

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

**6735 Private
Wilfred Francis
Howard Denniss**

2nd Battalion



0910511H

2nd Bn
AIF

DENNIS
Wilfred Francis Heward
6735

"Whoreabouts"

Wded 4, 10. 17. Mat. of Cas. not stated.

Cert. by AIF HdQtrs 11. 12. 17.

No further report.

Cert. by AIF HdQtrs 18. 12. 17.

No further report. Not with Unit. No Hpl. Admission.

Cert. by letter from Rouen 24. 12. 17.

P.I
(RECEIVED)

London.
2. 7. 12. 17.

A.I.F. 2nd Btn

DENNISS
Wilfred Frances Howard 6735

"WHEREABOUTS"

Wded 4-10-17 - nature of casualty not stated - N.F.R.
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 11-12-17, 18-12-17 & 28-12-17.

No further report, not with unit, no Hpl admission
Cert. by Rouen letter 24-12-17.

filled in action 4-10-17
ert. by Rouen letter 1-1-18.

London
4-1-18.

Boulogne

2nd Battalion.
A.I.F.

DEMISS. W.F.H.
6735.

"KILLED 4. 10. 17"

He was a Lewis Ginner in A Company. 1. platoon. He was sniped through the groin on Oct 4th at about 8 a.m. while in the same Machine Gun post. as we between Zonnebeke and Anzac ridge during our attack there. He was carried back by four German prisoners but died on the way, he could not be buried at the time owing to the heavy shelling, and we heard about a fortnight later from an English Battalion that they tried to bury him, but had to give it up. He was unconscious until he died. I knew him well. A tall Young chap about 21 1/2 stone. He had a brother in the A.I.F. who had returned wounded to Australia before this.,

Informant;- Pte. A. C. Leslie. 6118.
2nd A. Coy. 1st Pltn.
Dartford.

A. Campbell.

London.
10.4.18,

S
Boul.

A.I.F. 2.

DENNISS, W.S.H. 6735.

~~W/Hoff~~ H. Oct 4th 1917.

I knew a man called Denniss who was my name sake although he was no relation of mine. He was in the same company as myself and I think he was in No III pltn. His number was between 6 and 7 thousand. I knew nothing of him before the war. He was dark, clean shaven rather thick-set, about 5ft 8 and about 20 or 21. I was told by Sgt W.Shippen of A.IV and also by Pte Watson of A.III. who both knew Denniss that they had seen him being ~~carried~~ carried down to the D/S wounded. This was on the morning of the 4th Oct in the neighbourhood of Zonnebeke. I heard afterwards that Denniss had D/W. This is accepted in the Battn. I don't know where he was buried.

Ref: Pte A.W.Dennis. 2341. A.IV.

No. 3 Can.Gen.Hosp.

BOULOGNE. 14.1.18. AGL

*written Shippen & Watson
22-1-18*

A. I. F. 2nd Bn.

DENNISS, W. F. H. 6735.

C
H.F.

Killed Oct.4/17. Det.D/B.

He was shot at an outpost at Brodseinde on the Ypres Front. He was put on a stretcher, alive but unconscious, and taken to the D/S; he was still alive when he got there; that was the last I heard of him, but it was rumoured that he died of wounds. No one seems to have remembered about his being buried, but he may have been buried by a party who did not know him or mark his grave. I remember he was a big fellow and knew something about farming, as he used to talk about it.

Reference: Cpl.W.H.Vogt, 915, A.HQ.Signals.

No.1 Aust.General, Rouen, 23.4.18.

ABHH.

S
Bos

28th Battn.
A.I.F.

Dennis
W.F.H. 6735

"Killed in Action 4.10.17"

Re Pte.W.F.H.Dennis. The above mentioned was mortally wounded at a post of which I was in charge on 4.10.17. I had his wound dressed and had him despatched on a stretcher. I heard later of his death, and now on receipt of your letter I made particular enquiries as to details which I received from our Battalion Orderly Room, and are as follows:- Pte.W.F.H.Dennis - found his body at J.14.B 7.7. Sheet 28. N.W. (1) one in 10,000 but were unable to bury the body owing to heavy bombardment at that particular time. As for his description, I will give same to my best ability and is as follows:- Height approx. 5'9" to 5'10", thickly built, approx. 12 to 13 stone, fair complexion and if I remember rightly brown eyes. (J.14.B.7.7. Sheet 28. H.W. 1 in 10,000 is the map reference of where the body would be found.)

Letter from:-

Sgt.W.T.Shipper

c/o Sgts.Mess.

15.Camp. O.T.B.

Warminster. Wilts.

3.2.18.

Bouloane.

London.

16.2.18.

2nd A.I.F.

^{SS}
Dennis. Pte. W.F.H. 6735.

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

"Dennis was killed by concussion on Oct, 4th at Broodseinde Ridge. I saw 3 men killed by the same shell. I believe death was instantaneous. He was buried on the battlefield; not in the cemetery. There was no opportunity of putting a cross over his grave. It is on the Western line somewhere."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Pte. Hugh William Jackson. 6769.
2nd A.I.F. D Coy.,
(On Leave)

Home address: Home Green,
Broadstone.
Dorset.

22.3.18.
Mrs. Lyle.

15/10/18

A.I.F. 2.

DENNISS, W.F.H. 6735.

K. Oct 4th 1917. Dets D/B.

Denniss (gives initials and number correctly from his book) was in A.IV and was killed on Oct 4th at Polygon Wood. He was in an outpost and a shell fell and killed him outright as well as Solman and another about 6.30a.m. before we started to go over. I was just behind the outpost and saw him after he was killed. He would be buried on the spot. I was on a burying party, but not on the one that buried him. His home address was Albion Park, N.S.W.

Inf: L/Cpl.F.Holland. 4538. A.I.
No. 32 Stat Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 25.3.18.

JT

Paul

A.I.F. 2nd Btn

DETHISS
Wilfred Frances Howard 6735

"WOUNDED"

Killed 4-10-17 - nature of casualty not stated
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 11-12-17

No further report
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 18-12-17

London
19-12-17

Boulogne

2nd Battalion, A.I.F.
22nd Reinforcements.

Pte. W.F.H. DENNIS.
No. 6735.

"Killed in Action 4.10.17."

Informant described Dennis as about 5 ft 11 inches high, stout build, dark complexion, aged about 24. Came from a dairying district in the country. Left Australia with Informant per "Port Nicholson" 8.11.16.

Informant states that they both belonged to "A" Company Lewis Machine Gun Section. On 4.10.17 the Battalion was in front of Passchendaele in action. They hopped over at 6-10 a.m. Informant and Dennis being together at the time. They kept together after the hopover and at about 7-30 a.m. Informant saw Dennis sniped. Informant stopped and helped to dress Dennis' wounds. He never spoke after being hit and appeared to be unconscious as he did not reply to questions that Informant addressed to him. He was carried away by stretcher bearers and Informant saw no more of him being himself wounded about half an hour afterwards. It was Informant's opinion that Dennis could not live long.

Informant added that everyone thought well of Dennis and could not do anything else. He and Dennis were great chums.

Informant: Private A. Connolly, No. 6727.
"A" Company, 2nd Battalion.

Home address: Yass Road, Cootamundra.

W.E.G.
29.4.18.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

James C. ...
To ...
16 ...
0 ...