

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

**3995 Private  
Murray William Sharpe**

**1st Battalion**



2470204J

France.

A. I. P. 1.

SHARPE, M.W. 3995.

X/22-25th. July 1916.

He came over in the same Reinf. with me. I knew him very well. He belonged to VII Pl. B.Coy. He was killed by a shell at Pésieres on July 22nd. before we went into the charge. The shell blew the dug-out in which I had just left. He was dug out subsequently, and was found to be dead. Pte. T. Anderson VII pl. B.Coy was near by at the time and could give further information. Anderson is in hospital in England.

Reference: Pte. R.L.McFarlane, 3962, B.Coy.  
No. 1 A.D.B.D.

Staples.  
27.10.16.  
SA.

*Anderson  
6/10/16*

A.I.F. 1st. Battn.

SHARPE,  
Murray William. 3995.

Killed in Action.

Murray William Sharpe, 3995, B.Co. 1st. Battn. 12 Rfs. was killed about the 22nd. of July. I am not sure of the date, but it was the night before the charge of Pozieres. Sharpe and myself were taking cover in our dug-out when a shell lobbed right on top of it and buried the two of us. I was more fortunate than my mate. I was dragged out first. I asked where Sharpe was and they told me he had gone to the dressing station where I proceeded later on. When I came back the following afternoon the Sergt. Major told me that they had found Sharpe dead in the dug-out. The boys reckon that he could not have been smothered because he had hardly any dirt on him so it must have been concussion from the shell. Well, I believe they placed him outside the trench till they got the opportunity to bury him, but as we went over the top that night and was not in that trench again I cannot say when he was buried. Sharpe has a brother in C. Coy., 1st. Battn. He may be able to give you some more information about him. I

(2)

sent a letter to his wife in Sydney but it seems she has not received it yet.

Letter received from:  
Reference: PTE. THOS. ANDERSON,  
Norfolk War Hospital,  
Norwich.  
11.11.16.

London,  
20/11/16.

1st Battn A.I.F.

SHARPE,  
3995, H.W. Ste.

"K/A 22-25-7-16".

On either 21st or 22nd July at Pozieres, Sharpe, with two others, was buried under a fall of earth caused by a high explosive shell. Informant, who was acting as stretcher-bearer, was called to the spot immediately after the explosion of the shell, but Sharpe's body was not discovered until the next morning. Informant saw the body dug out.

Reference: Biggar, 3241, T. Pte.  
1st Battalion.  
4th Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

12-2-1917  
D.W.

SYDNEY BUREAU. S  
Suff 6d

1st Battalion A.I.F.  
B. Co. 12th Reinf.

SHARPE H.W. Pte.

3995.

Killed in Action 22-25/7/16.

I knew Sharpe - he was in B. Co. and was a pal of Tom Anderson. Sharpe was buried by a shell in the front line trench at Pozieres on 21/7/16. We were then 2 days there before hopping over. I saw the shell come over which buried Sharpe and four others -- four more got out alive but Sharpe was dead when got out. I was there at the time, and took Sharpe's paybook and disc, which I handed to the Sergeant for the Sergeant-Major.

Sharpe was about 5 ft. 9 ins., dark, thickset, came from in or near Sydney, and was a 12th Reinforcement.

Informant:-- T. Murray, 1392,  
1st Battalion A.I.F., B. Co.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK. S  
Suff 6d

A careful reliable witness.

H.S.O.  
24/4/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

1st Battalion A.I.F.  
B. Company,  
12th Reinforcements.

SHARPE Pte. A. 3995

Killed in Action 22-25/7/16.

I was in B. Co. in the same section as Sharpe was. We were in the front line of trenches the night before Pozieres action. That would be the night of 22nd July. The trench was about 1/2 mile from Pozieres. Sharpe was on a working party digging a sap. A shell came and burst within a few yards of him -- it buried him and 3 others. Sharpe was killed the others escaped. I saw him later lying dead in the trench. He was a man of medium height, inclined to be dark, and very sturdily built. I knew him very well. He was a very good mate.

Informant:-- MCILLOY T. 5159

1st Battalion, B. Co., A.I.F.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

This probably refers to 3995 M. W. Sharpe.  
1 Bth.

B.N.  
16.7.17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

ld  
G  
S. H.

C 1st Battalion. A.I.F.  
B. Co. 12th Reinf.

3995

SHARPE, W.  
Pte

Killed in Action 22-25/7/16.

I knew Sharpe personally. He was killed at Pozieres before we went over. His photo was in the Sydney Mail. He came from the Glebe.

Informant: Fitzgerald, Pte. 2960  
1st Battalion. A.I.F.  
No. 4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

H.S.N  
7/11/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S

1st Battn.  
B.Co. 12th Reinf.

SHARPE, M.W.  
3995 Pte

Killed in Action 22-25/7/16.

I knew Pte Sharpe very well personally. He joined us in Egypt.  
He was killed by a shell at Pozieres three days before we went over.  
He was on observation duty at the time.

Informant: Dalgety, Pte 3051  
No.4 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

H.S.H.  
29/11/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU. ✓

Sd  
B  
Ev



ack  
15.11.16

3676

3 Coy 1<sup>st</sup> Batt R.I.F.

Norfolk

War Hospital

Norwich

11.11.16

ack  
15.11.16

To The Secretary

Australian Branch

British Red Cross Society

Dear Madame

Kin A.

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399526

William

B. Co

1<sup>st</sup> Batt R.I.F.

Sharp was killed

about the 22 of July I am not sure of the date but  
it was the night before the charge of Pygones. Sharp  
and myself were taking cover in our dugout  
when a shell lobbed right on top of it and  
buried the two us I was more fortunate than  
my mate I was dragged out first I asked  
where Sharp was and they told me he had  
gone to the dressing station where I proceeded  
later on when I came back the following  
afternoon the S.M. <sup>(our man)</sup> told me that they had  
found Sharp dead in the dugout the  
boys reckon that he could not have been  
so there because he had hardly any

dirt on him so it must have been concussion  
from the shell. Well I believe they placed  
him outside the trench till they got the  
opportunity to bury him but as we went  
over the top that night and was not in that  
trench again I cannot say where he was buried.  
Searge has a Brother in Coy 1st Batt he may  
be able to give you some more information  
about him I sent a letter to his wife in Sydney  
but it seems she has not received it yet.  
Well Madam that is all the information  
I can give you hoping this will be of some  
use to you

Sincerely

Yours Truly  
P. Thos. C. Searge

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10th November

3676 Pte T Anderson,  
1st Battalion, A.I.F.  
Norfolk War Hospital  
Thorpe-Norwich.

Dear Sir,

We are told that it is possible that you may be able to give us some particulars as to the fate of 3995 Pte H.W. Sharpe, 1st Battalion, A.I.F. Would you kindly tell us if you believe him to be alive, - then his whereabouts, or if dead, we should be most grateful for any details as to the manner of his death, and also if possible of his burial. As he is missing his relatives are enquiring most anxiously for him, and anything you could tell us including the date when you last saw him, will be of the greatest value to us in the investigations we are making.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

*Eric Secker*

*pp 2013.*

18th November

3676 Pte Thos. Anderson,  
B. Coy,  
1st Battalion, A.I.F.  
Norfolk War Hospital,  
Norwich.

Dear Pte Anderson,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 11th November, in answer to our inquiry for 3995 Pte M.W. Sharpe, 1st Battalion, A.I.F.. The information you gave was most valuable, and will be of great assistance to us. If, as you fear, Pte Sharpe's wife did not receive the letter you wrote her, she will in any case have this information sent on to her by our Bureau in Sydney. Thank you also for your suggestion that we write to Pte Sharpe's Brother in C.Company.

Trusting that you are making good progress and will soon be able to go on furlough,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

*FD*  
*Shu*