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

266 Private William Frederick Erickson

38th Battalion



1020205A

38th Btn.

ERICKSON, W. F.
Pte. 266

Killed in action 9/6/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 8 ins. well built, fair complexion, known as "Bill". He was an original man and he embarked in the transport "Reunio". Casualty was advancing at Messines and had got half way to the 1st objective and was lying in a shell hole. I was alongside of him. He was sniped through the forehead above the left eye. This took place at about 7 a.m. I went back at 4 o'clock to see him but he had just died. I was relieved that same night and I do not know if he was ever buried. I was an eye-witness."

Informant:- L. W. Campbell,
246

Private address:-
Echuca, P.O.

T.C.F.
3/5/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

38th A.I.F.

Erickson, Pte. W.F. 266
A.Co. 11 Pl.

(K. June 7-9./17)

"I was on the spot at the right of Messines, on the field, on June 9/17 when Pte. Erickson was buried with six others. He was killed by a machine gun bullet."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Erickson was a farmer at home, came also from near Elmore, Victoria, fair, with curling hair.

Informant:- Sgt.Major W.J.Durward, 262
38th A.I.F. A.Co.
Wellington Road Military Auxiliary Hospt.

Home address: Letters to be sent to the Unit.

Oct. 30
H.E.Phillips.

38th Batn
A.I.F.

ERICKSON
W.F. 265

"Killed June 7-9.1917"

Erickson was believed to be killed in same place as Cpl. Dutton (satisfied Enqy) and is probably buried at the same place but I can't say definitely.

Witness:-
Lieut. Kennedy
38 Bn. Officers Mess.
Westham

W.A.Rand
London.
19.11.17.

M

38th Bttn,
A.I.B.

ERICKSON,
W.F. 266.

"Killed 7-9.6.17 Det.D/B"

Erickson was one of my mates and was killed on the morning of 7th by bullet wound. I saw him killed. He is buried where he fell about 100 yards from Bethlehem Farm on right of Messines. I cannot say if cross erected as I was not there after he was ~~kill~~ buried though present at burial.

Witness:- R.J.B. Lucas, 325.
38th Bttn, A.Coy,
Hut 17, Westham.

W.A.Rand,
7.12.17.
London
26.12.17.

M.

38th Btn.

ERICKSON, W. F.
Pte. 266.

Killed in action 9/6/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 6 ins. well built, fair complexion, about 28 years of age, known as "Bill". He was an original man and he embarked in the troopship "Reunio". Casualty was advancing at Messines. I was in the same advance. Just before we came to the last objective Casualty was hit by a sniper's bullet and died three hours later. I came back to where he had fallen and put a shade over his face and tried to give him a drink of water but he could not drink. The bullet had struck his chin and travelled up through his face coming out of his head. I came back later but Casualty had died in the meantime. I do not know if Casualty was buried as I was wounded that same day myself."

Informant:- Private A. E. Judd,
No. 309, 38th Btn.

Private address:-
18 Olinda Street,
Bendigo.

W.C.F.
27/9/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE