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

6285 Private
Gilbert William Brown

20th Battalion



0570206K

20th Battalion, A.I.F.

BROWN, G.W.
P'te. No.6285.

"Died of Wounds, 21/9/17".

Informant described Brown as about 5'8" high, stout build, dark complexion, aged about 24/5. Came from Sydney. Left Australia per "Suevic" on 11/11/16.

Informant states that they both belonged to "C"Company. On 21.9.17 the Battalion took part in the attack on Polygon Wood, Ypres. They hopped over at 6 a.m. Informant saw Brown before the hop over and next saw him lying wounded near a Pill Box in the German lines. He had been wounded in the side by a shell. He was conscious and seemed in good spirits and asked one of the boys for a cigarette. Informant also spoke to him. One of his mates went for stretcher bearers. He could make no enquiries as to burial as he came straight away but there is no doubt that he was decently buried.

Informant added that Brown was an excellent chap, well liked.

Informant:- Private F.H.Howard, No.6354,
C.Company, 11th Platoon, 20th Battalion,

Present Address:- H.Ward, Georges Heights, Military Hospital.

Home Address:- Arcadia,
Hornsby.

W.E.G.
18. 4. 18.
No.21, Australian Auxiliary Hospital,
Georges Heights, Mosman.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Nov 5

O.C's Draft.

C. The. O.C

17th Cas: Clg. Station

B.9.7

No 6285 Pte G. W. Brown

2o in Bttn.

C.

died of wds 21-9-17.

20th Batn
A.I.F.

BROWN
Pte. G.W. 6285

"Died of wounds"

He was admitted to this hospital suffering from severe shell wound in right groin and he died at midnight on 21.9.17. as a result of this wound. He was buried on the following day in the Soldiers cemetery, near to this Hospital, his grave being duly marked and registered.

Letter from:-
Lieut. Col. RAMC.
Commdg. No 17. C.C.S.
10.11.17.

S

London.
19.11.17.

20th Battn. BROWN, G.W., Pte., No.6285.

D/W, 21/9/17.

Brown was a Lewis Machine Gunner. We were going forward during the battle of Menin Road, 20/9/17. He was in a shell hole, when a shell burst close by, severely wounding Brown. He was taken away by the Stretcher Bearers, but I do not know what happened to him then. He was one of our best gunners, and a very fine chap altogether.

Informant - Private J.C.Foy, No.6327,
20th Battalion,
Private Address - "Autenil",
Killara.

J.V.M.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
Randwick.
20/3/18. SYDNEY BUREAU.

20th Battalion, A.I.F. BROWN.
Private G.W. 6285.

"DIED OF WOUNDS, 21.9.17."

Informant described Brown as about 5 feet 10 inches high, stout build, weighing about 12 stone, brown eyes, aged about 24. He left Australia with Informant per "Suevic" in November, 1916.

Informant states that they were both in "C" Company. On 21.9.17 the Battalion was at Polygon Wood, Ypres, attacking a spot named Anzac House. They hopped over about 5 a.m. Informant saw Brown before the hop over, in fact went into the line with him. He also kept him in view after the hop over, and about two hours later saw him struck by a piece of shell or shrapnel when not far from the objective. He became unconscious when hit. Informant was certain that Brown was decently buried, but did not know where.

Informant added that Brown was a great friend of his, and a good mate. He was well liked by everyone in the Company.

INFORMANT;- Signaller T.C. Bogg, 6282,
"B" Coy, 20th Battalion, A.I.F.
Home address;- Greenvich Park, Towrang, near Goulburn.

W.E.G.
No.4 Australian General
Hospital, RANDWICK.
4.4.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU

20th Battalion,
A.I.F.

BROWN.
Pte. G.W. No. 6285.

"Died of Wounds 21.9.17."

Informant described Brown as about 5 ft 10 inches high, stout build, weighing about 12 stone, dark complexion, aged about 32. His people lived at one time at Port Hacking. Left Australia per "Suevic" on 11.11.16.

Informant states that they both belonged to "C" Company, Machine Gun Section, No. 9 Platoon. On 20.9.17 the Battalion was attacking on the Ypres front. They hopped over about 6-15 a.m. Brown being with him at the time. He kept him in view for some time after the hopover but while he reached the objective Brown failed to do so. Informant was coming back for more ammunition when he saw Brown lying wounded in a shellhole. Informant spoke to him and Brown told him that he was alright. Informant bandaged him up and went for assistance and he was eventually carried out. Informant subsequently heard that he died about 10 o'clock the next morning at Poperhinge, about 20 miles away.

Informant added that Brown was a pal of his and they were always together. He was "one of the best".

Informant: Private H.G. O'Keeffe, No. 6399.
"C" Company, 20th Battalion.
Home address: Tarella, West Wyalong.

W.E.G.
8.4.18.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Havre 10th April 1918.

20th A.I.F. Brown G.W. No.6285.

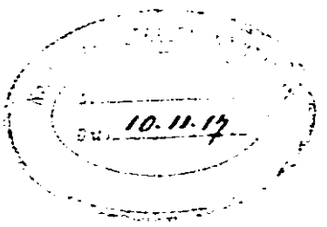
D/W 21st Septr 1917. Det D/B.

He was in C.Coy. single, born in England. He was hit by a shell and came down to the D/Station where he died the same day. I left before he was buried but he was probably buried in the Ypres cemetery.

Inf:- Pte A.W.Fisher No.5323.
20th A.I.F. C.Coy.
No. 34 Amb. Train.

S.

RBS.



To,
Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
London.

CD/W.D.

Dear Madam,

In reply to attached enquiry regarding the death of No 6283. Pte G. H. Brown, 20th Bn, A.I.F;

He was admitted to this Hospital suffering from severe shell wound in R. Groin, and he died at midnight on 21.9.17 as a result of this wound. He was buried on the following day in the Soldiers' Cemetry, near to this Hospital, his grave being duly marked and registered.

10/11/17

O. R. Burgess

COMDG ... 17 ... B SEVTO

S.