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

8983 Private
William Gilbert Tait

20th Battalion



2690112L

A.I.F. 20th Battn. TAIT W.G.8983A. Pte.

"Killed 11.8.18"

Buried at Warfusie. Soldiers Grave.

The Maire of Vignacourt has arranged for a Commemeration Ceremony to be held in the British Military Cemetery, Vignacourt, this afternoon at 1430.

The children of the village will place wreaths and flowers on the graves of English and Australian Soldiers buried there, and the graves are to be handed over to the care of these children for the future.

Delegates from the French Government and the French Army will be present and will address the gathering.

The Battalion will form up on road in front of B.O.R. ready to move off at 1400. Dress - belt and side arms.

All available men to attend this parade.

The Maire to the Cemetery the following will be the order of the procession:-

Australian Troops. (17th, 18th, 20th Bns; 5th A.L.T.M. Bty, Bde. H.Q., and Field Ambulance.

School Children.
Massed Bands.
Military and Civil Authorities.
French Soldiers.
Civil Population.

At the ceremony the "Funeral March" will be played while the schoolchildren place flowers on the graves. The Authorities will make speeches, after which the massed bands will play the "Marseillaise" and the "National Anthem" then the "Last Post" will be sounded.

Letter from:- The Adjutant,
20th Aust.Bn.
Headquarters.

London
23.1.19.

Ha( )

12th Octr 1918.

Australians. 20.

Tait W.G. No. 3983 A.

K. 11th August 1918. Det D/5.

In C.Company, he was a signaller. About 9 a.m. on the 11th August we had to join a flank to protect A B & D Companies and got outflanked doing it. This was at Proyart on the South of the Somme. Tait was near me and I saw a bit of a Minenwerfer get him straight through the head. He died in a minute or two. Was never conscious. His body was carried to Proyart, a small village, where we buried all killed that day. I have not seen his grave.

Inf:- Pte J.S. Christiansen No. 756 A.
Co.Co Hospital Ship.

JHD.

5.

PP.

20th. BATTALION A.I.F.
late 20th. Army Service Corps.

TAIT W. G. Driver.
No. 8983A.

Killed 11/8/18.

Informant describes Tait as about 5 feet 10 inches, dark, and stoutly built who was a rough rider and came from somewhere in Queensland.

Out the other side of Warfusee whilst, attacking he was shot through the head by Machine Gun fire and killed instantly. I helped to carry him back two miles and he was buried there. He was a good soldier and well liked.

Informant:- Private W. Hannan, 699,
20th. Battalion.

Private address:- 333 Glebe Road, Glebe.

H.B.F.
No. 21 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, George's Heights, MOSMAN.
5/3/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

20th Battalion.
(late 20 A.S.C.)

TAIT, W.G. Dvr. No.8983A.

"Killed 11/8/18."

We were in action in the last big offensive; we topped off on the 8/8/18, and on the 11/8/18, we were digging in in the trench. Tait was shot by a sniper, through the head, he died instantly, and was buried in the field. I saw his grave.

He came from Queensland, and enlisted in Sydney. I was with him all along, till a little before his death. We were great mates.

Informant - Driver E.J.Love, No.8917,
14th Army Service Corps.

Private Address - 457A King Street,
Newtown.

S. ed. Staff

G.S.A.
A.I.F.Furlough Bureau,
Sydney.
27/3/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.