Corporal Kenneth Whitty (XC 1910-11)

AWM ~ Roll of Honour

Kenneth Whitty

Service Number: 19696
Rank: Corporal
Rank on enlistment: Driver
Unit: 8th Australian Field Artillery Brigade
Date of death: 20 October 1918
Place of death: France
Cause of death: Killed in action
Age at death: 22
Place of association: Narrandera, NSW
Cemetery or memorial details: Busigny Communal Cemetery, Cambrai, France
Grave Reference: Plot III, Row A, Grave I

From “The Xaverian” 1916 p. 67

Ian and Ken Whitty are in the Artillery. Ian sailed for Egypt in November, 1915, as Driver in the F.A. Brigade. In March, the Brigade to France, and then, at Armentieres and in the Somme region. So far he has escaped all accidents and illness…

Ken enlisted in Queensland, but was transferred to a Victorian Battalion, sailed in May as a Driver in a Battery of the Field Artillery Brigade. He has been for some time at Salisbury Plain. England he finds too wet and cold, although its places of historical interest please him. In the same battery is Ted Curr, whom, with Ken, we were very pleased to have back with us for a little while before they left. They both are a fine type of Australian, solid and thorough…

From “The Xaverian” 1917 p. 77

Ian and Ken Whitty report themselves as “alive and famous (in health at least) at the front.” Ian has brought down a “second star” and affixed it to his uniform; while Ken, is a Bombardier. Good luck to them, and may they not get “stuck in the mud” of which they say there is often danger in these once fair and flowering fields of Flanders. Later news tells of Ian having been wounded by gunfire in the leg, but rapidly recovering.

From “The Xaverian” 1918 p. 63

Corporal Ken. Whitty —Poor Ken., who was serving with the Australian Field Artillery, was killed in action on October 18th. He had been wounded in march, at Amiens, but, after a few weeks in hospital in England, returned to his battery, only to meet the fresh wound that caused his death. May he rest in peace, and comfort come to the home at Whitton, which now adds a fresh sorrow to that caused by the death of poor Eric (1904-07) in 1915.

“Wesley, Scotch and Grammar,
Xavier and the two Geelongs.”
Australian War Memorial
Group portrait of the NCOs of the 8th Field Artillery Brigade at Vieux Berquin.
France: Western Front (France), Nord Region, Lys Area (France), Vieux Berquin
23 January, 1918