

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

**3702 Corporal
William Edward Wright**

4th Machine Gun Company



3030512E

4th M.G.Coy.
A.I.F.

Wright.
W.E. 3702

"Killed 17.10.17"

Wright was a Cpl. and was killed with Gnrs. Adler, Milne and Smail (4th M.G.Coy.) all killed outright and buried in the one grave at the back of the trench near Polygon Wood as we were holding the line. We put a cross up. I saw them hit and buried.

Informant:- Gnr. J.G. Anderson 261
4th M.G.Coy.

W.A. Rand

Hut 10 Westham.

London.
19.2.18.

M.

th Aus. M.G.C.

Wright, Cpl. W.E. 3702, No. 2 Sec.

(K. Oct. 17th 1917. Dets. D/B)

"Cpl. Wright who was in charge of the gun was killed by the same shell as killed L/Cpl. Adler, and two others of the team of gunners at Zonnebeke; he was buried at the same place, about 200 yards away from where he was killed, and a cross was put over all four graves. Cpl. Collumbine helped to bury him."

Eye witness: Not of his death.

Description: Called "Wrightie" in Regt. about 5 ft. 4 and rather slim.

Informant: L/Cpl. Albert Geo. Collumbine, 450,
4 Aus. M.G.C., 1 Sec.,
No. 1 War Hospital, Exeter.

Home address: Waratah, Tasmania.

20.5.18.
I Turner.

M
6
8.11.18

4th M.G.Co.

WRIGHT. W. E.
Cpl. 3702.

Killed in action 17/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 7 ins. slightly built, fair complexion, about 25 years of age. Casualty was in support lined in front of Zonnebeke. He was on barrage fire. I was 20 yds. away when an H.E. shell exploded in the centre of their party killing Casualty instantly and H. Adler. He was buried just behind the trench with the other men that were killed and a cross was erected with his name and number on it."

Informant:- Pte. T. L. Cairns,
No. 543, 4th M.G.Co.

Private address:-
30 Ireland Street,
Ponsonby,
Auckland, N.Z.

T.C.F.
17/1/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

4th M. G. Co.

WRIGHT. W. E.
Cpl. 3702.

K. in act. 17/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, slightly built, fair complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "Bill". Casualty was in a dug-out at about 200 yds. from Zonnebeke Railway Station. A whizz bang exploded a direct hit on Casualty killing him instantly. I was 20 yds. from Casualty at the time the shell exploded but I immediately went to his assistance but he was dead when I arrived there. Clive Millen and Pte. Smale were killed by the same shell. He was buried alongside the Zonnebeke Railway Station with the other men that fell and I saw his grave."

Informant:- Pte. J. Kelly,
No. 245, 4th M.G.Co.

Private address:-
59 Nicholson Street,
Abbotsford.

T.C.F.
7/2/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

A.M.G.C. 4.

WRIGHT, W.E. 3702.

K. Oct 17th 1917.

I knew a man called Wright in No 2 section and he was the only man of that name in the section. He was a Corporal. I did not know his number or his initials. He came from Tasmania. Wright was fair, clean shaven, about 25 and about 5ft 8. I was told by Cpl. J. Parcels, DCM of No 2 section, that he had seen Wright killed by shell fire during the fighting on the Ypres front about the 17th Oct. He was buried close by where he fell and there is wa a cross over his grave which I have seen

Inf: Pte A.S. Escott. 1767. HQ Section
No. 3 Can Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 21.1.18. AGL

*Written Parcels
27.2.18*

4th M/Gun Coy,
A.I.F.

WRIGHT.
W.E. 3702

"Killed 17.10.17."

Refer to Cpl. Parcel, D.C.M 4th M. Gun Coy, who is now in France, he saw him killed at Passchendaele, and can give full particulars of casualty.

Informant:- Bastick, Dvr. F.H. 441.
4th M./Gun Coy,
3.A.A.H.
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.
8.2.18.

H.

Note: Written Cpl. Parcel 8.2.18.

4th M.G.Coy. late 26th Battn.
A.I.F.

Wright.
W.E. 3702

"Killed in Action 17.10.17"

re No.3702 Pte.W.E.Wright. He was promoted Cpl. on the 14.⁶.17 and was killed by a shell on the night of 17.10.17. at 9.30.p.m. his body was buried in the field north of Zonnebeke (distance from, $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile) and about 300 yards right of old Ypres - Roulers railway line. As for his personal description - he stood about 5'7" in height, was rather thin featured and his hair was light. He was buried along with three other lads whose names are undermentioned and we placed a cross over their grave, with the four names on the cross - 412 L/Cpl.Adler H. 516 Pte.Small A. 520 Pte.Milne J.C.

Letter from:-

3685 Cpl.Parsell J.H.

4th M.G.Coy.

London.

18.2.18.

France 10.2.18.

M.

(4.2.18)

Ch. D. E. M. Parcel

4th In. G. Coy. A. 7.7.

B. 7.7.

abt.

3702

Pl. W. E. Wright

4th In. G. Coy. A. 7.7.

K. 17.10.17.

5.2.18.
A. 2.13.

26.2.18

Cpl. J. PARCELLS. D.C.M.

2 Sec.

4th M. G. Coy.

A. I. F.

Abroad

about

3702

W. E. WRIGHT.

4th M. G. Coy

A. I. F.

17.10.17.

Cur.
27.2.18

ack. P.C. 13.2.18
Smith

3702 W. E. WRIGHT

H. H. Co.

lat 26 Bth

France

10/2/18

W. E. Wright R/A 17.10.17

h
3.

Secretary Aus Red Cross Society

Dear Madam

Re your enquiry
of No 3702 Pte W. E. Wright I am
pleased to be able to give you
the following information.
No 3702 Pte W. E. Wright was promoted
corporal on the 11/8/17 & was killed
by a shell on the night of 17/12/17
at 9.30 p.m. his body was buried
in the field north of Yonne (distant
from 1/2 a mile) & about 3 hundred yards
right of old Epres + Roulers railway-
line. As for his personal description
he stood about 5 ft 7 in in height
was rather thin & aged - his
hair was light. He was buried
along with three other lads whose
names are undermentioned & we
placed a cross over their grave

with the four names on the one
cross.

412 L. Sgt. Adler H.
516. The Small A
520 ' Mine G.

hoping this information will
be of some value

I am yours sincerely.

3685 Sgt. Parsell J. H.
4th A. M. G. Coy
