

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

2122 Gunner
Leonard Joseph Willis

3rd Field Artillery Brigade



2970606U

A.I.F. 3rd F.A.B.

WILLIS
L.J. 2122

WILLIS
Died of wounds 29/3/18

Buried Outterbase Communal Cemetery Extension, 2 1/2 miles S.W. of
Bailloul.

Cert. by A.I.F. Hdqrs List for Capt. Spedding.

Cause of Death	Causality	Unit	Name
London 14/8/19			H

8th Bty.,
A.I.F.

WILLIS,
Leonard John, Gnr. 2122.

"Died of wounds - (Gas) - 29-3-18."

"Place of burial is I think Oustersteene Communal Cemetery,
outside Bailleux. Next of kin, Father, J.B. Willis, (or at Voormezelle)
Victoria Hotel, Ballarat.

London,
13-11-18.

3rd F.A.B.
A.I.F.

WILLIS,
L.J. 2122.

"died of wounds - 29-3-18."

"He was a Signaller, and got gassed by a shell that hit his dug-out
on the morning of the 29-3-18. He died at Parma Dump, while on the
way to the C.C.S. (solely of gas). We were at the time in action at
Wyschaete. As to where he was buried, I am given to understand was
either at Voormezelle or Oustersteene.

Informant:- Syd Cockburn, Gnr., 31369,
8th Battery,
A.F.A., France.

J.E.D.
London,
13-11-18.

A.I.F. Fld.Arty. 3 Bde. WILLIS, I.J. 2122.

*late 13th Light
Horse Regiment*

D/W. March 29/18. Det. D/B.

I did not know Willis very well, but do know that he was gassed and left the Bn. on Good Friday at about 4.30 p.m. at the same time as Felan who had also been gassed. They were sent to Clark's Damp near Wyttscheate. Willis and Felan died there and were buried at Vermiceille. I have not see the grave. H.Q. ought to have details.

Reference: Gnr. W.H. Stallard, 27307. 8 Bty.

No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 31.7.18.

N.W.

M

JWA.

A.I.F. A.F.A. 3.

WILLIS, L.J. 2122.

D/W March 29/18. Det. D/B.

At Wychette Ridge Willis was gassed by a shell and died at the D/S. He was going up into a dug out at the time and the one shell killed 13 and wounded 9. I saw his body lying dead. I cannot give details of burial, but he would probably be buried in the cemetery 200 yards away from the D/S. Willis used to belong to the 8th Bn. and originally came over with the 13th L.H. He was 5 ft.8 or 9. He used to live with friends in Footscray. His sister is the proprietress of a hotel at Ballarat and he was employed at the Sunshine Harvesting Co.

Reference: Gnr. W.C. Cecil, 2061. 9th Bty. A.F.A.

No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 19.9.18.

JWA.

J.E.A.

M.

AUST. FLD. ARMY, 3 Bgde.

WILLIS, L. J. 2122.

D/W. March 29/18. Det. D/B.

Willis was with a man named Cockburn - a Gunner - both acting as Batty. Signallers. They were recommended for the M.M. by their Officer for work they did in the neighbourhood of Westhoek Ridge, and Cockburn, who is still with the Batty, has not received his M.M. because the Colonel, not having a decoration himself, knocked the recommendation out. As he was with Willis at or about this time, he will be the man to enquire of and what he cannot say he will be able to put one in the way of learning.

Reference: Fitter T.E.T. Marshall, 26164, 103/How.
late 8 Bty.

No. 1 Aust. General, Rouen, 29.9.18.

GPO.

J.E.A.

Written Cockburn
27.9.18

A. S. F. 3rd Fld A. Bde
late 13th A.H.R.

WILLIS
E. J. 2122

"D/Wds 29-3-18"

Died of wounds 2nd C.C.S. 29-3-18
cert. by Epl Index

London
5-6-18

M

Havre

24th June 1918.

A.F.A. 3.

Willis L.J. No. 2122.

D/S 29th March 1918. Det D/S.

I knew him well, he came from Melbourne and was connected with the Government Post Office, I think as a telegraph operator. He was about 25, rather tall and fair, he came over with a reinforcement of the Light Horse and joined our Battery last January. On the 29th March we were at Wytschaete. Early in the morning Fritz was shelling us with gas and Willis, I and others, were sheltering in a dugout. A gas shell came into the dugout and we were all gassed. I was told that Willis was taken to the Brasserie D/Station and died there.

Inf:- Gunner C. Box No. 25397.

A.F.A. 3. 8.

Austra. Conv. Depot.

Rouelles.

J.A.

M

0530.

O.C.'s Draft: Aug. 24th

O.C.
2nd. C. C. S.

B. S. J. France.

~~2122. Pte L. J. Willis~~
~~3rd. Hd Qtr. Bde~~

~~O. S. W. 29.~~

RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 25 1918
HEADQUARTERS
ARMY
WASHINGTON

NOV 10 1918
RECORDED

RECORDED

A. I. F34th Btn

Jas. Dwyer 59

"WHEREABOUTS"

Sailed for Australia - "Penilworth Castle" 12-3-18 for
discharged (Rheumatism Cardiac, shell burial)
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 21-8-18.

London
22-8-18

9.28 M. 5.2

3.14.19
H. J. V. M. J. V. M. J. V. M.

12.5.19
P. H. C. 2
O. C.

O. C. 3 8.17.19

Conf. Secy

40
J.C.
Gunnar Cockburn
Signaller
3rd Brigade Hd Art^y
A.I.F.

Admt
2122 Pt L. J. Willis
3rd Hd Artillery Brgde
A.I.F.

J/W March 29/18

Written 27.9.18
M.R.G.

O.C. Draft. 7.6.18.

The Chaplain

8th Casualty Cl. Str. B.E.F.

8182. Gunner L.J. Willis

3rd F.A.B. A.F.A.

D. of W. 29.3.18.

(C)

No 2122

Gov Willis Leonard John 5th Regt A 3rd

Died of wounds (Ga.) 29.3.18.

Place of Burial is I think Oustersteene ^{Scammon} Cemetery
outside Portland

Letting Father G. Willis (or at Noor mezel)
Victoria Hotel

General

ack.
p.c. 21.10.18
J.F.D.

2122
L. J. Willis 3rd Lt. R.F.C.
D.O.W. 29.3.18
M2

France
15/10/18

(cd)

To Secretary, Enquiry Office -
London

Your enquiries re Pte L. J. Willis -
He was a signaller, & got gassed by a shell
that hit his dugout on the morning of the 29-3-18
He died at Parma Dump, while on the way to the
C.C.S. (solely of gas). We were at the time in
action at Wycheacte; as to where he was buried
I am given to understand was either at Noormezelle
or Ousterkene, trusting this gives you the
desired information

Yours truly
Lyd Cockburn

31369
Lt Col L. W. Cockburn
5th Battery
Austn Field Artillery
France

J.F.D.