

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

2374 Private
Cyril Pendlebury
Wilkinson

48th Battalion



2950112K

A. I. F. 48.

WILKINSON, Cpl. C.P. 2374.

E. February 20th, 1917.

I knew him well. He came from Jamestown. I was close alongside of him when he was hit by a shell on the side of the head. He died in the D/S. He was buried near the old Tank, Cheese Road. Lieut. Menzies was there when he was buried.

Reference:- Bourke. 2389. B.
No. 18 Gen. Hosp.

HBA.

Written Lieut Menzies 16.5.17

Staples
7.5.17.

P.I.

48th A.I.F.

Wilkinson Cpl. C.P. 2374,
B. Company.

K on A
(D. of W. Feb. 20/17 Det.
D. & B)

"I saw Cpl. Wilkinson being carried off the field hit in the head. The stretcher bearers told me he was very bad. The next morning the stretcher bearer told me he had died directly they got him to the dressing station or was buried just outside this dressing station."

Eye-witness: Not know to me

Description: He was an Auctioneer living in Jamestown, but abt. the time we enlisted he moved to Adelaide.

Informant: Pte. W.S. Pallantyne 1628,
48th A.I.F., A. Coy.,
Lewisham Military Hospt.

Home address:

Jatina,
May 6th 1917, via Jongala,
J. Arnold. St. Australia.

48th Battn.
A. I. F.

Wilkinson.
C. P. 2374.

"Killed in Action 20.2.17."

Re 1/Cpl. 2374 C. P. Wilkinson, 48th Battn. A.I.F. I know him well and brought him from Australia with me in 5th rfts of 48th Battn. He was killed by concussion of a German High Explosive shell on 20.2.17 at Frisi Folly and carried down to the Dressing Station at Grass Lane, where he died 1/2 hour after arrival without ever recovering consciousness. He was buried in the soldiers cemetery at Grass Lane - I attended and Rev. Gilder read the funeral service. There is no doubt about his identity, as I knew him very well and he was not at all disfigured. I have written to his father and sweetheart at time of his death.

Letter from:-

D. Menzies.

O.C. D. Coy.

London.

25.6.17.

B. E. F. 14.6.17.

P.I.

48th Battn.

A. I. F.

Wilkinson.

Cpl. C.P.

2374.

"Killed 20.2.17."

He was just behind me in "Fritz's Folly" in Sunken Road near
Flers when I saw him badly hit on the head by shell at about 8
p.m. He died early next morning at 1st Dressing Station near
Flers. I saw his grave in the little Semetery near Dressing
Station. We came home together.

Witness:-

J. A. Van Gennip. 2515 C. Coy.

48th Battn.

Dartford.

L.P.J.

London.

5.6.18.

P.I.

48th A. I. F.,

Wilkinson, Cpl. C.P., 2374,

K. Feb. 20th 1917. Det: D & E.

Informant states that Cpl. Wilkinson came from S. Australia. I know his initials. A shell caught him in our own trenches. I helped to carry him to the dressing station, he was unconscious and died in the dressing station. I saw his grave afterwards in the Cemetery near Fliers. There was a cross on it."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant:-- W. Pearce, 2427,
48th A. I. F., C. Coy.,
Fulham Military Hospital,
Hammersmith, W.

Home address:-- Maralana Gap,
Via Quorn,
S. Australia.

25.5.17.

W. Choldmondley .

*col P1
Suff*

Havre

48th AUSTRALIANS

28th May, 1917.

WILKINSON, Cpl. C.P. 2374

K. 20.2.17. Det. D/B.

He was in O Co. At Fiers on the 20th Feb. I was standing in the Sunken Road talking to Wilkinson when a shell burst near us. A piece of the shell hit Wilkinson in the back of the neck. He was pretty bad. He was taken to the Dressing Station by stretcher bearers. I heard from the stretcher bearers that they got him to the Dressing Station, and that he died there. I heard he was buried close to the Dressing Station, but I never saw his grave. I knew Corpl. Wilkinson well: he came from S. Australia.

Informant: Pte J.T. Martin, 2452
48th Australians, A Co., 4 Ptn.
Att. to Battn. Bombing Runners,
Havre Hospital.

HPG

48th A.I.F.

WILKINSON Corp C.P. No. 2374.

K. 20th February 1917. Det D/B.

Pte S.G. Keats of the same Company told me he was one of those who carried Corpl. Wilkinson to the D/Station where he died. A shell burst near him on the Sunken Road at Vimy. He was buried in 48 Cemetery near Fiers. About 25 years old very tall. Came from Jamestown S. Australia where he was a Drover. His father is an Auctioneer there.

Inf:- Pte A.E. Hilbig Ho. 2432. C.Co.
H.S. "Newhaven".
Calais. 12.V.17. ASD.

Written Pte Keats 30.5.17

48th A. I. F.,

Wilkinson, Cpl. C.P., 2374,
B(?) Coy.,

K. Feb. 20/17. Det: D & B.

"I knew Cpl. C.P. Wilkinson and I was told by Cpl. Richards (senior) that Cpl. Wilkinson and others were emerging from a dug out in the trenches near Flers, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile out, on or about Feb. 20/17, when the group was struck by a shrapnel burst, and Cpl. Wilkinson, who received the worst of the discharge, was severely wounded by pellets in the head, which was nearly filled out with them. He was taken back to the 12th Bgde: H.Q.'s. dressing station where he died of his wounds within, about two days. He must be buried in a small cemetery at the Bgde: H.Q., between Flers and Delville Wood. Cpl. Richards (snr.) D.Coy., 48th A.I.F., may be still with the Battalion."

Eye Witness: No, Cpl. Richards (senior, D.Coy., 48th A.I.F.

Description: Age about 28, height about 5'10". medium build, fair hair and complexion, gray eyes, clean shaven, no moustache, no distinctive marks remembered.

Informant:-- Pte. Charles Lathrop Gray, A,2166,
48th A. I. F., D.Coy., 14 Pltn.,

Red Cross Hosp: Filsham Pk., St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Home address:-- 15, Flinders St., Adelaide, S. Australia.

Pte. C. Gray has no address in England, but will probably remain in this Hospital for about two months.

22.5.17.

E.A.Riley.

P.1
Liff 6d

48th A.I.F.

Wilkinson Cpl. C. ^P2374,
B. Company. [^]

(K. Feb. 20/17)

"I fell sure this is the Wilkinson I knew. He was hit by a shell which carried away part of the back of his head and he only lived an hour. I am sure he had a decent burial as I saw his body on a stretcher in charge of the R.A.M.C. men. This was near the Sunken Road by Fiers.

Eye-witness: No

Description: Was a South Australian, from around Murray River tall 5, 10 or so, medium fair, good runner knew him as Wilkie.

Informant: Pte. Victor V. Brown 2382,
48th A.I.F., 4 Coy., II Plt.,
Richmond Military Hospt., R.A.
Surrey.

May 15th 1917,
H. Hastings.

48th A. I. F.,

Wilkinson, Cpl. C.P., 2374,

K. Feb. 20th 1917.

Det: D & B.

"I was near Fleurs on 21st February 1917 and I saw the dead body of Cpl. Wilkinson. The A.M.C. Company were digging his grave. I knew him well. He was my friend. He was a tall man with very long legs. He was buried about 300 yards from Fleurs facing the German lines that stood right from Fleurs. I could locate the spot without any difficulty. Lieut. W. Menzies of the 48th A. I. F., could give further information."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: See above.

Informant:-- L/Cpl. Hass, 2517,

48th A. I. F.,

1st Southern General Hosp:

Birmingham.

Home address:--

5.5.17.

Shorthouse.

Written W. Menzies 16.5.17

P.I.

Havre

15th May, 1917.

48th AUSTRALIANS

WILKINSON, Cpl. C.P. 2374

K. 20.2.17. Det. D/B.

I was told by Pte W. Wilkinson (no relation) of the 48th Battalion, A Co., 3rd platoon, stretcher-bearer, who was with the battalion when I left on the 11th April, that he carried Wilkinson to the Dressing Station behind the lines. Wilkinson was very badly wounded, and he died when he arrived at the Dressing Station. We were holding the line at Goodman's Post opposite Fleurs when he was wounded. It was his first time in the trenches. I knew C.P. Wilkinson slightly, and I knew W. Wilkinson very well. I do not know where the former lived, but I know he was a sergeant in the Light Horse at Mitcham Camp, S. Australia.

Informant: Pte G.G. Purdie,

48th Australians, A Co., 3rd Pltn.,

H. S. Panama.

P.I.

HFG

48th A.I.F.

Wilkinson Cpl. C.P. 2374,

(K. Feb. 20/17 Det. D/B)

Informants state that on 20th Feb. Wilkinson was hit in the neck by a shell and died almost immediately. Informants came up just as he died.

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: Cpl. Tom Whittaker 3327,
Pte. Angus Keech 2445,
48th A.I.F.,
Addington Park hospt.,
Croydon.

May 8th 1917,
J.J. Stirling.

P.1

Lieut. W. MENZIES
48 Batt AIF
BEF

For 23-14 / Cpl C.P. WILKINSON
~~48 Batt AIF~~

R. 20. 2. 17

26.5.17
~~16.5.17~~

F.M.

the last I saw of him.

The Hopping Out Trench was a sunken Road and he was left there.
I cannot understand his being reported missing.

N.B. This is sent for what it is worth, but it is not a
very satisfactory report.

Any Nickname? _____ Christian Name? _____

Any Tattoo Marks? _____ Scars? _____

When last seen, and where? Mr. Noeriel. Date 11.4.17.

Was it light or dark at the time? Dark

If killed, was body buried, and where? _____

Engagement or Circumstance? _____ Place? _____

Was the ground held or not? Yes.

Were you an eye-witness? Yes

If not, who told you, and when? _____

Give man's No. and Rank, if possible _____

Any other man of same name in Battln.? _____

Searcher's opinion of Informant Reliable

Searcher's Name J.A. H. 11 5.5.17.

Dated _____

RECEIVED
CARLTON HOUSE T. ...
CZ

[30.8.17]

Pt S.G. KEATS C.O.

48 BATT AIT
B E F

for.

2374 Cpl C.F. WILKINSON

48 BATT AIT

K. 20. 2. 17

In G.M.

1.6.17

ack

4 Milton Place

Ashton-U-Lyne

14/5/14

The Secretary
54 Victoria St.
London.

Madam or Sir

Thank you very much for
information received this day ²³⁷⁴ ^{48th St.} (re G.P. Wilkinson)
We shall be very grateful for further
news. Are you in touch with Pte. Ballantyne?
We should like to get in touch with him.
Kindly accept the enclosed for your Red Cross
fund. Will you kindly send the address of
that office where parcels to 'dead Australians'
are waiting ownership. We sent four parcels
including 'Shield' & cannot hear they were delivered.

Yours Sincerely

A. Pendlebury.

4 Milton Place

A. U. L

8/6/17

Arthur L. L.

The Secretary
Enquiry Bureau.

Dear Madam.

We thank you very much
for the great trouble you have gone to on
our behalf, for enquiries made concerning the
death of 2374 Epl. Wilkinson. All the
descriptions answer most accurately to our
dear Cousin. We are comforted to know that
attention & help were immediately at hand when
he fell, & that it will be possible to visit his
grave, if we are spared. We should have liked
to thank the boy Reals personally for his
kindness to the dear boy. We had thought his
death was near the Olers near Bapaume, but
the last information points to Olers near Vimy.
We thank you for the kind expressions of
sympathy & help you have given us.

Yours very gratefully
Annie Peddlebury

No 2374. Answered
12-4-17

Cpl. C. P. Wilkinsson
48th Inf. Batt 12th Brigade
A. I. R.
France

The relatives of the above
would be glad of any infor-
mation concerning his death.
(date and action), and, if any
further information could be
obtained from any other
source. We suppose the above
address is correct, as it was the
last we had.

July 5th, 1917.

Miss Pendlebury,
7, Milton Place,
Ashton-under-Lyme,
near Manchester.

Dear Madam,

We have received from the officer in command of the company further unofficial details of the death of your cousin,

2374 Pte. C. P. WILKINSON, 48th Battalion, A.I.F.

He writes to this effect, "I know him well and brought him from Australia with me, in 5th rfts of 48th Battalion. He was killed by concussion of a German High Explosive shell on 20.2.17 at Frizi Pilly and carried down to the Dressing Station at Grass Lane, where he died ^{4 1} hour after arrival without ever recovering consciousness. He was buried in the soldier's cemetery at Grass Lane - I attended and Rev. Gilder read the funeral service. There is no doubt about his identity, as I knew him very well and he was not at all disfigured. I have written to his father and sweetheart at time of his death."

Trusting that this assurance that his death was painless will be of some consolation.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Secretary.

L.H.W.

4 Milton Place

Ashton-U-Lyne

8/7/17

Col. C. P. Wilkinson 2574

The Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society

48 Bath.

Sir

The relatives of C. P. Wilkinson

thank you for further information concerning their dear relative's death. It is of great consolation to think that it was at least painless. They are very grateful to your Society for all the information they have been able to get, & for the different units they have been able to correspond with. Had the Australian Postal Service been as well managed, parcels & letters sent to this boy long before his death; would probably have been delivered to him. Letters sent in January were returned in May with "not found" scribbled across. A book which sent Jan 14th was delivered Feb 22nd, (so one of his units informs us) two days after his death. — Such laxity deserves the severest censure.

Yours Sincerely
A. Petholebury

21st June 1917.

The Officer Commanding,
D.Coy, 48th Aust: Inf: Btn:
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of
May 26th in answer to our enquiry concerning - 2374 Cpl C.P.
Wilkinson, 48th Btn, A.I.F. The information you have sent
will be of great assistance as we were enquiring on behalf
of a relative, other than those to whom you kindly wrote.

Yours faithfully,

V. D
Secretary.
Jlu

12th. June,

7

Miss Pandlebury,
7, Hilton Place,
Ashton-under-Lyme
Near Manchester.

Dear Madam,

We have received further unofficial reports concerning :

2374 Corporal C. ~~PEDEBURY~~ ^{WILKINSON} 45th. Bn., A.I.F

from two men in the same Unit.

2427 Pte. W Pearce who is in Fulham Military Hospital Hammersmith states that Cpl. Wilkinson came from South Australia and he knew his initials. A shell ^{wounded} ~~caught~~ him in our own trenches and informant helped to carry him to the Dressing Station. He was unconscious and died at the Dressing Station. Informant saw his grave later in the Cemetery near Flers and there was a cross on it.

2458 Pte. J.F. Martin who was in Hospital in France states he was standing in the Sunken Road talking to Cpl. Wilkinson at Flers when he was hit in the back of the neck by a piece of shell. He was taken to the Dressing Station by stretcher bearers and informant was told he died there and was buried near by. He adds that he knew Cpl. Wilkinson well and he came from South Australia.

-2-

We shall continue to send you any further reports which may
come to hand. ~~~~~ Sending our sincere sympathy for you for the
loss of your cousin.

Yours faithfully,

Min. M. Conner
Secretary.

6th June 1917.

Miss Pendebury,
7 Milton Place,
Ashton under Lyme,
Mr. Manchester.

Dear Madam,

We have received from several men of his unit, further unofficial details of the death and burial of your cousin No. 2374 Cpl C.P. Wilkinson, 48th Btn, A.I.F.

No. 2166 Pte C.L. Gray, who is now in the Red Cross Hospital, Fulsham Park, St. Leonards-on-Sea, reported that Cpl. Wilkinson was badly wounded in the head by a shrapnel burst when hurrying from a dug-out in the trench a quarter of a mile from Fiers. He was removed to the Dressing Station where he died of his wounds - Pte Gray describes your cousin as fair and clean-shaven with grey eyes and fair hair. He was about 28 years old, and ⁵ft 10" in height.

No. 2432 Pte A.M. Hilbig, says that he was told by Pte S.G. Keats that he carried Cpl Wilkinson to the Dressing Station after he had been badly wounded by a shell explosion near the Sunken

Rd at Vimy. He died at the Dressing Station and was buried near Flers. Pte Hilbig describes him as 25 years of age and very tall. He came from Jamestown, South Australia, where his father is an Auctioneer and where he had been a drover.

No.2382 Pte V.V. Brown, Richmond Military Hospital, reported that he saw Cpl Wilkinson being carried on a stretcher by R.A.M.C. men near the Sunken Rd at Flers. He adds that your cousin whom they know as "Wilkie" was tall and rather fair and was a good runner.

We have now closed our inquiries as we feel our evidence is sufficiently detailed, but we shall gladly advise you of any further reports that we receive.

With sincere sympathy in the loss of your cousin,

Yours faithfully,

V.A

Secretary
A.A.W.

Since typing another unofficial report has been received from
No 2515 Pte J.A. van Gemip who on 1-6-17 was in the 32d
Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford. He says that your cousin
was just behind him in the Sunken Road near Flers when he was
badly hit on the head about 8 p.m. on 20-2-17. His death took
place next morning at the 1st Dressing station near Flers, his
grave being in the little cemetery close at hand
Louis J. J.
A.A.W.

21.5.17.

Miss A. Pendlebury
1 ~~Wilton~~ ~~Wilton~~ Place
Ashton-under-Lyne
Manchester.

Dear Madam,

We are in receipt of your letter of 17th inst about
No. 2574. Pte. C.P. Wilkinson 18th Battn. A.I.F.
and the enclosed note for 10/- for which we wish to thank you most
sincerely. Unfortunately we are unable to give you the address of
the office where parcels for deceased soldiers are kept, but we would
suggest that you apply to the General Post Office who will doubtless
advise you what to do.

() No. 1628 Pte. W.S. Ballantyne 48th Battn. was on May 7th in the
Lewisham Military Hospital.

Since our last letter two further unofficial reports have been
received from men of the same unit.

No. 2517 L/Cpl. Hoss who on May 5th was in the 1st Southern
General Hospital Birmingham, says that he saw Cpl. Wilkinson lying dead
near Fleurs on Feb. 21st. while the A.I.C. men were digging his grave
close by. They were friends, and he describes him as a tall man with
very long legs.

No. 2389 Pte. B. Bourke who was in hospital in France says that he was close behind Cpl. Wilkinsin when he was wounded in the head by a shell. His death took place in the dressing station and he was buried near the old Tank, Cheese Road. Informant knew him well, and says he came from Jamestown.

Both of these witnesses refer us to Lt. Menzies who was present at the burial, and we have written to him for further details.

As soon as we receive his or any other information we shall again communicate with you.

Trusting that these further details will be of help and with many thanks for your kind donation,

Yours faithfully

V.D

Secretary
L.A.W.

16.5.17

Miss Pendlebury
7. Milton Place
Ashton-under-Lyme
Mr. Manchester

Dear Madam.

Referring to your enquiry for No. 2374 Cpl. C.P. Wilkinson, 48th
Battn. A.I.F. we are now in receipt of unofficial evidence given by a
man of his unit and we hasten to advise you of the same.

No. 1623 Pte. W.S. Ballantyne says that he saw Cpl. Wilkinson
carried off the Fins field very badly wounded in the head and he was
told next morning by the stretcher bearers that he had died immediately
on arrival at the dressing station, his burial taking place close by.

He says that the soldier was formerly an auctioneer in Jamestown,
South Australia, but just before enlisting he had moved to Adelaide.

Further enquiries are being made and we shall forward immediately
any information that we receive as we fully realize your anxiety for
details.

Yours faithfully

V.D.

Secretary.
-AN

12th April 1917.

Miss Pendlebury,
7 Milton Place,
Ashton-under-Lyne,
Mr. Manchester.

Dear Madam,

We are in receipt of your letter inquiring
for particulars of the death and burial of -

2374 Cpl C.P. Wilkinson, 48th Batta, A.I.F.

and beg to state that we shall endeavour to obtain all details
and shall at once advise you when we receive any information.

Yours faithfully,

V.D. *per*
Secretary

Ack
FM 30617

~~48~~
France.

14-6-17.

Dear Madam

Re Yours of 26-5-17 Re

L/C 2374 C.P. Wilkinson 48Bn H.I.F.

Know him well - brought him from Australia with me in 5/48.

He was killed by commission of a German High Explosive shell on 20/2/17. as Fritz Foley - & carried down to the dressing station at Cross Lane where he died 2 hr after arrival without ever recovering consciousness.

He was buried in the soldiers cemetery at Cross Lane - I attended & Rev Alder read the funeral service.

There is no doubt about his identity as I knew him - very well and he was not at all disfigured.

I have written to his father & Sweetheart - at time of his death.

Yours faithfully Cousin

2374
C.P. WILKINSON

L. Menzies
O/C D. Coy

KA 20-2-17 48Batt A.I.F.
P1 2