725/29

2436 Pte
WIGHT Norman Richard

44th Bn
4.10.17
K.I.A.
(father) Mr. A. WIGHT

NOTED ON H. R. CARD

Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier Norman Richard Wight
2. Unit and Number (if known) 44th Batt. # 2436
3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)
   Town (if any) Geraldton District Victoria State Western Australia.
4. What was his Birthplace Adelaide South Australia
5. Date of Death 4th October 1917.
6. Place where Killed ~~or Wounded~~ Zonnebeke in direction of Passchendaele

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling Clerk.
2. Age at time of Death Twenty years & seven months.
3. What was his School State School Geraldton W. Aust.
4. What was his other Training Senior Cadets. E. Coy.
5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia
6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars)
   E. Company Senior Cadets.
7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment—
   Letters here with enclosed.
8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship)— Colonel Richard Linton H.O's 6th Infantry Brigade A.I.F. Second Cousin.
9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information—
   Name Rose Wight
   Relationship to Soldier Mother
   Address Marine Terrace. Geraldton. West. Aust.
10. Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information—
    Name
    Address

NOTE.—This Folder is Addressed to the Officer in Charge, Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. Please fold in four, and stick down gummed flap so that the addressed portion is outside. The information is required urgently.

D.1994/1.22.—C.4-3.—20M.

[Copy]

H. M. A. Transport

At Sea.

Alexander Wight Esq,.

Marine Terrace,

Geraldton.

Dear Sir,

As the Officer commanding the 4th reinforcements of the 44th Battalion of which your son Norman is a member,it affords me much pleasure and satisfaction to acquaint you of the gallant part played by him in a sad accident resulting in the death, by drowning of Private George Phelps formally of Boulder W.A.

I am sure you will appreciate the fact that for reasons which will be obvious to you I cannot give the date or the name of the port at which the fatality occurred,but the facts of the case briefly recounted will interest you.

On a recent night,at a port en route to our destination, our men having returned from Shore leave,one of the Company (since proved to have been Private George Phelps) had the misfortune to fall overboard - in a manner quite inexplicable. The cry "Man overboard" awoke your son amongst others, and braving the dangers of a swift running current and regardless of the well known fact that the harbour was infested with Sharks,Norman plunged overboard in the darkness and made a most gallant and determined attempt to save the life of his unfortunate friend,with the strength and daring of a fine swimmer, he outsped the current and dived under the drowning,he brought him to the surface and tied a rope around him,

were fruitless. A few minutes and one of the ship's lifeboats had picked up your son,who,it was seen,had made a noble and exhausting effort to save a brother Soldier. Congratulations upon the daring courage displayed by Norman were lost upon him in his expressions of keen regret at the failure of his efforts, but those of us who arrived on deck in time to witness your son's self sacrifice and conspicious bravery it is only right that we should express to the members of the lad's family our warm appreciation of his manly pluck and courage. Such bravery augurs well for the part he is to play in upholding the cause of his Country and I feel confident that his career as a Soldier will give you further cause to be proud of him.

That your son's action will be fittingly recognised by the Officers and men on board. You may be assured and I need only add that it is my intention,immediately upon reaching our destination to bring the fact under the notice of the Royal Life-Saving Society.

Believe me,

Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

L. Davy

C/o 10th Reinf.44th Bat.

P. S. There is no Military objection to the publication of this letter,it should stimulate others to do their duty fearlessly.

(Copy)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Department of Defence.
Base Records Office A. I. F
Melbourne 14th March 1918.

Dear Madam,

It is with feelings of admiration at the gallantry of a brave Australian soldier who nobly laid down his life in the service of our King and Country, that I am directed by the Honourable The Minister to forward to you, as the legatee of the late No. 2436 Private N. R. Wight, 44th Battlion, Australian Imperial Force, the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society which His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award to the gallant soldier for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty while serving with the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force.

I am also to ask you to accept his deep personal sympathy in the loss of which, not only you, but the Australian Army has sustained by the death of Private N. R. Wight whose magnificent conduct on the field of battle helped to earn for our Australian soldiers a fame which will endure as long as memory lasts.

Yours faithfully,

W. MacKintosh,
Captain,
for Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs R. Wight,

Copy of Inscription on Medal.

Presented to

Pte. W. Wight

By Officers and men

of 4th Rfs. 44th Batt. A. I. F.

For Conspicuous Bravery in

attempting to rescue a Comrade

from drowning at Freetown.

F. L. on 21/11/16

725/33