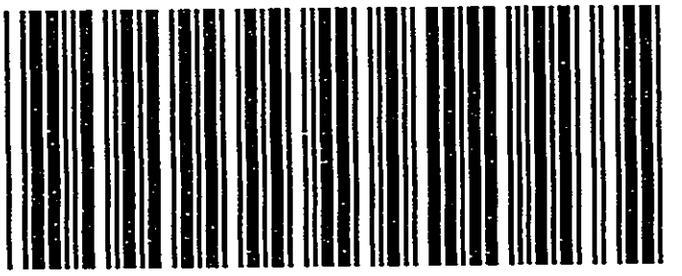
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2032 Sergeant
John Swainson Wilson

5th Battalion



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Mach. Gun. Co.
5th. Battn.
A.I.F.

WILSON
J. 2032.

Killed 19/9/17.

If this is Sgt. Wilson, we called him 'Tug' - he was killed just at the left of Anzac Redoubt outright by shell. He was buried by the shell and I don't think he was ever dugout and given any-other burial. I saw him killed.

Ref: L/Cpl. F.J.Marchant, 249.
5 M.G.Co.
Hut 10, Westham.

W.A.Rand.
London.
23.11.17.

S.

5th M.G.C. A.I.F.

Wilson J. 2032.

(K. Sept. 19/17 Det D/R)

"Wilson who was a Sgt. was Killed on the morning of the 20th Sept not the 19th near Passchendaele. I was abt. 100 yds. away but I saw him hit by a piece of shell and he was killed instantly. The men who were killed were buried just near by. I did not see Wilson buried though I heard he was".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Pte. J. Pender 522,
5th M.G.C. A.I.F.,
Duston War Hospt.,
Northampton.

S

5/12/17,
G.McKinnell.

A.M.G.C. 5.

WILSON, J. 2032.
O'BRIEN, J.M. 330.

K. Sept 19th 1917. Dets.

We were at Westhoek Ridge on Sept 20th and waiting to go over when a shell fell and killed both the above instantly and some ofhers our of our men whose names I now forget. I was quite near there at the time but did not actually see them killed myself, but others who were there and saw this told me but I do not remember the names of my informants. Driver Witnall of the 5th Transport section told me that he went up later and buried the above two and others killed at the same time near where they were killed and erected crosses for them. Wilson was a sergeant in No 5 section, 5ft 5, medium colour, an ex-naval man.

Inf: Gnr G.Paterson. 608.
No. 8 Stat Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 15.12.17. PRBL

Written Witnall 3.1.18

5th Mach.Gun Cpy.
A.I.F.

Wilson.
J. 2032

"Killed 19.9.17"

At Menin Rpad Ypres. Killed at once by shell. We were waiting to advance. I had shaken hands with him just before he was killed. Buried where he was killed. A cross was put up to mark the place before we advanced. I knew him all right.

Witness:-
956 C.McIntosh
W.21. Harefield.

D.P.Dickson.

London.
27.12.17.

S.

5TH MACHINE GUN COMPANY.
(Late 17th Battn., 3rd Rfts.)

WILSON, J.
2032. Pte.

KILLED, 19/9/17.

Informant described Wilson as about 5 ft. 8 inches high, fairly stout, dark complexion, aged about 23. He has a Sister in Sydney, and was an old navy man. Informant states that they both belonged to No.2 Section of the Company. At the time Wilson was a Sergeant, but acting as Lieutenant of No.3 and 4 Guns.

On 20/9/17 (not the 19th as officially reported) the 5th Machine Gun Company was engaged in the Battle of Menin Road. At about 5.20 a.m., while they were at Zero Point, about 3 miles from Ypres, before the Battle commenced, Informant was speaking to Wilson and shook hands with him. Wilson then left to go to his post about 30 yards from Informant. About 5 minutes afterwards Lieut.Coughlan, their Commanding Officer came over to Informant and told him that Wilson had just been killed by a shell together with another chap named O'Brien. Informant had no doubt that Wilson had been buried by the Pioneers, as he was killed before the action commenced.

Informant added that Wilson was very popular throughout the Co.

INFORMANT:- Gunner C.McIntosh, 956,
5th Machine Gun Co.,
No.4 Aust.General Hospital,
RANDWICK. "N" Ward.

W.E.G.
24/5/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

L. WITNALL 9 C-
Trans. Sect.
5 A.M.G. Coy.
B.E.F.

about.

J. WILSON
2032
5 A.M.G.C
A.I.F.
killed
19.9.17

Enc.
3.1.18

France 31.7.18

Ack 6.8.18

Dear Sir

Could you please oblige me by giving me a little information of Sargaent Jack Wilson 2032 5th Brig machine Gun section Enlisted at the 2nd Military Dis N S W Sydney he sailed with the 3rd Rein of the 17th Battalion I have heard since that he was killed if so please state the date of his Death to wear about he is buried by do this you will kindly oblige his step Brother

Pte C H Truran 4247
B Company
53 Battn
A I F
France

August 18th, 1918.

4247 Pte. C.H. Truran.
C.Coy. 53rd Infantry Battalion.
Australian Imperial Force.
B. E. F.

Dear Pte. Truran.

In answer to your enquiry for -

2032 Sgt. J.Wilson. 5th Machine Gun Coy, A.I.F.

We very much regret to inform you he is officially reported as having been Killed in Action 19-9/17 and we have received the following unofficial information from men in the same Battalion.

522 Pte.J.Pender interviewed while in hospital in Northampton stated that Sgt. Wilson was killed on the morning of 20th September, 1917 near Passchendaele. Informant was about 100 yards away but saw him wounded by a piece of shell and killed instantaneously, his burial taking place close by. L/Cpl.Marchant confirms this account.

956 Pte. C.McIntosh interviewed while in Hospital at Harefield confirms this adding that the casualty occurred at Menin Road, Ypres and that he shook hands with Sgt. Wilson just before he was killed. He was buried where he fell and a cross was put up to mark the place before they advanced.

Regretting that we have such sad information to send you and assuring you of our sincere sympathy in the loss of your brother.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) [signature]

Secretar .