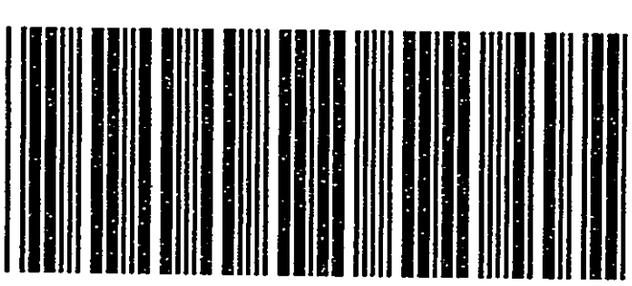
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2570 Sergeant
Frank Butcher

56th Battalion



0660303I

56th Batt.
B.Co.,
A.I.F.,

BUTCHER
Pte F 2570

"Killed Oct. 22/16"

I knew Sgt. F.Butcher. If it is the same man he was killed on the night of Flers, Somme - in Oct. 16. by a shell which also killed Capt. Sheen. I was next them and saw this. I saw them buried at Albert Cemetery and we made crosses for the graves. The Chaplain was there. Butcher joined at Tel-el-Keb ir where the Batt. was formed.

Reference:- Pte W.Wilson 963
56th Batt. B.Coy. A.I.F.,
Southall Hospital.
2.6.17.

London
2.6.17.
P.C.

S.

56th A. I. F. F. BUTCHER, 2690

Killed 22.10.16. Det.D/B.

If this is Sergt.Butcher, D.Coy. No.16 Plat. then A/Sgt. Major, he was killed in Oct. in the trench in front of Bapaume, the same day that Capt.Sheehan was killed. They were relieved the same night by the 55th who had orders to bury both of them. A Sergt. whose name Informant forgets, has since told Informant that he saw both graves. Butcher was killed about 10.0 a.m. and Informant refers to Sergt.Musgrove,away training for commission.

Reference: Pte.Andrisky, 1615, D.Coy.

No.6 General, Rouen, 28.4.17.

MLF.

Written Cadet Musgrove 8.5.17

56th A.I.F.

Butcher Pte. F. 2570,
D. Company.

(K. Oct. 22/16)

"I saw Butcher killed at Flers on Oct. 22/16 by the same shell which killed Capt. Sheen. Butcher was buried just behind our firing line".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Tall fair man.

Informant: Pte. T. Winterbine 230,
56th A.I.F., D. Coy.,
Graylingwell Hospt.,
Chichester.

Home address:
Newcastle,
N.S.W.

May 16th 1917,
Weybeanhoe.

56th Battn.
A. I. F.

Butcher.
Sgt. F. 2570.

"Killed 22.10.16."

I was with this man when he was killed instantly on Le Transloy Front on Oct. 22nd 1916. No attack was being made, but enemy were setting up a barrage. A shell caught him and some others in the trench. Ground was held. He was buried same night behind the lines. I had charge of burial party and put cross with name and number over his grave. He came over with 8th Reinf of 4th Battn. He was 5 feet 10., well built, about 30 years. He was acting Sgt.-Major to the Battn. at the time.

Witness:-
S. Brogden. 3018.
D.Coy.
56th Battn.
Perham Downs Camp.

S.

R. McPhee.

London.
18.5.17.

56th Batt. A.I.F.

BUTCHER. Pte F. No.2570.
"D" Coy, 56th Batt.

Killed Oct. 22nd, 1916. Det. D./B.

" I saw Butcher killed by a shell in our front line trenches at Flers. He was killed by the same shell that killed Capt. Sheen. They were both killed instantaneously. I saw the crosses for their graves with names,numbers and units ~~XXX~~ upon them, after they were made and a burial party took them into the trenches to put on the graves . The bodies were buried just near they were killed."

Description.

Witness. Pte K.M. Dennis, No. 5082, L.M.G.S. 56th Bn
now "D" Coy, 61st Batt.

22nd May, 1917.
S.W.

Worgret Camp,
WAREHAM.

A. I. F. 56. BUTCHER, F. 2570.

K. October 22nd, 1916.

If this was the CSM. of D.Coy. who was killed about October last, I have seen his grave at Warlincourt, not in a cemetery but in front of our line. I know also that the Pioneers were preparing a cross for the grave.

PHE.

Reference:- Pte. C.H. Blatchford. 3032. 9/A.
att. to C. Coy.
No. 22 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
26.5.17.

56th Battalion A.I.F.
D. Company.

BUTCHER, Sgt. 2570

Killed in Action 22.10.16.

I knew Sergeant Butcher -- he was my platoon Sergeant at the latter end of October. He was killed on the same night as Captain Shea. Both were killed with the same shell at Flers. It was a bitterly cold night and we lit a fire. I was close at hand at the time. I believe the fire attracted the attention of the enemy.
He was a big fair man with fair moustache.

Informant:-- Pte. BARRY E.Y. 3767
56th Battalion D. Co., A.I.F.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

H.S.N.
31.5.17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

56th Battn.
A. I. F.

Butcher.
F. 2570.

"Killed 22.10.16."

I saw the cross which was made to put over his grave with his name painted on it. He was probably buried opposite Bapaume. He was a Sgt. at the time.

Witness:-
E. W. Hammerton 3055½
56th Battn.
Harefield. W.23.

W. Alison.

London.
5.6.17.

S.

56th Battalion A.I.F.
D. Company
(late 4th Battalion)

BUTCHER Sgt. F. 2570

Killed in Action 22.10.16.

I knew Butcher-- he was a Sergeant of XIV Platoon, D. Company, 56th Battalion, having come from the 4th Battn. He was the only Sergeant of that name that I knew in the Co He was a big man with a fair moustache, and was, I think, married.

I was in a captured trench with him at the end of October, 1916-- the first time the 56th Battalion went into the line on the Somme near Flers, which was on our left. A shell came over and killed him, and Captain Sheen, I was there at the time, and saw him carried away. I am quite sure it was he. I did not see how he was wounded. I never heard ~~xxxxxx~~ of him again. We were told at the time that he was killed.

Informant:-- E.J.Barry, 3769
56th Battalion D. Co. XIV Ptn.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK

A reliable witness.

H.S.O.
7.6.17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

56th Battalion A.I.F. BUTCHER Sgt. F. 2570
D. Company
(late 4th Battalion) Killed in Action 22.10.16.

I knew Butcher -- he was a Sergeant in D. Company, XIV Platoon. We called him "Fred". He was tall, thickset, of medium complexion, with a moustache.

I was hit in August at Fleurbaix, but was told in England about November, 1916, by Stretcher-bearer Private J. O'Shea, that he was present on the Somme, when Butcher and Private P. Hickey (O'Shea's mate) were killed by a shell. Butcher and Hickey were killed outright. O'Shea was sick in England when I left.

Butcher was a married man, and his wife and family are in England. He was not an Australian.

Informant:-- CONNELL J. 3024,
56th Battalion D. Co. A.I.F.
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

H.S.O.
5.7.17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

56th Battn., A.I.F.
"D" Co., (Late 4th Battn.)

BUTCHER, F.
2570. Sergt.

KILLED IN ACTION. 22/10/16.

Sergeant Butcher was my Platoon Sergeant in "D" Company. We were in the trenches opposite Bapaume. The Germans stormed our line on the night of the 22nd October, 1916. A shell burst in the trench, and killed Captain Sheen and Sergeant Butcher. The latter was killed on the spot, and was buried near the trenches. Some days later we took a cross out and placed it on his grave.

He was a very popular man, very much liked by all the men.

Informant:- CARTER, Pte.A.G., 5061,
56th Battn., "D" Company,
No.4 Aust.General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

B.K.
23/7/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

56th Battn.
A. I. F.

Butcher.
F. 2579.

"Killed 22.10.16."

This man was killed instantly at Bapaume Front at about 8.30.p.m. on October 22nd 1916. Capt. W. R. Sheen M.C. was in charge of a party (Butcher being of the number) who were holding the trench previous to an attack. A shell burst on side of the trench, and Capt Sheen and Butcher were both killed. I saw the two bodies picked up and placed on the Parados, but did not see the burial as we were relieved soon after. Butcher was 6 feet, fair, well built. 29-30 years. From New South Wales.

Witness:-
B. Ford. 5096.
D. Coy. 56th Battn.
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.
11.6.17.

S.

Cadet H. R. MUSGROVE
late 56 Batt^n A.I.F
at Ros Offices Cadet Batt^n
Cambridge

for
2540 F. BUTCHER
56 Batt^n A.I.F

K. 22. 10. 16.

EW
9.5.17

HOSPITAL 3rd Southern General, Cowley Section, O

INFORMATIO

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank
	Edwards	a. D.	2583	

GIVEN

	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No.	Rank
	Warne	James	5478	Pc

STATEMENT OF

(to be taken in

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

I know that Pte Edwards (I. D. C engagement at Hars. I went come back, as we were reliefs In February, after we had taken 7 about 30 7 us, went out to se those whom we found. and we a had fallen. A cross was mad Pay Book & Disc, and took the

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness?	I.7. took his Disc & Pay Book & Orderly Room.	2. If not, g the
3. Was the ground held or lost?	Lost on Nov 5th held now	4. If Inform was dea the body
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about?	only surname no right	6. Was there name in
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.	medium size . slig	

8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence* — an exceptionally intelligent man in took a great deal of trouble & seemed quite accurate

A.R.C

RECEIVED
10 MAY 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Answered
14-5-17

Governors House
Hyères
May 9th

Dear Madam,

I am sorry to trouble you, but- there is a man in this Hospital [illegible] (Hants County Hospital) Pte J. Scanlon in the 5-6th Battalion Australian Force, he was [illegible] many days ago- of "Influenza" [illegible] name Pte Butcher 5-6th A.I.F., he is very anxious that I should ask you if you can find Butcher is a Private as he says a Sergeant- Butcher killed, Butcher was "acting Sergeant-Major" at the time, but- Scanlon, not wishing to make a mistake would not tell me any details

until it was time for the Butcher
in the morning and was the Sergeant-
Butcher to Press -
If you can, without trouble let me
know this I should be grateful
Yours truly
Mary MacVicar.

15.5.17

Miss Mac Tier
Governor s House
Winchester

Dear Madam.

Your letter of 9th inst., 2570 Sgt. Frank Butcher 56th Battn. A.I.F. has been handed to me from Carlton House Terrace as we deal with all cases of wounded and missing Australians.

We have ascertained that 2570 Butcher was a Sgt. and should be extremely grateful for any information that Pte. Seaulon could give concerning his death. He is officially reported to have been killed in action on 30.8.16.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully

V.D per K-

Secretary.