

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

**3389 Private  
Rupert Thomas Fisher**

**60th Battalion**



1060815L

Havre

21st June 1918.

A. I. F. 60.

Fisher R.T. 3389. M. 27th April 18.  
Wrigley F. 3168 K. " " 18. Det

They were both Lewis Gunners in B. Co. VIII Pltn. I knew Fisher pretty well; he came from Port Melbourne, he was about 5 feet 10, well made, dark, about 24. I knew Fred Wrigley very well; he was a I/Cpl; he came from Searedale, near Ballarat, Victoria, he was a Schoolmaster. Sergt. A. Downhard of the 60th Batta D. Co. (acting S/M) who I saw at No. 1 U.S.A. Hospital, Etretat, a fortnight back - he left for England about that time, he was wounded badly in the arm) told me that he saw the above two men killed.

Inf:- Pte T. H. Steele No. 2896.  
A.I.F. 60. B. VIII.  
Australian Camp.  
Rouelles.

HPG.

Written Sgt A Downhard (No Downhard in H1) 26/6/18 Amitt.

Hayre

22nd June 1918.

C.I.F. 60.

Fisher R.F. No. 3389.

M. 27th April 1918.

A friend of his in the Battn Pte W.H. Brown of B. Coy. told me that some men had told him that Fisher was killed at Villers Bretonneux. Brown was a great personal friend of Fishers.

Inf:- Pte J.P. Heard No. 3398.  
Australian Conv. Depot.  
Rouelles.

WBB.

*WBB*

*MS*

*Letter returned  
Written Pte Brown 2.7.18. "Kno A 19.6.18" # Q 16.8.18*

Hayre

29th June 1918.

A.I.F. 60.

Fisher R.F. No. 3389.

K-A  
M. 27th April 1918.

I did not know him well, about the 27th April we were at Villers Bretonneux and about 3 a.m. we went over and got about 500 yards. Fisher was wounded about half way up, and was close to me. He had to go on. We got the ground and kept it. The S/Bs thoroughly searched the ground but could not find Fisher. They found his paybook but no sign of the body. They had got in all the wounded by 11 o'clock. The ground was not had and there was no water in the shell holes, so I think that as there was heavy shelling all the time the body must have been knocked to pieces and the paybook blown out of the pocket.

Inf:- Pte T. Heare No. 3430.  
A.I.F. 60. A. H.C.  
H.S. Aberdonian.

OWSO.

J.P.A.

Wf d  
6d  
K-A

60th Battn.  
A.I.F.

FISHER.  
R.S. 7. 3369.

"Missing 27-4-18"

Fisher was in B. Company M.G.S. and came I believe from Port Melbourne. He was in the next dug out to me in the new supports line at left of Villiers Bretonneux while we were holding the line when he was blown to pieces by a shell a portion of his trunk landing in front of me and this I removed to the back of the trench. I cannot say if his remains were buried. I saw the shell burst on him. He was on my right only a few yards distant. It happened about 2 hours after we took the line - about 6 a.m.

Informant:- Wilson G. 2265.  
60th Battn. B. Co.  
Hut 12. WESTHAM.

(Quite reliable I think.)

W.A. Rand.  
London.  
2-7-18.  
J.E.A.

Off.M.

A.I.F. 60th Battrn.

FISHER  
R.T. 3389

"Missing 27/4/18"

Killed in Action 27/4/18.

Previously reported Missing 27/4/18.

Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 1/7/18. I.B. 513.

London  
4/7/18

OFF.M.

60th Battn.  
A.I.F.

✓ FISHER R.T.3389  
✓ Wrigley F. 3168

"Killed in Action 27-4-18"

Re 3389 R.T.Fisher, and 3168 F.Wrigley. I regret to say I am unable to give you any information concerning them. I did not know either of the men and have never heard anyone speaking about them. I will do my best to seek information for you from any of the boys that I come across.

Letter from:- Downward. Sgt.C.Arthur 2143  
60th Battn.  
WEYMOUTH. 4-7-18

London  
8-7-18

N.W.

Off.M.

60th Australian Imperial Force

Fisher, R. Pte. 3289  
/ Draffin, Isaac, Pte. 1911  
A Coy. 3rd Pltn.

KIA  
Fisher & M. April 27, 1918 Dets D & B  
Draffin- D/W April 27/18 Dets D & B

" I was in a ration party for our regiment on April 27th near Villers Bretonneux. Draffin and Fisher were of the same party. We were all caught by machine gun fire. Draffin and Fisher were both shot in the spine, the former being in front of me and Fisher behind. Both were badly wounded and died later. "

Eye Witness - Yes.

Description - Informant cannot give description.

Informant :- Pte. Thos. Burke, 233,  
3rd Pl. A Coy. 60th Aus. Imp Force  
Southwark Military Hospital,  
London, S E

Home address :-  
O/O J. Henderson,  
Middlesex Road,  
Surrey Hills,  
Victoria.

15.7.18.  
J.S.Fowler.

*Job*  
*Ed*  
*KIA*



60th Batt. A. I. F.

B. T. Fisher, 3389

*K in A*  
M. April 27/18.

"I know that the fate of a man called Fisher (60 A.111 L.M.G.) was very confusing. Four S/Bs. declared that they saw him lying in a shell hole wounded, while we were counter attacking to drive the enemy out of the village of Villers Bretonnesux on April 27th. They said they saw him behind the lines. They were carrying other wounded men and could not attend to him then and he was never seen again. They looked for him but could not find him. His cousin Pte Crapper (60. A.111 L.M.G.) would know as much as anyone."

Eye witness no Told by whom Four S/Bs. I cannot  
Description single very dark, late reinforcements  
his first stunt. give their names.

Informant:- Pte. Fred. J. Kendall, 3557  
60 Batt, A.I.F. L.M.G. A Coy. 111 Pl.  
3rd Southern General Hospital  
The Base, Oxford.

*all M  
K-A*

Home address 51, Armadale Street  
Armadale  
Melbourne  
Victoria.

Hilda H. P. Cambridge  
18. 8. 18.

60th Btn.

FISHER, R. T.  
Pte. 3389.

Killed in action 27/4/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a well built man, dark complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "Johnnie". Casualty was in the front line trench at Villier, Bretnoux on a machine gun. An H.F. shell exploded near Casualty a piece entering his head killing him instantly. I was 20 yds. away at the time of his death. He was buried at a small cemetery at Convoy and a cross was erected with his name and number on it. I was an eye-witness."

Informant:- Pte. H. Harris,  
No. 872, 60th Btn.

Private address:-  
164 Inkerman Street,  
Caulfield.

T.C.F.  
16/8/18.

*J. A.*

*M.*

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

60th A.I.F.

FISHER, R.T., 3389.

~~Missing~~ 9 K-A 37-4-17

"I saw Fisher, wounded in foot, in a shell hole, about April 27.18. He wandered away and was not seen again. He did not seem to be badly wounded. This was at Villers-Bretonneux."

Eye-witness:- Yes.

Description:-

Informant:- Pte. G. Moore, 3443,  
60th A.I.F.  
Fairfield Court Hospital,  
Eastbourne.

Home address:- 28, Barwise Street,  
N. Melbourne.

Aug.22.18.  
Ernest Smith

off all  
2d  
K-A

4/19

60th A. I. F.

Fisher, Pte R.T. 3389,

(M. April 27/18)

"I saw Fisher wounded on April 27th last when we were attacking at Villers-Bretonneux. He was carried by stretcher bearers to a shell-hole. We went on; but I was informed by the stretcher bearers afterwards that when they went back for him he could not be found. It was thought he had been caught by a shell. He could not have been taken prisoner. We went forward and held our position. Pte Brown, and in Fisher's Platoon, told me afterwards he had helped to carry him to a shell-hole, but Brown has since been killed."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description: Called him "Nigger", very dark, thick-set, I think he came from near Bendigo.

Informant: Pte Frank A. Fidani, 3388, 60 A.I.F. C.IX,  
Home address: Horton War Hospital, Epsom.  
Ann St,

25th Aug. 1918.  
Waterhouse.

Williamstown, nr. Melbourne.

off db  
gd  
K. A

60th Battalion.  
A.I.F.

FISHER.  
R.T. 3389.

"Killed 27-4-18"

He was of A. Company III Platoon. At Villers Bretonneux on 27th April, about daylight, on misty morning, we were carrying rations to attacking party. I was alongside him when he was hit by machine gun bullet in back near spine. Pte. I.T. Draffin 1911. was hit at the same time. I was bandaging up Draffin, when I was wounded myself, and walked out. Fisher was conscious and crawled away from where he was hit - was groaning. I have since had a letter from Pte Dyall. 4004. A. Company. III Platoon. now in France stating that Fisher died of wounds, he was missing for a few days, but was found by someone who handed in his pay book to Battrn.H.Q. Letter says nothing of burial.

Informant:- Pte.T.W.Burke. 233.

60th Battrn: A. Coy. III Pl.  
HAREFIELD.

A.D.G.  
London.  
26-8-16.

I Have seen above letter.

H.G.

OFF M  
H.A. ed  
S.

C O P Y

Statement made by Ho 233 Pte Burke T.W., 60th Bn:

re No 3389 Pte Fisher R.F., 60th Bn:

Missing 27.4.18.

I am not in a position to say what happened to Pte Fisher, but I have had a letter from my ohum, Pte Cyall B, 4004 "A" Coy, 60th Bn: to say that Fisher died of wounds.

*iff M'wue Ch  
K/A*  
Dated at, Southwark Mty Hospital.

Statement made and signed before me.

*not sent on  
how clear*  
(Sgd) Pte. Burke.

(Sgd) J.H. Crane

Major R.A.M.C.  
Registrar for o/c.

*Recd. 1.5.18*

A. I. F. 60th Bn.

FISHER, R. T. 3389.

WYLIE, J. D. 5793.

✓  
M. April 27/18.  
R. do.

Pte. Chaunay, B. Coy. was next to Fisher at Villers Bretonneux at the time he was hit. It was our second advance to the L. of Villers Bretonneux and we were all taking whatever cover we could as the enemy's barrage was very heavy at the time. A shell killed Fisher outright. I was about 75 yards off at the time. Chaunay told me he was killed. Wylie was killed also in the same stunt, but rather later, when we had dug ourselves in. Both were buried close by. We held the line for 4 days when we were relieved. Both were in A. Coy. There was only one man named Fisher in the Battn.

Reference: D.A. Stark, 1401, 60th Bn.

No. 6 General, Rouen, 6.9.18.

D.M.

W. J. A



A.I.F. 60

FISHER, R.T. 3389.

*K.A.*  
April 27/18.

At 2 a.m. on the ~~xxx~~ morning of April 26 at Villers Bretonneux we were advancing. We missed Fisher later, and search parties were sent out. We found him in a shell hole in No Man's land on the morning of the 27th. He had several bullet wounds in his left side and life was nearly extinct when we found him. He died the next day at the C.C.S. at Abbeville and was buried in the military cemetery at Abbeville, but I have not seen the grave. His home was in Geelong, Victoria. He worked in a butcher's shop. was 5 ft. 7 and dark.

Reference: D.H. Mellings, 3401.  
No. 11 Con. Camp Buchy Nr. Rouen. 10.9.18.

JWA.

*ed*  
*6*  
*Walt*  
*K.A.*

60th Battn.  
A.I.P.

FISHER  
R.T. 3889

"Killed 27-8-18"

At Villers-Bretonneux stunt he was badly wounded and was taken to shell hole and dressed, and they went for S/Bs., but when they got there could not find him. He is supposed to have crawled away and got hit by another shell. I was told this by S/Bs.

Informant. Davis. 3378

Ward 37,

HAREFIELD.

D.P. Dickson  
London  
16-9-18  
H.G.

Off.M.

60th Battn.

Fisher R. T. 3389.

Conway C. L. G. 3365.

K. A. D/W April 27/18 Det D/B.

K. A. M. April 27/18.

Fisher was hit by shell that got the whole gun team at Villiers Bretonneaux in the afternoon. He was known as "Darkie"; from the accounts of the wounded of the gun team there is no doubt in my mind that he was killed. Private John Murphy who was in the gun team might be able to give some information about it.

Conway was killed by a shell in the dugout while asleep at Ville-sur-Ancre in the night. He was well known in the Battn as "Lena" because of his neat appearance; he was given special leave in Blighty for best dressed man on Guard. Private John Murphy was also a Cobber of his and may know more about it.

3472 Pte Quinlivan F. J. 59th (late 60th) Battn.

Dartford 23/10/18.

N. B. P.

J. L.

M.  
Written Murphy  
abt Fisher & Conway  
29.10.18

Havre

Australians. 60.

24th Octr 1918.

Fisher R.T. 3389.

K.A. 27th April 1918.

I did not know him at all. On the 27th April I was at Villers Bretonneux helping with a M.G. We were attacking and about 7 a.m. I saw a man lying in the road. I went over to him, and found that he was badly hit right through the body, and he died while I was dressing him. I took the papers out of his pockets and found that he was called Fisher. Then a heavy shelling started, and I had to leave the body where it was. Afterwards a shell came, and the body was blown all to pieces. I handed over the papers and identity disc to the Intelligence officer, Lieut Gannon.

Inf:- Pte A. Mynott No. 5149.  
A.I.F. 60. H.Q.  
Austra. Conv. Depot.

CWSG.

PP.

Havre.

24th. October. 1918.

60th. Australians.

Fisher, R. T. 3389.

M. K/A April. 27/1918.

Rupert Fisher was my Cousin and came from St. Kilda, Melbourne. The Battalion was at Villers Brettonex and Fisher was hit by a M.G. Bullet through the back. He died where he was hit and was buried at Villers Bretteneux. The man who buried him handed over Fisher's papers to the Orderly Room.

Inf:- Private. A. L. Crapper. 5063.  
60th. Australians. A.  
Havre Hospital.

AOH.

CP.

A.E.P. 60th Battn.

FISHER

R.T. 3589

"Killed in Action 27/4/18."

He was in A. Company 3rd Platoon. I knew him well. He was 5ft. 6ins., dark, and about 20 years of age. At Villers Bretonneux on April 27th 1918 at 6.30 A.M., he was one of a fatigue party of which I was in charge. We were carrying up rations when Fisher was hit with Machine Gun bullets in the back. I saw him fall. Jim O'Brien, 60th Battn., A. Coy, 2nd Platoon, stayed behind to bandage him. That was the last I saw of him. Refer to Jim O'Brien. Fisher was conscious when I last saw him.

Informant:- E.D. Edwards 2537

60th Battn., A. Coy,

3rd Platoon,

A.15.

Dartford. 26.10.18.

W.M.K.  
London  
6.11.18.  
J.E.A.

Note:- Written O'Brien 29.10.18.

M.

A.I.F.  
60th. Battn..

FISHER, 3389.  
Rupert Thomas.

"Killed in Action 27.4.18."

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.  
21.10.19.

M.

2143 Sgt A. Downward

60<sup>th</sup> Inf Bttn

No. 1 Asst. Aux Military Hosp

Harefield

Middlesex,

about

8380 R. T. FISHER

60<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bttn

M 27-4-18

written 26/6/18 AmH.



HERD, NUTT, BAKER & CORBY,

SOLICITORS.

G. AUSTIN BAKER,  
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS.

TELEPHONE N1CENTRAL 170

RECEIVED  
11 OCT 1918  
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

*Prudential Buildings,  
Corporation Street,  
(corner Martineau Street.)  
Birmingham*

8th October 1918.

Dear Mr. Cohen,

MR CROSS.

A few days ago I sent you a report by a man named Martin of the 60th Battalion A.I.F. relating to Private R. F. Fisher 3389 60th Batt. A.I.F. The report was taken in A.I. ward 2/1st Southern General Hospital.

On Sunday Martin told me that he had made a mistake in saying that Fisher lived in Bay Street, Port Melbourne, Australia. Another man of the same name lived there. Except for this Martin says the report is accurate.

Yours faithfully,

Philip Cohen Esq.,  
8, Waterloo Street,  
Birmingham.

*H. R. Seeley  
Philip Cohen Esq.  
107/107/18*

Telephone No.—REGENT 6440.

Telegram—“NATIONALLY. CHARLES”

BRITISH RED CROSS

1-6 LONDON E.C. 4

ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

Enquiry Department for  
Wounded and Missing,

18, CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE, S.W. 1

Dear Madam.

We have received the attached  
letter from one of our searchers

Yr faithfully  
Lucas

p.p. DL

11.10.18.

Secretary

Australian Red Cross

Provisional Secy

LONDON SE



LONDON SE1



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
DECEASED & MISSING  
ENQUIRY BUREAU

WAR BONDS

UNDELIVERABLE  
A.B.P.O.  
RETURN TO SENDER

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

*Mr. John O'Brien*

UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED  
RETURN TO SENDER

*60th Infantry Battalion  
Imperial Force*

*D. C. F.*

*S.W. 1*

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576  
8577  
8578

A

*G.C.*



ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
"THE SECRETARY,"  
WOUNDED AND MISSING  
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —  
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE,

LONDON S.W. 1.

29.10.18

*Letter not to be released*

*Pte Jim O'Brien  
60 Battal  
A.I.F.*

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

*3389 Pte R. J. Fisher 60 Battal A.I.F.*

*Reported killed in action Apr 27.18*

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' cemetery 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.

*permit-*



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
WOUNDED & MISSING  
ENQUIRY BUREAU  
38, GROSVENOR PLACE  
LONDON, S.W. 1.

LONDON S.W. 1  
7 415 14  
30 OCT 1914



UNDELIVERABLE  
A.B.P.O.  
RETURN TO SENDER.

*Mr John B*  
*60 Infantry Battalion*  
*Australian Imperial Force*

UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED  
RETURN TO SENDER

*SW 1*

Tel.: VICTORIA { 8576  
8577  
8578


ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
TO BE ADDRESSED TO

"THE SECRETARY."

WOUNDED AND MISSING

— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

9.C.  A  
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

29.10.18

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

3389 Pte P. T. Fisher - 60 Batta A. I. F. Rept 1 Killed in action 27.4.18  
X 3365 Pte L. G. Conway 60 Batta A. I. F. Rept 2 Killed in action  
June 13/18

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 <sup>them</sup> ~~him~~, but our enquirers wish especially  
to know whether <sup>they</sup> ~~he~~ was buried, if so, whether it was on the  
field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be  
registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short  
description of <sup>their</sup> ~~his~~ personal appearance or any points that  
might help to prove <sup>their</sup> ~~his~~ identity.

In your reply kindly quote names & initials and numbers  
as without these particulars delay and confusion might be  
caused in identifying the soldiers about whom you have  
written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Dextrin

Secretary.

permiss-

Letter not to be re-addressed  
Case Cancelled

3389 R.T. Fisher

60th BATTN

K/A 27-4-18

3168 F. Nigley

60 BATTN

K/A 27-4-18

4-7-18

ack PC  
9/7/18 Austt

Dear Mrs. Deakin

Dear Sir

M

Pt 4

x slip

In reply to your enquiry  
regarding 3389 R.T. Fisher I regret

+ 3168 F. Nigley

to say, I am unable to give  
you any information concerning  
them. I did not know either

of the men or have ever heard  
any one speaking about them.  
I will do my best to seek  
information from

any of the C & B boys that  
I come across.

Yours faithfully  
Sgt. C. H. Deakin  
3143 60th BATTN



2.7.18.  
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

54, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

Pt. W. H. Brown

B Coy. 60th Battalion. C.I.F.  
abroad

Dear Sir,

~~We are making enquiries for a man of your Unit~~

3389 Pt. R.T. Fisher 60th Battalion. C.I.F.  
M. 27. 4. 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 could send us concerning Pt. R.T. Fisher and would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance, or any points that would help us to prove his identity.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

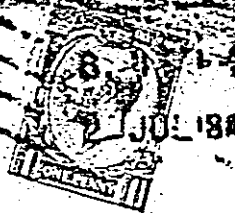
SECRETARY.



LONDON SE

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
WOUNDED & MISSING  
ENQUIRY BUREAU

33  
30 GROSVENOR PLACE  
LONDON, S.W. 1.



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can

~~PT. W. & B. Co.~~

~~B. Co.~~

~~to the Infantry Battalion~~

~~Australian Imperial Force~~

~~Abroad~~  
S.W. 1.

UNDELIVERABLE  
A. B. P. O.  
RETURN TO SENDER

~~Abroad~~

3389

R.T. Fisher