

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

**4533 Private
Andrew Leslie Bennett**

53rd Battalion



0340403E

A.I.F. 53rd Batta.

BENNETT

A.L. 453.

"Killed 1/9/18."

He was at Battalion Headquarters on guard on the 1st September between Mont St. Quentin and Peronne in a big railway cutting. Fritz was shelling us and a piece of shell hit him in the body and killed him instantly. I was quite close and saw him hit. It was about 6.30 a.m. I was hit about five minutes later, and do not know what became of him. He was a Pte. in "B. Coy, but attached to Headquarters, fairly tall, thin, inclined to be dark, clean shaved, initials were A.I., but I don't remember his number. Don't know any other man of the same name in Battalion.

Informant: Pte. T. Harris 2681,
53rd Batta. Headquarters,
Dartford.

Home address:-
117, Horton Street,
Leichardt,
Sydney. N.S.W.

A.S. Cowan.
London
2.12.18.
H.G.

Havre.

30th. November 1918.

53rd. Australians.

Bennett, A.L. 4533.
Lamerton. Lieut. W.L.

K. September 1/1918. Det. D/B.

I made a large memorial cross for erection to all the men who were killed on September 1st. 1918. near Peronne. It is in the French Cemetery there. There was a photo. of it in the Anzac Bulletin of November 8th. Both these names are on that cross. I carried the bodies of Lieut. Lamerton, Lieut. Davis, Lieut Sherwood, and Private Bennett and buried them in a French Cemetery near Peronne. I cannot remember the name of the village. I fancy that our Adjutant, Lieut. Elliott, who was a personal friend of Lieut Lamerton will have written home to his people.

Inf:- L/Vorporal A. V. Fisher, 2280,
53rd. Australians. H. Q.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM

J. B.

S

REB.

Havre

19th December 1918.

Australians. 53.

Bennett A.L. No. 4533.

K. 1st Sept 1918. Det D/B.

I saw him being taken back on a litter *at Peronne* but I did not see him buried, and can't say where he was buried. *X*

Inf:- Pto J.H. Best No. 4672.
A.I.F. 53. A. III.
Austra. Conv. Depot.

CRE.

J. B.

S

PE.

A.I.F. 53

BENNETT, A.L. 4533, & 3 others.

K.Sept.1/18. Det. D/B.

Bennett crossed with me in the "Euripides" in Oct.'17. He was about 26, an up country lad, had travelled about in Australia, a farm hand shearer, horsebreaker, could do anything. He was in A Co.

At Peronne on the 1st Sept.1918 we lost about 50 chaps by M.G.Fire. I did not see them killed as I was at HQ that day, but I afterwards saw the big cross that was put up over the whole of the grave, the officers' names in a circle and the men's in straight lines. It was in a ravine just outside Peronne. I had a photo of it one time. I think all the men you have in the list K. on Sept.1 were buried in this grave, but these four were friends of mine, that is why I know.

Reference: P.H.Burns, 4541, A.3.
Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.,

Y.M.C.A.Hut, Rouen. 4.2.19.

RC.