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

5657 Driver Alfred Richard Knapman

Australian Army Service Corps



1530208J

Army Service Corps.
4th Divisional Train
(late 7 A.S.C.)
A.I.F.

KNAPMAN
Driver A.H. No. 5657

DIED OF WOUNDS, 7.4.17.

Informant described Knapman as about 6 ft high, slight build, fair, aged about 22.

Informant who was suffering from shell shock and could only speak with difficulty, stated that on or about 7.4.17 the Corps was at Bapaume in camp when about 6.30 p.m. a shell came over and instantly killed Knapman and four others as well as 24 horses. The bodies of the five soldiers killed were buried at Bapaume Cemetery and Informant attended the funeral.

Informant stated that Knapman was well liked by his mates.

Informant: Staff Sgt. J.J. Cook, 1194,
21st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Georges Heights, MOSMAN.
Home address: C/- Mrs. Howie, Brake Street, Rhodes.

W.E.G.
12.2.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

14th Army Service. Corps.
A.I.F.

KNAPMAN
A.R. 5657
5657

"Died of Wounds 7.4.17."

Refer to Capt. A.A. O'Connor 4th Divisional Training Anst. A.S. Corps who is in France, and who saw him killed and can give particulars. I saw his grave at Bapaume, and it was marked bearing his No, name, and Unit. I knew him well, and he was in the 7th Coy.,

Witness:-
Cpl. G. Burgess 8550
14th Coy., A.A.S. Corp.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman
London.
5.10.17.

P.I.
5

Note written to Cpl. A.A.O'Connor.
4.10.17.

FRANCE

AUST. A.S.C. 14. KNAPMAN. A.R. 5657.

D/W April 7th.1917. Det D/B.

He was in 4th Div. 7th Coy, and was a driver in the Transport and he was hit just after the Germans evacuated Bapaume. A shell landed in the horse lines and wounded him severely and he died from the effects ~~of them~~ a few days later. I saw him buried in Bapaume cemetery. WSI

Ref ---Pte E.O.Saunders. 9592. 14 Co.
No 2 Can. Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. Sept 14th.1917

SP1

Army Service Corps. KNAPMAN A.R. 5657.

" D/W April 7th., '17. Det D & B ".

" I saw Knapman's grave in the cemetery near the Casualty Clearing Station about ½ mile along the road from Baupaume. It is a large and regular military cemetery. The grave had a cross erected over it, with his name, number, and battalion on it. I noticed the grave because it happened to be alongside a couple of graves I went over to the cemetery to see."

Witness. Milne Sgt G.V. 2463.
18th A.S.C.

Taken at No 3 Command Depot,
Hurdcott. J.G.W.
September 7th., '17.

S. Whitmee.
No 4 Command Depot,
Codford.

P.1
CS

Havre 21st June 1917

AUSTRALIANS A.S.C 14th Co. KNAPMAN, A.R. ~~5635~~ 5657.

D/W 7th April 1917 Det. D/B

He was hit by a shell with three other men at Bapaume and was buried with the three men in one grave in the civilian cemetery in Bapaume. Their names are marked on the stone, and the Graves Registration Unit No. 5 have also put up a cross. Knapman was in the 7th Co. and not in the 14th.

Informant: J.R. Hoohkins 2250
Australian A.S.C. 14th Co.
No. 2 Gen. (Gmi) Hospital Havre

RBS

S.

14th Battn.
1st Div.
A.S. C. S.

Knapman.
A. R. 5657

"Died of Wounds 7.4.17"

I was wounded by the same shell that completely blew him to pieces, at the same time Williams, Chapman, Sgt. Kilmartin, W. O Wilkindon all were blown up. I was the only one not killed and I have lost a leg. I know hispeople well at Coombell, Richmond River, New South Wales. I know nothing of his burial and presume all were buried together at Bapaume with the exception of Chapman who died on a stretcher and was buried at Poziere It was in the gas works at Bapaume.

Witness:-
Cpl. C. D. Sodon 1217
14th Battn.1st Div.
A.S.C.
Southall.

R.D.B.

London.
16.8.17.

S.
P.I.

4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL TRAIN.

26th A.A.S.C.

The Secretary,

Wounded and Missing Bureau.

B. R .C. S.

L O N D O N.

Re No 5657.Driver Knapman.A.R. 7th A.A.S.C.

With reference to your communication of the 8th inst re the above.I have passed this on to Lieut Brunt of the 7th A.A.S.C. who will be able to give you full particulars, as when this happened I was only temporarily attached to 7th Coy.

In the Field.

13/10/17.

A.A. [illegible] Capt.

S.O.26th A.A.S.C.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
WOODBURN STRAND LONDON

TEL.: VICTORIA 7320
EW/F.

AUSTRALIAN
COMFORTS FUNDS

INCLUDING

CITIZENS "WAR CHEST"
FUND, SYDNEY

LADY MAYORESS'
PATRIOTIC LEAGUE
MELBOURNE

QUEENSLAND
PATRIOTIC FUND,
BRISBANE

THE LEAGUE OF LOYAL WOMEN
OF AUSTRALIA,
ADELAIDE

VICTORIAN LEAGUE OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA,
PERTH

TASMANIAN O.A.S. FUND
HOBART

AND KINDRED ORGANISATIONS
IN AUSTRALIA OTHER THAN
THE RED CROSS SOCIETY

COMMISSIONER
T. S. WOODBURN.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS
THOS. HENLEY, M.L.A.
A. C. BARRY.
AS APPOINTED BY
THE HON. G. F. PEARCE,
MINISTER OF DEFENCE, AUSTRALIA

REPRESENTATIVES ATTACHED TO
AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONS AT THE FRONT
1ST.—WM. COPE
2ND.—T. S. WOODBURN
3RD.—T. J. CLERKE.
4TH.—JOHN S. FELL
5TH.—J. R. CAMPBELL.

A. I. F.

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUNDS.

66, VICTORIA STREET, S.W. 1.

Post card 4-7-17

LONDON, June 27th 1917

Miss Deakin,
Australian Branch B. Red Cross Society
Victoria Street.
London. S.W.

14 Coy HQ Trans
H Div
S/C

Dear Miss Deakin,

Could you give me any particulars of the death of 5657 Alphie Knapman, 7th A. A. S. C. attached to 4th Infty. Brigade who was killed 2.4.17. in France.?

An Uncle in England is making enquiries in order to be able to inform the lad's parents in Australia.

Thanking you in anticipation.

already sent Syd.

Yours faithfully,

T. Clarke.

October 5th, 1917.

Commissioner E.Clarke,
Australian Comforts Fund,
66, Victoria St., S.W.

Dear Sir,

We are writing to inform you of further unofficial evidence received about:-

No.5657 Driver A.R.KNAPMAN - 14th Coy. Australian Army Service Corps - and we trust that it will be of value to his relatives.

No.9592 Pte.E.O.Saunders who was in No.2 Canadian General Hospital,B.E.F. stated that Driver Knapman who was in the Transport section was wounded severely just after the German evacuation ~~in~~ of Bapaume, by a shell which exploded in the horse lines, his death taking place a few days afterwards. He was present at his burial which took place in the Bapaume cemetery.

No.2463 Sgt.G.V.Milne 18th ~~Batt~~ Coy. A.A.S.C. who was at No. 3 Command Depot Hurdcott, Salisbury Plains, stated that he has seen Driver Knapman's grave in the large Military Cemetery near the Casualty Clearing Station near Bapaume. It is marked by a cross which bears his name and regimental particulars and we have asked the Graves

Registration Bureau to send a photograph of his grave to his next of kin in Australia. It may take some time before it will be possible for it to be taken, but the application will be noted and attended to in due time.

Should we obtain further information we shall immediately advise you.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

September 19th, 1917.

Commissioner E.Clarke,
Australian Comforts Fund,
66, Victoria Street,S.W.1

Dear Sir,

We are writing to tell you of an unofficial report which has been received about

No 5657 Driver A.R.Knapman,
14th Coy, A.A.S.C.,
(late 7th Coy.A.A.S.C.)

and we trust that his death was instantaneous. Hope he became conscious to his uncle to know that

No 1217 Cpl. C.D.Sodon, of the same unit who is in the 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, stated that he was wounded by the same shell which killed Pte. Knapman and several others, their deaths being instantaneous, and he being the only survivor. The casualty occurred in the gas works at Bapaume on 7.4.17. Informant who lost his leg through the explosion, knew Pte.Knapman's people in New South Wales. Unfortunately he can give us no information of his burial.

We are continuing the inquiry and will forward you any further information that we receive as we fully realise his uncle's great anxiety. Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY

Oct.8th, 1917.

Capt.H.A.O'Connor,
4th Divisional Train,
Aust.Army Service Corps,
A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries on behalf of our Sydney Bureau concerning -

5657 Pte.A.R.KNAPMAN - 14th A.S.C. A.I.F.

who died of wounds 7.4.17. We have been told that if we applied to you that you could probably give us details of his death and burial. We hesitate to trouble you in the matter, but we are very anxious to gather all details possible for the sake of his relatives in Australia, therefore if you can help us in the matter, and perhaps give a short description of the man, we shall be most grateful.

Again apologising for troubling you and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary.

08-