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

6625 Private Maurice Vincent Whelan

42nd Battalion



2910813O

A.I.F. 42nd Btn
late 15th Btn

WHELAN
M.V. 6625

"Drowned 16-5-18"

No further report
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 15-6-18.

B

London
15-6-18

42nd Batth. late 15th Bn.
A.I.F.

WHELAN.
Maurice Vincent. 6628.

"Drowned 16-6-18."

Nc further report.
Cert: by A.I. F.Hors 15-6-18.

Drowned in France 16-5-16. Court of Enquiry not yet to hand.
Cert: by A.I.F.Hors 18-6-18.

London.
19-6-18.

B.

A.I.F. 42nd Battn.

WHELAN
M.V. 6625

"Drowned 16/5/18"

The Court (18/5/18) found that the soldier was drowned while bathing in a pool on the Southern outskirts of Querrieu about 6.55 p.m. on 16/5/18.
It was a bathing parade conducted with supervision. All possible measures were taken to rescue the victim from Drowning and when rescued to resuscitate him - Medical Officers were got.

There is no evidence to show the cause of drowning as it was known the deceased could swim. No. 2564 Cpl. J. W. Hill 42nd Battn., and No. 1822 L/Sgt. S. W. Drysdale, A Coy., 42nd Battn., both dived for him. Hill got dragged down, but later Drysdale got his body and Lt. Londigan and others immediately tried to restore him.

Full particulars of the court will be forwarded to Defence if further details are wanted.

Cert. by A.M.W.B. - Searcher at Head Quarters 19/6/18.

London
20/6/18.

B

A.I.F. 42nd Bttn.

WHELAN.
M.V. 6625.

"Drowned 16/5/18"

At Querrieu - a place near Corbie. I was swimming in same water hole, he came in - was ~~semi~~-swimming about for a time and sank. Many were diving for him and Sgt.Drysdale got him out, we could not bring him to, don't know where he is buried.

Informant:-
1979 Whittaker.
W.32. 1st A.A. Hospital,
Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.
London.
9-7-18.

B.

h.1.5

42nd Battn.
A.I.F.

WHELAN
Maurice Vincent 6625

Hqts. have notification that he was buried, but no particulars yet to hand.

M.A
Cert, by Searcher at A.I.F.Hqts., 10-7-18.

London
10-7-18

A.
B

A.I.F. 42. WHELAN, M.V. 6625.

Drowned May 16/18. Det. D/B.

I think Whelan was in B Co. his name was Maurice, he came from Kilkivan, Queensland, and had been with us two or three ~~months~~ months. The accident happened at Querieu where we were in billets at rest in May this year. He was drowned whilst swimming in the bathing pool, which was a proper bathing place with everything fixed up. He must have got cramp or something while swimming, and went under. He was pulled out by a Cpl., I think Cpl. Hill of C Co. and the doctor came on the scene very quickly. Everything possible was done, and they worked on him for 5 or 6 hours with artificial respiration, but unfortunately with no result. I believe his body was sent down to the C.C.S. I did not actually see this, but it is what I heard from men who were there.

Reference: Pte. E.I. Doyle. 7496. C Co.
No.2 Con. Camp Rouen. 11.7.18.

DLF.

Havre. 12th. July. 1918.

42nd. Australians. Whelan, M. V. 6625.

Drowned in France. May. 16/1918. Date. D/B.

I don't know Whelan at all. We were at Querrie resting about the 16th. May. We were all bathing in a pond; one part of the pond was very deep & one part shallow about 4 or 5 feet. I was told that Whelan who could not swim was told to go to the shallow end. He went there & soon after going into the water he disappeared. It was thought he had cramp; he was only about two yards from the Bank. When they got his body they tried to revive him & got his heart beating but he never came round. I heard he was buried but I don't know where. There is a Cemetery at Querrie.

Inf:- Private. A. G. ~~Harris~~ Barrett. 30.
Australians. 42. A. 2.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

HPG. CP.

Havre. 16th. July. 1918.

42nd. Australians. Whelan, M. V. 6625.

Drowned in France May. 16/1918. Date. D/B.

I did not know him personally but he was a Private in A. Company. He was on a Compulsory Swimming Parade in the Lagoon at Querieu & evidently got cramp. He was brought out unconscious & the Doctors spent some hours trying to bring him round. I saw his body it was being carried on a Stretcher to the Village. Pioneer Sergeant Peterson, 42nd. Battalion, H.Q. will be able to give location of Grave.

Inf:- Private. E. . Kidd. 592.
42nd. Australians. D. 15.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

RDH. CP.

42nd A. I. F.

Whelan, Pte Maurice, 6625,
A. Coy, 4 Pltn.

(Drowned in France May 16/18.
Det: D & B)

"About one hundred men were bathing and Pte Whelan was bathing in a large square hole, which was very deep when he suddenly disappeared. Several men dived and succeeded in bringing him out. They tried for twohours to bring him round but failed. This took place on May 16th 1918 at a place called Querien about four miles east of Amiens."

Eye-witness: Was bathing a short distance away but helped to bring Pte Whelan round.

Description: Medium height and complexion, rather stout, nicknamed"Maurry"

Informant: L/Cpl David Bowden, 2527,
42nd A.I.F., A. 4,
17.7.18. Home address: 5th S. Gen. Hospital, Portsmouth.
Gadd. Hopes Creek, Roma, Queensland.

42nd Battn. A. I. F.

WHELAN M.V. 6625.

"Drowned 16.5.18."

He was of A. Coy. IV Platoon. Just outside Querie very hot day whole Coy. went down for a swim. He had been in for ½ hour must have got cramp. He sank twice Sgt. in Coy. got hold of him before he went down again but he got away from him, this was in a shell hole with about 15ft of water. He was recovered in 10 minutes. We worked at him trying to restore life from 3o'c until 7 o'c. I was in bathing party. Buried in Querie Cemetery. I helped to carry him on stretcher to Cemetery, never saw grave as we left following morning. Enlisted from Queensland. Christian name Maurice. was big, strong man, about 16 stone weight.

Inf. Pte. E. Spencer, 7583.
42nd Battn. A. Coy.
IV Platoon.
HAREFIELD.

A. D. G.
London.
18. 7. 18.
M. I. S.

B.

42. A. I. F.

Whelan M. V. Pte. 6625
A. Coy. 4 Platoon.
(Drowned in France)
16-5-18

"I with several others were swimming, Whelan got into difficulties. A comrade went to his rescue and for 4 hours they tried to bring back life without success.

Eye Witness - Yes

Description -

Informant :- McLaren James Wm. Pte. 2882
42. A. I. F.
C Coy.
. West Ham Hospital.

Home address:- Dally
Queensland.

July 27, 1918.
Albert Tennant.

42nd Battn.
A.I.F.

WHELAN.
M.V. 6625.

"Drowned in France. 16-5-18"

He was in No 4 Platoon, A.Company. I was bathing in a place called the Quiries near La Houssie with him and a lot of others of the same company when he was cramped and sank. We got him out shortly afterwards and he was then alive. We did everything possible to bring him round and called one of Medical Officers, who arrived and worked with him for some considerable time. The casualty took place about 3.30.p.m. and he died at 9.p.m. that evening, being unconscious the whole time. He could not swim too well. I did not know him very well for he had not long joined us up. There was no other man of same name in Company. I saw his grave at Quiries near La Houssie on the Somme in a very nice Military Cemetery. His grave was marked by a cross, having full details marked thereon.

Informant:- Pte Bruce.H.W.39.
A.Company. 42nd Battn.
No 3 A.A.H.DARTFORD.

W.Oman.
London.
2-8-18.
H.G.

B.

Whelan 6625
M. V. H2 Bttn

Drowned 16.5.18

The court (18.5.18) found that the soldier was drowned while bathing in a pool on the Southern outskirts of Querrieu about 6.55 pm. on the 16.5.18.

It was a bathing parade conducted with supervision.

All possible measures were taken to rescue the victim from drowning & when rescued, to resuscitate him - Medical Officers were present.

There is no evidence to show the cause of drowning as it was known the deceased could swim.

No 2564 Cpl. J. W. Hill 42 Bttn
No 1822 T/Sgt G. W. Drysdale. A Coy 42 Bttn
both dived for him. Hill got dragged down. but later Drysdale

P.T.O

got his body & Lt Londrigan & others immediately tried to restore him.

Full particulars of the court will be forward to Defence (if further details are wanted.

Allows. Hq 19. 6. 18

B.

(

Whelan Sgt 45576. 6625.
Maurice Vincent 42 Bln

Drowned. France. 16.5.18.
Burial? buried but not known as
dat given.
Have other particulars

N.O.S. 8.7.18.

Ack. 11. Sept/18
Boulogne

"Green Vale"
Cunnabar P.O
Queensland
Australia.
July 9th 1918

Sec. R. Cross Society
Hotel Christol
Boulogne,
France.

Dear Sir or Madam,

As my brother (No 6625) Private Maurice Vincent Whelan 42nd Battalion (late of the 15th Battalion) was drowned in France somewhere ~~are~~ I would like you to send me full particulars regarding his death and how & where he was drowned and if they procured his body & buried him. I am most anxious & only got word that he was "drowned on May 16th" and have not received any more particulars. He embarked from Queensland Australia. So I trust you will do your utmost for me as I shall be

very grateful to you for any information
Yours respectfully
Patrick Whelan
(Mrs)

Ach. 11. Sept/18
Boulogne

"Grantlea"
Cimmaton St.
Queenscliff
Australia
July 9th 1918

Sec. R. Cross Society
Hôtel Christol
Boulogne
sur
Mer
France

Dear Sir or Madam,

As my brother (No 6026) Private Maurice Vincent Whelan 11th Battalion (late of the 15th Battalion) was drowned in France somewhere ~~on~~ I would like you to send me full particulars regarding his death and how he was drowned and if they procured his body & buried him. I have received no letters & only got word that he was "drowned on May 11th" and have not received any more particulars. He embarked from Queensland Australia. Sept from Fremantle with 40 days almost for mean I should be

Yours Faithfully
Cecilia Whelan
(Mother)

~~Brisbane Courier~~ 9.9.18.

Australian Draft

Miss Nellie Whelan

Greenvale

Cunnamulla Post Office

Queensland.

6625 M. V. Whelan

42nd Bn A.I.F.

drowned 16.5.18.

acc 9.9.18

"Greenvale"
Cimabar P.O.
Queensland.
Australia.
July 9th 1918.

To
The Aust. Red Cross.
London

Dear Sir or Madam

As my brother (No 6625) Pte. Maurice Vincent Whelan 42nd Battalion (late of 15th Battalion) was drowned on May 16th somewhere in France, and as I have not received any further information regards how & where he was drowned, or if they procured his body. I should feel very grateful to you if you will give me full particulars regarding his death, as I am most anxious about it. He embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
Trusting you will do your best.

Yours faithfully
(Miss) Nellie M Whelan