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

# 7099 Private John Michael Joseph Wills

## 13th Battalion



2971006P

13th Battn.
A.I.F.

WILLS
J.H. 7099

"KILLED 8-8-18"

His name was Wills not Willis. I knew him well. He was in B.Coy. He was 5"11', fair and about 30 years old. He was a married man and came from North Bondi, New South Wales.

Beyond Vaire-sur-Corbie on Aug.8/18 at 10 a.m. we were digging in at our objective when Wills was killed instantly by a shell. He was buried at P/C along with E.J.Quinn 7058 who belonged to the same gun team as Wills and had been killed by the same shell. We erected Crosses but the graves are isolated ones on the Battlefield.

Informant - Eldridge.L/Cpl.P.H. 3633
13th Battn.C.Coy.H.Qrs

J.O.H.K.
8-11-18
London
19-11-18

S.

13th Battn.
A.I.F.

WILLS.
J.H. 7099. Pte.

"Killed in Action 8-8-18"

I saw ~~was~~ Wills killed by the same shell that killed Quinn also It was immediately ~~after~~ behind Headquarters of B.Company. of 1st Battalion. in front of Corbie, It was at the beginning of the Somme push. B.Coy. of 1st Battalion had dug themselves in, Will's body was carried to rear of the trench. Buried - a cross put up.

Eye-Witness:- Yes.
Description:-
Home address:-
Carinya.
Roseville.Avenue.
Roseville.N.S.W.

Informant:- Eldridge.P.H. 3633. L/Cpl.
(Intelligent and accurate)
13th Battn.A.I.F.
Fulham Military Hospital.

F.M.Ward.
London.
24-2-19.
J.E.A.

S.

13th Battalion. A.I.F. WILLS J.M. Q/M/Sgt. No. 7099

23 Rfts

"Killed In Action, 8/8/18."

I knew Wills as a Private in the Machine Gun section, he had been a Warder or Policeman in private life. He was a big chap and his initials were J. M. J., and his number was 7099. I knew him in England at Codford Camp where he was employed for a time. He was killed outright without suffering on the 8/8/18 in the "hop-over" near Corbie, when we started the big offensive. I was on Head-Quarters at the time, and well remember this being reported by men who saw it happen. He was in the Machine Gun section when he was killed.

Informant - Corporal J. Bales, No. 6478,
13th Battalion, Head-Quarters,
Home Address - "Guntawang,"
Frazer Road,
Lewisham.

H.S.O.
No. 4 General,
Randwick.
/1/19. Ampl. B. P/C. Vaire Sur Corbie

SYDNEY BUREAU.

J. A.

A.I.F.
13th Bttn.

WILLS.
J.M. 7099

"E. 8.8.18."

Killed by shell fire about midday on Aug. 8th. He was in my company and I saw the casualty. He had many wounds and death was instantaneous.
He was buried with Pte.T.QUINN (Reg. No unknown) of same gun crew but I have no particulars as to the situation of grave, but same shou;d be obtainable from my Battalion records.

(Inf) Sgt.F. Sheppard. D.C.M.
B.Coy. 13th Btn.A.I.F.
"S.S Olumy Castle" 1.4.19.

W.E.W.Allbiate
London.
2.6.19.

S.

13th BATTALION, A.I.F.
23rd Hfs.

WILLS, Q/M/Sergeant
J.M. No. 7099

"Killed 8/8/1918".

Informant described Wills as about 6ft.high, medium build, aged about 25. Had been Sergeant in the Provost Corps in England. Informant states that they both belongedto "B" Company.

On 8/8/1918 the Battalion was on the left of Warfussee in action. They hopped over early in the morning and about been when they had taken the objective and were digging in Wills was killed outright by a shell. Informant was about 50 yards away and saw Wills hit. He was buried just at the back of the objective line, next to Private J.J. Quinn. Informant was present and the grave was marked for identification.

Informant;- No. 2925 - Corporal A.B. Williams,
"B" Company - 13th Battalion.

Private address;- "Boronia", 71 Shaw St., PETERSHAM.

W.E.C.
Anzac Buffet, Sydney.
28-5-1919.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

13th Bn. WILLS J.M.
7099

K 8-8-18

Killed by shell fire about mid-day on Aug. 8th He was in my Coy and I saw the casualty. He had many wounds and death was instantaneous. He was buried with Pte T.Quin (Reg. no unknown) of same gun crew but I have no particulars as to the situation of grave: but same could be obtainable from my Battn.O.Room records.

Inf. Sgt. F.Sheppard D.C.M.
B.Coy. 13th Battn

W.E.Walklate
1-4-19
S.S.Cluny Castle

Home address C/o Mrs M.Sheppard
Smith St.
SummerHill
Sydney.

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Enquiry List March 1919 - p.9a.

H.M.A.T. "Commonwealth",
23rd. April, 1919.

13th. Battalion. WILLS, J.M. 7099.

K. Aug.3/18. Det.D/B.

Tall, fair, blue eyes, well-built. Belonged to "B" Coy. Battalion had just taken position and digging in was in course. About midday Fritz opened gun fire. Wills was killed outright by a shell. Same shell killed QUINN and wounded HENNESSY and ROACH. Locality about 3/4 mile to the right of Morcourt. Know he has been buried, but cannot give particulars. BATLEY of N.S.W. (definite address not known) who returned to Australia on the "Port Macquarie" buried him on the spot where he was killed.

Informant Eyewitness:- 4923 Pte. H. M. Whitbread,
"B" Coy. 13th. Battn.
Private Address:- Care Mrs. J. Daly,
Moonee Street, Belmont, Sydney.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

Searcher:- Henry Millard.

No.19362 T/Cpl. Repat. & Demob. Dept. London.
formerly 2nd. Aust. Casualty Clearing Station.
Private Address:- 19 Marian Street,
Glenferrie, VICTORIA.

A.I.F.
13th Btn.

WILLS, J.M.
7099

K. 8/8/18

He was a Lewis Gunner in B Co. I was about 10 yards away when I saw a shell hit him. He was badly wounded. This was at a little village to the Right of Soissons (I cannot remember the name of the village).
I saw him buried a few yards away from where he fell.
Description:- Tall, dark hair, clean shaven.

Informant:- Randall, W.S. 5441
13th Btn.

Home address:-
Copeland St.,
R.E.Andrews Penrith. Sydney.
H.M.A.T.Port Denison

15 MAY 1919

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