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

# 1959 Driver
# Frank James Willis

## 14th Field Artillery Brigade



2970605T

14 F. A. B. 53 Batty.
A.I.F.

Willis
1959 J.F.

Killed 4/9/17.

Willis was a signaller and was killed by shell in a pit with three other signallers. Sig. Cpl. [illegible]. Edwards, Sig. Walker and another who had just joined and whose name I did not know. Three men of 54 Batty whose names I do not know were also killed in the same pit, at Ypres about 300 yards from Hellfire Corner alongside Rowlens Ypres railway. They were killed outright and were buried at the spot just behind the gunpit. There is a cross erected with the names on. I saw the casualty and grave.

Inf: Sanderson, Sig. G. H. 801,
53 Batty.
10 Hit, Westham.

W. A. Rand.
London.
20/11/17.

S.

53rd F.A., A. I. F. F Willis, 1959

(K. Sept. 4th/17)

"I know that Willis was killed by a shell with 5 other telephonists which fell on their dug-out. They were all crushed to death by the concrete walls. I was in charge of the party that dug them out. I assisted at the interment of the 6 of them in one grave, we erected 6 crosses over them and the burial service was read by Major Beavis. I know that Willis' effects were sent to his people through the usual channels. He was a very game soldier."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Geberally known as "Bill"

Informant: Lt L.C. McCarthy, 53rd F.A., A.I.F.,
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth, S.W.

24th Nov. 1917.
Thomson.

A.F.A. 14.53 WILLIS, 1959. J. F

K. Sept 4th 1917. Dets.

Willis was in his dugout on the side of the Menin Roulers Railway and had just coem off clerkcal duty. The battery was being heavily shelled at the time and he was about to leave the dugout when an 8 in shell landed on it and blew him and three other men to pieces. They were buried just behind the battery position near Hell Fire Corner, Menin Road. There was a service conducted by a Padre and a cross was made and put up by his comrades at the head of the grave.

Inf: J.T.Giltinan. 5471.
No. 57 Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 5.11.17

HH

A.F.A.

Willis, Frank. D. 1959
14th Bde.

(K. 4.9.17.)

"Driver Frank Willis was killed by a shell in front of Hell Fire Corner, Ypres on the 4th Sept./17 instantly & buried [illegible]

Eye-witness: I was near at the time, but did not actually see the shell burst.

Description: Short stumpy man, fairish hair.

Informant:- Bomber David Grosard, 3636
14th Bde. A.F.A.
Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich.

Home address: Steventon. Ayrshire. Scotland.
N.B.

Nov. 14
E. Rice

14th Bde. 53rd A.F.A.

Willis P. 1959.

(K. Sept. 4/17 Det D/B)

"I saw Willis killed at Hell fire corner. He was buried 100 yds. in front of where he fell"..

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Little, fair man, clean shaven.

Informant: Roy Ellefsen 3824,
14th Bde., A.F.A.,
1st London General Hospt.,
Camberwell.

Home address:
87 Hannvelsley Rd.,
Subiaco,
W. Australia.

Nov. 9/17,
A.F.M. Baldwin.