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

6905 Private
Francis Victor Weight

16th Battalion



2890706W

A.I.F. 16. WRIGHT. F.V. 6905

K. April 5th 1918.

He was killed at Hebuterne a little later than C.Hills; we were holding the line. Fritz attacked at 6 a.m. I saw him fall hit by a bullet in the arm and heart. I am quite certain of death; it occurred only 5 yards away from me. The body was left for a few hours and then taken away and I believe buried but I cannot say where and do not know who were the S/Bs.

He was an oldish man, turning grey, not long with us, joined us this year, tall, slim, not wounded before, I think married. In B.VIII.

Inf: Pte R.J.Thomas. 7013. B.VIII.
No. 83 General
BOULOGNE. 13.8.1918. WG

Havre. 9th. August. 1918.

16th. Australians. Weight, F. V. 6905.

K. April. 5/1918. Dets. D/S.

I know him well; he came from West Australia down Katanning way. He was about 38, medium height, hair & mountache slightly grey. He was killed near Hebuterne by a Sniper. My Company relieved him & I found his body which I buried in the trench at Hebuterne. I put up a Cross & nailed his identity disc to it.

Inf;- Private. O. H. Lowman. 6855.
16th. Australians. A. 2.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

CWSO.

C.

Havre. 12th. August. 1918.

16th. Australians. Weight, F. V. 6905.

K. April. 5/1918. Dots. D/B.

I knew him well in Australia & trained with him in Black Boy Hill Camp, Western Australia. He was an old 'New Guinea' man; about 5 feet11 grey hair & about 40 years old. He came across with me in the boat 'Border' with the 20th. reinforcements of the 28th. Battalion. I believe he went to France about the end of January 1918. I did not personally see him killed but I saw him sitting down with one hand in his overcoat pocket, dead. I also saw him buried. He was on duty looking over the top when he was hit by a bullet through the neck & died instantaneously At the time of his death he was about half a mile on the right of Hebuterne. Private. C. Waugh & Private. A. Davis, both of his Battalion & Platoon, buried him at the back of the trench about half a mile away. on the right of Hebuterne on the line.

Inf:- Private. S. Glassett. 6915.
16th. Australians. A. 3.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

LAH I.

William Waugh CP.
Davis. 21.5.18

16th A.I.F. WEIGHT, F.V. 6905,

K. April 5/18. Det.D/B.

"I saw Pte. Fred Wright (16.D) lying in the trench, after he had been killed instantaneously (by M.G. bullets I believe), during the 1st attack at Hebuterne. I cannot remember the date. It would be about April 5th. I saw his grave afterwards, but I cannot give the exact spot".

Eye-witness:- Yes.

Description:- A New Guinea soldier. Not young, Hair turning grey.

Informant:- Pte. Frank Fewster, 6818,
16th A.I.F.
D.Coy, XIII. Plat,
3rd, Southern General Hospital,
Masonic Hall,
Oxford.

Home address:- Park Holme,
Bessingby Road,
Bridlington.

14th Aug.18.
H.M.P. Cambridge.

16th A. I. F. Wright, Pte F.V. 6905,
B. Coy, 8 Pltn.

(K. April 5/18. Det: D & B)

"Wright was killed by a bullet alongside of me in the trench at Hebuterne. He was buried about 10 yards behind the spot he was killed. On the ridge to the right of ~~Hebbuten~~ Hebuterne Cemetery, April 5th 1918."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Tall, elderly, hair getting grey

Informant: Pte Richard Thomas, 7013,
14th A.I.F., B.Coy, 8 Pltn,
Cambridge Hospital,
Aldershot.

Home address:
47, Brisbane St,
17.8.18. Perth, W. Australia.
Bethune.

Havre 20th August 1918.

Australians. 16. Weight F.V. 6905.

K. 5th April 1918. Det D/B.

I know him fairly well. He came from Western Australia. He was about 36, tall and slight, hair a bit grey, and had a Moustache. About the 5th April we were in the front line at Hebuterne. Fritz had been coming over and we were all up sniping. Weight himself was hit in the head and killed right out. I was close to him and saw him lying in the trench. He was b ried just behind the trench right in front of the town of Hebuterne, and about 1 kilometre off.

Inf:- Pte E.H.Pawlson No.7797.
A.I.F. 16. B. Vill:
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

CYSG.

PP.

16th Battn.
A.I.F.

"Killed 5-4-18" — WEIGHT F.V. 6905

"Killed 10-4-18" — Longman H.R. 7771

"Killed 29-3-18" — Hills C. 6035

The graves of Hills, Longman and Weight are close together in the Cemetery at Hebuterne. I saw their graves with Crosses on in the Battn. Cemetery. They were killed around Hebuterne, but I can't give particulars.

Informant. Martin. C/Q/M/Sgt.G.H. 78
16th Battn. B.Coy.,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
24-8-18

P. & M.

Havre

Australians. 16.

3rd Septr 1918.

Wright F.V. 6905.

K. 5th April 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him well, he was in the same platoon. He was a man about 40, hair turning a bit grey, medium build, and very quiet. About the 5th April we were at Hebuterne holding the line. In the morning about 10 Fritz attacked and during the attack he was hit by a bullet and killed right out. I saw his body lying in the trench. I don't know about burial.

Inf:- Pte N.K.Fraser No. 7737.
A.I.F. 16. B. VIII.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

CWSG.

PP.

16th Battn.
A.I.F.

WEIGHT
F.W. 6905

"Killed in Action 5-4-18"

Re 6905 Pte.F.W.Weight, 16th Battn. He came from Australia with the same Rft. as myself, and naturally knew one another fairly well. He was about 5'9", dark complexion, age about 38, and he was a returned soldier having seen service in New Guinea. He was lying dead in the front line trench when we took over from his Coy. He was sniped through the head and dropped dead. A mate, Pte.Lowman, and myself buried him that night in a shell hole. Erected a very crude Cross and nailed his identity disc,(which I may say was all we could find of his effects, they having been taken by his own Coy) to the Cross. These are the 'dinkum' facts and I swear by them.

Letter from:- Waugh. Chas. W.,
FRANCE. 27-8-18

London
4-9-18
H.T.

P. & H.

16th Battn.
A.I.F.

WEIGHT
F.V. 6905

"Killed in Action 5-4-18"

I knew 6905 Pte.F.V.Weight real well, and he met his death at Herbuterne about 4/5-4-18, and myslef and a couple of pals buried him at the back of the front firing line in a grave which we marked with a Cross and his name and number. He died through a bullet wound in the head, and at the time was a bit of the lively side, Fritz attacking and plenty of shells dropping about, and it was with great difficulty that he was buried, but everything possible was done, and he was buried decent. He was about 35, dark hair tinted with grey, about 5'9 or 10", slight build, and of very quiet nature. He came across to France with the same draft as myself last Jan.1918, and he served with the forces in New Guinea before coming to France. I have not the slightest doubt about him being the soldier that you are enquiring for, and I was one that buried him, so you can rely on this information, as it is correct. He left Australia with the 20th Rfts. 28th Btn. last June 29th,1917, but like myself he was sent to France to the 16th Battn.

Letter from:- Davies. Pte.A.E.6815
A.Coy. 16th Battn.
FRANCE. 31-8-18

London
9-9-18
N.T.

P. & M.

3C

Y.O.
M-A. Davis
16th Battn
A.I.F

Admt
6905 Pte J.V. Wright
16th Battn
A.I.F.

K Ap 5/18

Written 21.8.18

MSJ

EC

To Pte C. Waugh
16 Battn
A.I.F.

Also
6905 Pte J. V. Weight
16th Battn
A.I.F

K Asp 5/18

Written 21.8.18
Mgt.

Pvt 6905 F.W. Weight K Battn
Aug 27-16
N.W.A. 5-4-18

Dear Mum

Pte (Col)

In reply to your letter of the 21st inst. I take do my best to tell you all I know myself.

No 6905 Pte F.W. WEIGHT, 16th Batt. A-I-F, came from Australia with the same reinforcement as myself and until I left Australia was in the same tent. I also knew Mr Lees about 5 months ago when he returned to the front after leaving hospital in New Zealand. He was then quite well. I last saw Mr Lees on the 4th inst. He was wounded through the left leg

Dropped dead. Heart (Pte
Leman) and myself found
him that night in a
little shack in my
yard once and raised
his identity disc, (what
I may say was all the
work like of the Life
Guards during the Great War
for) Then said the Author
facts and I never by this

Yours truly

C. [illegible]

Feb. Rec. 6.9.18
N7

6905

Pte F. V. Wright

16 Battn

K in A. 5.4.18

Armentieres, in France
August 31st 1918

To Secretary Red Cross.

Dear Miss P. Jenkins,

Kindly accept my sincere letter about enquiries about one of our Battalion. Pte F. V. Wright No 6905 Pte F. V. Wright was well and he met his death at Hebuterne about April 5th 1918 and myself and a couple of pals buried him at the back of the front firing line in a grave which we marked with a cross and his name and number. He died through a bullet wound in the head + although I was a bit of the lucky side this attacking and plenty of shell dropping about I was pretty glad of [illegible] the was buried but may be go [illegible] and he was buried decent. Well I will give as [illegible] of the soldier as possible He was about 35 years of age, dark hair tanned with grey about 5 ft 9 in 10 stone built, one of very good standing he came over to France with the same draft as myself, last January 1918. and I that he served with the 5th in New Guinea before coming to France I have not the slightest doubt about him being the soldier that you are enquiring for and I was one that buried him or [illegible] one of this city [illegible] as it is unable he left Australia with the 20th Reinforcements 28 Battalion June 29th 1917 has did myself he was sent to France to the 16th Battalion

Hoping that the few facts will help you and I am only pleased if be able to render this [illegible] help you

Yours

Pte A. E. Harris

A Coy 16 Battalion

A. I. F.

N7