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

1265 Private
Frederick William May

20th Battalion



1750104I

A.I.F.
20th. Battalion.

MAY. 1265.
Frederick.

"Killed in Action 20.9.17".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
8.10.19.
1

Havre

26th Nov. 1917.

~~Havre~~
20th AUSTRALIANS

Ref. F. 1265

K. 20.9.17. Det. D/S.

He was in D Co., 14th Pltn. I knew him very well since May, 1915. He was short, thickset, fair, about 25. He was a commercial traveller in civil life, and came from Sydney, N.S.W. On the 20th Sept. at Ypres, Westhoek Ridge was our objective which we took and held. A few minutes after going over, a high velocity shell killed May. He was hit in the head and body, and died instantly. I saw it occur. He was buried near the trench by stretcher bearers. I saw the grave marked by a board with his name &c. May had been recommended for the V.C.

Informant: Cpl. R.F. Williams, 1783
20th Australians, D Co., 14th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

S

EM

20th Batn
A.I.F.

MAY
F. 1265

"Killed Sep. 20th 1917"

He was my mate and was killed outright by a shell being hit in the head at Bolygon wood. He is buried at Anzac Ridge just behind Ypres. and a cross erected. I saw him killed and saw a letter from his Capt to his sister of details of burial and It was only last Sunday that I went through his papers ~~te~~ etc. and sent them to his sister. Miss Lily May, Merrick Terrace, Boro of London. she is conected with one of the tube stations, as ticket seller.

Witness:- P. Mason 622
20th Batn Westham

A.I.F.

London. 27.11.17.

S

A.I.F. 20. MAY, F. 1265.

K. Sept 20th 1917. Dats D/B.

May was an old friend of mine and came from NSW, He was in my company but in the XV pltn. and attached to the company kitchen. On Sept 20th 1917 he volunteered for the stunt as Company runner and was killed by shell fire while on his way with a message. and I saw him lying dead. He was buried on the field where he fell by our own Pioneers and a cross was put on his grave,

Inf: S.C.Minister. 4476.
No. 57 Gen Hosp.
BOULOGNE. 1.12.17.

HH

Havre 27th Dec. 1917.

20th AUSTRALIANS MAY, F. 1265

K. 20.9.17. Det. D/B.

He was in D Coy. He was a runner. I knew him well. I was told by Pte. J. Pratt, 20th Battalion Transport, that he saw May buried where he was killed on the Ypres Front.

Informant; Pte. F. Lambert, 4465
20th Australians, D Coy. 14th Pltn.
Havre Hospital.

HPG

Write Pte. Pratt 8-1-18.

A.I.F. 20. MAY P. 1265.

E. 20.9.17.

He was killed near a pill-box just on the side of Anzac Ridge, about 150 yards past our 1st. objective, on 20th.Sept.1917. We were together just behind the pill-box at the time, having a smoke-oh during the action, when the shell blew him up and killed him outright. I saw his dead body but know nothing as to burial. He belonged to IV Pl. D.Co. I knew him well.

SA.

References: Cpl.E.E. Paine. 5390. D.Co.
L.G. School.

Staples.
9.1.18.

20th Bn.
D.Coy.
A.I.F.

MAY
F. 1265

Killed 20.9.17.

Refer to Pte. F. Searle, D.Coy. 20th Battn. who is now in France, he saw him killed at Polygon Wood, and can give full details of casualty.

Witness:- Queenan, Pte. J. 3836
20th Bn. D. Coy., 16t Pln.
3 A.A.H. Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
28.1.18

S.

20th Battalion.
A.I.F.

MAY. 1265.
Fredrick .

"KILLED IN ACTION" 20.9.17"

/2 No.1265. Pte Fred May. He was a particular friend of mine, and I remember him well. His description would be as follows;- Light hair, fair complexion, short of build and inclined a little to be bow legged. He was evacuated during our action at Pozieres, and rejoined the unit again, as near as I can remember, about six months ago. Unluckily, he was killed in action in the early morning of Sept 20th 1917. and was buried by a burial party in the field, on the left notth of Zonnebeke Ridge, between Westhoek Ridge & Anzac House , After the attack a cross was erected on his grave by the Battalion. He was a member of D.Coy.of the battn.and a universal favorite. This was a particularly hot corner and dangerous, He died the most honoured death, and went to a soldier's grave. While offering every sympathy & comfort to his folks at home, and grieving with them for the loss of a friend and a good soldier, yet there is consolation in the fact that he came & proved himself amonst the cleanest and fittest of the land that gave him birth. No one but the best ever got as far as Zonnebeke, and the sacrifice, thro', great, that he made is not in vain. We admire & honour him, his people love him and honour him in death, and what better exit is there for an ordinary human to prepare him for the mysteries of Heaven and Hell. Probably he would have chosen that way for himself. He tried and did his best, and made the great

sacrifice, so what did he leave undone. I have made most searching enquiry of the Battalion records, and find this to be absolutely the correct account of his casualty. His death was instantaneous and he suffered no pain. Please convey our deepest sympathy, yet our brightest outlook on life and best wishes for the future to his bereaved people.,

Letter from;- J.A. Pratt.,
France.
15.1.18.

Note;- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.,

London.
18.3.18.

S.

8-1-18

Ste. J. Pratt
20th Battalion
Transport
A. I. F.
B. E. F.

abt
1265

F. May.

20th Battalion
A. I. F.

K 20-9-17.

8-1-18

ack'd letter p.s. 22-1-18

20th France
15-1-18.

Dear Miss Deakin,

Your letter came yesterday enquiring of No 1265 Pte Fred May. He was a particular friend of mine, & I remember him well. His description would be as follows. light hair, fair complection, short of build & inclined a little to be bow legged. He was evacuated during our action at Pozieres, and rejoined the unit again, as near as I can remember, about six months ago. Unluckily, he was killed in action in the early morning of Sept 20th 17. and was buried by a burial party in the field, on the left (north) of Zonnebeke ridge, between Westhoeke Ridge & Anzac House. After the attack a cross was erected on his grave by the Battalion. He was a member of D. Coy of the Batn, & a universal favorite. This was a particularly hot & dangerous corner & he died the most honoured of death, & went to a soldier's grave. While offering every sympathy & comfort to his folks at home, & grieveing with them for the loss of a friend & a good soldier, yet there is consolation in the fact that he came & proved himself amongst

1265 Frederick MAY
20 Bath
K/A 20-9-17
S
3 (cal)

the cleanest & fittest of the land that gave him birth. No one but the best ever got as far as Zonnebeke, & the sacrifice, thus great, that he made, is not in vain.
We admire & honour him, his people love him & & honour him in death, & what better exit is there for an ordinary human to prepare him for the misteries of Heaven & Hell.
Probably he would have chosen that way for himself.
He tried & did his best & made the great sacrifice, so what did he leave undone. I have made most searching enquiry of the Batn records, & find this to be absolutely the correct account of his casualty. His death was instantaneous & he suffered no pain. Please convey our deepest sympathy, yet our brightest outlook on life & best wishes for the future to his bereaved people. If there is any further details I can supply. I will be most glad to do so.
Trusting this much may relieve, believe me to be,

Yr sincerity,
your friend.
J A Pratt

Telephones:
~~Tel.~~: VICTORIA ~~8858~~. 8576 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.

Pte.J.A.Pratt,
20th Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force,
Abroad.

January 23rd, 1918.

Dear Sir,

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

1265 Pte. F. MAY, 20th Battalion, A.I.F.

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

It will be a very great comfort to the relatives of the late Pte.May to learn that he was honoured and loved by all his comrades, and also that when death came, it was instantaneous. Your report will be forwarded in full to our enquirers and they will then learn how bravely this soldier died.

Again thanking you and assuring you of our sympathy in the loss of your friend.

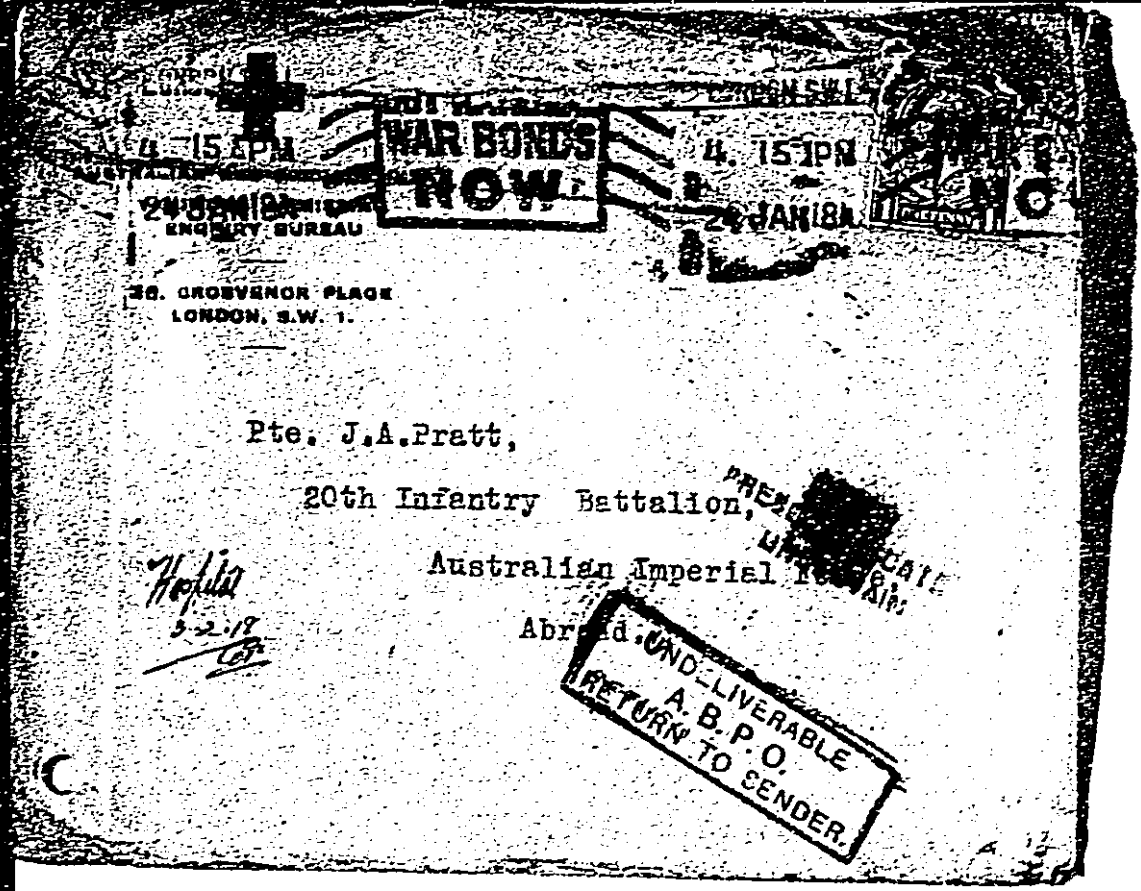
Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

pe O.S.

Returned marked Hospital
No trace H. J.
3-4-18


4. 15 PM
WAR BONDS NOW
4. 15 PM
24 JAN 18
ENQUIRY BUREAU
38. GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.
Pte. J.A.Pratt,
20th Infantry Battalion,
Australian Imperial
Abroad.
UNDELIVERABLE
A. B. P. O.
RETURN TO SENDER.