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

2121 Sergeant
Charles Arden Browne

19th Battalion



0590201H

A.I.F. 19th Btn

BROWNE
Sgt Charles Arden 2121

"D. of W. 27-2-17"

Died of wounds 27-2-17 - France
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 27-4-17

Buried - S. of Hexham Rd ½ mile E. of Le Sars 4¾ miles N.W. of Combles
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 18-6-17.

B

LONDON
27-6-17

Havre 16th June. 1917.

19th AUSTRALIANS BROWNE, C.A. 2121

D/W. Feb. 27th. 1917. Det. D/B.

He was a Sergt. in C. Company and was I think acting C.S.M. Sergt. Franklin of the 19th Batt., C. Company told me that Browne was killed at the Butte near Warlencourt in Februasy 1917. and that he was going to bury him and some others of C. Company.

Informent: Pt. G. No. Cubbin 1247
19th Batt., D.Co., XV. Fltn.
Australians.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

B

RBI.

Wrongly filed under BROWN

Written Sgt Franklin 23.6.17

Havre

27th June 1917

19th AUSTRALIANS

BROWNE, C.A. 2121

D/W. 27th Feb. 1917 Dot. D/B

Brown was in C. Co. 10th Platoon. I know Browne well; he came from Sydney; he was a Bank Clerk. I was told by Sergt. Franklin of the 19th Btn. C. Co., who is up with the Battalion now; he was here about 10 days ago, that he saw Browne hit in the stomach by shrapnel. Browne was badly damaged; he died while Franklin was with him. All his inside came out - Franklin told me Browne was buried near Le Sars in the open.

Informant: Bugler R. Hutchinson 2308
19th Australians C. Co 10th Pltn
Australian Camp, Rouelles

B

RIC

Written Sgt Franklin 15.7.17

19.7.17

Pte Gough
C. Co.
19 Batt A.I.F
B.E.F

for

2121
C. A. BROWNE
19 Batt A.I.F

D. W. 27. 2. 17

F.M 26.7.17

19th Battn.
A. I. F.

Browne.
Sgt. C.A. 2121.

"Died of Wounds 27.2.17"

Referring to the death of my pal Sgt. C.A.Browne, I assure you that it was C.A.Browne that died on the 27th February 1917. Our Company C. 19th Battn. were carrying bombs to the front line just near the Butte of Warlencourt, when a shell burst and caught several of our chaps. I went straight to Sgt. Browne and did the best I could for him, but I could see then that he was hit badly. I, however, got him to the dressing station, but after receiving medical treatment he died seven minutes after. I buried him in a shell hole between two Tommies and afterwards made a little wooden cross. I cannot remember exactly the position, I know it only too well, its just at the foot of the Butte on the main Le Sars - Bapaume Road. I have heard since that the place has been made into a graveyard with proper attention and of course if so, proper military graves will have been made and you can find out exactly the location by writing. Sgt. Browne was medium height, very full in the face and latterly getting rather stout, young, only about 24 at the most and walked with a slight limp, caused by losing his big toe before the war in a shoot-

ing accident. Unfortunately it was him killed, I knowing him only too well and his poor brother Gordon killed at Pozieres (August last)

Letter from:-
Sgt. L. Franklin
C. Coy. 19th Battn. A.I.F.
France. 11.7.17.

London.
8.8.17. B.

19th Battn.
A. I. F.

Browne.
C. A. 2121.

"Died of Wounds 27.2.17"

L/Cpl. Fred Bourke Pl.1.A.Coy. informed me about April last at Horseferry Road that he was in this action with Browne and I believe he can give details of death and burial. Bourke is now in England with 6th Div. but I don't know which Battalion. Pte. Gough of C.Coy also told me he was with Browne when he was killed. Gough is now with his unit.

Witness:-
L. P. Holloway 2325.
19th Battn.
Southall.

L. P. J.

London.
1.8.17.

B.

Note Written Pte. Gough 20.7.17.

A.I.F. 19.

BROWNE, C.A. 2121.

D/W Feb 27th 1917. Dets D/B.

About last June I was at Havre with Sgt Frankling of 19.C.Coy when he gave a Red Cross Officer a full report regarding C.A.Brown, As far as I could remember it was to the effect that Bromne was wounded in the presence of Sgt Franklin who helped to carry him out and afterwards saw his grave at Poxieres. Browne was thick-set, medium height and colouring about 24, was a bank clerk, came from Sydney.

Inf: Pte R.F.Hutchinson, 2308. C.Coy
No. 8bStat.
BOULOGNE. 21.9.17.

PRBL

Written again to Sgt Franklin
1.10.17.

19th Batn
A.I.F.

BROWNE
Sgt. C.A. 2121

"Died of Wounds 27.2.17."

Sgt. C.A. Browne was killed 27th Feb. 1917 at the Butte-of-Warlencourt. He was buried by me in a shell hole at the above mentioned place. I put a small cross over his grave which has since been removed and replaced by a registered cross. He was about 5'8" high, light brown hair. He left Australia with the 4th Reinforcements to the 19th Batn. One time he done a little foot running in the new England district. I received your letter of July which I answered at once and will be pleased to give you any information I can.

Letter from:- L. Franklin 859 S.A.T.
Sgt
5th Training Batn
Fovant Camp.
Wilts.

London.
10.10.17.

B

Sgt FRANKLIN
C. Co
19 Batt A IF
B E F

2121
C. A. BROWNE
19 Batt A IF

DW. 27. 2. 17

19.7.17

HOSPITAL East Sussex. Hastings

INFORMATION

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank
	Toone.	William, John.	1978.	Pte. Signa

GIVEN

SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank
Jones.	William, Evan	1929A	Pte

STATEMENT OF

(to be taken in

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

I was told by Signaller F. A. Fo the main road from Albert Signaller W. J. Toone was on when the party was shell by a shell explosion, an Needle Dump Cemetery. "C." Co. 17th Batt: Austln: In Farrawanga, Myrh

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? No.

2. If not, of the

3. Was the ground held or lost? ——

4. If Inforr was de the bod

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

6. Was the name

7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. Age 24. Height 5ft. complexion; blue eyes

8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence Very intelligent and, accurate.

22.6.17

Sgt. FRANKLIN C. G
19 Batt AIF
BEF

Cfoy

2121 C. A. BROWNE
19 Batt AIF

DW. 27.2.17

G.W.
6.7.17.

INQUIRY BUREAU, 39 BROAD STREET, BRISTOL.

Cross Index No. C/5374

NAME (Surname first) O'Keefe Edward No. 979 Rank Sgt

Regiment 17 A.I.F. Coy C Plat.

Hospital Haunton, Cheltenham Ward

Arrived 5/5/17 At Front from 23/3/16 To 3/5/17

Home Address The Rock N.S. Wales (Sister, Mrs Fitzpatrick)

Depot WEymouth

GIVES INFORMATION REGARDING:—

Missing man Bell H.G. Casualty? M.15/4/17

Regiment A.I.F. Battln. 17 Coy. No. 1518

Red Cross List dated 1/6/17 page 42 A

On April 25th at Hovuilles about 9 a.m. I was one of an outpost Coy, the troops on our right were pressed back and as a consequence the Germans got round our men and the party which was in a sunken road was surrounded. There were a good many wounded and eventually the officer in command decided to [illegible] all taken pris[illegible]

ACR
FSJ 10.7.17

[illegible] 1917
[illegible]

Dear [illegible]

[illegible] received your letter of the [illegible] and [illegible] Bonbon and [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] 27th January 1917.

[illegible] Bank [illegible] Bank [illegible] Bank [

Sergeant [illegible] maximum height
[illegible] face of [illegible] Jutting [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] marked with a slight [illegible] caused by
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

July 18th. 1917.

Sgt. L. Franklin,
C. Company,
19th. Battalion, A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sgt. Franklin,

Very many thanks for your letter 11.7.17. in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

2121 Sgt. C.A.BROWNE, 19th. Batth., A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of great assistance to us and of value to our enquirers. We shall now apply to graves registration Unity for a photographs of the grave to be sent to the Next-of-Kin.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary.

(29-9-17

Sgt- FRANKLIN
19th Batt^n
A J +
B 27

Ahmt
2121 C. A. BROWNE
19 Batt^n
A J +

D/W 27.2-17

R.C.
1.10.17

ack'd letter O.S. 13-10-17

2121
Sgt C. A. BROWNE
19 Batt
D/W 27.2-17
B
3

L Franklin 957 SAT
5th Training Batt
Tovant Camp
Wilts

[illegible]

[illegible] Sgt C. A. Brown was killed 27th Feb. 1917 at the Bret of Wallencourt. He was buried by one of a shell hole at the above mentioned place [illegible] Wilts has since been removed and replaced by a registered cross. He was [illegible] 5 ft. 8 in. high light brown hair. He [illegible] the [illegible] to the 19th Batt. [illegible] He [illegible] Foot running in the new England district. I received your letter [illegible] and will be [illegible] to give you any information I can.

[illegible]

L. Franklin [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

GC

859 Sgt.L.Franklin,
5th Training Battalion,
Fovant Camp,
Wilts.

Oct.15th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your reply to our enquiry concerning - 2121 Sgt.C.A.BROWNE - 19th Battalion.A.I.F.

The information and details you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers. We regret that you have been troubled twice with enquiries from us regarding Sgt.Browne, but the repetition occurred through a mistake on the part of our filers The report in your letter of July was so clear and full that we should never have bothered you again, only as we stated your reply was wrongly filed.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V O

Secretary.

O.J.

From. British Red X. Enquiry Bec: list

Browne Sergt: C. A. 2121.
19th Infantry A.I.F.

Aust. 1.11.17. D/W. Feb: 27/17 Det: D/B.

His brother —

Private J. J. Browne 6518A.
15th Field Ambulance A.M.C.
now at 5th Southern General.
Milton Section —

is very anxious for details of Sergt: Browne's death & burial. & he most particularly wants to know what has become of the personal effects, such as pocket book,

Etc: When the other brother, Gordon Browne, 18th Infantry was killed on 2nd Aug/16 his things were given to Sergt: Browne - The surviving brother would like to have their small belongings, & will be very grateful for news - & of how Sergt: Browne was killed, & where buried, if any details have been received.

E. C. Hughes.

Official Med & Enquiry.
Searches.

STATION FRATTON,
TEL: 7038 PORTSMOUTH.

NORMAN COURT,
SOUTHSEA.

Hants:

Lady Hughes will be extremely obliged if enclosed can be looked into. & a reply to same sent to her at above address — Should the reply not come before

Pte L. I. Browne leaves Milton
Lady Hughes will see that he
gets it — He is very worried at
the loss of 2 brothers, & hopes he
will be sent the personal belongings
found on the Sergt: & details of
his end —

30th October 1914.

November 1st, 1917.

Lady Hughes,
Norman Court,
Southsea, Hants,

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter asking for details of the death and burial of 2121 Sgt.C.A.Browne,
19th Battalion,
A.I.F.

we have received the following unofficial account from Sgt. L. Franklin, of his battalion, who appears to have been a special friend of Sgt.Browne's, which we will quote in his own words.

"Referring to the death of my pal, Sgt.C.A.Browne, I assure you that it was C.A.Browne who died on 27.2.17. our company were carrying bombs to the front line, just near the Butte of Warlencourt when a shell burst and caught several of our chaps. I went straight to Sgt Browne and did the best I could for him but I could see that he was hit badly. I however, got him to the Dressing Station, but after receiving medical treatment, he died seven minutes after. I buried him in a shell hole between two Tommies and afterwards made a little wooden cross. I cannot remember exactly the position, I know it only too well, it is just at the foot of the Butte on the main Le Sars, Bapaume Road, I have heard since that the place has been made into a graveyard with proper attention and of course if so, proper military graves will have been made, and you can find out exactly the location by writing. Sgt.Browne was medium height, very full in the face, getting rather stout, young, about 28 only, and walked with a slight limp caused by losing his big toe before the war in a shooting accident. I knew him well and his poor brother Gordon killed at Pozieres in August last".

In a later letter Sgt.Franklin repeats some of this inform-

ation adding that the small cross he had placed over Sgt.Browne's grave had since been removed and replaced by a registered cross. We have therefore, applied for a photograph of the grave on behalf of Sgt.Browne's next of kin, but it may be some little time before it is sent owing to the many difficulties experienced, by the Graves Registration Dept, in obtaining these photographs.

The A.I.F. Kit Stores, Greyhound Rd, Fulham, should be able to give him all obtainable information regarding the personal effects. Trusting these few details will be of comfort to the brother and good wishes for his recovery.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

SECRETARY.

pd 13.