

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

**5795 Lance Corporal
Frederick William West**

11th Battalion



2900708Q

A.I.F. 11th Btn

WEST.
L/Cp. Fred William
5795.

" Killed in Action". 10.8.18.

Buried Heath Cemetery 62 D.S.E.Q 29 d.5.4.
Plot 7-Row D-Grave 11.
Cert. by Captain Spedding. 23.6.19.

London.
17/6.7.19.

P.

A.I.F. 11th Btn(HQ)

WEST
Fred Wm. 5795

"K/A. August"

Killed in action 10-8-18 - N.F.R.
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 1-10-18.

London
2-10-18

P

11th. Batt'n. A.I.F.

West, F.W. 5795.
"B" Coy.

Killed Aug. 10/18. Det. D/B.

During the advance on Bray, he was hit by a M.G. bullet in the head and killed instantly. He was buried where he fell and temporary details put up over his grave. There are no other details to be obtained, as we had to carry on. West was very popular in the Batt'n. He was an Englishman I think.

Age 27. Height 5-7. Fair com.

Witness. Jones, R.E. 4533. "B" Coy. 11th. Batt'n.

Taken at
No. 4 C.D.
Hurdcott. 30/10/18.

By
C.H. Brown,
No. 4 C.D.
Hurdcott.

A.I.F. 11th Battn.

F.W. ^West.
5795.

"Killed 10/8/18."

Of C. or D. Company. - On August 10th About 10/12 Kilosapast Hamel, during our attack in early morning, was killed by Machine Gun bullet, hit in head. / I buried him myself on the field. His grave is about 7 yards away from T.B. Kelly 7742, and Lieut. Gemmell is buried at the same spot. / We buried him after the attack, the grave is in an open field about 200 yards off main road, but I cannot remember name of Village we were near. Cross is erected. He came from Western Australia.

Informant:- 7208 Pte. L. Anthony,
11th Battn,
C. Company,
9, Platoon,
Harefield.

A.D.C.
London 31/10/18.
H.W.S.

See Second report

P

10th Battn. A.I.F.

West
F.W. 5795.

Killed in Action 10.8.18.

On 10th August on the Somme near the next village beyond Harbonnieres, during our attack was killed outright by burst M.G. bullets, hit in head and other places. I did not see it happen. I helped to bury him, on the field, rough wooden cross erected with his name and number on, his disc was hung on the cross. Grave is on the left of main Peronne Amiens Road, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from edge of a Wood. His grave is close to T.B. Kelly's 7742.

Informant:- Pvt. L. Anthony. 7208.
11th Battn. D. Coy.
13th Platoon,
3rd A.A.H. Harefield.

A.D.C.
London,
4.11.18.
E.A.

P.

11th Battn.
A.I.F.

WEST.
F.W.

5795.

"Killed in Action 10-8-18"

I know that L/Cpl Fred West (11.B.^{7th} M.G.) was killed on August 10th during the attack near Bayonvillers (Amiens). About three days later I helped to bury a number of men in the Field, but he was not among them. Cpl Bert Bisdee (11.B.) was on the burial party and could probably give the Red Cross all particulars. A number of crosses were erected. The R.C. Chaplain Captain O'Donald was there. The ground was held.

Eye-Witness:- No.

Description:- 18th Rfts, from Geraldton, fairly tall, dark.

Home address:-

713 Wilson Street. Informant:- Truscott, James H. 6128. Pte. 1/Cpl.

Kalgoorlie.

(quite intelligent and
anxious to help)

W. Aust:

11th Battn. A.I.F.

Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge.

3rd S.G. Hpl. Cowley Section.

London.

7-11-18.

OXFORD.

J.E.A.

P.

Note:- Written Cpl Bisdee 1-11-18.

Informant said that he would like to know if you can get particulars from Cpl Bisdee.

11th Btn.
A.I.F.

WEST.
5795 F.W.

"Killed 10-8-18."

He was in B.Coy. 8th Pltn, I am not sure of his number, but he was the only man of that name in Btn. I saw him hit by a machine gun in front of Lihons on 10th Aug. about 8 a.m. we were just going over and were caught in M.G.Fire. He was in charge of one of the 2 guns attached to Ptn. I saw him fall but did not examine him, think he was killed immediately as he never moved. He was buried, but I do not know where, it must be near, - Harbonnieres - was hit myself just afterwards. He was dark, about 5'7" or 5'8", and came from Geraldton. Pte. Harry May in same Coy was hit alongside him and would know all about it. I was on same gun and knew him well.

Informant:-

Home address:-
Day Dawn,
W.Aust.

7258 Pte.A.Hutchison,
B.Coy. 8th Pltn.
11th Btn. A.I.F.
Dartford.

H.T.COWAN.
London.
14-11-18.
J.E.A.

P.

NOTE:- Written May 7-11-18.

A.I.F. 11th Battn.

WEST F.W.
5795.

"Killed in Action 10.6.18."

Re 5795 F.W. West. No one left in our mch seems to know anything about him whatever, but I happened to see the shell burst that got his cobbles. The boys that were with him at that time were all killed and wounded.

Letter from:- 3269 Albert Birdie, ^{Sgt}
B. Coy, 11th Battn A.I.F.
France.

London
28.11.18.
I.F.D.

P.

11th Battn.
A.I.F.

WEST
F.W. 5795

"KILLED 10-8-18"

West was killed within a yard or two of me by a Machine Gun bullet, about 8 a.m. on Aug. 10th. At the time we were advancing several miles beyond Morlincourt on the right of the Somme. He was buried where he fell about four days after he was killed. I cannot now remember the name of the nearest village. I knew him well.

Informant - Bunting.L/Cpl.G.O.
(Good)

Home Address:-
Garland,
New South Wales.

11th Battn. B.Coy. 8th Pltn.
2nd S.G.H.
CHILTERNHAM.

R.W.Sharp
9-11-18
London
30-11-18
H.G.

P.

A.I.F. 11th Battn.

WEST
F.W. 5795.

"Killed in Action 10.8.18"

Your enquiry about No. 5795 Pte. F.W. West, B. Coy, 11th Battn. A.I.F., reached me only yesterday. I am sorry to say that I cannot tell you a great deal about Pte. West, who was killed on August 10th last. Pte. West was hit at the same time as I was, about 8 a.m., and we lay together until I was carried away about 11.30 a.m.. He was hit in the chest and throat by machine gun bullets and died instantly. He never spoke at all, and I do not think he suffered pain. As I was sent away before the dead were picked up, I cannot say where West was buried. Since coming to England, I have heard from my Sergeant No. 458 Sgt. L.J. Holmes, that he had a party cut burying the dead; so possibly he (Holmes) could tell you where Pte. West was buried. Holmes was to go home to Australia, but may be still in England. You could get his address from the A.I.F. Headquarters, Horseferry Road, S.W. I should think that probably West was buried on the battlefield, as there was no Cemetery near the place where he fell. I cannot tell you exactly where that was, as I do not know the names of all the villages we passed through, but it was somewhere near Rezières on

(contd.)

A.I.F. 11th Battn.

WEST
F.W. 5795.

-2-

the Somme. I think you may be assured that the grave would be carefully marked, so that registration would be possible.

Pte. West who was promoted to Lance Corporal a week or so before his death, was of medium height and athletic build, with brown hair and eyes, and a remarkably fine set of very white even teeth of rather large size. He had a small and hardly noticeable scar upon his top lip and chin. West was a very fine fellow, and extremely popular with everyone with whom he came in contact. I am sorry I cannot give you any more information, but trust this will be of some use.

Letter from:- 6221, H.F. May,
11th Battn., (late B. Coy)
The War Hospital,
Clopton,
Stratford-on-Avon.

London
23.12.18.
I.F.D.

P.

A.I.F.
11th Btn.

WEST. L/Cpl.
Fred William. 5795

"E/A August."

Killed in Action 10.8.18.

Buried Heath Cem. 62.D.S.E.Q.29. d.5.4. Plot 7. Row D.
Grave 11.

Cert. by Capt. Spedding's List. 23.6.189.

London.
27.6.19.

P.

11.11.18

Cpl. Bert Bisdee

B Coy.

11th Baltn. A.I.F.

abroad

abt.

5795

Plt. F. W. West

11th Baltn. A.I.F.

K. 10. 8. 18.

1.11.18.
A.I.F.

6221 ⁴⁰ ~~St. H.~~ May
11 Bitter
a. i. f.

Cut out
5795 St. F. W. West
11 Bitter
a. i. f.

K. 10.8.18

Winter 7.11.18

Mrs

25.11.18

5795

F. W. Well-

11 Blm

See under

5027

G. H. Barnes

11 Blm

West ✓ Lt Col. N. E. Dwyer
Frederick ✓ What rank?
J. William

✓ 5795
✓ 11 (34)

please?

Kim R - 10-8-18-

G. C.

Reports Section
12.12.18

ack. no. 12. 12. 18
9.5.18

5795

5711 West

Frederic

10. 8. 18

(1)

The War Hospital.

Clopton.

Stratford-on-Avon.

4th Dec 1918.

The Secretary,

Enquiry Bureau.

Inst. Red Cross Society. London.

Dear Sir,

Your enquiry about no 5795.

(1) Pte F. H. West, B. Coy. 11th Batt. A. I. F. reached me only yesterday. I am sorry to say that I cannot tell you a great deal about Pte West, who was killed on Aug. 10th last. Pte West was hit ~~at~~ at the same time as I was, about 8 a.m. and we lay together until I was carried away about 11.30 a.m. He was hit in the chest and throat by machine gun bullets; and died instantly. He never spoke at all, and I do not think he suffered pain. As I was sent away before the dead were picked up I cannot say where West was buried. Since coming to England I have heard from my Sergeant no 438. Sgt. H. J. Holmes, that he had a party out burying the dead; so possibly he (Holmes) could tell you where Pte West was buried. Holmes was to go home to Australia; but may be still in the land. You could get his address from the

2/ A. I. F. Headquarters, Horseferry Road, S.W.

I should think that probably West was buried on the battlefield; as there was no cemetery near the place where he fell. I cannot tell you exactly where that was, as I do not know the names of all the villages we passed through; but it was somewhere near Roziers, on the Somme. I think you may be assured that the grave would be carefully marked; so that registration would be possible.

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yours faithfully.

Wm. J. May.

6221 Late B Coy.
11th Battalion A.I.F.

J.G.D.