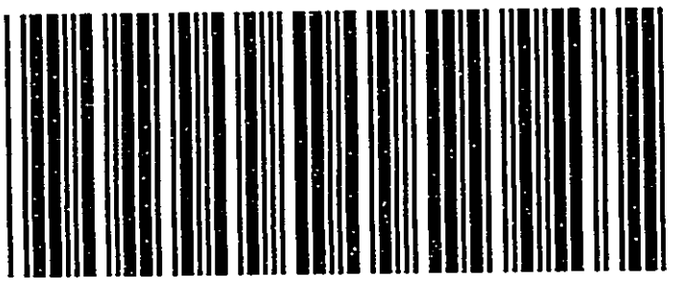
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2178 Private
Thomas Weir

34th Battalion



2890901T

A.I.F. 34th Battn.

WEIR
Thomas 2173

K/A 13/10/17

No trace in Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10/10/19

London
24/10/19

S
P.I.

A.I.F. 34th Btn

WEIR
T. 2178

"MISSING"

Killed in action 12-10-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 27-2-18.

S & P.I.

London
1-3-18

Havre 9th April 1919.

34th A.I.F. Weir T. No.2178.

E. 12th Octr 1917. Dot D/3.

He came over with me. He as killed in our trenches on the left of Messines during the daytime by a shell. I do not know exactly where he was buried.

Inf:- Pte H.A.Fisher No. 2552.
34th A.I.F. H.Q.
H.S. 'St. Patrick'.

RE.

S
P.1

A.I.F.
34th BATTALION.

WEIR, Private
T. No. 2178

2 Killed 12/10/1917".

Informant described Weir as about 5ft. 10" high, medium build, fair complexion, aged 38/40. Weir was in "B" Company.
On 12/10/17 the Battalion was in action at Passchendaele. They hopped over between 5 -6 a.m.. About noon Informant saw Weir lying dead alongside two other soldiers, one of whom was a German. Informant, who at the time was carrying a message, had to step over Weir in order to go into a dug-out. He never saw Weir again, neither could he give me any information regarding his burial. He was a chap of a very quiet disposition and well thought of by his chums.

Informant;- No. 2628, Private W. Osborne,
34th Battalion.

Private address;- Post Office, Coopernook, N.S.Wales.

W.E.C.
Victoria Barracks,
SYDNEY.
13/5/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

34th Bn.
A.I.F.

WEIR
T. 2178
T

Missing 12.10.17.

Harpley was a Sergt. and was hit at Polygon Wood after Passchendaele stunt, being badly wounded about the body) I saw some of the lads who told me and also that Capt. Jeffreys and Sgt, Bland were killed by the same shell but nothing was told me of their burial.
Pte. R. Daley 1683, 34th B. Co. Now with Co. told me - I have also had a letter from him that Weir T. 2178 was missing.

Informant :- Jones W.G. 1479
34th Bn. B. Co.
10 Hut. Westham.
20.12.17

Note:- Written Pte. Daley 4.1.18

S. & P.I.

W.A.Rand.

London.
21.1.16.

34th Battn
AIF

WEIR
T. 2178

"Missing 10.12.17"

I saw him badly cut by shell and killed outright at Passchendaele ridge at Dawn after the "hop over" I don't think burial was possible on account of the mud etc., His name was Thomas. We came over together He was not a young man. Where was no other Weir in B.Coy., He was Pltn 7 I was Pltn. 8 L Cpl. of Pltn. 8 (an S.B.) will confirm.

Witness:-
L. Hughes 2331
34th Battn
Dartford

JPJ

London.
25.1.18

P.I & S

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON 2780/8/B

COPY

Statement made by No.2331 Pte Hughes L.J. 34 th Btn.

re No.2178 PtehWeir T. 34th Btn.
~~Missing~~ 12.10.17. K/A 12-10-17 Pres Rep m'

I saw No.2178 Private T. Weir killed by a shell on 12th October 1917. at Passchendaele Ridge. I saw the body after being killed and identified the body as No.2178 Private Weir T. 34 th Battalion. I was in the same company as deceased and knew him personally.

3 copies. P1 S

Dated at Hurdcott this 25th day of February 1918.

(Sgd)L.J. Hughes.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) H.L. Schadel.
Captain.

Mrs. S. Wherry,

British Red Cross Society,

51, Dawson Street, Dublin.

19th April, 1918.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting - 2178 Pte.T. WEIR. 34th Battalion, A.I.F. - which although somewhat unsatisfactory, but confirms the official statement that he was killed in action.

2362 Pte.H.A.Fisher, Fo the same unit when interviewed on board a hospital ship at Havre recently stated that Pte.Weir was killed by a shell in the trenches on the left of Messines, during the daytime. He know nothing as to his burial, but adds that Pte. Weir come over with him from Australia.

We have now closed our enquiry, but will at once advise you should we obtain any further information.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS) F. V. Leaye

SECRETARY.

Havre 2nd April 1918.

37th A.I.F. Somers A.J. No.563.

E. 12th Oct: 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Pte Arthur John Somers of B.Co. Pte Tom Lane of B.Coy, now in the Cook House was with Somers when he was killed and will be able to give further details.

Inf:- Sergt. W.J.Healey No.510.
37th Batt B.Co. V Fltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RM.

Letter to Pte: Tom Lane 15.4.18.

3.1.18

1683 Pte R. DALEY
BCo
34 Btn A.I.F.
to E.S.

abt
2178 T. WEIR
34 Btn

M 12.10.17

J.M.
8.1.18

Do not correspond on spaces below, only answer the questions!!!

Enquiry Department for Wounded, Missing and Prisoners of War.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY,
51 Dawson Street, DUBLIN.

Please make the following enquiry, and include name in printed list:—

Rank Pte Full Name Thomas Weir (WEIR)

Number 2178 Regiment A. I. F. Battalion 34th

Company (this is essential) B Platoon

Where was he fighting? France Date of last letter?

Has any official notification been received—if so, what, and from whom? (date of casualty essential) "Missing in October 1917"

If any envelopes addressed to him have been returned, how are they marked and dated?

Have you enquired at any other office of the Society or taken other steps to investigate?

Was he a good correspondent?

Enquirer's name (whether ~~Mr.~~, Mrs., or ~~Miss~~) S. Wherry

Address c/o BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY, Co. DUBLIN BRANCH.

Relationship of Enquirer to man Not stated Date of Enquiry 27/11/17

REMARKS: Enquirer does not know date of casualty.

N.B.—You will greatly assist our difficult work if you will kindly inform us directly you get any further definite news from sources other than this office.

Enquiry Department for Wounded, Missing and Prisoners of War.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Telephone
DUBLIN 4590

51 Dawson Street.

DUBLIN.

30th November 1917.

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society
London S.W.1.

Ans by P.C. 8.12.17

Re Pte. T.Weir 2178
34th A. I. F. B.Coy.
M. Oct./17.

Dear Sir,

Referring to our enquiry of 27th inst. will you kindly tell us what date in October last he was officially reported missing.

Yours faithfully,

Edmund A. Trotter

Hon. Sec. to the Dpt.

Mrs. S. Whorry,
C/o B.R.C.S.
51, Dawson Street,
Dublin.

January 30th, 1918.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your enquiry for

No 2178 Pte. T. WEIR, 34th Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you of unofficial evidence given by men of his unit one of whom was an eyewitness.

No 1479 Pte.W.G.Jones, when at Westham Camp, Weymouth, stated that he was told by some of the men that they had seen Pte. Weir badly wounded in the body at Polygon Wood, on October 12th., after the attack at Passchendaele, but he knows no further details.

No 2331 Pte.L.Hughes, when in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he saw Pte.Weir badly wounded and killed by a shell at Passchendaele Ridge at dawn, after the "Hop Over" on Oct.12th, death being instantaneous. They had come from Australia together and knew him well.

While emphasising the purely unofficial nature of this report we fear that it must be true for over three months have elapsed since his casualty occurred and we have been in communication with men captured some time after that date.

We are continuing the enquiry and as soon as further news is

received we shall advise you.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

L. W.

March 7th, 1918.

Mrs S. Wherry,
B.R.C.S.,
51, Dawson Street,
Dublin.

T. Weir, 2178 34th Battn., A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing, is now reported killed in action on 12-10-17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death, and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

L. A-G

Mrs. S. Thearry,
C/o B. R. C. S.
51, Dawson Street,
DUBLIN.

8th March, 1918.

Re 2178 T. WEIR, 34th Battalion, A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier is now reported "Killed in Action on 12-10-17".

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

20th March, 1918.

Mrs S. Wherry,
c/o B.P.C.S.,
51, Dawson Street,
Dublin.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that we have received the following unofficial report respecting:-

2178 Pte. T. Weir, 34th Battn., A.I.F., given by an eye-witness, who however, is unable to supply full particulars.

2331 Pte. L.J. Hughes, of the same unit, now at No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, stated that he saw Pte. Weir killed by a shell Oct 12th 1917, at Passchendaele Ridge. He saw the body afterwards and identified it, as he had been in the same Company as Pte. Weir and knew him well.

We are still making enquiries, and will at once advise you of any advice we may receive, as we realize how anxious you must be.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

F. A. G.
SECRETARY.