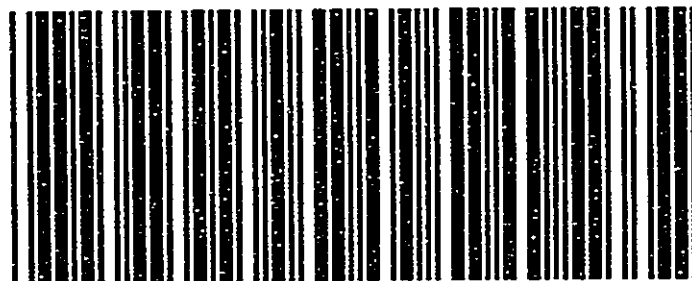


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

**4171 Private
William Albert Moppett**

27th Battalion



1810906P

A.I.F. 27th Btn

MORPETT
W.A. 4171

"MISSING"

Killed in action 5-11-16 - previously reported Missing in action
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 17-8-17.

A & P.I.

London
20-8-17

A.I.F. 27

MOPPETT, W.A. 4171

M. November 5th 1916.

This man I know is killed, because his greatest friend Pte R. Smith of A. Coy, told me that he was along side of him at the time. This was on November 5th near Flers when we took no trenches, and had to go back to our own lines again. He- Pte R.C. Smith is up with the battalion now.

Informant: Lce. Cpl. Gameau. 4119
H.S. "Cambria".
BOULOGNE. 13.2.1917.

EFN

Written Pte Smith 7.3.17

27th A.I.F.

Moppett, W.A. No. 4171.
M. 5th November 1916.

Moppett came over on the same boat with me. A slight built young fellow about 20. I saw him early in January at Buire between Bernancourt and Mericourt, with the battalion.

Inf:- Pte J.H. Hunter No. 4144.
H.S. "Brighton".
Calais. 2.3.17. EMR.

*Written Pte Moppett 9.3.17
Asking HQ to verify 7.3.17*

27th. Battn. A I.F.

Moppett.
W.A. 4171.

Missing 5.11.16. Is he now with Battn.?

Still reported Missing 5.11.16.
Cert: by A.I.F. Headquarters. 19.3.17.

London
29.3.17.

A.&.P.I.

27th A.I.F.

Moppet, W.A. 4171.

(N. Nov. 5/16)

"After the attack at Flers on Nov. 5th I was acting as stretcher bearer and saw the body of W.A. Moppet. It was badly blown about by shell-fire. Sgt. Young of D. Co., was in charge of the stretcher and saw the body and so did Pte. Jack Burr of D. Co., another stretcher bearer."

Eye-witness:- Yes, as above.

Description:- A delicate;-looking young chap, about 20, dark.

Informant:- Pte. F.J. Chigwidden, 1675,
27th A.I.F., D. Co.,
Richmond Military Hospital,
Grove Road.

July 16/17.
A.C. Campbell.

Written Sgt Young
Pte Burr 4 8.17

A. 7 P. 9.

Havre

28th September. 1917.

27th AUSTRALIANS

MOPETT, W.A. 4171

K. Nov. 5th. 1916. Det. D/B.

I knew him. He came from Port Pirie, S. Australia. He worked in a Smelting Works before the war. He was about 19 years of age, fairly tall and dark. He was killed at Fiers on November 5th 1916. Pte. R.C. Smith of the 27th Batt., A.Co., (now with the Battalion) knows particulars of his death. I remember searching for his grave at Fiers, but we could not find it. I did not see him killed myself.

Informant: Lt. White, C.L. 4242

27th Australians, A.Co., II. Pltn.

H.Q. "Carisbrook Castle" Havre.

OLT.

Handwritten notes:
A
P.I.
Written Pte. Smith 10.10.17

Havre

2nd Nov. 1917.

27th AUSTRALIANS

MOPETT, W.A. 4171

K. 5.11.16 Det. D/B.

I knew Pte. W.A. Moppett (Albert I think) of D Co. 4171 is his number. I saw his body after he was killed at Fiers in Nov. 1916, and I saw his grave in the open in our own lines. We held the ground. I could point out the spot. There was a temporary cross on the grave.

Informant: Pte. J. U. Bryant, 4081
27th Australians, A Co., 3rd Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

RIM P.I.

A

3.8.17

Sgt YOUNG D. Co

Pvt Jack BURR D. Co

S Beaver

27 Battalion
REF

for

4171

W. A. MOPPET

27 Battalion

M 3. 11. 16

3/8/17
H.

(2 10 17)

~~MR R P SMITH~~

AG
27 Ball
18 EF

~~MR H W MORRETT~~

27 Ball
18 EF

K. 5. 11. 16.

13. 10. 17
R. B.

A
Pt. W. H. Meppatt 4171
27 Bd.

See under

Pt. Arthur Thom " "

9/19/17

HEAD OFFICE: 360 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

The
Broken Hill Associated Smelters
Proprietary Limited. (Incorporated in Victoria)

TELEPHONE:
LONDON WALL NO. 4836 (2 LINES)
TELEGRAMS:
"BRONHILLAD, THREAD, LONDON"

H/EM

Pinners Hall, Austin Friars.

London, E.C.2. 12th March, 1918

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
36, Grosvenor Place, S.W., 1.

Madam,

We have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of
the 11th instant, respecting the death of Pte. W.A. Moppett,
A.I.F.. and thank you for the same. The information will
be forwarded to Australia for the benefit of this soldier's
relatives.

Yours faithfully,

A. J. Smith
Secretary.

4171 27/12/18

11th March 1918

A. J. Smith, Esq.,
Pinners' Hall
Austin Friars,
E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

We beg to inform you that we have received another unofficial report respecting - 4171 Pte W.A. Moppett 27th Bn, A.I.F.

4242 Pte C.L. White, 27th Bn, A.I.F. now at 3rd A.A. Hospital, Dartford, reports that he saw his grave on the battlefield at Fleurs and it was marked by a cross bearing all his particulars. Pte White knew him well, and had come from Australia with him on board the "Mongolia" He can give no other particulars.

We fear this adds nothing to the information already sent you and fear after so long a time it is not likely that any more will be forthcoming.

Yours faithfully,

F. J. Geary
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE: 360 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

The
Broken Hill Associated Smelters
Proprietary Limited. (Incorporated in Victoria)

TELEPHONE:
LONDON WALL NO. 4636 (2 LINES)
TELEGRAMS:
"BROHILLEAD, THREAD, LONDON."

H/VD

Pinners Hall, Austin Friars,
London: E.C. 2.

17th December 1917.

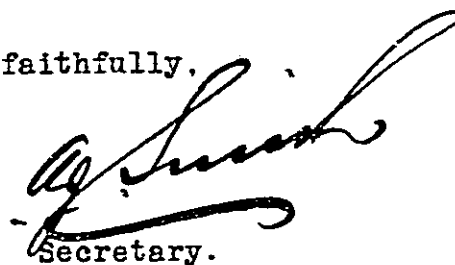
The Commissioners.
Australian Red Cross Society,
36, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

Dear Sirs.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th instant, with reference to No. 4171 Pte. W. A. Moppett, of the 27th Australian Battalion, and I am sending the information you have kindly given me out to Melbourne for the information of this soldier's friends, where I am sure it will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks for the trouble you have gone to in this connection.

Yours faithfully,


Secretary.

December 15th, 1917.

A.J. Smith, Esq.,
Pinners Hall,
Austin Friars. E.C.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry for

No 4171 Pte. W.A. MOPPETT, 27th Battalion, A.I.F.

who was Killed in Action on 5.11.17, we regret to inform you of an unofficial report given by No 4081 Pte. J.C. Bryant of the same unit when at an Australian Camp in France.

He stated that he saw Pte. Moppett after he had been killed at Flers in November and later he saw his grave in the open behind our own lines. It was marked by a temporary cross, and as the ground has remained in our possession it is to be presumed that it is registered.

Unfortunately we are now forced to remove his name from our enquiry lists as we find it very difficult to obtain definite information from men who have been in action so many times since then but we shall forward to you any further details that we received. The attack at Flers in November in which Pte. Moppett lost his life was of a very confused and indecisive nature and the ground over which it was made was not regained until the German evacuation in March of this year. It was then that many Australians were found and buried in registered graves and it is to be hoped that Pte. Moppett is among the number.

Regretting our inability to help you further.

Yours faithfully,

A W
SECRETARY,

September 4th, 1917.

A.J. Smith, Esq.
Pinner's Hall,
Austin Friars, E.C.

Dear Sir,

Re W.A. Moppett, 4171, 27th Battalion, A.I.F.

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported "Missing" is now reported "Killed in Action on 5.11.16"

We are making further inquiries in the hope of learning details of his death and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.
SECRETARY.
(LAW)

25rd March 1917.

A. J. Smith Esq.,
Pinnars Hall,
Justin Priors. E.C.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your inquiry for No. 4171. Pte. W.A. Moppett,
27th Battn. A.I.F. we beg to advise you of the receipt of an
unofficial report from No. 4144. Pte. J.E. Hunter, who was on a
hospital ship at Calais.

He reports that he came over in the same boat as Pte.
Moppett and describes him as a slightly built young man of about
20. He saw this soldier early in January 1917. with the Battalion
at Buire between Bernécourt and Mericourt.

We are strongly disinclined to believe his report as Pte.
Moppett is still posted officially as "~~Killed in action~~^{Missing}" on 5.11.16
and we are therefore verifying this at Head Quarters.

On receipt of their reply we shall again write to you.

Yours faithfully,

V. D.
Secretary.
LAW.

HEAD OFFICE:- 360, COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

The Broken Hill Associated Smelters Proprietary Limited.
(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA).

TELEPHONE:
LONDON WALL NO 4636 (2 LINES)
TELEGRAMS:
"BRONILLEAD, THREAD, LONDON."

*Pinnars Hall,
Austin Friars.*

H/VD

London, 13th March 1917.
E.C.
2.

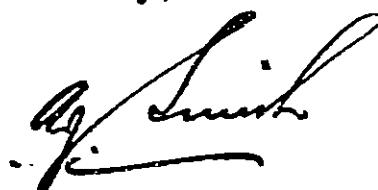
The Secretary,
Australian Branch B.R.C.S.,
(Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau),
54, Victoria Street,
S. W. 1.

Dear Madam,

4171 Pte. W. A. Moppett, 27th A.I.F.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12th instant, regarding the death of this soldier, and note the particulars you give therein. When you have had a reply from Private Smith, I shall be much obliged if you will communicate with me, and in the meantime I will ask you to accept my thanks for the trouble you have kindly gone to in this connection.

Yours faithfully,


Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE: 360, COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

The Broken Hill Associated Smelters Proprietary Limited.
(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA).

TELEPHONE:
No 6480 LONDON WALL.

TELEGRAMS:
"BRCHILLEAD, THREAD, LONDON."

H/W.M.

*Dinners Hall,
Austin Friars.*

London, January 20th 1917
E.C.

The Secretary,
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Australasian Branch, B.R.C.S.
54, Victoria Street. S.W.

Dear Sir,

I have a cable enquiry from Australia, concerning
✓ No 4171. Pvt. W.A. Moppett of the 27th Batt. A.I.F.
and I understand that he has been missing since the 5th
November last.

Would you kindly let me know whether you have
any further news concerning him in your records, in order
that I may send a reply by cable to Melbourne.

To save trouble, I propose to telephone you about
mid-day on Monday next, and shall be much obliged if you can
then let me have a reply.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Secretary.

*Also for date
A way 27th B.H.
W?*

12th March

- 7.

A. J. Smith Esq.,
Broken Hill Smelters Pty. Ltd.,
Pimmers Hall,
Austin Friars.
E.C.

Dear Sir,

A further unofficial report has been received about No. 4171. Pte. W. A. Moppett, 27th Battalion A.I.F. from No. 4119. ~~Ice/Corporal Gamean, who was on a hospital ship when he gave it.~~

Informant was told by Moppett's greatest friend Pte. R. Smith, that he was beside him when he was killed near Flers on Nov. 5th 1916. They made an unsuccessful attack on the German Trenches and had to retire.

We have written to Pte. Smith and will advise you of his reply.

Yours faithfully.

U.S.

Secretary.
LAW

12th March 1917.

Adelaide,

4171 W.A. Hoppett, 27th Battn. M. 5-11-16,

Adelaide,

Pte Hoppett,
27th Aust: Inf: Battn:
B.E.F.

13th March

7

Pte R. Smith,
A. Coy,
27th Aust: Inf: Batta:
B.E.F.

- 4171 W. A. Moppett, 27th Battalion, A.I.F.,

Missing - 5-11-16, -

- W.A. Moppett,