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

7911 Corporal Harry Maitland Whiteoak

2nd Field Ambulance



2930603N

2nd Fld. Amb.

WHITEOAK, H.M.
Cpl. No. 7911

Killed in action 5/5/17.

"I buried Casualty near Bulls court, a mile down the sunken road. He was killed by shell fire, and I marked the grave with a cross. I refer you to the O.C. Field Ambulance for details."

Informant:- Cpl. H.C. Wilson, M.M.
779 2nd Fld. Amb.

Private address
Lawson Street,
Warren, N.S.W.

H.A.B.
19/11/17.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

2nd Fld. Amb.

WHITEOAK, H. M.
Cpl. 7911

Killed in action 5/5/17.

"I knew Casualty. We were having a rest at the Regiment Aid Post near Bullecourt. A shell came over and destroyed a part of the post. A piece of shell struck Casualty in the head and he died instantly. I was about 10 yds. away at the time. He died instantly. I was about 10 yds. away at the time. He was buried about 50 yds. away. The number of the post was either 10 or 11."

Informant:- W. H. Brentnall,
No. 56, 2nd Fld. Amb

Private address:-
89 Nicholson Street,
East Brunswick.

T.C.F.
18/1/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

2nd Fld. Amb.

WHITEOAK, H. M.
Cpl. 7911.

Killed in action 5/5/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 7 ins. well built, medium complexion, about 24 years ofage. Casualty was sitting in a dug-out alongside of myself at Bullecourt Village waiting for the wounded to come down. Two shells exploded inside the dug-out killing Casualty instantly and Pte. Whiteoak and two other men. I helped to carry him out of the dug-out but I had to leave him there as he was quite dead and there were wounded to be attended to. I do not know where they buried him."

Informant:- P te. A. Ewen,
No. 94. 2nd Fld. Amb.

Private address:-
1 Charles Street,
~~Kap~~ Prahran/

M. C Croft

T.C.F.
28/6/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE

2nd F d. Amb.
A.M.C.
A.I.F.

Whiteoak
H.M. 7911

""Killed May 5th 1917"

Was at Bullecourt on 5th May andsaw Whiteoak killed instantly in the railway cutting three by the same shell that killed L/Cpl. Jack He was buried by our Chaplain Mr. Bradley just where he fell.

Eye-Witness:- Yes
Description:- Knew him well.
Informant:- Cpl. P.O. Nilsson 175
2nd Fld. Amb.
A.A.M.C.

Home address:- Moorduck. Victoria

London.
2.11.17.

M

AUST. A.M.C. 2.

WHITEOAK, Cpl. H.M.7911.
JACK, L/Cpl. J. 134.
A.

K. May 5th, 1917.

Cpl Wilson of the 2nd F.A. now in hospital wounded was with Jack and Whitcoak when they were killed and gave me details. They were at the Regt. Aid Post on May 5th on right of Bullecourt in afternoon about 2 p.m. when a single shell came over and killed them instantly. They were buried close to where they fell and the Burial Service was read by Pte Walter Bradley, of this ambulance, a Sydney man who has since been promoted to a Chaplain Captaincy. The other 2 who were killed by same shell were Pte Campbell and Pte Lupson of same Field Ambulance.

PHE.

Reference:- Pte. A.Hazelwood. 8185.
No. 1 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
13.9.17.

Write Cpl Wilson
20-9-17

3

Whiteoak, Cpl. H.M. 7911

Army Medical Corps
2nd Field Amb.A.I.F. (K. May 5th 1917 Dets. D/B)

"I have seen the grave of Cpl. Whiteoak (2nd. Field Ambulance), at Moreine Dressing Station. He was killed instantaneously by a shell at Moreine Cully, in May, while going up the line. I came up afterwards on duty with his brother, and had to break the news to him and try and put him off duty, but he refused to go. There were seven men together in a dugout, when it was blown in by a shell, and they were all killed. They were all buried together. Cpl. Whiteoak's brother, Pte. Whiteoak (6 Field Amb. A. Sect.) has attended to the grave."

Eye witness: No, not to the casualty. I have seen the grave.

Description: Brother was satisfied as to identity.

Informant: Pte. Wm. Light 14510, Army Med. Corps.
6 Fld. Amb. A.I.F., A. Sec.
3rd Southern Gen. Hos., Oxford.

27.10.17 Home address: Barclin Bridge Hotel,
H.M Pickard Cambridge. Heidelburg Rd., Ivanhoe, Victoria.

2nd Field Ambulance, Whiteoak.
A. I. F. Cpl. H.M.

"Killed in Action 5.5.17"

Cpl. Whiteoak joined us (2nd Field) up about the 30th April while we were waiting out of the line as reserves. We moved up to the front line on the 3rd May and went straight in that morning. It was Cpl.Whiteoak's first time in the firing line and he was doing good work up to the time he was killed on the evening of the 6th May about 4.p.m. We, about 20 bearers, were at Battalion H.Qrs in the railway cutting about ½ mile below Bullecourt and had been having a rough time under heavy shell fire when one shell lobbed right amongst us and killed 4 namely Cpl.Whiteoak, L/Cpl.Alex Jack, Pte.Lupsom and Pte.Campbell. Cpl.Whiteoak was killed instantly by severe injuries to the head and skull. I personally buried these 4 men, with the help of a Pte.Bradley (who is now a cgaplain in the A.I.F.) There is no possible doubt of any mistaken identity as I knew them all and collected all papers and paybooks and discs etc., tying them up separately in the handkerchiefs and endorsing each with their name and number, these I handed to Major Nott of the 2nd Field Amb.to be sent to their next of kin. They were buried in the

field about 20 yards from where they were killed and Pte.Bradley read the burial service over the 4 men in the one grave, in the bottom of the cutting. I obtained the exact map location of the place and gave it also to Major Nott. I placed a rough cross with the name, number and unit of each over the head of each man. Cpl. Whiteoak was about 23 years of age, 5'1 or 2" in height, about 10 stone in weight, inclined to be fair and I believe came from the 1st A.G.H.

Letter from:-
Cpl.H.C.Wilson.
A.Group,
Verne Citadel,
Portland Camp, Portland.
23.9.17.

NOTE Written Major Nott 4.10.17.

London.
4.10.17.

M.

2nd Field Ambulance A.A.M.C.
A.I.F.

WHITEOAK
Cpl. H.M. 8911
7

"Killed in Action 5.5.17."

About Cpl. H.M. Whiteoak last night and am glad to be able to supply you with fairly full particulars.

He was killed about 3.p.m. on 5.5.17. at the Regimental Aid post of 21st Batn. He was sitting in the dugout in Company with other stretcher bearers when a shell exploded on the dugout a piece hitting him on the top of the head and killing him practically instantaneously. Three others of our bearers were killed there by the same shell L/Cpl. Jack, and Ptes Campbell and Lupsom (in case you have enquiries about these men).

The four of them were buried together by another of our bearers named Pte. Bradley W.G. who has since been given a commission as an army chaplain.

The map location of the graves is C. 5 D 5.6. Sheet 57C I might add that it was during the Bullecourt fighting and in that area.

Letter from:-
H. Mott. Majpr. France.
15.10.17.

London. 31.10.17.

M

7911
Cpl AM
Whiteock
2 F. Amb -
Stretcher Bearer

See under

4910
Pte Campbell
2 Fd Amb.
Stretcher Bearer

(4-10-17)

Major NOTT
2/3 Field Ambulance
A.A.M.C.
B27.

for map location
about
c/pl H.M. WHITEOAK

2/3 Field Ambulance
A.D.T.

K/A 5-5-17

Q.S.
5-10-17

18-9-17

7798 CH
Cpl WILSON
2nd A Field Ambulance
No 2 Command Depot
Mounted Video Weymouth

about
7911 Cpl H
A.M WHITEOAK
2 A M C
A.I.F.
K 5-5-17

B.H.
19-9-17.

ack'd letter 19-10-17

7911 Cpl H.M. WHITEOAK 13-10-17.
2 Field Ambulance
A.A.M.C.
K/A 5-5-17 M 3

The Secretary
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau

Dear Madam

I received your letter of enquiry about Cpl. H.M. Whiteoak last night & am glad to be able to supply you with fairly full particulars.

He was killed about 3 p.m. on 5-5-17 at the Regimental Aid Post of 21st Battn. He was sitting in the dug-out in company with other stretcher-bearers when a shell exploded in the dug-out, a piece hitting him on the top of the head & killing him practically instantaneously. Three others of our bearers were killed there by the same shell — Lcpl. Jack & Pks. Campbell & Lupson (in case you have enquiries about these men)

The four of them were buried together by another

of our bearers named Pte. Bradley W.C., who has since been given a commission as an army chaplain.

The map location of the grave is :—

C. 5. d. 5-6. Sheet 57. C.

I might add that this was during the Bullecourt fighting in that area.

Yours faithfully

A. Mott

Major

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).
54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

7798.
Cpl C.H. Wilson
2nd Field Ambulance 19-9-17.
No2 Command Depot.
Monte Video Weymouth

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your Unit
7911 Cpl H.M. Whitoak — Kia A. 5-5-17.
2. A.M.C. A.I.F.
and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning H.M. Whitoak but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the Field or in a Soldier's Cemetery, where the grave would be registered. We should also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

ack'd letter - ans 25-9-17

Cpl NM WHITEOAK
2nd Field Amb.

K.A 5-5-17

M
3

A. Group.
Verne Citadel
Portland Camp
Portland
23. 9. 17

From 7798 Corpl H C Wilson
2nd Field, Amb.
To Miss Vera Deakin
Secty. Aust Red Cross Society.

Your letter of inquiry regarding Corpl Whiteoak, to hand yesterday & I am only to pleased to be able to give you any information which I am able to give.

Corpl Whiteoak joined us (2nd Field up about the 31st April, while we were waiting out of the line "as reserves" we moved up to the front line on the 3rd May & went straight in that morning. It was Corpl Whiteoak's first time in the firing line & he was doing good work up to the time he was killed, on the evening of the 6th May about 4 pm.

We about 20 bearers were at Battalion H. Qrs in the railway cutting about 1/2 a mile below Bullecourt & had been having a rough time under heavy shell fire when one shell lobbed right amongst us & killed 4. namely Corpl Whiteoak Lppl Alex Jack

Pte Lupsom & Pte Campbell.

Corpl Whiteoak was killed instantly by sever injuries to the head & skull.

I personally buried these 4 men, with the help of a Private Bradley (who is no a Chaplain in the A.I.F.

There is no possible doubt of any mistake identity as I knew them all & collected all papers & paybooks & discs Etc, tieing them up seperately in the handkerchiefs & endorsing each with their name & number; these I handed to Major Nott of the 2nd field Amb to be sent to their next of kin

They were buried in the field about 20 yards from where they were killed & Pte Bradley read the burial service over the 4 men in the one grave, in the bottom of the Cutting. I obtained the exact "map location of the place & gave it also to Major Nott

I place a rough cross with the name no & unit of each over the head of each man.

Cpl Whiteoack was about 23 years of age 5 ft 10 or 2 in height, about 10 stone in weight, inclined to be fair & I believe came from the 1st A.G.H.

Trusting this information is what you require

Yours sincerely
Cpl H. Wilson

Note Letter Major Nott
4-10-27

GC

September 29th, 1918,

Cpl.H.C.Wilson,
2nd Field Ambulance,
A.I.F., A.Group,
Verne Citadel,
Portland Camp, Portland.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your letter in reply to our enquiry concerning

Cpl H.M.Whiteoak,
2nd Field Ambulance,
A.I.F.

The information and clear details which you have supplied will be of great assistance to us and of value to our enquirers. We shall now apply to the Graves Registration and Enquiries for a photograph of the grave to be forwarded to the late soldier's next of kin, we know thathit will be very much appreciated by them.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.B.

SECRETARY.

O.J.

October 8th, 1917.

Major Nott,
2nd Field Ambulance,
A. A. M. C.
A. I. F.
B. E F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries on behalf of our Melbourne Bureau concerning a man of your unit -

Cpl. H.M.WHITEOAK - Killed in Action 5.5.17.

We hesitate to trouble you in the matter, but it has been suggested to us that you may be able to give us some details of his death and burial, and a map location of his grave. We shall be most grateful for any information you will kindly supply and it will be much appreciated by his people in Australia.

Apologising for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

VB

Secretary.

OS.

G. C

October 20th, 1917.

Major H.C.Nott,
A.A.M.C.,
2nd Field Ambulance Brigade,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you for your reply in answer to our enquiry concerning 7911 Cpl.H.H.Whiteoak, of your unit. 2 field Amb.
The information and details you have supplied will be of much assistance to usm add of value to our enquirers, who will be comforted to know that at least this N.C.O. died instantaneously.

We shall now apply to the Graves Registration and Enquiries asking them to forward a photogarph of the grave to the next of kin. Again thanking you for the trouble you have taken.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

O.S.