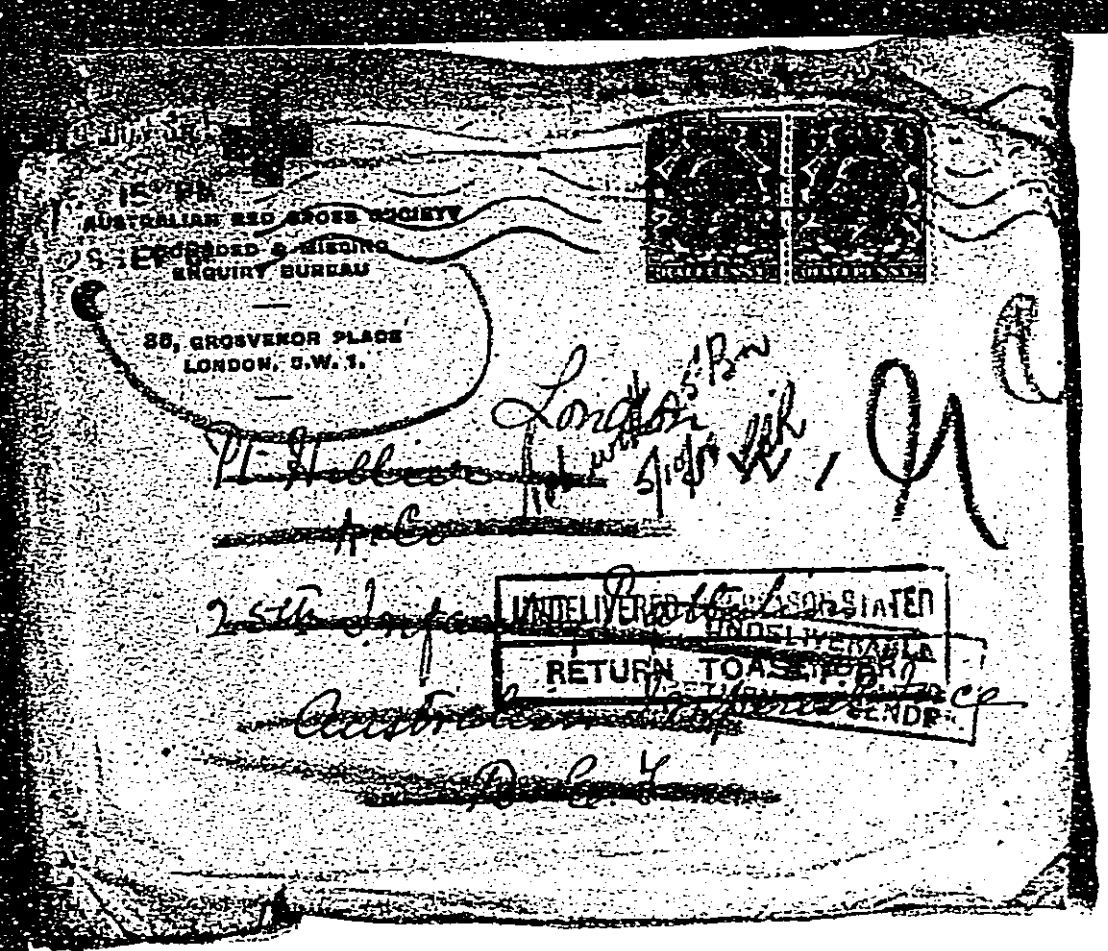
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

150 Private William Lawson

25th Battalion



1561007K


AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU
80, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.
UNDELIVERED
RETURN TO SENDER

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY."

WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

A

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

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

28.9.18

Pt Hillier
A. Co
25th Battn
a.I.F

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

150 Pt W. Lawson 25th Battn - A.I.F.
who is reported killed - July 16/18

and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cenetery where the grave would be registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.

per MES

25th Battn.
A.I.F.

LAWSON.
W. 150.

"Killed in Action 16-7-18"

At Villers Bretonneux on 16th July about 8.30. in morning. Fritz was counter attacking and Lawson was just in front of me. Did not see him hit, but man next to me said he was killed (don't remember who it was) by a machine gun bullet through the head. Lawson was about 5ft 6 - 5ft 7, fair, grey or blue eyes. I knew him well as he was in same platoon, No I Coy. C. There was no other man of same name in ~~xxxxxx~~ Battalion. We were knocked back from the trench and I don't know what became of Lawson. My brother, wrote that bodies were discovered but he has since been killed and letter has been destroyed.

Informant:- Pte. E. Walker. 2754C.
No I Pl. A.Coy. 25th Battn.
DARTFORD.

H.S.Cowan.
London.
11-11-18.
H.G.

B.

Note:- This may have been taken by another searcher.

Home address.
Casino.
W.St.
Richmond River.
N.S.W.

25th Batn.,
A.I.F.

LAWSON,
W., 150. Pte.

"Killed in action - 16-7-18."

"I beg to state that the above mentioned man was killed on the 16-7-18 instantly, and being a stretcher bearer on that occasion, buried him on the field of battle.

Pte. Lawson was slim built and was about 5'4" in height.

A Cross was erected over the grave.

Informant:- Pte. S. Paterson, 3769,
25th Battalion,
A.I.F.

A.C.A.
London,
14-11-18.
J.E.D.

B.

A.I.F. 25

LAWSON, W. 150.

E. July 16/18. Det. D/B.

Lawson came from Kedron, Brisbane, was in A Co., I think 1 Pl. and was an "original". He was killed in a bombing stunt on July 15 just before our big stunt at Villers Bretonneux, July 17. We used to be in the same hut and were very good friends, and in consequence I made special enquiries about him afterwards, as I saw nothing myself. A number of men told me he was killed, I think they said by H.G.Fire, and Pte.Hillier A Co., I think still with the Unit, was with him in the stunt and I think actually saw him killed.

Reference: Pte.Tillyard, 7151. 15 Pl.
Cyc.B.D.Rouen. 21.9.18.

DIS.

13.

F. L. A.

Letter returned marked "not with 25th Bn" Written Pt Hillier
5.10.18 28.9.18

Havre. 7th. October. 1918.

25th. Australians. ✓ Lawson, W. 150.
✓ Boyne, A. 3363.

K. July. 16/1918. Dets. D/B.

Both Privates in A. 1. and both killed on the night of the July 16th 1918 at Villers Brettoneux. I saw their dead bodies before burial. Both bodies were riddled withbayonet wounds and it looked as though they had been bayonetted while lying wounded. S/Bearer Patterson, A. Coy, told me that he put Cross on the Graves which are in the open where they fell. Patterson is A. Company S/Bearer, and is still with his Unit.

Inf:- Private. F. C. Zerk. 7167.
25th. Australians. A. 1.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

B.

J. E. A. Written Patterson abt both men 18.10.19

RDM. CP.

Havre. 19th. October. 1918.

25th. Australians. Lawson, W. 150.
Boyne, A. 3363.

K. July. 16/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private Scottie Boyne, and Private. W. Lawson, A. 1. both in the M.G. Section. Boyne was about 28, medium height and build, fair, clean-shaven. I was with them on a raid about 11. p.m. on July. 16th. 1918. in front of Villers Brettoneux. We reached the German strong post when Fritz turned on a Verry Light and opened on us with M.G. & Bombs. Both men were killed along with Privates. McIntyre, and McKenzie, A. 1. I saw their bodies before we were forced to retire; they were left behind. The next day there was a hop over and the ground was taken and also some P/War who stated that the four men killed the previous night were buried about ~~fifty~~ fifty yards from wherethey were killed.

Inf:- Private. T. Waldron. 5425.
25th. Australians. A. 1.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles.

B.

J. E. A.

RDM. CP.

A.I.F. 25th Btn

Pte. William LAWSON 150

"K/A. 16-7-18"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt.Mills 10-10-19.

B

London
17-10-19

25th Battn.
A.I.F.

LAWSON
Pte.W. 150

"Killed 16-7-18"

Lawson was killed at Villers-Bretonneux, alongside me. It was, I think, the night of the 9th, not the 16th. He was killed instantly by a M.G. bullet. I do not know where he is buried, but I am sure he was. Ground was held.

Eye-witness:- Yes.
Description:-

Informant. Jackson, Pte.J.T. 7076 (reliable)
25th Battn.,
Duston War Hpl.,
NORTHAMPTON.

G.MacKinnell
8-10-18
London
21-10-18
J.E.A.

B.

A.I.F. 25th Battn.

LAWSON W.
150

"KILLED IN ACTION 16/7/18"

Villers Bretonneux, in a trench raid, we were making in the early morning He was killed by Machine Gun Bullet - the body was recovered next day - when we took the trench so I was told - I saw him killed but not buried I knew him well.

Informant:- 5148 Moore,
W. 24, Harefield.

D.P.Dickson
9/10/18
London
22/10/18
JEA

B

25th Battn
A.I.F.

LAWSON.
W. 150.

"Killed in Action 16-8-18"

He was shot in the head by a machine gun bullet just in front of me during the advance., when he was killed outright. He was clean shaven, fair and about 21 years of age. He was buried on the left of Villers Bretonneux near Support lines.

Informant:- Pte Walker.E.3754.
A.Coy, 25th Battalion.
3rd A.A.H.DARTFORD.

N.B.Priddle.
London.
11-11-18.
H.G.

B.

A.I.F. 25th Battn.

LAWSON
William 150.

"KILLED IN ACTION 16/7/18"

Killed in action at Villers Bretonneux.

Further particulars unknown - Paybook supervised and received by the Personal Effects Office 19/7/18.

Cert. by German List 28/8/18.

London
19/9/18.

B

1C

To
Pte Hillier
A. Co.
25th Battn
A.I.F.

about
150 Pte W. Lawson
25th Battn
A.I.F.

K July 16/18

Written 28.9.18

MRS.

FRONT Western

K.D.R.—V. 1387.

AS TO

Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Casualty.
8 A. I. F.			W+M. Oct 4/17

BY

Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Home Address.
8 A. I. F.	A		3 Webster St. Ballarat Victoria

INFORMANT

first person).

Wildman's case & his Co.

A Co + stretcher bearers reported

back + ~~Fritz~~ was counter attacking.

- He was badly wounded.

that he survived.

THE FOLLOWING :—

ive name, number, etc., man who told him. } see above

ant says a man was killed, eath instantaneous? e body buried, & if so where? }

any other man of same Co. or Battalion? }

RECEIVED
23 AUG 1918
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Signature of Searcher } W. F. Awdry

Date of Report 20th Aug 1918

4.11.18

150

Pte W. Lawson

25 Bttn

See under

3363

Pte A. Boyne

25 Bttn

Pt Patterson
S/B.A.Co
25 Battn
A.I.F

about
150 Pt W. Lawson
25 Battn
A.I.F.

K July 16/18

Written 18.10.18
MRS

as we are anxious to send all possible information to our enquirers.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
(WOUNDED AND MISSING ENQUIRY BUREAU)
84, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.