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

2697 Private Alexander White Weir

34th Battalion



2890712T

A.I.F. 34. WEIR, A.W., 2697.

K. 23.7.17. Det. D & B.

A little Scotchman, with a stutter, who came over with the 5th Reinforcements. He was a stretcher bearer in A Co. On the night of the 23rd July, we were changing over in the trenches, Wellington Avenue. Weir was sitting with another stretcher bearer, called Richardson, waiting for the men to pass, when both of them were killed by a Minnie Bomb, the same bomb wounding a Lieutenant and a Sgt. Weir was not killed at once, but lived for about five minutes after we pulled him out. I can't say where he was buried.

Informant: Pte. A. Kirkland, 2604. B Co. 8 Pl.
No.2 Army Rest Camp.
BOULOGNE. 27.9.17.

HMH.

A.I.F. 34. WEIR, A.W. 2697.

K. July 23rd 1917. Det. D/B.

We were at Messines on July 23rd, when a stokes shell killed Richardson outright, and badly wounded Weir who died a few minutes later in my arms. He was buried by the Pioneers just out behind the front line, near the support lines. He was a Scotchman, about 22 years, little man single, called Alec, but am not sure whether this was his proper name.

Informant. L/Cpl. C. Herbert 1842. A. III.
'8 Stat. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 2.10.17.

PRBL.

34th A.I.F.

Weir A.W. 2697,
A. Company.

(K. July 23/17 Det. D/B)

"On the night of July 23rd our Company were ordered to take the enemy's stronghold on Messines Ridge. I was a stretcher bearer at the time and came across A Weir lying down and bleeding very severely. I tried to stop the bleeding but could not. His leg was fearfully shattered. After several minutes he died. I do not know where he was buried".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Pte. Victor Ogden 1923,
34th A.I.F., A. Coy., II Plt.,
2nd Southern General Hospt.,
Bristol.

Home address:
Gosford,
New South Wales.

Oct. 5/17,
C.W. Winnington-Ingram.

34th A.I.F.

Weir Pte. A.W. 2697,
A. Coy. ? Plt.

(K. July 23/17 Det D/B)

He was killed by shell when changing over one night, his leg was badly smashed. I was bandaging him and he died in my arms, buried just near front line at Messines.

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Little Scotch chap.

Informant: L/Cpl. C. Herbert 1842,
34 A.I.F., A. Coy. III Plt.,
Ford Hospt.,
Devonport.

Home address:
West Maitland,
N.S. Wales.

12/10/17,
E.H. Hall.

W

34th A. I. F.

Weir, Pte Alec 2697,
A. Coy 2(?) Pltn.

(K. 23.7.17. Det D & B)

"Pte Alec Weir was killed by a shell at Messines on the 23rd July 1917".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: About 5'6", darkish, slim built

Informant: Cpl H.C. Donnelly, 56,
34th A. I. F., A. Coy, 3 Pltn,
Norfolk War Hospital,
Norwich.

Home address:
c/c Mr. D. Donnelly,
West Wallsend, N.S.W.

23rd Oct. 1917.
Edgar Rice.

Havre 17th Sept. 1918.

34th AUSTRALIANS WEIR, A.W. 2697

K. 23.7.17. Det. D/B.

Pte Also W. Weir of A Co., 2nd Pltn. (my platoon) was killed at Warneton while on fatigue. I did not see him killed but saw his body after. He is buried in the open near our communication trench. There is a cross on the grave. I could point out the spot.

Informant: Pte. J. McCulloch, 136
34th Australians, A Co., 2nd Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RBM

Havre 25th Sept. 1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS WEIR, A.W. 2697.

K. 23.7.17. Det. D/B.

I know Pte. Weir of the 34th Battalion, A Co., 2nd Pltn. well, but do not know his christian name. He came across in either the 4th or 5th Reinforcements to the 34th battalion from Sydney. I was in the trench with him at Messines in July, 1917 when he was killed instantly by a bomb. He was buried in our support lines; there should be a cross on the grave. We held the ground. I could point out the spot.

Informant: Pte. T.J. O'Brien, 1874
34th Australians, A Co., 2nd Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RDM