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

23112 Gunner Edward Frederick Welch

107th Howitzer Battery



2890912V

A.F.A. 107 Howitzer Bty WELSH, E.F. 23112.

K. Feb 1st 1917. Dets D/B.

He was killed right out in the gas works at Armentieres by a whizz-bang, both legs were blown off and he was buried in the cemetery there.

Inf: Gunner H.W Parkinson. 19125.
No. 83 General
BOULOGNE. 5.7.17.

WF

Ed. P.
Sall B

107th howitzer Battery

WELSH, Gr. E.F. No.23112
107th How. Battery.

Killed Feb.1/18. Det. D./B.

" I saw Welsh killed while laying the gun in the gas-works at Armentieres. It was a direct hit by a shell and Welsh was killed instantly. He was buried in the cemetery at Armentieres towards the southeast part of the town. He belonged to my sub-section."

Description. Height 5'7", dark complexion, medium build.

Witness. Bergt. Tilbury, No.2909, 107th How. Bty.

Taken at No.3 C.D.
Hurdcott. 1-8-17.
S.W.

No.4 Command Depot,
Codford. 2-8-17.

P.I B

107th Howitzer Batty. Welch.
A. I. F. E. F. 23112.

"Killed 1.2.17."

Near Armentieres he was killed in the Gun pit in which I was wounded the same shell. Bombadier E. C. Walker of 7th 107th Batty. wrote me after that Welch and Pember died shortly after and were buried near there, he can tell you all about them.

Witness:-
G. Clunis 21198.
Herefoeld.

D. P. Dickson.

London.
4.6.17. Note Written Bdr Walker 30.5.17. P.I.
B.

A.I.F. 107. Howitzer Batt; Welch, Pte.E.F. 23112

(K. Feb.1/17)

R.F.Welch had only lately been drafted into our Battery. A shell burst right under the gun which he was serving and killed him and another outright, fatally wounded a third who died shortly afterwards and wounded three others. This took place about 4.a.m. in the dark. Welch was buried at or near Armentiers."

Eye-witness: So he gave me to understand.

Description:

Informant:- Pte. Henry Gibb, 19076.
A.I.F. 107th Howitzer Batt;
1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge.

Home address:

P.1
B

June 18 -17
Edward G. Browne.

Aust.Howitzer Batteries. 107. WELCH, E.F. 23112.

K. Feb 1st 1917. Dets D/B.

Welch was on No 6 gun, and I was on No 2. One day about Feb. we were in action at Armentieres putting up a barrage when a whizz-bang came over and put put out of action all six men on No 6 gun, three killed, and three wounded. Welch died in about half an hour. He was buried in Armentieres but I cannot give particulars. These were our first casualties That gun has been our most unlucky gun.

Inf: Gunner. V.W. Kernahan 19103.
No. 1& General
BOULOGNE. 18.6.17.

JT

B & P.1

A. I. F.

Howitzer Bty, 107. WELCH, E.F. 23112.

X. February 1st, 1917.

He is buried at Armentieres and a fund was got up to erect a cross over his grave and over that of Bombr. Pember (R.H.C.S. 61st Fld.Artillery) who was killed at same time, to which I subscribed. I have not actually seen his grave. He and Pember were killed by the same shell at Armentieres.

PHE.

Reference:- Cnr. J.G. McAdam. 21250. 107 Howitzer Bty.
No. 22 Gen. Hosp.

F.S. D.

Etaples
27.6.17.

AUST. FLD. ARTILLERY.
Howitzer Bty. 107.

WELCH, E.F. 23112.

K. February 1st, 1917.

I wasn't exactly on the scene myself. We were putting up a barrage at midnight for the attack at Armentieres. Fritz was lobbing shells on to us and a small shell no bigger than a whizzbang by some extraordinary means landed just under the breach of our gun and exploded. It killed Welch and the Bombr. and wounded the four remaining men. I have a piece of the shell which hit Welch here as a souvenir. He crawled out of the gun pit but died about 20 minutes later. Sgt. Tilbury and Gnr. Snow were on the spot and could confirm this. They were both wounded. Tilbury is now attached to No. 3 D.A.C. Snow has just returned to duty with the 107 Howitzer Bty.

RGA.

Reference:- Jeayes. 10095.
No. 4 Gen. Hosp.

Staples
7.8.17.

Written Sgt Tilbury & Gnr Snow 6.7.19

107th AUST. HOWITZERS. E. F. WELCH, 23112.

Killed 1.8.17. Det. D & B.

Welch was killed at Armentieres and was buried at the same place. A shell landed under the trail of the gun, which killed him on the spot. I witnessed the casualty.

Reference: Gnr. R. Kerby, 21998.

No.11 Con.Camp Buchy Nr.Rouen. 29.6.17.

FS.

C d. P.1

B

107th Howitzer Batty.
A. F. A.

Welch.
Gr. E. F. 23112.

"Killed in Action 1.2.17."

23112 Gnr. E. F. Welch was a close companion of mine in Camp in Australia and has been ever since in the same section. He was a fairly tall lightly built thin chap, with light brown hair and blue eyes, his lower jaw slightly retruded and his complexion fresh. He was quiet but very cheerful, and was a first rate gunner. His legs were both shot off at the knees and he died almost instantaneously from shock. It was very sad and we deeply feel his loss; but it was a merciful death. We were unfortunately unable to attend his funeral, but our stretcher bearers assure us he was decently buried in a military cemetery in Armentieres, Cit Bon Jean, Plot 5, Row D. Grave 27. Should your enquirers desire, and give me their address, I will on the first opportunity give them fuller details.

Letter from:-
Bdr. Edward Walker. 21433.
107th Howitzer Batty. A.F.A.
France. 18.6.17.

London.
18.7.17.

B.
P.I.

Australian Howitzer Batteries.
107th Battalion.

Welch. E.F. 23112,

K. Feb:1st/17. Det: D/B.

"I knew Welch out in Australia, a very nice fellow, he joined in Queensland. He belonged to 107 Batt: He was killed by a shell with 3 others near Armentieres in the Gasworks I did not see him killed; but they brought his body in and I was at the funeral, a little graveyard close to the gasworks."
"(I am in 108 How: Batt-)"

Eye Witness:-- Yes of funeral.

Description:--

Informant:-- John Fraser, 21344.
8/Brig: Aus: I.F. 108 How: Bat
Fulham Military Hosp:
S.W.

Home address:--

19.7.17.
V. Cholmondley.

Ld P.1
B
Sgt

107th Howitz. Batty
A.F.A.
A.I.F

Welch
Gnr. E.F. 23112

"Killed in Action 1.2.17."

Concerning the late Gunner E.F. Welch 107 Howitz. Batty who was killed in action on 1.2.17. I knew Ted well for we lived within a few miles of one another in civil life furthermore we spent prectically all our camp life together. You may assure those ~~you~~ are making enquiries that he was killed instantly. He could not have suffered any pain. He was buried in a soldiers Cemetery at Armentieres. His grave in No 25 ot 27 (I forget which) Row D. plot. 5. Cité Jean Military Hospl. Cemetery. Armentieres. I am not sure of the number of the grave as two of our men were buried at the same time but I think Gunner Welchés grave is number 25. The grave has a small name plate on a wooden cross. It is not an easy thing to give a short description which would prove his identity. He was about 5'9" in height, rather slim, Fair, Clean shaven and about 25 years of age. He enlisted in Lismore N.S.W. and went into camp at ~~Lismore~~ Enoggers (Queensland) about January 1916. In civil life he worked at Dunoon in N.S.W. May I add that I held Gunner Welch in high esteem he was universally respected and I have had few friends like him.

Letter from:- Cecil Snow. 23095
France 1.8.17. B.P.I

London. 12.9.17.

23112 E E WELCH or WELSH.
107 Howitzer Batty. A.E.F.
see under
WELCH.

No 23112

Gunner E. H. Veleta

104 Howitzer Battery

7 Brigade

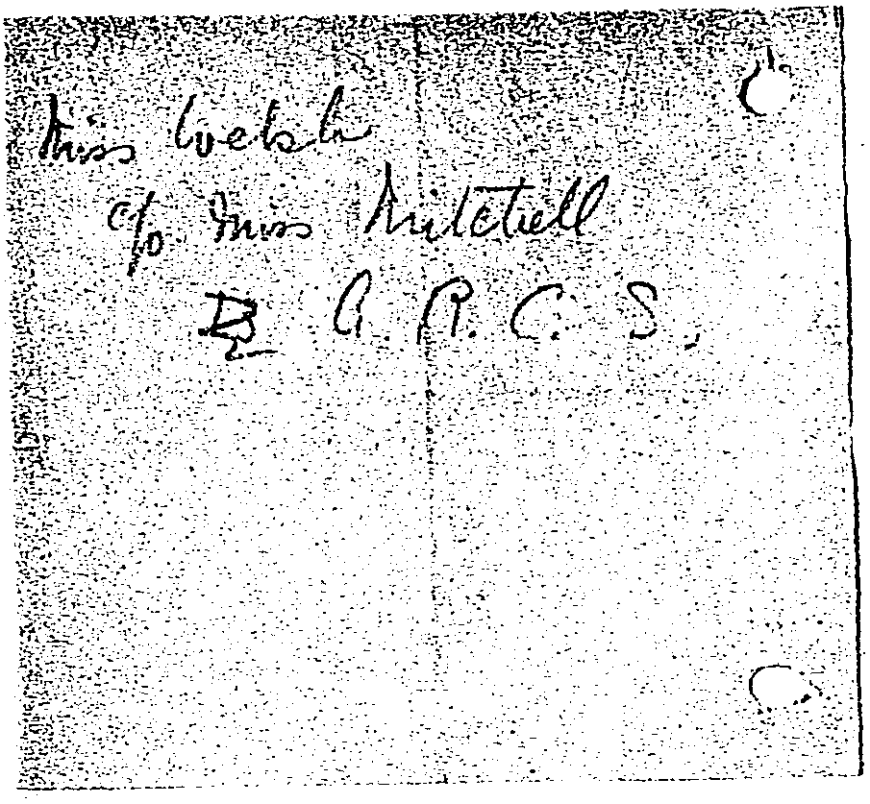
A. F. A.

Kiwa

No 23102

Gunner C. H. Williams,

P.O. Same unit above W.


Miss Webb
c/o Miss Mildenhall
B. A. P. C. S.

~~30.5.17~~

Bombardier E.C. WALKER
107 Howitzer Bty
AFA
BEF

for

WELSH or WELCH.

23112 E. F. WELSH
107 Howitzer Bty

K. 1. 2. 17

7.6.17
FM.

5.7.17

Sgt Tilbury & Gnr Snow } Howitzer Bty 107 A.F.A. B.E.F.

for

23112 E. T. Welch
Howitzer Bty 107
A. F. A.

K 1.2.17

20/7/14
J.E.A.

Ack F.M. 22.8.17

23112 Gr. E F WELCH 107 Howitzer Bty AFA

KA.1.2.17 B P1 (20)

France
9 Aug. 1917

The Secy.
Inquiry Bureau
Aus. Red Cross Soc.y

I have just received your letter of enquiry concerning the late Gunner E. F. Welch 107 Howitzer Battery who was killed in action on 1.2.17. I knew Ted. well for we lived within a few miles of each other in civil life, furthermore we spent practically all our camp life together.

You may assure those who are making enquiries that he was killed instantly, he could not have suffered any pains. He was buried in a soldiers Cemetery at Armentiers. His grave is number 25 or 27 (I forget which) row D, plot 5, Cite Jean Military Hospital Cemetery Armentiers.

I am not sure of the number of the grave as two of our men were buried ~~together~~ at the same time but I think Gunner Welch's grave is number 25. The grave has a small name plate on a wooden Cross.

It is not an easy thing to give a short description which would prove his identity. He was about 5 feet 9 inches in height, rather slim, fair, clean shaven and about 23 years of age. He enlisted in Lismore (N.S.W.) and went into camp at Enoggera. (Queensland) about January 1916.

In civil life he worked at Dunoon in N.S.Wales.

May I add that I held Gunner Welch in high esteem; he was universally respected and I have had few friends like him.

Yours faithfully
Cecil Snow
(Gunner. 23093)

Ack
CM: 27.1.17

France
18/6/17.

Dear Madame,

23112 Gnr E.F. Welch was a close companion of mine in camp in Australia & has been ever since in the same section. He was a fairly tall lightly built thin chap, with right brown hair & blue eyes: his lower jaw slightly protruded & his complexion was fresh. He was quiet, but very cheerful, & was a first-rate gunner.

His legs were both shot off at the knees & he died almost instantaneously from shock. It was very sad, & we deeply felt his loss; but it was a merciful death. We are, unfortunately, unable to attend his funeral, but our stretcher-bearers assure us he was decently buried in a military cemetry in Armentières — Cité Bonjean, Plot 5. Row "D". Grave 7. Should your enquirers desire, & give me their address, I will on the first opportunity give them a fuller detail.

Yours faithfully,
Evan. Walker
107 How. Bty

23112 Gr E.F. WELCH
KA. 1.2.17 B
107 How. Bty A.F.A. Bde.
P. 1
21423

July 5th. 1917.

21433 Bombdr. Ewan C. Walker,
107th. How. Battery, AF.A.
B. E. F.

Dear Bombdr. Walker,

Very many thanks for your letter of June 18th. in answer to our enquiries concerning :-

23112 Gnr. E.F. WELCH 18th. How. Bty.,
21264 Bombdr. R.H. PEMBER, 7th. F.A.B.

The information you have sent will be of great value to our enquirers and with the very clear directions (and accompanying plan) you give we shall easily be able to obtain through the Graves Registration Unit a photograph of the place of burial for the Next-of-Kin . The relatives of each will greatly prize what you have said of your fallen comrades qualities and in the case of Gunner Welch, his people will be comforted to learn through you, that death was instantaneous.

We shall send a copy of your letter to our enquirers for Gunner Welch and feel sure they will be only too glad to take advantage of your kind offer to give them further details should they so desire.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friends.

Yours faithfully V. D Fllu .

7th July, 1917.

Miss Welch,
c/o Miss Mitchell,
13, Frognal Lane, N.W. 3.

Dear Madam,

We have received a further unofficial report about No.23112, Gunner E. F. Welch, 107th Howitzer Battery, A.F.A. who was killed in action on the 1st February last, and we have now closed our enquiries, believing our information sufficiently detailed.

No.21250, Gunner McAdam, who was in Hospital in France, reported that Gunner Welch is buried in Armentieres, and a fund was collected to erect a cross over the grave.

No.19103, Gunner W.E. Kernahan, who was also in France, stated that Gunner Welch was badly wounded by a "Whizz-bang" at Armentieres, his death taking place about half-an-hour afterwards, and his burial taking place in Armentieres.

No.19095, Pte. Jeayes, gives similar evidence, and refers us for confirmation and further details to Sgt. Tilbury and Gunner Snow. We have written to both of these ment and will

send you any further details that they give us.

Trusting that this information will be of use, and assuring you of our sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary.

Law

July 16th. 1917.

Miss Welsh,
C/O Miss Mitchell,
13, Frognal, N. W. 3.

Dear Madam,

We have received a further unofficial report concerning:-

23112 Gnr. E.F. WELCH, 107th. How. Bty.A.I.F.

from a man in his Unit 21998 Gnr. R.Kerby, who is in Hospital in France.

He states he saw Pte. Welch killed at Armentieres by a shell wh ch landed under the trail of the gun and death was instantaneous. He was buried at the same place.

Trusting this report may benof some value.

Yours faithfully,

Miss McConnell.

Secretary,

August 2nd. 1917.

Mrs. Welsh,
C/O Miss Mitchell,
13, Frognal,
N. . 8.

Dear Madam,

Further unofficial information has been received about :-

23112 Gnr. E.J. Welsh, 107th, How. Bty.A.I.F.A.

informant bein No. 21344 Gnr. John Fraser late 107th. How.Bty

He says that Gnr. Welsh whom he knew and liked in Australia, joined the A.I.F. Queensland. He was killed by a shell in the Gas Works nr. Armentieres and his body was brought in for burial in the grave yard close to the Gas Works. He was present at the funeral but did not witness his death.

We have made an application on behalf of his wife Next-of-Kin to the Graves Registration Bureau and we hope that they will soon send a photo of his grave to that r elative.

With our sincere sympathy

Yours faithfully,

VD

Secretary.

KW

25.8.17.

25093 Gunner Cecil SNOW.
107 Howitzer Batty A.F.A. B.E.F.

Dear Gunner Snow,

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiry, concerning:- 23112 Gunner R.F.WELCH
107 Howitzer Batty A.F.A.

The clear and definite information you have sent will be of much assistance to us - and of value to our enquirers who will be comforted to learn through you, that death was instantaneous.

Thanks to your directions we shall be able to save the Graves Registration Units in their work of searching for the grave when we apply to them for a photograph to be sent to the next of kin.

The description you have sent us is an excellent proof of identity - the fact that you knew him in civil life previously having lived within a few miles of one another and could give us approximately the date of his enlistment in Lismore would prove to his enquirers that the man about whom you were speaking was indeed their relative, while they may also know your name and will greatly prize what you have said of Gunner Welch.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend,

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary.

October 4th, 1917.

Miss Welch,
c/o Miss Mitchell,
17 Fergusl
N.W.3.

Dear Madam,

We are writing to inform you of another unofficial report which has been received about:-

No.23112 Gunner E.F.WELCH - 107th Howitzer Battery.A.F.A.

and we trust that it will be some consolation to have this assurance of his friend that his death was instantaneous.

No.23093 Gunner Cecil Snow wrote to us from the unit in France to this effect - "I know Ted well for we lived within a few miles of one another in civil life furthermore we spent practically all our camp life together. You may assure those who are making enquiries that he was killed instantly. He could not have suffered any pain. He was buried in a soldier's cemetery at Armentieres. His grave is No.25 or 27 (I forgot which) Row D. Plot 5. Cite Bon Jean Military Hospital Cemetery, Armentieres. I am not sure of the number of the grave as two of our men were buried at the same time, but I think Gunner Welch's grave is No.25. The grave has a small name plate on a wooden cross. It is not an easy thing to give a short description which would prove his identity. He was about 5'9" in height, rather slim, fair, clean shaven and about 23 years of age. He enlisted in Lismore N.S.W. and went into camp at Enoggera, Queensland about January 1916. In civil life he worked at Dunoon in N.S.W. May I add that I held Gunner Welch in high esteem he was universally respected and I have had a few friends like him."

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

V.D
Secretary.