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

2nd Lieutenant William Brown

51st Battalion



0581001F

51st Battn., M.G.S.
A. I. F.

BROWN, 2879.
2/Lieut. W.

No report.
Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters 7-10-16.

Promoted 2nd. Lieut 26-8-16. Reported Missing 3-9-16.
Cert. by - 3rd. Echelon letter 6-11-16.

S.

London,
14-11-16.

A.I.F. 51st Battn
Lewis M.G.S.

BROWN
2nd/Lieut Wm.
Late Sgt.

Off. rep. Killed in Action

Rep. Missing - France 3-9-16 - previously reported Killed - now reported Missing believed Wounded
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 13-11-16

London
14-11-16

S

France.

A. I. F. 51. BROWN, 2nd.Lt. W.

M/3rd.September 1916.

He was a newly made officer in No. 1 pl. Sgt. Watson, of No. 1 pl., told me that he saw him killed outright by a bullet at Mouquet Farm. Watson is on leave just now, but will soon be returning to the Coy.

Reference: W. Campbell, 3494, A.Coy., No. 1 Canadian General.

Written Sgt Watson 18/2/16

Staples.
9.12.16.
HBA.

A.I.F. 51. BROWN 2 Lt.W.

E. 3.9.16.

I have written to his mother in Australia, telling her of his death. I did not see him killed but other men who did have also written to her. Full information can be obtained from the Bn. Orderly Room. I do not recollect the names of the men who saw him killed.

PHZ.

Reference: Cpl.E.A. Walker. 2040. H.Q.Co. L.G. School.

Staples.
23.1.17.

5

5lst A. I. F. Brown, 2nd Lieut W.,
C. Coy, M.G.Section

(Pr. Sept. 3rd/16)

Informant states that about August at Mouquet Farm on the Somme he saw Lieut Brown being carried in to our lines on a stretcher after being hit in the stomach and legs by a German machine gun.

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: Thick set man about 5'8", clean-shaven.

Informant: Johnson, 4738,
51st A. I. F.,
Kitchener's Hospital,
Brighton.

Home address:
13, Giles Street,
Cobourg, Victoria,
Australia,

9th January 1917.
M. Machell.

51st Batt.
A.I.F.,

BROWN
2/Lieut W

"Missing 3.9.16"

This officer was evidently listed in 21st Batt. in error. The only officer of that name in 21st Batt. is Capt. Brown the present Adjutant. 2/Lieut W Brown 51st Batt. is reported Missing 3.9.16

Cert. by ~~letter from~~ inquiry at A.I.F. Hqrs, 25.4.17

Note: Not sent on.

London
2.5.17.

21st Batt.
B.Coy. M.G.S.
A.I.F.,

BROWN
2/Lt. W.

"Missing Sept. 3/16"

I saw this officer in London at the Commonwealth bank Between Sept. 20th and 25th 1916. He told me that he had been wounded early in Sept.16. and that he had been sent over to England and was then a patient in an officer's Hospital in London district. I knew him first as a Sgt. and then as an officer. He was of the M.G.S. to which I belonged. He was about 5.7. medium build, dark complexion, and dark curly hair, about 28 years.

Reference:- 887 L Fraser,
B.Co. 21st Batt. M.G.S. A.I.F.,
Perham Downs Camp,
18.5.17.

Note: This officer is listed in 21st Batt. in error. Fraser being a 21st Batt. - man is evidently talking of Capt Brown the 21st Batt. Adjutant

London
3.6.17.
A.R.McPhee

Not sent on

S.

A.I.F. 51st Btn M.G.S.

BROWN
2/Lt Wm. 2879

"Missing"

Killed in Action 3-9-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Head Quarters 4-5-17.

S.

London
8-5-17

Brown.
2nd Lieut. W.

51st Battn.
A. I. F.

"Killed in Action 3.9.16."

Lieut. S. F. Smith, Lewis Mac. Gun Officer to 51st Battn. now in France can give full particulars regarding Brown's death. They were great pals.

Witness:-
W. Warrington.2333.
51st Bat'n.
Dartford.

W.C.J.

London.
30.5.17. Note Written Lt.Smith. 28.5.17. S.

51st A.I.F.

BROWN 2nd Lieut. W.

K. 3rd September 1916. Det D/B.

At Bouquet Farm on the 3rd September Mr Brown was my platoon officer. During the attack I was near him and saw him hit by a piece of shell in the neck and killed instantly. We were relieved by the Canadians that day. There was no cemetery near and if he was buried it would be in open ground. We were there about two months ago and there were bodies there then.

Inf:- Pte O.N.Barnes No.3471.
Amb. T. "Brighton".
Calais. 15.6.17. EMR.

S.

2nd Lieut W Brown H 3.9 16 -
51 Batn

A. I. F. ~~24.~~ H.G.S. BROWN, 2nd.Lt.W.

N/ 3rd. eptember 1916.

He was wounded in Sept. and has been in England in charge of the 6th.Training Battn. He rejoined us in Dec. and is now Adjutant. I saw him last on the 17th.Jany.

Reference: Lyons, J.J. 904.
~~Reinf.Camp.~~
16 Sqn R.F.C.

(This was confirmed by other men. RBA).

Staples.
6.3.17.
RBA.

Not sent on
See notes on report by Lt Col Brown

A. I. F. 51 H. H.G.S. BROWN, 2nd.Lt.H.

H/ 3rd. September 1915.

He was wounded in Sept. and has been in England in charge of the 6th.Training Battn. He rejoined us in Dec. and is now Adjutant. I saw him last on the 17th.Jany.

Reference: Lyons. J.J. 904.
~~Reinf.Camp.~~
16 Gen Hosp.

(This was confirmed by other men. EBA).

Etaples.
6.3.17.
EBA.

Lieut. S. F. SMITH
L. M. G. Section
51 Bde A.I.F
B.E.F

from
2 Lieut W. BROWN
51 Bde A.I.F

K.A. 3. 9. 16

F.M.
~~28.5.17~~
6.6.17

HOSPITAL Rest Hall V.A.D. Tunbridge We

INFORMATION AS

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank	
	HOPE		651	Sgt	4

GIVEN BY—

	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank.	
	NELSON	Joseph	573	Pte	

STATEMENT OF IN

(to be taken

NOTE. *In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.*

I saw Sgt Hope about April 1
back from the firing line. He
by shrapnel, but had reco

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness?	Yes	2. If not, gi of the	
3. Was the ground held or lost?		4. If Informa was deat the body	
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about?		6. Was ther name	
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.	Fair & Small. Cam		
8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence*	Intelligent		

GJ.

A.I.F. ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS.
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1.

Telegraphic Address: "ADMINAUST, LONDON." | Cable Address: "STRALIS, LONDON." | Telephone: VICTORIA 8860 (10 lines).

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE 5Ar/ 20552

20th April 1917.

RECEIVED

The Secretary,
Australian British Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
LONDON.S.W.

Sir,

Re:-2nd Lieutenant W.BROWN. 51st Battn: Missing 3.9.16.

With reference to the attached memo, which was left by your Representative at this Office for investigation, I have to inform you that the report cannot be verified and it is thought to be a case of mistaken identity.

Yours faithfully,

Captain,
Officer i/c Records.

2Lt W. BROWN.
51 Batt AIF
M. 3.9.16.

Enclosure

S.
3
Not Utilized