

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

1930 Private
William Charles
Hammond

25th Battalion



12509011

25th Battalion A.I.F.
B. Co.

HAMMOND W.C. 1930

Missing July, 1916.

Kia 29-7-16

I knew Hammond -- his initial was W. , and his name William. He and I were in No. 6 Platoon of B. Company together -- I knew his number was about 1930.

He was about 5 ft. 6 or 7 inches, dark, and very slim built, and enlisted in Queensland. His mother, whom I met at Rose Hall, when I came off the "Karoola" lives in Sydney. He was at the front before I was.

I saw him last on 28.7.16.-- the first time the second Division went into Pozieres-- 2 days after we went up to Pozieres.-- I remember the date. I saw him at about 11.45 p.m., just before the charge-- he was about 4th man away from me. Later on he said "I'm hit and fell". I never saw him again-- he fell as though killed outright. This was just beyond Pozieres but before getting to the Windmill. We retired back the next morning to Sausage Gully, but the Germans, to my knowledge, did not come over the spot where I saw Hammond fall. It was dark at the time but I recognised his voice as he had just said "Come on Nugget, move a bit further".

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I spoke several times to him after he fell, and called to him to come on, but he did not reply. I feel quite satisfied that he was killed -- he could not be a prisoner. Corporal Pearce, who was next to me at the time said "Bill is knocked--he is killed". Corporal Pearce was killed just afterwards.

I did not like to tell Mrs. Hammond all I know, and wish this to be passed on to her.

Informant:-- M.J. PRESTON, 2930
25th Battalion, B. Co., 6th Platoon,
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

A careful witness.

H.S.O.
12.6.17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

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

W.C. HAMMOND
1930

"MISSING"

Killed in action 29-7-16 - previously reported Missing
Cert, by A.I.F.H. rs 8-8-17.

London
9-8-17

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A.I.F. B. Coy/25th Btn

HAMMOND
William Charles 1930

"X/A. 29-7-16"

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

London
17-10-19

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