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

4841 Private
William Thomas Latta

57th Battalion



1560109M

A.I.F.57th Bttn.

T
LAMTA,
W.T.1841

Killed in Action.4.4.18.

Re-buried Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery.62D. O.17.c.4.3

Plot 11. Row A. Grave 2.

Certby Captain Spedding'S List.30.7.19. Sheet 146

London.
6.8.19.

M.

Havre. 18th. July. 1918.

57th. Australians. Latta, W. T. 4841.

K. April. 26/1918. Date. D/B.

This man came from Victoria, dark, young about 20, medium build. His initials were W.T. He was in A. Company, 2nd. Platoon. After the attack at Villers Brettoneux, Latta was S/Bearing & carrying out of the line Private. C. F. Burus. A shell caught him & killed him right out. He was buried in the chalk pits near the main road running between Villers Brettoneux & Fouilloy. I saw the Cross before it was sent up to the Grave & a photograph of the Grave.

Inf:- Sergeant. F. W. Brown. 2930.
H. S. 'Western Australia'.

WHB.

Written Burns Letter returned marked 25 Y. 18 CP.

57th Battn.
A.I.F.

LATTA
W.T. 4841

"Killed 25-4-18"

Latta was an old schoolmate of mine and in same section. I did not see him killed but was in same stunt and learned particulars which showed that he was killed outright on 25-4-18 by a shell - barrage - just as we had recaptured Villers-Bretonneux, on the left of the village. His body was carried back and buried some way back towards the old chalk pit (our Hqts.) at the rear of Villers-Bretonneux and Crose erected.

Informant. Knight. R. 2215
57th Battn. A.Coy.,
Hut 9,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
24-7-18
H.G.

M.

Havre 23rd. August. 1918.

57th. Australians. Latta. W. T. 4841.

K. April. 26/1916. Dets. D/B.

I know a Latta in A. Coy, medium build, dark, medium height, clean-shaven. I heard he was killed but I saw his Cross being made at Aubigny.

Inf:- G. Stevenson. 3020.
Hospital Ship.

WHB.

CP.

Havre 26th August 1918.

Australians. 57. Latta W.T. No. 4841.

K. 26th April 1916. Det D/B.

I knew him well. He was in the same section. He came from Victoria. He was about 23, medium build, and dark. About the 26th April we were at Villers Bretonneux holding the line. In the early morning we attacked and got our objective. Latta and I were sent back for more ammunition. While on this he saw a S/B with a man and he went to lend a hand when he was hit by a piece of shell and badly wounded about the body. He died right away and the body was taken away about 2 days later and buried in a small cemetery alongside the road running between Villers Bretonneux and Aubigny by the Chalk Quarry.

Inf:- Pte W.J.Cameron No. 3754.
A.I.F. 57. A. II.
Australian Conv. Depot.
Rouelles.

CWSG.

PP.

Havre. 27th. August. 1918.

57th. Australians. Latta, W. T. 4841.

K. April. 26/1918. Date. D/B.

In A. 2. from Victoria, single. He was killed by a shell when goin over the top at Villers Brettoneux during the evening. His body was buried in the open outside the Village & the Grave is marked.

Inf:- Private. W. Smith. 1985.
57th. Australians. A. 2.
Hospital Ship.

RBS.

C.

A.I.F. 57 LATTA, W.T. 4841.

K.April 26/18. Det. D/B.

At Villers Bretonneux on the 26th April Latta was killed by a shell which badly damaged him. We had just finished an attack at the time and were digging in. I did not see him killed. He was buried near Villers Bretonneux. Only twelve were buried there. It is on the main Villers Bretonneux, Corbie Road. I carried him there and helped to bury him. A cross marks the grave. Latta was young and dark.

Reference: R.J.Renfree, 3223. A Co.
No.11 Con.Camp Buchy Nr.Rouen. 4.9.18.

JWA.

57th Btn.
A.I.F.

LATTA
W.T. Pte.
No. 4841

K. in A. 26/4/18.

Lieut. Rupert McFarlane, 57th Btn., on the 2nd May wrote as follows - "Pte. W. T. Latta and Pte. Byrne went from my platoon to join a fatigue party to carry up ammunition. Pte. Byrne was wounded and while carrying him out on a stretcher your son and two of the others were killed by a shell. He and Pte. Thorn, another Shepparton boy, were buried together, not far from where they fell, near Villers-Bretonneux, crosses erected over their graves."

14/10/18

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE

57th Btn.

LATTA, W.T.
Pte. No. 4841

Kld. in act. 26.4.18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man of medium build, 5' 8" in height, medium complexion about 24 years of age. Casualty was in support lines at Villers Bretonneaux. He was going up to the front line and was crossing over an open stretcher of country when an H.E. shell landed close by him killing him instantly. I was not there at the time of his death, but saw his body next day and helped to bury him about 2 kilos from Villers Bretonneaux. There was a cross erected with his name, number and unit on it."

Informant:- J.E. Newton
No. 4556

Private address
Owen Street,
Wangaratta.

H.A.T.
25.4.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

2/C

No. Pte. C. T. Burns

57th Inf. Batt.n

A. I. F.

B. E. F

About

4841. Pte W. T. Latta

II Platoon. A. Co.

57th Inf. Batt.n

A. I. F.

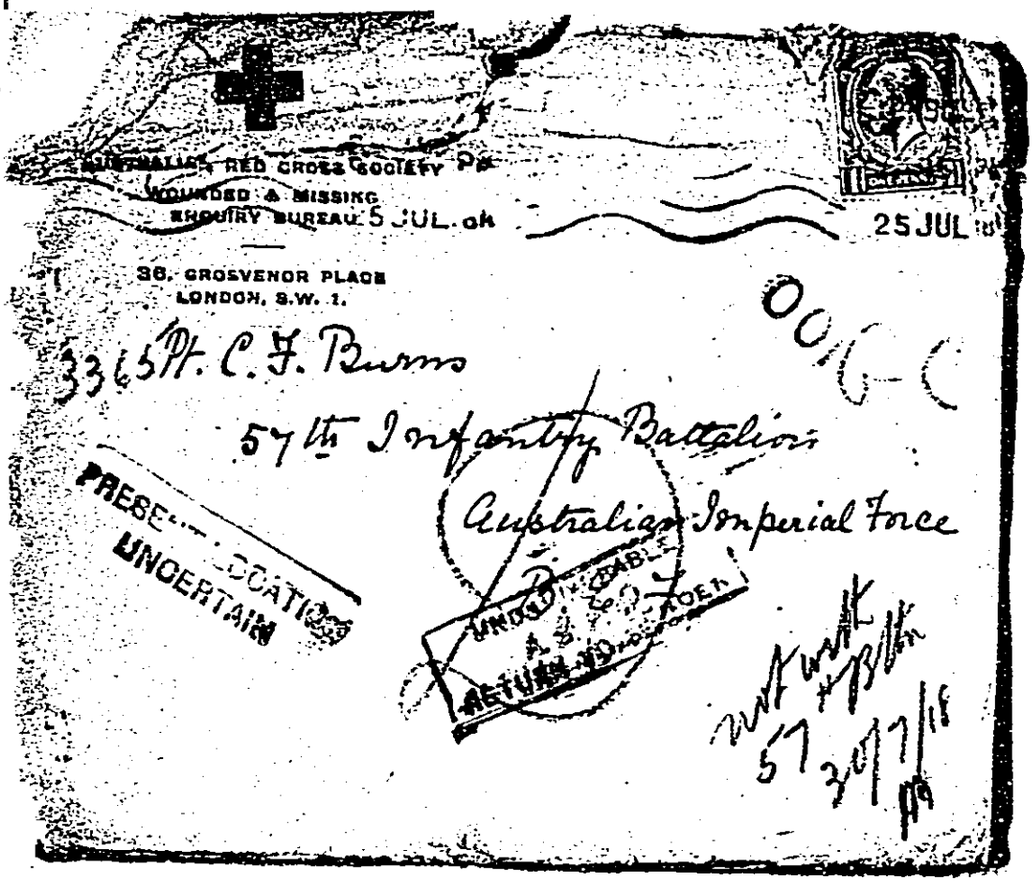
B. E. F

K. 26. 4. 18

T

written

25. 7. 18


AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY P.W.
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU 5 JUL. 18
25 JUL
36, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.
3365 Pt. C. F. Burns
57th Infantry Battalion
Australian Imperial Force
PRESENT LOCATION UNCERTAIN
UNCLAIMED
RETURNED
001-C
57 30/7/18

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY." WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

6 C A.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.
LONDON S.W. 1.

25.9.18

Pte C. F. Burns
57th Inf. Batt.
A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

4841. Pte W. J. Latta - 11 Platoon. A. Co. 57th Inf. Batt. A.I.F.
who is reported Killed 26.4.18.

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 can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cemetery where the grave would be registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help 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.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.
pa M.E.F.