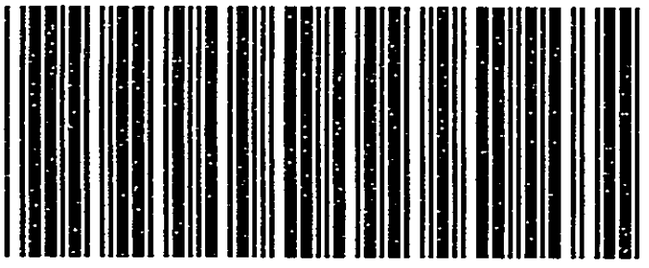
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

4742 Private Bernard Frewin McConville

25th Battalion



1890910S

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

McCONVILLE
Bernard Francis 4742

"MISSING"

Killed in action 14-11-16 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 8-8-17.

B & S.

London
10-8-17

25th Australian Imperial Force. Mc Conville, B.F., 4742,

M. Nov. 14th. 1916.

"I fear there is no doubt whatever that Mc Conville was killed on Nov. 14th. 1916 in the attack we made on Gird Trench to the left of the Flers. We went over at 7 a.m. it was unsuccessful and we withdrew. We never got near enough to the enemy to have any prisoners taken. Any man not accounted for that day must have been killed. He must lie on No Mans Land.

Informant:-- Lieut. A.I.Everett,
25th Australian Imperial Force,
1, Moreton Gardens Hospital, S.W.

Home address:-- 97, Gordon Rd.,
Fareham, Hants.

17th jan.
M.Busford-Harcock.

France.

A. I. F. 25 MACONVILLE, B.F. 4742.

W/Nov. 24th.1916.

Pte. E.Reills of C.Coy, now up the line, told me he saw him last Nov. wounded, and offered to help him in, but MacConville said "No, you get in yourself, Teddy, I'm done".

Reference: Cpl. W.Peters, 2190, Battn.L.G., L .Gun School.

Etaples,
23.2.17.
PHE.

Written Pte Baillie 3.3.17

C. of B.

25th A. I. F. McConville, Pte B.F. 4742,

(M. Nov. 14th) 16.

"I was told by Pte O.C. Turner of 25th Batt. (who was in this Hospital a short time ago and went to a Convalescent Home at Dartford in January) that he had been told by some of the fellows that they had seen McConville badly wounded in the stomach lying in No Man's Land."

Eye-witness: No, told by O.C. Turner of 25, B. see above

Description:

Informant: Pte John O'Leary, 4747,
25th A.I.F. C. Coy, XII Plat.,
Dudley Road Hospital,
Birmingham.

Home address:
2, Victoria St,
Cairns, Queensland.

5th March 1917.
Chas. Parkhouse.

2 & B

Written Pte Turner 9.3.17

25th A. I. F. McConville, B.F. 4742

(M. Nov. 14th/16)

Informant states that on the date named McConville who was called Barney was wounded by a machine gun bullet in the chest or stomach and he died in a shell hole. J.W. Simes, who was wounded at the same time, lay in the same shell hole. Simes has now returned to his Battalion (25 A.I.F.) and was seen by Informant on Feb 14th.

Eye-witness: No, see above

Description:

Informant: G.N. Fogarty, 4701,
25 A.I.F. A. Coy,
2nd Birmingham War Hospital,
Hollymoor.

B

4th March 1917.
H. Norman.

Written Pte Sutcliffe 16.3.17

A.I.F. 25th. Battn. / MC.CONVILLE
B.F. 4742.

MISSING 14.11.16

Received you letter from Pte.E.E.Bailis and I think I can give good information concerning B.F.Mc.Conville 12 Reinf. 25th. Battalion. Height 5'4" in weight 11 stone, a little bit dark in complexion, Dark Hair, and a Scar about 1 inch long on top and in centre of Forehead. He was Knock-Kneed a little. On Nov.14th. we were together going over in the charge, I was the first to get hit, I took to a shell hole and he came with me, we had only just got in the hole when a shell burst close by and wounded Mc.Conville and myself again. We were bombed out of that hole and getting back a few yards to another hole, a German Machine Gun opened out on us, it was then that Pte. Mc.Conville got seriously wounded, he was hit in six places, two bullets through the small of the back and the rest in the legs. We done all we could and getting on to dark, he was in a very weak condition. I stopped with him till it got dark enough for us to crawl to our own trench I asked him for his belonging but as he was suffering very badly he said they were alright, so I did not like to take them from him. But I am sure, the state he was in when I left him he would not last long. When I got to your trench I told Stretcher Bearers about him and they said they would try and find him, but they could not have found him. I have great pleasure in ginving you this information. As I have

tried hard to get his home address. We were mates together till we parted that night.

Cert. by letter Pte. W.J.Simes. 4679.
France.
17.3.17.

LONDON.
3.4.17.

S.
B.

25th A. I. F. McConville, B.F. 4742,

(H. Nov. 14/16)

Informant states that "On November 14th in the morning at Flers, McConville was very badly wounded during a charge. One of his mates Symes was also wounded and they were lying close together until night, when Symes tried to help McConville back, but found it impossible. McConville begged him to go on alone, which after some time Symes did, and found the stretcher bearers and sent them to look for McConville, but they were unable to find him."

Eye-witness: No, Symes wrote to White telling him about it.

Description:

Informant: F.A. White, 4782,
25th A. I. F.,
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

Home address:
F.A. White,
Petrie,
Brisbane, Queensland.

Bd D/W Bd C S B

4th April 1917.
Ivy Garrard.

25th Batt.
A.I.F.,

Mc CONVILLE
B.F. 4742

"Missing Nov.14th"

Full information can be obtained from D.Boyes B.Coy, 12th reinf. 25th Batt. France - who stated that he saw McConville dying in No Man's Land. Boyes No. would be something between 4670-4680.

Reference:- 4747 J. O'Leary
25th Batt. A.I.F.,
Dartford,
2.4.17.

Note:- Written D.Boyes 11.4.17.

London
12.4.17
T.G.J..

S.

25th Battn.
A. I. F.

McConville.
B. F. 4742.

"Missing 14.11.16."

Pte. 4742 B. F. McConville was badly wounded on the 14th Nov. with me and I think there was very little hopes of him ever coming through alive. Poor fellow was badly wounded through the stomach by machine gun bullets and a couple of mates that were with him all day long said he was just about finished when they came in at night, but they could not get him in as they were badly wounded themselves. Of course the unexpected happens sometimes, but I fear poor Barny is beyond recall. He was a chap about 5'7 or 8", and I think was inclined to be slightly cross-eyed, he was what the boys call knock-kneed. This will be the same lad that you inquire for as it is one of our members of our reinforcements.

Letter from:-
Pte. David Boyes. 4664.
Tidworth Barracks.
16.6.17.

London.
29.6.17.

S.
B.

25th Btn.

McCONVILLE, B.F.
Pte. No. 4742

Killed in action 14/11/16

"Casualty was well known to me. He was killed at Fleurs on the 14th November, 1917, according to J.F. Sims, now with the unit in France. Apply to him for further details."

Informant:- Sgt. A.G.Howard,
No. 4712, 25th Btn.

Private address
Jeannie Street,
Mt. Morgan,
Queensland.

D. of B. P.1.

H.A.B.
11/9/17.

Ld. B.D/W

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU–MELBOURNE.

Not sent P.1.

Pte E. Baillie

C Co 25th Btn A.I.F.

B. E. 7

EGYPTIAN

for 4742 A. B. 7. McConville

25th Btn

M. 14.11.17

S-3. 1

Ward B.19
3rd Aust Aux Hospital
Dartford
Kent

Friday

Secy A.R.C. Eng. Bureau

Bel Dgw.

Would

You. Kindly Send me any particulars you have concerning Pte B.T. McConville (47.42) C Company 25th Battalion marked Missing, Since 14th November 1916 As he is a particular friend of mine and should like to Know of his whereabouts

Yours Sct
4712 Sergt A E Howard
20/4/17

15th March. /7.

No. 4742 B. P. McCONVILLE 25th Battalion A.I.F. reported "Missing on 14-11-16".

--- McConville,

Pte. O. C. Turner,
25th Aust. Inf. Battn.,
B. E. F.

Ack F.M. 24. 3.17

RECEIVED
21 MAR 1917

France
17/3/17

Dear Mrs Adams

Received your letter from Pte E. E. Baillie and I think I can give good information concerning B. F. Mr Baillie is Pte 2 E. Platoon. Height 5ft 4 in weight 11 stone little bit dark in complexion, dark eyes, and a scar about one inch long on top and in the centre of forehead. Came Mon. Wounded a little. On 14th we were to attack enemy trench. Mr Baillie first to get shot. I took to a shell hole and he came with me, we had only just got in the hole when a shell burst close by and wounded Mr Bonnelle and myself again, we were bumbled out of that hole and getting over a few yards to another hole, a German Machine gun opened out on us, it was then that Pte B. F. Baillie got seriously wounded, he was hit in three places, one bullet went through the small of the back and the rest in the legs. We done all we could and getting on to stretcher he was in a very weak condition, I stopped with him till it got dark enough to crawl to our own lines, I called him for him encouraging but as he was suffering badly he said Mr we alright, so I did not like to take him off then, but I am sure, he knew he was going to die. I left that he would not last long, when I got to our lines, I told Stretcher Bearers about him and they said they would try and find him, but they could not have found him, I have great pleasure in writing you this information, as I have tried hard to write after wounded, We were mates together in France, parted that night.

Wishing you Best Wishes Yours Faithfully
Pte W. J. Simes 1469

4442 B.F. McCONVILLE 25 Battn

M 14.11.16

SB
RP.

15.4.17

Pte W. J. Simes
25 Aust Inf. Base BRF

Dear Pte Simes

We have just received your letter of 12th March - but to date have not received the one you mention as having been written a week earlier about H7H2 B.4 McConville. Just probably it has gone astray - So if you would kindly mind writing again we would be very grateful -

We have noted your enquiries for your Cousin 4362 Pte C.T. Adams - 25 Battn - & will take it up at once - In the meantime when you write about Pte McConnell would you give us your own number & Company So that our reply may reach you more promptly - With best wishes Yours Fly -

28th March 1917.

No. 4769. Pte. W. J. Simes,
25th Australian Inf. Battalion.
B. E. F.

Dear Pte. Simes,

Very many thanks for your letter of March 7th. in answer to our enquiry for:-

No. 4742. B. F. McConville, 25th Battn. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance.

We have delayed answering your letter until we could obtain the next of kin's address from A.I.F. Head Quarters as you said you had tried to find out his home address. It is

Next of Kin. Brother. James McConville.
Trades Hall.
Goulburn St.
Sydney. N.S.W.

We know how very glad Pte. McConville's relatives will be to hear from you, his best friend.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss you have sustained.

Yours faithfully, V. D.

Secretary.

27th April 1917.

No. 4719. Sgt. A.G. Howard,
Ward D. 19.
3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital.
Dartford.
Kent.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of April 20th. we regret to inform you that all the evidence we have with regard to 4742. Pte. B.F. McConville. 25th Battn. points to his having died of wounds after an attack to the left of Flers on Nov. 14th 1916. He was apparently badly wounded through the back and abodomen and also in the legs; with a friend 4719. Pte. W.J. Sims, of the same Battalion he managed to crawl some way back towards our lines, but Pte. Sims, who was wounded himself, at last went on to send help back to McConville, and since then there has been no trace of him. We give you Pte. Simes number and address in case you should care to write to him, and 4747. Pte. J.O'Leary, 25th Battn. who was at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital on April 2nd. states that Pte. D. Boyes, B. Coy. 25th Battn. could give full information as an eyewitness.

We have written to Boyes, but have had no answer so far, but

you might be able to find O'Leary.

With sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend.

Yours faithfully,

V. Bradin

Secretary.

per Blue W. T.

Rec'd F.M. 25.6.17

4742 B
Pte F. McCONVILLE
25th A.I.F

M 14.11.16

Ludworth Barracks.
16/6/17.

S
B
4

To Secretary W & M. E Bureau.

Dear Miss Seabrin.

I am just in receipt of your letter enquiring about Pte B. F. McConville 4742. The letter was sent by you in April & I have only just received it this morning it is terrible the way they keep the mail backs.

Well with regards Pte 4742 B. F. McConville he was very badly wounded on the 14th Nov with me & I think there was very little hopes of him ever coming through alive Our fellow was badly wounded through the stomach by machine Gun bullets & a couple of notes that were with him all day long said he was just about finished when they came in at night but they could not get him in as they were badly wounded themselves, of course the unexpected happens sometimes but I fear poor Barney is beyond recall, He was a chap about 5ft. 4. or eight. & I think was

inclined to be slightly crossed he was slightly what the boys call knock kneed this will be the same lad as you inquire for as it is one of our numbers of our reinforcement, I will send you my address & if there is anything you wish to ask me concerning him I should be very pleased to forward it to you I am sorry this letter has taken so long in coming to me, but I have been all over the place since I was wounded. Trusting this will help you a little.

I'll remain

Yours sincerely

Pte David Boyes

Pte David Boyes
No 4664
c/o Y. M. C. A.
Candahar.
Tidworth Barracks
Tidworth

June 26th. 1917.

4664 Pte. David Boyes,
25th. Battalion, A.I.F.,
C/O Y.M.C.A.,
Candahar Barracks,
Tidworth,
WILTS.

Dear Pte. Boyes,

Very many thanks for your letter of June 16th. in answer to our enquiry concerning :-

4742 F. MC CONVILLE, 25th. Battn., A.I.F.

We quite understand that delays in delivery of mails are unavoidable when you leave the Battalion through sickness etc. and are very glad to have the information you sent us which will be of great value to our enquirers.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.