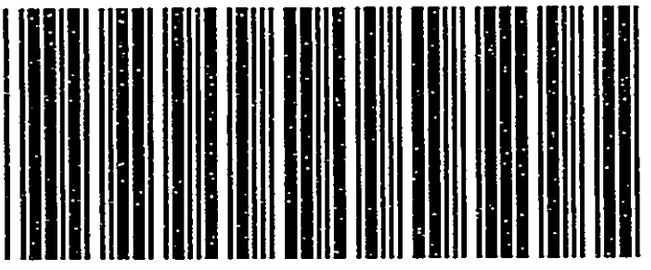
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

7063 Private
James McConnell

21st Battalion



1890907Y

21st Battn.
A.I.F.

McCONNELL
J. 7063

"MISSING 14-4-18"

I am not sure of McConnell's number, but if it is the man I knew, we went out together at Lavieville, 2 kilos from Albert, in a raid about 2 o'clock in the morning. We were only away about half an hour. "Mac" was one of the men who never came back. He was not brought in wounded, and no one can say with certainty what happened to him. The chances are that he was mortally wounded, rather than that he was taken prisoner. This was on the 14-4-18.

Informant. Thompson. Pte.Herbert Albert 5418
(reliable and intelligent),
21st Battn. 5th Pltn.,
Harborne Hall V.A.D.Hpl.,
BIRMINGHAM.

Home address:-
112, Union Street,
Brunswick,
Victoria.

Geo.Bullock
12-9-18
London
8-10-18
J.E.A.

Off.M.

A.I.F. 21st Battn.

McCONNELL
J. 7063.Pte.

"Missing 14/4/18."

In front of Denincourt on the 14th April 1918 at about 1 a.m., (dark) 15 men of our Coy(Including myself, Ptes. McConnell & Pinfold) in charge of Lieut. Libbison (Informant not know how name is spelt) took part in a raid on a German airpost. We got within some 10 yards of the Germans when we had to retire. McConnell & Pinfold were wounded and we had to leave them. Description, 5ft.4ins.high, short, dark hair, about 26 years, clean shaven, joined in most sports, about 18th Reinforcement. An Australian; no scars.

Informant:- Pte. Leslie Trump, 4588 (Moderately reliable.)
21st Battn.
B. Coy, 6, Platoon,
2/1st Southern General Hospital
Dudley Road,
Birmingham.

Home address:-
Carlton,
Victoria, Australia.

Wm. Hodgkinson.
15.10.18.
London
5.11.18.
J.E.A.

Off.M.

A.I.F.21st Battn. McCONNELL -
J.7063 A

"Killed 14/4/18."

He was in B. Company, 5th Platoon. I knew him well. He was 5ft.5ins., medium complexion, thick set and 26 years. To the right of Albert on April 14th 1918, about 4 A.M., we were engaged in a raid over in Fritz's trench. McConnell was wounded with a bullet, but he would not quit and kept firing on the Germans with one of their revolvers, which he had grabbed up in their trench. When we returned after the raid, he was missing. The last I saw of him, he was partly lying down in Fritz's trench firing his revolver. He had always said he would never be taken Prisoner. Refer to Ste. S. Tognolini, 24th Battn. C. Coy, 9th.

Informant:- Sgt. R. Mortimer 425,
C. Coy, 10th Platoon.

W.M.K.
London
14.11.18.
HG.

Off.M.

21st Btn.

McConnell, J.
Pte. No. 7063a

Killed in action. 14-4-18

"On 14th April, 1918 he volunteered for a raid. While carrying out his duty he was wounded and refused to leave the line. Last seen of him he was still going ahead on his hands and knees. Since then we could not find any trace of him. He was very well liked in the 21st Battalion by all. He was one of my gunners and I can tell you I am very sorry to think that he is still missing."

Informant:- Sgt. T.J.Allen, D.C.M.
2957 21st Battalion.

Private address
C/o M.M. Domoschintg,
Drung Drung,
Horsham.

Melbourne,
11.6.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

21st Btn.

McCONNELL, J.
Pte. 7063a.

K. in act. 14/4/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was 5 ft. 6 ins. well built, fair, 27 years of age, known as "Mac". Casualty was out in a raid in front of Albert in enemy trenches when he was hit by a bomb. We had to come back and he was left there. We were relieved by English Troops that night, and I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Cpl. A.F. Lynas,
No. 5873, 21st Btn.

Private address:-
Ooroomook,
via Charlton.

S.Y.P.
5/9/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

21st Battn.
A.I.F.

"Missing 14-4-18" — McCONNELL J. 7063

"Wounded & Missing 14-4-18" — Pinfold W.A. 6085

"Killed 4-10-17" — Urquhart J.A. 6827

The above were in B.Coy. Refer to Cpl.Englis, B.Coy. 21st Battn., now in Hpl., probably in England, for he can give full information, for he was one of party who went out to raid post with the above two men, and went out again with Major McNeil to bring wounded in. I think he can also give information of Urquhart.

Informant. Chanter. Cpl.J.W. 4683
B.Coy. 21st Battn.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W.Oman
London
1-10-18

See Report by Pte C.A. Ingle B.Coy. F.A.

Off.M.

NOTE TO MELBOURNE

21st Battn.
A.I.F.

McCONNELL
Pte.J. 7063

"MISSING 14-4-18"

We have written to 4415 L/Cpl.Patrick John Fay - 21st Battn. A.I.F. about above soldier. The letter has been returned to us marked "Not with 21st Battn.". Hqts. report this man returned to Australia 8-4-18.

London
1-10-18

Off.M.

Havre 25th July 1918.

A.I.F. 21. McConnell J. No. 7063.

M. 14th April 1918.

I knew him from being in the same platoon. He was short, stout, more inclined to be fair, and was a Lewis Gunner. On the 14th April we were on the front of Albert Road. We had just come out of the front line and were in reserve. About 6 p.m. a raiding party of about 12 men, under Lieut Sibbison went out. I saw them start. In the early morning they retired and reported that Lieut Sibbison was killed and 2 men were missing. Sergt Tognolini who is with the Regiment was with the raiding party and possibly might be able to give more information. McConnell was with the raiding party and was one of those who did not return.

Inf:- Cpl A.E.Turner No.1076.
A.I.F. 21. B. V.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

Cwsd. F. A.

Written Tognolini PP.
3.8.18

21 Aus. Infantry. McConnell, Pte. J. 7063
(M. April 14th 1918.).

"We had come out of the line the night before, and were at Battalion Headquarters in front of Albert on April 14th. That night a raiding party, under Lt. Sibbison went out. Those who got back said that they got to the post, but were badly out numbered. Cpl. Now Sergt. Tagnilini, B. Coy. V. Plat. told me that McConnell was wounded, and that he must have been taken prisoner. McConnell belonged to B. Coy. V. Plat."

Eye-witness: No - told by Sgt. Tagnilini, B. Coy. V. Plat.

Description: A milk carter by trade - short, medium build, small fair moustache, medium coloured hair - 26 - 30, married, known as "Mac".

Informant: Pte. John T. Kellock, 410
21 Aus. Infantry,
B. Coy. V. Plat.
5th Southern Gen. Hospital,
Fawcett Road,
Portsmouth.

Home address: 31.7.18
350, Nicholson Street,
Fitzroy,
Melbourne.

29th July, 1918.
Elsie C. Hughes.

Havre

26th August 1918.

Australians. 21.

C

McConnell J. 7063.

M. 14th April 1918.

I just knew him. He was medium height and dark hair, about 20 years old. About the 14th April we were at Hamelle (Albert) holding the line. About midnight about 15 of us went on a raid on one of Fritz posts about 150-300 yards off. We got to the post and I saw McConnell there. We then withdrew but McConnell did not come with us. The next evening another party went out and got all our wounded but could see nothing of McConnell and I think he is a prisoner.

Inf:- Pte C.H.Cassell No. 753 A. Louisville
A.I.F. 21. B. V3
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

C&EC.

PP.

21st A. I. F.

McConnell, Pte J. 7063,
B. Coy, 5 Pltn.

(M. April 14/18)

"Pte J. McConnell went out about midnight on April 14th with an Officer and about a dosen other soldiers to raid an enemy post near Albert. This post was believed to be held by about twenty Germans, but there were four times that number. The Officer, Lieut Sibbison, was killed at the post. Pte McConnell and L/Cpl Fay were wounded going towards the post, the latter turned back but McConnell went on, and we did not see him again. Only two men returned unwounded. It was impossible to bring back the body of Lieut Sibbison."

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: L/Cpl S.C. West, 6401,
21st A.I.F., B.Coy, 5 Pltn,
Edmonton Military Hospital,

Home address: [illegible] London.
16th July/18. Worths Park, Returned to Australia 8.4.18
A. Walters. Melbourne, Australia.
Letter returned - marked - left with Unit - 21st Bn - 10.8.18 Writer Fay 3.8.18

A.I.F. 21. McCONNELL, J. 7063.

M. April 14th 1918.

J.McConnel was in B.VI. and his number was about 7063. He lived at Brunswick, Victoria. He was a short dark man, sharp dark featured, clean shaven and about 26 or 27 and married. I don't know if he had any children. I was told by Pte J. Dunstan, that he and McConnell and Pte Pinfold, were in a shell hole together when they were surrounded by the Germans. Pinfold was wounded. Both Pinfold and McConnell were groaning and were lying on the top of Dunstan in the shell hole. Dunstan stated that the Germans took McConnell and Pinfold prisoners and when another of party of Germans came back for Dunstan they were met by a party of our men and killed by m.g. fire. Dunstan was afterwards brought in by our own people. I believe he is now in hospital in England at St Albans. This occurred on the 14th April at Lavieville.

Inf: Pte J.L.Rowe. 2248. B.A VIII.
No. 1 C.C
BOULOGNE. 12.6.1918 AG L

Letter to Pte Dunstan 26.6.18

Not dealt on

21st Battn. "MISSING 14-4-18" McCONNELL J. 7063
A.I.F.

"Wounded & Missing 14-4-18" Pinfold W.A. 6085

I saw Pinfold and McConnell taken prisoners during a raid opposite Bille sur Ancre, about midnight. Pinfold was hit by a bomb on the legs, and McConnell by M.G. bullet in the body. They were both alive when taken. Sgt.Willmot was in same raid and was hit in several places and we carried him back. McConnell was of medium height, rather fair, came from Brunswick, Victoria. He had a business there. He was in B.Coy. 5th Pltn. Pinfold was short, thick set, very cool man in the same, also B.Coy. 5th Pltn.

Informant. Ingle. Pte.C.A. 6448
21st Battn. B.Coy.,
SUTTON VENY.

H.E.H.
London
26-6-18

Off.M.

Searchers note:-
Above informant gave information succintly, but included Urquhart (whom he called Hec) as having been also carried back with Willmot. If there was another Urquhart in the Coy. who has been wounded ot killed lately, his evidence may be correct but the Urquhart enquired after is reported Killed 4-10-17.

N.W. We wrote re Sgt Willmott 1-7-18. Letter returned "Not Found" H.Q

RE. 2368/54/1.

IGINAL STATEMENT RCHELON.

COPY.

Statement made by No. 5448 Pte INGLE C.A. 2nd Bn. A.I.F.

re No. 7063 Pte McCONNELL J. 21st Bn. A.I.F.
Missing 14.4.18.

14 4 18.

In the night of 14/15 April 1918, the Battalion attempted a raid on an enemy post. I was in the left of the raiding party as a scout and saw No. 7063 Pte McCONNELL J. fall. He knelt up and fired his pistol.

The raiding party made three attempts to rush the post. Pte McCONNELL stood up and rushed forward in the third attempt but five of the enemy jumped out from near one of their machine guns and in the action following Pte McCONNELL was taken in struggling. He had a number of German souveniers on his person, such as post-cards, money, etc.

Dated at Sutton Veny.

(SGD) C.A. INGLE, Pte.

Statement made and signed before me

(SGD) R. DOOLEY. Lieut & Adjt.
No.1 Command Depot. A.I.F.

LAD STATEMENT MORKLON. LN.

COPY.

Statement made by No. 6401. L/Cpl. WEST.S.C. 21st Bn.A.I.F.
re No.7065 Pte McCONNELL.J. 21st Bn.A.I.F.

K.A.
"Mirmar 14.4.18."

About midnight on about 14th April 18, in front of Albert France, 7065 Pte McConnell J. was slightly wounded. He was told to go back but refused & went on. Three of the party died wounds. Out of 12 who went out only 4 came back.

For Rell

Dated at
Monte Video, Weymouth

(Sgd) S.C.West.
Statement made and signed before me
(Sgd) H.C.Pearce Capt
C.C.3rd Company.

Certified true copy
H.C.P.

C 1718

7063

Pte. J. McDonald

21 Bn

See under

C 6085

Pte. H. A. Smith

Lt. W. Hunt
2nd Bn. A.I.F.
absent

A.I.F.
7.6.17
Lt. J. McConnell
2nd Bn. A.I.F.
M.I.A. 4.10.17

1.7.18.
6.1.18.

8C

Yo
Sergt Fagnolini
218 Battn
A.I.F

Admt
7063 Pte J. D. McConnell
V. Realtom B. Co
218 Battn
A.I.F

Missing
Ap. 14/18

Written 3.8.18
MRF.

6/C

To
L/Cpl Fay
21st Battn
a.I.F.

about
7063 Pt J. McConnell
V Platoon B. Co
21st Battn
a.I.F.

M Apl 14./18

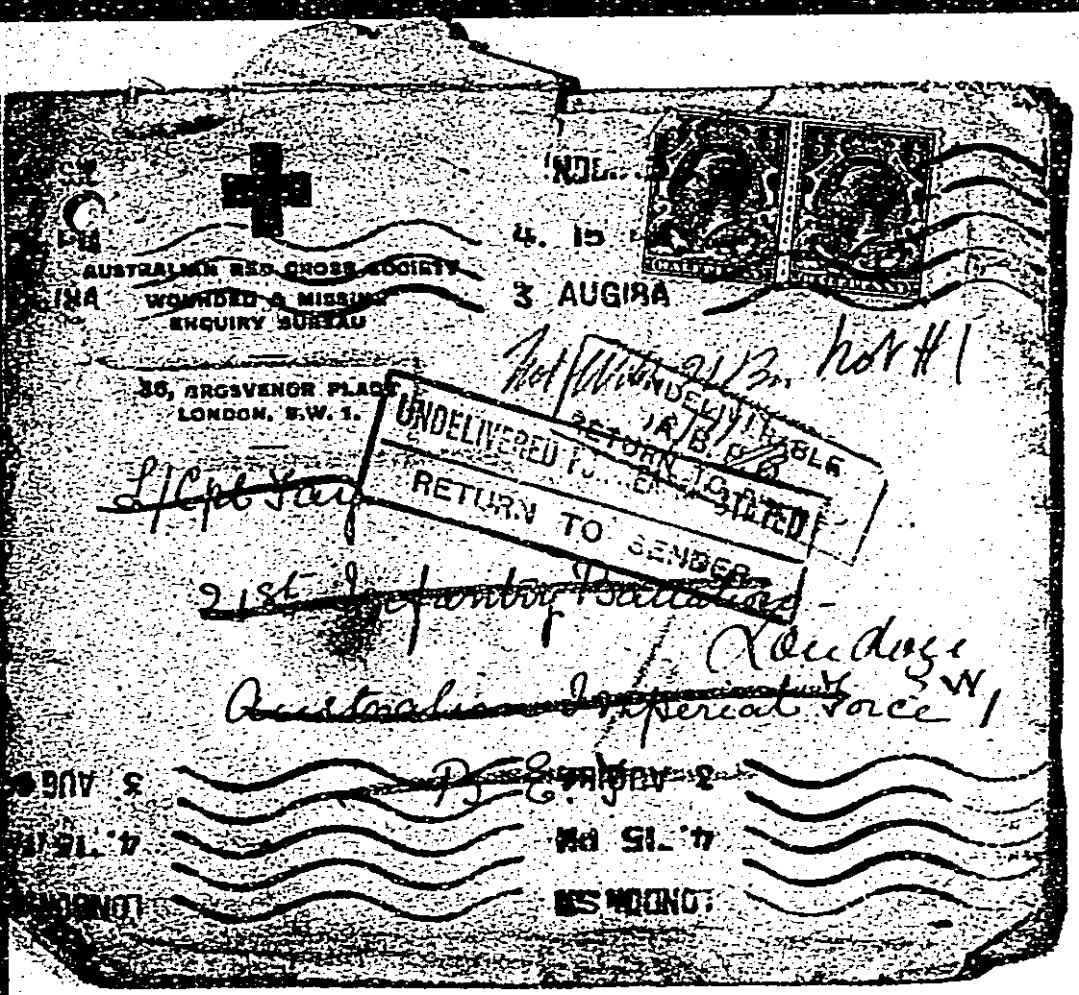
Written 3.8.18
MVF.

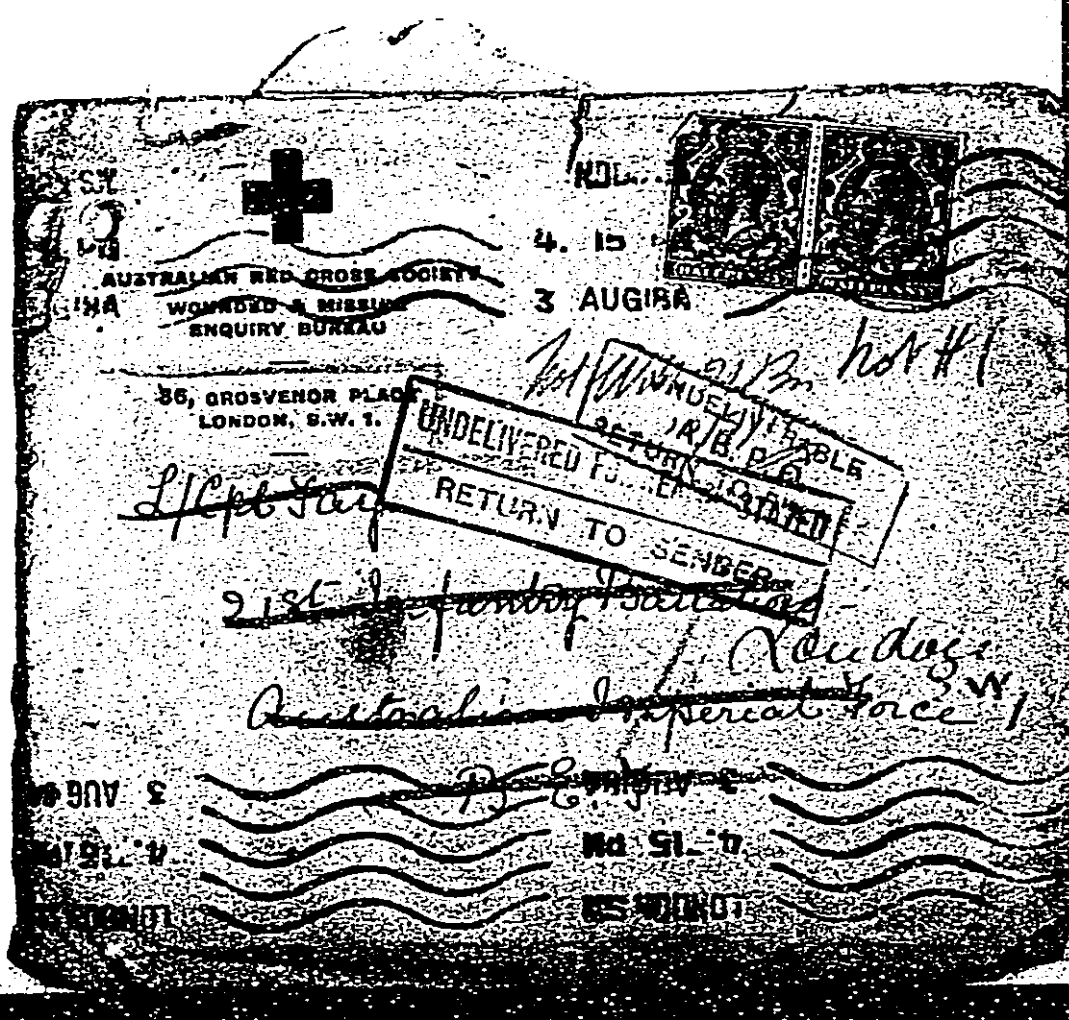
Received 31.10.1944

Lab
L/Cpl Patricia John 21 Dep Battn
Address wanted please
not write until re Request
Dated 6 Aust 8.4.18 for
File under Discharge — 4/0

1063
F McConnell
21st Battn

Repl Sec 18.9.18


AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
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ENQUIRY BUREAU
36, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.
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RETURN TO SENDER
3 AUG

Tel.: VICTORIA {8576 8577 8578

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.

3.8.18

L/Cpl Fay
21st Battn
A.I.F

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit

7063 Pte J. Mc Connell V. Platoon. B. Co 2nd Battn A.I.F.
who is reported Missing Apl 14/18

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 him, 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.

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.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.
per M.D.F.

Pte. J. Dunstane,
21st. Inf. Battalion,
A.I.F., B.E.F.

20th June 1918.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about two men of your battalion, 7062 Pte. J. McConnell and 6085 Pte. W. A. Pinfold both reported Missing 14/4/18, and have been told that you believe they are Prisoners of War in Germany. We would be very glad to know if this is correct or for any particulars, you can give us as to their fate. Their names have not appeared on any lists of our men who are prisoners of war, and as it is now two months since they were reported missing we are most anxious to investigate this report carefully before it reaches the soldiers' relations in Australia.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary. per R.J.

x Slips