

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

**3383 Private
Frederick Reeve
Chamberlain**

12th Field Ambulance



0710903K

12th Fld.Amb.
A.I.F.

CHAMBERLAIN
F.R. 3383

"Killed 10-7-18"

Refer to Sgt.S.J.Kirby, D.C.M., B Sect. 12th Fld.Amb.,
and now in France, for particulars.

Informant. Lloyd. L/Cpl.G. 3219
12th Fld.Amb.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
13-9-18
H.G.

Note:- Written Sgt.Kirby 12-9-18

M.

Havre

12th Sept 1918.

Australian M.C. 12th Field Amb.

Chamberlain P.R. 3383.

K. 10th July 1918. Det D/B.

He was killed at Hamel at the same time as Stevenson. They were wheeling a stretcher from the R.A.P. to the D/Station, when I saw a shot explode killing both of them and wounding the Patient. Chamberlain was a pal of mine. I had met his people, and he came away with me from Australia on the s.s. 'Aegina' (with the 6th Field Ambulance). He was short, with black hair, clean shaven. His christian names were Frederick Reeve and his address 'Reevesdale' Addison Street, Moonie Ponds, Victoria. He is buried at Allenville by the side of Stevenson. I helped to lower him into the grave, and to put up the cross myself. There is a barrier round his grave (6 posts and chain). He was awarded the MM after his death, and this is indicated on the cross.

Inf: - G.M.S. RCH Malcolm No. 3352.

Aust. Field Amb. 12.

Havre Hospital.

WSH.

FP.

AUST.FLD.AMB. 12.

CHAMBERLAIN, F..R. 3383.

K. July 10/18. Dst.D/E

Chamberlain and a man named Stebensen, both belonging to B.Sect, were out at night with a wheeled ambulance collecting the wounded at a spot near Villers Bretonneux. A shell (one of a salvo) came over and killed Chamberlain practically instantaneously, but Stevenson appeared to have lingered some little time. It was unfortunately some little while afterwards that news came through, and when the search party found them they were both dead: I was one of the search party. They were probably buried at Allonville, in the district but not quite near. I know personally that the Sergt. of the Sect. had written to Chamberlain's Mother. Chamberlain had an excellent reputation in the Sect. and was well liked. I think he came from the Sth Sect.

Reference: Sergt.A.H.Clerke, 5368 , 12 Aust.F.A.
No.1 Aust.General, Rouen, 20.9.18.

GPO.

12th Fld. Amb.

CHAMBERLAIN, F. R.
Pte. 3383.

Kld. in Act. 10/7/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, slightly built, dark complexion, about 22 years of age. Casualty was a stretcher bearer and was on the Villers Bretonneux front. He was killed by shell fire but I did not see him killed but I saw his body six hours later. He was most severely wounded all over and he was buried on the Albert-Amiens Road."

Private address:-

6 Wright Street,
Middle Park.

Informant:- Pte. C. Squire,
No. 833, 12th Fld. Amb.

T.C.F.
21/2/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

12th Fld Amb.
A.M.C.

CHAMBERLAIN. M.M.
F.R. 3383.

"Killed in Action 10-7-18"

Freddy Chamberlain was killed around Villers Bretonnuex at night on July 10th and brought in by the ambulance. Stephenson, 12th Fld Amb - killed by the same shell. They are both buried in the Allonville Cemetery side by side in separate graves. I put the crosses on their graves. I only know of the one Stephenson with the Amb, single, young, looking lad may be 20 or 21, very fair, about 5ft 4 or 5. in height and slightly built. I don't know where he comes from but his brother was in either infantry or machine gun unit close handy and came and fixed things up.

Informant:- Cropp.^H A.3492.
12th Fld Amb.
Rut 10.WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand.
London.
20-9-18.
W.E.A.

M.

12th Fld.Coy.
A.A.M.C.

CHAMBERLAIN
F.R. 3383

"Killed 10-7-18"

Chamberlain was killed outright while carrying wounded in front of Hamel, by a shell and is buried at Allonville. His pal, C.R.Stephenson, was killed at the same time, and is buried beside him. Two Crosses are erected. I saw them Just after they were killed.

Informant. Langley. C.R. 3712
12th Fld.Amb.,

W.A.Rand
London
1-10-18
H.G.

M.

12th Fld.Amb.
A.I.F.

CHAMBERLAIN
F.R. 3383

"Killed 10-7-18"

I saw him dead on 10-7-18, in Tank Wood, near Albert, after he had been hit by a shell which blew his head off. He was wheeling a patient at time of casualty, in early morning, and another man named Stevenson was killed with him. I think he came from Ballarat, Victoria. I did not see his grave, but think he was buried at Allonville, and grave was marked. Refer to L/Cpl. Croft, 12th Fld.Amb., who is now in France, for he buried him.

Informant. Chalband. Dvr.G.E. 13604
12th Fld.Amb.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
2-10-18
H.G.

M.

12th Fld.Amb.
A.I.F.

CHAMBERLAIN F.R. 3383
Stevenson C.R. 14016

"Killed in Action 10-7-18"

Re the death of 3383 Pte.F.R.Chamberlain. I am sorry to say that he was killed by a piece of shell penetrating head, on the morning of July 10th, about 3-30 a.m. whilst bringing a wounded Australian soldier from a forward post. His pal 14016 Pte.C.R.Stevenson, "M.M", was also killed by a piece of the same shell. Both deaths were instantaneous. The bodies were recovered from the forward area and laid to rest side by side in a beautiful little village Cemetery at Allonville, well in the rear of the line, about 4-30 p.m. same date. Many officers and men were present at the graveside. The graves have been registered, special care has been taken by their pals to see the graves received attention before departing from the area. Description of 3383 Pte.F.R. Chamberlain, "M.M". Height about 5'6", well proportioned, hair dark, complexion dark, enlisted in Victoria, about March, 1915, sailed with 6th A.Fld.Amb. about the middle of June, same year, transferred to present unit about March, 1916, awarded the "M.M" 10-7-18 for bravery and coolness in action. The unit miss both of them considerably.

Letter from:- Kirby. Sgt.S.H. 3150
12th A.Fld.Amb.
FRANCE. 26-9-18.

London
14-10-18
D.W.B.

M.

12th Flg Amb.
A.I.F.

CHAMBERLAIN.
F.R. 3383.

Attached is photograph of grave of above.

Copy of photo attached

London.
26-11-18.
M.I.S.

to report for.

M.

14016 C.R. Stevenson

in our files.

W.D.S.

26-11-18.

Two copies sent M. for each

12th Fld. Amb.

CHAMBERLAIN, F. R.
Pte. 3383.

Eld. in act. 10/7/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 6 ins. well built, medium complexion, about 24 years of age, known as "Fred". Casualty was carrying a wounded man out. He was in my relay at Hammel Village. A whizz bang exploded near Casualty and was lying out all night but when we recovered his body the next morning he was dead. He was buried at Allonville and I have a photo of his grave."

Informant:- Pte. J. Richardson,
No. 2021, 12th Fld. Amb.

Private address:-

C/o Mrs. Brandy,
18 Maud Street,
Geelong.

Cancel? Suff

M.

T.C.F.
6/12/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU - MELBOURNE.

12th Fld. Amb.

CHAMBERLAIN, P. R.
Ptc. 3383.

Fld. in act. 10/7/16.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man of medium build, about 5 ft. 8 ins. dark complexion, about 26 years of age, known as "Fred". Casualty was with the 4th Divisional A. M. C. An H.E. shell exploded killing him instantly a piece entering his back. He was carrying a stretcher from the R.A.P. I was 50 yds. away at the time of his death and I saw his body. I went to his assistance and he was removed to the Field Ambulance. I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Pte. A. E. Lewis,
No. 1567, 12th F. Amb.

Private address:-
15 Amess Street,
North Carlton.

H.A.F.
7/3/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

12th F. Amb.

CHAMBERLAIN, P.R.
Pte. 3383.

Kld. in Act. 10/7/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man of medium build, about 5 ft. 6 ins. in height, dark complexion, about 21 years of age. Casualty was a stretcher bearer during the advance at Hamell. He was carrying a wounded man back on a stretcher to Field Ambulance when an H.E. shell exploded alongside killing him instantly and Stevenson who was carrying with him. I saw their bodies when they were brought back to Field Ambulance and buried at Allonsville Cemetery where a cross was erected with his name, number and unit on it."

Informant:- Pte. J. F. Bamford,
No. 2015, 12th F. Amb.

Private address:-
392 Mt. Alexander Road,
Ascot Vale.

H.A.M.
11/4/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

12th F.Amb.
A.I.F.

CHAMBERLAIN, F.R.
Pte. 3383

K. 10/7/18

I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5'7", medium build, dark complexion, about 23 years of age, known as "Fred". Casualty was on a Wheeled Stretcher to the Right of Hamel. A H.E. Shell exploded near casualty killing him instantly. I did not see casualty killed but I saw his body later, lying out near the Road. He was severely wounded in the neck. He was buried at Allanville Wood. Cross with his name, number and unit on it was erected over the grave.

Informant: Pte. J. Pearce,
12th F.Amb.
Home address: 62 Barkly St.,
Ballarat East.

T.C.F.
25/4/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

ack. P. H. H. H.
11.10.18
to W. H. H.

3383 14016
7 R Chamberlain G. R. Stevenson
12.7.18 12.7.18
Kia A. 10.7.18. Kia A.

M. C. 2
M. C. 2
M. C. 2

Dear Mrs. H. H. H.
26th Sept 1918.

Re your inquiry
concerning the death of
No. 3383. Pte. (Chamberlain G. R.)

I am
sorry to say that he was
killed by a piece of shell
penetrating head, on the morning
of July 10th about 3.30 AM. whilst
bringing a wounded Australian
soldier from a forward post.

His
Pal No 14016. Pte. Stevenson G. R.
(Military Medal) was also killed
by a piece of the same shell
Both deaths were instantaneous
The bodies were recovered from
the forward area & laid to rest
side by side in a beautiful
X Ship.

little village cemetery at "Altonville"
well in rear of the line
about 4.30 pm same date.

Many Officers & men were present
at the graveside

The graves have
been registered, special care has
been taken by their pals to
see the graves received attention
before departing from the area.

Description of No 3383. Pte Chamberlain F.R.
(M.C.) Height about 5ft 6 inches well proportioned
Hair - Dark. Complexion - Dark.
enlisted in Victoria, about ~~March~~^{March} 1915.
sailed with 6th Aust. Field Amb. about
the middle of June same year.

transferred to present unit about March 1916
He awarded the Military Medal,
July 10th 1918. for bravery & coolness in
action. I will not say much more except.

The unit miss both of them considerably
sincerely I trust that the information supplied
will assist you. I remain your faithfully
3150. S.H. Kirby Capt 1st Aust Field Ambulance abroad