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

5261 Private Crawford Rupert Wilson

46th Battalion



2980504S

Base Havre 18th June 1918.

A.I.F. 46. Wilson C.R. 5261.

K. 3rd April 1918. Det D/B.

There were two brothers Wilsons in 46 Battn, one Wilson (J.B) of C.Co. X Pltn. was in Hospital in Rouen about a fortnight ago. This Wilson told me he had a brother in B.Coy. who was Killed at Albert about the 3rd April.

Inf:- Pte F. Pierce No. 1228.
No. 1. Gen. Hos. (Etretat).

N.W.

WHB.

Written Pte. Wilson 27-6-18.

46th Battn. B.Coy. VI Pl.
A.I.F.

WILSON.
Pte C.R. 5261.

"Killed in Action" 3-4-18.

At Albert Railway tunnel between Albert and Dernancourt we were holding the line against attack on the 3rd April, which lasted from 8.45 to 10.30. Think shot in head, was buried at Melancourt cemetery. Saw his body at the cemetery. We carried all bodies down there after the attack had ended. Padre of battn was there for burial services. I helped to carry bodies down to cemetery which was 3 miles off. Do not know where Wilson came from. He was a fine lad of about 22 years of age. Did not see his grave.

Informant:- Pte.J.Forrest.6504.
46th Battn. B.Coy.V Pl.
WEYMOUTH.

A.D.G.
London.
21-6-18.

H.

A.I.F. 46th Bttn.

WILSON. C.R. 5261.
Lonsdale, O. 2715.

"Killed 3-4-18."

of B.Coy, V.Pltn. on 3rd April holding line against attack from 8-45 to 10-30 in the morning.
Pve. C.R. WILSON, Pte.Hankerville, Pte.Foote, Pte.Peach Pte.J.Kennedy, Pte.H.Howie, and Pte.O.Lonsdale, out of V Pltn. were killed. This was at Albert tunnel, between Albert and Dernacourt. We carried all bodies down to Melancourt Cemetery after the attack. Search party were unable to find Lonsdale's body. I assisted to carry bodies down to Cemetery which was 3 miles away.

Informant:- Pte.J.Forrest,
46th Bttn. B.Coy, V.Pltn.
Weymouth.

A.D.G.
London.
10-7-18.

H.

Havre. 14th. July. 1918.

46th. Australians. Wilson, C. R. 5861.

K. April. 3/1918. Dots. D/B.

I knew Private Wilson, B. Coy, he was killed at Albert on April 3rd. 1918 at the Railway Line by a bullet about 9. a.m. I saw his body after he was killed & saw his Grave with a Cross on it in the French Cemetery at Melincourt.

Inf:- L/Corporal. J. McKay. 3292.
46th. Australians. B. 5.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Roulles.

RDM.

M

cancelled

OP.

46th. Battn. A. I. F.

Wilson, C. R. Pte. No. 526I.

No. 6. Platoon. B. Company.

Killed. April 3rd. 1918. Det. D/B.

I saw him hit by a bullet from a machine gun, whilst we were holding the Railway line between Albert and Dernancourt. He was hit under the arm , which cut the artery, and he bled to death before the stretcher bearers could reach him. This happened about 8 a.m. We carried his body back to Millancourt Cemetry where he was buried next day. I did not see him buried, but the grave was already dug, and his body was left by the side of it. I knew him well in the company, he had a Brother in the same battalion. I could not say where he came from.

Description. Height. 6-0. Complexion. Very Fair. Slight Build.

Witness. L/Cpl. Pleass, C. L. No. 1762. B. Company. 46th. Battalion.

Taken at,
No. 4. C. D. Hurdcott.
2. 8. 18.
C. H. B.

C. H. Brown,
No. 4. Command Depot,
Hurdcott.

46th Btn.

WILSON, C. R.
Pte. 5261.

K. in act. 3/4/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a slight built man, about 6 ft. fair complexion, about 26 years of age. Casualty was on the Albert Railway Line which was the front line at the time, and was observing from a machine gun post and while looking over the top was struck on the head by a bullet killing him instantly. I saw his body soon after and he was buried alongside the railway line where he was killed."

Informant:- Lieut. J.A.H. Marshall,
46th Btn.

Private address:-
69a Bellers Avenue,
Yarraville.

N.A.T.
13/6/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

CC 27.6.68

Pte. J. B. Wilson
C Coy. X Platn.
46th Battn. A.I.F.
abroad

abt. brother

Pte. C. R. Wilson
46th Battn. A.I.F.

C K. 3.4.18.

28.6.18
A.I.F.

France
August 2nd/18

Dear Miss Deakin

Major Chaplin, of the Officers' Mess here, has received a letter from his partner Dr Gardiner of Ballarat, asking him (Dr Gardiner) to find out particulars of death &c of his, & brother-in-law, L. R. Wilson of the 46th Bttn. Major Chaplin wrote to the O.C. & to the M.O. of the bttn but has received no reply & I shall be much obliged if you will let me know if you have received any reports about this man, who is in the July list.

I hope my books for August have been forwarded to me.

We have had a few lovely summer days since I arrived here though today is wet. The country looks beautifully green & the crops, though not very heavy, are promising quite well. The surroundings are really beautiful & I have had some nice walks.

With regard to the utility of the work, you are in a better position to judge of

course, than I am, but I think some of the reports have been useful but a great many of the boys go from here to Blighty so will be seen in any case. The Australians are scattered through all the hospitals + of course I have to spend a good deal of my Searching time with the other boys. ~~the~~

The Tommies, as you probably know, are difficult to get information from.

I hope you are well + shall be awfully pleased to receive a line from you if you have time to write – I must say I quite look forward to mail-time even though I have been frequently disappointed – I have had no Australian mail since I arrived.

I heard rather an amusing thing the other evening before I came out here – I had just arrived at the hotel + turn in when I heard a British Officer telling the night porter that he wanted to be called at "sept tans + demie" "Some sleep" as the Americans would say, ~~bacon't~~ it

Kind regards Yours Sincerely
Rowan Hay

August 6th, 1918.

H.E. Hays. Esq.
Red Cross Representative.
3rd Australian General Hospital.
A.P.O. S.l. B.E.F.

Dear Mr. Hays.

In answer to your enquiry on behalf of Major Chaplin for -

5261 Pte. C.R. WILSON. 46th Battalion. A.I.F.

We regret to inform you that we have received the following unofficial information from men in the same unit.

6504 Pte.J.Forrest states at Albert Railway Tunnel between Albert and Dernancourt they were holding the line against attack on 3-4-18 which lasted from 8-45 to 10-30. Informant thinks he was shot in the head, several others were killed and all the bodies were carried down to Melancourt Cemetery about 3 miles distant and buried there by the Chaplain of the Battalion. Informant describes Pte. Wilson as a fine lad about 22 years old. This report is confirmed by 3292 L/Cpl.McKay but of course we are still endeavouring to obtain further information as to the fate of Pte. Wilson on receipt of which it will immediately be forwarded to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

August 9th, 1918

H.C. Hays. Esq.
Australian Red Cross.
3rd Australian General Hospital.
APO. S.l. B.E.F.

Dear Sir.

In further answer to your enquiry on behalf of Major Chaplin for details of the death of -

5261 Pte. C.R. WILSON. 46th Battalion. A.I.F.

We beg to inform you of another unofficial report given by a man of the same unit when in No 4 Command Depot. Hurdcott.

Informant -1762 L/Cpl. C.L. Pleass, stated that he saw Pte. Wilson killed by a machine gun bullet whilst they were holding the railway line between Albert and Dernancourt. The casualty occurred about 8 a.m. and they carried his body back to Millancourt where he was buried next day.

Should we obtain further particulars of Pte. Wilson's death we shall immediately advise you and trust that these reports will be of some assistance to Major Chaplain.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Ltr.