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

2331 Corporal
George Walter Banks

5th Machine Gun Company



0220206C

A.I.F. 5th M.G.Coy.

BANKS
G.W. 2331

"D/Wds 9-11-17"

Died of wounds 9-11-17 at 3rd Canadian C.C.S.
Cert. by Hpl Index

London
3-6-18

3

A.M.G.C. 5. BANKS, G.W. 2331.

D/W Nov. 9th 1917. Dets.

G.W.Banks was in No 4 section. I don't know his number. He was dark, clean shaven, about 5ft 9, and about 24 and I think single. I was told by Pte M.G.Hills of No 3 section, that he was close to Banks' gun team when he saw a shell explode and Banks was dangerously wounded. It was read out in company orders afterwards that Banks had D/W. This occurred about the 9th Nov on the Ypres front. I don't know where Banks was buried.

Inf: Pte S.Jack. 557. 3 section
No. 1 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 20.6.1918.
AGL

N.S.A.

Written Pte. Mills 27.6.18.

5th Mach Gun Coy. BANKS.
A.I.F. G.W. 2331.

"Died of Wounds 9-11-17"

I saw Cpl Banks wounded in back and face and other places near Zonnebeke in the morning. He was on anti-aircraft work at the time. It was in a sort of marsh near Zonnebeke Village. He was taken away on a stretcher (I don't know names of bearers) to a Dressing Station and died afterwards at the C.C.S.

Banks was a short fellow, ruddy complexion, well built. He came from Sydney - he came over with 5th Rifs 17th Batth and was transferred in 1916 to Machine Gun Company.

Informant:- Pte.A.J.Sayers.2261.
5th M.G.C.
SUTTON VENY.

H.A.E.
London.
8-7-18.
S.A.

S.

A.I.F. 5 M.G.C. BANKS, G.W. 2331.
D/D. Nov.9/17. Det. D/E.

He was in No.3 Sec. On Nov.7 at ~~xk~~ 3 a.m. the Canadians started a big raid close by Zonnebeke Lake. We had orders to unite and help them with the barrage. Banks and I were in the same Team. We had borrowed a T Fixing Base for our gun. Half an hour after the stunt was over, about 5 a.m. Banks said he would take it back. In vain we tried to dissuade him as shells were still coming over. He took the Fixing Base, got up on the trench parapet and walked along it to avoid the water and mud. He got hit by a light shell. I was close by and helped to put him on a stretcher taken from our 18th Inf.Bn. He had 14 wounds. The S/Bs then came up and took him to a D/S 250 yards away. The next day he was taken to another D/S nearer to Vlamertinghe. He died the following evening and I believe was buried at Vlamertinghe Cemetery. He was a very brave, active, nice young fellow; an Englishman, but had gone to live in Australia. His name was Geo.Wm.; he had been previously wounded in the spring of 1917, and had only returned from England about a month before he died. I had some of his private letters in my overcoat which I intended to return to his friends; but unluckily about a week after his death this coat was hit by a shell and was burnt with the letters in it.

Reference: Pte.M.G.Mills, 7276. 2 Sec. then 3 Sec.
No.5 General, Rouen. 4.7.18.

ET.

? Zillebeke Lake ET.

Havre. 4th. July. 1918.

5th. Australian M. G. C. Banks, G. W. 2351.

D/K. November 9/1917. Dets. D/B.

I knew him well; he was medium build, dark, about 24, I don't know where he came from. On November 9th. we were at Ypres holding the line. About 10. 30. a.m. while at the M. G. Post he was hit by a piece of whiz bang & he was severely wounded in many places. I was close by & saw it. He was taken to the D/Station & died two or three days after at some Hospital. We shifted to Steenvoorde jst after & it was read out in o orders that he had died.

Inf:- Gunner. S. Jack. 557.
5th. Australian M. G. C. 3.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

CWSG.

5th M.G.C.
A.I.F.

BANKS.
G.W. 2331.

"Died of Wounds 9-11-17"

He was hit by a whiz-bang mostly in the head in the afternoon about 4 to 5 p.m. on Nov 9th at Westhoek Ridge - in front of Zonnebeke. He had 20 or 30 wounds. Taken to the advanced dressing station and then to 7th Field Ambulance. We heard that he died on the way from there. No details Death or Burial. He would have been officially buried.

Informant:- Brown. C.S.1096.
II Div.H.Q.
late 5th M.G.C.
SOUTHALL.

T.St.J.F.
London.
29-7-18.
H.G.

3.

[redacted]

5th Machine Gun Company
late 17th Battalion

BANKS G.W. Corporal No.2331

"Died of wounds 9.11.17"

I knew Banks, he was a Corporal in No. 2 and No. 3 Section of 5th Machine Gun Company. He was short, fair, medium, thickset He was the only man of that name in these sections. I was in No.3 section. He was wounded by a shell on 5/6.11.17 near Zonnebeke Lake. I saw him get wounded, he was on the next gun to us and I saw him carried back. Two or three days later whilst in hospital at Calais I was told that Banks had died of his wounds but I did not hear where he died but I think it was at a Dressing Station. I think he came from 17th Battalion.

Informant : Private C.A. Williams, No.1812
5th Machine Gun Company, No. 3 section

Home address: 76 Underwood Street,
PADDINGTON

H.S.O.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK

27.8.18

SYDNEY CURRAU

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY," WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

June 3rd 1918.

The O.C.

3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station

B.I.7.

2331. J. W. Banks 5th Machine Gun Coy A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been asked by the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death and burial of the above, who died in your Hospital on 9-11-17. and would greatly appreciate any information that you may send us.

As we have been informed by various C.O.'s and Adjutants that the receipt of notes of thanks only causes them unnecessary inconvenience, unless you ask us to acknowledge your reply to the above we will not do so, and trust that you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.

DW

3RD CANADIAN
No.
8 - JUN. 1918
CASUALTY
CLEARING STATION

Australian Red Cross Society,
36 Grosvenor Place,
LONDON, W. 1.

No.2331, Cpl. Banks, G. W.
5th M. G. C. Aust., Died in this hospital at
5:45 a.m., 9/11/17, from wounds of both thighs,
legs and face.

He was buried in Lyssenthoek
Cemetery, Map Location Sheet 27, Square L 22, D 6.3
plot 22 A.A. Grave 6.

H. Bigger
Lt. Col. C.A.M.C.
O.C. 3rd CANADIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION.

S

2/9/18 H. Coy.

2231 L/Cpl Banks. G.W.
5th Bn. Coy. late 17th No. 3 Command Depot
D of W 9.11.17 Bath Hudcott Wilts.

Miss Wilkins

Dear Madam,

I have pleasure in replying to your enquiry re George V. Banks 2331 (Acting Corp. when killed)
I was on his gun team when he was hit, on the morning of Nov. 7. he had many wounds in the thigh & face and we bandaged him up and carried him on a stretcher about 400 yards to the nearest Reg. A.P. He was cheerful smoking a cigarette while we carried him to the dressing station, where we left him to attend to our own duties, and I know he was moved again farther down nearer Ypres, as he lived nearly 48 hours after being hit.
He was not buried on the field, but to the best of my belief, somewhere near Vlamertinghe.
George was a cheerful boy, with nice blue eyes, bushy eyebrows fair skin, he was well built, stout-ish, about 5. 7in high I believe he weighed about 12 stone.
He told me he had been wounded once before, and got to Blighty with it, and I believe he told me he was and English boy. and embarked from Sydney.
I hope my vague description will be of some use, and I am always at your service. Respectfully yours
P.S. M.O. 4th Bde. date about 9.11.17 (14.9.17) Cpl. G. Mills

27. 6. 18.

Pte. M. G. Mills
No 3 Section
5th M. G. Coy. A.I.F.
abroad

abt.
2331
Pte. G. W. Banks
No 4 Section
5th M. G. Coy. A.I.F.

D/W 9. 11. 17.

28. 6. 18.
O.I.C.

III