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

600 Private
Albert Richard Kestle

12th Machine Gun Company



1510114D

12th. Australian M.G.C. Kestle. Pte. A.R. 600.

K. Sept. 28/17
Det. D/B.

"Kestle was killed by a shell at Ypres beyond Anzac Ridge on about Sept. 28th I know it was soon after the attack on the 26th. The trenches were a good deal beyond the Ridge & we were 300 yds behind. He was serving the next gun to me and was sheltering behind his gun in a shell hole. There were 4 of them there and a shell lobbed into the shell hole and three of them were killed. Kestle was buried close by. This happened early in the afternoon."

Eyewitness: See above.

Description: Medium size, fair, frank fellow, clean shaven, about 25 or 30. He came from Victoria.

Informant: Pte. G.W.Chambers. 551.
12th. A.M.G.C.
Home address: Horton Hospital, Epsom.
Letters to 130 Horseferry Rd.

M

20/12/17
H.C. Garson.

A.M.G.C. 12. KESTLE, A.R. 600.

K. Sept 28th 1917.

We were at Anzac House near Zonnebeke ~~on this day~~, and he was in the same company as myself but two guns away from me. He was sitting in his shell hole with his gun in the daytime and we were not in action when I saw a shell fall and I ran up to the spot and found him lying dead with half his head blown away. He was buried just outside the shell hole where he was killed and the grave was not marked at that time. I did not know him very well but I am sure this is the man, but I think the date was Sept 27th not the 28th.

Inf: W.H.Rolph. 293.
No. 1 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 8.1.18. FD

M

12th M.G.Coy.
A.I.F.

Kestle.
A.R. 600

Abbott.
W.A. 3312

"Killed 28.9.17"

These men were both killed by shell fire at Westhoek near Ypres and were buried near where they fell. The graves were duly marked.

Eye-witness: No, told by my Com.Commander.

Description:

Informant:- Lieut.A.E.Fox
12th M.G.Coy. A.I.F.
3rd London Gen.Hospital. Wandsworth.

7.1.18.
H.J.Borlm

London.
23.1.18.

12th.Mac Gun Company. A.I.F. Kestle.A.R.No.600.

K.Sept.28/17. Det.D./B.

I saw him killed instantly by a shell at Anzac House,and I helped to bury him where he fell.We put a temporary cross on his grave. He came from Prahran,Victoria., was a married man and a great cricketer.

Description. Height. 5-10. Comp.Fair. Very stout build.

Witness. Strubie.W.R.No.609. 12th.Mac.Gun Coy.

Taken at
No.7.C.D.
Hurdcott
24-1-18.
S.W.

S.Whitmee
No.4.C.D.
Hurdcott.

M.

M.G. Co,
12th
A.I.F.

KESTLE,
A.R. 600

"Killed 28.9.17."

I saw him killed by shell outright in front of Polygon Wood, at about noon while we were putting up a barrage. I helped to bury him that night in a marked grave near where he fell. Cpl. Borger was buried near him. It was Kestle's 2nd time in the line.

Informant:- P. Leftwich, P. 285,
M.G.Co, 12.
A.I.F.

L.P.J.

London.
8.2.18.

H.

12th M.G.Coy.
A.I.F.

KESTEL
A.F. 600

"Killed 28-9-17"

Zonnebeke, Killed at once by shell, back behind the lines, behind the supports. Buried close to the place where killed, in front of Anzac House. I saw him being buried, the Lt. took his pay book and Disc.

Informant. Turner 562
Ward 39,
Harefield.
M.

D.P.Dickson
London
15-3-18

Note:-
We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.

12th Mac. Gun Coy.

KESTLE, A.I.F.
Pte. No. 600

Kld. in act. 28.8.17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a well built man, about 6' in height, dark complexion about 30 years of age. Casualty was at Broodseinde Ridge during the advance at Ypres. He was sitting out in the open when an H.E. shell burst near him killing him instantly I saw his body immediately after. He was buried where he fell. There was no cross erected up to the time of my departure."

Informant:- A. Armstrong. Sgt.
No. 1701

Privataddress
C/o W. Ryland,
High Street,
Burwood.

M. Cd. Sutt

M.A.T.
25.4.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

12th Machine Gun Co.

KESTLE, A. R.
Pte. 600

Killed in action 28/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a tall man about 5 ft. 11 ins. well built, medium complexion. Casualty was in action on the gun, front line Ypres. I was working a gun near him when an H.E. shell exploded killing Casualty instantlyaand two other men. I was 50 yds. away at the time of his death. He was buried just near where he fell. I was an eye-witness."

Informant:- G. Taylor,
No. 608.

Private address:-
Doulen P.O.
S.A.

T.C.F.
31/5/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE