

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

**8489 Lance Corporal
Ronald Crisford
Woodhill**

**10th Company Australian Army
Service Corps**



3010706H

10th Coy, Hdqts
Coy, 5th.D. Train.
A. I. F.

Woodhill,
Ronald, Crisford, 8489
(Not 8966)

"Missing"

Killed in Action 8.10.17 - Previously reported Missing
Cert, by A. I. F. Headquarters 26.11.17

C
London 4.12.17

S

A.I.F. 10th Coy, A.A.S.C.
10th Coy, Hqrs.
Coy, 5th @.Train.

WOODHILL
Ronald Crisford 8489
not - 8966

"MISSING"

Killed in action 8-10-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 26-11-17.

S

London
11-1-18.

10th Coy.A.S.C.
A.I.F.

Woodhill.
R.C. 8489

"Killed in Action 8.10.17"

Concerning 8489 R.C. Woodhill missing 8.10.17. A court of enquiry was held in the field I think about the end of October last and it was proved on the evidence of several witnesses that this man was killed. I understand that he has now been posted killed and that his next of kin have already received the notification.

Letter from:-

Dvr. H.D. Lackie

10th A.A.S.C.

France 28.1.18.

London.

8.2.18.

S.

Australian Army Service Corps. 10 Div. Woodhill, Dvr.R.C. 8489.

Oct. 8/17.

" Woodhill was killed at Ypres, blown to pieces by a shell. ^{Kia}
I saw the remains of his horse & wagon smashed to pieces. It
occurred between 3 & 5 P.M."

Eyewitness:- No.

Description:- No nickname, scar or tattoo.

Informant:- Dvr. Phillip Broderick, 2113.
Australian Army Service Corps, 10 Div.
Red Cross Hosp., Richmond, Surrey.

Home address:- 147, Evans St.,
Port Melbourne,
Victoria,
Aus.

S

12/1/18.
A.D. Shore.

(10th Company A.S.C.
Aus. Imperial Force

Woodhill, etc. R.C. 8489
10th Coy.

(K. Oct. 8. 17. Data D & B)

" L/Cpl. (Driver) Woodhill reported missing, is believed to have been blown to pieces. The wagon (number recognized) and one of the horses, and a man's tunic were found. A cross has been erected to Woodhill. The disaster happened on the Menin Road to Passchendaele while men were building a corduroy road which was shelled heavily by the Germans. Woodhill was carting sleepers to the road. "

Eye witness - Co. Men was sent out to find him told Informant.

Description - Rather tall, dark.

Informant :- Cpl. Sydney Woodward, 8456,
10th Coy. A.S.C. Aus I F.

Home address :-
(Given none, address
to regiment.)

Spalding Hall V.A.D. Hosp.,
Rendon, London, W. 4.

1.E.13.
J.S.D. Evans.

5. Div. Train. A. A.S.C.

Woodhill. R.C. 8489

K. Oct. 8/17.

"Woodhill was killed, probably blown to pieces, nothing was left to bury, we found his wagon and horses, with blood stains on his wagon and seat. This was before Passchendaele was attacked. Full and stringent enquiries were made all round and no trace of him was ever found."

Eyewitness:

Description: Young.

Informant: Capt. Austin.
5. Div. Train. A.A.S. Corps.
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

Home address:
Redhill,
Brsibane.

Early Fe. 1918.
A.A. Needham.

S

A.I.F. A.S.C. 10 Div.

WOODHILL R.C. 8489.

K. 2.10.17.

Woodhill was in my Co. He was a great friend of mine: came from Burwood, N.S.W. and was a clerk before enlisting. On 8th.Oct. the Co. was transporting timber for a corduroy track, near Westhoek Ridge, Passchendaele. Woodhill was driving a 2 horse wagon. I was a bit on in front. This was about 10.30 a.m. I did not know that anything had happened to him until I got to the dug-out he and I shared, that night. He did not return that night: next day the transport party found the wagon and the 2 horses dead and near by a grave, with Woodhill's name on a cross on it. He had been found and buried by Pioneers. I afterwards saw the grave which is exactly opposite Westhoek pill-box, which is on the top of the ridge.

PJ.

Reference: Dvr.A. Roper. 8468.
St. John's Hpl.

Staples
6.3.18.

10th Div. Army Sec. Corps
A.I.F.

WOODHILL
R.C. 8489

"Killed 3-10-17"

Woodhill was a Dvr., and while going up from Armentieres, a shell landed under his wagon and he and his team were blown up, he being killed outright. I did not see it, but was in the same unit and other Dvrs. reported the occurrence. Eric Longer was in same party, and was wounded and is now in England, and he could give information.

Informant. Whitehead J.R. 8501
A.M.C. late A.S.C.,
Hut 10,
WESTHAM.

W.A. Rand
London
11-3-18

S.

Note:-

Written Longer 11-3-18

10th Coy.
5th Div. Train.
A.I.F.

WOODHILL,
R.C. 8489

"Killed in Action 8.10.17."

The particulars concerning the death of Mc. 8489, Dvr. R.C. Woodhill reported killed 8.10.17. None of us know for an absolute certainty that he was killed, nor none of us actually saw him killed. Personally I think he was killed and so do all the rest of the company. He went out with his waggon on a detail one day and failed to return that night. A Sergeant and another man went out looking for him. They didn't find him nor had he passed through any of the dressing stations near Ypres. Next day some of the company saw his smashed waggon and team lying off the Cerduroy Road. Some of them say they even saw a dead man whom they supposed to be Woodhill lying near the waggon. Some Picneers working near the road, said they had buried an A.S.S. driver, but could not say just where, for they had not placed any mark to show the locality of the grave. It was a hurried job, for the locality is pretty unhealthy and it's dangerous to hang about. However, one of our company, one Nathan Lackie made a special trip up to see if he could find the grave, but though he spent half an hour or so looking round, he found nothing.

10th Coy
5th Div. Train
A.I.F.

WOODHILL,
R.C. 8489

- 2 -

- So I think, as all the boys of the company do, that Woodhill was killed and his body put into a shell hole, the soil just thrown over him, and nothing erected to mark the site of the grave. Woodhill stood about 6ft 10; weighed some 150 pounds, was slight in build, had dark hair, blue eyes and sallow complexion. If you would like more particulars I should advise you to communicate with Driver Nathan D. Lackie. 10th Coy, A.A.S.C. 5th Aust. Div. France. He was a pal of Woodhill's and was out with him the day he was killed. He knows, I should think more about Woodhill's death than any other man.

Letter from:- E. Longer, 8725,
10th A.A.S.C.

Mc. 4 Coy, Monte Videc Camp
Weymouth 12.3.18.

London.
20.3.18.

S.

NOTE - Nathan D. Lackie.
19.3.18

Havre.

20th. March. 1918.

10th. Australian A. S. C.

Woodhill, R. C. No. 8489.

X. 8th. October 1917. Dats. D/B.

I knew Woodhill pretty well, and was told by Driver Lucky on the 9th. October, when we were at Dickiebusche, that he had seen Woodhill killed by a shell between Hell Fire Corner and Westhoeke (I think.) I made the Cross for his grave, but they never found the exact spot of his grave. He had been buried by some British Tommies who told Secky and the other drivers. I have since seen a letter from his Mother - who knows all details by now - written thanking Secky for his information. Woodhill was rather dark, fairly tall, quiet chap.

Inf:- Corporal. A. Howell. No. 5398.
10th. Aust. Div. Coy. A. S. C.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

CAS.

S
Ed
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10th Coy.
A.A. S.C.

Woodhill.
Ronald Crisford 8489

"Killed in Action 8.10.17"

re 8489 Dvr. R.C. Woodhill. This man was not buried in a military cemetery but in the field near where he fell. I could not say if the grave has been registered, but if you wish I could give you the exact location of the grave. He was 21 years of age, height 5'10", slightly built, brown hair, blue eyes.

Letter from:- 8428 H.D. Lackie
10th A.A.S.C.
2.4.13.

London.
12.4.18.

S.

10th Coy, A.S.C.
5th Div. Train
A.I.F.

WOODHILL,
Ronald Crisford 8489

"Killed in Action 8.10.17."

Re 8489 L/Cpl. R.C. Woodhill. 10th A.S.C. Killed 8.10.17. He was buried on Westhoek ridge, right where the village of Westhoeke once stood. There is a German concrete block house on the west of the ridge, with a corduroy road running past it on the Southern side. He is buried close to this road directly opposite the "Block house". There is no other grave in the immediate vicinity that I am aware of.

Letter from:- H.D. Lackie,
A.S.C. 22.4.18.

London.
30.4.18.

S.

22.12.17

James N.D. LACKIE

10 Co.

And A.S.C.

Abroad AIF

att 2489

~~8966~~

R.C. WOODHILL

10 Co.

A.A.S.C.

M. 8. 10. 17

28-12-17
dx.

9c

PL A.E. LONGER

10 A.S.C. 8725

A.I.F.

no:2 Com. Dep.

Waymouth

about

8489

R. C. WOODHILL

10 A.S.C.

18.10.17.

Qu.

11.3.18

Oct 14, 1918

8489

R. C. WOODHILL

No. 1 Company
Monte Video Camp

Way month
18th Coy 5th Div. Train
KIA 8-10-17

S
Dear Mrs. Grakin, - Here are the
particulars I know concerning the
death of No 8489 D. R. C. Woodhill
reported killed 8/10/17.

None of us know
for an absolute certainty that he
was killed, for none of us actually saw
him killed. Personally I think he
was killed and so do all the rest
of the Company.

He went out with
his wagon on a detail one day and
failed to return that night. A sergeant
and another man went out looking
for him. They didn't find him; nor
had he passed through any of the
dressing stations near Ypres.

Next day some of
the Company saw his swastika wagon

and came lying off the corduroy road,
Some of them say they even saw a dead
man whom they supposed to be Woodhull
lying near the wagon.

Some Pioneers working near the
road said they had buried an A.D. driver,
but could not say just where,
for they had not placed any mark
to show the locality of the grave. It
was a hurried job, for the locality is
pretty unhealthy, and its dangerous to
hang about.

However, one of our Company, one
Nathan Lackie made a special trip
up to see if he could find the grave,
but though he spent half an hour or
so looking round, he found nothing.

So I think, as all the boys of the
Company do, that Woodhull was killed
there and his body put into a shellhole
the soil just thrown over him, and
nothing erected to mark the

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Site of the grave.

Woodhill stood about six feet ten,
weighed some 150 pounds, was slight
in build, had dark hair, blue eyes
and yellow complexion.

If you would like more particulars
I should advise you to communicate
with Daniel Nathan D. Laekie,
10th Coy. A.A.S.B. 5th Aust Div. France.

He was a pal of Woodhills and
was out with him the day he was
killed. He knows, I should think,
more about Woodhills death than
any other man.

Sincerely Yours

Eric J. O'Neil

No 8715. 10th A.A.S.B. //

Write Willie D. Laekie 19.3.8.

(19-3-18)

Wab. Nathan D. Lockie

10th Coy.

A. A. S. C.

5th Div. 6.1.7.

Abroad.

abt.
8489

Wab. R. C. Woodhill

10th Coy.

5th Div. France

K/A 8.10.17.

20.3.18.
a.i.b.

Aust. A.S.C.

Woodhill R.C. 8966, 8156?
10th Coy.

(M. Oct. 8/17)

"L/Cpl. Ronald Woodhill (10 A.S.C.) was our first casualty at Ypres. He was driving his wagon over the Corduroy Road on the other side of Westhoek Ridge when he was killed on Oct. 8th. He was alone on his wagon but there were 15 wagons in the train; each one has to take its chance in crossing the Rd. He must have been buried by the 2nd Division Pioneers, but he was reported missing for 2 days as we did not find his body; but we saw his wagon and the horses. One was killed and the other had to be shot. Sgt. Beaver (14 Coy. A.S.C. 4 Div. Train) says he saw one of our wagons hit, but Woodhill's friend Dvr. N.D. Lackie (10 Co) will know most details. He went to look for his body. I was wounded on 21st Oct. so never posted a letter I had written to his people."

Eye-witness: No, told by Dvr. N.D. Lackie, 10 A.S.C.

Description: From a little country place in N.S.W.
Thinks a farmer, thinks his mother was dead.

Written by Lackie 23/12/17 R.T.O.

S

Informant: Dvr. Eric Lorgier 8725,
Australian A.S. Corps, 10 Coy.,
3rd Southern General Hospt.,
Oxford.

Home address:
109 Evans St.,
Rozelle,
Sydney.

Dec. 3/17,
J.M. Payne.

Act P.C. 81-1-14
Amitt

8966

489

R. C. WOODHILL

10th Co. A.S.C.

K/A 8-10-17

S3.

France

January 28th 1918

The Secretary

Wounded and Missing Inquiry Bureau

Dear Madam

In reply to your letter inquiring
for particulars concerning SHS9 R.C. Woodhill 10th Co. A.S.C.
missing 8.10.17. a court of inquiry was held in the field
I think about the end of October last and it was proved
on the evidence of several witnesses that this man
was killed. I understand that he has now been
proven killed and that his next of kin have already
received the notification. I am

Yours sincerely

(Dover)

T. D. Lackie

10th A.S.C.



Church Army Recreation Hut OR TENT.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

8489

April 2nd 1918

The Secretary Ronald, Cristford Woodhill

Unwounded and Missing 10th Coy. A.A.S.C.

Enquiry Bureau

K.M.A. 8-10-17

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(Ed)

Dear Madam

In reply to your letter asking
for particulars concerning ⁸⁴⁸⁹ Mr R.C. Woodhill
10th Coy. A.A.S.C. 5th Div Train killed 8.10.17.

This man was not buried in a military cemetery
but in the field near where he fell. I could not
say if the grave has been registered but if you
wish I could give you the exact location of
the grave. He was twenty one years of age, height
5ft 10ins, slightly built, brown hair, blue eyes.
I do not know of anything else about his appearance
that would be of use.

I am

Yours sincerely,

// 8489 J.D. Hackie

10th A.A.S.C.

advised by PC
27.4.18
979

8489

(cd)

Ronald Crisford Woodhill

10th Coy A.S.C. 5th Div Train

Kn A 8.10.17

The Secretary

S

Wounded and missing

Enquiry Bureau

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1110

In reply to your card regarding
in particular concerning 8489 and R. Crisford Woodhill 10th A.S.C.
Killed 8.10.17. He was killed on Westlock ridge just above
the village of Westlock on 8.10.17. The ridge is a low one with
"black loam" on the crest of the ridge with a winding road
running back down the South West side. He is buried close
to the road directly opposite the "black loam" there is
no other grave in the immediate vicinity that I am aware
of. I am sure that you will be able to check this as I have
heard the name in death. I am sure that you will be able to
check this as I have heard the name in death.

Yours faithfully
H. E. Lacey //

ASE