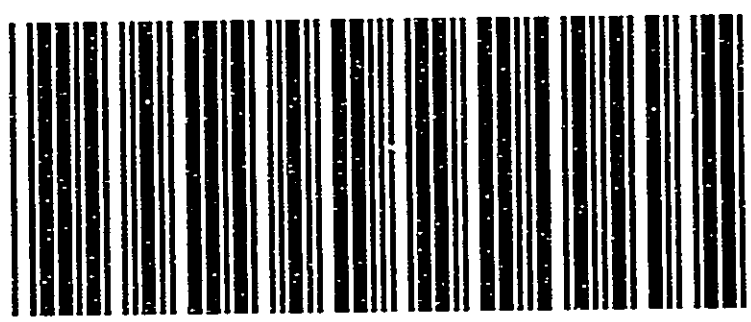
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6017 Private
George Ernest Elston

9th Battalion



1010709I

9th A. I. F. G. E. Elston, 6017.

Missing 7.5.17.

I was in a bombing stunt with him on May 7th in the Hindenberg line at Bullecourt. We had bombed the enemy out of the trench, of which he had held part, and were holding the whole line when the enemy turned his Artillery on us. I was in the next bay to Elston and saw a shell land there. I went into his bay a few minutes after. I saw Elston and 4 others dead, and several wounded. The others killed included Cameron, G.Smith and T.G.W-----. Among the wounded were C.Robertson, Macgregor(Bugler) and McAllister. Elston's body was badly knocked about and he must have been killed instantly. Elston came over with me in the A.50 "Itona" leaving Brisbane on Aug.8th,1916. He came from Cloncurry district. He was a miner, aged about 25, single, fair and a bit freckly, inclined to be stout and a trifle bandy. His No. is near mine.

Reference: (Signed) P.Doyle, 6011,
No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 16.8.17.

Written Pte Robertson
McGregor
McAllister
S 1.9.17

B, FEP.

9th Batn
A.I.F.

Elston
G.E. 6017

"Missing 7.5.17."

I saw him dead at Legnicourt. I did not see the casualty but I saw him soon after he was killed. He was caught by a shell-death instantaneous. I saw his grave at Legnicourt and it was marked by a cross bearing his particulars. I knew him well, he came over the from Australia with me.

Witness:-
Pte. J. McCarthy. 6131
9th Battn D. Coy., 16th Pltn.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
25.9.17.

B

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON. 2003/3/19

(COPY

Statement made by No.6131 Pte McCarthy J.P. 9th Btn

re No.6017 Pte Elston G.E. 9th Btn
Missing 6.5.17

I last saw Private Elston G.E. No.6017 of the 9th Battalion in the trenches at Lagnescourt, on the 6th day of May 1917. He was one of a working party on duty in the trenches when an enemy shell landed close to him; he was killed outright. I saw Private Elston G.E. no.6017 of the 9th Battalion picked up dead and saw the remains buried in the spot and marked with a wooden cross with particulars marked thereon.

Dated at Littlemore Camp, this 11th day of October 1917.

(Sgd) J.P. McCarthy

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) G. Gully.
Lt.

9th Battn
A.I.F.

Elston
G.E. 6017

"Missing 7.5.17."

Re 6017 G.E. Elston 9th Battn A.I.F. and I will tell you all I know about him he is a man about 5'8", I should think, brown hair and moustache. He was with me in a part of a trench at Bullecourt. There were three of us including Elston standing in a hole on 7th May when a shell came over and knocked the three of us out, Elston and the other lad was dead both shot through the head I think, because we all got hit fairly high. Elston came over to England with the 19th Reinforcement of the 9th Battn but he was'nt long in France. I think he joined the Battn inApril. That is all the information I can give you about Elston he is dead alright. Would you mind sending me his Private address as I expect to be going back to Queensland Shortly and I could call on his relations. I knew him when he came into camp in Australia.

Letter from:- J. McGregor. (Bayles) 6285
9th Battn A.I.F.
A Group Verne Citadel.
Portland. England

London.
2-.9.17.

B

9th Battn.
A.I.F.

Elston.
G. E. 6017

"Missing 7.5.17"

Re Pte.G.E.Elston. The same person was killed in Bullecourt and was seen by our Platoon Cpl.before dying. His description is, height 5' 7", fair hair, and about 11 stone inweight. Nobody seems to know about the colour of his eyes, so this is the best I can tell you about the late Pte.Elston.

Letter from:-
Pte.D.McAllister 2177
9th Battn.
10.10.17.

B.

London.
23.10.17.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON. 2003/3/19

C O P Y

Statement made by No.6086 Pte ROBERTSON C. 9th Btn

re No.6017 Pte ELSTON G.E. 9th Btn
Missing 7/5/17

I was in B?Coy 9th Battalion A.I.F. No.6017 Private Elston G.E. was in the same platoon. On the morning of 7th May 1917, Private Elston and myself were in the same bay of fire trench at Bullecourt. A shell fell and exploded about six feet behind us. Private Elston and myself and others were hit by fragments of shell. I saw Private Elston walking towards dressing station along with Private Smith of same company. That was the last I saw of him. I have since heard on two or three occasions that private Elston died.

B Ca
Sgt

not sent over

Dated at Verne Citadel this 11th day of November 1917.

(Sgd) Chas Robertson

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) J.S. Boylan.
Capt.
9th Btn

Wounded 7/5/17

A.I.F. 9th Btn

ELSTON
G.E. 6017

"MISSING"

Killed in action 7-5-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 28-12-17

B

LONDON
2-1-18

Ack. 15-9-17
6017

G.E. ELSTON
9th Batt. A.I.F.
No 6285.
M7-5-17 B.
4

12. 9. 17

Pte J. McGregor.
9th Batt. A.I.F.
A Group Verne Citadel
Portland Eng.

Dear Miss,

In answer to your letter enquiring for 6017. G. E. Elston 9th Batt. A.I.F. I will tell you all I know about him he is a man about 5 ft 8 in I should think brown hair and moustache, He was with me in a part of the trench at Bullecourt The was three of us including Elston standing in a hole on 9th May when a shell came over and knocked the three of us out, Elston and the other lad was dead, both hit through the head I think, because we all got hit fairley high, Elston came over to England ~~about~~ with the 12th reinforcements of the 9th Batt., but he wasn't long in France, I think he joined the Battallion up. Appril, That is

all the information I can give you about Claton, he is dead allright, would you mind sending me his private address, as I expect to be going back to Queens and shortly, and I could call on his relatives, I knew him when he came into cash in Australia

Yours Sincerely

Bryler J. McGregor

Rank

N of K.

9 C

18.9.17

Bugler J.McGREGOR
9th. Battn. A.I.F. A.Group. Verne Citadel Portland

Dear Pte. McGregor,

We have to thank you for your letter of 12th. inst. in reply to our enquiry, concerning: 6017 G.P.ELSTON 9th. Battn. A.I.F.

The information and details which you have sent us will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers.

We regret to learn that you have been wounded too, and sincere hope that you are making a good recovery.

It is now against Head-quarters regulations for us to supply the address of the next of kin of any soldier therefore we would sugges that on your return to Australia you should enquire at the Red Cros Office, Brisbane, Queensland, they will then give you the informati you require. We are sure that Pte. Elston's people will appreciate visit from you very much. With every good wish,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

6017 G.E. ELSTON
9 Batt
M7-5-17 (d) 10-10-17
B4 France

Dear Miss Deaton

A short note in answer to your's inquiring about Pte S. E. Elston. Well the same person was Killed in Bullecourt & was seen by our Platoon Corporal before dying, his description is height 5 ft 4 ins, Fair hair & about 11 stone in weight nobody seems to know about the colour of his eyes, so this is the best I can tell you about the late Pte Elston

Your Friend

2177 Pte D. McAllister
9th Batt