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

7360 Private
Vivian Phillip Collins

12th Battalion



0771107N

6

12th Battalion. A.I.F.

COLLINS.
V.R.7360.

"KILLED IN ACTION 30.10.17"

I was in the same coy as the deceased Soldier mentioned but in different platoons, on or about Oct 28th last the battn proceeded to take up their position near Ypres, on the way to our position we rested for several hours on Anzac Ridge, and it was there that deceased met his death, a shell coming right in the shell hole where he, resting, death being almost instantaneous, I and another chap buried him where he fell and his platoon Sgt informed me he would have a cross erected on his grave, this was all that could be done for him as the enemy were shelling the position rather heavily & we hadeto move on shortly after, you have my assurance that he was buried as well as could be expected under the circumstances. There can be no doubt whatever as to the identity of this soldier as I personally have known him for several years, and he left Tasmania as C.S.M. to the Reinforcement to which I belonged. This personal effects I believe were taken charge ofby his pltn Sgt, who would I have no doubt hand them into the proper quarters. This I am sure is all the information I can give you., The deceased soldier would be about 21 or 22 yrs of age fair complexion, about 5ft7ins in height and well built., Letter from:-Tegg. 25. London. 8.6.18.

France. 1.4.18. 12Bn RI

C

A.I.F. I2. COLLINS V.P. 7360.

K. Oct. 30th 1917. Det D/B.

Collins - initials V.P. - came from Trevallyn, Launceston Tasmania. It was his first time in, and we were going up to Zonnebeke about the end of October. Having got over Westhock Ridge we were waiting till it was dark to go on. Collins was in a small dugout when a shell fell right in He was killed right out and two others wounded, and was blown over by the same shell. I went away to bring up machine guns and things and when we got back the same day Collins had been buried at the spot. Hawkey in B. Coy. and Tegg in transport, both with the Battalion buried him. It wa on the rise beyond Westhock Ridge on the right hand side of Corduroy road, by the duck boards.

Inf. Pte R.P. Hampton 7286. B.VIII.
I4 Stat. Hosp.
BOULOGNE. I8.3.I8.

JT.

written Tegg & Hawkey p 1
27-3-18

12th Battn.
A.I.F.

COLLINS
V.P. 7360

"Killed in Action 30-10-17"

Re 7360 V.P.Collins. I was with him at the time he was killed. We were going up the line into a Sector at Passchendaele, during the day previous to going into the front line, we were on Anzac Ridge. We had'nt been there long when the Boche started shelling all round. We were in small dug-outs along the ridge. A shell landed right in the dug-out that Collins was in, and killed him instantaneously. The other occupants were fortunate enough to get off with a great shaking. As soon as it happened, a party of men were got together to dig a grave, in the meantime, all his belongings were taken out of his pockets and handed over to his Officer, which in due course will be sent back to his people. I might state that pieces of shell went through his head, and several pieces pierced his body. He said to my comrade and I, when we were going up, that he had written to all his people and friends, and that if anything should happen, to get his belongings, which he left in his equipment, and distribute them to the boys. It consisted of underclothing, which was nothing of importance. He was buried and a Cross put up at the head with his identification attached, on Anzac Ridge, in the field.
Description: Height, about 5'7", fair, stout, blue eyes.

London
4-5-18

Letter from:- Hibbard Pte.Keith 7367
B.Coy. 12th Battn.,
FRANCE 24-4-18

P.I.
.N.

Havre 11th April 1918.

12th A.I.F. Collins V.P. No. 7360.

K. 30th Octr 1917. Det D/B.

He was in D.Co. V Pltn, I knew him slightly, he had only been with us about a week before he ~~was~~ killed. On the ~~29~~ 30th October we were on the Ypren Sector. I was a few yards from Collins just going into the line. A shell dropped near him - a piece hit him in the neck, he died in a couple of minutes. I was told he was buried where he was killed.

Inf:- Pte H. Hallor No.2492. S/B.
12th A.I.F. B.Co. V Pltn
Havre Hospital.

HP3.

P.I.

Somewhere in France

Fletre, le (NORD) April 24 1908.

To Mrs Eva Drake.

Dear Mrs D.

The Chaplain handed me a letter to me which was sent by you asking for any information regarding 7386 C.P. Collins, he has asked me to answer it for him as I was with him Collins, at the time he was killed I will endeavour to give you all that I remember at the time. We were going up to the line into a Sector at Wytschaete, during the day foremost to going into the front line, we were on Kemmel Hill we had not been there long, and the Boche started to shell us, we were in small dugouts along the ridge, a shell landed right in the dugout that Collins was in killed him instantaneously, the other occupants were [illegible] with a good shaking.

A party of men were got together to dig a grave, on the

meantime all his belongings were taken out of his pockets & handed over to the Officer which in due course will be sent back to his people. I might state that pieces of shell went through his head & several pieces pierced his body.

He said to my comrade & I when we were going up that he had written to all his people & that if anything should happen to get his belonging which he left on his equipment & distribute them to the boys, it consisted of nonsense, was nothing of importance.

I forgot to mention that he was buried in a cemetery at the Rear with a identification attached on "Chyne Ridge" on the field.

I think this is all the information that I can give just now.

If you want any particulars of any other persons in this unit I would ask to be excused as I do my best for you.

Hoping this will help you as to his untimely

Yours faithfully
[illegible] Pte
[illegible] Bn.

P.S Description, about 5ft 7" in height fair, stout [illegible]

19th April, 1918.

Miss Gram,
Red Cross, Enquiry Bureau,
39, Broad Street, Bristol.

Dear Madam,

We beg to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting - 7360 Pte.V. .COLLINS, 12th Battalion, A.I.F.

2498 Pte.N.Hailer of some unit, now in Hospital in France states that he was a few yards from Collins going into the line, when he was wounded in the neck by a fragement of shell, and died almost instantly. Pte. Hailer was told he was buried where he was killed near Ypres.

This only confirms the information already sent you but we are now closing our enquiry, feeling that more researches are not likely to produce any more definite information.

Should however any further particulars be received we will at once advise you.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. St. George

SECRETARY.

Pte
7360 L/Cpl Collins
12 Batt
A.I.F

France
1st April 1918

7360
V. F. Collins
12 Batt
K in F 20.10.17

P.I
2

The Secretary
Wounded Enquiry Bureau
A.I.F Branch

Dear Madam

Your letter dated 28/3/18 to hand. Re enquiries concerning the above mentioned Soldier, I will endeavour to give you all details exactly as they happened at the time of his death. I was in the same Company as the deceased Soldier mentioned but on a different platoon, On or about October 28th last the Batt proceeded to take up their position near Ypres, on the way to our position we rested for several hours on Abraz Ridge, and it was there that deceased met his death, a shell coming right in the shell hole where he was resting, death being almost instantaneous I saw another chap buried him where he fell and his platoon Sergt informed me he would have a cross erected on his grave, this was all that could be done for him as the enemy were shelling the position rather heavily and we had to move on shortly after, I can have my statement that he was buried as well as could be expected under the circumstances, There can be no doubt whatever as to the identity of the deceased Soldier as I have known him for many years, and he left Canada with Company Sergt Major to the Reinforcement to

which I belonged. The personal effects I believe were taken charge of by the platoon sergt, who would I have no doubt hand them to the proper quarters. This I am sure is all the information I can give you, and I sincerely trust that it will help you to reply to your enquiries with the information they desire.

Yours faithfully

No 25 C.S. Regt.

12th Battalion

A I F

P.S. The deceased soldier would be about 21 or 22 years of age, fair complexion, about 5 feet 9 inches in height and well built.

6th April,1918.

Miss Oram,
Red Cross Enquiry Bureau,
39, Broad St, Bristol.

Dear Madam,

We beg to inform you that we have received an unofficial report respecting - 7360 Pte.V.P. COLLINS,12th Battalion, A.I.F. - given by an eyewitness of his death. 7286 Pte.R.P. Hampton, of the same unit, states that while waiting for the dark, after crossing Westhoeke Ridge. Pte. Collins was killed instantly, and two others wounded by a shell, which fell in a small dugout in which they were. Ptes.Hawkey and Tegg, both of the same Battalion, buried Pte. Collins on the spot, on the rise beyond Westhoek Ridge, on the right side of the Corduroy road near the duckboards.

We are continuing our enquiries, and will advise you of any further information we may receive.

Yours faithfully,

F. St George

SECRETARY.

15th May 1918

Miss Oram,
Red Cross Inquiry Bureau,
39 Broad Street,
Bristol.

Dear Madam,

We have received a further unofficial report of the death of -

7360 V.P.Collins, 12th Btn, A.I.F.,

which in every respect, but with a little more details, confirms that given by - Pte C.S.Tegg. The witness, Pte Keith Hibbard 7367 was with Pte Collins when he was killed and he tells us that the latter was shot through the head & body. Pte Collins, when going up into the line, had told Pte Hibbard that he had written to all his people and friends and that if anything should happen, they were to distribute whatever was in his equipment to the boys. This consisted only of underclothing. The things in his pockets were taken out and handed over to his officer and would in due course be sent to his people. A cross with his identification disc attached was erected at the head of his grave on Anzac Ridge.

Yours faithfully,
SECRETARY.

WT

11th April, 1918.

Miss Oram,
Red Cross Enquiry Bureau,
39, Broad Street,
BRISTOL.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry concerning :-

7360 PTE. V.P. COLLINS, 12th Battalion, A.I.F.

We have received the following unofficial report from No 25 Pte.C.S.Tegg. of the same unit.

He states:- "I was in the same coy as the deceased soldier mentioned but in different Platoons. On or about 28th Oct last the Battalion proceeded to take up their position near Ypres on the way to our position we rested for several hours on Anzac Ridge, and it was there that deceased met his death, a shell coming right in the shell hole were he was resting, death being almost instantaneous. I and another chap buried him where he fell and his platoon Sgt.informed me he would have a cross erected on his grave, this was all that could be done for him as the enemy were shelling the position rather heavily & we had to move on shortly after, you have my assurance that he was buried as well as could be expected under the circumstances There can by no doubt whatever as to the identity of this soldier as I personally have known him for several years, and he left Tasmania as C.S.M. to the Reinforcement to which I belonged. His personal effects I believe were taken charge of by his Pltn Sgt. who would I have no doubt hand them into the proper quarters. This I am sure is all the information I can give you. The deceased soldier would be almost about 21 or 22 years of age, fair complexion , about 5(7" in height and well built."

We are continuing our enquiries and hope to send you further particulars at a later date.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Craven

SECRETARY.

12th Btn.
A.I.F.

COLLINS
Vivian Philip 7360.

"Killed in Action 30.11.17"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London
17.10.19.

P.I.

TELEPHONE 2978.

INQUIRY BUREAU,
39, BROAD STREET,
BRISTOL.

29.12.17

To the Inquiry Department,
British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John,
18, Carlton House Terrace,
London, S.W.

Please insert in your next list :—

RECEIVED
- DEC
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Name Collins V.P.

Rank Pte

Regt. No. 7300

Battalion 12 n.I.F.

Company B

Platoon

Casualty Killed details d/b

Date 30.10.17

Inquiry Bureau
for Miss Oram.

H.S. for T.E. Larcher

P.E.4.'18.