

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

810 Sergeant
Jack Lea Burke

28th Battalion



0631101C

28th Battn.
A. I. F.

Burke.
Sgt. J. L. 810.

"Died of Wounds."

No. 810. Sgt. J. L. Burke was admitted to the hospital 5.5.17 suffering from a small penetrating wound of the left loin. He had a high temperature and considerable abdominal pain. X Ray showed a foreign body in the lower part of the abdomen. Wound opened up and an extra peritoneal(?) perforation of the descending colon found. 6.5.17. 15.5.17. Found the operation necessary on the 10th. Right sided colostomy(?) performed, evidence of peritonitis present. Prognosis grave. 15.5.17 Progress very satisfactory. 17.5.17 Symptoms of infection of the chest cavity have set in. Profuse foul expectoration. 19.5.17. Evidence of an abscess in left lung, condition very serious. Operation for ovaria(?) Cardiac failure and collapse, patient died the same day 1.15.p.m. Buried in St Sever (?) Cemetery 21.5.17. Grave No.2697.

drainage.

Letter from:-

O.C.

No.11 Stationary Hpl.

B. E. F.

P.

London.
18.6.17.

The above letter written in lead pencil and writing very difficult to decipher.

A.I.F.
28th. Battn.

BURKE,
Sgt. J.F. (J.L. Rouen)
Rouen - 810 (H.Q.)
18.

" Dangerously Wounded ".

Admitted No. 11 Stationary Hospital 3.4.17. Gun-shot wound back
Cert. by Hospital Index.

Died 19.5.17.
Cert. by Rouen wire. 28.5.17.

London.
29.5.17.

P.
(E.C.O.)

6th June 1917.

To The Officer Commanding,
No. 11 Stationary Hospital,
B.E.F

Dear Sir,

We would be most grateful if you could give us any details of the death and burial of 18⁹¹⁰ Sgt J.L. Burke, 28th Battn, ~~A.E.F.~~, who is officially reported as having died of wounds at your hospital on 3-4-17. We are making these inquiries on behalf of his people in Australia to whom any particulars will be of the greatest value.

With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

M R.

Secretary.

Note. We have been advised 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 we trust you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

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

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

6th June 1917.

To The Officer Commanding,
No. 11 Stationary Hospital,
B.E.F

Dear Sir,

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With apologies for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Vua Deakin

Secretary.

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R.T.D

D of who

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No 810 Spt. BURKE. J. L. 28 A. J. 4. was

admitted to the hospital 5/8/17. Suffer from
a small fever at front of the left loin. He
had a high temperature and considerable abdominal
pain. X-ray showed a foreign body in the
lower part of the abdomen. Some fluid up and
an intra-abdominal perforation of the stomach.
Cholecystitis found.

The operation necessary on the 15th

15/7/17. R. and L. (abdomen) 10/10/17. L. and R.

16/7/17. Prognosis good. Prognosis grave.

17/7/17. Prognosis very satisfactory.

18/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

19/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

20/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

21/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

22/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

23/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

24/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

25/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

26/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

27/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

28/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

29/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

30/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

31/7/17. Symptoms of infection of the skin (an)

Rec

11-7-17

Answered

11-7-17

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p.c. h. new 12.4.17
W. J. High. London.

July 11th, 1917.

No 4837 Cpl. A. C. Burke,
No 8 Ward.
No 2 Battle War Hospital,
Reading.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your letter of inquiry and very much regret to state that we have very sad news to forward you.

810 Sgt. J. L. Butke, 28th Battalion, A. I. F. died of wounds on 19.5.17. He was admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital on 5.5.17 suffering from a severe wound of left loin. We learn from a letter from the O.C. of that hospital that they also discovered that he had a severe internal wound. The wound was opened up and it was found that an operation was necessary on the 10th. His progress was then satisfactory until 17th when an infection of the chest cavity had set in. His condition was very serious on 19th when they again operated and the patient collapsed and died the same day at 1.15 p.m. He was buried at St Sever Cemetery on 21.5.17 in grave No 2697.

We are extremely sorry that this news is so sad and should like to offer our sincere sympathy in your loss. We have

-2-

written to the Directors of Graves Registration Society to try and obtain a photograph of his grave, which in due course will be forwarded to his official next of kin. All the news has been sent to our Perth Bureau, National Mutual Buildings, St George's Terr. Perth, and by this time his people will have received it.

5058 Cpl. R. B. Burke 48th Battalion, A.I.F. is a prisoner of war in Germany. He was officially reported "Missing" on 11.4.17 but ~~xxx~~ we are glad to say he later proved to have been captured. We learn from a postcard received from him dated 15.4.17 that he was wounded in left thigh and is interned at Munden and as he is now out of hospital his wound is evidently better. Letters to him should be address thus:- On corner of card or envelope.

KRIEGSGEFANGENENSENDUNG,
British Prisoner of War,
5058 Cpl. R. B. BURKE,
48th Australian Infantry Battalion,
Kriegsgefangenenlager,
Minden,
WESTPHALIA,
Germany.

Postcards to prisoners seem to arrive more safely than letters and of course no mention of the war must be made.

We are enclosing a slip giving details of parcels that we send regularly to your brother and all Australian prisoners and any further information may be obtained from the Secretary of our Prisoners of War Department here in this building.

If you will keep us advised of your address, we shall notify you at any time if your brother is transferred to any other German Camp.

With all good wishes for yourself.
Yours faithfully,

Secretary.