

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

**2336 Sergeant
Frederick Harold
Bourne**

13th Battalion



0470704M

A.I.F. 13

BOURNE. Sgt. F.H. 2336.

M. April 11th. 1918.

Sgt. Bourne belonged to B. Co. and was missing after Bullecourt. All I can say about him is what I heard from Sgt Gilday, who was told by a Pte. belonging to another ~~company~~ Battalion that on his way back from the German wire, he had seen the body of one of our Sergeants, dressed in a British warm coat. Sergeant Bourne was dressed in a British warm coat that day and was the only one of our N.C.O.'s who was wearing one. I saw him myself in it before we went over. He was an English man and a plumber by trade. Came from either Essex or Kent.

Informant. Sgt. J. Brady. 387

7 Pl. B. Co. 13 A.I.F.

4.8.17.

BOULOGNE.

2nd Army Rest Camp.

HMH.

GA 17
P. 1.

(COPY)

Statement made by No. 387 Sgt Grady J. 13th Btn

re No. 2356 Sgt Bourne F.H. 13th Btn
Missing 11.4.7

After the action at Bullecourt on 11th April 1917 a Pte of whose identity I am unaware stated to CSM. Gilday of B. Coy 13th Btn that one of the Sergeants of B. Coy 13th Btn wearing a British warm had been killed and was lying in a certain spot which was out of reach on account of the ferocity of the enemy's fire thus preventing the statement from being verified. The only Sgt of B. Coy who was in possession of a British warm was the Sgt Bourne in question and he was not again seen alive after 11th April last. I have always been of the opinion that the Sgt referred to by the private soldier was identical with Sgt Bourne.

Dated at Codford this 24th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) J. Grady.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) J.R. Toft

Lieut.

NOTE No. 2131 CSM Gilday T.R. 13th Btn B.E.F.

*off M
P.I.*
3
O.E. Spedding.

13th Battn.
B. Coy.
A. I. F.

Bourne.
Sgt. F. H. 2336

"Missing 11.4.17."

I saw him killed at Bullecourt by a machine gun. He was shot through the head. We were advancing at the time, but there was no chance of his having been buried by any of our battalion, as we had to retreat after a few hours.

Eye-witness: Yes.
Description:

Informant:- Pte. G. E. Short 2497
B. Coy. 13th Battn.
Home address: 1st London General Hospital,
Frederick St.,
Sansonville, Kogarah, N.S. Wales.

30.8.17.
A. Reynolds.

London.
6.9.17.

Off.M.
P.I.

13th Battn.
A. I. F.

Bourne.
Sgt. F. H. 2336

"Missing 11.4.17"

At Bullecourt out in No Man's Land killed by machine gun fire. I was close to him at the time, he died in a few minutes. We were pushed back at this time from where he was killed but I think took the ground later. I knew him well he was my Sgt.

Witness:-
2497 Short
W.30. Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.

London.
25.9.17.

Off.M.
P.I.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHOLOG.

2336 Sgt F.H. BOURNE
1724/20/3

(COPY)

Statement made by No. 2497 Pte Short G.E. 13th Btn

re No. 2336 Sgt Bourne T.H. 13th Btn
Missing 11.4.17

I last saw the above named man at Bullecourt
he was killed outright by a machine gun bullet, as we were
leaving our trenches to make a charge upon the enemy.

Dated at Harefield this 16th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) G.E. Short

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) F. Barham.

07/11/17
151
4

Havre

17th Sept. 1917.

13th AUSTRALIANS

BOURRE, Sgt. F.H. 2336

M. 11.4.17.

He was in B Co., 7th Platoon. He was an Englishman but joined in Sydney, and his christian name was Fred. He was missing on April 11, 1917, but the Battalion have since received information that he was killed on that day.

Informant: Corpl. O.V. Carr, 367
13th Australians, B Co., 7th Pltn.,
Formerly in the 8th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

HDM

H.Q.
P.I.
1
Asking HQ to verify, 22. 9.17

13th Battn.
A. I. F.

BOURNE.
Sgt. F. H. 2336

"Missing 11.4.17"

Still Missing. No further report.

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs.
22.9.17.

London.
12.10.17.

Off.H.
P.I.

13th Battn
B. Coy.,
A. I. F.

BOURNE
Sgt. F.H. 2336

"Missing 11.4.17."

Killed in Action 11.4.17. previously reported Missing

Cert. by A.I.F. HdQtrs 19.10.17.

dm P.I.

London.
23.10.17.

Shippington Lodge
Gate Lane

A.P. 10.1.19

Sevenoaks
14 June 19

To the Secretary

Dear Madam although such
a long time has passed since I had
the news of my son ²³³⁰ Sgt J. H. Bourne
being missing at Bullecourt ^{15th Batt} on the
11th of April 1918 eventually assumed
that he was killed on that date I
am asking you if any enquiry is
made from returning Prisoners, as the
news I had of him at the time from
Men of his own Coy contradictory one
Sgt wrote me he saw Him passing
through Bullecourt a Prisoner, another
wrote me he saw Him killed by
machine gun fire, so I keep living
in suspense although I feel it is

Quite hopeless now, thanking
you in anticipation I am

Dear Madam
yours very respectfully

E A Bourne

2536 Sq 5th Bourne
15th Battalion A F F

Shippington Lodge
Sevenoaks

14 Oct 17

To the Secretary.

Dear Madam I am
writing to thank you
very sincerely for the trouble
you have taken in trying
to find the whereabouts
of my poor Boy, I was indeed
hoping for better news but
I fear we must now give
up all hope of anything
brighter I am sorry to

tell you it has quite broken
his poor Mother down she
will such hopes on the
Dear Boy, he was our youngest
son, now everything seems
lost to her but we can hope
for brighter things in the
end again thanking you
Dear Madam I remain
yours very respectfully

E A Bourne

Sgt. Fred. H. Bourne
2336. 13 Bn. H.

MAILED

COURT LODGE,

Dear Sir

9 - MAY 1917

SEVENOAKS.

CARLTON HOUSE

M. E. Bourne

(Ruffey Lodge, Sevenoaks)

has just heard from the Australian Head Quarters that his son has been missing since April 11. (Flanders)

Sgt Frederick Harold Bourne No: 2336

13 B - A.I.F. B Coy (4th Brigade)

He would be glad if you could help him in any way to get news of his son by inserting his name in the next list of Wounded & Missing or by inquiry through the usual channels on the Continent. Information to be given him at Ruffey Lodge, Sevenoaks

Yours truly
G. H. H. Reece

October 25th, 1917.

KRIEGSGEFANGENEN STÄBTLAGER:

1030 Pte. Mark A. Buttell,
13th Australian Infantry Battalion,
Limburg a/Lahn, Germany.

Dear Pte. Buttell,

We have received your letter of the 4th August, our prisoners of War Department are arranging to send you parcels of food and clothing regularly.

We shall be glad to hear you are receiving them and that they are some comfort to you.

With reference to your inquiry for news of Sgt. F. Bourne, we are indeed sorry to tell you that he is now reported Killed in Action, on 11.4.17, having previously been reported Missing. It is hard for you to receive such news about your friend when you yourself are a Prisoner of War, and we send you our most sincere sympathy for the loss. We know it will be a comfort to you to remember that he died in the defence of his country although the personal loss is no less hard to bear.

With good wishes to all members of the A.I.F. interned at Limburg. Hoping you are keeping well.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

per

Not a prisoner

From 1081 Lt Col. Simmons

1st M. G. C. A. S. F.

C. G. Hat F Lines

Beiton Park

Grantham.

30. 8. 17

To

Miss Chomley.

Secretary Inquiry dept.

Ans.

Dear Miss Chomley

11. 4. 17.

After making many inquiries about a friend of mine I have been told to write to you, and I hope you will be able to supply me with particulars about him -

His particulars are as follows:—
2336 Sgt. F. Bourne (Military Medal)
13th Battalion. A. S. F.

He is supposed to be a prisoner of war in Germany and the last we heard of him was in April this year.

As his mother, sisters, & myself are very anxious to know about him I shall await your reply anxiously.

Yours truly

E. R. Graham Simmons

September 6th, 1917.

10811/Cpl. SIMMONS,
1.M.G.Coy, A.I.F.
C 6 Hut, E.Lines,
Belton Park, Gratham.

Dear Sir,

Your letter to Miss Chomley, has been passed to us as there is no trace of ~~2336 Sgt. F.H. Bourne, 13th~~ Battalion, being a prisoner, on the contrary we fear, from our unofficial evidence, that he was killed but so far we have information from only one man so can as yet say nothing definite. It comes from Sgt. J. Brady, 387, of 13th Battalion, and we give it you in his own words.

"Sgt. Bourne belonged to B.Coy, and was missing after Bullecourt, All I can say about him is what I heard from Sgt. Gilday, who was told by a pte belonging to another battalion that on his way from the German wire, he had seen the body of one of our sergeants, dressed in a British warm coat. Sgt. Bourne was dressed in a British warm coat that day and was the only one of our N.C.O's who was wearing one. I saw him myself in it

before we went over. He was an English man and a plumber by trade. Came from Essex or Kent".

This, so far, is all the news we have obtained and as soon as anything further comes in we will send it to you.

Yours faithfully,

W. F. G.

SECRETARY.

September 13th, 1917.

E. Bourne, Esq.,
Zippington Lodge,
Sevenoaks.

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to send you a further unofficial report about your son No 2336 Sgt. F.H. Bourne, ~~13th Battalion,~~
A.I.F.

informant being a man of the unit, No 2497 Pte. G.R. Short, who was in the 1st London General Hospital, Cemberwell, S.E.

He stated that he saw Sgt. Bourne, killed instantly at Bullecourt by a machine gun bullet which pierced his head during the advance on 11.11.17. They were however, forced to retire after a few hours and he fears that there is little hope of his being buried by the men of his battalion.

We must emphasise the purely unofficial nature of this evidence which, however, we fear must be only too true for it is now so many months since the casualty occurred and he would surely have written had he been a prisoner. We fully realise your great anxiety about him and we continuing our inquiries in the hope of obtaining definite news.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your
great suspense.

Yours faithfully,

VP
SECRETARY.
Law

September 13th, 1917.

No 1081 L/Cpl. C.R.G. Simmons,
1st Machine Gun Coy, A.I.F.,
Camp 6, Hut E Lines,
Belton Park, Grantham.

Dear Sir,

We very much regret to send you a further unofficial
report about your friend No 2336 Sgt. F.H. Bourne,
13th Battalion,
A.I.F.

informant being a man of the unit, No 2497 Pte. G.R. Short.
who was in the 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, S.E.

He stated that he saw Sgt. Bourne killed instantly at
Bullecourt by a machine gun bullet which pierced his head
during the advance on 11.17. They were however, forced to
retire after a few hours and he fears that there is little
hope of his being buried by the men of his battalion.

We must emphasise the purely unofficial nature of this
evidence which, however, we fear must be only too true for it
is now so many months since the casualty occurred and he would
surely have written had he been a prisoner. We fully realise
your great anxiety about him and we continue our inquiries
in the hope of obtaining definite news.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your
great suspense.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.
SECRETARY
hfw.

October 9th, 1917.

1081
2
No 108 1/Cpl. E.R.G. Simmons,
1st Machine Gun Coy,
C 6, Hut 3 Lines,
Belton Park, Grantham.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you of further unofficial evidence which has been received from men of his unit about

No 2336 Sgt. F.E. Bourne,
15th Battalion,
A.I.F.

from which we fear that there is very little hope of his being alive.

No 2497 Pte. Short who is in the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he was close to Sgt. Bourne, during the attack at Bullecourt on April 11th, when he was killed by machine gun fire, his death taking place almost immediately.

The casualty occurred in No Man's Land, but shortly afterwards they were pushed back although the ground was regained some time later. Sgt. Bourne was his company sergeant and so he knew him well.

No 367 Cpl. C.V. Carr, who was interviewed in an Australian camp in France stated that Sgt. Bourne whose name was Ted was an

Englishman who enlisted in Sydney. He was officially reported Missing on April 11th, but since then the battalion has heard that he was killed during the attack on that day.

We are sincerely sorry to send you this sad news which though unofficial we fear must be only too true and as soon as we obtain any further information we shall let you know as we realise how great must be your anxiety about him.

Assuring you of our very sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

V-D
SECRETARY.
LAW

October 9th, 1917.

Mr. E. Bourne,
Kippington Lodge,
Sevenoaks.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you of further unofficial evidence which has been received from men of his unit about

No 2336 Sgt. E.R. Bourne,
13th Battalion,
A.I.F.

from which we fear that there is very little hope of his being alive.

No 2497 Pte. Short who is in the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, stated that he was close to Sgt. Bourne, during the attack at Bullecourt on April 11th, when he was killed by machine gun fire, his death taking place almost immediately.

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We are sincerely sorry to send you this sad news which though unofficial we fear must be only too true and as soon as we obtain any further information we shall let you know as we realise how great must be your anxiety about him.

Assuring you of our very sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.

Secretary

LAW

November 5th, 1917.

R. Bourne, Esq.,
Kippington Lodge,
Sevenoaks.

Re 2336 Sgt. F. H. BOURNE, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported "Killed in Action on 11.4.17"

We are making further inquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

V. D
SECRETARY.

19

November 5th, 1917.

1081 I/Cpl. C.R.G. Simmons,
1st Machine Gun Coy, A.I.F.,
C 6 Hut, E Lines,
Belton Park, Grantham.

Re 2336 Sgt. F.H. BOURNE, 13th Battalion, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported "Killed in Action on 11.4.17"

We are making further inquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

V-D
SECRETARY.
1917

January 16th, 1919.

Mrs. F. Bourne,
Kippington Lodge,
Oak Lane,
Sevenoaks.

Dear Madam.

In reply to your further enquiry of 14th inst., for
2336 Sgt. F.H. BOURNE, 13th Battalion, A.I.F. (who is now
officially reported killed in action on 11.4.17 having previously
been reported Missing) We beg to inform you that we have
placed his name on a new enquiry list we are making for
circulation among the returned prisoners and in all camps and
hospitals in England and will at once advise you should we
obtain further news of him.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) *MR*

Secretary.