

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

**2386 Lance Corporal
William Hartley**

17th Battalion



1290202G

Job
FM 1637

Somewhere in France
March 5th 1917

The Secretary,

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

In reference of your enquiry as to whether I can
give you any information regarding the death of W. Hartley
accidentally killed on 7/11/16.

Hartley & myself were returning with many others from
a Signal School & just nearing the end of our journey
when the accident happened. We were all riding on a motor
train in the forward area & the track was very rough. Most
of us were riding up on the load & myself being well back.
While several were sitting round the door of the truck it was
only open on one side. There seemed to be a splat & Hartley
was thrown out. Two others were also thrown but were
pulled ~~in~~ back. Just at the place of accident the train
ran on a small cutting the train just clearing the bank.
I did not see him fall & he must have been spinned across
the bank & then thrown under the wheels. I did not
see the body but several of our party ~~some~~ saw it.

mangled body came out from under the train
as they were riding on the last track & it was
an open one. From what I heard from a
Police man he was buried in a Soldiers Cemetery
just outside of St. Louis. But I have not seen his
grave.

⓪ Hoping this information will be all that is
required.

Yours faithfully
Sig. B. B. Hall

HP Signaller

(176)

2386. W. HARTLEY

of Baltimore AIF

⓪ Acc killed 7.11.16

Sn

Oct 3.17
27-2-16

France

27-2-16

The Secretaries

Australian Branch B.R.C.S

With regard to your letter dated 12th inst. making inquiry after No 2386 Pte Hartley of the 17th Bⁿ A.I.F. reported accidentally killed, 7.11.16. This man was run over by a train at Albert & killed. I am sorry I cannot give the location of his grave, but know it was in the vicinity of Albert.

Pte Hartley was well known by me personally & during the fighting at Pozieres in July & August of 1916, he rendered invaluable work as a company Signaller. He was always a most reliable man. Keen, quiet, ready at any moment for work, made him one of my best men.

He was of medium height, thin, rather pointed features, fair skin.

Yours faithfully, BEIERS

Wm. Beiers, Major

New. 17th Bⁿ

2386 / ^{PTO} HARTLEY

17 Batt. A.I.F.

ac. K. 7. 11. 16

S₂

A.I.F. 17th Battn.

HARTLEY

W.

2386

"ACCIDENT KILLED" 7. 11. 16.

Regarding the death of 2386 W. Hartley accidentally killed on 7/11/16
Hartley and myself were returning with many others from
the Signal School, and just nearing the end of our journey
when the accident happened. We were all riding on a ration train
in the forward area and the track was very rough. Most of us were
riding upon the load, I myself being well back while several were
sitting round the door of the truck it was only open one side.
There seemed to be a jolt and Hartley was thrown out and two others
were also thrown but were pulled back. Just at the place of accident
the train ran on a small cutting, the train just clearing the bank,
I did not see him fall and he must have been jammed against the bank
and then thrown under the wheels. I did not see the body, but several
of our party saw the mangled body come out from under the train
as they were riding on the last truck and it being an open one
From what I heard from a Military Policeman he was buried in a
Soldier's Cemetery just outside Albert, but I have not seen his grave.

Cert. by letter from C. R. Hill
H. J. Signaller.

London.

22/3/17

5. 3. 17.

S.

17th Batt.
A.I.F.,

HARTLEY
2386

"K. on Railway, Nov. 7/16"

Was called Bill. Going through Albert several went to the window and some to the platform when train suddenly started Hartley was thrown out and cut to pieces. If you write to Sig. Clem Hill, Headquarters Signallers, 17th Batt. A.I.F., France, he will give you all details as he witnessed accident.

Reference:- F.H. Sendall, 1295
17th Batt. A.I.F.,
Dartford Hospital,
18.2.17.

Note: Written Sig. Clem Hill. 20.2.17.

London
21.2.17.
F.E.B.

S..

17th Batt.
A.I.F.,

HARTLEY
Pte 2386

"Acc. Killed 7.11.16"

This man was run over by a train at Albert and killed. I am sorry I cannot give the location of his grave, but know it was in the vicinity of Albert. Pte Hartley was well known by me personally and during the fighting at Pozieres in July and August of 1916, he rendered invaluable work as a company signaller. He was always a most reliable man. Keen, quiet, ready at any moment for work, made him one of my best men. He was of medium height, thin, rather pointed features, and clear skin.

Cert. by letter from Major H.M.Beiers,
Now 19th Batt. A.I.F.,
France.
27.2.16.

I London
13.3.17.

S.

17th Battn.,
A.I.F.

HARTLEY,
2386.

"Acc. Killed on 7-11-16."

Accidentally killed on Railway on 7-11-16.
Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters on 2-2-17.

S.

London,
7-2-17.

10th March, 1916.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter of
27th Feby. in answer to our enquiries for -

No.2386 Pte. HARTLEY 17th Battalion A.I.F.
and " 1728 T/Sgt. J. MEEHAN 17th Battn. -"

The information you have sent will be of great
assistance and we know that the relatives of Pte. Hartley will
greatly appreciate your words of commendation.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Major Beiers,
19th Aust. Inf. Battn.,
B. E. F.

SECRETARY.

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