

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

**4249A Private
William Andrew Kerin**

54th Battalion



1500805J

A. I. F. 54.

KERIN, W. J. 4249.

D/W. November 2nd, 1916.

He had his legs blown off at Flers on November 2nd by a shell which blew him up in his dugout. He was taken to the D/S. I heard all about it soon afterwards. Pte. L.L. Eyles, batman to one of the officers in B.Coy. saw Kerin at the D/S and told me he died there. He could give full particulars. Kerin belonged to B.Coy. and came from Mascot, N.S.W. or thereabouts. He and I came over together from Australia in the 13th Reinf. to the 1st battn.

Reference:- Sgt. S.H.Hill. 4228.A.Coy.
No. 51 Gen. Hosp.

MA.

Etaples
3.5.17.

*written L.L. Eyles
9.5.17*

54th A. I. F.,

Kerin, Pte. W. J., 4249,

D/W 2.11.16.

"I heard that Kerin was killed by a shell, being terribly wounded in the legs and that he died on the stretcher when being carried back. It occurred at Flers. Cpl. J. Black, B.Coy., Stretcher bearer will probably be able to confirm this and give details of Death and burial."

Eye Witness: No, see above.

Description: A big man, certainly 6ft. high, very dark, employed on N.S.Wales Railway as "Night officer" generally called "Barney."

Informant:-- Pte. J. Hutchinson, 858,
54th A. I. F., B. Coy.,
Eoscombe Hosp:
Bournemouth.

Home address:--

17.5.17.
James Burns.

written Cpl Black 29.5.17

54th Battn.
A. I. F.

X Kerin.
W. J. 4249.

"Died of Wounds 2.11.16"

Concerning 4249 W.J.Kerin of the Battalion who was wounded on the 2.11.16. I was in the same trench and quite close to him when it happened. I fixed him up and did everything that could be done for him and got him out to the Aid Post right away. I am very sorry to say he was very badly wounded both legs being practically severed at the knees. He was just conscious when I dug him out and all the time he was in my hands - that was until he passed through first dressing station. I saw him taken out from there by the 54th Ambulance Battn. and was told later that he died of wounds. I cannot say where he was buried but it was certainly in a grave a long way behind the firing line, as he was well clear of that when I left him. His grave I am sure is somewhere between High Wood and Albert and should be registered I think, for there are quite a lot of our fellows buried about there with marked graves. If you can't get any information through the registrar I should advise you to write the 14th A.I.F. Field Amb. who might be able to tell you more than I can, as he was sure to pass through their hands.

Letter from:- Cpl. Black 4135.
54th Battn. B.Coy.

London.
2.8.17.

S.

54th Battn.
A. I. F.

Kerin.
W. J. 4249.

"Died of Wounds 2.11.16"

I was an eye-witness of this casualty. Kerin was severely wounded by a shell in support trench at Flers Front on Nov. 2nd 1916, both legs were practically cut off and he had other wounds about the body and arms. He died before reaching dressing station. I do not know where he was buried. When I last saw him he was being brought into dressing station, he was then dead. He was about 5'11" well built, fair with reddish hair, about 25 years. Came from Australia per S.S. "Aeneas" with 13th Rfts of 1st Battn. Joined 54th Battn. at Tel-el-Kabir.

Witness:-

A. J. Pratt #373.
A.Coy. 54th Battn.
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McPhee.

London.
4.8.17.

S.

54th Australians

Kerin, Pte W. & 4249,
B. Company

^A
D. & W.
~~(# 6)~~ Nov. 2nd/16. Det: D & B)

"Kerin had his legs blown off at Flers. He died at the dressing station. I saw him taken to the doctor."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Pte T. Smurthwaite, 893,
54th Australians,
1st London General Hospital,
Camberwell, S.E.

Home address:
Hill St,
Pittown,
Walsend,
S. Australia. S

18th April 1917.
A. Reynolds.

A.I.P 54th Stn
late 1st

KERIH
Wm. Andrew 4249a

"D. 2-11-16"

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

London
17-10-19

3

54th. Batt. A.I.F.

Kerin. W. J. Pte. NO. 4249.

B. Coy.

D/W. Nov. 2-16. Det. D/B.

I saw him killed by a shell, he had both legs blown off. This happened in the supports, Cobben Trench, just to the right of Fliers. I was there when he was buried, a party from the Coy formed the burial party. He was buried about 500 yds to the rear of Cobben Trench. A cross was erected bearing all particulars. I knew him in the Batt, he came over with the 13th Reinf of 1st Batt and joined up Batt in Egypt. He came from N.S.W.

Description. Age. 34. Height. 5-8. Complexion. Dark.
Nuggety Build.

Witness. Sgt Leagh. J. H. NO. 938. B. Coy. 54th. Batt.

Taken At
14th. T. B. Hurdcott.
5-9-17.
F. G. E.

S.

S. Whitmee.
NO. 4. Command Depot.
Codford.

WER FM 5/17

26 6 11

Handwritten notes at the top left, possibly including a name and address.

Dear Sir

I received your letter... letter of the 6th... supply for... concerning... of the... was... on the 2-11-16

I was in the same trench... quite close to them when it happened... I found them with... I am sure... Yours truly... J. K. KELLY

along. I am very sorry to hear that... both legs being practically severed at the knee... when I lay him out... He was in my hands... but I was told later that he died of wounds... I can not say when he was buried... on a grave a long way behind... well clear of that when I left him... when I am sure... (Signed) J. K. KELLY

Albert should be a registered one
I don't see them on page 2 but if
you follow Justice about that
with marked graves.

If you want get any information
through the registers I should
advise you to write Mr. H
to get full answers etc might
be able to tell you more than I can
as he was seen to pass through
them. Wards of Justice you
will be occupied in finding out
everything about them.

I remain
Yours faithfully
J. H. Black
B. C. W.
54, 1/2 St. Hill

4249 W. J. KEEN
54 Batt AIF
D.W. S3

W. J. KEEN

¹²⁹⁸⁷¹
Cpl J. BLACK ^{Bearer}

B. Co

54 Batt AIF

B.E.F.

C 4249

W. J. ^A KERIN

54 Batt AIF

D. W. 2. 11. 16

6.6.17
F.M.

Section FRONT France

SECTION AS TO		E.D.R. - Y. 1204	
Rank	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon
	49 Australian I.F.		
			Casualty.
			W. & M. Sept. 3/16.
BY		Home Address.	
Rank	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon
	49 Australian I.F.	C	X.
			Orleigh Terrace. Hill End. South Brisbane. Queensland

INFORMANT

(first person).

(49.) was killed at Mouquet-Farm

RECEIVED
27th
CARLTON HOUSE

THE FOLLOWING:

Give name, number, etc., of man who told him.

Informant says a man was killed, death instantaneous, and was buried, and if so where?

Are any other man of same in Co. or Battalion?

even, thin face, fair,

Signature of Searcher } Janet M. Payne.
Date of Report April 24. 1917.

To: ^E Pte L. L. SYLES.

5thth Batt. A.I.F.

B. 9. 7.

From: ^F W. J. KERIN 4249.

5thth Batt. A.I.F.

D/W 2-11-16

G.M.

9.5.17.

HOSPITALS¹² Southern General Oxford Cowley

INFORMANT			
Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regtl.No. Rank
	Snow.	W. E. H.	2260 A
	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regtl.No. Rank
	O'Sullivan.	James. A.	2189 PG

STATEMENT OF (to be taken in)

NOTE. 3

In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.

Plt. W. E. H. Snow (9. D. XIII) was killed in August. Two wounded men (names) wire & Plt. Snow went out to help the hole & Snow looked over the top to machine gun. He & Maxkinson (who) go it was quite impossible to bury is back with the battalion now & com. ~~Plt. Snow was engaged to be married~~ Snow was transferred from the 4th rein

5

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness?	No.	2. If not, of th
3. Was the ground held or lost?	Pozières was not in our hands.	4. Infor was de the bo
5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about?	W. E. H. 2260. A.	6. Was the name
7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc.	Very fair, about 21, very 92	
8. Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence	An intelligent, sensible man related above facts carefully.	

9th July, 1917.

4135, Cpl. Black,
B. Coy,
54th Battn. A.I.F.
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning 4249, W. J. Kerin, ^K54th Battn. A.I.F. The information you have sent will be of much assistance, and we ~~will~~ ^{shall} try to locate the grave according to the directions you have given.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V. D

Secretary.

flu.