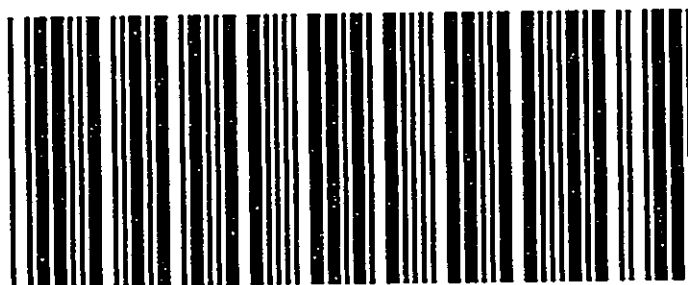


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1434 Trooper
John Stewart Williams

13th Light Horse



2960506S

A.I.F..Light Horse. 13. B. Sqd.

WILLIAMS J.S. 1434.

K. 23.3.17.

I knew Williams slightly. He was in B. Sqd. I was told by Cpl. Mackie of B. Sqd. that he was one of the burying party that helped to bury Williams after the action of the 23rd. March. I believe the action was near Vaux.

AGL.

Informant: Tpr. J. Drummond. 1894. B. Sqd.
13 Gen. Hospital.

Boulogne.
11.7.17.

Written Cpl Mackie 20.7.17

M.

FRANCE

13th AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE. B.Squad.

WILLIAMS. Tpr: J.S. 1434.

K. March 23rd. 1917.

He was in B.Squad; he joined us in town, but came I think from Teran. He was killed on the day we caught Prince Charles of Prussia who came down in his aeroplane. From my note-book it seems to have been March 21st. He was horse-holder for the Hatchiss gun-section. A shell came over and killed him and five others. I helped to bury Williams in a wood between Vault and Lagnicourt; the wood is called as far as I remember Maricourt Wood. Williams seemed to have been killed by the concussion of the shell, for I could not see any wound on him JNA

Ref ---Sgt Gleeson. 223. B.Squad.
No 2 Gen. Hospital

Le Troport. July 14th. 1917

A. I. F.

Light Horse. 13. B.Squad. WILLIAMS, Tpr. J.S. 1434.

K. March 23rd, 1917.

He was in my squad, he in the 2nd troop and I in the 1st. Cpl. Goodrich and Cpl. Bunce and Tpr. G.W. Armstrong all of 1st troop and now up line told me they were with him when he was killed and Bunce was right beside him. He was killed by shell explosion without being hit. No marks of injury on him. This was just outside Lagnicourt on March 21st about 4 p.m. He was buried with Cpl. Hatcly and Cpl. Senton on roadside and we sent up a cross for it. Not in a cemetery. Williams came out with me from Australia and we had kept together ever since. He was a real decent fellow.

Written by Cpl. Goodrich Bunce & Tpr. Armstrong 6.17 P.M.

Reference:- Trooper J.T. Bont. 1320. B.Squad.
No. 22 Gen. Hosp.

Enables
10.7.17.

AUST. LIGHT HORSE. 13 B.squad.

WILLIAMS, Tpr. J.S. 1434.

March 23rd, 1917.

Tpr. FitzSimmons of 13 regiment B.squad told me he was wounded by the same shell which killed Williams and 3 others just near Vaux the other side of Bapmme when the Germans were retreating. He was apparently killed by shock as there was no mark on him. This would be on March 23rd. FitzSimmons is now up line again with the Hotchkiss M/G section. Williams was buried near where he fell, not in a cemetery. A cross is erected with his name, number and regiment on. I have not seen the grave but others who have told me about it. Our O/C has written to Williams' people in reply to a letter from them and has given all particulars. Other men in regiment have also written to them.

Reference:- Cpl. F. Danset. 01. B.squad
2nd Troop
No. 22 General Hosp.

PHE.

Written Tpr FitzSimmons 4.5.17

Staples
18.7.17.

M.

LH
13th A. I. F.

Williams, Trooper J.S. 1434

(K. March 23rd/17. Det D & B)

Informant states that at Monchy about halfway between Lagnicourt and Beaumont he chanced to pass by, and saw the grave of Trooper Williams and two others of the same Squadron. Cpl Sexton was the name on one but he forgets the other. Informant heard that Trooper Williams was killed instantaneously by a shell.

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Informant only knows name by seeing grave

Informant: Trooper B. Gray, 215,
13th A. Light Horse, H. Squad,
Lewisham Military Hospital,
Home address: A. Top, Bed 15, S.I.

Whill,
Victoria.

26th July 1917.
Ada L. Nichols.

M
Suff
Ed

13th L. H. Regt.
A. I. F.

Williams.
Tpr. J. S. 1434

"Killed in Action 23.3.17"

I knew John Stewart Williams quite well as he was in the same Squadron. He was killed in action on the 21.5.17 (not 23.3.17) and I was one of the burial party. He was buried along with two other men of the same Regt. Cpl. Hatley and Cpl. Sexton in Maricourt Wood near Lagnicourt in the field. It is only a small wood and his grave could easily be found as his comrades erected a cross to mark the spot. In describing him I should say he was about 5'6-7" in height, and had brown hair and of medium build, but beyond that I am afraid I cannot help you more with a description of him. I enclose two snapshots taken of him last winter which although not very clear might convey some idea of him, but when he left Australia he had no moustache.

Letter from:-

Cpl. A. E. Mackay

B. Squadron.

13th A.L.H. Regt.

France. 26.7.17.
M.

London.
22.8.17.

15th L. Horse Regt.
B. Squad.
A.I.F.

Williams.
Troop. J. S. 1434

"Killed in Action 23.8.17."

Re 1434 Troop J.S. Williams B. Squad 15th L.H. I am pleased to
can assist you with a few details concerning our highly
esteemed comrade who hailed from Glenormiston, Victoria.
He was about 5' 6" in height, blue eyes, and brown hair, sturdy
build. He was buried on the field, and a cross bearing his
name being erected on his grave. Particulars were sent to his
people by an intimate friend who has received a letter from
deceased mother.

Letter from:- F.A. Goodrich.

France 18.8.17.

London.
5.9.17.

M

Cpl GOODRICH

3.8.17

Cpl BUNCE

B Squad

Trpr G.W. ARMSTRONG

13 Light Horse Regt

AIF

BEF

for

1434

Trpr J. S. WILLIAMS

B Squad

13 L. Horse Regt

K. 23.3.17

AMM.
14.8.17

3.8.17

Tpr Fitz SIMMONS

B Squad.

13 Light Horse Regt.

A.I.F

B.E.F

For

1434

Tpr J.S. WILLIAMS

B Squad

13 Light Horse Regt

K. 23. 3. 17.

Attn 8.17

(19.7.17)
Cpl MACKIE / B Squad
13 Light Horse Rgt
A IF
B EF

for

1434 J. S. WILLIAMS
B Squad
13 L. H. Rgt.

C. K. 23.3.17

F.M.
21.7.17

France

26 July / 17

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 21st July I beg to state that I knew John Stewart Williams quite well as he was in the same Squadron.

He was killed in action on the 21/5/17 (not 23/5/17) and I was one of the burial party. He was buried, along with two other men of the same Regt, Cpl. Hately & Cpl. Sexton, in Maricourt Wood near Lagnicourt in the field. It is only a small wood and his grave could easily be found as his comrades erected a cross to mark the spot.

In describing him I should say he was about 5ft 6-7 inches in height and had brown hair and of medium build but beyond that I am afraid I cannot help for more with a description of him. I enclose two snapshots taken of him last winter which although not very clear, might convey some idea

of Lima, but when he left Australia he
had no moustache. //

I hope this information will be of
use to you and I shall be only too
pleased to help you if you need further
particulars of him.

Yours faithfully
Cpl A. E. Mackay.

B. Graham
13th A.L.V.

1434 Tpr J. S. WILLIAMS

KA 23. 3.17

13 L.H. Rgt

M. 3

August 3rd. 1917.

Cpl. A.E. Mackay,
B. Squad,
13th. Light Horse Regt., A.I.F.
B. E. F.

Dear Cpl. Mackay

Very many thanks for your letter of July 26th. in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

1434 Epr. J.S. Williams, 13th Light Horse, Regt. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers.

With the directions given regarding his grave, we may be able to obtain a photograph later, for the Next-of-Kin through the Graves Registration & Enquiries Bureau.

Our object in asking for description or any points of identity is that, in each report forwarded to our enquirers, extracted from letters sent in answer to enquiries or reports obtained by Searchers in the Hospital & Base Camps, there should be embodied some such identification as personal description, occupation in civil life, home town in Australia or elsewhere, whether a Reinforcement or an original man etc.:- in order that the enquirers may through this

be convinced that the man about whom our informant is speaking is indeed their relative or friend.

We are returning the photographs you so kindly enclosed as we know you must value them, and trust they will reach you safely.

We have lately received word from the 2 members of your Unit who are now Prisoners of War and in case it might interest friends in the regiment we are pleased to say that both were well when they wrote.

492 Epr. J.J. Falshe, wrote to the Red Cross from Minden 3.6.17. "I am pleased to say that I am going along well and hope to continue so" and we received a P.C. from:-

72 Sgt. J. Mc Donald
from the same place dated 13.6.17. Minden is looked upon as one of the best of the Prisoner Camps in Germany and we were pleased to hear of their transfer there.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Vera Deakin
per Hu.

ackd
24.8.17.
C.L.

France
18/8/17

The Secretary
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau
your letter
of enquiry of the 14/8/17. to hand Re
1434 Trooper J. S. Williams B. Squadron 13 L.H.
I am pleased I can assist you with a few
details concerning our highly esteemed comrade
who hailed from Glenormiston Victoria
He was about 5 feet 6 in height blue eyes
and brown hair, sturdy build
He was buried on the field a cross bearing his
name being erected on his grave
Particulars were sent to his people by an
intimate friend who has received a letter
from deceased's mother

1434 Trooper J. S. WILLIAMS

KA 23.3.17

B Squad

13 L. Horse Regt

yours sincerely

J. G. Goodricke

M 3