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

4068 Private
William Bolton

18th Battalion



0450102C

A. I. F. 18. BOLTON, W. 4068.

K. Nov. 18th 1916.
Det. D. & B.

Bolton - initial W. - had only lately joined and was in my squad of S.Bs. We went up into the trench at Flers on Nov. 18th Everything was very wet and muddy. On the morning of the 19th there was a bit of sun. Bolton stood up to throw his overcoat over the parapet to dry and got sniped in the throat and killed practically at once. I buried him just over the parapet when it got dark, and we made a rough cross with his name on it. As the line goes forward all these things are put right.

Informant: Pte. H. W. Bolt, 3775, A. Coy.
14 General,
BOULOGNE. 3.3.17.

P. 1

JT.

18 Batt. A. I. F. BOLTON W, 4068.

" K. Nov. 19/'16, Dat. D. & B. ".

Witness saw soldier killed by a shell while on fatigue duty in our own trenches at Ypres. He was buried in a shell hole close to where he was killed, but there is nothing to distinguish the grave. It was impossible to hold a service, but one of the men assisting, said " May he rest in peace. Good Old Billy ". Witness knew soldier well.

Description. Hgt. 5ft9. Dark reddish hair.

Witness. Wedlock. R. 4818.
18 Batt. " A " Coy.

March 6th., '17.
S. W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

P. 1.

18th Australians.

Bolton, Pte. W. 4068.
A Coy.

(K. Nov/ 18/16.Det: D & B.)

"I was with Bolton, he was on my right, a very few yards off when he was killed by a sniper. He was shot in the neck. He lived about 15 minutes. This was on the Somme to the right of Flers. It was during the early morning, about 8. Nov: 18th I think. I took some of his things, a prayer-book, wristlet Watch, and forwarded them to his Mother who lives at Concord, New South Wales. The Coy Sergt. took his disc. We buried him that same night just behind the trenches. We made a small cross and put it over his grave. Bolton was a "big lump of a chap", fair, we called him "Bill". He was one of the finest and best hearted chaps that ever breathed and we all loved and respected him."

Informant:— Pte. Charles,William Geddes, 4300,
18th Australians, A Coy. I Pl.
Brondesbury Park Military Hospital.

Home address:--C/O J. Kennedy,
Tipperary Point, Mount Morgan,
Queensland, New South Wales.

March 12th
H. Constable.

18th A. I. F. W. BOLTON, 4068.

? Killed 18.11.16. Details D & B.

At Ypres he was sniped, hit in the back, and died ten minutes afterwards, which I witnessed. We took him back and buried him and made a cross of two sticks and put it over his grave. There was no name on the cross. Sgt. Clissold was buried in the same grave.

Reference: Pte. B. T. Boyne, 4370.

No.1 Australian, Rouen. 29.3.17.

FS.

A.I.F.
18th Bn.

BOLTON
William 4[illegible]

Killed in Action 19.11.16.

No trace in Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
15.10.19.

PPI.

27th March 1917.

The Secretary.
Australian Y.M.C.A.
Strand. W.C.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your inquiry for No. 4068. Pte. W. Bolton, 18th Battn. A.I.F. we beg to advise you of the receipt of a further unofficial report about him from No. 4300. Pte. C.W.Geddes, 18th Battn. who was at Brondesbury Park Military Hospital.

His evidence is as follows:-
" I was with Bolton, he was on my right a very few yards off when he was killed by a sniper. He was shot in the neck. He lived about 15 mimutes. This was on the Somme to the right of Flers. It was during the early morning, about 8 Nov. 18th. I think. I took some of his things, a prayer-book, wristlet Watch and forwarded them to his mother who lives at Concord, New South Wales. The Coy.Sergt. took his disc. We buried him that same night just behind the trenches. We made a small cross and put it over his grave. Bolton was a "big lump of a chap", fair, we called him"Bill" He was one of the finest and best hearted chaps that ever breathed and we all loved and respected him."

We are continuing our inquiries and will send you any further information that we receive.

Yours faithfully,

V.D. Secretary.

MR.)