K., ~~C.S.M.~~
605.

K/A. 12/10/17.

Fair, 5ft 9ins, age about 28, was in C. Coy.
I saw him killed by a shell near Passchendaele 12/10/17, he was close to me and we were near a Pill Box on the Ridge.
He was unconscious for a short while before he died.
We had to retire from the Ridge and probably Wilson would be buried by Fritz.
I think he came from Launceston.

Informant:- Cpl. W. Wilson,
Private Address:- Fenton Forest
Glenora
Tasmania.

A.D.Simpson
H.M.A.T."Suevic"
10/9/19.

~~6MD.~~

Wilson Pte Wilfred Clyde Was at Verne Citadel 6372 ✓

~~C/S/M. R.~~ Letter ret: marked "A" 12 Btn

C If Aust: u of K's address. M.D. 6

To Aust 5.11.17.

Disch. Hammer Toes.

Inquire for.

605 C/S/M Ronald Keith Wilson 40th Btn

File under in Gen: Corresp:

LAW

9.C.

Sgt. Maj: E. M AIREY

40 A. I. F.

B. G. 7.

About.

605.

C/S/Maj:

R. K. WILSON

40 A. I. F.

W&M 12.10.17.

Ew.

24.4.18

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

c/o Y.M.C.A.
Verne Citadel
Portland
Dorset

27-10-1917

To. Officer in Charge,
Red Cross Enquiry Office
Victoria Street
London

Dear —

I have not heard anything of my brother Sgt R K Wilson 605. C.Coy 10 Inf Brigade 40th Btn for some months. I have written several times, & as I have had no answer, I am naturally anxious about him. If you remember I wrote about a brother in 26th Btn who was wounded & missing on 6th Aug. 1916. & have heard nothing of him since. There are five of us out, & it is a terrible hard

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

got to keep in touch with them all. Hoping you will do your utmost for me, to find out his whereabouts & oblige.

I am

Yours Obediently

Pte Wilfred C Wilson

6342.

c/o Y.M.C.A.

Keene Citadel

Portland

Oregt.

PTO

28th March, 1918.

6372 Pte. Wilfred C. Wilson,
C/- Y.M.C.A, Verne Citadel,
Portland, Dorset.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you that in answer to our enquiry about your brother :- 605 C/S/H. R.K.WILSON, 40th Battalion, A.I.F. - We have received an unofficial report which leaves little hope that he is alive. 561 Pte.Hunt of the same unit when interviewed at the Anzac Buffet, stated that he saw him dead at Passchendaele killed by a shell which wounded him in the leg, but he can say nothing as to his burial. He adds that "he was a good man - one of the best".

We are continuing enquiries and will advise you of any particulars we may obtain although we greatly fear there is little hope of his being alive.

With our sincerest sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

F. F. Q.

SECRETARY.

17th April, 1918.

6372 Pte. Wilfred C. Wilson,
C/o Y.M.C.A. Verne Citadel,
PORTLAND, Dorset.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that we have received an unofficial report respecting - 605 Company Sergt.Major R.K. WILSON, 40th Battalion, A.I.F. - which we fear leaves no hope of his being alive.

552 Sgt. Major Airey of the same Battalion, reports that he heard,in answer to enquiries made among his men that Sgt. Major Wilson had been seen so severely wounded that they could not move him, and must have died immediately at Passchendaele on 12-10-17. Sgt. Major Airey describes him as fair, cleanshaven and thickset about 24, and adds that he camefrom Devonport, Tasmania, where he was in business with his father as a timber merchant 1916.

We are continuing enquiries and will at once inform you of any further information we may obtain although we fear it must be of a very sad nature.

With our sincere sympathy in your Anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. L. George

SECRETARY.

20th June, 1918.

6377 Pte. Wilfred C. Wilson,
c/o Y.M.C.A.
Verne Citadel,
Portland,
Dorsetshire.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for your brother 605 C/3/W R.E. Wilson, 40th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. we very much regret to inform you that he is now officially reported killed in action on 12.10.17 having been previously reported wounded and missing on that date.

We have also received another unofficial report of his death from Captain D. J. Green of the same unit, who when interviewed recently in London stated that you brother was last seen in a shell hole at Passchendaele with a very bad wound in his foot. Unfortunately he was not seen again and although many enquiries were made it was impossible to obtain any information as to his fate and it was feared that he must have succumbed to his injuries which were very severe.

We very much regret the sendnature of this report and will advise you immediately if any further information reaches us.

With sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

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

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36 GROSVENOR PLACE
(NEAR VICTORIA STATION)
LONDON, S.W. 1.

20th June, 1918.

6372 Pte. Wilfred C. Wilson,
c/o Y.M.C.A. 12th Bty.
Verne Citadel,
Portland,
Dorsetshire.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for your brother 605 C/S/M R.K. Wilson, 40th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. we very much regret to inform you that he is now officially reported killed in action on 12.10.17 having been previously reported wounded and missing on that date.

We have also received another unofficial report of his death from Captain F. C. Green of the same unit, who when interviewed recently in London stated that you brother was last seen in a shell hole at Passchendaele with a very bad wound in his foot. Unfortunately he was not seen again and although many enquiries were made it was impossible to obtain any information as to his fate and it was feared that he must have succumbed to his injuries which were very severe.

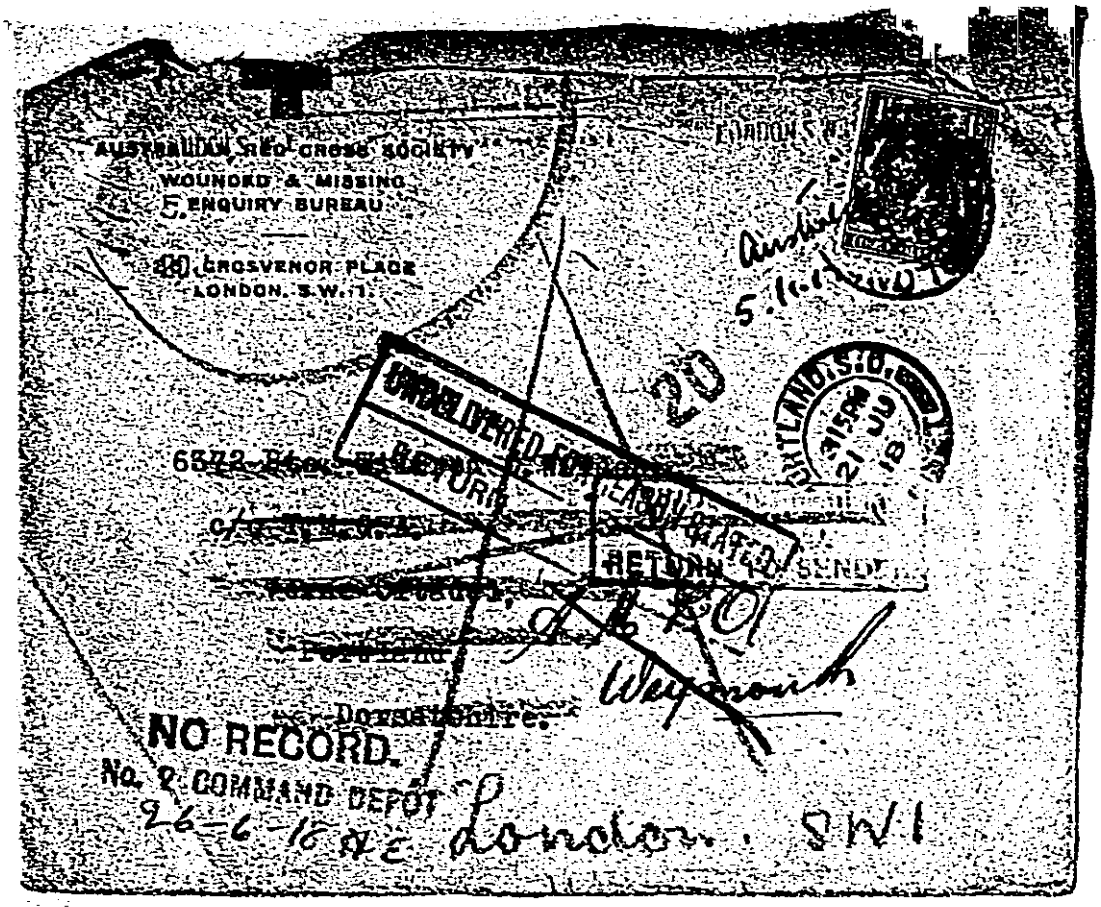
We very much regret the sad nature of this report and will advise you immediately if any further information reaches us.

With sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary. (D.S.)



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU

20 GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.

LONDON S.W.

Austria
5.1.1

UNDELIVERED FOR
RETURN

20

PORTLAND, S.O.
31 SEP
21 JUL
18

6372 Pte. [illegible]

c/o [illegible]

[illegible]

Portland

Dorsetshire.

RETURN TO SENDER

Weymouth

NO RECORD.
No. 2 COMMAND DEPOT
26-6-18 AE London. SW1


606
R. K. Wilcox

6572
Pte. Wilfred C. Wilson,
C/o Y.M.C.A.
Verne Citadel,
Portland,
DORSET.

10th Nov. 1917

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry concerning your brother 605 R.E. Wilson 40th Batn A.I.F. we beg to state that the latest official report that we can obtain states that he was wounded by a gas shell (2nd occasion) and was admitted to the 9th Field Ambulance on 7.7.17. suffering from gas-shell conjunctivitis

We are also glad to be able to forward you the following report from A.I.F. Hdqtrs:- " 2/C.S.M. R.E. Wilson 40th Batn A.I.F. awarded French "Medaille Militaire" at Armentieres on the night of the 12/13th April 1917 on the occasion of an attempted enemy raid on our trenches, under the cover of a heavy bombardment.

His officer being wounded, he with great coolness and conspicuous devotion to duty organised the defence of his post and succeeded in repelling the enemy attack. His example encouraged his men in their gallant resistance".

We have wired to Rouen for the latest information concerning your brother and will at once advise you on hearing from them, as we realise how anxious you must be.

With every good wish to you. Yours faithfully.

V.D. [illegible]
SECRETARY

February 1st. 8

6372 Pte. W. C. Wilson,
C/o Y.M.C.A. , Verne Citadel,
Portland, Dorset.

Re 605 C/S/M. RONALD KEITH WILSON 40th Bttn.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded is now officially reported as Wounded and Missing since 12.10.17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of obtaining more definite information as we fully realise your anxiety about him.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

D.M.B.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Headquarters:
54 VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON,
S.W.

Telegraphic Address:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."
TELEPHONES
VICTORIA 8576, 8577 & 8578.

33, GROSVENOR PLACE.

February 1st. 1918

6372 Pte. W. C. Wilson,
C/o Y.M.C.A. , Verne Citadel,
Portland, Dorset.

Re 605 C/S/M. RONALD KEITH WILSON. 40th Bttn.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded is now officially reported as Wounded and Missing since 12.10.17.

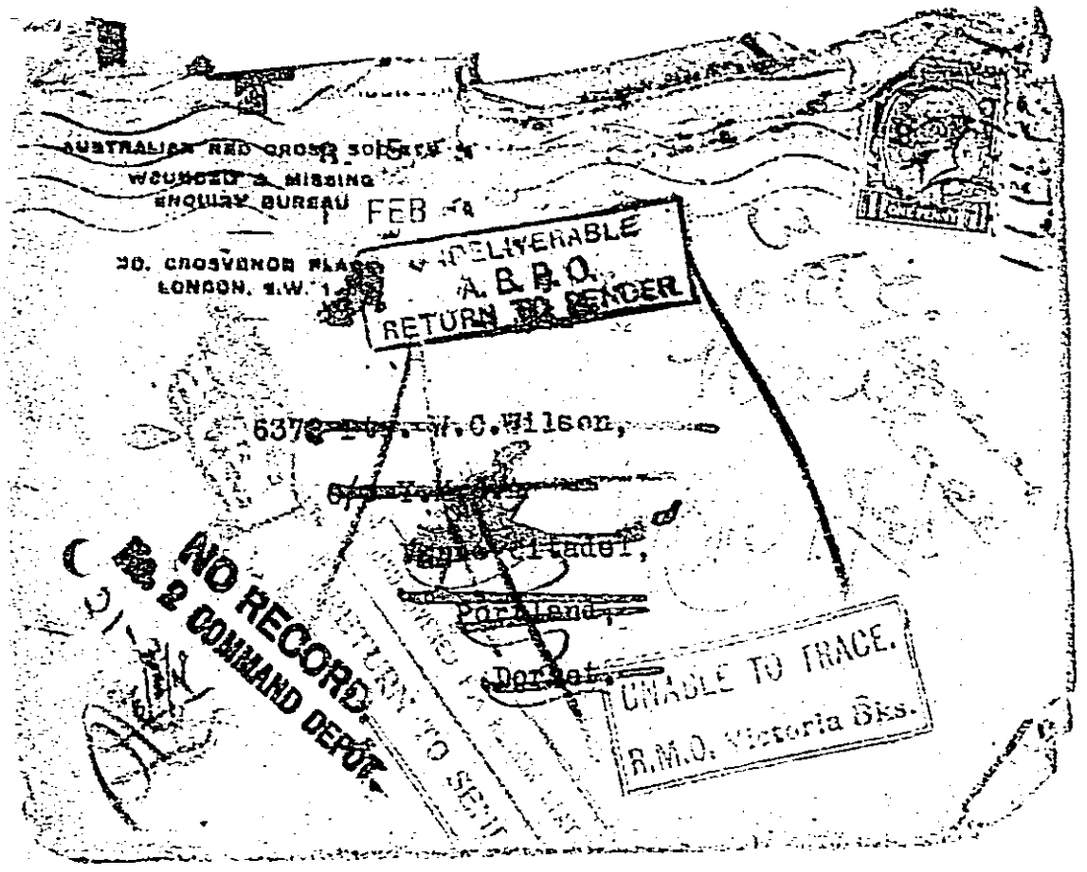
We are making further enquiries in the hope of obtaining more definite information as we fully realise your anxiety about him.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

SECRETARY.


AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU
FEB
30, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W.1
UNDELIVERABLE
A.B.R.O.
RETURN TO SENDER
6370 Pte. W.C.Wilson,
Cadet,
Portland,
Dorset.
UNABLE TO TRACE.
R.M.O. Victoria Bks.
NO RECORD
No. 2 COMMAND DEPOT.

Australian Draft 9-9-18

Mrs E Wilson

Strathlyn

East Devonport

Tasmania

No 605 C/S/M R.K. Wilson

40th Bn A.I.F

Kin A 12.10.17

July 25th. 1918.

753 Pte.J.F.Munn,
40th Infantry Battalion,
No 6 General Hospital;
Australian Imperial Force.
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about -

605 C/S/M/ R.K. Wilson, 40th Battalion, A.I.F.

reported "Killed in Action 12-10-17" and in a report you gave to our Searchers at Rouen you say "He (Wilson) was in a shell hole with another man, who told me the story, and, as the cover was insufficient for both, the man made a dash for another shell hole closeby".

We are now writing to ask if you can give us the name and other particulars of this other man you refer as he evidently is ~~able~~ the only one who is able to give us first hand details about C/S/M. Wilson's fate. We will be grateful for your further assistance in this matter.

We trust you are making a good recovery, and will soon be quite convalescent.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary. per N J

605
Ronald Keith Wilson
40th Battn
Kni A 12-10-17

Ward 16
6 General Hospital
B. E. F.
France
Aug. 3. 18

Dear Madam,

Re 605/C/S/M/ R. L. Wilson 40th Battn A.I.F.

I did not know the man who was in the shell hole with him, He was in my battalion (the 40th) but was a reinforcement. I heard his name once but unfortunately cannot remember it. I am sorry I cannot help you further in the matter.

Yours truly
(Arthur B. Taylor C.F.)
pro J. F. Nunn

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

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE
(NEAR VICTORIA STATION),
LONDON, S.W 1.

August 15th, 1918.

6372 Pte. W. C. Wilson.
C/o Y.M.C.A.
Verne Citadel.
Portland. Dorset.

Dear Sir.

In further answer to your enquiry for -

605 C/S/M. R.K. WILSON. 40th Battalion. A.I.F.

We beg to inform you of an unofficial report given by 753 Pte. J.P. Nunn of the same unit when in No 6 General Hospital, B.E.F.

He stated - "Sgt. Wilson was killed at Passchendaele near Ypres on the 12th Oct, during the daytime. He was in a shell hole with another man, who told me the story, and, as the cover was insufficient for both, the man made a dash for another shell hole close by. He had hardly gone a minute when a shell landed in the Hole Sgt. Wilson was in and killed him instantaneously. I made a report to this effect at once to my Battalion Headquarters and some of our men at once started off to see what they could do for the Sgt. to bandage him up but found he was dead. I did not hear if they buried him but I believe not."

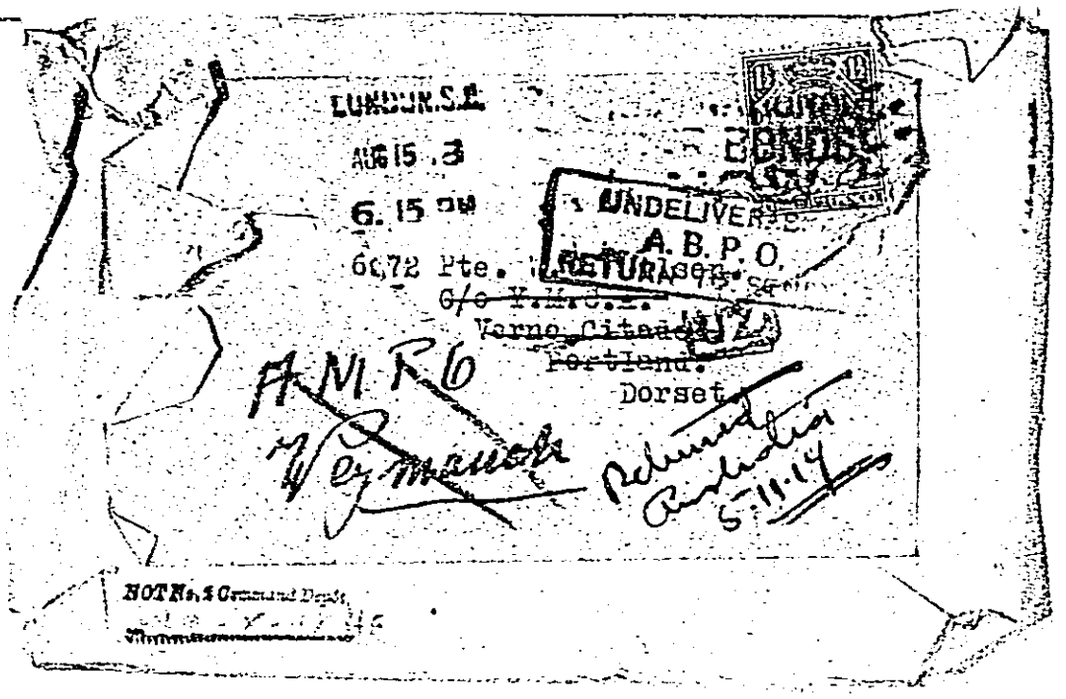
We wrote to Pte. Nunn in the hope of learning from him the name of the other man in the shell hole but he tells us that he has forgotten his name.

Further enquiries are being made and as soon as we receive information we shall advise you.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin
Secretary.
(WAW)



LONDON S.E.

AUG 15 .3

6. 15 PM

UNDELIVERABLE
A. B. P. O.
RETURN TO SENDER

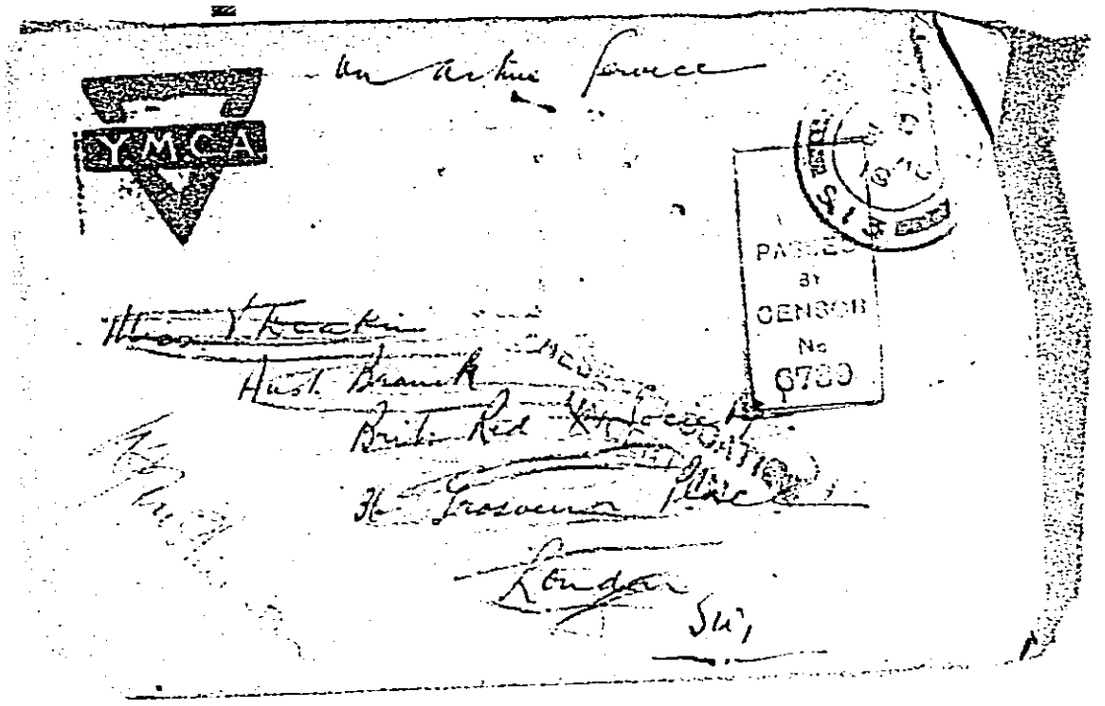
6072 Pte. [illegible]
~~C/o Y.M.C.A.~~
~~Verne Citadel~~
~~Portland.~~
Dorset.

AMR 6

Weymouth

Returned
Australia
5.11.14

NOT No. 2 Command Depôt


YMCA
PASSED
BY
CENSOR
No
6700

Ans. 7.9.18

Strathleyn
East Devonport
Tasmania
June 22nd 1918

Dear Miss Deakin

My son Private Wilfred Wilson No 6372 has handed me your letter in reference to my dear son C. Sergt-Maj R. H. Wilson, 6005 40th I am afraid your sad news is only too true, and that my dear boy has been killed. I am so thankful to you for your kindness, and would ask you to kindly find out if possible, if he were buried or was it only by another shell. He was a grandson of Major General Wilson, Penguin, Tas (who died on May 2nd 1918 aged 82 years) but was in business with a Mr James Wilson W/port-West (no relation) who is a builder & contractor. Nine out of six of my sons enlisted, one failed to leave Australia although he tried three times, two have been killed, one received his discharge in Jan 1918, & one is on H.M.S. Torrens We are not alone in our great sorrow, there are many Mothers suffering with me in our great

loss, but I am thankful to say that I know the Lord Jesus Christ as the One who alone can comfort & sustain & look forward to the moment when I shall be with Him & my dear Lord who found in Him their Saviour will be with Him too.

I shall be so thankful for any further news of my dear Son, & thanking you

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) Edith Nelson.