

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

**3870 Private
Malcolm Phipps
Higham**

51st Battalion



1330513G

1st Battn.
A.I.F.

HIGHAM.

M. 3870.

"Killed in Action" 24-4-18.

He was in C. Company and I saw him killed at Villiers Bretonneux, when he was hit by a piece of bomb on the side of chest and was killed instantly. We were attacking at time of casualty about 11 p.m. on April 24th 1918. I knew him well, and he came from Claremont, Western Australia. I was wounded the same time and cannot give any details of his burial nor can I refer to anyone.

W. Omer.
London.
25-6-18.
H.C.

Informant: - Pte Cock A.W. 3362.
C. Coy. 51st Battn.
MC 7 A.A.H. BARTFORD

P. I.

Navra.

1st. July. 1918.

51st. Australians.

Higham. M. 3870.

K. April. 24/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew him well; he came from Claremont, & was a Son of a Pastoralist. On April 24th. about 10. p.m. we attacked. Higham was in the same Section as I. We got about 2 or 300 yards when he was hit by a M. G. Bullet & killed right out. I saw this & I heard that he was afterwards buried in the open in front of Villiers Brettonaux.

Inf:- Private. G. Moore. 3956.
51st. Australians. C. 9.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

CWGC.

P.1

Class. Secret.
A.P.P.

HIGHAM.
M. 3870.

"Killed 84-4-18"

I knew Higham well and made enquiries and found that he was killed in the hop over at Villers Bretonneux. This was all I heard - heard nothing of his burial.

Informant:- Jacoby.T.G.3885.
51st Battn.D.Co.
Hut 9.WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand.
London.
8-8-18.
J.R.A.

P I

51st Batn.,
A.T.P.

HIGHAM,
M. 3870.

"killed 24-4-18."

"On April 25th 1918 we were doing a hop-over at Villers Bretonneux, pushing back the Hun, when Higham was killed by a bullet. He was buried where he fell and his grave is marked by a cross with his name and regiment, and the date when he fell. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- No.

Description:- 5'9" or 10" fair, 20 years old,
curly hair, clean shaven.

Home address:-
Conger Street,
Hawthorne,
West Aust.

Informant:- Schmidt, Sydney, 4026, Pte.,
(Intelligent),
51st Batn., D.Coy. XV Platoon,
Section III, War Hospital,
Exeter.

London,
E. Benson,
17-12-18.
M. I. S.

P. I.

A.I.F. 51st Btn

HIGHAM
Malcolm 3870

"K/A. 24-4-18"

Buried on Field Villers Bretonneux at U. S. a. 1.5. sheet 62d. S.E.
A.I.F. Hqs list for Lieut. Spedding.

London
13-5-19

P.I.

F.G.Lazenby, Esq,
Inquiry Bureau,
39, Broad Street,
Bristol

Sgt.V.Bateman,
S.M.O. Staff,
No 4 Command Depot,
Hurdcott, Wilts.

July 29th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for -
3870 Pte.H.HIGHAM. 51st Battalion, A.I.F.
We beg to inform you we have received some unofficial information
confirming previous reports we have sent you.

3956 Pte.C.Moore interviewed while in a convalescent Camp
in France states that he knew Pte. Higham well and that he came
from Claremont and was the son of a Pastoralist. When they were
attacked about 10 p.m. on 24-4-18 they were in the same section.
They got about 300 yards when Pte.Higham was hit by a machine
gun bullet and killed instantaneously. Informant saw the
casualty and heard he was afterwards buried in the open in front
of Villers Bretonneux.

Trusting this information may be of some assistance.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Wm Baker

A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION
FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

OFFICIALLY ACTING FOR

32ND SOUTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, BRISTOL

AND

THE BEAUFORT WAR HOSPITAL, BRISTOL

AND THEIR

AUXILIARY AND SUBSIDIARY HOSPITALS.

TELEPHONE Nos. {4485.
4486.

INQUIRY BUREAU,
39 BROAD STREET,
BRISTOL.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE HON. SECRETARY.

QUOTING _____ SECTION, REFERENCE, No. 1346

—25th. May— 1918

PS

No. 3870, Pte. Malcolm Higham, 51, A. I. F., C Company.

The above named is officially reported as killed in action on the 24th. April last. Details of death and burial are required, would you kindly see his name is inserted in the Official List and let us have any reports that you may obtain.

J. H. Hazenby

For Inquiry Bureau.

The Australian Red Cross,
36, Grosvenor Place,
London, S. W.

P. G. Lazenby Esq.,
Enquiry Bureau,
39, Broad Street,
Bristol.

28th June 1918

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of 25/5/18 enquiring for 3870 Pte. H. Higham 51st Battalion, A.I.F., we beg to inform you of an unofficial report of his death which we have now received from one of the men in his unit. 3382 Pte. A. W. Cook interviewed recently at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital Dartford stated that he knew Pte. Higham well and that he came from Claremont Western Australia. On April 24th. at about 11 p.m. they were attacking at Villers Bretonneux and Pte. Higham was wounded in the side of the chest by a piece of a bomb and killed instantaneously. Our informant was wounded at the same time and is therefore unable to give information as to his burial.

We are continuing our enquiries and will do our utmost to obtain further particulars as soon as we do so, we will immediately advise you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

D. F.

F.G. Lazenby, Esq.,
Inquiry Bureau,
39 Broad Street,
Bristol

Sgt. V. Bateman,
S.M.O. Staff,
No 4 Command Depot.
Hurdcott.

January 21st, 1919.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for 3870
Pte. MALCOLM HIGHAM. 51st Battalion. A.I.F. We beg to
inform you we have received the following unofficial
report from 4026 Pte. Sydney Schmidt of the same Unit
who states that on April 28th, 1918. Pte. Higham was
killed instantaneously by a bullet at Villers Bretonneux when they
were pushing back the Hun, he was buried where he fell and the
grave was marked with a cross with the date name and number on it.

Hoping this may be of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

(HLSN) Vera Dean (per G.L.G.)
Secretary.

Sgt. V. Bateman,
Enquiry Bureau,
39 Broad Street,
Bristol.

S. M. O Staff.
H. 4 Command Depot.
Hurd colt.

F. G. Lazenby, Esq.
Enquiry Bureau,
39 Broad Street,
Bristol.

May 15th, 1919.

Dear Sir,

We beg to advise you that 8870 Pte. HAROLD RICHMAN.
51st Battalion. A.I.F. who was killed in action on 24.4.18. is now
officially reported to have been buried on the field at Villers
Bretonneux, the registration number of his grave being U.S.A.1.5.
Sheet 62.d.3.W. Should we obtain further particulars we will
advise you.

With sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

HWS?

SECRETARY.

Please retype one
copy for Sergt Bateman.