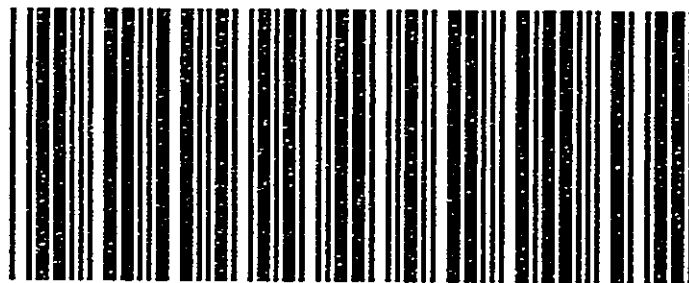


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**1 Sergeant  
Reginald Ramsay  
Cannell**

**16th Battalion**



0681104K

M E D

16 A.I.F. Missing End of May.

Kia A 9.5.15

Sgt. Ray Ramsay  
Cpl. R.R. Cannell

1. B Coy

Cannell was a sergeant.

At Quinn's Post Cannell took 4 or 5 men with him and seized a Turkish trench. He asked for reinforcements which were not sent him. When pressed these men made a dash for their own line, two men only got home, Lieut. (then private) Hummerston B Coy 16 Batt. who was one of the party saw Cannell fall wounded. It is impossible to be certain that he was killed, but it is generally believed he is.

Pte. S.L. Smith 676

Machine Gun Section

16 A.I.F.

MALTA

All Saints

10.11.15.

H.A.

(L & P)

Cannell R.R. Cannell 20 p.p.s.

16 A.I.F.  
B-Coy

(H. end of May.)

Sgt CANNELL  
not Cpl. R.R.  
Ray Ramsay

Witness was in the same charge. It took place on May 9, in the dark. They were driven back by bombs and no one at all was picked up. The Turks buried some of our dead.

Ref:-

Sign. H.J. Young, 553,  
16 A.I.F.  
Sporting Club Hospital,  
Helipolis, Cairo.

W.H. V3 Reads,  
Cairo,  
4:11:15.

<sup>copy  
B. not</sup>  
16th BATT. A.I.F. C.C<sup>o</sup>.

(M.)

CANNELL  
Sgt not Cpl. R.B. 1  
Ray Ramsay

Informant was told by S/M. Burton of C.Coy that he saw Cannell  
killed on 4th May.

Ref:•

R. Torrence, 38,  
16th batt. C.Coy.  
Al Hayat Convalescent Home,  
Helwan, Cairo.

H.F. Key,  
Cairo,  
7:11:16.

~~See~~  
~~C~~

16th Battn.  
A.I.F.  
B Coy.

Cannell,  
Sgt, R.R.No. 1  
*Ray Ramsay*

"On may 9th we charged and took a Turkish Trench only about 25 yards from our own. The Turks came in great force and we had only a few men left, so we got the order to retire at daylight. The only way to retire was through a little communication trench that our Engineers had dug from their trench to ours. It was slow work and we were jammed one behind the other. When I last spoke to Sgt. Cannell he was in a crouching position to shelter from the bombs. I think he thought to keep low until the firing ceased a bit and then retire, but he left it too late. I took the risk and jumped over the parapet. The Turks then burst into the centre of the trench and cut off the men on our left, Sgt. Cannell being one of them. I myself believe that he was taken prisoner."

Extract from letter from Constance Cannell to Perth Information Bureau, Aust. Red Cross, being the evidence of Private Barry, B Coy. 16th Battn., dated 2nd June, 1916.

London,  
2/8/16.

P.I.

acp.  
Copy.

c/o Mrs Aitken,  
8 Keenan Street,  
Kalgoorlie.

October 6th, 1915.

Dear Sir:-

I shall be very much obliged if you will kindly tell me if there is a Red Cross Information Bureau in Perth. I see in last Monday's paper that a Red Cross Information Bureau has been established at Cairo, and is now ready to deal with enquiries from Bureaus in Australia relative to wounded and missing soldiers.

I am in great trouble, as my cousin and fiancé, Corporal Reg. Cannell, has been reported missing at the Dardanelles on June 5th, and though I have tried every means in my power to trace him I have been unable to obtain any news at all. He was missing at the Dardanelles about May 9th and reported in Australia on June 5th. His name and rank is as follows:-

No. 1. Corporal Reg. R. Cannell,  
B. Company, 16 Battalion 4th Brigade.

I shall be very grateful if you will give me the address of the nearest Information Bureau.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Constance Cannell.

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NOTE.

Enquiry at the Defence Department, Perth, W.A. revealed that the correct name, as registered there, is

" Corporal Roy Ramsey Cannell"

but the authorities were unable to give any news of him, other than that he was "missing".

FOR THE RED CROSS  
INFORMATION BUREAU,  
W.A. BRANCH.

*M. Donaldson*  
Secretary.

Sergt. Reg. Cannell.

B. co. 16<sup>th</sup> Batt.

4<sup>th</sup> Inf. Brigade (Australian)

see after.

Pte. J. G. Sainsbury No. 1995.

Machine Gun Section 98<sup>th</sup> Batt.

7<sup>th</sup> Brigade (Australian).

12.12.16.



## AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH).

PRESIDENT:  
LADY HARRON, B.

HON. TREASURERS:  
RANKIN MORRISON & CO.,  
KEMBLE BUILDING,  
ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE,  
PERTH.

TELEPHONE, A2545.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE  
ADDRESSED TO  
THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE AND DEPOT:

NATIONAL MUTUAL BUILDINGS,  
ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE,

PERTH, 15th June, 1916.

The Honorary Secretary,

Australian Branch B.R.C.S.,

Enquiry Bureau,

c/o Australian High Commissioner's Office,

LONDON.

Dear Madam,

No. 1, Sergeant Reginald Ramsey Cannell, "B"  
Co. 16th Battalion, 4th Brigade.

We have received several reports from you in regard to the above soldier who was reported missing May 9th, 1915, and has now been written off as killed in action.

The enquirer, his cousin, has now written asking us for further information and we are enclosing herewith copy of her letter which will explain itself.

We have informed her that we have forwarded copy of her letter to you and that we will communicate with her again on hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,  
For and on behalf of

The Executive of the AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
(W. A. BRANCH.)

*Henry Craig*  
General Secretary.



C O P Y.

Bombay House,

Killarney Street,

KALGOORLIE.

2/6/16.

The Secretary,  
Australian Red Cross Society,  
Information Bureau,  
PERTH.

Dear Sir,

On May 26th a Casualty List was published in which Sergeant R.R. Cannell, No 1, "B" Co., 16th Battalion, hitherto reported as missing, was reported killed in action on May 9th, 1915. You will perhaps remember that you were kind enough to make enquiries for me some months ago about this soldier, so I am venturing to apply to you again for assistance. I will be indeed grateful if your Secretary in Egypt will make enquiries as to the grounds on which the Court of Enquiry came to this conclusion. The Defence Department in Perth can tell me nothing, and though I have written to Melbourne, perhaps they will be little better informed.

For the past year I have been in correspondence with members of my Cousin's Battalion, and though some had little hope none could tell me definitely what had become of him. Private Barry of "B" Co. 16th Battalion now wounded in England was with him almost to the last and gives me the following account :-

"On May 9th we charged and took a Turkish Trench only about 25 yards from our own. The Turks came in great force and we had only a few men left, so we got the order to retire at daylight. The only way to retire was through a little Communication trench that our Engineers had dug from their trench to ours. It was slowwork and we were jammed one behind the other. When I last spoke to Sgt.

- 2 -

"Cannell he was in a crouching position to shelter from the bombs. I think he thought to keep low until the firing ceased a bit and then retire, but he left it too late. I took the risk and jumped over the parapet. The Turks then burst into the centre of the trench and cut off the men on our left, Sgt. Cannell being one of them. I myself believe that he was taken prisoner."

I have quoted this letter because the Court of Enquiry <sup>may</sup> not have received this man's evidence, but he seems to have been the last man to speak to my cousin, and I understand that it is on the report of the men that the Court bases its conclusions. I may add that Lieut. Hummerston, whose address you very kindly gave me, tells me that a week later the trench was recaptured and my cousin's body was not found.

I shall be most grateful if you will help me now as you have done before. I feel sure that your Secretary in Egypt will be able to find out if the Court has discovered any fresh evidence, or whether it is acting on the assumption that if a man cannot be proved to be alive he must be dead.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) Constance C. Cannell.