

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

Captain
Geoffrey Erskine Wells

11th Field Artillery Brigade



2900304I

Note to Adelaide

A.I.F. 41st Batty

WELLS
Capt G.E.

Died of wounds

Your letter 11.2.19 - we have passed a copy of your letter to A.I.F. Hqrs together with a copy of Mr. Wells letter to you, requesting that he ^{might} ~~ought~~ to obtain the original cross on his sons grave. We are advised by Hqrs that they will attend to the matter at once.

London
25.4.19

A.I.F. 41st Bty.
11 F.A.B.

WELLS
Capt. Geof. Erskine

"Died of wounds 6/10/17"

Buried Reminghelst New Mil. Cem. S.E. Poperinghe D.G.R.E.26692G
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 17/4/19

London
17/4/19

P.I.

11th F.A.B.
A.I.F.

WELLS
Capt. Geof. Erskine.

"Died of Wounds 6.10.17"

I have received your letter dated 5th instant regarding the original cross on the grave of Captain G.E. Wells 11th F.A.B. Australian Imperial Forces which his father wishes to have forwarded to him when the permanent headstone is erected on the grave. No decision has yet been taken regarding the final disposal of the original crosses, but probably most of them will be worn out by the time the permanent headstones have been erected, and will not be in a fit state to be transported to Australia. Record has been made of the application and when the headstone is being erected, the matter will be considered and if at all possible Mr. Wells' request will be complied with.
Extract from Letter from.

Captain Q.S. Speeding.

O/c Australian Graves Services.
Commonwealth Offices,
Australia House,

Strand.

London, W.C.2.

30th Sept. 1919.

London.
3.10.19.

A.P.I.

30.9.19

Capt. G. E. Wells

11th Btn

A.I.F.

Letter in File

Australia House

COPY

Exchange Building,
Pirie Street,
ADELAIDE,
5th February, 1919

Charles A. Edmunds Esq., Solicitor,
Bank of New Zealand Chambers,
Pirie Street.

Dear Mr. Edmunds,

The following is an extract from letter of the
Director of Graves Registration, Capt. Percy B. Akroyd, D.A.A.G.,
War Office, Winchester House, St. James Square, LONDON, S.W.I.

"In reply to your letter of November 8th 1917, I beg to
inform you that Captain G. E. Wells, 41st Battery, 11th Australian
Field Artillery Brigade, A. I. F., is buried in No. 7 Grave, E Row,
Reninghelst New Military cemetery."

"The grave is registered in this Office and marked with a
durable wooden cross bearing full particulars."

As I mentioned, we are particularly anxious to secure
the cross referred to. Thanking you in anticipation for your ser-
vices,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) Alfred Wells.

63. Colchester Court

London. S. W. 5.

April 27. 1919.

Dear Madam

I have to acknowledge
and thank you very much
for yr. kind note of April 24.
which was forwarded to my
present address. It is a great
consolation to know where
my gallant nephew
Captain Geoffrey Eschine Wells
is buried & I will send
on your letter to his

broken-hearted mother
in Australia. All the
members of Capt. Wells'
family will be grateful
for your kind information.
I hope that some of us
may soon visit that sacred
"corner of a foreign field
that is for ever England".

Yours gratefully

M. J. Pratt.

(address Mr. W. S. Pratt.)

28. Bridgeland St
Bideford

Nov 22.

R. Devon

Dear Sir

Mr F.A. B.

By this morning's
post I have had all
the details concerning
Captain G. E. Wells' death
in France from wounds
on Oct 6. So I am writing
at once to tell you that
the Australian Military
Authorities have supplied
all the information I needed.

for Capt. Wells' parents.

I must thank you very
sincerely for what you
would doubtless have
succeeded in doing well
& I should like to express
my regret if I have given
you any unnecessary
trouble.

Again thanking you

Believe me

Yours truly

(W:) Mr. Isabel Pratt.

RECEIVED
23 NOV. 1917
RLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Address Mr N.S. Pratt
28. Bridgeland St
Bideford
N. Devon.
Nov. 14. 1917.

RECEIVED
20 NOV 1917
SARATON HOUSE TEND

Dear Sir

I should be so grateful
if you could enquire & send me
any details concerning the death
in France of Capt Geoffrey Erskine Wells
41st Battery, 11th Australian Field
Artillery Brigade. A.F.C. He died
of wounds last month, on October 6.
That tragic fact was communicated
to me by the Agent-General for South
Australia & I cabled to my relations
the parents of Capt Wells in Adelaide
they want naturally more details and
I wrote for them to the Agent General.
He replied promptly that there were

none available but that he
had forwarded my letter to
the Australian Imperial Military
Authorities. Since no reply has
come from them I have been
advised to write to your Enquiry
Department as the sole (reliable)
source of information concerning
these young & precious lives
sacrificed in this horrible war.

Yours Truly
Mr. Isabel Pratt.

INFORMATION BUREAU

FOR OBTAINING NEWS OF SICK, WOUNDED, OR MISSING SOLDIERS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

TELEPHONE—CENTRAL 5283.



HOURS—

Monday to Friday:
2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday:
10 a.m. to noon.

In reply please quote file



Parling Buildings.

Franklin Street.

Adelaide.

10th February, 1919

Miss Deakin,
Honorary Secretary,
Australian Branch,
British Red Cross Society,
Enquiry Branch,
LONDON.

Dear Miss Deakin,

Captain G. E. Wells, 11th A. F. A. B.

We write you at the instance of Mr. Alfred Wells, a well-known architect of this city, whose son, Captain G. E. Wells, 41st Battery, 11th Australian Field Artillery Brigade, was according to official report buried at Renninghelst New Military Cemetery. I enclose copy of letter handed to the writer by Mr. Wells with all details of burial. Mr. Wells having noted that the Authorities intend substituting a standard headstone or cross to mark the burial place of all ranks, has asked me if it would be at all possible to procure the original cross erected on his son's grave, which naturally has a high sentimental value to him in the circumstances.

If it is possible in any way to comply with Mr. Wells' wishes in the matter, he would of course be happy to reimburse any expense incurred. This request is a little out of the ordinary but I should be greatly obliged if you would place this enquiry in the proper channel and let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

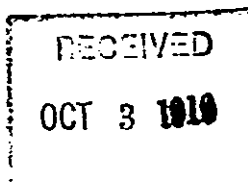
With best wishes,

Yours very truly,

[Signature]
Honorary Secretary.

Enclosure.

Tel. No. City 1740. Ext. _____
Telegraphic Address:
"CROTONATE, ESTRAND, LONDON."



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PH.

COMMONWEALTH OFFICES,

AUSTRALIA HOUSE,

STRAND.

LONDON, W.C.2

Any further communication should
be addressed to

THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY, OFFICER IN CHARGE,
and the following No. quoted: AUSTRALIAN GRAVES SERVICES:

A.G.S.95/M.

30th September, 1919.

Wells Bilt & Co. Engrs
11 F.A.B
JW 6-10-17
A
Pig

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
36, Grosvenor Place,
S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

I have received your letter dated 5th instant regarding the original cross on the grave of Captain G.E. Wells, 11th F.A.B. Australian Imperial Force, which his father wishes to have forwarded to him when the permanent headstone is erected on the grave. No decision has yet been taken regarding the final disposal of the original crosses, but probably most of them will be worn out by the time the permanent headstones have been erected, and will not be in a fit state to be transported to Australia. Record has been made of the application and when the headstone is being erected, the matter will be considered and if at all possible Mr. Wells' request will be complied with.

With regard to photograph of grave of 2777 Sgt. John Allen Law, 51st Battalion, this grave has not yet been located but if it should be photographs will be sent to his mother.

Yours faithfully,

2447
Law Sgt. John Allen
51 Bn
K- A 3-9-16
P
Pig

g.l. file
+ slips in
T.V. Spence
Captain.
C/O Australian Graves Services.

April 24th, 1919.

Mrs. W.S. Pratt.
28, Bridgeland St.
Bideford. N. Devon.

Dear Madam.

With reference to your enquiry of 17.11.17 for
Capt. GEOFFREY BRSZINE FIDGS. 41st Battery. 11th P.A.B., A.I.F.
We beg to inform you we have now received an official report
stating that he was buried in the Hemingheist New Military
Cometary S.P. of Poperingho, the map reference of his grave
being D.G.R.E.26692G.

Hoping it will be of some comfort to you to know
his grave has been registered and regretting the long delay
in answering your enquiry.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

SECRETARY.

G. W. G.