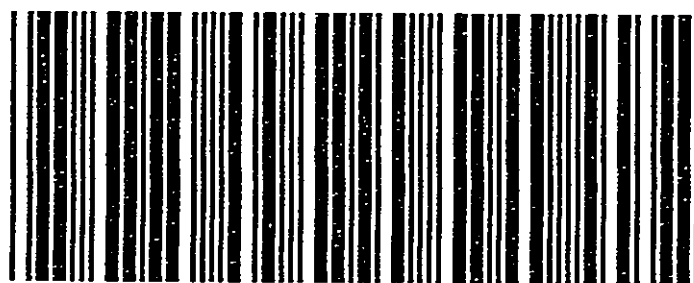


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3361 Private
Robert Birney

49th Battalion



0390506N

S.I.F. 49th Btn

BIRNEY
R. 3361

"M. 25-4-18"

Killed in action 25-4-18 - previously reported Missing
certified by A.I.F. Hqrs 16-5-18.

OFF.M.

LONDON
17-5-18

Handwritten:
7/2/19

A.I.F. 49.

BIRNEY R. 3361.

I. April 25/18. Det. D/3.

This man was in my Pl. but I was in No. 2 Sec and he in No. 4 of the I.C. Teams. I was not with the unit when Birney was killed but I got full information from Cpl. Chisholm 5334 when I rejoined. Cpl. Chisholm is the same (A) Co. and at that time was in the same Pl. Chisholm who is now I believe with the unit told me that Birney had been killed by a shell in a wood in front of Villers Bretonneux. He was the only man of the section killed at that time although all the rest but two were put out of action. We held the ground now that we held then and indeed have advanced considerably, so there is no reason to doubt that Birney was properly buried, for we Australians are particularly careful to give our men proper burial if at all possible.

Reference: I/Cpl. C. Allard, 4069. A Co.
No. 1 Australian, Rouen. 6.8.18.

See letter H.B.

Other reports on this matter, seen by GPO

brother Charles Birney, K/P 104/18. (no enquiry)

Buried in Kemmels Brook. 7 miles.

W. H. W. Corbie. H.Q. 8/2/19. L.A.

William Cpl Chisholm
18.8.18

Havre

1st November 1918.

Australians 49.

Birney R. 3361.

K. 25th April 1918. Det D/B.

H.Q. from Lismore, N.S.Wales. He had just returned from Blighty when a shell lobbed in his billet at Corbie, about noon. He was blown to pieces with 7 other men. His remains were buried in the French Cemetery at Corbie the same evening. I helped to dig his grave. It was marked with a cross.

Inf:- Pte A.E. McPhie No 5353.

A.I.F. 49. A.I.V.

Hospital Ship.

RBS.

PP.

49th Battn.
A.I.F.

BIRNEY
R. 3361

"KILLED 25-4-18"

I helped to dig Birney's grave. He had been blown to pieces by a stray shell at Corbie about 12 o'clock noon. The remains were respectfully collected as far as possible and buried in a French civil cemetery at La Neuville. I lived at Coraki and Birney at Lismore, N.S.W. Christian name "Bob"
The village was retained.

Informant - McPhee.Pte.A.A. 3353
(Very good)

Home Address:-
Coraki,
Richmond River,
N.S.W.

49th Battn. A.Coy.4th Pltn.
War Hospital
BATH.

R.Adcock
7-11-18
London
25-11-18
J.E.A.

*This report refers to husband of Charles Birney, Lismore.
17/A.10/4/18 buried at (no Eng.)
La Neuville. H.D. Sandhu
8/2/19.*

B.

A.I.F. 49th Bn

11111
A. 3361

"Killed in Action 25-4-18"

Note: There are two Birney's who were brothers.

3361 Robert Birney, 49th Bn R/A. Action 25-4-18

3360 Charles Birney, 49th Bn R/A. Action 10-4-18. *To show there is no confusion.*

R/Kin - Father, Geo. Birney, Richmond River; I.A.A.

Cert. of A.I.F. No 6-4-19.

The reports by Pte. A. McPherson, 3353, evidently refer to 3360 Chas. Birney 49th Bn R/A 10-4-18 buried in Newville Cemetery
Cert. of A.I.F. No. (3/4 m. W. N.W. of Corbie

The reports by A. Russell 1/Cpl. G. Allard refer to R. Birney who was R/A. 25-4-18 buried in 100's of 100's.

J.E.A.

London

18-2-19

49th Battn. A.Coy.
A.I.F.

BIRNEY.
R. 3361.

"Killed in Action 25-4-18"

I saw him killed by a shell - blown to pieces. at Villers Bretonneux - Advancing. Buried in a Cemetery close by. near Wood. Came from New South Wales. 5ft 6, medium build, dark, about 25.

Informant:- Pte. Duncan. M.J. 5012.

49th Battn. A.Coy.

Hq I Command Dept.

SUTTON VERNY.

E.T. Carter.

London.

24-2-19.

J.E.A.

B.

Birney C. Please state - 49 Pette

Pte

Name, no. & particulars
of every Birney there
are in 49 Pette
if burial details please

3361. Robt. Birney 49th Bn. N/A 25.4.18

Rept Morn 25.4.18.

360 Charles Birney 49th Bn. N/A 10.4.18

Born La Nouvelle Couc. Can. 3 miles N.N.W

of Colby B.S. 5.15.26

N/A of both. Father

Geo. Birney

Richmond River N.S.W.

Rept Sect 8.2.19.

Wells.

1862.

~~35 Bath~~

1917

3284 Cpl. Christensen
A. Co.

49th Ball
A. I. F.

3361 Pt. R. Birney
49th Ball
A. I. F.

K - ap 25/18

Written 10.8.18

1918

FRONT 3 pages

IN AS TO

Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Pla- toon	Casualty.
5 th Pioneer A/4			D/W. Sept 29 17 Det D & B.

BY

Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Pla- toon	Home Address.
5 th Pioneer A/4 G			16 Mack's Street Victoria Park N. Australia

INFORMANT

(first person).

C. Butti's aircraft work on Sept 29/17
hit in the leg & severely wounded
way to hospital to think but
died on 9 then news came through
that close but news-sheet
where he was buried.

THE FOLLOWING:—

(ive name, number, etc..)
man who told him.

unt says a man was killed.
ath instantaneous?
e body buried, & if so where?

any other man of same
Co. or Battalion?

No

has features very clever looking man
7 ft 4 in 4 1/2

Signature of
Searcher

W. Benson

Date of Report

27-11-17