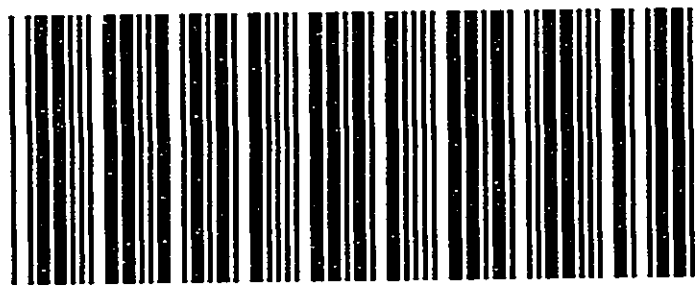
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

2522 Private Thomas Alfred Downes

18th Battalion



0950501K

France.

A. I. F. 18. DOWNES, T.A. 2522.

M/August 27th. 1916.

The casualty date should be July 27th. He belonged to III pl. A.Co. I saw him at a part of our trench afterwards blown in by a shell, the first time we were in at Pozieres (July 27th.) We were in a sap at the time. I saw the place afterwards; there was no trace of him. Other men who were near said he was buried there. He was not dug out. The shelling was too heavy for that.

Reference: Pte. E.B. Martin, 2715, A.Co., No. 2 A.D.B.D.

Etaples.
4.11.16.
SA.

DDM

France.

A. I. F. 18. DOWNES, T.A. 2522.

M/27th. August 1916.

There was a man in our Coy named Downes; a slightly built fair man of medium height, about 22 years old; from Sydney. I saw him lying wounded on May or June one night when we went up to support the 20th. at Bois Grenier. He was taken to the Base at Boulogne and was very ill there. He was sent to England and got his discharge and was sent back to Australia. This was told me by Pte. Lloystrum (I don't know how to spell his name), who is now with the Co.

Reference: Bulford, 2104, D.1,
No. 2 A.D.B.D.

Etaples.
4.11.16.
MBA.

Asking Hqrs to Verify 20.11.16
Missing Hqrs 21.11.16

A.I.F. 18th Battn

DOWRES
T.A. 2522

Missing - 27-6-16.

Missing 27-6-16
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters List 31-8-16 & 21-11-16.

OFF.M.

London
4-12-16.

18th Battn.
A.I.F.,

Downes
Pte. T.A. 2522

"Missing 27-8-16

"Missing 27-7-1916"
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 20-11-16.

London
28-12-16.

Off.M.

18th Battn.,
A.I.F.

DOWNES,
T.A. 2522.

"Missing 27-Aug-16."

"Witness states initials of DOWNES should be "W." No other Downes in D. Coy. He joined the 18th Battn. on 1915, same Platoon as witness - 13th. W. Downes was wounded about last April or beginning of May. Witness left unit on 20th May. Downes was hit by a shell, badly wounded. Saw him hit, was alongside him. Number given 2522, would be about number of W. Downes, D.Coy."

Witness:- No.1970. Mitford,G.S. D.Coy. 18th Battn.
2nd. Aust. Aux. Hosp. Southall. 10-2-17.
10-2-17.

London,
8-3-17.
J.W.C.

Note. Asking Headquarters to verify. 7-3-17

S.

A.I.F. 18th Battn

DOWNES
T.A. 2522

Missing 27-7-16

Still reported Missing 27-7-16
Cert. by A.I.F.Headquarters 14-3-17.

London
15-3-17

Downes.

18th Battn.
A. I. F.

T. A. 2522.

"Missing 27.7.16."

I saw a shell lob on him and two others and when the smoke cleared away there was no one left. There was nothing left to bury. I knew him well. He was a Despatch Runnerrunder me. He came from N. S. W. and was only about 18. Solidly built and as game as you make 'em. I once saw him in a rough and tumble with three Tommies and he licked them all right. One of the finest boys in the world and as game as he could be. A real game kid, but not quarrelsome and would never pick a fight. He would always go through no matter what the fire was. If I had asked him to go to Berlin, he would have had a try - nothing stopped him.

Witness:-
G. E. Grantham. 2150.
18th Battn.
Harefield. W.24.

W. Alison.

London.
7.6.15. Note I imagine Grantham was a Sgt., but I quite forgot to ask him and he did not mention it. W.A.

S.

A.I.F. 18th Btn

DOWNES
Thos Alfred 2522

"MISSING"

Killed in Action 27-7-16 - previously reported Missing
~~ert.~~ by A.I.F.Hqrs 31-7-17.

S

London
7-8-17

18th Battn. Kia. No. 2522. DOWNES, T.A. Pte

~~Missing~~ 27-7-16" fmo. M.

I knew Downes; his name was "Tommy". He was a Battn. runner. He was in a party of about 6 or 7 in Pozieres, when a shell came over and burst right in their midst. I saw it happen and am quite sure that none of the party can be alive. This was in a spot where they could not possibly be taken Prisoners. I have already given reports about Tommy Downes, both in England and France. He was a fine little chap - one of the gamest and finest kids I ever met - he was only about 18, dark, and came from the country.

Informant:- Corporal G.E. Grantham, 2150 - D.C.M.
18th Battn. "D" Co.
(a difficult, but reliable witness).
No.4, Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

A.I.O.
12-9-17.

Sydney Bureau.

David Garnett.