

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

**Captain  
Norman George  
Blanchard**

**20th Battalion**



0420501C

20th Australian ~~Infantry~~ Infantry

Blanchard, Lieut. N.G

(M. May 6th 1916 France)

Informant states that Lieut Blanchard was his platoon commander at one time but had been transferred to the Bomb throwers. Informant has had a letter from one of his mates, Pte P. Nelson, 2418, B. Coy, 20th Batt. saying that Lieut Blanchard was captured. Informant had himself been in Hospital a week or two when this happened, but he has no doubt of what he says being true because the writer of the letter was a "sensible" man and because Lieut Blanchard was a "daring" sort of man just the one to get caught.

Reference: V. Appleby, 2487,  
21st Australians,  
National Hospital,  
Queen's Square,

Home address:  
17, Gowrie Street,  
New Town Sydney,  
Australia.

London,  
4th July, 1916.  
John Bailey.

off. M.

20th A.I.F.

Blanchard Lt. N.S. G.

(M. May 6th 1916)

Informant states that on May 5th at Bois Grenier, Lt. Blanchard was captured with 4 or 5 others by the Germans between 7 & 9 p.m. Informant was not eye-witness, but it was generally known. It was rumoured afterwards that Lt. Blanchard had died after being taken prisoner, but the only ground for this rumour seem to have been that a Lieutenant had died, name not known for certain.

Reference: A. Shaw Pte. 2225,  
4/20 A.I.F.,  
3rd London General Hospital,  
Wandsworth.

Home address:  
4 Wilson Street,  
Redfern, Sydney, N.S.W.

London,  
July 4th 1916,  
Garrard.

off. M.

20<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry.

Blanchard, Lieut; N.G.

(M. May 6th /16.)

Informant states that on May 5th, Lieut. Blanchard was taken prisoner at Bois Grenier and is believed to have died of wounds in the German trenches. He was the only Officer taken and next morning (May 6th) a notice was posted up outside the German trench that the Officer had died. This information was also received by letter from Sergt. Stewart to the Adjutant (by permission of the enemy) Sergt. Stewart being taken prisoner with Blanchard. This has also been corroborated by another Australian in another Ward. Both the Serg. and Lt. Blanchard were in Informant's Battalion, and he was wounded in the same attack.

Reference: Pte. A.W. Cuthbert, 359,  
20th Battalion, A.I.F.  
No 3, General Hospital,  
Wandsworth.

London.  
July 4th/16  
W.A. Davis.

Home address,  
Sandringham House,  
237, Bristol Road,  
Edgbaston,  
BIRMINGHAM

off M.  
2nd

20th Australian Imperial Force

Blanchard Lt. N.G.

(M. May 6th 1916)

Informant states that he is quite sure that Lt. Blanchard was taken prisoner, he was one of his own officers. On the night of the 5th May, the Germans made a raid, and Lt. Blanchard was in the front trenches with his men. Several of the men were taken prisoners and amongst them the Lt. Many of the men have been heard of by letter, but apparently not Lt. Blanchard, which in his opinion rather suggests that the rumour that the Germans put on a board with a notice on that Lieut. Blanchard died of wounds, is true, but the Informant did not see the board himself.

Reference: Pte. E. Powning 2207,  
20th Australian Imperial Force, B. Co.,  
Home address: Northgate Ward, Ipswich & East Suffolk Hospt.

London, Alton,  
July 4th, Glebe Point Road, Glebe Point, Sydney, N.S.W.  
J.R. Steward.

off M.  
C-  
J.R. Steward

B.M.  
20th, Australian Imperial Force.

Blanchard, Lieut. H. G.

(M. May 6th - 1916)

Informant states that on May 6th, Lt. H.G. Blanchard was taken prisoner (common knowledge); died of wounds a few days afterwards (according to a notice exhibited by the Germans)

Reference: Roberts Cecil Thomas, 2934.  
20th. Australian Imperial Force.  
Dunsdale V.A.D. 38 Hospital,  
Westerham, Kent.

London,  
July 5th, 1916.  
H. Leese.

Cd  
w. aug.  
2 mll

20th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Blanchard,  
Lieut. Norman C

H. S. 5/6/16

The above Officer is reported on a German List, dated 21st June, 1916, and received by us this morning through Geneva, to be a prisoner of war at Mainz, having been transferred from the Festungs Hilflazarett Bruderhaus Coblenz to that camp.

Lieutenant Blanchard, a native of Sydney, captured at Armentieres.

Cert. by - Letter from British Red Cross Society,  
18 Carlton House Terrace, London, N.W.  
dated 10th July, 1916.

London,  
12/7/16.

2.

2 mll

AUSTRALIAN LIST.

20th Battalion A.I.F.

BLANCHARD Lt. H.G.

M. 6.5.16 (France.)

Curran D. 2300

" 5.5.16

There was a bombardment and a raid by the Germans on the trenches held by the Australians on the night of May 5th at Bois Grenier. Curran and a number of men were missing after it.

Blanchard was missing next day. Pte. J. Goldsby, B Coy, got a card two or three weeks ago from Curran who said he was a prisoner in Germany. Witness saw the card and later in the day mentioned about it to two or three Sgts. who were talking together. One of these of B Coy (name not remembered) said he had had a card from Blanchard stating that he was a prisoner. Both men were in B Coy.

Reference: Pte. A. Leigh, 3322 B Coy.  
26 Gen.

Staples. 10th July 1916.

5511.  
2 full

20th Battn  
A.I.F.

FRANCE.

M. 5th May 1916.

Lt. Blanchard N.G.  
Bridgland S.B. 493  
Wells G.L./Cpl. 702  
Curran, D. 2300

Informant states that on 5th May 1916, at Bois-Grenier a raid was made on our trenches and eleven of our men, amongst them the four mentioned above were believed to have been captured and taken over to the German lines. There was no trace of them to be found in the trench after the raiding party had been repelled, and it was possible to make such a thorough search that there is practically no chance that they were hit in the trench and not found. It is possible that they have been hit while being taken over to the enem's trenches. The C.O., of the 20th Australians heard from two of the eleven men who wrote from Germany. They said, with regard to the others who were captured "We were separated as soon as we got into the German lines, and haven't seen any of the boys since." The last time Informant saw Mr. Blanchard he had been hit in the arm, but so slightly that when Informant asked if he wasn't going to have it dressed he said it was nothing and not worth while. But Informant was told afterwards by men of the 18th. Battalion which relieved them on the night of the 6th, that the Germans had put up a notice outside their trench that Mr. Blanchard had died and they had buried him according to his rank.

Reference - Pte. Bridal, 486. 20th Battn. A.I.F.  
(Address to Regiment.) B. Company, Ward, 30.  
Northumberland War Hospital.  
Newcastle.

London 13/7/16  
E. MacLeod.

S,

20th Australian Imperial Force

Blanchard Lieut. N.G.

(M. May 6th 1916)

Informant states that on May 5th 1916 at West Front, France, Lieut. Blanchard was wounded by a bombing party, taken prisoner and died, and was buried by the Germans. This information was given to Informant by W. Downs of the 18th A.I.F., who was in the front trenches, when the Germans called it over to them.

Reference: Pte. P. Skidmore 759,  
20th A.I.F.,  
3rd General Hospt., Ward B2,  
Home address: Wandsworth.

London,  
July 14th 1916.  
C. Mumby.

20th A. I. F.

Blanchard, Lieut N G

(M. May 6/16)

Informant states that on May 5th Lieut Blanchard at W. Front after the bombardment was missing, and the general belief was that he was taken prisoner.

Reference: W. Slater, 1775,  
20th A. I. F.,  
3rd General Hospital, Ward B. 1,  
Wandsworth.

London,  
17th July, 1916.  
C. Mumby.

8/14  
cd



20th A. I. F.

Blanchard, Lieut N.G.

(M. May 6/16, France)

Informant states that on "5th May/16 at Bois Grenier near Armentieres, Lieut N.G. Blanchard was taken prisoner. He was formerly of B. Coy, but took the "Stokes" guns a few days before. A little after dark the Germans shelled the salient where the Stokes guns were and in the confusion when the enemy raided Lieut Blanchard and some sergeants were taken prisoners. Two have been heard from."

Reference: Pte R.F. Williams, 1783,  
20th A. I. F., D. Coy, 14th Platoon,  
Lewisham Military Hospital,  
Howard Ward, Bed 10.

Home address:  
C/o Miss Quinn,  
Harellan,  
near Camden,  
New South Wales.

London,  
18th July, 1916.  
Ada L. Nichols.

RM  
C

20th A. I. F.

Blanchard, Lieut N. 4

(M. May 6/16.)

Informant states that on May 5th at Bois Grenier the enemy started a bombardment which lasted from 7.30 to 9.30. After it was cleared up the morning after Lieut Blanchard was found to be missing with a few other men. It was rumoured later that a message came from the German lines that Lieut Blanchard had died a prisoner and had been accorded a military funeral.

Reference: Pte Carolan, 1689,  
20th Batt. 5th Aust. Inf. Force,  
2nd Northern Hospital,  
Leeds.

Home address:  
The Crescent,  
Parsley Bay,  
Sidney.

London,  
19th July, 1916.  
Beryl B. Gott.

6/11 M.  
C.

20th Australian Imperial Force.

BLANCHARD, Lieut. E.G.

M. May 6/16.

Informant states that "In May 1916 at Bois Grenier in the Armentieres district we lost two Stokes guns, Lieut. Blanchard was taken prisoner at that time with two Sergeants, one L/Cpl and a private. A post card was received later from Berlin saying that these latter were prisoners. Lieut. Blanchard was never heard of again. Informant knew him well, he joined the army with informant as a private. He had been a commercial traveller in Sydney. After the guns were lost the Germans put up "You had better come over to your Officer's funeral."

Reference:— Pte. T. C. Peete, 548.  
20th Australian I. F.  
Rust Hall V.A.D. Hospital  
Tunbridge Wells.

Home address:—  
C/O Mrs. Skeats, Beaufort Cottage,  
St. Giles, Salisbury.

LONDON  
August 1st.  
E. Talbot.

20th Batt,  
A.I.F.

Blanchard,  
Lieut Norman

7  
"Prisoner of War"  
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Transferred Krieg lager Strohen Kreis Sulingen

Cert, by information by Post-Card dated 9.6.17

London  
3.8.17

Off M

20th Battn.  
A.I.F.

M. 6/5/16:

Blanchard,  
Lieut. N.G.

v. Krgs. Lz. A. Lille n. Gflz Ste. Clothilde, Douai.

German Prisoners-of-War List 28/6/16.

v. Ste. Clothilde Douai nach Fst. Lz. Coblenz Bruderhaus. Krk. S. St. Lille  
r. Schltr. Sch.

German Prisoners-of-War List 1/7/16.

London,  
26/7/16.

20th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Prisoner-of-war:

Blanchard,  
Lt. Norman

Blanchard Normann, ~~Wahn~~ Von Etap No. 167.  
WAHN

Cert. by - German List 12/7/16, recd through  
British Red Cross Society 31/7/16

London,  
2/8/16.

20th Batt., A.I.F.

B. Co. (Missing, believed Prisoner).

BLANCHARD,  
Lieut. N.O.

Blanchard was a Sergeant in B. Company, and received promotion on the Peninsula.

Informant was told by an Officer of the 20th Battalion, now in Randwick Hospital, that Blanchard is a prisoner in Germany.

Ref.: - Kain,  
Pte. H.J. 1338,  
20th Batt., D. Co.,  
No. 4 Aust. General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

C.R.H. McL.  
3/8/16.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

21/8/16  
Cd

20th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Blanchard,  
Lieut. Norman

Blanchard, Norman, Wahn von Etaples, No. 167.

Cert. by - German List 12/7/16, recd. B.P.C.S.  
31/7/16.

v. Gefangenenlager Lazaret St. Clothilde Douai n. Deutschland Rücktransport.

Cert. by - German List dated 19/7/16, recd. 7/8/16.

von Fstlz Coblenz n. officially Gefangenenlager Mainz.

Cert. by - German list dated 22/7/16, recd. 7/8/16.

London,  
14/8/16.

Off. M. Hays.

280th. Battn  
A.I.F.,

BLANCHARD  
Lieut. Norman, C

"Prisoner-of-War."

*Transf*

"Rosenberg bei Kronach, Bayern."

Cert. by card from man dated 9th August 1916.  
received 31-8-1916.

London  
31/8/16

P. of. W.

20th Battn.  
B Coy.  
A.I.F.

M.A.M. - Later P. of W.

Blanchard,  
Lt. Norman C.

Wounded right scapula and thigh.

Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters 8/9/16.

London,  
9/9/16.

C.

I.F. 20th. BATTALION.

BLANCHARD,  
Lieut. Norman G

" Prisoner of War "

Transferred to Creiela from Rosenberg.

P.C.  
Cert by letter from Officer 28.3.17.  
~~Officer dated 28.3.17.~~

London.  
12.3.17.

Off. M.



20th Battn.  
B.Coy.  
A.I.F.

BLANCHARD,  
Lieut. Norman G.

"Prisoner of War."

Interned Saarbrücken

Cert. by acknowledgement cards received reg. latest dates  
4 and 5.2.18.

No other news.

London.  
23.4.18.

S.

A.I.F. 20th Battn.

BLANCHARD  
Lieut. Norman

"Prisoner of War"

Interned in Holland.

Cert. by Telephone Message from Head Quarters 18/5/18.

London  
22/6/18.

S

A.I.F. 20th Bn.

BLANCHARD,  
Lieut. Norman.

"Repatriated Prisoner of War."

Arrived London from Holland 19-11-18.

Cert. by Information from A.I.F. Headquarters 19-11-18.

London,  
23-11-18.

S.