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

Lieutenant
William Robert Booth

7th Battalion



0460301E

7th Batt. A.I.F.

Lieut. Booth.W.

B.Coy.

Killed Oct 4th 1917. Det. D.B.

I saw him killed by a shell, he had his left leg blown off, he died almost instantly. This happened as we were going through the wood in front of Zonnebeke. I could not say if he was buried, as we were going up to the lines to hop over. I knew him in the coy. He came from Moonee Ponds, Victoria. I was in camp at Broadmeadows with him, he was a L.Cpl then.

Witness. Pte. Hanson. NO.1902. 7th Batt.

Taken at
NO.3.C.D.Hurdcott.
4-4-18.
S.W.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

BOOTH
Lt. W.

"Killed 4-10-17"

He was killed outright by a shell at about 6 a.m. on Oct.4th, just before the attack at Passchendaele. We were waiting in a trench in close supports. I was about 200 yards from him and did not see it happen. L/Cpl.J.L.Walker,2276, of C.Coy. buried him about 4 days later. Lt.Booth came from Geelong.His Christian name was William. Was in B.Coy.

Informant. Goyne Pte.V. 3044
7th Battn. D.Coy. 18th Pltn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

A.G.Campbell
London
22-4-18

2227 Pte Howard H.
7th Batt

Note; Written Walker 22-4-18
letter returned cannot be traced 9/7/18

also Cpl Walker as referred for Burial — not Typed
23/4/18
L.O.

7th A.I.F.

Booth. Lt. W.

f

(K. Oct. 4/17.)
Det. D/B.

"On the morning of Oct.4th I was close by him when a shell burst and killed him on the spot. He was so badly hit as to be unrecognisable. He was buried close by, the vicinity of Zonnebeke I saw the cross myself. I was Pltn. commander at the time. In April 1917 for two weeks I was acting orderly to him - most highly respected by his men."

Eyewitness: Wes.

Description: Fair complexion, very blue eyes, about 30 years of age.

Informant: Pte. G. Footle. 6610.
7th A. I. F.
Napsbury Hospital,
St.Albans.

Home address:
Duke Place,
Duke St,
St.Kilda. Melbourne.

26/4/18.
M.Hunter.

7th Battn,
AI.F.

BOOTH,
Lieut. W.

"Killed 4.10.17."

I saw him with the best part of his head blown off dying instantly at Polygon Wood, just before reaching our first objective on the 4th October. We left him where he fell as we had to go on to our second objective.

Informant:- W.White, 4021,
7th Battn,
Anzac Buffet.

W.Allison.

London.
1.5.18.

M.

7

7th A.I.F.

Booth. Lt. W.
B Coy.

(K. Oct. 4/17.)
Det. D/B.

"I state that Lt.Booth was killed instantaneously at the battle of Broodsinde on Oct.4th by a shell and his remains were buried up there by the Pioneers."

Eyewitness: No. Common knowledge in the regiment.

Description: Fair, boyish looking, cleanshaved.

Informant: 2/Lt.R.Anderson,
7th A.I.F. C Coy.
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

Home address:
C/O Eglinton Hotel,
Ardrossan,
Scotland.

6/5/18.
W.Arnold Davis.

M Ca

7th A.I.F.

Booth Lt. W.

(K. Oct. 4/17 Dets. D/B)

"I knew Lt. Booth well and saw him lying dead on Broodsinde Ridge on the right of Zonnebeke on Oct. 6/17 and he was buried where he fell".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Rather small and slim, fair, clean shaven, abt. 21: cricketer and footballer.

Informant: Pte. William Watts 5968,
7th A.I.F., H.Q.,
New End Hospt.,
Hampstead, N.W.

Home address:
c/o Mrs. Moore,
19 Railway St.,
Southport, Lincs.

May 6/18,
W.F.G. Sandwith.

M Cd

7th A.I.F. Booth. Lt.W.

(K.Oct. 4/17.)
Dete. D/B.

"Full details of buried refer to L/C J.Walker, 7th A.I.F. C Coy."

Eyewitness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. L.C.Vetherall. 4331.
7th A.I.F. D Coy.
1st [illegible] War Hospital,
[illegible]

Home address:
Commercial St,
Koumburra,
Victoria. Australia.

5/5/18.
W.Wright.

M Col
Auff

7th Batt. A.I.F.

Lieut, Booth.W.
B.Coy.

Killed Oct 4th 1917. Det. D.B.

I helped to bury him on the ridge just beyond Polygon Wood, A temporary cross was erected at the time, there was no Pardre there at the burial. I knew him in the coy, He was our bombing Officer.

Witness. Pte, O'Lauchlin.M. C.Coy. 7th Batt.

S.Whitmee.
NO.4.Command Depot
Hurdcott.

Taken at
NO.3.C.D.Hurdcott.
21-5-18.
S.W.

M Col
Auff

A. I. F. 7th Battn.

BOOTH
Lieut. W.

KILLED 4/10/17.

I saw Serg. Major McDonald C Company 7th Battalion, down at the Base just after he had come down wounded and I asked him about Lieut. Booth (he was such a good fellow, we all wanted to know about him) and he told me that they were advancing under a barrage on the morning of 4/10/ stunt, and he was alongside the Lieut. when a shell got him and blew him to pieces. The Sergt. Major was wounded by the same shell. Lieut. Booth used to be officer in charge of Bombers, and he was very much liked by all the men.

Witness:- No. 2116, Carey J.,
A III, 7th Battn.,
Sutton Veny Hospital.

B. F. German

London
22/5/18.

M

Note. Written McDonald; letter returned marked 22-5-18. "Returned to Australia" "15-4-18"

7th Btn.

BOOTH, W.
Lieut.

Kld. in act. 4/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 10 ins. well built, medium complexion, about 23 years of age. Casualty was in the front line waiting to advance at Broodseinde Ridge. An H.E. shell exploded near Casualty killing him instantly and A. G. Galland, No. 446. I was 40 yds. away at the time the shell exploded but I saw his body immediately afterwards. I do not know if he was ever buried."

Informant:- Pte. J. Charville,
No. 2334, 7th Btn.

Private address:-
11 Napier Street,
Ballarat East.

T.C.F.
21/2/19.

M
6d
[illegible]

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU–MELBOURNE.

7th Inf Battn.
A.I.F.

BOOTH.
Lieut.

"Killed in Action 4-10-17"

Re burial of Lieut W.Booth. I take it that it is Lieut W.Booth, 7th Battalion to whom you refer.

Some days after we had taken the"Broodseinde Ridge" (near Zonnebeke) on October 4th 1917, a party from my company (C) buried Lieut.W.Booth, in rear of our Oct 4th Hop-out Trench.

As near as I can remember it, the location of the grave was Sheet 28.(Belgium and France) D.28C.

He had evidently been killed, whilst the enemy's barrage was down previous to our advance. Some of his men were lying dead in the same shell hole. A rough cross was erected over his grave but I suppose that by this time all trace of the grave has been obliterated.

Letter from:- O.C. W.R. D'Aletra (Capt).
7th Battn. 1.8.18
A.I.F.

London.
6-8-18.
N.T

M.

NOTE TO MELBOURNE

7th Battn.
A.I.F.

BOOTH
Lt. W.

"Killed in Action 4-10-17"

We have written to 940 S/M F.McDonald, 7th Battn. A.I.F., about the above Officer. The letter has been returned to us, marked "Returned to Australia". Hospital Index gives date of return 15-4-18.

London
10-8-18
N.T.

M.

7th Btn.

BOOTH, W.
Lieut.

Killed in action 4/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 10 ins. well built, fair complexion, about 24 years of age. Casualty was waiting in the front line trench for the barrage to open to advance on Passchendaele, when an H.E. shell exploded near Casualty killing him instantly. I was 30 yds. away at the time of his death and I saw his body lying where he had fallen. He was very severely wounded about the head. I do not know if he was ever buried."

Informant:- Pte. H. Molloy,
No. 2715, 7th Btn.

Private address:-
160 South Road,
Brighton Beach.

T.C.F.
16/8/18.

C. Sullivan
M.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

A.I.F.
7th. Battalion.

BOOTH. Lieut.
William.

"Killed in Action 4.10.17".

Name	Unit	Casualty	Cause of Casualty
			~~Ki~~ No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
14.10.19.

M.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).
54, VICTORIA STREET,
36, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

Telephones:
VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

Telegraphic Address:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON"

L. Corpl J.L. Walker. 2276?
C. Coy 7th A.I.F.
B.4.7.

22.4.18

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about an officer of your unit,

Lieut W. Booth 7th A.I.F. applied K/A 4.10.17.

and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

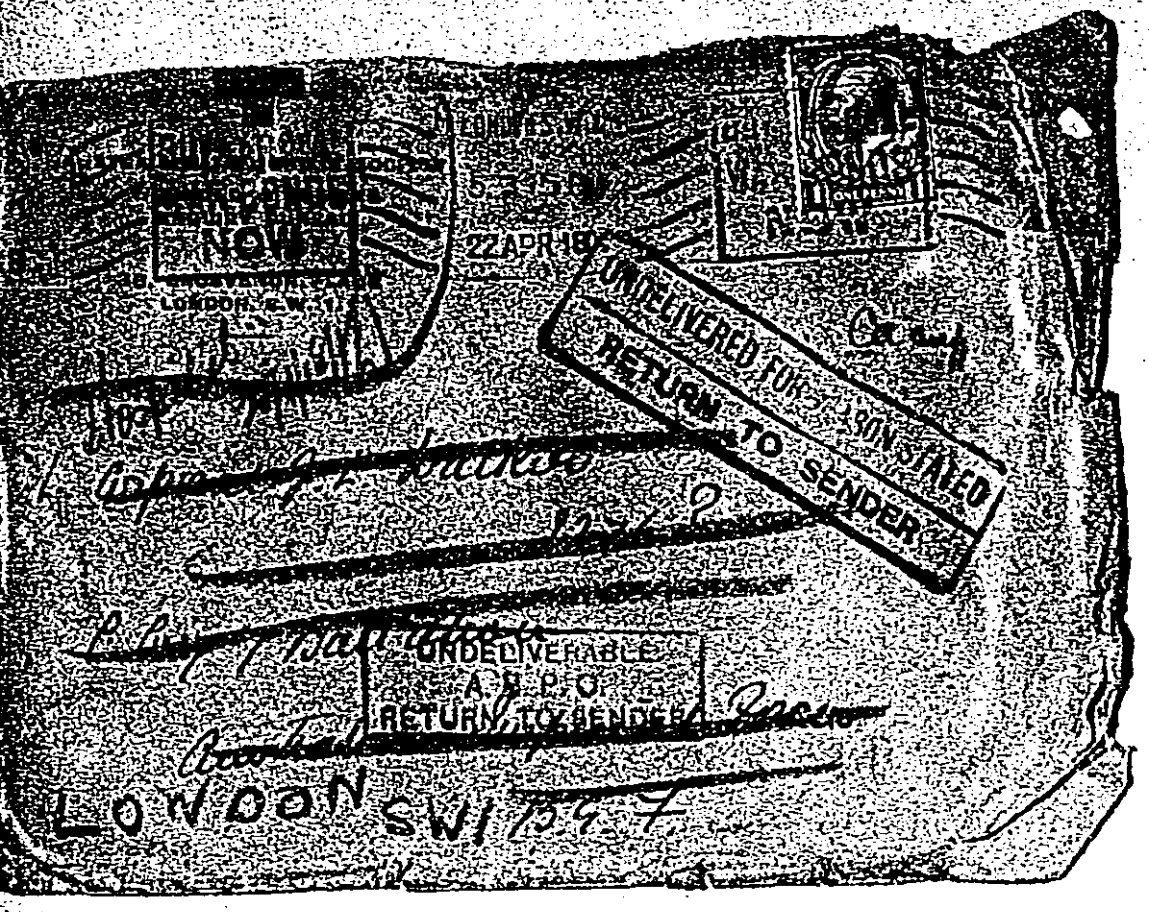
We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be registered.

In your reply kindly quote name, rank and initials, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the officer about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin.

Secretary.


NOW
LONDON, S.W.1
22APR18
UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED
RETURN TO SENDER
UNDELIVERABLE
A.P.O.
RETURN TO SENDER
LONDON SW1

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).
~~64, VICTORIA STREET,~~
36, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W. 1.

Telephones:
VICTORIA 8576, 8577, 8578

Telegraphic Address:
"QUESTMAN LONDON."

22. 5. 18.

940 Sgt. Major McDonald.
C. Coy.
7. A.I.F.

Dear Sir.

We are making enquiries about an officer of your unit,
Lieut. W. Booth 7. A.I.F.
Ruft. Killed 4.10.17.
and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

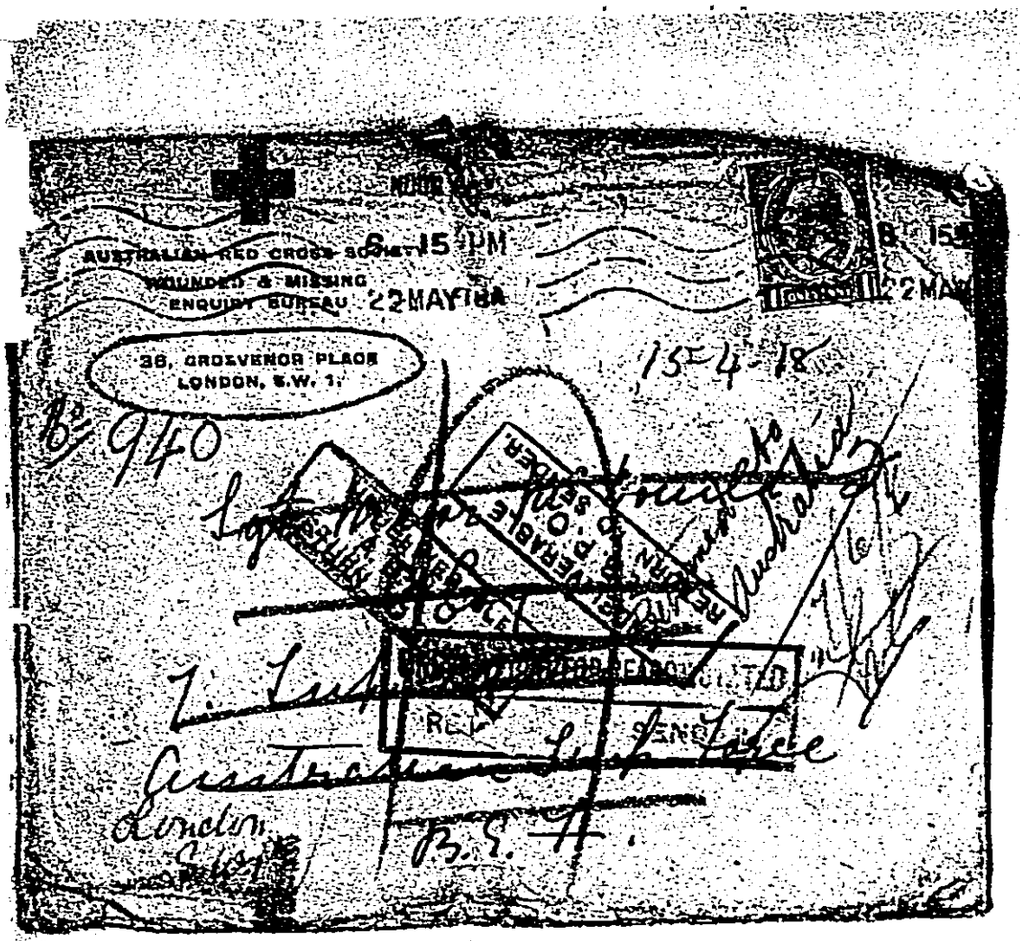
We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be registered.

In your reply kindly quote name, rank and initials, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the officer about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Misc)

Vera Deakin.
Secretary.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU

6.15 PM
22 MAY 18A

38, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.

15-4-18

B. 15
22 MAY

B. 940

Sgt [illegible] Australia

T. Lup[illegible]

Australian Imp Force

London
S.W.1

B.E.F.

UNDELIVERABLE
RETURN TO SENDER

REASON CITED
REF
SENDER


940
S/h. J. McDonald

France
1/8/18

Australian Branch
B.R.C. & order of St John
London.

Ack. Rec. E.8.18
92

Lieut W Booth
7th Inf Battn
Rm A 4-10-17
M
2 (ed)

Dear Sir;

Reference your enquiry (in "Aussie" No 5) re burial of Lt. W. Booth.

I take it that it is Lieut W. Booth, 7th Battalion, to whom you refer.

Some days after we had taken the "Broodseinde Ridge", (near Zonnebeke) on October 4th/17, a party from my company ("C"), buried Lt. W. Booth, in rear of our Oct. 4th Hop-out Trench.

As near as I can remember it, the location of the grave was:— Sheet 28 (Belgium & France) D 28 C.

He had evidently been killed, whilst the enemy's barrage was down previous to our advance. Some of his men were lying dead in the same shell hole.

A rough cross was erected over his grave, but I suppose that by this time all trace of the

grave has been obliterated. I
trust the above
information will be of value.

Yours Sincerely

W R D'Alton Capt

7th Aust. Bn.
France

HJ