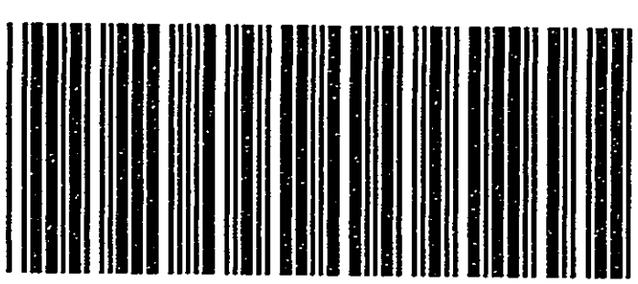
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1706 Private
Harold Ellis Herman

17th Battalion



1320614H

17 A.L.F.

SUBRAH
H.E. 1706.

Unoff. seriously W. 29.II.15.

Died of wounds H.S. "SOMALI", 20.II.15.

Cert. by:-

3rd Echelon Record Office, Alex.

CAIRO.
5.I.16.

S.

17th Bat., A.I.F.

HERMAN,
Pte. H. E., 1706.

About a week before 20th Nov. Herman was firing one night over the trench when a bullet hit his bayonet and deflected into his forehead. He was carried to the Field Ambulance and thence to the Hospital Ship.

Ref: NICHOLAS,
Sgt. W. O., 1815,
17th Bat.,
4th Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

D.W.
24/2/16.

17th Batt., A.I.F.
A. Co.

HERMAN, 1706
Pte.H.E. ~~2756~~

(Died of wounds).

About the 3rd November at No.6, Quinn's Post, Herman was shot through the eye by a rifle bullet. Informant saw and spoke to him immediately afterwards, as he was being taken to the Dressing Station. The Doctor told a mate of informant that he might possibly recover.

Ref.:- Becker,
Pte.A.E., 1658,
17th Battalion,
4th Aust. Gen. Hospital,
HANDWICK.

D.W.
29. 2. 16.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

5 C

M E D.

17 A.I.F.

HERMAN
Pte H.E. 1706.

D/W H.S. 20/11/15.

Witness knew Herman in the 17th Btn. He was in C Co and came with the 3rd or 4th Rfts. He was badly wounded at Quinn's Post in Novr. The Turks blew up a mine near the trench where Herman was and a heavy fall of earth injured him badly. Witness did not see him it personally but he was there and heard about it at the time. Herman was taken away and witness did not know what became of him subsequently.

Ref:- Pte R. Johns,
C Co, 17th Btn.,
O/S Base, Giza, CAIRO.

J.L.K.
30/3/16.

S.

Med.

17 A.I.F.
A Coy.

D. of W. H.S. "Somali"
20/11/15 - where buried.

Herman, Pte. H. 5
1706

Herman, Bloom and Levy, three men of Jewish family, were "cobbers". Bloom was shot, Herman and Levy were wounded by bombs in November within a short time of one another. A piece of a bomb struck Herman in the face entering his head at his eye and he was sent off badly wounded. Witness did not know where he was buried. He heard he had died at sea. L/C Levy, A Coy. 17th Battalion, the third of the trio, is now on a staff job somewhere in Cairo and could perhaps give further information. Witness could not give Levy's exact location.

Ref.:- Pte. J. Arbuckle, 156, A Coy. 17th Battalion
Luna Park Hospital, Heliopolis.

S.A.
5/4/16
Cairo.

S.

Australian List. Med.

A.I.F. 17th Bn.

Herman Pte.H.E. 1706. D. of W. H. S. Somali. 20.11.15.
Where buried ?

Witness said he was on the H.S. Somali on her trip from Anzac to England in November 1915. He was sick. The Somali called at Malta add went straight to Gibraltar without landing anyone. All burials, so far as he knew, were at sea. Several took place between Anzac and Gibraltar. He expected Herman would be among these.

SA.

Reference. L/Cpl.J.Kirkpatrick. 1226. 17th Bn.
2nd Div.Aus. Overseas Base.
Etaples. 9th May,1916.

1. 5 C.

Note to Sydney.

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

Herman,
Pte. H.E. 1706.

Re your further enquiry for details of Private Herman, No. 1 706, of 19/5/16, we have forwarded all information available regarding the above. We regret to say we can find no trace of the Revd. R.H.Lealey, whom you mention as being the chaplain on H.S. "Somali" in November, but we have written to The Chaplain, H.S. "Somali" and hope to obtain a reply. In future, if the enquirers know the name of the individual who can give information it would be more satisfactory, we think, for them to write direct. Otherwise we shall always do our best to make all possible enquiries.

London,
18/7/16.

17th Battn.
C. Co. (Died of Wounds).

HERMAN,
Pte. H. E. 1706.

20.11.15

Informant states that Herman was sniped at Quinn's Post in November, 1915, about 9 o'clock in the morning. Informant saw Herman carried out of the trench. He was badly hit and was unconscious, and was shot through the head.

Herman at the time he was hit, was sniping with a periscope rifle, and was about 10 yards away from Informant in a zig-zag trench. It was supposed that the bullet ricochetted from the barrel of his rifle. The Turk who shot him was only about 20 yards away.

Informant did not see Herman again, but afterwards heard he had died in Alexandria. Herman was of medium height, brown hair, clean-shaven, and was in Informant's section of the fire trench at the time he was hit.

Ref.:- Carnegie,
Corpl. T.H. 852,
17th Battn., C. Co.,
No.4 Aust. General Hospital,
HANDFACK.

C.E.W.
4/1/17.

SYDNEY BURRAU.

54 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.,
17th July, 1916.

--- Victoria 8578.

The Chaplain,

Hospital Ship, "Somali",

C/o G.P.O., London.

Dear Sir,

We have received enquiries from Sydney for details of the death and burial of No. 1706, Private H.E.Herman, 17th Battalion, A.I.F., who is officially reported as having died at sea on board Hospital Ship "Somali", on the 20th November, 1915. His people are most anxious to know if he left any message and we should be much obliged for any information whatever that you could give us in regard to this soldier.

With apologies for troubling you in the matter,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Hon.Secretary.