

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

334 Private
William James Wiles

14th Machine Gun Company



2940710N

(A.I.P.
14th. M.G.Coy.,

WILES. 334.
William James.

"Killed in Action 12.6.17".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

(London.
22.10.19.

S. S. S. S.

14th Coy., M. G. C., A. I. F., Wiles, W.J., 334,

K. May 12/17. Det: D/B.

"W.J. Wiles of the 14th M.G.C. and Duncan of the same Coy. were killed together on or about May 12/17 and are buried in the same grave with a regulation white cross over them. The grave is to the right of Reincourt (near Bullecourt) alongside the Railway Track which is in a Sunken Road going towards Cambrai and about 1½ miles from Neuveville. The grave stands by itself and, when I left, was still within a few yards of the front line."

Eye Witness: Of the grave only.

Description: Tall, dark, about 28, came from N.S.W.

Informant:-- Pte. T. Franklin, 241,
15th M.G.C., A.I.F.,
Richmond Military Hosp:
Grove Rd., Surrey.

Home address:--

16.7.17.
A.G. Campbell.

S.

14th M.G. Coy. A.I.F.

WILES. Pte W.J. No. 334

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

" I helped to bury a man Wiles and another man named Duncan whose number I do not know in the railway cutting in front of Queant. I also helped to erect the cross on the grave. It bore their names, numbers and units. I only knew Wiles in the company."

Description. Height 5'10", dark complexion, slight build.

Witness. Pte C.T. Neasbery, No. 1708, 14th M.G.C.

8th August, 1917.
S.W.

No. 4 Command Depot,
Codford.

A.M.G.C. 14.

WILES, W.J. 334.

K. May 12th 1917. Dets D/B.

He was killed at Bullecourt in the front line on May 12th. by a shell which fell right on his gun. I was on the spot just afterwards and saw the few fragments left of the body. They were gathered up and ~~left close to~~ buried close to where he was killed. Wiles came from N.S.W.

Inf: Pte J. Karistone. 1608.
No. 53 Stat Hospital,
BOULOGNE. 19.9.17.

HMH

5

14th M.G.C.

C.I.F.

Wiles.

W.J. 334

"Killed 12.3.17."

I was told by Pte. B. F. Maloney 239 14th M.G.C. and by L/Cpl. Bow of 14 M.G.C. who are now in France that they were present when Wiles was blown to pieces by a ~~shell~~ piece from a shell which also killed J. Duncan of the same Coy. From what they told me I gathered that there would have been no remains to bury. I knew him well (and his initials) He was a tall slim young chap who came from Sydney.

Informant :-

Pte. W.F. Wrench. 244
14th M.G.Coy.,

Searcher,
A. Campbell.
Dartford. 4.9.17.
London.
20.9.17.

S

Note written Pte. Maloney & L/Cpl. Bow. 13.9.17.

A.I.F. M.G.C. 14.

WILES. W.J. 334.

K. May 12th 1917. Dets. D/B.

W.J. Wiles and I were training together at Ranwick near Sydney soon after the commencement of the war and we came over to France together. He was a manager of a pawnbroker's establishment in Catlereagh Street and he lived in Lucas Street Burwood near Sydney. He had a small number like my own. He was the only Wiles in the Coy. I got buried with him and a man called Duncan at Bullecourt on the 12th of May by a shell that exploded close to it. After we had been dug out it was found that Wiles and Duncan were killed. I helped with some Infantrymen to bury Wiles and Duncan in the Sunkan Road about 200 yards behind our lines. There is a cross over their graves with their names numbers and regiments on them.

Inf: Pte. J.P. Mac Donald. 331. No.1 Section
7. Con. Camp.
BOULOGNE. 1.10.17.

Col Smith.

AGL.

P.

14th Mach.Gun Coy.
A. I. F.

Wiles.
W. J. 334

"Killed in Action 12.5.17"

Concerning the death of No.334 Pte.W.J.Wiles. I personally witnessed his death which occurred about 5.a.m. on May 13th. He was buried with a friend of his named Jim Duncan with whom the relatives of Pte. Wiles were acquainted. They were buried together in a sunken road which form supports at Bullecourt. The spot is marked by a cross on which is inscribed their two names and the date of their death.

Letter from:-
259 B.F.Maloney
14th Mach. Gun Coy.
18.9.17.

London.
1.10.17.

S.

14th Mach.Gun Coy.
A. I. F.

Wiles.
Pte. W.J. 334

"Killed in Action 12.5.17"

Re 334 Pte.W.J.Wiles. The only information that I can supply is that he was killed with a 5.9.H.E. shell along with 5 others on the morning of 13th May at 5.a.m. He was not buried in a soldier's cemetery but he and his pal J. Duncan were buried in the Southern end of the third sunken road leaving Noreuil going to Bullecourt by their comrades of the same reinforcements viz: 4th and they also erected a cross with both of their names on. Although you mention that he was killed on 12.4.17 there is not the slightest doubt as to his identity.

Letter from:-
S. Baugh,
France.
17.9.17.

London.
2.10.17.

S.

14th Machine Gun Coy.,
A.I.F. Killed 12.5.17.

Killed 15.5.17."

WILES
W.J. 334
WEST
Pte. J.G. 477

Were both buried where they fell. Their people were advised by me.

Extract from letter from:-
J.J.S. Andrews Captn.
C/o Officers Mess.
Aust. M.C. 9 Depot.
R. Lines. Belton Park.
Grantham. 29.5.17.

London.
5.10.17.

S

~~A. M. G. C.~~

A.M.G.C. 14.

WILKS.W.J. 334.

K. May 12th 1917. Dets D/B.

I knew him. He was killed by a shell as we were going into the line at Bullecourt. He is buried where he fell.

Inf: Pte J. Karistonis. 1608.

No. 1 C.C.

BOULOGNE. 15.10.17.

RADI

S
ed.
Luff

14th M.G.C. A.I.F.

Wiles. W.J. 334.

K. May 12/17 Det D/B

"Wiles was wounded at Bullecourt and was taken in the
Buvilliers? C.C.S. where he died. I have seen his grave
and there's a cross over it. He was buried at Buvilliers?
I didn't see him wounded."

Eye-witness:--

Description:--

Informant:-- Cpl.E.B.Payne, 2527.
14th M.G.C. A.I.F.
Hyde Park Bk. Hospital,
Plymouth.

Home address:-- Stanton Rd,
Mosman,
Sydney, N.S.W.

Oct 16/17.
E.J.Hunt.

S
ed-
LH

14th Machine Gun Coy. A.I.F.

WILES W.J. 334.

" K. May 12th., '17. Det D & B "

" Wiles was killed instantly by a shell at Bullecourt, on May 12th., while in a sap between the Sunken Rd., and the front line. He was buried near the Old Railway Cutting, where there are about 6 graves together. No service was held but a cross was erected over the grave bearing his name, number, and Coy. I knew him well through being in the same Coy. "

Description. Hgt 5ft 6/8. Dark complexion. Slight build.

Witness. Oliver C.M. 3142.
14th M. G. Coy.

Taken at No 3 Command Depot,
Hurdcott. J.G.W.
October 17th., '17.

S. Whitmes.
No 4 Command Depot,
Codford.

cd Sullivan
\$.

A.I.F. 14 Machine Gun.

²
Wills. Pte. W.J. 334.

(K. May 12/17)
Det D/B.

"Tom" Wills was killed at Bullecourt on May 12/17, a
shell blew the gun and team up."

Eye-witness: No. Told by Bert Maloney, 234.
(Instantaneous death - buried at Noriel, near Bullecourt.)

Description: We called him Tom - he came from New Town. Sydney.

Informant: Pte. R. Morean, 553.

14 Machine Gun: A.I.F.
Napsbury Hospital, Ward F.5.
St Albans. Herts.

Home address: Glasgow. Kewarra Rd.
Maniville. Sydney.

Oct. 17/1917.

Gertrude Gantsdu (?)

Sa
Ea
Gantsdu

14th Machine Gun Section.

WILES, W. J.
334 Pte

Killed in Action 12/5/17.

We were relieving the front line trenches near Le Transloy when a shell came over and killed Wiles and his mate Duncan. They are buried just where they were hit.

Informant: Chaffe, A.B. 326

14th Machine Gun Co.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

B.V.M.
5/12/17.

Extra copy

S. P. 1 Ca Sam

A.I.F. 14th Machine Gun Coy.

WILES
Gnr. W.J. 334

"Killed in action"

"The following is an extract from a letter forwarded on 16-7-17, through the kindness of your Society, to my Aunt, Mrs. Wiles of Flood St, Leichardt Sydney, in reply to an enquiry of hers, as to the whereabouts of her son's burial place.

"No. 334 Gunner W.J. Wiles, 14th Machine Gun Coy, & Duncan of the same company, were killed together on or about the 12th May 1917 and are buried in the same grave with a regulation white cross over them. The grave is to the right of Reincourt (near Bullecourt) alongside the railway track, which is in a sunken road going towards Cambrai and about 1½ miles from Noreuil. The grave stands by itself and when I left was still within a few yards of the front line."

Description. - tall, dark, about 28, came from N.E.W.,

Eye-witness - of the grave only.

Informant - Pte T. Franklin, 241, 15th Machine Gun Coy, Richmond Military Hospital, Grove Rd, Surrey. (Signed) H.M. Stephens, 16-7-17.

It is only recently that I became aware that it might be possible to obtain a photograph of his grave and as I know that my Mother's sister would treasure it above anything else, I would

A.I.F. 14th Machine Gun Coy.

WILES
Gnr. W.J. 334

(2).

ask that your Society might please lend its assistance, and, if successful or otherwise, to please communicate with me (3693 Pte. J.J. Connor, A.Coy, 53rd Btn) before taking any further action.

In case anything should happen to me in the meantime, my home address is - "Moondor" Ethie Avenue, Randwick, Sydney. Thanking you etc.,".

(Signed) J.J. Connor,
France

28-8-18.

S. & P.I.

London
9-9-18.

239/Rte OC 12.9.7
B.F. MALONEY

Lt Col BOW

14 Mach Gun Co
AIF
3rd.

for

334 W. J. WILES

14 M.G. Co

K. 12. 4. 17

GP.
13.9.17

Leif J. J. SAUNDERS (5.9.17)

OC
14 Mach. Gun Co

A IF

BEF

334

W. J. WILES

14 MG Co

K. 12. 5. 17

L. B. H.

7-9-17

ackd
p.c. 5-17
22-5-17

14 R. M. 9 Coy

A J

18.9.17

Dear Miss Keaton

It is with

the deepest regret that I have
to confirm report received by
you concerning the death of
No 334 Pte W J Wiles 14 M 9 C.
I personally witnessed his
death which occurred about
5 am on May 13th 1917. He was
buried with a friend of his
named Jim Duncan with
whom the relatives of Pte
Wiles were acquainted. They
were buried together in
a Sunken Road which
bom supports at Salicourt
The spot is marked by a

2.

cross on which is inscribed their
two names & the date of
their death. Trusting that this
information will prove of
service to you.

I remain
yours sincerely
R. F. Maloney

14/1/4

Letter sent.
26.10.17.

Mrs J. Turner
c/o Mrs Wiles.
10 Pirshill Place
Edinburgh

Wed. 24th Oct 1917.

'Australian Red Cross Society'

Dear Madam,

I write to ask you
if you would kindly assist me
in obtaining information regard-
ing where my cousin

Gnr William J Wiles No 334
14th Machine Gun Bn

4th Reinforcements. who was
killed on the 12th of May this
year. is buried

My Aunt (his Mother) has

written to me from Sydney
N. S. Wales, saying that the
official words were killed in
action but she would like to
think about where he is laid to
rest.

Perhaps I set a very hard
task and hope you will forgive
me for encroaching on your
valuable time but my excuse
must be the love that existed
between his Mother & himself.

Any information you can
give me I shall be grateful

I remain

yours respectfully
F. Turner.

To The R. & L. Society, France

recd
2.9.18



Wednesday 28/8/18

Sir,

The following

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. is an extract

from a letter forwarded on 16/7/17,
through the kindness of your Society,
to my Aunt, Mrs Wiles of 110 St
Leachland Sydney, in reply to an enquiry
of hers as to the whereabouts of her
son's burial place.

"No 334 Gunner W. J. Wiles, 14th Machine
Gun Coy, & Duncan of the same company,
were killed together on or about the
12th May 1917 & are buried in the same
grave with a regulation white cross over
them. The grave is to the right of Reincourt
(near Bullecourt) alongside the railway
track, which is in a sunken road
going towards Cambrai, & about 1 1/2 miles
from Noreuil. The grave stands by itself
and, when I left was still within a few
yards of the front line." Description P.T.O.

Tall, dark about 28, came from N SW.
Eye-witness of the grave only.

Informant: Pte J Franklin 241
15th Machine Gun Coy. Richmond Military Hosp.
"Grave Rd Surrey" Signed.

H M Stephens 16/7/17

It is only recently that I became
aware that it might be possible to obtain
a photograph of his grave & as I know
that my Mother's sister would treasure
it above anything else I would ask
that your Society might please lend
its assistance, and, if successful or
otherwise, to please communicate with
me (3693 Pte J. J. Gannon A Coy 53rd BN)
before taking any further action.

In case anything should happen to
me in the meantime my home address
is 11 Condon Blue Ave Randwick
Sydney. Thanking you,

I am

Yours sincerely
J. J. Gannon.

GC retd 22 9.17



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

239 P^{vt} B.F. Maloney

14 M.S.C.

A.I.F.

13.9.17

Dear Sir,

~~We are making enquiries for a man of your Unit~~
334 W.J. Wiles — 14 M.S.C. — R. 12.4.17

and have been told that you may be able to help us by
supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you
can send us concerning W.J. Wiles but our enquirers
wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so,
whether it was on the Field or in a Soldier's Cemetery,
where the grave would be registered. We should also be
glad if you could add a short description of his personal
appearance ~~or any points that might help to prove his~~
identity.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

Callahan
P.C. 22-5-27

Advance 17/9/17

24

61-100000-100000

Dear Mr. President

re. In your letter of 12-9-17: inquiring

with the Feb. 1942 W. J. Wilks. The only
information that I can supply is that he was killed
with a 5.7 H.T. bullet in the back of the head
on the morning of 14 Feb. 1942.

He was not buried in a soldier's cemetery, but he & his
wife & children were buried in the Southern ~~End~~ ^{End} of
the Clark's road having found way to
Bellefonte, but then come down by same
highway, & they finally were also buried in
a common burial place, as to the
cemetery you mention that it was killed in 12/4/13
there is no other chance to be taken.
I wish that I could supply you with the details
of the people.

574

27th October 1917

Mrs F. Turner.
C/o Mrs. Wiles,
10, Piershill Place,
Edinburgh.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of 24.10.17. asking for details concerning the burial of Cmr. William J. Wiles 2nd. 14th M.G. Coy., killed on May 12th, we are able to give you the following information.

Cmr. Wiles and his friend Jim Duncan were both killed by a shell and were buried in the same grave near Bullockcourt, beside the railway line running to Cambria. The grave is marked with a cross bearing their names and numbers.

We have already sent this information which has been verified by several men in the 14th M.G. Coy., to an enquirer at our Sydney Bureau and hope Mrs. Wiles is in receipt of it by now.

Yours faithfully.

V.D.
Secretary *for* A.R

September 9th, 1918.

3693 Pte. J. J. O'Connor.
A. Coy. 53rd Infantry Battalion.
Australian Imperial Force.
B. E. F.

Dear Sir.

In answer to your enquiry of 28-8-18 for a photograph
of the grave of - *Will*

334 Pte. W. J. WILLIS. 14th Machine Gun Coy. A.I.F.
We beg to inform you that it will only be possible to obtain it
if the grave has been registered officially and we fear that
in view of the heavy fighting which has taken place over that
ground during the last months there is little hope of its being
still in existence.

However we are applying on behalf of your Aunt to the
Graves Department, A.I.F. Headquarters, for a photograph to be
forwarded to her if it is possible to take it and we advise
you to apply to them for further information on the subject.

With good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Law*

Secretary.