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

880 Gunner Norman James Webster

Z/2A Trench Mortar Battery



2890502Q

Aust.Trench Morter.Batty.
X/2.A

WEBSTER.
N. J. 880

"Killed 7.5.17" verify name

Z.2/a T. M. Battery.
late 2nd D. A. C.

Cert. by A. I. F. Hqrs.
22.9.17.

London.
12.10.17.

H.

X2a M.T.M. Btry.

WEBSTER, N. J.
Gnr. 880.

Killed in action 7/5/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, well built, fair complexion, blue eyes, about 23 years of age. He was transferred from the 2nd D.A.C. to the Medium Trench Mortar Battery, and he comes from Ballarat. Casualty was in the front line trench standing to at Bullecourt. The Germans started to shell us heavily. Casualty made for a shell hole and I stopped in the trench. He had no sooner reached the shell hole when he was killed by a shell. He was most severely wounded about the body and arms. He was buried at Noreuil near the Dressing Station and I helped to bury him. I was an eye-witness."

Informant:- Pte. E. J. Ireland,
No. 1807, M.T.M. B.

Private address:-
146 Bell Street,
Preston.

T.C.P.
14/10/18

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

Havre 13th September.1917.

AUSTRALIAN MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES WEBSTER, H.J. 880
X/2 A.

K. May 7th.1917. Det. D/B.

I know Gunner Webster of X/2 A. There was no Gunner Webster in X/2 A. in May, or at all as far as I know. Gunner Webster who in X/2 A. was killed at Bullecourt on May 7th by a shell that killed two other men at the same time. He was badly knocked about. Gunner Matthews of X/2A told me this. It happened in the trenches. I think he was buried there.

Known with Batty.

Informant: Gunner Garner, J.H. 1091
X/2 A.
Australian Medium Trench Mortar Batty.
Australian Camp, Romelles.

QLT.

Asking N. Q. to verify unit
21-9-17

Havre 26th Sept. 1917.

MEDIUM TRENCH MORTAR BATTERIES
AUSTRALIANS WEBSTER, N.J. 880, X/2 A.

K. 7.5.17. Det. D/B.

I knew Gunner Norman Webster in Z/2 A Medium T.M. Battery. He came to us from the Artillery, and was killed between Noreuil and Lagnicourt on May 7, 1917, by a shell. I helped to bury him in a Military Graveyard on the edge of Noreuil. There were about 12 others graves. We put a temporary cross on the grave. I could point it out.

Informant: Gnr. J. Robertson, 2507
Z/2 A Med. T.M. Battery, Australians,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM

X/2 A/M.T.M.B. Webster,N.J. 880

K. 7/5/17.

He was killed by a shell at Noreuil and was buried with Gun: W. Armstrong there. I saw the grave with an improvised cross. A proper one was to be erected.

X/2 A/M.T.M.B. Francis, A.G.Gun: 1699

A. 12. Dartford. 27/11/17.

X The above should be 3 battery not X as in book.

Z2a M.T.M. Bty.

WEBSTER, N.J.
Gunner No.,880

Killed in action 7/5/17.

"Casualty is wrongly described on the list. Casualty was killed on the 7th May, 1917 at Bullscourt according to letters I received from Cpl. Barnes, 266 of the same unit now in France, who said he saw Casualty killed by H.E. shell on that date."

Informant:- J.R. Bourchier,
No. 812, Z2a Bty. T.M.

Private address
167 Wellington Parade,
Jolimont.

Note:- The above information was read over to and confirmed by Gunner J.F. Jennion 9557 Z2a M.T.M. Bty. private address Verona, Queen Street, Oakleigh, who said that he had a letter to that effect from Pte. G.R. Liddler now with the unit in France.

H.A.B.
2/10/17.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

Written Pte. Liddler 28-11-17.

28 - 11 - 17

Pte. C. R. Liddler

Z 2a M.T.M. BG. A.F.A.
(medium) B.F.T.

abt.

880 Gnr. N.J. Webster

Z 2a M.T.M. BG. A.17.

K/A. 7-5-17.

28.11.17.
A.T.B.

Z.2.A. T.M. Batty
A.I.F.

WEBSTER,
N.J. 868
880

"Killed in Action 7.5.17."

As to how and where No. 868, Gnr. N.J.Webster was killed. I am pleased to be able to inform you that he was buried in a cemetery at Noreuil (Somme) and also that the grave was registered at the G.D.H. either at Bapaume or Albert. I have communicated with his people in Australia personally, so there is no necessity to again go into details, nevertheless I can tell you that he was killed with shell fire on the 8.5.17. In reference to identification I may say that I knew him personally being long in the same unit. Description: Height about 5'7", complexion fair, eyes blue, parents reside Vicory, North, Gippsland, Victoria, Australia. Trusting details are sufficent.

Letter from:- Gnr. R.M. Liddle, 6989,
Z.2.A. Trench Mortar Bty,
A.I.F.
21.12.17. M.

London.
15.2.18.

Note We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines,

No. WEBSTER ACK. FM
In the Field 21st Dec 21st 17
2/2A. T. M. H. Bty
The Secretary RA 7.5.17
Aust-Red X Society
London

Sir

In reference to your letter enquiring for any details as to how exactly No 968 Gunner N. J. Webster was killed. I am pleased to be able to inform you that he was buried in a cemetery at Morlancourt (Somme) & also that the grave was registered at the G.H.Q. either at Bapaume or Albert. I have communicated with each his parents in Australia personally as there is no necessity to acquaint you into details regarding the matter. I can tell you that he was killed with shell fire on the 6.5.17

In response to identification I may say that I knew him personally being in the same Unit. Description, height about 5ft 7 Complexion fair. Eyes blue. Parents residing Mrs. Webster Victoria Terrace Fremantle Three details are sufficient. Yours

No 6989. Gnr. L. Riddle
2.257. French Hospital
Australian Forces
France

5989 Gnr.L.M.Liddle,
2A Trench Mtr.Bty,
A.I.F. Abroad.

December 31st, 1917.

Dear Gnr.Liddle,

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

No 860 Gnr. N.J.WEBSTER, 2/2A Trench Mtrl Btty.

We were requested by our Melbourne Bureau 26.6.17, to make enquiries on behalf of his next of kin and, as you will see by the date, long before your letter could have reached his people in Australia, ~~and~~ Should you letter by illfortune have been lost en route, as we forward all our information to our Australian Bureaux in duplicate by succeeding mails, the relatives will learn that you had already written them.

With all good wishes for luck in 1918.

Yours faithfully

SECRETARY.