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

2990 Corporal
Cyril Wilton Akhurst

55th Battalion



0040305C

55th A. I. F.,
Infantry

Akhurst, Cpl. C.W , 2990,
B. Company,

K. May 10/17. Det: D./B.

"At Bullecourt on May 10th we were holding the line in a first line trench. He had just been relieved from our observation post and were lying down in the dug-out, when a shell came over and buried two men, Akhurst and another Lewis Gunner called O'Shea, 4939, B.Coy. VI Pl: We dug them out at once but both were dead, killed by shell fumes and dirt. We buried them where they were killed, and the Battalion put up a cross on the grave with the 2 men's names etc., on it. Akhurst was attached to VI Pltn."

Eye Witness: Yes.
Description: Rather short and thin, very fair, 21-22, single, known as "Aky."

Informant:-- Pte. T. McCrory, 1694,
50th A.I.F., Infantry, B.Coy. VI Pl:
5E Southern General Hosp:
Milton, Milton, Southsea.

9.8.17. Home address:-- Warberton, Victoria, Australia.
Elsie C. Hughes.

55 Bl[illegible]
A.I.F.

ARHURST
Cyril Wilton 2990
not 299

"K. in A. 10-5-17"

Killed in Action 10-5-17
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 20-6-17.

S.

London
30-6-17

A.I.F. 55. AKHURST, C.W. 2990.

K. May 10th 1917. Dets D/B.

This man was killed at night time having just taken over the Lewis Gun with another man called Pte O'Shea. A shell came over and buried the two of them. I helped to dig them both out and they were buried in the sunken road close to where they were killed in front of Norsuil close to Bullecourt..

Inf: Cpl. Penny. 2415.
On Leave.
BOULOGNE. 21.7.17.

EFN

S

Havre 19th July, 1917.

55th AUSTRALIANS AKHURST, C.W. 2990

K..1C.8.17. Det. D/E.

He was in B Co., 6th platoon. I had known him for about two months. He was Corporal in Charge of the Lewis Gun Section in which I was, and I therefore saw him every day and knew him quite well. I saw his grave about a mile to the right of Bullecourt in a Sunken Road (this road comes out from Bullecourt). There is a village in the hands of the Germans opposite it. I do not remember its name. A trench runs from Noreuil past the grave to Bullecourt. There is a cross with his name, battalion, and number on it. I could point out the place.

Informant: Pte. J. Gorman, 2417
55th Australians, B Co., 5th Bltn.,
Australian Camp, Boulogne.

CHR

S.

Havre 6th August.1917.

55th AUSTRALIANS AKHURST, C.W. 2990

K. May 10th. 1917.Det. D/E.

He was in B. Co., I believe VI. Bltn. Akhurst was a Corpl. I only knew Akhurst since he joined up. At Bullecourt on the 10th May we were holding the line. A shell dropped in the dug-out where Akhurst was and buried him. I was told this by Lt.L. Guillaume of the 55th Batt., B.Co., VIII. Bltn.who was with the Battalion when I left about the 1st August. Guillaume also told me that he helped to dig Akhurst out, and that he was dead when they got to him. Guillaume told me they buried him near where he was killed and that a cross was put up with his name etc on it.

Informant: Corpl. J. Ainsworth 3061
55th. Australians, B.Co., VIII. Bltn.
Havre Hospital

HEG.

S.

Havre 10th August.1917.

55th AUSTRALIANS AKHURST, C.?. 2990

K. May 10th.1917. Det. D/B.

I knew a Bill Akhurst who was a Machine gunner in my Co. ~~about~~ and Pltn. I am not sure of the number. He was of medium height, slight build, fair and about 22 years of age. He was killed by a shell at Bullecourt and died before we could dig him out. We buried him alongside; ~~it was~~ in the Sunken Road, and about 30 yards from the Battalion H.Q., ~~which formed the trench.~~ There were several other graves there.

Informant: Pt. Mc.Kinna A 3192
55th Australians, B.Co., VII. Pltn.
Australian Camp, Houelles.

L. de B.

Havre [illegible] August.1917.

55th AUSTRALIANS [illegible], C.?. 2990

K. May 10th. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was in B.Co., VI.Pltn. He came from N.S.W. I had only known him for about 3 or 4 weeks, as he had just joined the Battalion. His christian name was Charles. The number given is about 1.6. He came over with the 7th reinforcement to the 55th Battalion. He was a N.C.O. Corpl. in the battalion. I saw his grave which is about 700 yards to the right front of Bullecourt in a sunken road on the right looking from Bullecourt, close to where a [illegible] road from Noreourt joins the Sunken Road from Bullecourt. I could point the grave out. There is a cross with his name, number and battalion on it.

Informant: Lt. [illegible] Stirling, A. 1908
[illegible] Australians, B.Co., VI.Pltn.
[illegible] Australian Camp, Houelles.

[illegible]. S.

A.I.F. 55. AKHURST, C.W. 2990.

K.May 10.1917. Det:

I knew a man called Akhurst in the MGS, but I am not sure of his initials. This number would be close to mine as I came over with him in the 9th Reinforcements for the 3rd. Believe he was a Sydney man. I saw his body on a stretcher after he had been hit ~~over-by-~~ either by a Minnieworfer or a bomb shell at Bullecourt on May 10th. This was in our front line trench. He was buried by the Sunken Road in our Support Line.

Informant: Pte V.Webb. 2994. B.XV.
2nd Army Rest Camp
BOULOGNE. 1.9.17.

HMH

55th A.I.F. ARMIDALE C.T. No.2990.

K. 10th May 1917. Det D/B.

ditto. Shepherd L/Cpl L.C. No.179.
K. 9th May 1917. Det D/B.

They were both buried at Boreuil with several other L.C. 12 in one grave and there is a big cross erected by the Regimental Pioneers. Shepherd went right through Gallipoli, and it was the first time he was ever hit. A good chap liked by all.

Inf:- Pte Mason No.2872.
Amb.T. 'Stad Antwerpen'.
Calais. 3.X.17. CR.

55th Battn.
A. I. F.

Akhurst.
C. W. 2990

Shepherd.
L/Col.L.C. 179

"Killed 10.5.17."

"Killed 9.5.17."

They were buried at Noreuil with several other L.Gunners 12 in one grave and there is a big cross erected by the Regimental Pioneers. Shepherd went through Gallipoli and it was the first time he was ~~hit~~ ever hit. A good chap liked by all.

Informant:- Pte.Mason 2872
Amb.T.'Stad Antwerpen'
Calais 3.10.17.

London.
17.10.17.

S.