

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

5672 Private
Ernest Andrew
Clarkson

1st Battalion



0750102F

1st A. I. F.

Clarkson, E. A. 5672.

(M. Nov. 5/16.)

"I knew E. A. Clarkson (although we called him Harry). I identify him by his No. We joined up together and were in camp at Liverpool, Australia, and came over in the same ship together with a brother of Harry Clarkson we called "Sky-ee". They were drafted into B. Coy. whilst I was in C. Coy. Both B and C Companies went out on the night of 5th Nov. /16 and a good many men never returned. E. A. Clarkson was one of them. I was in the reserve that night, but I met the brother "Sky-ee" at Fricourt later, when he told me that his brother was killed on 5th Nov. at Fiers. I do not know whether this man is still with his unit and I cannot give you his No. I was not so intimately acquainted with him as his brother."

Eye-Witness:

Description:

Reference: Pte. Harold Kimberley, 5719
1st A.I.F. C. Coy. XI.
Harborne Hall V.A.D. Hosp.,
Birmingham.

Home address:

10, Chaplin St.,
Darlingbursh, Sydney.

20.4.17.



A. I. P. I.G.

CLARKSON, R.A. 26723
(and 24 others)

Re: November 24th, 1918.

Their bodies were found all in a heap to the left of
Sneadcourt just in front of Bayonet trench on March
2nd, 1917. They had been killed by M.G. fire on November
24th in the Fiers charge. They were buried in shell holes
all about where they were lying. I saw all the bodies
and remember the names. Lt. H.A. A'Beckett, C. Coy. was
present and kept a record. A big cross was put up with
their names on it. I saw the cross and as certain their
names were on it. About 50 men were found altogether.
Sgt. V. Pearce, D. Coy. was in charge of the burial party
and also kept a record. The paybooks, discs, etc. were
taken from all the bodies and handed in to the battn. SA.

Reference:- Pte. James Harr, 885. H.Q.
No. 1 & A.D.S.D.

Re: Facts checked from diary entry. SA. Staples. 28.4.17.

Written: H. A'Beckett
St Pearce 16.5.17

1st Bn.

A. I. F.

502.	F. G. Hansen,	Missing.	5.11.16.
5151.	G. A. Burns,	Killed.	5.11.16.
5173.	H. A. Simpson,	Killed.	5.11.16.
1848.	H. T. Costelloe,	Killed.	5.11.16. ^{cd}
3055.	G. Handling,	Missing.	5.11.16. ^{cd}
2240.	H. Hansen,	Missing.	5.11.16.
5725.	G. H. Kilminster,	Killed.	5.11.16.
5138.	L. Miller,	Wounded & Missing.	5.11.16.
4058.	J. G. Morrison,	Killed.	5.11.16.
2209.	F. F. Porter,	Killed.	5.11.16.
5772.	H. H. Scholfield,	Missing.	5.11.16.
2226.	F. H. Scott,	Killed.	5.11.16.

I received a letter from you today one of the 18.5.17 en-
quiring about some of the men that was killed and missing.
I was only in charge of party, a man from Headquarters kept
a list of names. I am sorry to say I dont know his name, he
was called "Gastig". I am wounded in both shoulders so you
will have to forgive this bad writing.

Letter from:-

Sgt. W. F. Pearce.
D Coy.
1st A. A. Bpl.
Ward. 35. Harefield.

London.
1.6.17.

30.5.17,

1 copy sent Sydney for Group 1.6.17

Barro

4th June, 1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS

CLARKSON, E.A. 5672
Grogan, G.A. 5668

5. Nov. 5th. 1916.

I knew both these boys; they were in D. Company and came over with us ~~over~~ in the 18th reinforcement to the 1st Battalion. They were both missing after the action of the 5th November, 1916, at Hill Trench, Flanders where we lost the ground and it remained "No man's land" till March 1917 when the enemy retired, and I was sent out with a burial party to bury all the bodies still lying in the open. I saw the name of both these boys on the list of men buried on March 4th, 1917 in the Battalion Orderly Room.

Informant: Pfc. C.H. Dawson 5681
1st Batt., D. Co., XIII. Fltn.
AUSTRALIANS.
Australian Camp, Rouelles. S

R.D.S.

1st Bn
A. I. F.

CONSTABLE, W.F. 392.
EARLEY, T.G.I. 3313.
HENRY, J.A. 5119.
LAKE, L.G. 5733.
MCNEHOTT, J.D. 5735.
MASON, Cpl. A. 3402.
PARR, P.J. 725.
RANKINE, W.C. 5206.
SCHOFIELD, H.N. 5772.
WAGHORN, C.A. 3933.
BANNAN, Cpl. T.C. 802.

~~CLARKSON, E.A. 5672.~~
GREGAN, C.A. 5668.
HASSEN, B. 2240.
POWELL, L/Cpl. J.W. 2594.
LEWIS, J.A. 3378.
MAGREGOR, O.D. 5181.
MILLER, R.D. 5168.
PENKETH, H.D. 3444.
RUTHERFORD, T. 5027.
SIMINGTON, T.T. 3480.
WILLIAMS, A. 5790.

"Missing 5.11.16."

I knew these men. We did not know what happened to them at the time, but two weeks ago we went over the ground and I have picked out the names of the men whose bodies were found, except Clarkson who is still alive. Cpl. F. Bingley, A. Coy. H.Q. now is the pay Corporal for the whole battalion. He has evidence of this. He has records of all the bodies, discs and paybooks found on this occasion.

Informant: Pte. J.E. Brown. 748.

London.

No. 7 C.C. Boulogne. 18.5.17.

14.6.17.

Note Written Cpl. Bingley 15.6.17.

Copy sent Melbourne & Sydney for Genps 14.6.17

*This is a confirmation
with R. Clarkson 5671-*

S.

11/17/72

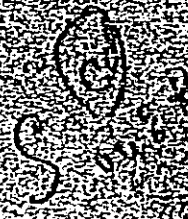
1972

... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..

... .. of September 1972

(Sgt)

(Sgt)



A.I.P.

1.

M. 5.11.16.

CLARKSON H.A. 5672.

We were having a stunt at Piers but did not get far owing to M.G. fire. Clarkson was killed and we found his body a week or so after and buried him in a shell hole where he fell, quite close to Piers.

BH.

Reference: Pte. W. Brien. 5657.
7 Can. Gen. Hpi.

Staples.
6.10.17.

CA on r.k.

§.

A.I.F. 1st Btn C. Coy.

E.A.

CLARKSON
5672

"MISSING"

Killed in action 5-11-16 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 2-1-18.

S

London
7-1-18.

1st A.I.F.,

Clarkson, Pte. Edward, A., 3572,
C. Coy., 10 Pltn.,

N. Nov. 5th, 1916.

"I was at Fiers on Nov. 5th when my Coy., went over at 10.30 p.m. in a raid on the German trenches. I remember seeing Pte. Clarkson when we were in the German trenches and spoke to him, that was the last I saw of him alive. The following night Nov. 6th, I was out in charge of a patrol and we found Pte. Clarkson's body riddled with bullets Machine Gun bullets. We brought the body in and buried it behind our third line trench (Mac's Cut). The grave is marked with a wooden cross with his name marked on it. His pay-book and personal belongings were placed in the Coy. Orderly Room "K".

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Age about 25, height about 5ft.9ins, strongly built, dark hair and complexion, one eye tooth capped with gold.

Informant:-- Sgt. Alfred Raymond Hynes, 738,
1st A.I.F., C. Coy., 10 Pltn.,
Red Cross Hosp: and St. John,
St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Home address:-- "Palais" Queen's Rd., New Lambton,
Newcastle, N.S.W.

Address in England:-- Silver Nest,
675, Borough Rd., Birkenhead.

16.3.17.

E.A. Riley.

Plt. A. Clarkson

5672

1 Bell

59 Under

Plt. T.C. Bannan

802

1 Bell

13 5-17