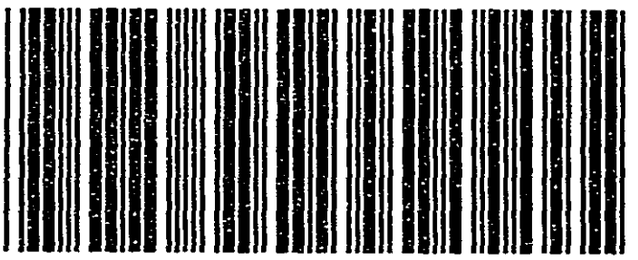
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

549 Private
Stanley Norman Best

1st Machine Gun Company



0370102D

A.I.F. 1st M.G.B.
~~21st~~ 21st M.G.C.

BEST
S.N. 549

"WOUNDED"

Wded 26-4-18
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 7-6-18

Died of wounds 26-4-18 - in field
Cert. by Rouen letter 13-6-18.

B

London
17-6-18

Havre 28th Septr 1918.

Aust. M.G.Battn 1. Best S.N. No. 549.

D/W 26th April 1918. Det D/B.

He is buried at Borre, in the Military Cemetery there. I have seen his grave, which has a cross with his name &c on it. He had only been buried about a couple of days when I saw the grave. He was wounded by a shell, and died in the D/Station. He was Lieut Miller's batman. Lieut Miller was killed by the same shell which also wounded Lieut Cornwall, and killed Lieut Stevens. Best used to be a school teacher in civilian life. He came from Queensland, and was fairly tall and slim, and clean shaven.

Inf:- L/Cpl J.H.Ralph No. 3871.
Aust. M.G.Battn 1. 3.
Hospital Ship.

WSM.

PP.

Aus.M.G.C. 1. BEST S.H. 549.

D/M. 26.4.18.

Best was in No.3 Co. and came from Queensland. Pte. W.P. Harking, 1st.Bn. was with him when he was killed and could give all details, and I believe is writing to his people. We were up at Meteren and he told me that a shell got him and he died shortly afterwards. I have seen his grave. He was buried in the 3rd. Bde. Cemetery, just outside Fletre. It has a cross with name etc. on it.

RCP.

Reference: Cpl. Wilson. 328.
M.G. School.

Staples.
3.10.18.

Willie Perkins
21.10.18

21st M.G.Coy.
1st. M.G.Btn.
A.I.F.

BEST.
S.N. 549.

"Died of Wounds on 26-4-18."

re 549 Pte. S.N.Best, 3rd M.G.Co, 1st Aust. M.G.Bttn. A.I.F. reported - died of wounds 26/4/18. On the night of April 25th/ 26th when some shelling was going on there was a shell landed in the billet occupied by the above and he was seriously wounded. He was then taken away to the Dressing Station where he died shortly after.

He was buried in a soldiers'cemetery near the village called "Flêtre" together with some other boys of the 3rd Brigade Infantry.

Also you will find enclosed a letter from a boy who was present when they were taking Pte. Best to the cemetery to be buried.

Letter from 558 W.P.Harkins, Pte.
3rd. Coy. 1st Aust. Machine Gun Btn.
A.I.F. France 26-10-18.

London.
14-11-18.
J.E.A.

B.

[redacted]

21st M.G.Coy.
1st. M.G.Btn.
A.I.F.

BEST.
S.N. 549.

"Died of Wounds 26-4-18."

About the end of April 1918 I saw a party of Infantry men carrying out the dead and I recognised Pte. Best to be amongst the dead. He was then placed in the 3rd Brigade Cemetery on the main Metrin road going to Flêtre."

Letter from - Pte.H.Thompson 342.
21st A.M.G.Coy.
1st. A.M.G. Bttn.
France 26-10-18.

London.
14-.11-18
J.E.A.

B.

1st M.G. Battn. A.I.F.

BEST

Pte. [redacted] S.N. 549

Killed 26/4/18

Buried Heterenm Military Cemetery, 10½ miles S.W. of Ypres, 111.27E., SSP. 3478/4

Extracted from Capt. Speddings List of 16/10/19

Melbourne

23/12/19

To
Pte W.P. Parkins
3 M.G. Co
1st M.G. Battn
A.I.F

about
549 Pte S.N. Best
3rd Co. M.G.
1st M.G. Battn
A.I.F

S/W 26.4.18

Written 21.10.18
M.E.F

HOSPITAL 1st London General C/W

INFORMAT

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.
	Bradley.	R.	5304

GIVE

	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.
●	Bliss	Sydney John	671

STATEMENT

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

(to be taken

I saw ~~Bradley~~ Bradley ~~killed~~ hit in H
& killed outright in a little
house but Somme. He wa
at ~~Han~~ France Villiers.

PLEASE ALSO ANSWE

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? Yes

2. If no: of

3. Was the ground held or lost?

4. If Inf
(a) w
(b) w

5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? Robert.

6. Was t
nam

7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. Dark, big. boned

8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence* Reliable

Reports should always be written very clearly in ink, or typewritten.

ack. 5.11.18
pc. 5.11.18
1. G.C.D.

549
S.M. Best
21 M.G.C
1 M.G. Bn
D.W. 26.4.18

France
26th Oct. 1918.

To. Secretary
Enquiry Bureau
Aust. Red. Cross

Re your letter of enquiry of the 21st inst concerning No 549. Pte. S.M. Best. 3rd M.G. Co. 1st Aust. M.G. Battalion A.I.F. Reported died of Wounds 26/4/18. On the night of April 25th & 26th when some shelling was going on there was a shell flanged in the billet occupied by the above he was seriously wounded. He was then taken away to the Dressing Station where he died shortly after.

He was buried in a Soldiers Cemetery near the Village called "Flêtre" together with some other boys of the 3rd Brigade Infantry

Also you will find enclosed a letter from a boy who was present when they were taken Pte. Best to the cemetery to be buried

Hoping this will assist you.

Yours Faithfully

No. 558. W. P. Harkins Pte.
3rd. Coy.
1st. Aust. Machine Gun
Battalion. A. D. M.
France

E. A.

1st 5.11.18
ack. p.c. G.H.Q.

549
S. H. Best
21 M.G.C
1 M.G.Bde
D of B 26.4.18

26/10/18.

About the end of April 1918. I saw a party of Infantry men carrying out the dead, and I recognised Pte Best to be amongst the dead. He was then placed on the 3rd Brigade cemetry on the main Lebin road going to [redacted]. Pte Best

342 Pte Thompson H.
2nd Lt. G. Coy
1 M.G. Bn.

F.A.