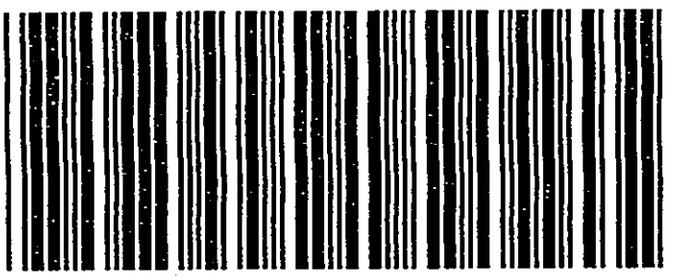
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1928 Private Henry McDougall Russell

40th Battalion



2380602L

A.I.F.
4th. Battalion.

RUSSELL. 1928.
Henry Dougall.
MC.

"Killed in Action 31.5.17".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
28.10.19.

Off. M. P.I.

40th Batn
A.I.F

RUSSELL
H. McD 1928

"Missing 31.5.17."

Killed in Action 31.5.17. prev. reported Missing

Cert. by A.I.F.HdQtrs 13.5.17.

P.I.
Off, M.

London.
20.11.17.

A.I.F. 40th Btn

RUSSELL
H.McD 1928

"M. 51-5-17"

No further report
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 5-7-17.

O.M.M. &
P.I.

London
9-7-17

40th Australian I.F. Russell, H. McD., 1928.

M. May 31/17.

"I saw a man called MacRussell (40.D.XVI. 16 Section) wounded about May 31st at Messines, very early one morning during a raid. He was next in front of me going across. We never got into the German lines. About eight of us were lying wounded near there, and he was one, but I could not see whether he was badly wounded. I crawled back, and never saw him again. The Germans did not come out while I was there, but I did not stay long. When I got to the dressing-station I enquired for him, but he was not there. He may be a prisoner. If he crawled into a shell hole he may have been captured afterwards. I saw his uncle, Capt. Clarke at the dressing-station. He looked after the Comforts Funds".

Eye-Witness: Yes.
Description: Single, 18, a farmer from Sheffield, Tasmania. A Methodist ?

Informant:- Pte. Herbert Paldock, 1794.
40th Australian I. F. 16 Section.
D Company, XVI Platoon.
3rd Southern General Hospital,
The Base, Oxford.
Home address:- Kimberley, Tasmania, Australia.

6.7.17.
F.M.Pickard-Cambridge.

A.I.F. 40. RUSSELL, H.Mc.D. 1928
LEITCH, R.W. 441

M.May 31st.1917.

I know them both very well. This was a raid prior to an attack which we made. The raid was near Ploegstreet, and was at night. Both these men got into the German line. I saw them there. Leitch's mate saw him start to come back after the raid, and he said that he Letich only got 20 yds ~~after the raid, and he said that he Leitch only~~ and then disappeared. The mate's name is Pte Athol Bellette. He is still with them, or was up to a week ago when I left, after June 10th. Leitch must be either killed or a prisoner. All the men who were nearest to Russell reported when they got back that Russell was killed.

Informant: Pte H.Newman. 1662.
No.7 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 21.6.17.

Off. M.
RAOI
Written Pte Bellette 15.7.17

A. I. F. 40. RUSSELL,H.Mc D.1928.
LEITCH,R.W. 441.

M. May 31st, 1917.

We went over on a bombing stunt one night at Ploegsteert which was unsuccessful and when we got back these boys were among the missing. Leitch was 5'9", well built, darkish, cleanshaven, 20-25. Russell I hardly know him at all.

FJE.

Reference:- Sproule, E.F. 2390. A.III.
No. 56 Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
18.6.17.

Off. M.

A.I.F. 40.

RUSSELL, H.McD. 1928
LEITCH, R.W. 441.

M. May 31st 1917.

Leitch and Russell were members of a small raiding party in front of Hill 63 near Ploegsteert on May 31st, Neither of them returned. One man, Keltie, returned next day, and is now in hospital in England I believe. He had been left for dead in the German trenches, and was stripped by the Huns, but recovered sufficiently to crawl back next morning. If Leitch and Russell are not prisoners they are dead. Both came from Tasmania, Leitch from Huon, and Russell from Shepherd.

Inf: Pte H.A.H.Smith. 930. 40.D.XIII
2nd Army Rest Camp.
BOULOGNE. 9.7.17.

Written Pte Keltie 20.7.17

HMH P.9.

Havre 14th July. 1917.

40th Australians. RUSSELL, H. No.D. 1928

H. May 31st. 1917.

He was in D. Comapny, XVI. Pltn. He came from Tasmania. I had known him for 6 or 7 months. 1928 was about his number. I think he was in the 3rd reinforcement to the 40th Batt. We were in the same Platoon and I knew him well. He was wounded last January in the arm. I was told by Pt. Hudson of D.Co., XIV. Pltn. (There is no other Hudson in the Platoon as far as I know) that he had seen Russell wounded and coming back towards our trenches after a raid about the 31st May, 1917. Hudson is at present in No. 11. Convalescent Camp at Buchy near Rouen.

Informant: Pt. J. O'Donnell 5750
40th Australians, D.Co., XVI.Pltn.
Australian Camp Rouelles.

CHR.

Written Pt Hudson 20.7.17

Off. M.
P.J.

40th Battn.
A. I. F.

Russell.
H. Mc.D. 1928.

Leitch.
R.W. 441.

"Missing 31.5.17"

I know them both very well. This was a raid prior to an attack which we made. The raid was near Ploegstreet, I saw them there. Both these men got into the German line. I saw them there. Leitch's mate saw him start to come back after the raid, and he said that he Leitch only got 20 yards disappeared. The mate's name is Pte. Athol Bellette. He is still with them, or was up to week ago when I left, after June 10th. Leitch must be either killed or a prisoner. All the men who were nearest to Russell reported when they got back that Russell was killed.

Informant: Pte. H.Newman 1662.
No.7 C.S.
Boulogne. 21.6.17.

Written Pte. Bellette 16.7.17.

London.
24.7.17.

Off.M.
P.I.

A.I.F. 40. RUSSELL H.McD. 1928.

N. 31.5.17.

He was in A.Co. Pte. Febey of A.I. now in England wounded at 20 War Hospital, Davidson Road, S. Norwood, told me he was with Russell when he was killed on 31st.May at Houplines.

PHB.

Reference: L/Cpl.J. Goodey. 75.A.I.
L.G. School.

Etaples.
24.7.17.

Written Pte Febey 18.8.17

P.1

40th A. I. F.

Russell, Pte. H. Mc D. 1928.

(M. May 31/17.)

Informant states that on May 31/17 in front of Messines at Ploegstreet Wood, Russell was one of a party that were to raid a German trench. The party were recalled and it was not discovered that Russell was not among them till they got back. Noting more has been heard of him up to the time that Informant was wounded. He lived at Barrington, and his Father is Mr. John Russell. The party was to have gone over under a barage with the next sector, but for some reason there was no barage. After waiting a long time the Officers decided to return, which they did in safety with the exception of Russell.

Eye-witness:—

Description:— Medium height, not very dark.

Informant:— Sergt. J. Rutter, 98, L.G.S.
40 th A. I. F. B. H.Q.
Lewisham Military Hospital,
A. Top, Bed 20.

1 copy

Home address:— Barrington, Tasmania.

P.1.C.W.M.

ly 26th
A. Nichols.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT KOHLOS. 2593/5/8

(COPY)

Statement made by No.98 Sgt Rutter J.C. 40th Btn

re No.1928 Pte H McD Russell 40th Btn
Reported Missing 31.5.17

1928 Pte H McD Russell went in raid at Floeggstreet and did not return with party. I made personal enquiries and a failed to get any information concerning him.

Dated at Perham Downs this 23rd day of August 1917.

(Sgd) J.C. Rutter

Statement made and signed befroe me (Sgd) S. Grills.

Lt Col

PH.

OHMS

40th Battn.
C.Coy.
A. I. F.

Russell.
H. McD. 1928.

"Missing 31.5.17"

Refer to Lieut. R. Waters 40th Battalion B.Coy. still in France. At Pont-De-Neippe Post Office he saw him caught in the barbed wire entanglements. They were in a raid at Messines. Quite sure he was dead.

Witness:-
Pte. S. Bodkin 1792
40th Battn. B.Coy.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
10.8.17.

Note Written Lieut.Waters 6.8.17.

Off.M.
P.I.

Havre 13th Aug. 1917.

40th AUSTRALIANS RUSSELL, H.McD. 1928

M. 31.5.17.

He was in D Co. I lived near him at Barrington, Tasmania and knew him well. He was on a raiding party on the 31st May at Messines, Plugstraet. 2nd Lt. Walters of the 4 0th battn., B Co. - now with the battalion) was in command. He told me he saw Russell close up against Fritz's wire stone dead with his inside torn out. He had been caught by ak machine gun or a bomb. We did not hold the ground when this raid took place.

Informant: Pte. E.J. Ellings, 2080
40th Australians, B Co., 4th Pltn.,
Havre Hospital.

GHF

P.I. Office

Written L't Walters 26.8.17

40th Battn
A.I.F.

Russell
H. McD 928

"Missing 31.5.17."

Re the missing man Pte. McD Russell. He was last seen coming through the enemies wire. I think he must have been wounded or killed soon after. He was about 5'7" in height very dark hair and eyebrows and brown skin. You have made a mistake in the date it was the 31st of the 5th not the3rd month that he was missing.

Letter from:-

Pte A.S. Bellette
40th Battn
France 24.7.17.

London.
7.9.17.

Off. M. P.I.

40th A. I. F. Russell, H. McD. 1928,

(M. May 31/17)

"I know that Henry MacD. Russell (40. D.) went out on a raid on the night of May 31st and June 1st, at Anthon's Farm (on the right of Messines Ridge). I was in the trenches, and had been instructing them before the raid, but I did not go over with them. They could not get into the German lines. H.McD. Russell was seen wounded by someone who was helping back another wounded man. He was seen walking back towards our own lines. It is believed that he must have been caught in the barrage and killed. His Uncle, Capt. T.J. Clark made all possible enquiries but we never heard anything more of him. We advanced seven days later, but he was not found."

Eye-witness: No, Informant was in the trenches and knew all about it at the time

Description: Barrington, Tasmania, single, farmer

Informant: Sgt Percy Cox, 1967, 40th A.I.F. A. II,
Home address: 3rd S. General Hosp. Masonic Hall, Oxford.
Staverton,
8th Nov. 1917. Tasmania.
Hilda M. Pickard-Cambridge.

Hdb fcd P.1 Bdk Extra Copy

Russell.

40th Battn.
A. I. F.

H. McD. 1928

"Missing 31.5.17"

re H. McD,Russell. I am very sorry to say that the particulars of his disappearance are very vague. He was a member of a raiding party that went over at about the end of May. He was seen going across to the enemy's trenches with us and when we arrived there there was a little excitement and he was not seen afterwards. There were three missing altogether, but one returned, Pte. Kelly, A.Coy. if you were to write to him he might be able to let you know something about him but I am unable to give you his number. I am sorry to say that I cannot give you a very good description of Russell. He was wounded in the left arm with a bullet about January. His height would be about 5'7" and he had a rather dark complexion. He was a quiet unassuming sort of chap and well liked by everyone who knew him. There is a fair chance of him being a prisoner of war but would not like to say for certain.

Letter from:-
Pte. Allan Hudson
France. 1.7.17.

London.
18.9.17.

Off.M.
P.I.

A.I.F. 40.

RUSSELL. H.MCD. 1928.
Leitch. R.W. 441

M.May 31st 1917.

Pte Bellette B.Coy. was on the same raid with them on the night of the 31st of May near Hill. 63, and said that very few men of the party got into the German trenches. The party was made up of a few men from each company, Leitch was in B.Coy. and Russell in D.Coy. I think. Neither of them got back. Most of our wounded were brought in but the bodies of the killed were left out. Leitch is supposed to have been seen making his way back along a ditch about 20 yards from the German wire, but nothing was seen of Russell

Informant. Pte H.Newman 1663. B.VII.
53 Gen.Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 29.9.17.

P.1 Offds HMH.

1 -

40th Batn
A.I.F.

RUSSELL
Pte. H.McB. 1928

"Missing 31.5.17.

Re particulars concerning No 1928 Pte. H.Mc.D. Russell C. Coy. 40th Batn who has been missing since 31.5.17. reached me on 12.8.17. and immediately wrote to the 3rd Echelon A.I.F. Rouen for a description of this man as I am unable to obtain one from the Battn.
Should that reply come to me I will forward it on to you later
On May 31st I with another officer took a raiding party across to the German front line near Messines when we met with very strong opposition. We were under a heavy barrage from enemy's artillery and machine guns while nearer his trenches we had showers of bombs falling among us. Unable to get right through the wire into the trenches the party had to be withdrawn and two of the party could not be brought back as most of the party had been wounded and it was breaking day. I saw both of the two missing men as I was bringing L/Cpl. Marquis out. One man was wounded and caught in the wire but the Germans kept throwing bombs at him. Theother man was killed being badly blown about by a shell or a direct hit from a bomb. I am certain one was

40th Batn
A.I F.

RUSSELL
Pte. H. Mc. D. 1928

killed. The two men where Pte. Russell and No 441 Pte. Leitch R.W. (Batn. 40th).
I do not t ink there is any hope of them being alive now. One was dead the other badly wounded. I was unable to identitiity the dead man so cannot be more definite.

Letter from:- Lieut. Reg. Walters.
40th Batn
A.I.F.

London.
3.10.17.

Off. M. P.I.

A. I. F. 40.

RUSSELL, H.Mc D.1928.
LEITCH, R.W. 441.

M. May 31st, 1917.

They were with me in the bombing raid at Ploegsteert on May 31st. Leitch was last seen lying on the German parapet with his chest blown in either dead or at the point of death, by Lt. H.C.Walter, B.Coy, Russell was last seen by Sgt H.Bowden, 1104, D.Coy, who saw him crawling through the German wire badly wounded with the Germans firing at him. Only these two men were missing from the raiders. 3rd Echelon reports that they are not P/W after enquiry in Germany. Both are certainly dead. I was in charge of the raid and have investigated the cases thoroughly. Both witnesses reported to meporsonappy.

Cert.by Lt.L.W.Barnett. HQ. 40th Bn.
Becourt.

SA.

Etaples
30.10.17.

40th A. I. F. H. McD. RUSSELL, 1928.

Missing 31.5.17.

I had the following from Lieut.Walters of the 40th Btn. He said he saw Russell lying in the German wires at Messines after a raid some time in May (end of May). He said he was quite dead. We knew him as "Mac". He came from Upper Barrington, Tasmania, his Father and Mother know my name well, I used to work for them.

Reference: A.V.Martin, 2622,

No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 1.11.17.

FEP.

P.1

Ack letter
Obit. 22.9.17

France.
15 – 9 – 17.

Dear Miss Deakin,

Your letter re particulars concerning No. 1928 Pte McL. Russell, C Coy, 40th Battn, who has been missing since 31.5.17 reached me on 12.8.17 & I immediately wrote to the 3rd Echelon, A.I.F. Rouen, for a description of his name & am unable to obtain one from the battalion.

Should the reply come to me I will forward it on to you later.

On May 31st, 2, officers took a raiding party across to the German front line near Messines, when we met with very strong opposition.

We were under a heavy barrage from enemy artillery & machine gun while crawling through the wire we had shower of bombs falling around us.

Unable to get right through the wire in the trench the party had to be withdrawn & two of the party could not be brought back as most of the party had been wounded & it was breaking day.

I saw both of the two missing men as I was bringing Y/C Rayner out. One man was wounded & caught in the wire but the Germans kept throwing bombs at him. The other man was killed, being badly blown about by a shell or a direct hit from a bomb. I am certain one was killed

The two men were Pte Russell
+ no 4141 Pte Leitch. R.W.(B.) 40

I do not think there is
any hope of them being
alive now. One was dead
the other badly wounded.
I was unable to identify
the dead man so cannot
be more definite.

I am sorry I have
not answered your letter
earlier but I have been
waiting for a reply to
my letter to the 3rd Echelon
Room for a description of his
personal appearance
which I will forward as
soon as it arrives.

I Remain
yours Sincerely
(Lieut) Reg. Walters
No 1 Base A.F.

28.8.17

2/Lt. WALTERS 40 Batt A.I.F
B.E.F

for
1928.

H. McD. RUSSELL
40 Batt A.I.F

Mbl K. 31.5.17

T

G.P.O.
25.5.17

Re KELTIE (19.7.17

C

40 BattA IF

47 Sec Hosps:

for

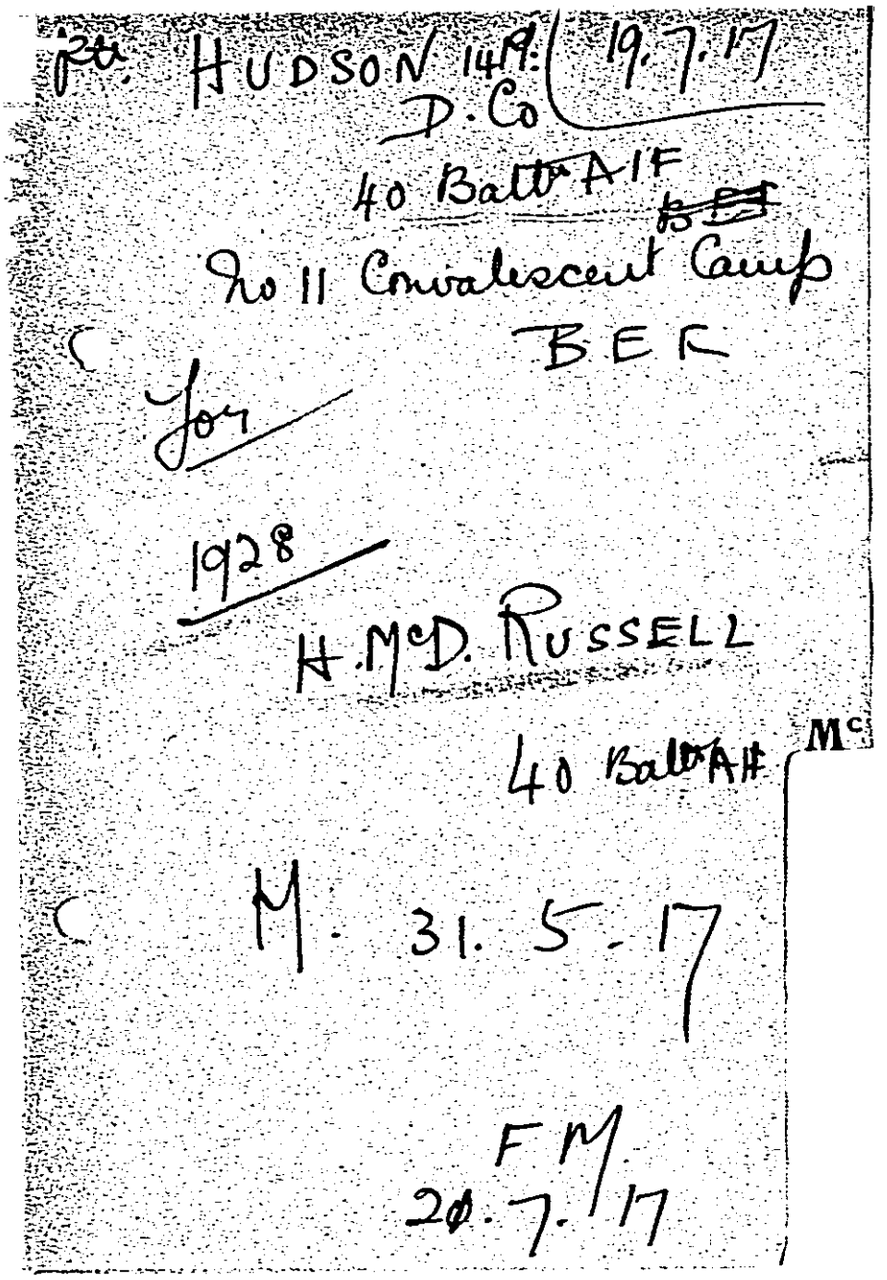
1928 H. McD. RUSSELL

40 Batt AIF

C M. 31. 5. 17

F M

21.7.17


Pte. HUDSON 148 (19.7.17
D. Co
40 Batt AIF
No 11 Convalescent Camp
BER
for
1928
H. McD. RUSSELL
40 Batt AIF
Mc
M. 31. 5. 17
FM
20. 7. 17

13.7.17

Pte Albert BELLETTE

40 Bn AIF
BEF

C for ~~1927~~ 1928. H.McD. RUSSELL

40 Bn AIF

M. 31.3.17

5

C

G.W.
11.7.17.

Road **FRONT** France

ON AS TO

Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Casualty.
27 AIF			M Nov 5/16

BY

Battalion and Regiment.	Co.	Platoon	Home Address.
27 AIF	B	VII	

INFORMANT

(in first person).

machine gun bullet in the body during the attack
round and fell on his back and when we
later he was still lying there. He had never
ead. Cpl Slaven in B Co VII platoon 27 AIF,
to make sure if he was dead. I passed within
140 yds from the German trenches (which were
ed. The ground was occupied about a week
pl Perry belonged to my company and platoon
n well.

5

ON THE FOLLOWING :—

RECEIVED
11 JUL 191
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

give name, number, etc., of man who told him.

mant says a man was killed, instantaneous, and was buried, and if so where? Yes

any other man of same in Co. or Battalion? Not as far as I know.

reddish hair. Age about 20. Came from S Australia

Signature of Searcher C. J. Campbell

Date of Report July 9/17

1

Pte FEBEY 16.8.17

1 Platoon
A Co
40 Batt AIF
20 War Hospital
Davidson Road
S. NORWOOD

for

1928 H. M'D. RUSSELL
40 Batt AIF

M. 31.5.17

Pte
11.8.1

4-8-17

Lieu. R. WATERS
B Co
40 Bat AIF
BEF

for
1928
H. McD. RUSSELL
C. Co
40 Bat AIF

M. 31. 5. 17

E.C.M.
6.5.17.

Pte KELLY

A Co
40th Batt AIF

C ~~M 31.5.17~~

1928 / H.M.C.W. RUSSELL

40th Batt ~~A~~ AIF

C M. 31. 5. 17

16.10.17.
R.2.13.

52 BdM
C. Coy
11 Plat

K. 3. 9. 16

Pte
H. F. C
3740

I saw him killed at Montauban Farm shot through the head death instantly I was beside him when he fell down, he never moved, groaned, killed, I think the Canadians would bury him at Pozieres but I never saw his grave

Witness
Pte
Lyst R. C 3741
52 BdM C. Coy 11 Plat
3 Aust Aux Hospital

Dartford P.J.
H
R

Dr. Oman
13.7.17

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
WOODBURN STRALIS LONDON

TEL.: VICTORIA 7320

A. I. F.

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUNDS.

AUSTRALIAN
COMFORTS FUNDS

INCLUDING

CITIZENS "WAR CHEST"
FUND, SYDNEY

LADY MAYORESS'
PATRIOTIC LEAGUE
MELBOURNE

QUEENSLAND
PATRIOTIC FUND.
BRISBANE

THE LEAGUE OF LOYAL WOMEN
OF AUSTRALIA.
ADELAIDE

VICTORIAN LEAGUE OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
PERTH

TASMANIAN O.A.S. FUND
HOBART

AND KINDRED ORGANISATIONS
IN AUSTRALIA OTHER THAN
THE RED CROSS SOCIETY

COMMISSIONER
T. S. WOODBURN.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS
THOS. HENLEY, M.L.A.
A. C. BARRY.
AS APPOINTED BY
THE HON. G. F. PEARCE.
MINISTER OF DEFENCE, AUSTRALIA

REPRESENTATIVES ATTACHED TO
AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONS AT THE FRONT
1ST.—WM. COPE
2ND.—T. S. WOODBURN
3RD.—T. J. CLERKE.
4TH.—JOHN S. FELL
5TH.—J. R. CAMPBELL

66, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

LONDON, 29/6/1917.

The Secretary
Enquiry Bureau.
A. R. C. A.

Dear Miss Deakin.

Thanks for yours of the 28th inst: re the man Russell.

He is a nephew of our Asst Commissioner Capt T. J. Clerke, 3rd Division. Capt Clerke was in the field during the action in which the nephew was reported by his Battalion as missing; and as a result of his enquiries on the spot feels convinced that the boy was taken prisoner.

The official information you supply does not cover exactly the man we want. 1920 1829 2nd Pte Henry Hubbard Russell. 40th Bn, missing 31. 5. 17.

are particulars from Capt Clerke. Would you be good enough to let us have any further information as it becomes available. Yours sincerely

T. S. Woodburn

June 28th. 1917.

T.S. Woodburn Esq,
Chief Commissioners
Australian Comforts Funds.
66, Victoria Street,
S. W. 1.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 22nd. instant re :-

No. 1829 Pte. H. H. RUSSELL, 45th. Battn., A.I.F.

has been handed to us by Miss Chomley, and we beg to state that we learn from Headquarters that his regimental number and address reads as follows :-

1928 Pte. H.McD RUSSELL, 46th. Battn., A.I.F.

We have received official information that he is "Missing" as from 31.5.17. but have had no notification, up to the present, that he is a Prisoner of War. We should be glad therefore, if you would advise us of your source of information in this respect.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

JMR.

ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS
"THE COMMISSIONERS"

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
ETHAR STRAND LONDON

TEL.: VICTORIA 7320

AUSTRALIAN
COMFORTS FUNDS

INCLUDING

CITIZENS "WAR CHEST"
FUND, SYDNEY

LADY MAYORESS'
PATRIOTIC LEAGUE
MELBOURNE

QUEENSLAND
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THE LEAGUE OF LOYAL WOMEN
OF AUSTRALIA.
ADELAIDE

VICTORIAN LEAGUE OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
PERTH

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SECRETARY
S. J. EDWARDS.

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AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONS AT THE FRONT
1ST.—WM. COPE
2ND.—H. NORRIS
3RD.—T. J. CLERKE
4TH.—E. R. GREEN
5TH.—J. R. CAMPBELL

A. I. F.

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUNDS.

W/H.

66, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

LONDON, 22nd June, 1917

Answered 27-6-17

Miss Chomley,
Prisoners of War, Dept.,
Austn. Red Cross Society,
54 Victoria St., LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Miss Chomley,

We would be very much obliged if you could give us any information concerning No.1829 Private Russell, 40, BATTN. H. M., who has been reported to us as being a prisoner of war in Germany.

Thanking you,

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUNDS,

Yours faithfully,

T. Woodburn

Chief Commissioner.

1926 H. P.C.D. No M

August 9th, 1917.

Commissioner B. Woodburn,
Australian Comforts Fund,
66, Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

We have received from one of his unit a further unofficial report about

No 1928 Pte. H.Mc D. Russell,
40th Batt,
A.I.F.

and we regret that they throw more definite light on his fate.

No 1794 Pte.Herbert Baldock of the same unit who was in the 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford, stated that Pte. Russell was immediately in front of him going across No Man's Land in the raid attack at Messines early on the morning of May 31st. The raid was unsuccessful and several of them were left lying wounded, informant among them.

Pte. Russell was lying wounded quite close to him but he could not see if he was badly wounded. The

Germans made no attempt to take them prisoners, while he was with them, but after a short time he crawled back to our lines and did not again see Pte. Russell although he made inquiries about him. At the dressing station he met Captain Clarke, Pte. Russell's uncle. He thinks that there is a chance of his being a prisoner and that if he crawled into a shell hole, he may have been captured, and he adds that he was a farmer from Sheffield, Tasmania, an unmarried man, 18 years of age.

No 5750 Pte. J.O'Donnell who was in camp in France gives a conflicting account.

He had known Pte. Russell for about seven months and says that he came from Tasmania and had previously been wounded in the arm in January. He was told by Pte. Hudson of D.Coy, he had seen Pte. Russell making his way back to our trenches wounded, after a raid on May 31st,

We have not received any information of him as a prisoner, but we are continuing our inquiries and will send you any information that we receive, as we realise how anxious his uncle must be.

Yours faithfully,

VO

Secretary.

I/W

On Active Service

WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Y.M.C.A.

Y.M.C.A.

H. McD. RUSSELL 1928

H.O. Pte. M 31-5-17 Offd P.1-5

France July 12th 1917

Dear Miss Deakin

Received your letter today in regard to H. McD. Russell and am very sorry to say that he has left us. His whereabouts are now unknown. He was a victim of gas shell fire and left the trench with a number of others. He was seen going across to the enemy's trenches with them and that was the last we saw of him. He was not among the wounded that were brought in. Of course there is still a little hope but not much. I would like to ask if let you know something about him, but I am unable to give you this number. I am sorry I cannot give you a very good description of him. He was medium height, dark hair and complexion. He was a fine soldier and a splendid comrade. I am sure his friends will be glad to hear that he is a prisoner of war.

On Active Service

WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

quiet unassuming sort of chaps and
well liked by everyone. Another time
I may be able to tell you being a
censored letter but I would not like to
say for certain I can say that I cannot
tell you anymore concerning time.

Yours Sincerely
per William Kinnear

William

August 4th, 1917.

B.Woodburn, Esq,
Australian Comforts Fund,
66, Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

We have now received unofficial details about

No.1928 Pte. H.McDougall Russell,
~~40th Btn, A.I.F.~~

and we regret that the evidence contained therein is unsatisfactory. No.1662 Pte. H.Newman who was in hospital in France reported that during a raid at Ploegstreet on 31.5.17, Pte. Russell got into the German line, and he saw him there.

When they returned, the men who had been nearest to him reported that Pte.Russell has been killed.

We have written to Pte.Athol Bellette, who is said to have seen him leave the German trench on the return journey and hope to obtain definite information from him.

No. 930 Pte. H.A.H. Smith, when interviewed in camp in Boulogne stated that Pte.Russell was one

of a small raiding party in front of Hill 63 near Ploegstreet on May 31st and he did not return. Next day one man got back to our lines, having been left for dead by the Germans and he suggests that if alive Pte.Russell must be a prisoner of War.

No news to this effect has been received from Germany but you may rest assured that we shall let you know at once should any information be received.

We have verified his number at A.I.F. Head Quarters and are informed that it is 1928.

Further inquiries are being made and we shall forward any reports that we receive.

Yours faithfully,

V.O.
Secretary.
A.W.

August 14th, 1917.

Commissioner E.Woodburn,
Australian Comforts Fund,
62, Victoria Street,
S.W.1

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of two further unofficial reports about No 1928 Pte.H.[illegible] Russell,
40th Battn.,
A.I.F.,

and beg to advise you of the same.

No 98 Sgt. J.Rulter, who was in the Lewisham Military Hospital, reported that Pte. Russell was one of a party which took part in a raid on the German Trenches at Ploegsteert Wood on May 31st., For some reason there was no barrage to support them and after waiting some time they were recalled. When they got back they discovered that Pte. Russell was not with them and nothing has been heard of him. Sgt. Rutter says that Pte. Russell, who was of medium height, and not very dark came form Barrington, Tasmania.

Another man refers us to Lt. R.Waters of B. Coy, who saw him lying dead near the German Barbed wire during a raid at Messines.

We have written to Lt.Waters and hope to obtain definite information from him which we shall immediately forward to you.

Regretting that all our reports should be so distressing.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

2CR
Ypc. FM
15.5.17

France
July 24th 1917

H. McD. RUSSELL
1920
P.I
M 31-5-17
5

To the Secretary
Wounded & Missing Inquiry
Bureau.

Dear Madam.

Your letter to hand
inquiring about the missing man H McD Russell.
He was last seen coming through the barrage with
I think he must have been wounded or killed
soon after.
He was about five feet seven in height, very dark
hair & eyebrows, & brown eyes.
You have made a mistake in the date, it was the
31st of the 5th not the 3rd month that he was missing.
Trusting that this may be of some value.

Yours faithfully
Pte A. S. O'Rellaghe.
40th Batt.

F. F. Inclu

9C

24.9.17

Lieut. R.WALTERS
40th. Battn. A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you for your letter in reply to our enquiry, concerning: 1928 Pte. H.McD.RUSSELL
and 441 Pte. R.McDERMOTT both of the 40th. Battn. A.I.F.
R.W.

The information which you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers.

We note that you will send us a personal description of Pte. Russell as the 3rd. Echelon Rouen forwards it to you.

Again thanking you for all the trouble you have taken in the matter,

Yours faithfully,

V9
Secretary

October 31st, 1917.

B. Woodburn, Esq,
Chief Commissioner,
Australian Comforts Fund,
66, Victoria Street, S.W.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for

No 1928 Pte.H.McD. Russell,
40th Battalion,
A.I.F.

who is officially reported Missing since 31.5.17., we are forwarding a further unofficial report, given by Lieut.Reginald Walters. It unfortunately leaves little doubt that Pte.Russell was killed.

Lieut.Walters states "On May 31st. I with another officer took a raiding party across to the German front line, near Messines where we met with very strong opposition. We were under a heavy barrage from enemy artillery and machine guns, while nearer his trenches we had showers of bombs falling among us. Unable to get right through the wire into the trenches the party had to be withdrawn and two could not he brought back as most of the party had been wounded and day was breaking. I saw both of the two missing men as I was bringing another man out. One man was wounded and the other man was killed. The two men were Pte.Russell and Pte. Leith. I do not think there is any hope for their being alive now. One was dead, the other badly wounded. I was unable to identify the dead man, so cannot be more definite."

This report is confirmed by Pte.Bellette of C.Coy; we are still pursuing our inquiries for Pte.H.Russell and will advise

you if we obtain further information though we are afraid there is little hope of anything fresh coming to hand.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY. MR.

Dec.12th. 7

Commissioner R.Woodburn,
Aust: Comforts Fund,
66 Victoria St., S.W.1.

Re - No.1928 Pte.H.McD. RUSSELL - 40th Batt'n.A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing ismnow reported Killed in Action on 31.5.17.

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,

LAW

Secretary.

Telephones: 8576
Tel.: VICTORIA 8858. 8577
8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY,"
WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"QUESTMAN, LONDON."

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE.
~~54, VICTORIA STREET.~~
LONDON, S.W. 1.

January 8th, 1918.

B.Woodburn, Esq,
Chief Commissioner,
Australian Comforts Fund,
66, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Typed

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your enquiry about

1928 Pte. H.McD. RUSSELL, 40th Bttn, A.I.F.

We beg to inform you we have just received some unofficial information from comrades, 2622 Pte. A.V.Martin, says "I had the following from Lieut.Walters of the 40th Bttn. He said he saw Russell lying near the German wires at Messines after a raid sometime in May (end of May). He said he was quite dead. We knew him as "Mac" he came from Upper Barrington, Tasmania, his Father and Mother know my name well. I used to work for them."

From Lieut.L.W.Barnett, 40th Bttn, we hear that Russell was with him in a bombing raid at Ploegsteert on May 31st, and he saw him badly wounded near the German wire [redacted] Only Russell and another man were missing after this raid, and 3rd Echelon after enquiring in Germany reported they were not among the Prisoners of War. He fears both are dead as he was in charge of the raiding party and investigated the cases thoroughly.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

Commissioner B.Woodburn,
Australian Comforts Fund,
66, Victoria St, S.W.1.

February 5th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you of another unofficial report about the death of

No 1928 Pte.H.McD.RUSSELL, 40th Bttn, A.I.F.

which however contains very few details of his casualty.

No 1967 Sgt.P.Cox, when in the 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford stated "I know that Henry McD.Russell went out on a raid on the night of May 31st and June 1st, at Anthon's farm (on the right of Messines Ridge) I was in the trenches said and had been instructing them before the raid, but I did not go over with them. They could not get into the German lines. H.McD.Russell was seen wounded by someone who was helping back another wounded man. He was seen walking back towards our own lines. It is believed that he must have been caught in the barrage and killed. His uncle Capt.F.J.Clark made all possible enquiries but we never heard anything more of him. We advanced seven days later, but he was not found."

Should we obtain further particulars of Pte.Russell's casualty we shall immediately forward them to you.

Yours faithfully,

LAW

SECRETARY.

A.I.F.

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUNDS.

66, Victoria Street,

E/H.

LONDON, S.W. 1.

8th February, 1918.

The Secretary,
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Australian Red Cross Society,
36, Grosvenor Place, S.W. 1.

Dear Miss Deakin,

Thank you for your letter of 5th instant re No. 1928, Pte. H. McD. Russell, 40th Batta. We are sending this on to Captain Clarke, his uncle, in Tasmania, and we would take this opportunity of thanking you on Capt. Clarke's behalf for the trouble you have taken regarding this enquiry, We think now that your letter of 5th instant may be allowed to complete the matter.

Again thanking you,

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUNDS,

Yours faithfully,

T. S. Woodhouse

Chief Commissioner.