

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

**3687 Private  
William Fraser**

**25th Battalion**



1110309F

Havre

1st August, 1917.

25th AUSTRALIANS

FRASER, W. 3687

H. November 5th. 1918.

He was in C. Company and was killed while going over the top at Fiers in the morning, about 9.30. by a shell. I did not see this myself. Sargt. ~~Young~~ of the 25th Batt., Signal <sup>Young</sup> section, still with his unit could give further details, as he was present when this happened. He was buried out in the open there. I do not think his grave was marked. I think he was a Scotchman.

Informant: J. Mansbridge 987  
25th Australians, Sig. 300.  
Australian Camp, Nouvelles.

NBS.

Written Sp Young<sup>13.</sup> 13.8.17

25th Battn.  
B. Coy.  
A. I. F.

FRASER.  
Pte. W. 3687.

"Missing 5.11.16"

His mate Fitzgerald told me that W. Fraser (who was a machine gunner) was blown up with several other men by a shell during the attack at Fiers on Nov. 5th 1916. Fraser was a big tall man who had been a policeman in Brisbane.

Eye-witness:- No.

Description:- As above.

Informant:- Pte. David Sharp 502.  
25th Battn. A. I. F. B. Coy.

A. G. Campbell.  
13.6.17.

*Richmond Milk Hospital  
Grove Rd.*

B.

London.  
1.8.17.

Note Written Fitzgerald 19.7.17.

25th Battn.  
A. I. P.

W. Fraser.  
5687

"Missing 5.11.16"

When we moved back from Noreuil to "Acid Drop Camp" in March 1917 we went up to Flers to see if we could find anything and among the bodies, discovered that of W. Fraser which could be recognised by a wallet with his name on. I saw the contents of the wallet including a photograph of Fraser and myself taken together in Cairo. I knew him well as he belonged to my reinforcement. Pte. W. Blank who was a mate of his has some of the contents of the wallet.

Eye-witness: Only as above.

Description. Dark, about 25 years old and 5'9" high  
We called him "Bill".

Informant:- Pte. M. H. Struggess 3634  
B.Coy. 25th Battn.  
Richmond Military Hospital.

9.8.17.  
A. E. S. Campbell.

London.

4.9.17.

Note Written Pte. Blank 1.9.17.

B.

25th A. I. P.,

Fraser, Pte. W., 3687.

M. Nov. 25th, 1918.

"I know that Pte. Fraser was transferred from 25th to 12th Machine Gun Co., to which I belong and I saw him on the 12th Feb. 3 days before I was hit at "Passau Redoubt" on the Somme. He was just going into the line."

Eye Witness: Yes, of his not being missing.

Description: 5ft. 8ins, stiff build, dark, about 28-30.

Informant:-- Pte. T.R. Fisher, 237,  
12th Machine G.C., A.I.P.,  
3rd London General Hosp:  
Wandsworth, S.W.

Home address:-- 12th Machine Gun Co., A.I. B

2nd March, 1917,  
Ethel A. Woolmer.

*write adf  
Written Ady 15.3.17*

A.I.F. 25th. Battn.

FRASER  
W. 3687.

MISSING 5.11.16.

The above named soldier is not with ~~this~~<sup>this</sup> Unit and never had been with this Company. There is a soldier 4274 Cpl. Fraser R. in the Company, but he knew nothing of the soldier you refer to in your letter of the 20/3/17.

Cert. by letter from Lt. O.C.  
12th. Aust. M.G. Co.  
25/3/17.

LONDON.  
5.4.17.

B.

A.I.F. 25th Btn

FRASER  
Pte W. 3687

"MISSING"

Killed in action 5-11-16 - previously reported Missing  
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqs 8-8-17.

London  
10-8-17

B

25th A.I.F.

Fraser W. 3687,

(M. Nov. 5th 1916)

Informant states that Pte. Harold, 25th A.I.F., told Informant that Fraser was killed "alongside of him" at Flers. He was killed instantly.

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant: R.D. Johnstone 1676,  
25th A.I.F.,  
3rd London General Hospt.,  
Wandsworth.

Home address:  
Conningsby,  
Mackay,  
Queensland.

B

May 9th 1917,  
Ivy. Garrard.

Written Re Harold 225.17



25th Battn.  
A. I. F.

Fraser.  
3687.

"Missing 5.11.16."

W.

About 3687 Pte. W. Fraser, 25th Battn. A.I.F. I am sorry to inform you that he was killed on the 5th November 1916, during a bayonet charge. Some time later after Fritz had evacuated we went over the same ground and found his body and identification disc, and buried him there. The place he was buried at is named Flers. Description of No. 3687. Height about 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and well built, fair complexion.

Letter from:-

Pte. C. Harold.

25th Battn. A.I.F.

France. 13.6.17.

London.

29.6.17.

B.

19th June 1917.

Pte, C. Harold,  
25th Batt, A.I.F.  
B.E.F.

Dear Pte. Harold,

Thank you very much for your letter of 12th June  
in reply to our enquiry, concerning:-

3689<sup>y</sup> W. Fraser, 25th Batt, A.I.F.

The details you have been kind enough to give us we will forward  
to our Bureau at Brisbane to be sent to the enquirers.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,

V.D  
JW

20th March 1917.

The Adjutant,  
12th Machine Gun Coy,  
A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been requested by our Brisbane Bureau to make enquiries for -

3687 W. Fraser, 25th Battalion, A.I.F.,  
reported Missing 25-11-16, and have received several unofficial reports to the effect that this man was transferred to - 12th Machine Gun Coy, and is still with the unit.

We should be most grateful if you would kindly let us know whether you have -

3687 W. Fraser on your Rolls, transferred from 25th Battalion, A.I.F., as we think it may be another case of confusion of identities between men of similar name and numbers,

With apologies for troubling you, and thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,  
SECRETARY.

*V.D. per d.c.*

Note - 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 we trust you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.

13.9.17  
18.6.17

Somewhere in France

June 12th 1917.

To Secretary.

Australian Red Cross Society.

I received your letter dated June 8th 17, enquiring about No 3687 Pte Fraser W. 25th Batt. A. I. Forces. I am sorry to inform you that he was killed on the 5th November 16 during a bayonet charge. Sometime later after Fritz had evacuated we went over the same ground and found his body and identification disc, and buried in there, the place he was buried at is named "Fiers".

Description of No 3687. Height about 5ft 8 1/2 ins and well built, fair complexion.

I Remain

Yours Faithfully

Pte. E. Harold. 25 Batt<sup>n</sup> A. I. F

3687 / W. FRASER

25 Batt<sup>n</sup> A. I. F

M 5.11.16

B  
25

The Secretary  
Wounded & Missing Inquiry Bureau  
Australian Red Cross Society

Re. 3687. W Fraser - 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
A.I.F.

The above named Soldier is not with  
this Unit and never has been with this  
Company. There is a Soldier 4274 Cpl Fraser R  
in this Company, but he knows nothing of  
the Soldier you refer to in your letter of the  
20/3/17.

W. Brown  
O.C.

12TH AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN COMPANY.
No. 425/17
Date 25/3/17

3687. W. FRASER  
25 Batt AIF

M 5.11.16

B.3 (no ack needed)

Pls HAROLD

25 Batt AF

BEF

Joy

~~3684~~ W. FRASER

25 Batt AF

M. 5. 11. 16

*[Handwritten signature]*

8.6.17

~~F.M.~~  
22.5.17

FRONT

~~B-E-F~~ A.I.F. France

Killed AS TO		E.D.E.-7.1274		Casualty.
Rank	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	
of	5 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry	A	III	K. July 25/16 Det. D/B
Killed BY				Home Address.
Rank	Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	
to	5 <sup>th</sup> Austr. Infantry	A	III	90 346 Punt Road St Kilda Melbourne

**INFORMANT**

(in first person).

July 25/16 at Poitiers, the second time  
and found & buried by his friend Sergt.  
and upon him his name disc. The charge  
it was quite light, & the ground was held  
& I knew him well. He came from

RECEIVED

16 MAY.

CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

**THE FOLLOWING :-**

to give name, number, etc., } Sergt Cyril Hanson  
the man who told him. } 5<sup>th</sup> Austr. Infantry. A Co. ~~III~~

Informant says a man was killed, }  
death instantaneous, and was }  
body buried, and if so where? } Poitiers.

Were any other man of same }  
in Co. or Battalion? } No

King - fair. about 22-23. well educated.

Signature of }  
Searcher } O.C. Hollis.

Date of Report } 15.5.17.



T. PL FITZGERALD  
M.G.S.  
25 Batt. A.I.F.  
B.9.7.

F07.  
3687. W. FRASER  
B. Coy.  
M.G.S.  
25 Batt. A.I.F.

Missing 5.11.16.

G.W.  
19.7.17.

11-8-17

Sgt. YOUNG

Signal Section  
25 BATT AIR  
BER

for

3687

W FRASER

25 BATT AIR MC

M. 5-11-16

E.C.M  
11-8-17

GC 30.8.17

Pa W. BLANK

25 BATTALIF  
BEF

101

3687 W. FRASER

25 BATTALIF

M. 5. 11. 16

R

E. C. M.  
30.8.17