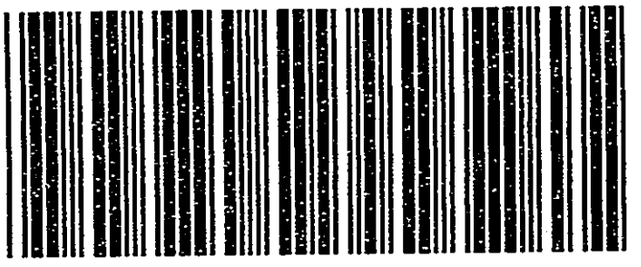
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

Lieutenant
Walter James Clasper

4th Machine Gun Company



0750107K

[illegible]

8th August 1918.

[illegible] (Lieut). 4. Battn 4 Coy. Clerger Lieut W.J.

D/d 30th April 1918. Det D/B.

I knew him well, he commanded No. 3. Section and was a fine soldier and well liked. I did not see him killed nor did I see his body but I was told that he was hit in the stomach by bullet on Villers Bretonneux Sector at end of April 1918, and died of wounds at the D/Station behind our lines, and that he is buried at Vignacourt in a military Cemetery and there is a cross on his grave.

Inf:- Driver D. Brady No.1788.
Aust R.O.C. 4. Battn 4 Coy.
1 Section.
Australian Cavy. Depot.
Rouelles.

RDM.

S

PP.

[illegible] M.C. etc.,
M.L.S.

GLASPER.
W.J. Lieut.

"Died of Wounds 30-4-18"

Lieut Glasper was admitted to this C.C.S. 30-4-18, suffering from a penetrating bomb wound of the abdomen.

His condition was on admission was most grave and he died on the same day at 5 p.m. He passed away quite peacefully, and unconscious of his condition. He left no message.

The burial took place on 1-5-18 in the local Military Cemetery.

Letter from:- O.C.
61st C.C.S.
B.E.F.

London.
8-8-18.
H.G.

S.

A.I.F. 4th Machine Gun Corps.

Clasper.Lt. W.J.
4 Coy.

(D/W. April 30/18)
Dets. D/B.

"Lt. Clasper was killed at Villers Brettoneux and I have seen the cross on the grave but Capt. Langbourne O/C. 4th M.G.C. 4 Coy. can give all details of this case."

Eyewitness:

Description:

Informant: Pte. C.R. Davis. 594.
4th M.G.C. A.I.F. 4 Coy.
Christchurch Red Cross Hospital.

Home address:
63 Melville St,
Hobart, Tasmania.

8.8.18.
F.J.Lord.

Written Captn Langbourne
23.8.18

A.L.F. 4 M.G.C. GIASPER, Lt.N.I.

D/W.April 30/18. Det. D/B.

He was in 3 Sec. It was about April 30 and we were near Baity. I was driving at the time; It was about 4 p.m. when I saw him wounded by a M.G.Bullet. I think it was in the head. I saw him put on the stretcher and heard afterwards that he died of wounds later on that day and was buried at a little village, I don't know the name. He had been acting Transport officer.

Reference: Dvr.L.J.Templeton, 481. 3 Sec.
No.5 General, Rouen. 21.8.18.

ET.

Havre. 21st. August. 1918.

Australian M. G. C. 4. 4. Clesper. Lieut. W. J.

D/W. April. 30/1918. Date. D/B.

He was a single man. He received a bullet wound in the stomach at Villers Bretteneux while out in the open about 3. a.m. & he died at the D/Station the same day & was buried somewhere near by.

Inf:- F. G. Fletcher. 3066.
4th. Australian M. G. C.
Hospital Ship.

HHS.

CP.

2.

Lieut W. J. Clasper
4th M.G. Coy.
D of W 30.4.18
S
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The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society.

Lieut Clasper was admitted to this C.C.S. 30.4.18 [redacted] suffering from a penetrating bullet wound of the abdomen. [redacted] condition on admission was most grave and he died on the same [redacted] at 6 pm. He passed away quite peacefully, and unconscious [redacted] his condition. He left no message.

The burial took place on 1.5.18 in the local Military Cemetery.

H.G.

Lt-Col. R.A.M.C.
Comdg. No. 61 Casualty Clearing Station

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY," WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.
LONDON S.W. 1.

D.C.
1st Casualty Clearing Station
B.E.F.

22.7.18

Lieut. W. J. Clarper
4th Machine Gun Coy. A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been asked by the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death and burial of the above, who died in your Hospital on 30.4.18 and would greatly appreciate any information that you may send us.

As we have been informed by various C.O.'s and Adjutants that the receipt of notes of thanks only causes them unnecessary inconvenience, unless you ask us to acknowledge your reply to the above we will not do so, and trust that you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.

4th M.G.Coy.
A.I.F.

CLASPER.
Lieut. W.J.

"Died of Wounds 30-4-18"

To the late Lieut.W.J.Clasper, M.C., of the above Unit.
He was very seriously wounded on the 30th April 1918 in early hours of the morning at Villers Bretonneux (Bullet wound in Abdomen). He was conveyed away very quickly to the R.A.P. and from there sent on by a special ambulance to the 61st C.C.S. Lt.Clasper was immediately operated on, but although he put up a great fight for his life he succumbed to his wounds on the evening of the 30 April 1918. He was buried at Vignacourt Military Cemetery France, the day after. Lieut Clasper was a great favourite in this Company, very well ~~[illegible]~~ liked by all the boys and as an officer I cannot say too much for him. He was a great soldier and a thorough gentleman. It was a very sad blow indeed to the Company when he met his death. He was recommended for his gallantry and coolness in a previous engagement at Hebuterne, France, and just after his death it was gazetted that he had received the Military Cross. A cross was erected by the members of this Company over Lieut Clasper's grave. Photographs of his grave could be had by applying to the:-

Director of Graves Registration.
G.H.Q. B.E.F. FRANCE.

London.
9-9-18.
N.T.

Lieut Clasper's kit and personal effects were sent to A.I.F. kit Stores, Greyhound Road, Fulham, London. I am forwarding you the Notification I received concerning his wounding and death and I should be glad if you would forward this on to his relatives.

Letter from:- Capt Langborne.
FRANCE. 31-8-18.

London.
20-9-18.
H.T.

S.

Note:- The following slip was sent by the O.C. 61st Casualty Clearing Station to Capt Langborne who has forwarded it to us.

Lieut Clasper. W.J.	4th Aust M.G.C.	C/E.	8.0.p.m. 30-4-18.	G.S.W. Abdomen. (pens)

The burial will take place at the Vignacourt Military Cemetery.
Map reference - Sheet Lens 11 C 6.

London.
10-9-18.
E.H.

S.

No. 8 General Hospital.
B.E.F.
29.5.14.

Dear Madam,

Lieut W.M. Chappel. 13th Bn. A.I.F.

The above Officer was admitted to this Hosp: on 16.4.17. suffering from G.S.W. L. Elbow with Compound Fracture of Humerus. He died at 4 Am on 21.4.14 and was buried at 3 P.M on 22.4.14, with full Military Honours, in St Sever Cemetery, Rouen. His grave Number is 3103.

Army Form [illegible]

[illegible] 4th Australian M.G.C.

I regret to inform you of the undermentioned death.

(Unit) [illegible] Lt. Col. O.C.

[illegible] Casualty Clearing Stn.

Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Religion and Age	Date and Time of Death	Cause of Death
[illegible]	Lieut	Glasper W.J.	5th Aus M.G.C.	C.E.	6-0pm 30/7/18	GSW Abdomen (pene.)

The burial will take place at the VIGNACOURT Military Cemetery.

Map reference Sheet LENS 11 C 6.

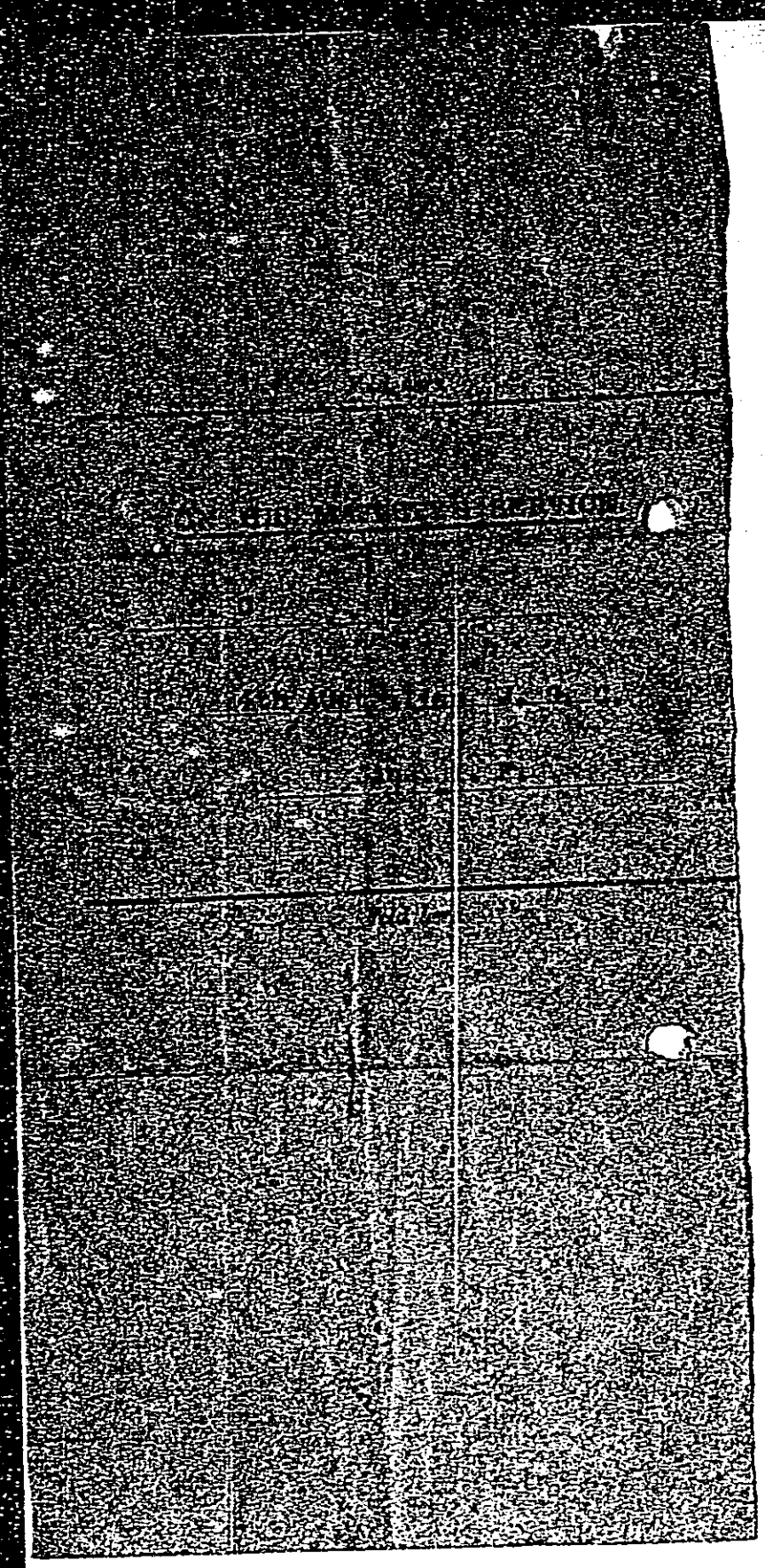
Lieut W J Glasper

4 M G Coy

[illegible] 30.7.18

[P.T.O.

[illegible]



France

31/5/18

Miss Vera Deakin. Sec of
Australian Red X Society

Lieut W.J. Clasper
4 M.G. Coy
D of W 30.4.18

In reply to your letter enquiring about the late Lieut W.J. Clasper M.C. of this Unit, I shall be only too pleased to give you a few details concerning this death.

He was very seriously wounded on the 30th April 18 in early hours of the morning at VILLERS BRETTONEUX (Bullet Wound in abdomen)

He was conveyed away very quickly to the R.A.P. and from there sent on by a special ambulance to the 61st Casualty Clearing Station. Lt Clasper was immediately operated on, but altho' he put up a great fight for his life he succumbed to his wounds on the evening of 30th April 1918.

He was buried at VIGNACOURT Military Cemetery France, the day after.

Lt Clasper was a great favourite in this Company, very well liked by all the Boys, and as an officer I cannot

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say too much for him. He was a great soldier and a thorough gentleman. It was a very sad blow indeed to the company when he met his death.

He was recommended for his gallantry and coolness in an previous engagement at HEBUTERNE, France, and just after his death it was gazetted that he had received the Military Cross.

Should there be any further particulars you require I shall be only too pleased to let you have them.

Yours sincerely
A. P. Faulkner Capt
O.C. 4th Aus. M.G. Coy.

P.S.

A cross was erected by the members of this Coy. over Lt. Claspen's grave. Photographs of this grave could be had by applying to the Director Graves Registration G.H.Q. B.E.F. France

P.T.O.

Lt. Chaspel's Kit and personal effects were sent to A.D.T. Kit Stores Greyhound Rd. Fulham London.

I am forwarding you the notification I received concerning his wounding and death, and I should be glad if you would forward this on to his relatives

H.J.

Hawbourne Capt.