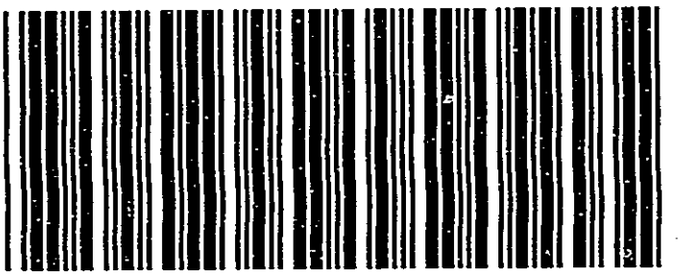
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3221 Private George William Saunders

58th Battalion



2410902I

A.I.F.
58th Btn.

SAUNDERS
George William 3281

Killed in Action 25.9.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
20.10.19.

M & P.I.

A.I.F. 58th Btn

SAUNDERS
G.W. 3221

"Wded-Sept-Oct"

Killed 25-9-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 5-11-17

M

London
6-11-17

58th Battn.
D.Coy. 14th Pltn.
A.I.F.

Saunders.
G.W. 3221

"Killed 25.9.17"

I saw him killed at Polygon Wood. He was caught by a shell and was very badly knocked about, death being instantneous. Casualty was quite near Headquarters, was we were sheltering in a shell hole at the time. I knew him very well, like Blayney he was a mate of mine. I dodnot know place of burial, but refer to L/Cpl. McCormack D.Coy. 58th Battn. who is now in France and saw him killed and can give full details of burial.

Witness:-
Pte.C.H.Cockroft 3093
58th Battn. D.Coy. 12th Pltn.
3rd A.A.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
5.1.18.

P.I.
M.

Note Written McCormack 28.12.17.

58th Battn.
A.I.F.

Saunders.
G.W. 3221

"Killed in Action 25.9.17"

Re 3221 G.W.Saunders. I regret to have to inform you thatthe information you have received as tp the death of Pte.Saunders is quite correct. He was with me during the morning of the 25.Sept.when we were being heavily shelled and about noon a shell landed almost on us, I was dazed and slightly wounded myself, but Pte.Saunders was killed outright, being hit badly about the chest and stomach. I do not know if he was buried, but burial would be a difficult matter owing to the exposed position. The exact spot I can remember but I doubt if I can name it in a letter. I have no doubt of Pte.Saunder's identity, as he had been in our platoon for some time, his description was tall, thin, with fair hair.

Letter from:- L/Cpl. J.McCormack
France 1.1.18.

London.
29.1.18.

M.
P.I.

58th Battn.
A.I.F.

Saunders.
G.W. 3221

Blaney.
Pte.S.E.

"Killed 25.9.17"

Saunders was in my platoon and was killed at Glencorse Wood Pte. S.E.Blaney same platoon being killed by the same shell. I saw them killed outright, there was no chance of their being buried by us there being only 2 of us who came out of our platoon.

Informant:- Sgt.A.J.Tiemans
58th Battn. D.Coy. XiV
Hut 20 Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.
21.2.18.

P.I.
M.

58th Battn

SAUNDERS
G.W.3221

K/A. 25/9/17

I knew casualty, he was a man of slim build, 6ft in height, fair complexion, about 21 years of age. Casualty was in the front line at Polygon Wood doing duty on observation post where he was killed by a high explosive shell. I was near him at the time of his death and saw his body. I do not know where he was buried.

Informant:- 3144 G. Gillespie
Private Address:- 168 Barkly Street
ST. KILDA.

N.A.T.
3/10/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

RECEIVED
30 NOV. 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

28th Nov 1917

Please can you give me any information of a friend of mine as I have not heard from him for some time the last time I heard from him was a field card on the 18th of Sept-1914 his name is

(3221) Mr. G. W. Saunders
D Company
5-8th Batth
AIF
France

Please reply to

Mrs. R. Drew
90 Denmark Rd
Heeley
Sheffield

25-12-17

Lieut McCormack

D. Coy 5-8th Inf. Batn.

a.d.f.

abroad

abst

3221

G. W Saunders

N.

D. C. 7 XIV Flt

5-8th Batn.

a.d.f.

K. 25-9-17.

28-12-17

36, Grosvenor Place,

December 4th, 1917.

Mrs.R.Drew,
90, Dehmark Rd, Heeley, Sheffield.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your enquiry about

3221 Pte.G.W.SAUNDERS,
56th Battalion,
A.I.F.

We regret to have to inform you that he is officially reported Killed in Action 25.9.17, we have no further particulars, but should we get any we will forward them to you at once.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

A.B.

Add'l Info re letter 28-1-18

3221
G. W. SAUNDERS
5-8 Batt
WTA 25-9-17

France
1 Jan 18

The Secretary
Wounded & Missing
Italian Br. 2 K.C.
London

Dear Miss Keating,

3221. Saunders G.W. L Coy 58th. Killed 25/9/17.

I regret to have to inform you that the information you have received as to the death of the above is quite correct.

He was with me during the morning of the 25th Sept., when we were being heavily shelled, & about noon a shell burst near us, & I was dazed & slightly wounded myself. The Saunders was killed outright being hit badly about the chest & stomach.

I do not know if he was buried, but burial would be a difficult matter owing to the exposed position. The exact shot I can remember, but I doubt if I can name it in a letter.

I have no doubt of the Saunders' identity, as he had been in our platoon for some time, the description was tall, thin, with fair hair.

I expect to visit London soon on leave when I will call on you & give you any information you may require as to the Saunders Fabe 2755 Pte Klingler & not forgetting

Yours faithfully
H McCormack
2/Lt

G R

L/Cpl. J. McCormack,
D.Coy, 58th Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force, B.E.F.

January 15th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning

3221 G.W. SAUNDERS, 58th Battalion, A.I.F.

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

We are pleased to learn that you are coming over on leave shortly and shall be very grateful to you for any more information you can give us about the above named soldier, and also Pte. Blayney.

Hoping you will enjoy your leave.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

GJ

January 19th, 1918.

Mrs.E. Drew,
8C, Dunmore Rd,
Dealey, Sheffield.

Dear Madam,

We have to inform you of an unofficial report of the death of :-

3801 Pte.C.F.SAUNDERS, 56th Bttn, A.I.F.

The information is in 3098 Pte.G.McCormack, 56th Battn, A.I.F.

He states that he and Pte. Saunders killed at Polygon Wood , a shell caught him and death was instantaneous. They were sheltering in a shell hole near Battalion Headquarters at the time, but he does not know where he was brave to; but refers us to L/Cpl.McCormack, 56th Battn, who will be able to give us details of the burial.

We have written to McCormack and will send you his reply. Cockroft says he knew Pte. Saunders well and that they were mates.

With our sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

7th February 1918.

Mrs. R. Drew
90 Denmark Road,
Heeley, Sheffield.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry concerning-

No.3221 Pte. S.W. Saunders 56th Batt. A.I.F. who was killed in action on 25.9.17 we have received the following unofficial account of his death from L/Cpl. J. Mc.Cormack of the same Batt. He states that he knew Pte. Saunders well, as they had been in the same platoon for some time, and they were together on the morning of Sept. 25th, when they were being heavily shelled. Almost at noon a shell landed almost on them, and Pte. Saunders was killed outright. As L/Cpl. Mc.Cormack was wounded and dazed himself he does not know where Pte. Saunders is likely to have been buried.

We are continuing our enquiries, and if we receive any details of his burial, we will forward the information to you immediately.

With our sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

K.C.

Secretary,

Mrs. R. Drew,
90, Denmark Hill,
Heeley, Sheffield.

February 25th, 1918.

Dear Madam,

We are sending you a further unofficial report concerning - 3221 Pte. G.W. SAUNDERS, 58th Battalion, A.I.F. - which we have received from a man in his unit. Sgt. A.J. Tiemans who states as follows:- "Saunders was in my platoon and, was killed at Glencorse Wood. Pte. S.H.Blaney same Platoon being killed by the same shell. I saw them killed outright, there was no chance of their being buried by us there being only 2 of us who came out of our platoon."

We are pursuing our enquiries and will continue to send you anything furthur we may receive.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

J. McC.
for SECRETARY.