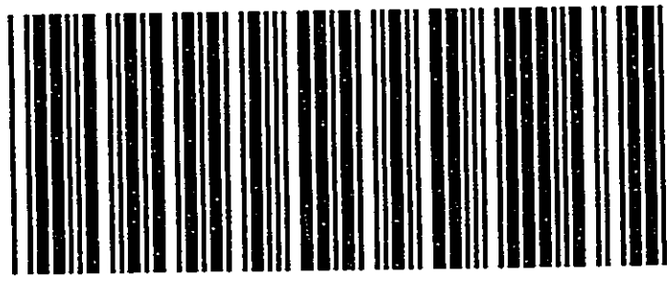
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2031 Private
Alexander Wilson

17th Battalion



2980107R

7th Aust Batn
AIF 3 Rifs
C.Coy

WILSON
Alex 2031

"Missing 26.7.16."

Killed in Action ~~4.10.17~~ 26.7.16. prev. reported Missing
Cert. by AI[F] HdQtrs 8.1.18

M & P.I.
S

London.
8.1.18.

A.I.F. 17th Btn

WILSON
Alex 2031

"K/A. 26-7-16"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

S

London
15-10-19

17th Battn
A.I.F.,

Wilson.
Alex. 2031

"Missing July 26th 1916."

He and my brother and I were together in the same fight at Pozieres, neither my brother nor I got hit but Wilson was killed, and my brother helped to bury him out in No Man's Land there.
I knew him well, one of the best, a real game chap, liked by everybody.

Reference;- F.G.Holgate. 2043
17th Battalion A.I.F.,
Southall Hospt.

S.

London
17-10-16
C.C.Williams.

France.

WILSON, A. 2031.

A.I.F. 17.

M. July 26/16.

Rees, Knight, Wilson and Hayes among others went as volunteers to assist the Welsh at Munster Alley on the Pozieres front one day towards the end of July. They were getting the worst of it and wanted bombers. Alec Wilson of X. platoon was a company bomber - an Ex- corporal, medium height, sandy, blue eyes - a married man of 35 or so. He was last seen by Knight throwing bombs. Tommy Knight was wounded slightly in the hand and away for a few days but is with the Battn now.

Informant: Pte. W. H. Cullen. 2891.
5, B.R.C.S. Hospital.
BOULOGNE. SEpt. 23rd 1916. JT.

S

Wrote 28/9/16.

17th A.I.F. Wilson A., 2031,

(M. July 26th 1916)

Informant states that on July 26th 1916 at Pozieres, A. Wilson was wounded in the foot, and was sent to a Hospt., at Boulogne.

Reference: W. Walder 4250,
17th A.I.F., D. Coy.,
Graylingwell Hospt.,
Chichester.

Home address:
68a Pitts Street,
Sydney.

Oct. 10th 1916,
V. Beaumont.

A.I.F. 17. Wilson, A. 2031.

M. July 26th 1916.

Tall, Dark, clean shaven, quite young. Informant says he is the only Wilson in the 17th besides himself, whose name is Wilson. Informant says he was wounded in Gallipoli last Dec. and was sent to hospital in England, and from there to convalscence camp at Weymouth. He joined Base Deatils at Roslestone Camp, Salisbury Plain early in July of this year. Informant was there at the time. About the end of July he got leave for London and from that day to this has never been heard of since.

Informant: J. Wilson. 2819.
No. 8. Saationary.
Boulogne 16.10.16.

JND.

17th Australian Imp. Forces.

Wilson A. 2031.

M. July 26th 1916.

Informant states that the end of July or early in August 1916 at Pozieres Wilson died of wounds. Informant did not see this himself but was told by two mutual friends - Whitford and Outram - since killed, and others whose names he could not remember. He was certain this was true, as he knew Wilson very well and had made all enquiries about him. Wilson was so badly wounded in the head & chest by a shell that he never recovered consciousness and died almost immediately. He was carried to a dressing station, but died outside on the stretcher. Informant and Wilson came over on the same boat from Australia and they were in the same company.

Reference: L/Cpl. J.M. Kentwell 1958,
17th A.I.F.,
5th Southern General Hospital, Fawcett Rd.
Portsmouth.

21.11.16.
A. Cully.

Home address: Castle Hill,
via Parramatter,
N.S.W.,Australia.

5

17th Battn.
A.I.F.,

A. Wilson, 2031
V.J.Rees, 991
P.J.Hayes, 911

"Missing 26-7-1916."

I might inform you that the first two were in my platoon, Hayes was in the same company.

When I last saw them, was in the night of 26th July. Our battalion was engaged in a bombing stunt in Munster Ally, near Pozieres. These men along with many others were doing the actual bombing.

I was not in the show myself unitl the following morning at about 2 a.m. It was before this that the men enquired about were hit. So far as I can find out, they were hit whilst bombing out in front. I cannot find out what became of them.

As we were working backwards and forwards going ahead and being pushed back, it is hard to say whether the men were collected by the Germans or not. They were not gathered in by us.

Cert, by letter from Lieut. Leslie.S.Allen
17th Batth. A.I.F.,

9-10-16.

S.

London
24-10-16.

17th Battn.
A.I.F.,

Wilson
A. 2031

"Missing 26-7-1916"

Alex.Wilson and I went up with a relay of bombers together. We were throwing bombs alongside each other from the trench for a while and then I was sent to another part to throw. About an hour after I asked if he was alright and was told he was O.K., and having a blow. I was wounded afterwards and did not see him again.

Cert. by letter from T.R.Knight,
France.
28-10-16.

S.

London
4-11-16.

17th A. I. F.

Wilson, Alex. Pte. 2031.
C Coy.

(M. July 26/16.)

"Wilson was taken Prisoner in an attack by the Germans. Only two Prisoners were taken but many were killed. The 17th were called to help the Welsh Regiment, July 26th.,"

Eye witness:-- No. Was told by Pte. A. Dick
17th A. I. F. B Coy.

Reference:-- P te. M. J. Coombes, 1669,
17th A. I. F. A.I.F.M. B
3rd. London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

Dec: 1st.

Wrote - Written Pte Dick 6.12.16
Letter Rtd. 24.4.17

17th A. I. F. A. WILSON, 2031.

Missing 26.7.16.

Cpl. E. Corrie of the 10th Plat. C Co. told me he had seen Wilson killed at Pozieres whilst on a bombing raid, and he was close to him at the time.

Reference: Pte. A. C. Rashleigh, 4512.

No.1 Australian, Rouen. 12.12.16.

FS.

7th Battn.,
C. Co.,

M.26.7.16

Wilson,
Corporal A. 2031.

Informant states that Privates Holgate (Brothers) informed Mrs. Wilson, wife of Corporal Wilson, that they had buried Wilson in No Man's Land. Informant was shown the letter by Mrs. Wilson. The letter did not state that the Holgates had taken Wilson's papers or identity disc.

Informant also confirms statements made by Private Hammerton.

Informant - Carnegie,
Corporal T.M., 852,
17th Battalion, C. Co.,
No.4 Aust. General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

C.E.W.
4/1/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S Bel K Cr

17th Battn., C. Co. (Missing). Wilson, Corporal A. 2031.

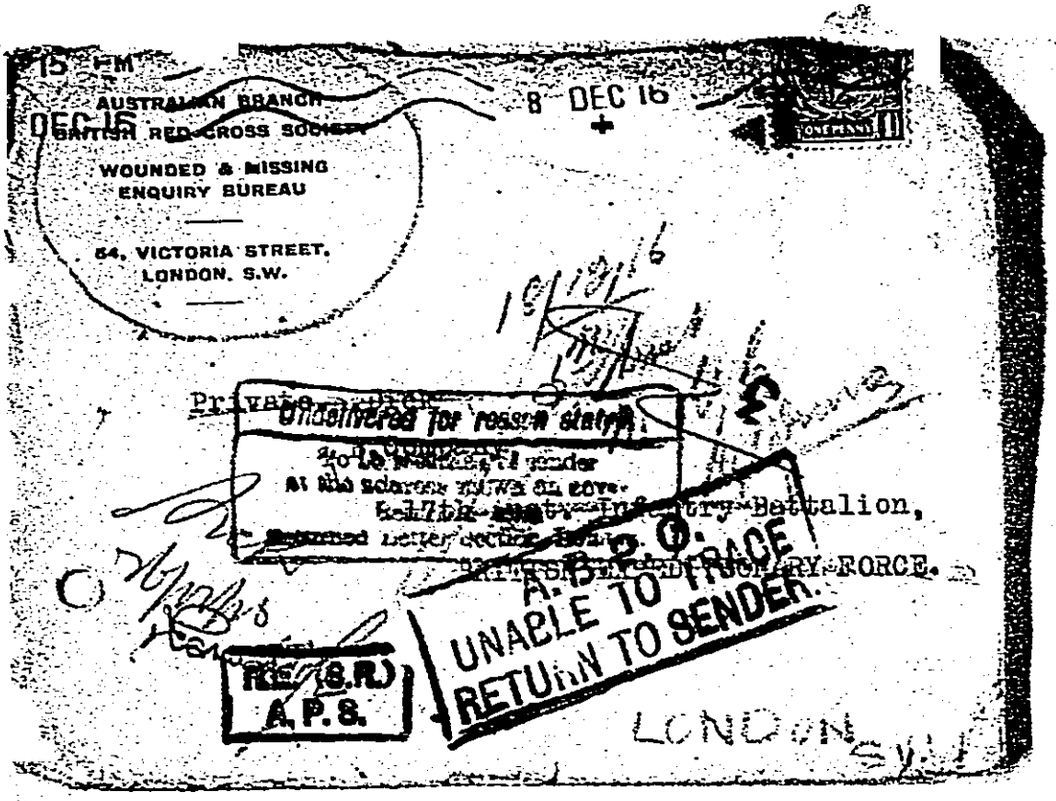
Informant states that he was in C. Co., 17th Battalion, in which Wilson was Corporal. At Pozieres in July, 1916, Wilson was then a Company Bomber, and went out with a Bombing party to hold a position in front of the trenches, which had been taken by a Welsh Regiment. Informant was in the trenches when Wilson left and spoke to him before he left. The men, who came back for relief from the bombing party, told Informant that Wilson had been killed in the advanced post. Informant went to the advanced post where Wilson had been and was wounded there on July 27th. The Wilson referred to by Informant left Australia on August 9th, 1915, in the "Runic", and was then Corporal of No.2 Platoon. He served in the Peninsula.

He was of medium height, thick-set, fair and clean-shaven. He was called "Alick".

Informant - Hammerton, Pte.A. 1940,
17th Battalion, C. Co.,
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

C.E.W.
4/1/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.


15 PM
AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
DEC 15
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU
64, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.
8 DEC 16
Undelivered for reason stated
A.P.O.
A.P.O.
UNABLE TO TRACE
RETURN TO SENDER
LONDON S.W.

No Trace H.1. 25.417.

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH, BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY." WOUNDED AND MISSING — INQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN BRANCH B.R.C.S.

54, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.

December 7th 1916.

Private.A.Dick
B.Company,
17th Aust. Inf.Battn
B.E.F.

Dear Private Dick,

We are making enquiries for a man of your battalion. No.2031, Private Alex.Wilson, C.Company, 17th Battn. reported "Missing 26-7-16" and have been told that you believe Private Wilson to have been taken Prisoner.

His name has not yet appeared on any of the Lists of "Prisoners-of-War" we have received from Germany, but we should be so grateful if you would let us know whether you or any of your battalion know to which Camp in Germany, Private Wilson has been taken. Immediately we obtain the definite address of any Australian interned in Germany our Prisoner-of-War Dept. forwards weekly parcels of food and comforts to him and a complete outfit of warm clothing and toilet necessities is sent.

You will see how necessary it is in this severe weather, that our men should receive regular supplies of food and comforts, and we are always most anxious to get the address of the Camps at which they are detained with as little delay

as possible in order to save our men any needless discomforts.

With Best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

V. Deakin

Secretary.

per Lhe.

"Bradford"
16 Supper Street
Marrickville, N.S. Wales 8-1-17

RECEIVED
27 FEB. 1917

To The Sec.
Aust. Red Cross Office
Victoria St., London

Dear Sir.

I am writing you in the hope of obtaining information of my Brother 2031 Pte Alex Wilson, C. Coy, 3rd Reinforcements, 14th Battalion, who was officially reported Missing since July 26th. and as we have had such conflicting private statements, I was wondering if you could help me at all. I have before me a copy of the "British Australasian" dated Sept. 28th 1916 and on page 31, his name & number appears among the list of Prisoners of war. I cannot understand why we do not hear from himself, and I would be so glad for any information and if possible his address to enable us to send food & clothing.

Hoping you will be able to trace the Missing brother & thanking you in anticipation for your help

Yours Faithfully
(Miss) Alice Wilson

16th March 1917.

The Editor,
"British Australasian" Office,
15 High Holborn,
W.C.

Dear Sir,

We have received a letter from Australia from the sister of -

2031 Pte Alex Wilson, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

in which she says that in the "British Australasian" dated 28th September 1916, on page 31, she sees her Brother's name amongst a list of Prisoners.

We, unfortunately have not got his name amongst our Prisoners, so would be obliged if you would tell us the source of this information? We would be glad to be able to confirm such news to send him food.

Hoping for a prompt reply,

Yours faithfully,

W.F.D.

Secretary

March 22nd.1917.

Miss Alice Wilson.
Bradford.
16.Tupper Street
Mannielsville.
Sydney. New South Wales.
Australia.

Dear Madam;

We are in receipt of your letter of inquiry for your brother No.2031.Pte.Alex.Wilson,C.Coy. 17th.Battn. A.I.F. and beg to inform you that he is still officially reported "Missing" as from July 26th.1916.

His name has never come through on the lists of Prisoner's and unfortunately that list of names that appeared in the British Australasiem on September 28th to which you refer appeared wrongly as the names of Prisoners of War. This has since been contradicted and we herewith enclose a copy of the letter we received from the Editor. The names were all those of Missing men.

We shall continue our enquiries and any information will be sent by cable or letter to our Sydney office,Dalton Buildings,

115.Pitt.Street Sydney. If you apply there for any particulars it is always the quickest method of obtaining news of wounded or Missing man.

We fully realise your great anxiety and sympathise with you in your suspense.

Yours faithfully,

V.D Para

SECRETARY.