

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

**4153 Private  
William Anthony  
Hookham**

**20th Battalion**



1360907Q

24, Donovan Avenue,  
Muswell Hill, N.

RECEIVED

17 AUG 1916

Aug 16/16

To the Supt  
Australian Red Cross  
21 Victoria St

Dear Madam

(P)

My wife & I called  
yesterday about one of our  
boys 4153 Pte W. A. Hoo Rham  
20th Battalion 5th Infantry Brigade

The young lady we saw  
had kindly promised to  
wire across last night  
as to his condition & to  
locate him if possible.

We have been sorry to  
say that had a letter  
from Sister Alice today  
that he was admitted  
to Hospital on the 8th &  
became unconscious on the  
9th & died on the 10th.

He must be buried in  
Boulogne Cemetery.

He is only one of so many  
thousands who have given  
their lives for a noble  
Cause and altho' we  
are suffering as parents do  
~~for~~ when losing those they  
love, yet we feel proud  
of our Australian boy.  
He left here to seek his fortune

in Australia in May 1914,  
and we had not seen him  
since. He was reported  
<sup>(to be on his way to join)</sup>  
twice, as missing but tried  
a third time and succeeded in  
July 1915.

Thanking so much for your  
kind attention

Yours truly  
W.B. Hookham

20th Battn.  
A.I.F.

Hookham,  
Pte.W. No. 4153

"I am taking the liberty of writing to you to let you know what happened to your son in case you have not heard from him prior to receiving this. Billy and Bert, Allen and myself were coming down beside the sap-trench, back to our quarters, just after being relieved out of the front line, when a shell fell just behind us and wounded Bill in the head. Bert, Allen and I immediately jumped into the sap trench for cover and on looking round, found Bill to be missing. Thereupon Bert got out of the sap just in front of myself to look for Bill when another shell came and Bert was hit badly and fell back into the sap where I caught him. He died in my arms about five minutes after. I then went and procured a stretcher and two bearers who crawled out amidst exploding bombs and cartridges (which were on fire near by) and dragged Bill to safety and dressed his wounds, and sent him down the sap to the dressing station. If Bill's alright now he is a lucky man as he practically fell in among an exploding arsenal when he was hit and every praise is due to the two bearers who risked their lives to bring him in. I am sure he will always remember Bert Allen's unselfishness. Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) Walter H. Elkington."

Letter recd. by Mr. Hookham (father) from W.H. Elkington,  
4106/20th Battn. A.I.F. 2nd Divn. A.I.F., France, dated 11/8/16  
London, 15/8/16. P.I.

8852

Re. Pte. W. A. Hookham  
4153. 20. 20. 20.

August 16th 1916.

W. B. Hookham Esq.,

24, Donovan Avenue,  
Muswell Hill. W.

Dear Sir,

We regret so much to have to send you very bad news from France. Our Rouen office wired us this evening that your son died of wounds in the 19th General Hospital Boulogne on 9th August. We will get all the particulars and confirmation we can for you by 1st letter. May we assure you of our sincerest sympathy.

Yours faithfully.

J. D. per W. F. S.

Secretary.