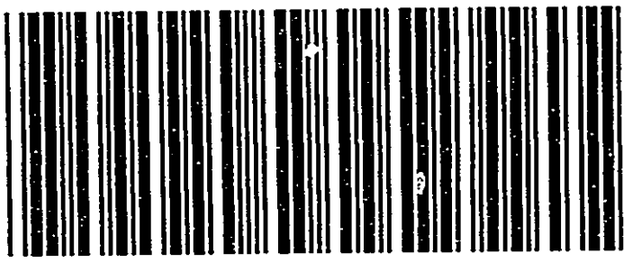
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

914 Private George William Willans

9th Light Trench Mortar Battery



2950401L

9th L.T.M.B.
late 34th Battn
A.I.F.

WILLANS
GNR G.W.. 914

"Killed in Action 20/12/16"

Re your enquiry regarding 914 Gnr G. W. Willans of the 9th L.T.M.B. late 34th Battn A.I.F.

Your enquirer can rest quite content regarding his burial place. He was buried in the Military Cemetery in Armentieres where his grave is marked by a cross erected by the officers and men of the Battery.

I can, I am sorry to say, testify to his death as I was with him when he was killed, also our present Battery Commander was there at the time. As near as I can describe him he was about 25 years of age, fair and fresh complexion, bluish eyes and about 5ft 8 or 5ft 9" in height. If this should not be satisfactory I will always be willing to to my best (as I am sure anyone who knew him at all will be) to satisfy any further enquiries you may wish to make.

Letter recvd from W. F. Pont,
30.8.17

Ack by P/C 8.9.17

London 20.9.17

8

9th Btty
L.T.M.

ANS
WILLIAMS
G.W. 914

"Killed 20.12.16"

Refer to pte John Corrigan 2145 of 54th Batt. at No 1 Command Depot Perham Downs Andover Hants, now on leave from Dartford and to report at Perham Downs in about 10 days.- who told me yesterday that he saw Williams wounded by shell and that he died next day after being at D.S. Williams was my mate, we both come from Abermain near Maitland.

Reference:- 743 E.Davies,
1st Pioneers, A.I.F.,
Dartford,
2x.x.17.

Note:- Written Pte John Corrigan 7.o.17.

London
9.o.17.
L.P.J.

S.

L. T. U.
9th Batty.
A. I. F.

Williams. G.W. 914.

"Killed 20.12.16."

In reply to your note to ask me if I knew anybody the name of Williams, whether he was killed or buried. Well, to tell you the truth I never heard of the name when I was over there I never heard of him in my Coy, so if I can find out anything of him when I go over again, I will be only too pleased to forward you some information. I might be over again very soon to France. As you sent this note to me a few weeks ago, I only got the letter to-day and sorry I did not get it before now, because I would have dropped a note sooner, so I think this is all I can say as I don't know the chap you are inquiring for.

Letter from:-
J. Corrigan. 2145.
54th Battn. Westham Camp Weymouth.
A. I. F.

London.
19.6.17.

S.

S. K. a. 20-12-16

9th Australian Light T.M.Batt.

Williams, G.W. 914.
Alexander, Lieut. H.H.
Brown, Lieut. H.P.

(K. June 8/17. Det: D & B.)

"On June 8th at Ploegstert about 3. p. m. Lt. Alexander was watching a counter-attack on the left through his glasses, standing upon our parapet, when he was shot by a sniper through the stomach and died at once. He was buried in the Cemetery at rear of Ploegstert Wood."

Brown, H.P. Capt.(K. May 12/17) was bicycling down the road at Le Bizet about May 12th to disperse a crowd of our fellows who were thronging round a fallen German Aeroplane, when a shell burst near and killed him. I myself helped to bury him in Gunners Farm Cemetery at Le Bizet. (He lived at Stanmore, near Sydney, N.S.W.)

Williams, G.W. 914. (K. Dec: 20/17.) This should I think be Williams or Willans. He came from Musselbrook N.S.W. He was just returning from a "strafe" to our support line, when he was killed by a T.M. shell of the enemy's, being severely wounded in neck. He was buried at the Military Cemetery, Erquingham, Nr. Armentieres."

Eye-witness:-- Of the burial in each case, and of death in No. 1.

P.T.O.

Description:--

Informant:-- Cpl. F.A. Fraser 1647.
9th Australian Light T.M. Batt.
No. 1. City of London Military Hospital
Clapton.

Home address:-- 19, Whiting St,
Leichhardt,
Sydney, N.S.W.

August 8th
C.E. Dyer.

3 Dus

~~9th Australian~~ Light Trench Mortar Bty. Will~~iams~~ans, Pte. George W.
914,

K. Dec. 20/16.
Det: D. & B.

"I understood from Capt. Connell, the officer commanding C.Coy., of the 35th Battalion and from several others as follows. We had been strafing the Huns with the mortar, and coming back from the front lines along the communication trenches (behind the Armentieres front). ~~We~~ Willans was killed instantly by a rifle grenade, his neck being completely cut through. It was day time. His name was Willans not Williams."

Eye Witness: Capt. Connell, officer commanding C.Coy.
38th A.I.F.

Description:

Informant:-- 2nd Lieut. Gray,
35th A.I.F.,
3rd London General Hosp:
Wandsworth, S.W.

Home address:-- 33, Sydney Rd., Parkville.

9.8.17.
J.P.Clark Hall. H.Q. has now changed name & unit [illegible]

9th L.T.M. Baty
A.I.F.

Willans.
G.W. 914

"Killed 20.12.16."

This man's name is on the list as Williams and should be Willans. I knew him well. He was killed at Armentieres by a shell fragment He was walking along a communication trench at the time. I did not see him killed but I saw his grave and it was marked by a cross bearing his No. name. and Unit. Refer to Sgt. M Pont. 9th L.T.M. Baty who is still in France and who saw him killed and can give further particulars. There is a man by the name of Williams in the Batty but he was alive and well up to the 16th July 1917. so the names being alike have evidently been mixed.

Witness:
Gnr. J. McLaren. 5?1
9th L.T.M. B.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W, Oman
London.
5.9.17.

Note written Sgt. Pount.
28.8.17.

S

9th L.T. M. Batty
A.I.F.

Willans.
G.W 914

"Killed 20.12.16."

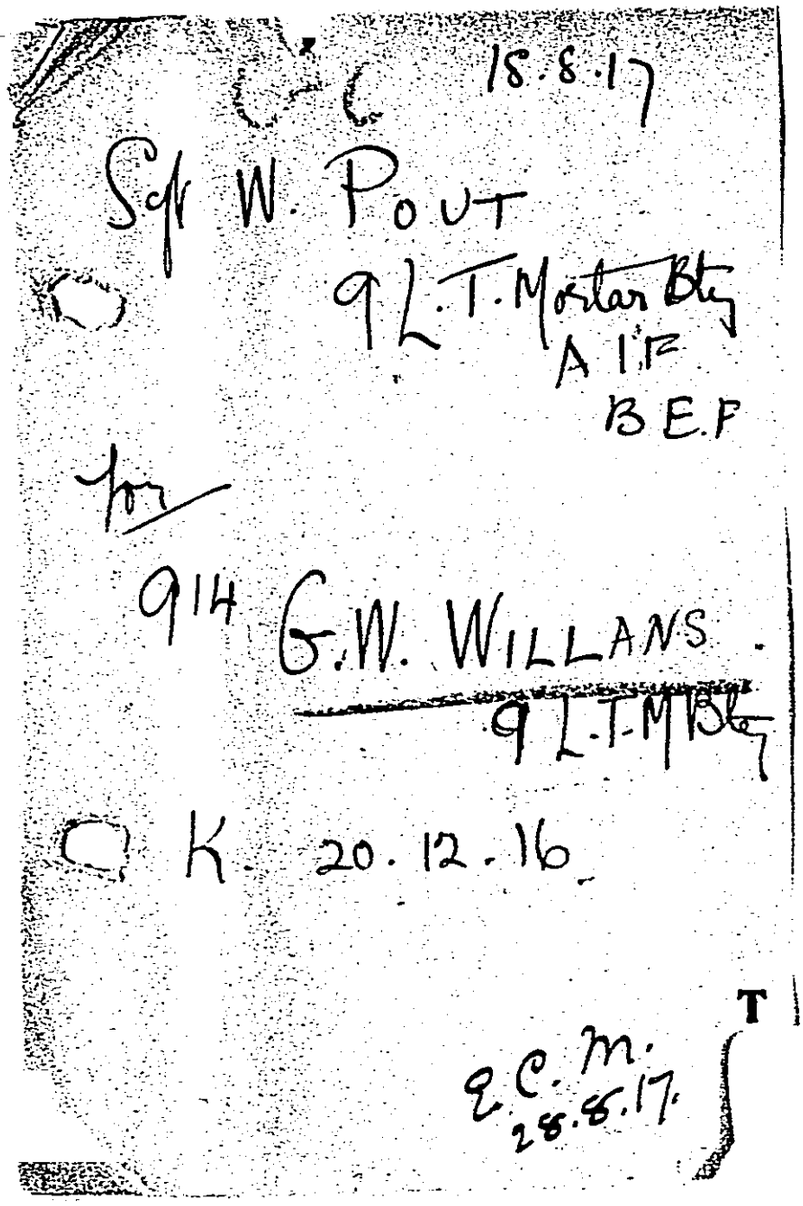
This man's name is spelt wrongly on the list. It should be Willians. I knew him well. he came from Kusselbrook N.S.W. I saw him killed at Armentieres by a shell fragment death was instantaneous. He was buried at Cité-Bon-Jean Military Cemetery, Armentieres. I saw his grave and was marked by a cross bearing his number, name, and Unit. I knew him well and he was the only man of that name in the Batty.

Witness:- Cpl. A.E. Fraser. 1647
9th L.T. M. Batty
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
6.9.17

Note See previous report from Corpl. Fraser.

S


18.8.17

Sgt W. POUT

9 L.T. Mortar Bty

A I.F.

B.E.F

for

914 G.W. WILLANS.

9 L.T.M.Bty

O.K. 20.12.16.

T

Q.C.M.

28.8.17.

To: Pte John Corrigan 2145
54th Batt. A.I.F.
No: 1 Command Depot
Pelham Downs
Andover
Hants.

Williams

For: G. W. WILLIAMS. 914.
L.T.M 9th Battry
A.I.F
Killed 20.12.16.

Gw.
7.5.17.

Ack. F.M. 8.9.17 Wyp. 914 G. W. WILLANS
KA 20.12.16
9 L.T.M.B France
S (C)
30-8-17

3

Dear Madam

Re your enquiry regarding 914 Gnr G. W. Willans of the 9th L.T.M.B late 34th Bdtn A.I.F.

Your enquirer can rest quite content regarding his burial place. He was buried in the Military Cemetry in "Armentieres" where his grave is marked by a cross erected by the Officers + men of the Battery.

I can, I am sorry to say, testify to his death, as I was with him when he was killed also our present Battery Commander was there at the time.

As near a I can describe him he was about 25 years of age, fair & fresh complexion, bluish eyes & about 5'8" or 5'9" in height.

If this should not be satisfactory I will always be willing to do my best (as I am sure anyone who knew him at all will be) to satisfy any further enquiries you may wish to make.

I beg to remain
Yours sincerely
W. J. Pont

Cick
FM 5267

Wm ~~WITHER~~
willams ~~54 Batt AIF~~

June ~~May~~ 4th 1917
Weymouth
Westham
Camp

9146 W. WILLIAMS
LTM 9 Batty FA

K20 1216 S2

Dear Madam

In reply to you note to ask me if I new any body the name of ~~Williams wither he was killed or burried~~ well to tell you the truth I never herd of the name when I was over their I never herd of him in my Company so if I can find out any think of him when I go over again I will be only to pleased to forward you some information. I might be over again very soon to france

as you sent this note to me a few
weeks ago ~~I think~~ ~~[illegible]~~ got the letter to
day and sorry I did not get it before
now. because I would have dropped a
note sooner so I think this is all
I can say as I dont no the chap you
are inquiring for.

I remain
Yours sincerely

No 2145 J Corrigan
54 Batt
A 9 F

7th. June, 1917.

2145 Private J. Corrigan,
54th. Battalion, A.I.F.,
Westham Camp,
WEYMOUTH

Dear Private Corrigan,

Very many thanks for your letter of June 4th. in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

914 G.W. WILLIAMS, 9th. Bty, L.T.M. WILLIAMS

We wrote to you on the suggestion made by a man of the Pioneers, a mate of Pte. Williams, who said you had told him Williams was wounded by shell and died the next day at the Dressing Station, and we wished to obtain exact details as so far we had no information concerning Pte. Williams. Evidently our informant had made a mistake.

We should be very pleased if you would as you suggest let us know if you hear any definite news later.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.