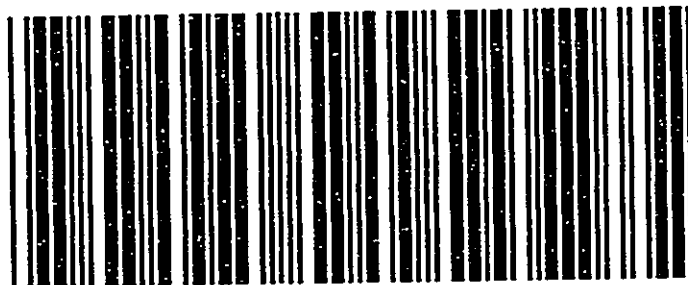


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

1509 Private  
Alexander Don

23rd Battalion



0930901M

23rd A. I. F.

Don, A. 1509

(K. 22nd Aug/16. Det: D & B)

"I knew Don but not his number. His Christian name was Alec. He was one of B. Coy and Plat. VII or VIII. He was with a machine gun I believe, and was killed at Pozieres by a piece of shell which hit him in the head killing him instantly. I saw him about half an hour after he was killed. He was buried in a gap called Centre Way with three others. I have seen his grave. There was a cross with his name No. and Batt."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: About 25, quiet and reserved, medium height, dark and clean-shaven

Informant: Pte Allan Bruce Larnay, 258,  
23rd A. I. F., 2. Coy, V Plat.,  
Colmore Rd Hospital,  
King's Heath, Birmingham.

Home address:  
Sassafra P.O.,  
Melbourne,  
Aust.

11th April 1917.  
W.F. Andry.

23rd Australian Imperial Force

Don, Pte. A. 1509.

( K. Aug. 22/16. Dets D & B ).

" Sometime during August, 1916, at Ploers, I heard that Don was blown to pieces. A man called Pte. C.A. Heath, 23rd A.I.F., 3 Coy. Scout section, told me I heard this news from several of the men. He was wounded on the back of the neck at Gallipoli, and afterwards he had enteric. He was in B Coy. 7th Pltn then. I saw him again in Egypt, he hadn't rejoined then. In France he rejoined, and was attached to D Coy. "

Eye Witness. Pte. C.A. Heath, Scout Section, 23rd A.I.F. 3 Coy. told him.

Description :- About 5' 11". Had travelled a terrible lot, a clever man, turning grey, very thin.

Informant :- Pte. V.J. Flannery, 1166,  
B Coy. 7th Pltn. 23rd A.I.F.  
Home address :- 3rd London General Hospt,  
Horseferry Rd, Wandsworth, S. E.

25. 5. 1917 Westminster, London.  
J Perrin. S. E.

*Written Pte Heath 8.6.17*

23rd Battn.  
B. Coy.  
A. I. F.

Don.  
A. 1509.

"Killed in Action 22.8.16."

Concerning the death of the late Pte. A. Don 1509, B. Coy. 23rd Battn. A.I.F. I have known the late Pte. Don since leaving Australia which was on May 8th, 1915. He was of a reserved kind of person, tall fair complexion, hair turned grey. Pte. Don also informed me that he was the son of a Parson. He was killed instantaneously on our way into the trenches for the second time at Pozieres August of last year. I was only a few yards from him in the same trench when he met his end. He was buried alongside the trench in which he met his untimely end. I cannot say if a cross with his name on was ever erected, but I can assure you he was buried but not in a cemetery. Pte. Don was of temperate habits all the time I knew him. He was also wounded on Gallipoli coming out of the Lone Pine Trenches. His wound on the neck at the back of the head being severe. He went to Hospital at Malta and was passed for Australia as unfit, but somehow or other he was sent to overseas base at Giza Cairo Egypt from there to Tel El Kebir thence on to France where he rejoined his Battalion. Being a first reinforcement I know Pte. Alex Don was the only person holding such a number. I cannot give you any fuller particulars re burial as we "changed over"

23rd Battn.  
B. Coy.  
A. I. F.

-2-

Don.  
A. 1509.

in darkness and never returned to Pozieres any more.

Letter from:-

Pte. O. A. Heath. 1522.  
B. Coy. 23rd Battn.  
France. 15.6.17.

London.  
2.7.17.

M.

23rd Btn.

POB, A. Pte.  
No. 1509

Killed in action 22/8/16.

"I saw Casualty's dead body in the trench near Mouquet Farm in the communication trench on the 22nd August, 1916. Casualty was coming through the trench to reach the 1st Division at the time he was killed."

Informant:- L/Cpl. J.C. Cartmel,  
No. 1902, 23rd Btn.

Private address  
27 Rose Street,  
West Brunswick.

H.AB.  
2/10/17.

*True Copy  
June 1917 M.*

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

Ad. L. K.  
25.6.17

France.

Friday June 15. 6.17.

1509. A. DON B. Co

"The Secretary"

RA 22.8.16

M<sub>2</sub>

23 BATT<sup>A</sup> 17

the undersigned received your letter of inquiry concerning the Death of the late Private A. Don. 1509. B. Coy. 23 Battalion 6<sup>th</sup> A. S. I. I have known the <sup>late</sup> Pte Don since leaving Australia which was on May 8. 5. 15. He was a reserved kind of person. Tall fair complexion Hair turned Grey. Pte Don also informed me that He was the Son of a "Parson" He was killed Instantaneously on our way into the trenches "for the second time at Pozieres August 4<sup>th</sup> last year. I was only a few yards from him in the same trench when he met his end. He was buried alongside the trench in which he met his untimely end. I cannot say if a cross with his name on was ever erected. But I can assure you he was buried and not in a "Cemetery" Private Don was of Temperate Habits all the time I knew him. He was also wounded on Gallipoli coming out of the Lone Pine Trenches his wound on the neck at the back of his head being severe. He went to Hospitals at Malta & was passed for Australia as unfit but some how or other He was sent to Over Sea Base at Suez Cairo Egypt from there to Tel. El. Kebir thence on to France where he rejoined his Battalion. Being a First Reinforcement I know Private Alf Don was the only person holding such a number. I cannot give you any fuller particulars of his burial as we "changed over" in Dardanelles & never returned to Pozieres any more.

Hoping you receive this letter

I am

Yours Faithfully

to 1522

Pte O. B. Heath

B. Coy. 23 Batts. And. S.

And. S.

Ad. L. K.  
25.6.17  
was at the time  
in the hospital  
at Malta