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

5294 Private
Ernest Walter Atkinson

20th Battalion



0160104C

H. Atkinson Esq.,

Vale House,

Somerton,

Somerset.

17th May 18

Re 5294 Ernest Walker Atkinson - 20th Battn., A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We deeply regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported wounded and Missing is now reported killed in Action on 9/10/17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning full details of his death and will immediately forward to you any information that we receive.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Law.

Secretary.

To
Pioneer Sergt Brockett
20th Battn
A.I.F.

Abmt
5294 Sigr E. W. Atkinson
20 Battn
A.I.F.

K 9.10.17

Written 27.9.18
MES

rch FRONT Ypres

K.D.R.—V. 1857.

ON AS TO

nk	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Casualty.
k	[illegible]	A	1	DW 22/4/18 [illegible]

BY

nk.	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Home Address.
k	do	A	1	Sunnyside Westcourt Rd Worthing Sussex

INFORMANT

first person).

[illegible] C.H. Trotter who died from effects
[illegible] in front of Menin
[illegible] 22nd [illegible] Hewan

R THE FOLLOWING :—

give name, number, etc., he man who told him.

ormant says a man was killed, as death instantaneous? as the body buried, & if so where? — Lived about 3 or 4 hours. Cant say where buried. Possibly at Lasse

here any other man of same e in Co. or Battalion? — No

ger, Medium build, [illegible] stoop —

Signature of Searcher } Edgar Rice

Date of Report 21/8/18

A.I.F. 11. FORDHAM, 2/Lt [illegible].

E. Sept 20th 1917. Dets.

On Sept 20th/17 2/Lt Fordham led his section in an attack on Glencorse Wood and early in the morning he was hit by a piece of shell in the stomach. This took place in No Man's Land when we were lying there, but this ground was ultimately permanently occupied and fatigue parties were set to work to clear it up and I think it most likely that they found Lt Fordham's body and buried it on the field.

Inf: [illegible]iley. 6[illegible].
No. 57 Gen Hosp.
[illegible]LOGNE. [illegible].11.17. [illegible]

Missing Draft. 9.11.17.

H. Atkinson Esq -
Vale House
Somerton
Somerset

about. 5-294 Pte E. M. Atkinson
20th Batt.

A.I.F.
20th. Battalion.

ATKINSON. 6294.
Sig. Ernest Walter.

"Killed in Action" 9.10.17".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
16.10.19.

S.P.I

[redacted]

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

ATKINSON
Sig. E.W. 5294

"Killed in Action 9-10-17"

Re 5294 Pte.E.W.Atkinson. He was buried in a soldiers grave, West of Halfway House, Ypres. He was rather tall, fair complexion, age about 26 years.

Letter from:- Brockett. Sgt.,
FRANCE. 10-10-18.

London
17-10-18
J.E.B.

P.I.
S.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

ATKINSON Sig.E.W. 5294
Chauncy Pte.A.J.M. 5461

"Killed 9-10-17"

Sig.Atkinson was killed by shell off Ypres in the early morning of the 9-10-17. We came across together in the same kft. He got hit the second time he was put in the line. We were out of the line 48 hours. I heard of Atkinson's death when I got back. He would not be brought in for burial. Another man I knew, Chauncy 5461 was killed at the same time and place. Pioneer Sgt.Brockett can confirm in both cases. He should be with line.

Informant. Edwards. Pte.Leslie Jas. 5333
(intelligent and reliable)
20th Battn.,
Harborne Hall,
V.A.D.Hpl.,
BIRMINGHAM.

Home address:-
Crimea Street,
Parramatta,
N.S.W.

C.Bullock
12-9-18
London
19-9-18

P.I.
S.

Written Per Sergt Brockett
27.9.1918

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

ATKINSON
Ernest Walker 5294

Killed in Action 9-10-17 previously reported "Missing".
Next of kin and enquirer:- Father - H.Atkinson, Esq.,
Vale House,
Somerton,
Somerset,
ENGLAND.

Cert. by Searcher at Hqts.
9-5-18

London
13-5-18

E.I.
S.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

ATKINSON,
E.W. 5294

"Missing 9.10.17."

I can only say that Atkinson was in the Signallers and was missing on October 9th 1917 at Bullecourt. When I was in hospital at Etaples later (about January 14th 1918) a Red Cross enquirer read out to me the names of the missing from my Battalion and among the names was Atkinson's. I said "Most peculiar thing, the Sister was enquiring about Atkinson." He then said "Oh I've found out about him, he was killed on the 9th October." Sister Jackson, Ward 64, No 56 General, Etaples, could doubtless give further information as to the Red Cross enquirer and as to Atkinson.

Eye-witness:- No.
Description:-
Informant:- Pte.F.H. Lazarus, 3968,
20th Battn, D.Coy, 10th Pltn,
Stourbridge Military Hospital.

Home address:
Burleigh Street,
Burwood, N.S.W.

E. & P.I.

F.Chappell
18.3.18.
London.3.4.18.

Note. Written Sister Jackson 28.3.18.

5294 Ernest Wallis Atkinson
Yale House 20 Bth
Somerton
Somerset.

Oct 21st. 1918.

Dear Madam

I am deeply grateful for your most kind letters & for all the trouble which has been taken to find out about our dear Lucy.
His Father died on the 21st of Jan - that is why I write.

Grate fully Yours

Annie M. Atkinson.

Vale House
Somerton, Somerset
15th Nov. 1914.

To.
B.R.C. Soc.
83, Pall Mall S.W.

Dear Sirs,

I have been advised to apply to you, as being likely to procure information of a more definite character respecting my dear boy, who, I have been officially informed, has been "Missing" since Oct 9th. No 5294. Ernest Walter Atkinson
A. Compy. 20th Battalion A. I. F.
Rank Signaler.

I should feel deeply grateful for any further information as to whether he is a prisoner or what his actual fate is, as this state of suspense is most trying.

Thanking you in anticipation

I am, Dear Sirs

Yours truly

Henry Atkinson

Vale House
Somerton, Somerset
21st Nov. 1914.

To
The Australian Red Cross Soc.
Wounded & Missing inquiry Bureau
London

Dear Sirs,

Re 5294. Missing
Signaler E. W. Atkinson
20th Batt. A. I. F.

I am extremely obliged for your kind reply to my letter of enquiry respecting my dear boy.

It is a great comfort to know that every effort possibly will be made to get further information & also to know, that in case he is a prisoner, that parcels of food will be sent.

It is now just 6 weeks since he was missing, so that we may possibly soon hear something further.

Should I hear anything further from any other quarter I will at once let you know.

Thanking you for kind expressions of sympathy

Yours gratefully
Henry Atkinson

2nd April 1918.

Sister Jackson,
Ward 46, No 56 General Hospital,
B. E. F.

Dear Sister Jackson,

We have been making enquiries concerning one of our Australia soldiers :-

5294 Pte. E.W. ATKINSON, 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

who is reported Missing 9-10-17, we have not succeeded in gathering much information about him but one of our informants has told us that you have been making enquiries also about him.

Would it be troubling you too much to ask you to forward us any definite information you have gathered about this soldier, as his people are naturally terribly anxious if possible to learn his fate.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Youer faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Sept. 28th, 1918.

H. Atkinson, Esq.
Vall House.
Somerton. Somerset.

Dear Sir.

In further answer to your enquiry for your son -

5294 Sig. E.W. ATKINSON. 20th Battalion. A.I.F.

We beg to inform you of an unofficial report of his death, which we have now received from one of the men in his unit.

5333 Pte. L.Edwards interviewed recently at Harborne Hall V.A.D. Hospital, Birmingham, stated that he and your son went to France in the same reinforcements, but he was not present when the casualty occurred. On rejoining the battalion he was told that your son had been killed by a shell near Ypres in the early morning of Oct. 9th 1917, but he feared that it was not possible for his body to be brought in for burial. Informant added that Pioneer Sergeant Brockett would be able to confirm this statement, and we are therefore writing to him and will advise you as soon as we receive his reply.

We very much regret that in spite of all our efforts we have been unable to obtain more definite details of your son's fate, and we must now close our enquiry as it is almost a year since the casualty occurred and we feel it would therefore be impossible to get further reliable and definite information. If at anytime we should receive further evidence of his death we would immediately advise you.

With our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS)

SECRETARY.

D.M.S.

H. Atkinson Esq.
Vale House
Somerton. Somerset.

29.10.18.

Dear Sir,
In further reference to your enquiry for details as to the death & burial of your son ~~Sergt~~ 5294 Sig: E.W. Atkinson 20th Batt: A.I.F. we beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report from Sergt: Brockett of the same unit in France. He states that your son was buried in a soldiers grave, west of Half Way House ~~Ypres~~ Ypres. He describes him as being rather tall, with a fair complexion & about 26 years old -

~~With sincere sympathy~~

Trusting that this further report will be of some assistance to you, assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your great loss

A.I.F.
60th Battalion
7th Rfts.

MARTIN Pte.
Richard 2926A

"Wounded-- 2nd occasion"

Officially reported Wounded--2nd occasion-- and mentioned in our cable of 18th December, 1917, and 2nd May, 1918.

2/5/18.

SYDNEY INQUIRY.

A.I.F.
38th Battalion.

NICHOLLS Private.
Ernest, Albert, Victor. 2694

"Wounded."

Officially reported wounded; mentioned in our cable of 30/4/18.

30/4/18.

SYDNEY INQUIRY.

Miss Katherine B.Gillett.
14, Wyndham Terrace.
Salisbury.

December 18th 1918.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your enquiry of 14-12-18 for 5294.Pte.E.W.Atkinson. 20th Battalion. A.I.F. We deeply regret to inform you that he is officially reported Killed in Action on 9-10-17. There are no further details available at present, but if you wish us to do so, and will advise us to this effect, we will do our utmost to obtain all possible information of his death and burial.

Regretting that we should have such distressing news to send you,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

14 Wyndham Terrace
Salisbury
Dec. 19th

21.12.18

To the Secy
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau
Australian Red Cross Society
36, Grosvenor Place
London S.W. 1.

Dear Madam, I thank you very much
both for your post card and your letter of the
18th inst. I deeply regret to learn
the sad news concerning no 5294
Private E.W. Atkinson 20th Batt.
No thank you, I will not trouble you
to gather details about his death &
burial for me, but should you be
able to let me have easily his
Mother's address in Australia,
I should be pleased, he was a
particularly nice boy & used to come
to our "Guest House" at Salisbury quite
a lot. About Nurse Gray, I think
more than likely the Matron E.

Thanking to again hear from you & regretting to give you any additional trouble also thanking you for your kindness.

I remain
Yours faithfully
Katherine B. Gallett

May I whom you kindly tell me is the lady I am seeking ere before I can write to her — may I point out to you that you omitted to give me any news concerning her brother (perhaps the letter was simply omitted to be enclosed) but I believe, if you refer to my letter of the 14th inst. you will find that the request first made therein — was for news concerning: —

James London Gray
No 27811
8th Battery
3rd Brigade F.A.
Australian Imp. Forces

14 Wyndham Terrace
Salisbury
Oct. 9 1919

further date wanted

To the Hon. Secy
Australian Red Cross
London S.W. 1

Dear Madam — In reply to your kind letter of yesterday's date — Yes! I should be glad to receive further information concerning No 5294 Pte. E.W. Atkinson 20th Batt A.I.F. & am sorry I can give you no further details than those I already have with the exception that he was a Signaller.

Thanking you for all past kindnesses I remain

Yours faithfully
K. Gullett

(Miss)

...tained
...ly (if any) or from
letters.

Deferred
pd. £1-1-0

Enquiry included in W.S.M. Cable { No. ~~102~~ of April 29-1918

Enquiry included in ~~Deferred Cable~~ { No. 22 of

Name and Address of Enquirer { Mr. T. F. Carter, (afternoons)
Marquis Street
W. Perth
Tel. 3319

Relation of Enquirer to Enquiree. { Father

State if Next-of-Kin. { Yes Oncards
Mc

Henry Greig
Secretary.

Trial Draft.

8.10.19.

To H. Atkinson
Vale House
Somerton
Somerset

Re.
5294 E.W. Atkinson
20th Btn

... (if any) or from letters.

Enquiry included in W.S.M. Cable { No. 102 of April 29-1918

Enquiry included in Deferred Cable { No. of

Name and Address of Enquirer { Mrs A. Hadlow, Waddell St, Palmyra - East - Fremantle.

Relation of Enquirer to Enquiree. { Friend

State if Next-of-Kin. On cards Mc

Henry Gale
Mgr.

Secretary.

Final Draft
8.10.19.

To Miss K. Gullett
14 Wyndham Terrace
Salisbury

re 5294 E. W. Atkinson
20th Bn