

1686



C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Statement made by Repatriated Prisoners of War.
Taken at Ripon, Yorkshire. 11.1.1919.
Original Manuscript filed with Records.

Administrative Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
"B" Records Section.

17th January, 1919.

REG.NO. 370.
RANK. Private.
NAME. HAWKINS.R.F.
PLATOON. -
COMPANY. "B" Company.
BATTALION. 42nd Battalion.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE.

- (a) Date. 16.2.17.
- (b) Place. Armentieres.

At about 3 a.m. of 16.2.17 an enemy party raided our lines at Armentieres, following up a heavy minenwerfer bombardment. I was wounded in the head by a hand grenade and was pretty well laid out. While I lay helpless a party of Germans pounced upon me and half carried, half dragged me into their lines. So far as I know only one other man of ours had been captured. I was taken to hospital at Lille where I was closely questioned. I next spent six weeks in hospital at Douai. I was next sent to Fort McDonald as a prisoner of respite for 12 or 13 days. I did not reach Langensalz Camp until September 1917. Until then I had been working behind the enemy lines. I was working at a cement fabrik at Neustadt when the Armistice was signed. From Langensalz I was sent into Holland and eventually crossed over from Rotterdam to Hull by the S.S. "Prince George" arriving there on 11.1.19. I received my Red Cross parcels regularly and in good order.

(Sgd) 370 Pte.R.F.Hawkins.

Witness. (Sgd) 559a A.J.Angel, Sgt.