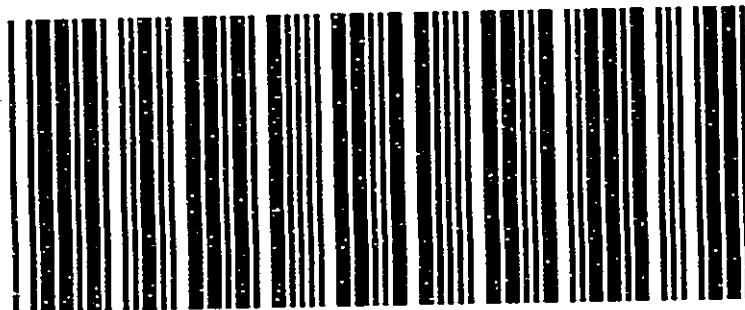


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**3061 Private
Peter Ferguson**

55th Battalion



1050602E

A.I.F. 55th Battn.

FRANC E

FERGUSON.
Pte. Peter 3061

Missing - 20-7-16

"I have been making inquiries about your Son, and am informed that he was wounded by a bomb when on the right flank of the enemy's front line. He was last seen on the 19/20th July. The official news has been received that about 60 members of his Battalion are now Prisoners in Germany, and I sincerely trust that he is one of the number.

Word has been received from a number of prisoners Australians who were taken prisoners that night, and all seemed very comfortable, and state they are being well looked after.

From what I can gather, your Son was a general favourite and he is very much missed amongst his many friends.

Hoping that he has been spared to return to you after the War.

Ref. G. Douglas Smith,
On Active Service.
3-9-16

R.P.I.

London
3-10-16

55th Australians.

Fergusson, P. 3061

(M & ~~no~~ff. ~~at~~, 20th, July, 1916)

Informant states that "I was told by Pte. Baldwin, B. Coy, some time in August, that Pte. Fergusson had been killed at Fromelles on July 20th. We took a German trench and held it during the night of the 19th, and lost it again on the morning of the 20th. Pte. Fergusson was attached to B. Coy. V platoon."

Reference; L/Cpl. John Charters, 3264
55th Aus. B VI
3rd Southern Gen. Hospital.
Town Hall,
Oxford.

Home address; 261, Glebe Point Rd.
Glebe,
Sydney.

9th Nov. 1916
Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge.

*Written
Walter Baldwin 22.11.16*

*J.H.M.
P.I.*

65th. Batt
A.I.F.

FERGUSON
Pte. Peter 3061

"Missing 20-7-16"

Witness states:-

"I knew him very well, being in the same ~~Prisoner~~ Camp as he, in Australia, also was an intimate friend of his when we came abroad. We were together right to the 19th. of July that being the last time I saw him.

From enquiries made he was last seen in the German trenches, which we were holding at the time. He was severely wounded by a bomb in the small of his back and it was doubtful whether he would recover, and having to evacuate the trenches suddenly, he could not be brought back. He was not reported in any list we received from Germany, either as a prisoner or as killed.

Personally I think he must have died from wounds, for he was in a critical state when last seen. He was much liked by his mates and met his fate like a game soldier.

Re his description, he was 5 ft. 6 ins or 7 ins., in height, dark hair, rather fresh complexion, and I think he was 32 years of age. He came from the Old Country and was an employee of Mark Foys, draper & Merchant, while in Sydney."

Reference:- Pte. F.B. BALDWIN
France. 22-12-16

P.I.

London
5-1-17

A.I.P. 55.

FERGUSON, P. 3061

~~M. Knoff-W.~~ July 20th. 1916.

Ferguson was in No. 5 platoon, I knew him well. He was in my reinforcement. On the 20th July at Fromelles, he was in a bombing party during an attack. I was also in the party. It was just daylight. We got to the German lines and a bomb dropped behind Ferguson who was very badly wounded. We took him along the trench to try and find stretcher bearers. We were ordered to leave him and to carry on. Later on we evacuated that part of the line and so far as I know Ferguson was not heard of again.

Informant: Pte F.H. Bird. 3211. B.VI.
No. 8 Stat.

BOULOGNE. 21.5.17.

*off Mr
P. 1*

RHL

55th Batt.
A.I.F.

Ferguson,
Peter. 3061.

"Missing 20.7.16"

Killed in Action 20.7.16 - Previously reported Missing.

Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters, 18.8.17

London

3.8.17

Off M & P.I.

A.K.F.
55th Bn.
late 17th Bn.

FERGUSON
Peter 2061

Killed in Action 20.7.16.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London
21.10.19.

Off.M. & P.I.

48, Cartha Street,
L a n g s i d e,
GLASGOW, 11th August, 1916.

The British Red Cross & Order of St. John's Society,
Enquiry Department,
18, Carlton House Terrace,
L o n d o n. S.W.

ack
Dear Sirs,

I would be grateful if you could kindly give
my any information regarding my brother, Peter Ferguson,
3061, 55th Batt. Australian Imperial Forces, whom I have
heard is reported wounded and missing. This information
I received in a letter of 31st July from a friend of his
in the same battalion. The last direct word we had from
my brother was postdated 26th July.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am, Dear Sirs,
Yours faithfully,

R M Ferguson

8868.

August 18th 1916.

R.H. Ferguson, Esq.,
43, Cartta Street
Langside, GLASGOW.

Dear Sir,

We regret to have to tell you that 3061 Private Peter Ferguson of 55th Battalion A.I.F., is officially reported missing on 20th July. We have so far nothing more to tell you but will do all we can to try and trace him and so relieve your anxiety.

Yours faithfully

W. F. J.

Secretary.

43, Cartha Street, *Langside*
G l a s g o w,
22nd August, 1916

The Secretary,
Australian Branch B.R.C.S.,
54, Victoria Street,
L o n d o n. S.W.

Dear Madam,

I am in receipt of your letter of 18th inst.
regarding 3061 Private Peter Ferguson, and beg to thank
you for your courtesy in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

R.M. Ferguson

3/9/16

On Active Service

Dear Mr. Ferguson, M 20. 7. 16.

I have been making enquiries about your son, and am informed that he was wounded by a bomb, thrown in the immediate vicinity of the enemy front line; He was last seen on the night of the 19/20th July. The official news has been received that about 60 members of his Battalion are now held in the German hands, and I sincerely trust that he is one of the number. I have been advised from a number of trustworthy sources who were taken prisoner that night, and all accounts agreeable, and state that a search will be made for him.

I am sure that your son was a good soldier, and he is very much missed amongst his own people.

Hoping that he has been spared to return to you after the

War.

Yours sincerely,

St. John the Baptist.

PI

2.

3061

pl

Peter Ferguson

55 BT

RECEIVED
22 SEP 1916
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

3 Lawrence Place,
Dowanhill, Glasgow,
Wednesday - 19 - 9 - 16 -

Dear Miss Smith,
We have had word that my son Private Peter
Ferguson, (No 3061.) "Australian Imperial Force," France, was posted
in the post as missing on the 24th July last and I wrote to the War
Office, but have had no reply, so would feel very much obliged if you
could be able to find out any information regarding him. The inform-
ation we have received is that he was wounded by a bomb in contact-
ing a trench over "No Man's Land" and laid upon a stretcher but
that no one had been given for the party to remove, so he was left.
There has been some information to the effect that about 60 of the same
Battalion were taken prisoner, so I would like to know if you
could gather information in regard to this case.

Thanking you in advance,
Yours very sincerely,
Peter F. Ferguson.

8858

26th Septr., 1916.

Mr. Peter Ferguson,
3, Laurence Place,
Dowanhill,
Glasgow.

Dear Sir,

We should be much obliged if you would let us know the number of your son's battalion, as it will be easier to trace him. So far, we have no ^{3061 Peter} ~~note~~ ^{note} Ferguson on our Prisoners' Lists, but it is quite possible it may come through later. We will, at once, write to you when we hear any news about him, as we realise how great must be your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

3 Lawrence Place,
Dowanhill, Glasgow,
28th September 1916.

"The Secretary"

Dear Sir,

Thanks very much for your communication
No 6th and for the sympathy which you expressed. My son (Chris
Peter Ferguson) whose number (3061), was in the 55th Battalion of
the Australian Imperial Force, and was posted missing on the 28th
July last. I enclose copy of a note received from Captain Smith,
of the 5th Division of the same Force, who made some inquiries re-
garding him, and which perhaps might help your Society in further
inquiry information about him. Again thanking you for the
trouble you have taken,

I am,

Yours very much obliged,
Peter Ferguson.

Nov: 23rd

Pte. Baldwin,
B. Company,
55 Battalion,
A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Pte. Baldwin,

We are making enquiries for a man of your Company
3061 Pte. P. Ferguson, B. Company, 5th Platoon, 55th Battalion,
A.I.F., reported ~~missing~~ 20-7-16; and have been told that you may
be able to help us by giving ~~us~~ some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could
send us concerning Pte. Ferguson; and would also be glad if you
could add a short personal description in order that we may satis-
fy his relatives that no error has been made.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.
Sh.

Nov. 25th.

R.M. FERGUSON ESQ.
43, CARTHA STREET
LANGSIDE,
GLASGOW.

Dear Sir,

We regret to say that we have received an unofficial report from
3261 W/CL. JOHN CHARTERS 55th. Bata. A.I.F. about your brother
3061 Pte Peter FERGUSON 55th Bta A.I.F. He says that he was told
by Pte BALDWIN B.Coy, 55th. Bata, sometime in August, that Pte. FER-
GUSON had been killed at Fromelles on July 20th. The battalion
took a German trench and held it during the night of July 19th and
they lost it again during the morning of the 20th. We have written
to Pte. BALDWIN in the hope that he may send us fuller particulars
and we shall send on to you at once his answer.

We are very sorry to have to send you this sad report and are doing
our best to obtain further information.

((With /

With very deep sympathy in your loss,

Yours faithfully,

V.B.

Secretary

L.A.W.

Recd
Dec. 1. 1917

France

Dec 22nd 16

M.M.

Dear Sir In reference to your enquiry
re C. P. Ferguson No 3061 55th BAT
I knew him very well being in the same
camp as him in Australia also an intimate
friend of his when we came abroad. We
were together right to the 19th of July that
being the last time I saw him. Your
enquiries made he was last seen in German
trenches which we were holding at the
time. He was severely wounded by a bomb
in the "Small of the back" and it was doubt-
ful whether he would recover and having
to evacuate the trenches suddenly he
could not be brought back. He was not re-
ported in any list we received from Germany
either as a prisoner or killed. Personally I
think he must have died from wounds
for he was in a critical state when last

Saw. He was much liked by his mates
and met his fate like a game Soldier
Re his description he was 5ft 6in or
7in tall, hair, rather fresh complexion
and I think he was 32 years of age. He
came from the old country and was
an employee of Mack Toys, Dealer
& Merchant & white in Sydney. Hoping
this explanation will be Satisfactory

I remain

Yours Sincerely

Cite. A. B. Paterson

3061
M 20.7.16
Plc. Peter Ferguson.
55 Batt.
P.I. of M
5

43, Sartha Street,
Langside,
GLASGOW.

6th December, 1916.

The Secretary,
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Australian Branch B.R.C.S.
54, Victoria Street,
London S.W.

Dear Madam,

Your very kind and sympathetic letter of November 25 duly to hand, and regret that owing to being out of town have been unable to acknowledge same ere this.

I much appreciate all you are doing in endeavouring to procure news of my brother 3061, Private Peter Ferguson, 55th Battalion, A.I.F. and will be glad to have any further information you may obtain.

Yours faithfully,

R.M. Ferguson

3rd January 1917.

Pte H. B. Baldwin,
55th Aust. Inf. Batta:
B. K. F.

Dear Pte Baldwin.

Very many thanks for your letter of December 22nd,
in answer to our enquiry for -

3061 Pte Peter Ferguson, 55th Batta, A.I.F.

the information you have sent us will be of great assistance
to us in our work.

With best wishes for luck in the New Year,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

VD.

Lu

8th. June, 1917.

R.M. Ferguson Esq,
45, Cartha Street,
Langside,
Glasgow.

Dear Sir,

We have received an unofficial report about your brother :

No. 3061 Pte. P. FERGUSON, 55th. Battn., A.I.F
which we regret confirms our worst fears as to his fate.

Informant - No. 32411 Pte. P.H. Bird, of the same Battn.
when in Hospital in France states that your brother was/a bombing
party at daylight on July 20th. 1916 during an attack at Fromelles-
When they reached the German lines he was badly wounded by a bomb
they carried him along the trench in the hope of finding stretcher
bearers. They were, however, ordered to leave the trench and to
carry on. Later they were forced to evacuate that part of the
line and he knows nothing further as to your brother's fate. When
they left him he was seriously wounded.

We are afraid that he must have succumbed to his wounds
as so long a time has elapsed during which no news of him has been
received.

We are, however, making every effort to obtain further information which we shall forward to you as soon as we receive it, as we fully appreciate your anxiety for definite news.

Yours faithfully

MS

Secretary.

d. J. W.

43, Cartha Street,
Langside,

GLASGOW, 12th June, 1917

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
LONDON. S.W. 1.

Dear Madam,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter
of the 8th inst. regarding my brother Private P. Ferguson,
No. 3061, 55th Battn. A.I.F., for which I thank you.

I note that you will advise me of any further
information you receive.

Yours sincerely,

R M Ferguson

A.I.F.
55th Battn

FERGUSON,
Pater. 5061

"Missing 20.7.16."

Killed in Action. 20.7.16. previously reported Missing
Cert. A.I.F. Headquarters: 12.8.17.

Off. H. P.I

London.
22.8.17.

*Yours Cancel Draft to
P M Ferguson Esq.*

23.8.17.

*Lanquide.
Glasgow.*

*our copy
P.P. letter
out-*