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

371 Gunner
Maurice Browne

3rd Field Artillery Brigade



0590306N

A.I.F. 8th Batty. F.A.
3rd Army F.A.B.

BROWNE (8 1)
BROWNE
M.371

"DIED 11/4/18"

Died of Gas poisoning 11/4/18 at 15th Casualty Clearing Station.
Cert. by Hpl. Index and A.I.F. Hqrs. List 15/8/18.

London
16/8/18.

S'

A.I.F. Army F.A. 3. 18. BROWNE. M. 371.

D.April 11/18. Bat. D/3.

This entry must be an error for the 18th Bty. is not in the 3rd Army and it is probably meant for the 8th Bty. In this Bty. there were two brothers Browne and one of them, Michael, was gassed with about 24 others at Wytschaete Ridge on Friday, March 29th. A large proportion of them died the day they got it and fourteen were evacuated. Eleven of these evacuated died afterwards amongst them being M.Browne. His brother Jack got word through about Michael's death and he got all information possible relating to the case. He was buried and Jack went to his grave, being away two or three days at a time. The Browne's were originally from Ireland but enlisted in F.A.

Reference: Dr.E.O.Clancy, 28742. 3 Army 8 Bty.
No.1Australian Rouen. 17.3.16.

GRO.

#3

Inoculated against

3rd Army Brigade.
8th Battery.A.F.A.

BROWNE.
Maurice. 371.

"Died 11-4-18"

I know that Browne died before April 11th. He was gassed one night, about 7.30. at Wychaete and he was taken away to a Dressing Station. He was move from there down to a Hospital near Merris and died there. I was allowed to go to the hospital when we heard the news, and I went and saw him there dead. This happened just before we entrained for the South, and we entrained on April 9th.

Eye-Witness:- Yes.

Description:- I kn w Browne fairly well. for about 18 months but know nothing as to his home or proffession. Nothing striking in appearance.

Home address:-
Kellerberrin. W.Australia.
Dorothy Warssam.
London.
23-9-18
H.G.

Informant:- Goodall.Joseph Daniel. S/Sgt.
3rd Army Brigade. 8th Bty.A.F.A.
Napsbury War Hospital.
ST ALBANS.
(very reliable. The date, 9th April, was confirmed by two other men, who had also entrained for the South on the same day)
S.

Havre. 7th. October. 1918.

3rd. Army A.F.A. 8. Browne, M. 371.

D. April. 11/1918. Dets. D/S.

He was caught by gas at Messines and was taken to Meteren No. 2. C.C.S. He died during the evacuation of C.C.S. but I cannot say if he was buried. I saw him at the C.C.S. about the 14th. . I knew him; he was married, and was an Irishman. His brother Jack Browne was in the same Battery.

Inf:- Gunner. A. Groves. 4611.
3rd. Army A.F.A. 8th. Battery
Australian Conv. Camp.
Roueles.

CRR.

William J. Browne
abt Brother 21.10.15

CF.

1st Divisional Artillery, A.I.F.
8th Battery- 3rd F.A.Brigade.
(Late 2B.)

BROWNE, Driver
M. No. 371

"Died of Wounds 11/4/1918".

Informant handed me the enclosed photograph of a group of three, including Browne, who is the first figure on the left. The photo was taken behind Fleurs on Xmas.Day 1916 by Gunner W.F. Felan - No. 3055, who died of wounds on the 29th March last. The central figure in the group is Informant, and the figure to the right is a Tasmanian named Baker. In the event of the relatives already having a copy of this photo will they kindly return the photo now sent to Informant at the address noted hereunder.

Informant;- No. 5129, Gunner E.J.W. Lindsay, 8th Battery.

Private address;- 172 Denison Road, PETERSHAM.

W.E.G.
Victoria Barracks,
SYDNEY. 11/3/19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

1st Divisional Artillery
6th Battery. 3rd F.A.B.
late 2nd B.

H. BROWNE. Driver.
No. 371.

"Killed in Action 11.4.18"

I knew Browne well. I think he came from Western Australia. I met him in France. He was about 5 ft 10 ins. in height, dark, clean shaven , of fairly big build.

Several of the battery told me that Browne had been gassed at Wytschaete in April 1918- 24 were gassed at the same time, 14 of them died. I saw the wire from the Hospital that Browne had died the Officer, Captain Smith- called Browne's brother out and told him that Browne had died at the Hospital near Bailleul.

Browne was a good sort of chap.

Informant: T. J.Barrow Driver. 28897.
8th Battery 3rd Brigade.

Private address:
Bungendore. N.S.W.

Victoria Barracks SYDNEY.
24.3.19.
E.F.W.

SYDNEY HERALD.

A.I.F. A.F.A. BROWNE.
3rd Bgde. 8th Bty. M. 371.

"Died 11.4.18."

I saw Maurice Browne gassed on the morning of Good Friday at Wytschaete Ridge abt. 3 a.m. in an old German dugout. 24 were gassed by the same shell and 12 of them died. Browne was unconscious and was carried out to R.A.P. and taken from thence to the 2nd British C.C.S. near Bailleul where he died - I don't know abt. burial.
Browne - well built, fair, abt. 5'10½, abt. 26 yrs. Came from West Aust. His sister lives in Wales. His brother Jack Brown got leave from the Bty and stayed with him till he died and has since been over to the sister in Wales.

Informant:- Q.M.S. W.T.Smith. 28729.
3rd Bgde. A.I.F.Le Havre
6.5.19.

H.H.
London.
22.5.19.
J.F.A.

S.

8th Battery, No 371 - Pte. M. Browne.

Died 11.4.18.

"This man was gassed on Good Friday and died at a Casualty Clearing Station."

Informant:- Capt. T. B. Bond,
Chaplain,
3rd Army Brigade.

H.Jose.

A.I.F. 3rd F.A.B.

BROWN
Maurice 371

Died of gas poisoning 11.4.18

Buried Ebblinghem British Cemetery 4¾ miles W.S.W. of Hazebrouck.
Cert. by A.I.F.Hdqrs List for Capt. Spedding.

London
23.7.19

S

3rd BRIGADE. AUST: FIELD ARTILLERY.
8th Battery.

BROWNE, H.
No. 371.

Died 11-4-18

We called him Morris - originally he was in the Infantry and joined the 8th Battery at Fleurbaix. His brother Jack is in the Battery and is now a Corporal.

Witness produced a letter fromTrumpeter Hutchinson of 8th Battery who has returned to Western Australia as a 1914 man, in which he mentioned that several men including Browne were gassed while at Zillebeke.

Witness:- Sergeant Doodt, No. 3763.
8th Battery.

Home address:- Percy Vale,
AVOCA. VICTORIA.

Major F. de V. Lamb.
H.M.T. "EURIPIDES".
2.4.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

2nd Btn.

BROWNE, M.
371, Pte.

Died of wounds 11/4/18.

He was gassed at Wyschete Ridge about end of March 1918 and was taken to Casualty Clearing Station at Lecheyte. He died in hospital on 11/4/18 and was buried near Hazebrook and a cross erected to his memory.

Informant:- Cpl. Jolly, No. 4233,
11th Btn.

E.S.Smith,
H.M.A.T. Soudan,
28/6/19

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU - MELBOURNE.

Oct. 1918

371

M. Browne

& Bkt F. A

Insp.

J. Browne

O.C.'s Draft. Aug. 17th.

O.C.
15th C.C. Stn.
B.E.F. France.

371. Pte M. BROWNE.
8th Bty. A.F.A. A.I.F.

D. of W. 11.4.18.

D/W. July 17 18. Det.D. B.
D/W. June 2 18. Det.D. B.
S. Oct. 25 17. Det.D. B.
D/W. June 5 18. Det.D. B.
S. June 5 18. Det.D. B.

S. Nov. 2 17. Det.D. B.
S. April 7 18. Det.D. B.
D/W. April 8 18. Det.D. B.
S. April 7 18. Det.D. B.
S. July 4 18. Det.D. B.

D/W. July 6 18. Det.D. B.
S. May 19 18. Det.D. B.
S. June 15/18. Det.D. B.
D/W. May 22/18. Det.D. B.
D/W. April 21/18. Det.D. B.
D/W. May 22 18. Det.D. B.

G

70
Pte Jack Browne
8th Batty
A.F.A
3rd Army.
A.I.F

Abnt

371 Pte M. Browne
8 Batty. F.A.
3rd Army A.I.F

D. Apl 11-/18

Ten. 21.10.18
MLS

HOSPITAL Princess Christian Military Seaforth

INFORMATI

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	R:
	Ostermann	A.C.	7032	Pt

GIVEN

	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	R:
	King	R	6587	Pt

STATEMENT O

(to be taken

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

I knew Ostermann. He was married to
Mrs Hauzebuck. I saw the name in
Spelled
I noticed his name and battalion
killed in the casualty list. I

PLEASE ALSO ANSWE

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness?	Yes
2. If not, of th	
3. Was the ground held or lost?	—
4. If Infor (a) wa (b) was	
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about?	No. Think his right
6. Was th name	
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.	a big scar on one side
8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence*	Good

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

371

M. Barnes
8. Battry 7A.
3 Army Tr

DS gas-pois. Oct 16/1918.
11.4.18 S

Dear Miss Dixon

In reply to your letter of Oct 9
Mr Barnes is leaving for
for your information as follows:
Postal Card Photo. I will advise
you as soon as possible the information
required and the cost thereof.
(8TH BATTERY. AFA)
Yours truly
Robinson