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

2688 Gunner
Alfred Edward Small

10th Field Artillery Brigade



2520907P

A.I.F. Ans.Artillery. SMALL, A.E. 2668.
38 Btty. 10 Bgde.

K/22nd.Decr.1916.

Gunner O'Toole, of the 38th. Btty, and Capt.de Low were there when he was killed, as well as several others men who told me about it, as I was a great pal of his. At Flers a shell dropped into his gun dugout and blew him all to pieces, and also wounded Klein who died of his wounds afterwards. Small was the wheeler; Klein was the fitter.

Reference: McCudden, 2260,
No.24 Gen.Hosp.

Staples.
12.4.17.
RBA.

Gunner O'Toole
Capt. de Low
Written to
17.4.17
M.G.B.

Australian Field Artillery
10th Bgde: 38th Bty.

Small, Gnr. A.E., 2688,

K. Dec. 22nd. 1916. Det:
D & B.

"Gnr. Small was at Flers on Dec. 22/16, with the guns of his Battery and was struck by a shell, death being instantaneous. He was buried near the gun position, Capt. Chaplain Stevenson officiating. A cross was erected on the grave which was registered by the Chaplain and its position is now marked on the map."

Eye Witness: Yes.
Description: Short and slight in build, freckled complexion no nickname to knowledge.

Informant:-- Lieut. E. Saul,
10th Bgde: 38th Bty A. I. F.,
Kitchener Hospital.
Brighton, Sussex.

Home address:-- 154, Courthill Road,
Lewisham, Kent.

13.4.17.
H. Hargreaves.

10th A. F. A. 38th Bty. A. E. SMALL. 2668.

Killed 22.12.16. Details D & B.

At Flers in December while firing at German aeroplanes was going on, an anti-aircraft shell fell by the Battery and killed Small outright. He was buried behind the battery in Flers village and a cross was put up. Informant thinks Bomb. Burton of 38 Bty. could supply all the known details.

Reference: Gnr. J. C. Mitchell, 1254,
No.6 General, Rouen. 26.4.17.

DLF.

AUST. FLD.ARTY. 10 Bgde.38 Bty. SMALL, A.E.2688.

K. December 22nd, 1916.

He was a wheeler attached to the 38th Bty. and was killed at Flers on December 22nd. I heard about it the same day. He was blown up by a shell while in his dug-out. His body is buried at Flers. I have not seen the grave. Gnr. J. Hilgate, 38 Bty. was an eye-witness of Small's casualty told me about it and could supply details.

SA.

Reference:- Gnr. B. Dargaville. 1733.38 Bty.
A.G.B.D.

Etaples
27.4.17.

38th Btty
A.F.A.

SMALL
A.E. 2688

"K. in A 22.12.16"

Wheeler Small A.E. was killed in action during the latter part of Dec. 16. He was at his gun when he was killed - a 4.2. H.E. exploded nearby - the first shell of a series the Huns put over (about 500 in all) and Small was hit by a fragment, death being instantaneous. The same shell wounded another chap and those were our only casualties for all the Huns 500. We buried him near his gun alongside another chap who belonged to the battery we took over from - there was no cemetery near. Captain Chaplain Stevenson read the burial service and all his mates were there and all the Btty officers. Before we left we saw a neat white cross erected. Chaplain Stevenson took all particulars of the grave and the G.R.U. or 3rd Echelon would have them. Wheeler Small was slight in stature - was of quiet disposition and was affectionately known to his mates as "Bluey" His death was a distinct loss to the btty and was very keenly felt by all ranks.

Cert. by letter from The OfficeR Commanding, (Major F.M. du Low)
38th Btty. A.F.A.
France.
23.4.17. S.

London
5.17.
3.5.17

10th Bde. A. F. A. 38th Bty. A. E. SMALL. 2688.

Killed 22.12.16. Details D & B.

Small was killed at Flers on the date mentioned whilst working in the gun pits. A shell came right into the pit he was in and killed him instantly. He was buried at Flers x in a grave close to the gun pits. A wooden cross with his name and No. was erected on the grave.

Reference: Gnr. R. J. Davies, 1475.

No.5 General, Rouen. 3.5.17.

H.M.

A. I. F.
A. F. A. 10 Bgde. 38 Bty. SHALL, A.E. 2688.
K. December 22nd, 1918.

He was killed at Flers on December 22nd by a shell which caught him just outside his dugout, killed outright by concussion. I was a few hundred yards away and heard about it the same day. His body was buried by Capt. Chaplain Stephenson, 10 Bgde. A.F.A. He could give all details. I came over in the same Reinf. from Sydney with him.
Reference:- Gnr. E.T. Smith. 2687. 38 Bty. 10 Bgde.

I have seen his grave. It is quite near the battery position opposite Bapaume, forward from Delville Wood. The grave is done up well with shell cases. There is a white cross on it with his name. Capt. Chaplain Stephenson, 10 Bgde. A.F.A. conducted the burial and could give any further details.
SA.
References- Sgt. J.W. Scott. 2264.
110 How. Bty. 10 Bgde.
A.G.B.D.

Etaples
4.5.17.

38th Bty. A. F. A.,
10th Bgde:

Small, A.E., 2688,

K. Dec. 22nd 1916. Det: D & B.

Informant states that on Dec. 22nd 1916 at Flers A.E. Small was at work repairing a gunpit when an enemy H.E. shell came over, and exploded, killing him instantly. Informant also states that Small was buried the same evening, in the left hand corner of the village of Flers by Capt. Chaplain Stevenson, 10th Brigade."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Nicknamed "Blusy", short and fair, curly reddish hair.

Informant:-- Fred D. Rees, 2143,
38th Australians,
Kitchener's Hosp:
Brighton.

Home address:-- Buttai St. Greta,
N. S. W.

14.5.17.
C. de H. Sapent.

Havre 16th May, 1917

[redacted]
AUSTRALIAN F.A.

SMALL, A.S. 2628
10th Brig., 38th Bty.

K. 22.1226. Det. D/B.

He was killed at Flers by a shell, and I have seen his grave. He was buried with another man just alongside one of our gun pits, 120 yards to the left of the main road in the village. The name is marked on the cross erected by his own battery.

Informant: Pte P. Coyle, 1739
110th Howitzers, 10th Brig.,
Australian F.A.;
H. S. Grantully Castle.

S.H.B.

P.1

S

RBS

A.F.A
A. I. F

Small,
Wheeler.A.E. 2688

"Killed in Action 22.12.16"

"Re your inquiries, concerning the death of Wheeler A.E.Small,
The poor Boy who was very well liked by all the boy's in the
Battery, was killed in Action,by a shell, at Flery, on Dec 22- 1916
Death was instantaneous, he was buried on the field with every
respect, I cannot say whether or not the grave was registered,
we erected a wooden cross, on which was printed his name, number,
rank and unit;
Description of deceased; Age about 27yrs,height 5ft 6 inc,
complexion fair,hair light and curly, Reg No 2688.
Hoping you will if possible, convey to inquirer deepest sympathy
from the Boys of the Batty,

Letter from,
E. C. Toole i407

2.5.1917.

S

London
18.5.17

10th Australian Field Artillery

Small, Pte. A.E., 2688,
38 Battery,

K. Dec. 22nd 1916.

"I was told by Sgt. Robertson of 38th Battery that Small was killed instantaneously at Flers by a shell on 22nd Dec. 1916, and was buried on the following day on the spot."

Eye Witness:

Description: Height 5ft.6ins, red hair, known as "Bluey", came from Redfern, Sydney, N.S.W., was married.

Informant:-- Pte. A.E. King, 1971,
10th Australian Field Artillery, 37 Bty.,
Boscombe Hospital.

25.5.17.
James Burns.

Suff
Pd S

37. PALACE GARDENS TERRACE,
KENSINGTON, W.

RECEIVED
17 MAR 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRAC

Card 14.3.17

2688 Gunner A.E. SMALL
38th Battery.
3rd Division
10th A.F.A.
killed Dec: 22nd in France
Del. D/Bwanted by
Mrs J. H. Small.
68 Pine Street
City
Sydney. S.D

Send on address

GUNNER. O'TOOLE

38 BATTERY

10 Bgde. AUS.F. ARTILLERY

A.I.F

B.E.F.

For

SMALL. A.E. 2688.

38 Btty.

10 Bgde.

AUS.F.ART.

A.I.F

B.E.F

K. 22. 12. 16

17. 4. 17

M.G.B

CAPT. de L O W.

38 BTTY.

10 BDGE. AUS. F. ART.

A I F.

B. E. F.

for

3688 Small A E.

38 BTTY. 10 BDE.

AUS. ARTILLERY.

A I. F

B E F.

K. 22. 12. 16

17. 4. 17

In. G. B.

FM 30/4

2688 A. ESMALL

38" Battery A.F.A.

38 Battery A FA 23/4/17

KA 22.12.16

S2.

The Sec.
Aust. Red X Society

Your letter of the 17" inst. Wheeler Small A.E. was killed in action during the latter part of December 1916.

He was at his gun when he was killed – a 4.2 H.E. exploded nearby – the first shell of a series the Hun put over (about 500 in all) – & Small was hit by a fragment death being instantaneous. The same shell wounded another chap & those were our only casualties for all the Huns 500

We buried him near his gun alongside another chap who belonged to the battery we took over from – there was no cemetery near

Captain Chaplain Stevenson read the burial

service & all his mates
were there; & all the Bty officers
Before we left we
saw a neat white cross
erected.

Chaplain Stevenson took
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Wheeler Small was
slight in stature - was of
quiet disposition - & was
affectionately known to his
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His death was a distinct
loss to the battery & was
very keenly felt by all
ranks

Yours
J Hedelow (F.M. du Low)
Major
commanding
38 Bty A.F.A.

1st May 1917.

Major F.M.duLow,
38th Battery, A.F.A.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of April 23rd in answer to our enquiry for - 2688 A.E. Small, 38th Bty, A.F.A. The information you have sent will be of much assistance and the relatives we know will be comforted to learn, through you, that death was instantaneous, while they will greatly prize your words of appreciation.

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary

Ack
FM 11.5.17

2 : 5 : 1917 In the Field

To Miss Deakin

Re Your inquiries concerning the Death of Wheeler A. E. Small, the Poor Boy Who was very well liked by All the Boys in the Battery, was killed in action, by a shell at Flers, on Dec 22-1916. Death was instantaneous, He was buried on the Field with every respect, I cannot say Either or not the Grave was registered, We erected a wooden Cross, on which was printed His Name, number, rank & Unit; Description of Deceased, Age about 24 yrs, height 5' 6" Complexion fair, Hair light & Curly, Reg No 2688

Hoping You will of Possible convey to Inquirer deepest Sympathy from the Boys of the Btty, Yours Truly, E. C. Toole

268a/ Wheeler A. E. SMALL

KA 22.12.16

AFA

S. 2 (d)

14.5.17

1407. Pte. O'Toole
56. Battery
A.F.A.
B.E.F.

Dear Pte. O'Toole,

Very many thanks for your letter of May 2nd in answer to our enquiry about 2688 A.E. Small A.F.A.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance, and we shall be very pleased to convey your expressions of sympathy to the relatives who will greatly appreciate them.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully

V. D.

Secretary