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

2278 Private Daniel William Burgess

36th Battalion



0630501F

36th BATTALION A.I.F. BURGESS D.W. Signaller, No.2278

Died 15.3.18

Informant described Burgess as about 5 feet 6 inches high, slight build, dark hair, aged about 26 or 27. Thought to have been married and to to have come somewhere south of Sydney.

Informant states that they both belonged to Headquarters Staff, Burgess being a Signaller. On 15.3.18 the Battalion was having a rest at Escuelles about 18 miles from Boulogne, France, when Burgess was accidentally killed. Informant did not see this happen but saw his body. He also dug the grave for him in the civilian cemetery at Escuelles and helped to bury him. He was buried with full military honors and the burial service was read by the Chaplain of the Battalion. Informant also helped to make a cross for his grave and saw it put in position. Some beautiful wreaths were also put on the grave

Informant added that Burgess was well liked by all his mates

INFORMANT :- Private R.I.L. Coulter, No.1397
36th Battalion
Present address; "A" ward, Georges Heights,
Military Hospital, Mosman
Home address Nettaville, East Gosford

W.E.G.
No.21 Australian Auxiliary Hospital,
Georges Heights, Mosman
7.11.18

SYDNEY BUREAU

36th Battalion. BURGESS, D.W.
Signaller, 2278.

"Died, 15.3.18".

Burgess was in Headquarters Signallers with me, I knew him well. In March we were spelling a bit back from the front line trenches at Red Lodge. A number of us went to an Hostel during the evening and returned to Camp. Burgess later returned to the Hotel. There was a Frenchman there. The next morning I saw Burgess carried back to the Camp with a bullet hole through him, he was dead. They told me he was picked up dead outside the Hostel. The Frenchman was arrested but I do not know what happened to him.

Informant:- No.2916, G.T.Brown,
36th Battalion.

Home Address:- Sans Souci.

B.M.
No.4, Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.
15.10.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

36th Battn.
A.I.F.

BURGESS
D.W. 2278

Acc. Killed 15-3-18"

Our Searcher has investigated this case at Hqts., and has been informaed that Burgess was apparently murdered by a Frenchman, who has not yet been tried. We understand the authorities consider it a case of provoked murder, and that the Frenchman will be tried on a charge of manslaughter. Burgess had a Military funeral. We will forward grave location shortly. On the advice of the Warrant Officer in this section at Hqts., we have closed this enquiry. He states that full official information will later be held at Base records, Melbourne.

amw.B.
~~Cert. by~~ Searcher at A.I.F.Hqts. 24-6-18

London
26-6-18

S.

36th Battn.
A.I.F.

BURGESS.
D.W. 2278.

"Killed in Action" 15-3-18.

We were in a Rest Camp between Surques and Alquines, about 25 kilos outside Boulogne, and a French Civilian thought he had a grievance against Burgess about some girl, and he killed him one night. I saw his dead body. He was buried in the Surques cemetery and a cross was put up with name and number. The French Civilians all said the man who killed him was mad and they sent a beautiful wreath to the funeral, for Burgess' grave and I have seen his grave. He came from the Sydney District,. He was a H.Q.Signaller.

Searcher's Note.

Informant:- Clatworthy.T.W.5.
Sgt/Maj. A.Co. 36th Battn.
No I Command.Depot.
SUTTON VENY.

There appear to be several men of the name Burgess in 36th Battn. One informant told me he heard from Burgess. D.W. three weeks ago, another that a Burgess was taken prisoner in May but he thought it was E.Burgess, and this man was a half caste. There is no doubt the above report is the true one as the Battalion was not in action on May 15th and there would be no casualty of that date of an ordinary nature.

In all such cases an official court of enquiry is held. Would suggest before disclosing any unofficial report to compare with evidence taken at and finding of court, copy of proceedings of which is filed in this office and supplied also to Base Records. Melbourne.

Bennett.N.E.Records.

36th Battn.
A.I.F.

BURGESS.
D.W. 2278.

"Killed accidentally 15-3-18."

French Civil Court proceeding against the Frenchman who killed Burgess will come to A.H.Q. and then to Melbourne. Advise not sending this information to Hqrs or to Australia. But a slip to the latter informing, in case of future enquiry, that all official information will be held at Base Records, Melbourne.

B.F.German.
London.
26-6-18.
M.I.3.

S.

36th Australian Imperial Force — Burgess, D.W. 2278

(K. 15 March, 1918, Dets D & B).

" On the 15th March last at Esquillers Burgess was shot in the stomach by a Frenchman who said he was breaking into his house. This is the second man this Frenchman has shot and he is now under arrest pending enquiries as his story is not believed. Burgess was buried at the local Cemetery by our own pioneers. The French people around were very sympathetic and gave a beautiful wreath.I was present at the funeral. There is a cross on the grave with his name and number. "

Eye Witness

Description

Informant :- Pte. George Wilson, 2416,
B Coy. 23 Aus Imp Force,
Ward M. 1.Beaufort War Hospital,
Bristol.

Home address :-
Not given.

24. 6 . 18.
A.Hamilton Jenkin.

36th Battn. Australian I. Force. — Burgess D.W. 2278 (Sign)

(K. March 15/18)
Dets. D/B.

"Burgess was accidentally killed by a French civilian on the 15th March 1918, and was buried at Esconaeilles near Desvres and a cross was put over his grave in the churchyard there. I saw his dead body. He was a signaller in the Battalion."

Eyewitness:

Description: 5'9", 25 years. dark hair, clean-shaven.

Informant: Major John Ambrose McDowell,
36th Battn. Aus. I. Force,
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

HG

18/6/18.
E. Liddell.

36th Battn: Gen. Corres Burgess D.W. 2278

K Mar: 15/18 Det: D/B

We were in a Rest Camp between Surques & Alquines, about 25 Kils outside Boulogne, & a French Civilian thought he had a grievance against Burgess about some girl, & he killed him one night - I saw his dead body - He was buried in the Surques Cemetry & a cross was put up with name & number - The French Civilians all said the man who killed him was mad & they sent a beautiful wreath to the funeral, for Burgess's grave. & I have seen his grave - He came from the Sydney District - He was a H. Q. Signaller.

Witness Clatworthy T.W. 5.
Sgt: Major A Coy 36th Batn

Searcher's NOTE There appear to be several men of the name of Burgess in 36th Battn: - One Informant told me heard from Burgess D.W. three weeks ago - Another that a Burgess was taken prisoner in May but he thought it was E. Burgess, & this man was a half Caste. There is no doubt the above report is the true one as the Battn: was not in action on Mar: 15/. & there would be no casualty of that date of an ordinary nature -

Taken at
No 1 Command Depot.
Sutton Veny. 18.VI.18

P.T.O.

B. F. Kennedy

2278. Burgess Daniel Wm 36 Btn
Killed accidentally. 15.3.18
HQ 22-6-18

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

In all such cases an official court of Enquiry is held. Would suggest before disclosing any unofficial report to compare with 'evidence taken at' and 'finding of' court, copy of proceedings of which is filed in this office & supplied also to Base Records Melbourne.

A Kennett
W/O.
NE Record
24/6.

French Civil Court proceedings against the Frenchman who killed Burgess will come to AHQ & then to Melb. Advise not sending this information to HQrs or to Australia. But a slip to the latter informing, in case of future enquiry, that all official information will be held at Base Records. Melb.
Amnott. HQ 24-6-18