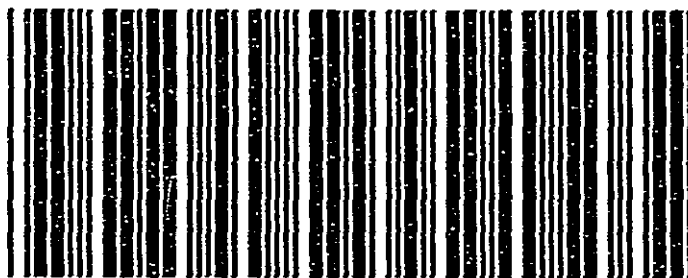


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

421 Private
Wilfred Joseph
Bennett

20th Battalion



0350106F

20th Bata
A.I.F.

BENNETT
Wilfred Joseph 421(Rouen)

"Wounded"

No further report.

Cert. by letter from Rouen 25.10.17.

Wounded 20.9.17.

Cert. by A.I.F.HdQtrs 30.10.17.

No further report

Cert, by A.I.F.HdQtrs 30.10.17.

Wounded and Missing 20.9.17. prev. rep wounded 20.9.17.

Cert. by A.I.F.HdQtrs 21.11.17.

London. 21.11.17.

P.I

Navre

4th December. 1917.

20th AUSTRALIANS

SECRET, T.J. 421

1/11
2. Sept. 20th. 1917.

He was in A. Company - an original Battalion man. He was a big fellow, about 17 years of age. I saw him wounded on September 20th, about 6.30. at Westhoek as we were going over the ridge, during the attack. I passed close to him. Two of the boys were helping him up. He was on the ground. I think he was pretty badly wounded. I did not speak to him. I went on, and have not seen him since. He held this ground.

Informant: Corry, A.S. 8861

20th Australians, 1.8.20., 11. 11th.

Australian Camp, Bouellics.

END.

P.1
10/11/17
11
12/11/17

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

BENNETT,
W.J. 421

"Killed in Action."

Killed in Action (Court of Enquiry) 20.9.17 Previously reported
Missing and Wound.

Cert. by Hqrs 28.3.18. I.B. 449.

London.
3.4.18.

P.I.
O.P.M.

20 Australian I.F.

Bennett. W.J. 421

~~W & H.~~ Sept 20/17
K/2

"I know that Cpl. Bennett (20. B. M.G.) was first reported wounded & missing after the attack on Sept. 20th, ~~at Ypres~~ at Ypres. He was afterwards found by the stretcher bearers and reported dead from the Dressing Station."

Eye-witness:- No, heard in Coy.

Description:- H.S.W. single, original.

Informant:- Pte. John Martin, 62A,
20 Aust. I.F., B.Coy. V Pl.,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
Cowley Section,
Oxford.

Home address:- 25, Addison Rd,
Harrickville,
Sydney, N.S.W.
27th April 1918.
H.M.Pickard-Cambridge.

P1
C/17-17
17-17

A.I.F.
20th Btn.

W.J.

BENNETT.
421.

"K/A 20.9.17."

On list No 3. C of E 6092. held in Field 14.3.18.
Statement by 3848 Pte. McCluskey. At midday on 20th Sept. 1917
when at our objective near Hannebeke Creek, near Ypres. My machine
gun crew of which Pte. Bennett was a member, received orders to
send our ammunition forward to 17th Btn. Bennett was one of the
men detailed for this. I saw him leave and proceed towards 17th
Btn. but he did not return and I have seen nothing of him since.

(Sgd) J.B. McCluskey.

The Court declare Pte. Bennett W.J. 421. Killed in Action 20.9.17.

W.H.G. Guard. Lieut.

President.

Cert. by A.I.F. H/Qs 2.5.19.

The Court includes 2211 Reid. B.G. K/A 20.9.17. 756 L/Sgt. Martin A.H.H
K/A 20.9.17. 4196 Matthews. W.R. K/A 5.8.16. and 4766 Reid. J.S.
K/A 9.10.17.

London.
3.5.19.

Off.M. & P.I.

A.I.F. 20th Battrn.

BENNETT
W.J. 421

Killed in action 20.9.18

Enlisted 8.5.15 - age 27 years 2 months.
Born Gloucester, Gloucester, England.
Next of kin - Father - 16 Castle St,
Gloucester, England.
Court of Enquiry list 26.4.19

London
3.5.19

P.I.
OFF.M.

A.I.F.
20th. Battalion.

BENNETT. 421.
Wilfred Joseph.

"Killed in Action 20.9.17".

No trace Germany. .

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
16.10.19.

Off.M.
P.I.

Bennett.

421

W. J.

N/A 20.9.17.

20th Bn.

On list no 3.

C of E 6092. held in Field 14.3.18.

Statement by 3848 Pte M^cCluskey.

At midday on 20th Sept 1917 when ^{at} on objective
near Hammebecke Creek, near Ypres, my

Machine Gun Crew of which Pte Bennett was
a member, received orders to send our
ammunition forward to 17th Bn - Bennett
was one of the men detailed for this. I saw
him leave & proceed towards 17th Bn.

but he did not return & I have seen

nothing of him since. Sgt J. B. M^cCluskey.

The Comd declare Pte Bennett W. J.

4 Killed in Action 20.9.17.

W. H. G. Guard Post -

President

H Q 2.5.19.

This Comd includes. 2211 Reid B. G. N/A 20.9.17.

756 2/291 Martin A. J. H N/A 20.9.17.

4196 Matthews W. R. N/A 3.8.16

5766 Reid J. S. N/A 9.10.17

FOWLIE & BODEN.

PARTNERS,
W FOWLIE
W WHYTOK.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.
FOREIGN-CELLIPORE, LONDON
INLAND-CELLIPORE, FINSQUARE, LONDON

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Telephone No (London Hall 4258 (2 Lines))

PC
22.10.17

29/35 City Road,

London. 18-10-17 191
E.C.1.

RECEIVED

19 OCT 1917

CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

The Red Cross Society & Order of St. John.

Carlton House Terrace. S.W.

Dear Sirs,

I was informed yesterday that Wilfred Joseph Bennett, -
Private in the 20th Batta Australian Forces was wounded on the
20th Sept. but at Horseferry Road they were not able to tell me
anything further. I would be much obliged if you could let me
know if Mr. Bennett is severely wounded or not, also could you
advise me in what hospital he is located.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Wm Whytock

LONDON SW 1
 8. 15 PM
 AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
 WOUNDED & MISSING
 ENQUIRY BUREAU
 21, VICTORIA STREET
 LONDON, S.W. 1.
 21 French
 20th Australian Infantry Batta.
 B. E. F.
 France.
 Wounded
 10/11/17
 J. H. H.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY,"
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON S.W.1.

October 31st, 1917.

421 Pte. W. J. Bennett,
20th Australian Infantry Bttn,
B.E.F., France.

Dear Sir,

We should be glad if on receipt of this letter you would write and advise us how and where you are as we have had an anxious enquiry for you in which the enquirer states that you were wounded on 20.9.17, and asks for the name of the hospital to which you were admitted.

We have no record of your admission to hospital so conclude you were not severely wounded and have now probably rejoined your unit. But on hearing definitely from you, we shall forward the news to your friend.

With all good wishes and awaiting your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin
SECRETARY.

October 31st, 1917.

421 Pfc. F. J. Bennett,
80th Australian Infantry Bttn,
B.E.F., France.

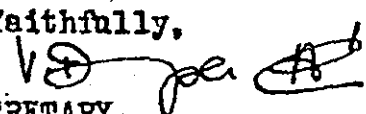
Dear Sir,

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We have no record of your admission to hospital so conclude you were not severely wounded and have now probably rejoined your unit. But on hearing definitely from you, we shall forward the news to your friend.

With all good wishes and awaiting your reply.

Yours faithfully,


SECRETARY.

Thanking you in
Anticipation
from your very
truly
J. F. Bennett

Oct 2-11-17

16 Leathe Street
Limerick
Gloucestershire
England
Oct 24/17

Gentlemen,
I have been advised to apply
to you on behalf of the whereabouts of
my son, 421 & J Bennett

A. Coy. 20th Bort. 2nd Bn. 1st Div. 1st Army.
A. I. F.

A week ago we received news from
the Record Office in London that he
was wounded in France on Sep 20th last.
He has always been so regular in
writing home previously that we fear
he has lost his memory or something
and cannot advise us of his whereabouts.
Also we understood the Hospital Authorities
in France usually notified next of kin
if they were able to say who they were.
I should be most grateful if you can
help me at all as we are very anxious.
And members of the family who are very ill
are suffering much more thro the suspense

November 3rd, 1917.

Mrs. E.T. Bennett,
16, Castle Street,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Dear Madam,

We are in receipt of your letter of 24th October concerning
your son No 421 W.J. Bennett,
A. Coy, 20th Battalion,
A.I.F.

"Founded 20.9.17"

and regret to tell you that although we have been making enquiries,
we have not been successful in finding any further report of him up
to date. We are continuing our enquiries however, and as soon as
any news comes to hand we will immediately communicate with you.

We deeply sympathise with you and your family in your
anxiety and trust that very soon you will receive good news of your
son.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

16 Castle Street
Liverpool
Nov 15/17

Dear Sir

I am writing you
respecting the whereabouts
of my son Private R. J.
Bennett #21 A. I. F.

— Lt Col
20th Batt

He was reported to us
as wounded 4 weeks
after the 20th of Sep this
year, since then we
have had no information
respecting him either
personally or through
your Society,

Surely if he is in any
Hospital either in France
or England you must
have some record of some
we know only too well
that if he were able to
write he would have
done so,

If he had been reported
seriously wounded
we could the better under-
stand it,

Is there any chance of
his having been taken
prisoner? And if so what
is the best way to ascertain?
light would seem an
easier time to go out
for information - And
then nothing to come to

hand, especially as
some members of my
family are very ill
and the suspense is
terrible for them.
Our letter have this day
been returned just
marked present
whereabouts uncertain,
Thanking you in anticipation
of a speedy & favourable
reply. I am

Yours very truly

R. J. Bennett

December 23rd, 1917.

Mrs. Bennett,
Cirencester,
Gloucestershire.

Dear Madam,

421. Wilfred Joseph Bennett, 20th. Batta. A.I.F.

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported wounded 20.9.17 is now officially reported wounded and missing 20.9.17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of obtaining full details as we fully realise your anxiety about him.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Lpw.

Secretary.

December 22nd, 1917.

W. Whytsock, Esq.,
23/35, City Road,
E.C. 1.

Dear Sir,

Re 421, Wilfred Joseph Bennett, 20th. Bn. A.I.F.

With reference to your enquiry for the above soldier who was previously reported wounded we regret to inform you that he is now reported wounded and missing, since 20.9.17.

Further enquiries are being made and we hope to soon send you detailed information.

Yours faithfully,

LW

Secretary.

W. H. Haycock, Esq.,
28/35, City Road, E.C. 1.

22. January, 1918

Dear Sir,

We are sending you an unofficial report concerning :-

421. Pte. W. D. Bennett, 20th. Battalion, A.I.F.

which we regret to say only confirms our worst fears as to his fate, though at the same time we emphasize the strictly unofficial nature of this kind of report.

Our informant 6853. Pte. A. E. Garry, 20th. Battalion, certifies as follows :

"Bennett was in A. Coy. an original Battalion man. He was a big fellow about 27 years of age. I saw him wounded on Sept. 20th. about 6. a.m. at Westhoek as we were over the Ridge during the attack. I passed him (close to) two of the boys were helping him up, he was on the ground, and I think badly wounded. I did not speak to him, but went on, and have not seen him since."

We are pursuing our enquiries and will continue to send you anything further we may receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Mrs Bennett,
15, Castle Street,
~~Gloucester~~ *Gloucester*
Gloucestershire.

22nd, January, 1918.

Dear Madam,

We are sending you an unofficial report concerning you son
*and ~~be~~ fully realize how great your grief and anxiety must be
421. Pte. J.T. Bennett, 20th. Battalion. A.I.F.

which we regret to say only helps to confirm our worst fears as
to his fate, though at the same time we emphasize the strictly
unofficial nature of reports of this kind.

Our informant 6061. Pte. A.E. Carry, 20th. Battalion. certifies
as follows :

"Bennett was in A. Coy. an original Battalion man. He was
a big fellow about 27 years of age. I saw him wounded on Sept.
20th. about 6. a.m. at Westhoek as we were over the Ridge during
the attack. I passed close to him, two of the boys were helping
him up, he was on the ground, and I think he was badly wounded.
I did not speak to him, but went on and have not seen him since."

* ~~but~~ We are pursuing our enquiries and will continue to send you
anything further we may receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Blue

Mrs. Bennett,
16, Castle St.,
Oxford,
Gloucestershire.

February 22nd, 1918.

Dear Madam,

We much regret that as yet we have not been able to obtain any further news of your son.

421 Pte. W.J. BENNETT, 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

for information whose whereabouts we have made exhaustive enquiries. We fully realise the anxiety you must be suffering and shall will write to you directly we receive any news, and would have done so before if we had had any.

We greatly fear that as so many months have now elapsed since he was missing that he must have been killed, for he would surely have written to you or to the Prisoners of War Society, were he a prisoner in Germany.

With sincere sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

F.S.G.

421

16 Castle Street

Mr. H. J. Bennett
Liverpool

20 Bth Jan 24 '12

Secretary

A H C

Dear Madam

I thank you
for your letter to hand
this morning,

And thank you for your
sympathy,

Our grief and anxiety
is intense, and it yet
remains to be proved
whether he is a prisoner
of war or not,

I quite appreciate the efforts
you are making, and am
very grateful if we could

only get definite news
whatever it may be. Our
friends would be anxious,
He was such a dear
boy and all in all
to his sister who is
in good health,
I trust to you to let
me have further information
at the earliest possible
moment,

I am yours
faithfully
E F Bennett

Abandoned

16 Castle Street
Birmingham

Secretary

Feb 7 1918

A. I. & Mad. M. M. M.

Dear Sir

Re My Son Private

E. J. Bennett #21 20 Batt
A. I. &

Have you any further
information to give
us respecting his fate?
It is now 5 months since
he was reported
wounded & missing,
some months ago you
told me that all the
German Camps &
Hospitals were searched

periodically for missing
men.
Has this been done recently?
I have had serious
worry in the family,
and the suspense is
having an very serious
effect on at least one
member of my family.
I should be most
grateful if you could
give me any further
news of him, I know
sometimes letters from
Prisoners of War do not
get through, thanking
you in anticipation
I am yours sincerely
E. J. Bennett

William Whytock, Esq.
28/35, City Road, E.C.1.

9th April, 1918.

Re 421 J. BENNETT, 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded and Missing is now reported Killed in Action 20-9-17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will forward to you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

Law
SECRETARY.

9th April, 1918.

Mrs. Bennett,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

421
Re 421 W. J. BENNETT, 20th Battn, A.I.F.

Dear Madam,

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Wounded & Missing is now reported Killed in Action on 20-9-17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Law
SECRETARY.

Flying Corps.
68.

D/W. Nov²⁴ 17¹⁷ Sep¹³

Ayers Lieut S.W.

Lieut Ayers was brought down by a Hun
Machine over ^{our} own lines while going
towards Cambrai. and did 7 wounds
at a hospital the place of which I do not
know. I did not see this but it was
reported back to us

Warren W. 748

68 A.F.C. Art Mechanic

Art. 19. Westham

M.A. Rand
3.4.18

Sed
Ed
W. J.

Mrs. Bennett,
16, Castle Street,
Gloucester, Glos.

14th May, 1918.

Dear Madam,

With further reference to your enquiry for your son -
421 Pte. W. J. BENNETT, 20th Battalion, A.I.F. who
is now officially reported Killed in Action on 20-9-17.

We regret to inform you of an unofficial report we
have received from one of his comrades in the Battalion.

621 Pte. John Martin, wrote from 3rd Southern General
Hospital, Cowley Section, Oxford, and stated that Pte. Bennett
whom he describes as Cpl. was first reported Wounded and Missing
after the attack on Sept. 20th, but that later he heard from
other men in the Company that his dead body was found by
stretcher bearers.

Regretting the sad nature of this report and with
renewed sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Miss Stanfield
SECRETARY.

14th May, 1918.

Wm. Whytock, Esq.,
28/35 City Road,
E.C. 1.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry for -

421 Pte. W. J. BENNETT, 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

who is now officially reported killed in Action on 20-9-17.

We regret to inform you that of an unofficial report we have received from one of his comrades in the Battalion.

621 Pte. John Martin, wrote from 3rd Southern General Hospital, Cowley Station, Oxford, and stated that Pte. Bennett whom he describes as Cpl. was first reported wounded and Missing after the attack on Sept. 20th but that later he heard from other men in the company that his dead body was found by stretcher bearers.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *Mrs. Stanger*
SECRETARY.