

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

2988 Private  
William Clarence  
Small

48th Battalion



2521001B

Havre, 48  
Australians, 48.

20th, September 1918.

Small, W. C. No. 2988.

K, April 5/Dets. D/B.

He was in C, Company. He was a stretcher-bearer. At 11-30 on April 5th, on the Amiens Road, just outside of Albert, we were on our way to reinforce the 77th Division. I was lying on a piece of ground and I saw 5 S/Bearers of C, Company, including Small carrying a wounded man. A 5.9 got the whole lot of them killing Small and 4 others and one only escaping wounded. The bodies were buried at Eniscourt, a village near Albert, where we have a cemetery. I have not seen the graves.

Inf:- F. Boylan, 2316.  
Australians, 48, C.  
Hospital Ship

JHD

RRB

Havre.

29th. October. 1918.

48th. Australians.

Small, W. C. 2988.

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

I knew Private William Clarence Small, C. 12. He worked with me as a S/Bearer and was the best friend I had. I have written to his Mother, Ardath, Bruce Rock, West Australia and told her all, I knew about him. I did not see him killed but I know he was in a dug out with Corporal Whittaker and two others behind Dernacourt close to the Albert/Amiens Road which was blown up by a shell and none of the bodies were recovered. This was in April 1918 and we held the ground. I can point out the spot on the Map.

Inf:- L/Corporal. G. P. Lovell. 42939.  
48th. Australians. C. 12.  
Australian Conv. Camp  
Rouelles.

RDM.

OP

A.I.F. 48th Battn.

SMALL

W.C. 2988.

"Killed 5.4.18."

He was a Stretcher Bearer in C. Coy, 9th Platoon, and had gained the M.M. He was 5ft.6ins. dark, thickset and about 25. At Dernancourt on April 5th 1918 at 10 A.M. a number of Stretcher Bearers were sheltering from heavy shell fire in a sap in the support lines. I was with them when a shell killed Small. Corporal T.P. Whittaker, Pte. Nolan and Pte. O'Brien. All were killed instantly. They were buried together at Place of Casualty on the Battle field and their rifles were put up for crosses. Fritz drove us back that day and held the ground for two days.

Informant:- H.S. Bainbridge, 3393,  
C. Company,  
Headquarters.

W.M.K.  
London  
6.12.18.  
J.E.A.

Note:- Later L/Cpl. W.J. Hayball 1094, C. Coy,  
11th Platoon, gave similar evidence. P.  
W.M.K.

A.I.F. 48th Battn.

SMALL

W.C. 2988.

"Killed 5.4.18."

He was a Stretcher Bearer in C. Company. He was 5ft.10ins dark, and about 24. He came from Western Australia. Between Albert and Dernancourt on April 5th 1918, at 9 a.m., we were in close support lines, when he, Cpl. Tom Whitaker, O'Brien, and Nolan, Stretcher Bearer, all of C. Company, were blown to pieces by a high explosive shell. No part of them could be found for burial.

Informant:- J.E. Merifield, 2453,  
48th Battn. C. Coy,

W.M.K.  
London  
9.12.18.  
J.E.A.

P.