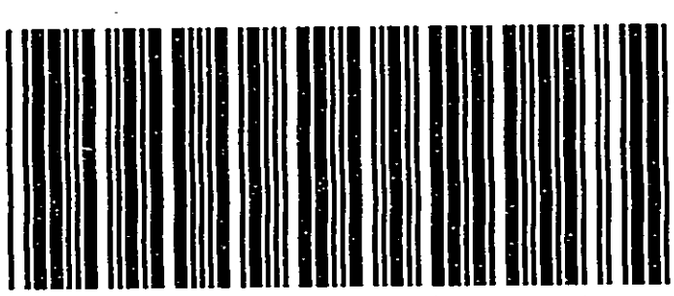
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

870 Sergeant Gilbert Talbot

52nd Battalion



2690205O

A.I.F.
52nd Btn.

TALBOT
Gilbert 870

Killed in Action 4.9.16.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
22.10.19.

P & B'logne.

A.I.F.
52nd. Battn.

TALBOT,
Sgt. G. 870

" Missing 4.9.16."

Now reported Killed in Action 4.9.16.
Cert.by A.I.F. Headquarters 15.5.17.

London.
19.5.17.

P.

52nd A. I. F. G. TALBOT, 870.

Missing 4.9.16.

At Mouquet Farm I saw him killed by a shell during the attack. I do not know if his body was recovered. He was a very big man standing about 6 ft.2, thick set, brown haired and aged about 28.

Reference: Sgt. C. D. Huxley, 2243.

No.6 General, Rouen. 12.1.17.

FS.

P.

52nd Australian I. F. Talbot, Sergt. G. 870,

(M. Sept. 4th/16)

"I was told by our Coy Q.M. that Jack McCrae (52. D.) that George Talbot (52. D. XIV), had been severely wounded in the stomach, on Sept. 4th at Mouquet Farm, and that he had seen him at the Dressing Station. The doctor there gave very little hope of his recovery. I was told this on 5th Sept. We do not know what happened to George Talbot afterwards."

Eye-witness: No, told by C.Q.M. Jack McCrae (52. D.) (Informant did not know his No.)

Informant: Pte Herbert Dalton, 1495,
52nd A.I.F., D. Coy, XV Plat,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.

Home address:
C/o Mrs. W. McQuade,
Cookernup,
Western Australia.

copy Sgt. Tne

18th January 1917.
Hilda M. Pickerd-Cambridge. Written Q.M. McCrae 25.1.17. P

52nd Batt.
A.I.F.,

TALBOT
Sgt. G 870

"Missing 4/9/16"

In reference to your letter of inquiry into the circumstances of Sgt.Talbot's death Reg.no 870. Sgt. G.Talbot was a great pal of mine, having been soldiering together for over two years. He was a well built fellow with rather fair hair about 5ft9ins height.I last saw Sgt. G.Talbot on the 3rd of Sept. I came through the charge and got a wound in the jaw about 1 p.m. on the 3rd and I went and saw Sgt.Talbot before I went out of the trench. He was well dug in and had fair shrapnel cover, the only thing I can account for it is that they must have got buried by a big shell. There were two in the same dugout and both are missing. The latter being L/Cpl K Randell. I think this is all the information I can give you regarding Sgt. G.Talbot. I have been asked to answer your letter by Q.M.S. MacKae as he was not in the attack.

Cert. by letter from Sgt. A.Cook
52nd Batt. A.I.F.,
France.
8.2.17

London
23.2.17

P.

Havre 18th April, 1917.

52nd AUSTRALIANS TALBOT, Sgt. G. 870

M. 4.3.16.

This Sergeant was in A Co. I was told by Pte. Cossum of A Co. that this sergeant was killed.

Informant: Pte C. Chatwin, 3458
52nd Australians, A Co., 1st Pltn.,
H. S. Panama.

Pte Cossum
Written
24. 4. 17
M. G. B

GRB

P

1 Copy B'logue

52nd Batt.
C.Coy.,
A.I.F.,

TALBOT
Sgt. G. 870

"Missing Sept. 4/16"

I saw him killed at Hoquet Farm, Somme, and I was wounded at the same time. It was not Sept. 4th but the 3rd. He was late of the 12th Batt. Original man. When he dropped a new man took his place, whose name I do not know. He was laid in a shell hole in No Man's Land. He was in the 14th pltn. perhaps the 13th but I think 14th.
Eye-witness: Yes
Description: A big nice looking chap, dark.

Reference:- F.S.Bone 2863
52nd Batt. late 12th Batt. A.I.F.,
Verne Citadel, D Coy.
Portland.

London
C.5.17.
F.E.B.

S.

A.I.F. 52.

TALBOT, Sgt G. 870.
ALLEN, Cpl. H.B. 3548.
RANDELL, L/C R.K. 3393

K. Sept 4th 1916. Dets D/B.

About 5 a.m. on Sunday morning Sept 3rd we made a charge at Mouquet Farm. Six of us got too far, and when coming back as it was getting light and sniping was heavy the Sgt told us to dig in and wait till dark. So we got into shell holes, three in each, about 80 yards from our front line. When night came we were told not to go into our lines but stay as an advanced guard. About 3 p.m. on Monday afternoon we in my shell hole got permission to take in a wounded corporal, but the three in the other hole, Sgt Talbot, Cpl. Allen and L/C Randell stayed. They never came back and I think a shell must have got them. At the enquiry I was the last that had seen anything of them.

Inf: Cpl. J.R.Brown. 5049. D.
No. 32 Stationary
BOURGHNE. 11.6.17.

JT

52nd Battn.
A. I. F.

Talbot.
Sgt. G. 870.

"Killed in Action 4.9.16."

Concerning Sgt. Talbot. We went over the top on Sept 6th, 1916. and he reached the trench we took, and on the 8th Sept. in the afternoon he got killed by a shell. I was kneeling down in the trench and he was standing over me and he fell straight down over me dead. His height was about 6 feet or 6 feet 1" , he was a bit on the fair complexion and a solid built man.

Letter from:-
Pte. Eric Cossum.
No 10 Hut
Westham Camp.
Weymouth. 23.6.17.

London.
6.7.17.

P.

copy B'logue

52. Australians. Talbot, G. 870.

(M. Sept: 4/16.)

Informant states that on Sunday 3rd. Sept: 1916 at Mouquet Farm, Sergt. (G) Talbot was hit in the leg by a shell, and in the right side of the abdomen.. He was brought back and later when Dalton enquired after him he was told by the Doctor (name not remembered) that he had died just outside the dressing station. There was another Talbot in the Company, but he had only just arrived. Dalton had known Sergt. "Bert" Talbot for 18 months.

Reference:-- Herbert Dalton 1095,
52nd Australians. D Coy, XV Pl.
3rd. Southern General Hospital,
Oxford.

Home address:-- (Sister's) Mrs. M. McQuade,
Cookernup,
West Australia.

Oct: 30th
Pember.

1 copy Bloque.

MM

A.I.F. 52nd Btn

TALBOT
G. 870

"K. Sept. 4/16"

We were in enemy's front line trench, which we had taken at Mouquet Farm on 3rd Sept. About 11 o'clock in morning, 4th Sept, enemy opened heavy bombardment about 11-30 a.m. I was buried by a shell but soon recovered. Talbot was killed outright by same shell & I noticed a man Allen, bleeding badly from same burst, blood was running down his arm. Allen was using a L.gun at the time. Talbot was an M/Police Sgt. in 52nd & I remember him in the 12th Btn also. Was a big man ~~left~~ 6' or more & wellbuilt. The Canadians relieved us on night of 4th Sept. Trench was then full of dead men, our own & the Scottish Canadians, who had reinforced us. I was a private at the time.

Informant - Sgt. F.J.Fairbrother 2691
52nd Btn A.Coy.
P/War. P.

A.D.G.,
London
J.E.A.
5-2-19

Pte Cossum
A Coy
52 Batt
A.I.F
B.E.F.

For
Sgt. G. Talbot 870
52 Batt
A.I.F
B.E.F

M. 4. 9. 16

24. 4. 17

M. G. B

23rd February. /7.

Dear Sgt. Cook,

Very many thanks for your letter of 8th inst. in answer to our enquiry for -

No.870 Sgt. G. TALBOT 52nd Battalion A.I.F.

The description you have sent will be of much assistance.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

PD

SECRETARY.

Sgt. A. Cook,
52nd Aust.Inf.Battn.,
B. E. F.

30th January -7.

Q. J. McCrae,
D. Company.
52nd Australian Infantry Battn.
B. E. F.

No. 870.

Sergeant G. Talbot, 52nd Battalion A.I.F. reported

Missing 4:9:16.

Sgt. G. Talbot.

Ack
Flu. 21.7.17

8-2-17.
52 France

Dear Sir

in reference to your letter of inquiry into the circumstances of Sgt Talbots death Reg No 870. Sgt G Talbot was a great Pal of mine. having been soldiering together for over two years. He was a well built fellow with rather fair hair about 5 feet o.g. in height. I last saw of Sgt G Talbot was on the 3rd of Sept. I came through the charge and I was wound in the faw about 1 P.M. on the 3rd. I went and saw Sgt Talbot before I went out of the trench. he was well dug in, and had fair sharpnel cover. the only thing I can account for it is that they must have got Burried by a big shell.
There were two in the same dugout. and both are missing. The latter being Lcpl K. Randell.
I think this is all the information I can give you regarding Sgt G Talbot. I have been asked to answer your letter by G. M. S. Mastrae as he was in the attack.

I am Yours Sincerely
Sergt A. Crook

Sgt
870. G. Talbot
52 Battn A/F

M. 4.9.16

P3

23 6-17
No 10 Hut A Grade
Westham Camp
Weymouth

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter that I have just received concerning Sgt Talbot, we went over the top on Sept 6th 1916 & he reached the trench we took ~~[illegible]~~ & on the 8th ft. the afternoon he got killed by a shell I was kneeling down in the trench & he was standing over me & he fell straight down over me dead, his height was about 6ft or 6ft, & he was a bit on the fair complexion & a solid built man

Hoping this will be of some help to you

I remain
yours truly
Pte Eric Cossum

G
870 Sgt. TALBOT 52

~~M.4.9.16~~

KA 4.9.16. P 3

P.