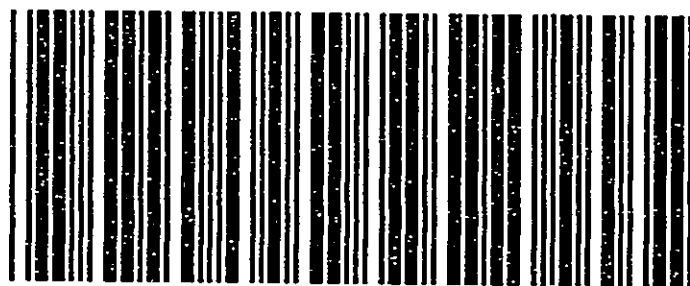


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

Lieutenant
William Keating
Brennan

12th Light Horse



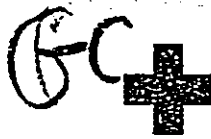
0520703H

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY,"
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

The O.C.,
53rd Casualty Clearing Station,
Egyptian Exped: Force,

Oct. 24th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our Sydney Bureau to make enquiries concerning - Lieut. W.K. BRENNAN - (Died of Wounds 20.4.17) - 12th Light Horse. A.I.F., and have lately been told by a brother officer who had made enquiries at the Dressing Station that Lieut. Brennan was despatched from thence to the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station in an unconscious state.

We should be most grateful for the sake of our enquirers, for any details you could send us should this statement be correct, as we are anxious to forward all possible information to Sydney. Our Enquirers had made a special request for a photograph of the grave, and we should be very grateful if you could give us the location of the grave in order that we might apply to the Graves Registration & Enquiries for the matter to be dealt with in the usual course.

With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

Secretary.

per H.

Secretary,
Australian Red Cross
Society,
54 Victoria St.,
LONDON., S.W.

I m.
19.11.1917.

GC.

With reference to your enquiry of the 24th
ultimo. regarding Lieut. W. K. Brennan., 12 A. L. H.
a careful search has been made through the Records
here, but there is no trace of this Officer ~~as~~ having
passed through this Station.

It is possible he would have passed through
the other Clearing Station receiving at the time, viz,
66th (formerly 54th) Clearing Station, and to save
time, I am forwarding on to them your enquiry with
a request that they should reply direct to you, please.

(Sgt) G. Richardson White.

No. 65

(Late 53rd C.C.S.)

20
15/11/17

The Secretary, **Lt W.K. BRENNAN**
12th L.H.A.

Australian Red Cross Society.

54 Victoria Street.

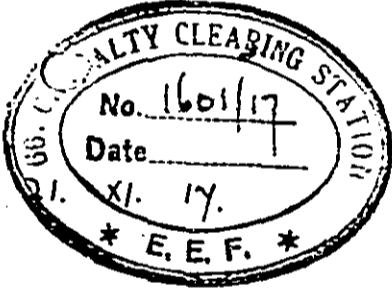
London S.W.1.

DW. 20.4.17.

200

With reference to the attached
correspondence. I regret, that,
although careful search + enquiry
has been made; there is no trace
of Lieut. W. K. Brennan, 12th Light Horse,
A.S.F. having passed through this
C.C.S.

A. K. Hall
Lt Col. Rank.
No. 66th C.S.

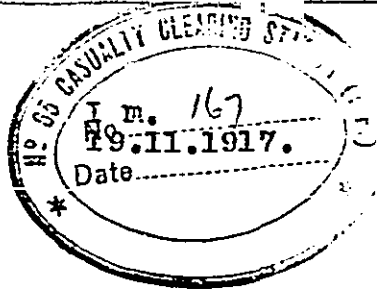


ack

C. C. :

66 G.C.S.

E. E. F.



I am forwarding herewith an enquiry from the Australian Red Cross Society, London, dated 24th ultimo. with reference to Lieut. W.K.Brennan., 12th A. L. H.

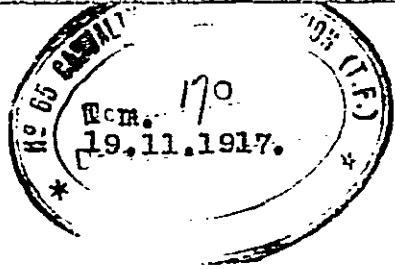
I enclose herewith copy of my reply, and presume you will take the necessary action, please.

Richardson

LIEUT. COL. R.S.
No. 65 CASUALTY CLEARING STATION
R.A.M.C. (I.F.)

*Dep
FM 15.12.17*

Secretary,
Australian Red Cross
Society,
54 Victoria St,
LONDON., S.W.



With reference to your enquiry of the 24th ultimo. regarding Lieut. W. K. Brennan., 12 A. L. H. a careful search has been made through the Records here, but there is no trace of this Officer ~~as~~ having passed through this Station.

It is possible he would have passed through the other Clearing Station receiving at the time, viz, 66th (formerly 54th) Clearing Station, and to save time, I am forwarding on to them your enquiry with a request that they should reply direct to you, please.

Chapman

LIEUT. COL. C.B.
No. 65 CASUALTY/CLEARING STATION
R.A.M.O. (T.F.)

(Late 53rd C.C.S.)

12th Light Horse. A.I.F.

BRENNAN, Lieut. W.K.

"D/W 20.4.17"

I knew Brennan well. He was in "A" Squad, 2nd Troop, and was very good to me when I was a Non. Com. He was one of the most popular men in the Squad. He was hit on the 19.4.17 at Gaza at Atawinch Ridge in the head, and I saw him afterwards at the Dressing Station. I was subsequently told by Captain Stafford - Doctor of 4th Field Ambulance that whilst Brennan was at the Dressing Station another shell came over and again hit him in the head. Sgt. Malcolm was hit by the same shell and is now in this hospital. Malcolm had also been previously wounded. Brennan was in a dazed condition when I saw him after the first wound, and I feel sure that he did not feel anything. Dr. Stafford who despatched him from the Dressing Station to the following Station (I think the 53rd Casualty Clearing Station) told me that he was confident that Brennan could not feel anything. I subsequently went to this Clearing Station to find out how he died and was told that he had not regained consciousness and had died in his sleep. His sister has been to see me and I told her all I knew. She seemed satisfied and is bringing her mother. His people lived, I think, at Mosman.

Informant; Lieut. F.W. Coy.

12th Light Horse & formerly "A"

No. 8, Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

H.S.O.
29/8/17.

A careful reliable witness.

Written O.C. 53 CCS 24.10.17

SYDNEY BUREAU.

12th Light Horse A.I.F.

BRENNAN
W.K. Lt.

Died of Wounds 20.4.17.

I knew Mr. Brennan -- his initial was W. I was in the same sand cart as he, after we were wounded, and he was dead when he was taken away.

I saw his mother and sister yesterday, and they are quite satisfied with the particulars they have received, and are only awaiting some of his effects.

Informant:-- Sergeant A.H. Hogden, 573,
12th Light Horse, A.I.F.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

A most careful reliable witness.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

H.S.O.
7.9.17.

D. G. 20/11

12th Light Horse.
A.I.F.

BRENNAN.
Lt. W.K.

"Died of Wounds 20.4.17."

Mr. Brennan was a 1st Lieutenant in "A" Squad at Gaza on 19.4.17. He was wounded on 19.4.17, one wound in the chest, there may have been more. I was wounded the same day and he and I were brought down, for part of the way in the same sand-cart. He seemed mortally wounded and was unconscious when I saw him. I understood he died the same night he was left at the Dressing Station but I was taken on to Belar. He was the only Officer of that name in the 12th Regiment. I believe he was buried at "Tel El Jimmy?", and my brother has since sent me a snap-shot of his grave. I have seen Mr. Brennan's sister since my return and told her what I knew. He was wounded early in the morning between 8 - 10, and I saw him that afternoon. He and I were lying at the same place waiting for a cart: he was unconscious all the time I was with him and was not suffering.

Informant: Tpr. R.S.G. Ridley, No. 947,
12th Light Horse, "A" Squad.

Home address: "Lorraine", Hampton Avenue,
Neutral Bay.

H.S.O.
26.2.18.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

12th Light Horse Regt.
A.I.F.

BRENNAN.
W.K. Lieut.

"DIED OF WOUNDS" 20.4.17"

With reference to the attached correspondence. I regret ,
that although careful search & enquiry has been made; there is
no trace of Lieut W.K. Brennan, 12th Light Horse .A.I.F.
having passed through this Casualty Clearing Station.

Letter from;- M. J. Cahill.
Lt. Col. R.A.M.C.
O/C. 66th C.C.S.

Note;- We regret the delay intyping the above report, but we have
been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage
of machines.,

London.
2.3.18.

S.

12th LIGHT HORSE
A.I.F.

BRENNAN

Lieut. W.K.

DIED OF WOUNDS. 20.4.17.

Informant described the Lieutenant as about 6 feet high, fairly stout, inclined to fair complexion, aged about 27/28.

Informant states that on or about 20.4.17 he was a member of the Dismounted Double Squadron formed of spare men from all the Light Horse Brigades, which Squadron was holding redoubts against the Turks during a desert battle near Ramatle, Palestine, so as to block the Turks from coming in on the left. The 12th Light Horse were engaged on another part of the field, and Informant was told by Trooper F. Murray, of the 12th Light Horse, that Lieutenant Brennan rushed forward to succour an officer who had been struck, forestalling Murray who was himself about to go to the aid of the officer in question. While doing this service Lieutenant Brennan was so badly wounded that he afterwards died.

Informant suggested that the address of Trooper Murray be obtained from his mother, Mrs R. Murray, whose address is "Burrawang via Moss Vale", and thus obtain the story of an eye-witness.

Informant described Lieutenant Brennan as a very popular and good officer.

INFORMANT:- Driver D.T. Smith, 889,
Australian Dismounted Double Squad.
No.4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK

W.B.G.
15.2.18.

Home address; c/o Rev.D.T.SMITH, Burrawang, via Moss Vale

SYDNEY BUREAU.

12th A.L.H.
A.I.F.

BRENNAN
Lt.W.K.

"Died of Wounds 20-4-17"

Informant was with Lt.Brennan when he was wounded.
It was during the attack on Gaza, on the 19th April. He was
wounded in the stomach by shrapnel, and was then taken to a
Fld.Hpl. at Tel-el-fara.

Informant. Williams Tpr.T.J. 1359
A.Sqd. 12th A.L.H.,
No.14 Aust. Gen. Hpl.,
Egypt. 25-3-18

London
25-5-18

S.

D/W 20.4.17.

London Cable 21.5.17.

Brennan W.
Lieut.

12 L.H.

Died of Wounds 20.4.17. G.S.W. head and chest at
6th Mounted Brigade Ambulance.

Buried 20.4.17. Grave No.9 Tel el Jenni cemetery
by Chaplain S.P.Denham.

Alexandria
31.5.17.

S
1000

E.E.F.

11 A.L.H.

(D/W 20/4/17)

BRENNAN

Lieut. W.

Informant gave his initial "W" correctly, & says he was in the 12th
Not the 11th L.H. as put in list in book. Informant, who is a sergeant &
is perfectly confident that there is only just this one Brennan Lieut
W. He was a tall big man of medium complexion, fairly round face.
He joined the 12th when the regt. was reformed in February 1916 & came
over with re-inforcements of the 6th regt.

Informant says Lieut. W. Brennan got wounded on 19th April, the day of
the 2nd Gaza attack. He was at once taken to the Divisional Clearing
Station at Tel-el-Jemai, & died there the next day. Informant cannot
remember where the Lieut. was wounded; his body was buried on the
same day that he died on "the slope" of Tel-el-Jemai, just at the back
of the Div. Clearing Station where he died. His grave is fully marked.

Informant: Sergt. Purdie. 481.

12 A.L.H.

14 Aust. G.H. Abbassia.

CAIRO.

27/10/17

J.H. Downes.

S
60
2000

90

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

WOUNDED & MISSING INFORMATION BUREAU

CABLE ADDRESS:
"ETGYX-CAIRO"

EGYPT.
E.E.F.

12th.L.H.Regt.

(D/W.20.4.17.)

BRENNAN
Lieut.W.

Informant says:- "Lieutenant Brennan was shot through the Chest at Gaza. He was taken to the first Dressing Station, and lived twelve hours, from 9 a.m., when he was hit. He is buried at Tel-El-Jemi."

Informant:- Tpr.E.W.J.Chorley 1537
12th.L.H.Regt., A.I.F.

1stth.A.G.Hospital.

PORT SAID.31.5.18.

H.Rodger.

*Sd
Sgt
1*

12th Light Horse

A.I.F

"Died of Wounds
20/4/17"

LIEUT. BRENNAN, W.K.

I knew Mr. Brennan well. I was in his Squad-"A". He was in the 2nd Troop. His name was "Bill" and he was a 1st Lieut., and the only Officer of that name in our Regiment.. He transferred to us from the 6th L.H. in February 1916. He was hit through the head at Gaza on 19-4-17. It was shrapnel and went through his head and into his lungs. He was just in front of me when he was hit. We were on foot advancing - our horses were back in the Waddy. I called out for a stretcher-bearer and the Doctor. The stretcher-bearer - Trooper Saunders - was wounded through the stomach, and had his right arm smashed to pieces, whilst attending to Mr. Brennan. Capt. (Dr.) Simpson attended to Mr. Brennan. He was dressed on the field and shortly afterwards I was wounded and was brought back and laid alongside Mr. Brennan. Whilst lying there Mr. Brennan was again wounded in the head by shrapnel. The enemy artillery were doing wonderful work that day. Mr. Brennan was unconscious from the first and only asked for water. He was taken to the Dressing Station at Tel-el-Jemeh, and died on 20-4-17, so I was told by one of the Orderlies. He did not regain consciousness. I have seen his sister since my return and told her all I knew.

Informant:- Sergt. J.W. Malcolm, 58, S
12th Light Horse,
No.4, Australian General Hospital,
Randwick.

31.8.17,
H.S.O

"A most careful, reliable witness" SYDNEY BUREAU.

NOTE TO SYDNEY.

12th Light Horse Regt.
A.I.F.

Brennan.
Lieut.W.K.

"Died of Wounds 20.4.17"

In reference to your slip re the above soldier, dated 29.8.17 - we
wrote to the O.C.53rd Casualty Clearing Station 24.10.17.

London.
16.11.17.

S.

R. E. F.

TRIPPLICATE

12.A.L.H.

(D/W 20/4/17)

BRENNAN.

Lieut: W. K.

"He belonged to 2. Troop of A. Sqd: He was my Troop officer & I liked him very well. On the morning of April 13th between 10 till a.m. the whole of the 12.L.H. advanced on to a ridge over looking the Turkish position at Gaza, having arrived at the ridge we lay down intending to advance further but were held up by the heavy Turkish fire. Lieut Brennan only one yard off he got a shrapnel bullet through the chest. I saw a stretcher bearer get hold of him & while lifting him up he got shot again, even then he was not dead but died before they got him to the Field Dressing Station which was about 1000yds off. I got wounded myself soon after so was never able to hear where the Lieut's body was buried."

Informant: Y907L Tpr: Richardson A.

12.A.L.H.

J.N. Downes.

14.A.G.H. Abbassia.

CAIRO. 30/12/17

Ed S
10/1/18

60

December 18th, 1917.

Lt. Cpl. R. J. Cahill,
O.C., R.A.M.C.,
66th Casualty Clearing Stn,
Egyptian Exped. Force.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter
in answer to our enquiry passed to you by the O.C.,
of the 65th Casualty Clearing Station concerning

Lt. W. K. BREWAN, 12th A.L.H. Regt.

With repeated thanks.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

V. D
Jlu.

GC

The O.C., December 18th, 1917.
the 65th Casualty Clearing Station,
Egypt (in Expeditionary Force).

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter
in answer to our enquiry concerning

Lt. W.K. BRENNAN, 12th A.L.H. Regt.

and for your courtesy in passing on our enquiry to the
O.C. of the 66th Casualty Clearing Station, who wrote to
inform us that there was no trace of this officer having
passed through that Casualty Clearing Station.

With repeated thanks.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

V. D
Jus :