

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

**2515B Private
Ernest William Beer**

27th Battalion



03110038

A.I.F. 27.

BEER, E.W. 2515B.

K. Sept 20th 1917. Dets.

He was killed whilst our company was being consolidated with others at Passchendaele, but I did not see it. I saw his body soon afterwards and he was buried in the Menin Road cemetery. He was a South Australian and came over with me, and was posted to C.Co so I did not see him very often. He had a labourer Adelaide way.

been

Inf: S/B C.A.Masters. 2442. 27.B,Hqrs.
14 Gen.Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 15.6.1916.

RC

W.A.

A.I.F. 27th Bttn.

BEER
E.W. 2515B

"Killed in Action 20/9/17"

sent to C Coy 12/11/18 to D.

No. 2515B, Pte. E. W. Beer, 27th Battalion, A.I.F., Killed 20/9/17. But I do not know that I can help you much as you require only facts not hearsay. But I know him personally, left Australia with him, he had a reddish complexion and at times wore a sandy moustache, and sometimes clean shaven. But after joining the unit, he made enquiries in his company, and am told that he was sniped through the head while coming from a shell hole to the position where the company was consolidating. But if buried at all it would be on the field and would not be in a registered cemetery, and the ground now is in enemy hands so it is impossible to do anything with it if he is buried. The man that saw him fall told me that he was shot through the head but he also says that he has made a statement to that effect to the Red Cross representative at the Aust. Base in France. So this man Pte. Day, C Coy., of 27th Aust. Inftry. Bttn., can give more information than I. But your representative in France already has a statement from him, and perhaps before you get this you will have received a copy of same.

Letter from: - L/Cpl. L.H. Burgess,

D Company, 27th Battalion,

A.I.F. France. 24/6/18.

London

1/7/18. A.M.H.

A

A.I.F. 27th Btn

BEER
E.W. 2515B (HQ)

"WOUNDED"

Adm. 8th Gen. Hpl Rouen 4-5-17 - G.S.W. right buttock
cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 8-6-17

Trans - Convalescent Camp 5-5-17
Cert. by Rouen letter 12-6-17.

London
16-6-17

A.

Havre

22nd April 1918.

27th A.I.F.

Beer B.A. No. 2515 B.

K. 20th Sept 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Pte E.W. Beer No. 2515 B. a transfer from the 50th Bn C.Co. I was in the same shell hole with him in our supports at Polygon Wood when a shell got us. He was hit and while trying to get out to get better cover he was sniped through the head and died instantly. The S/Bs buried him where he fell in Polygon Wood. I could point out the spot.

Inf:- L/Cpl W.T. Hart No. 2418.
27th A.I.F. C.Co. 211 Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM.

A

27th A.I.F.

Beer. E.W. 2515B.
D Coy.

(K. Sept. 20/17.)
Dets. D/B.

The following information was given me by L/C L.H. Burgess, 27th A.I.F. D Coy. On Sept. 20th at Polygon Wood. Beer had just climbed from the trench in which we had just dug ourselves in when he was sniped through the head and killed instantly, and that he was buried up there near the trench. I knew him personally. He was about 5'8" high, fair, florid complexion, rather round shouldered, nicknamed "Erne".

Eyewitness: No. see above.

Description: Nickname "Erne"

Informant: Sgt. Wm. N. Smith. 2483.
27th A.I.F. D Coy.
New Court Hospital,

Home address: Cheltenham
Bellewood, Yeelanna,
Byres Peninsular, S. Australia.

8/6/18.
J.H.W. Fulton.

Plt Burgess notified 10/6/18

A

Havre.

27th. May. 1918.

27th. Australians.

Beer, E. I. ~~2515B~~ 2515B.

Z. September 20/1917. Deta. D/B.

I was told by L/Corporal Burgess, of the 27th. Battalion, C. 15. on September 27th. when I was with the Battalion that he had seen Beer killed at Ypres on the 20th. September; he climbed over the parapet owing to the heavy shelling & was wounded in the head by a sniper: he was buried that night. He was very quiet, fair, had a moustache as a rule, slightly round shouldered. I knew him in the Camp in Australia.

Inf:- Sergeant. W. A. Smith. 2483.
27th. Australians. D. 15.
Hospital Ship

CSB.

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Written L/C Burgess 6.6.18-

(6.6.18)

L/C Burgess

C Coy. XV Ptn.

27th Battalion 4.1.7.

Abroad

abt.

25-15 B

Pvt. E. W. Beer

27th Battalion 4.1.7.

K. 20.9.17.

b. b. 18
0.1.18

...and their general...
...it is...
...the man who...
...but...
...The Red Cross representative at the
...Base in France...
...Pte Day to...
...can give more information than I...
...your representative in France...
...before you get this you will have secured
...a copy of same...
...able to obtain the necessary information.

I am yours sincerely
J. J. [Name]
D Company
24th Battalion

Amitt
A. J. [Name]