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

3145 Private
Ernest John Mannell

3rd Battalion



1700404G

3rd Btn.
A.I.F.

HANNEL
Ernest John 3145.

"Missing 28.3.17"

Identity Disc. recd. Germany and despatched H/K. 20.6.17
List for O.C. Kit Stores 2.9.19.

Card found in Nachweise Buro Berlin.

London
15.16.19.

S.

3rd. Battn.
A.I.F.

MANNELL
E.J. 3145.,

" Missing" 28.2.17.

Pte Mannell was killed in the morning of 28th Feb1917. just outside a village called Lebark., we got in between the German front line and one of their patrols , we made a dash to get through and Mannell was shot through the head & Killed outright I am quite sure hewas dead because I stayed about an hour with him before I was found and taken prisoner This is the first time that I have written to the Red. Cross about him.,

Letter from 117.D.W.D. Bigman.
3 Battn., A.I.F.
P/W at Holzminden.,
6.1.18 S.

London.
13.2.18.,

A.I.F.3rd Bttn.			MANNELL. Ernest John.3145.
	Missing.28.2.17.		
Identity disc received from Germany and despatched H/K 20.6.17. Cert by list from O.C.Kit Stores.1.9.19.			

London.
30.9.19.

S.

3rd

16.10.17.

12645.

MANNELL, E. J.

2145.

M. 28/2/17

Miss Hale, who has been forwarding comforts to a Prisoner of War, 117. Private D. W. Dignam, 3rd Battalion, called and produced a letter from Dignam to his Mother, in which he says:-

" I was caught on the 28th February.-----the chap that went out with me, he was killed. I don't know whether he was marked "Missing" or not- his name was Mannell: He was out of 8th Platoon in B.Company, so if you hear anyone enquiring after him you can tell them I am quite sure about it, as there was only the two of us and we tried to get back, but he got shot."

The above letter is dated 1.7.17, and is written from Germany.

Havre 3rd October,1917.

3rd AUSTRALIANS HANNELL, E.J. 3145

M. Feb. 28th.1917.

I knew Pt. E.J. Hannell; his nick name was "Cock" He was a B.Co. runner. He and Pt. Digman of B. Co., runner, were missing in February,1917. It has been reported officially at Battalion H.Q. that Digman is a prisoner of war. These boys were mis-directed by a signaller to a wrong trench in front of Le Barque by mistake. Digman should be able to say whether Hannell is also a prisoner of war.

Informant: Signaller, A.L. Melpin,
B. Co., H.Q.
3rd Australians.
Australian Camp, Romelles.

A.I.F. 3. HANNELL, E.J. 3145.

M. 28.2.17.

Hannell was in my Pl. (B.8) a Pl. runner. At Yarrow Bank near the Butte de Warlencourt in February of March when Fritz was evacuating, Hannell and Digman were sent up from the support line with a message to the Bn. We were to relieve in the front line, and we were waiting for them to return before shifting up. But they never came back. Digman has since been heard of as a prisoner of war in Germany, having walked by mistake into the German trenches. Hannell may have done the same. I rather think that both were mentioned as prisoners of war, but cannot be sure about Hannell.

Informant: Pte. L. W. Taylor, 6586. B.7.(late 8).
No.54 Gen Hpl.
Boulogne. 28.9.17.

Note. Digman missing same date was cancelled in May as prisoner of war.

JT.

3rd Battn.
A. I. F.

Hennell.
E. J. 3145

"Missing 28.8.17"

I certainly heard from J. Pearce the Q.M.Sgt. of the 3rd Battn. A. I. F. that Pte. Dignam was understood to be a prisoner, but he referred me to the A. R. C. Society to obtain his correct address which I did. He did not mention E. J. Hennell's name even, so, I can assure you, I should only have been too pleased to have inquired about him from Pte. Dignam.

Letter from:-
Mrs. L. Emms
The Hospital,
Nelson Road,
Whitton, Twickenham.

London.
21.8.17.

T. S. 17

S.

Wrote Pte Dignam 12.10.17

3rd Australian Imperial Force

Hannell, Pte. E.J. 3145

(M. Feb. 28, 1917).

" I was told by Private J.Wallace in 3 Coy. that Hannell is a prisoner of war. "

Eye Witness — No. Private Wallace told him.

Description — Short, medium sized man, gingery moustache

Informant - Pte. R. Barnett, 3016,
3 Coy. 3rd Aus. I Force
1st London General Hospt.
Camberwell, S.E.

Home address :-
McQuaine Square,
Teralba, via Newcastle-on Tyne.
New South Wales.

20. 2. 1917.
A.Baldwin.

S.

3rd Batt. Coy
A.I.F.

Mansell,
Ernest John
3145

"Missing 28.2.17"

"The disc was supervised by an A.O.K. "Nachr: Officer, without the neighbourhood being given. Whether the man is dead is questionable"

Cert, by information from ~~[illegible]~~ German List dated 23.4.17

S.

London
31.7.17

3rd Battn.
A.I.F.

Hannell.
E. J. 3145

"Missing 23.2.17"

About 3145 Pte.E.J.Hannel - He was with me when I was captured. We were surrounded and tried to get back. He was shot through the head and killed instantly.

Postcard from 117 Pte.D.Dignam
3rd Battn.A.I.F.
off. Gef. Holzminden
Germany 19.10.17.

London.
5.X.17.

S.

Havre 16th July, 1917.

3rd AUSTRALIANS MANHALL, E.J. 3145

M. 28.2.17.

After the capture of Ligny and Thelloy, Mannall and Pte. Digman were sent out with a message to the outpost on the front line. Since then nothing has been seen of them, and it was surmised that they took the wrong road and entered the German lines and were captured. Since then an Official message came to our battalion H.Q. that Digman was a prisoner of war at Limburg, and letters have been posted to him through the company. I sent his address to a Mrs. Sams, The Hospital, Nelson Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, and I think she communicates with him, and that through him, particulars about Mannall might be known.

Informant: Q.M.S. Pearce, J.F., 1163
3rd Australians, B Co.,
H. S. Grantally Castle.

L de D.

3rd A. I. F., Mannell, E.J., 3145,

M. Feb. 28th 1917.

"I was am sure that Jack Mannell (3.B.VIII) a Runner) was taken prisoner about Feb. 28th at the Bullecourt Front. The Germans raided us early one morning, and surrounded an outpost and took two of our runners back with them. It was a very misty morning. I was billetted close by and heard all about it at the time. I think the whole outpost was captured and their gun."

Eye Witness: No, Informant heard all about it at the time.

Description: Fair, 32, 6th Reinforcements of 18th Batt:

Informant:-- Dvr. Robert G. Lawson, 4103,
7th A.F.A., form: 3rd Bn., 3 Bgde:
B.Co., VIII Pltn.,
3rd Southern General Hosp:
Oxford.

6.6.17. Home address:-- c/o Port Jackson, Shipping Ferry,
H.M.P.Cambridge. Sydney, N.S.W.

FRANCE

3rd BATT. A.I.F. MANNELL. E.J. 3145.

M.Feb.28th.1917.

He and Dignam (not Digham as you have it in your list) were company runners and went off together on a message, but being misdirected they ran straight into the German line. If as you state, Dignam is a prisoner, if you could communicate with him he may be able to give you news of Mannell. WS

Ref ---L/Cpl L.V.Boot. 3695
No 3 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. May 15th.1917.

3rd A. I. F. E. J. MANNELL, 3145

Missing 28.2.17.

Mannell and Digham (117) were sent together with a message from B.Coy. Hdqrs. to D.Coy. Hdqrs. They were never seen again, but as Digham has lately been cancelled as a P/W the presumption is that Mannell was also captured.

Reference: Corpl.P.H.Godbold, 5092, B.Coy.

No.11 Stationary, Rouen, 18.5.17.

VMH.

In date P/W to date 28.5.17.

3rd A. I. F. E. J. MANNELL, 3145

Missing 28.2.17.

Mannell was a Runner and about the end of February/17, I think on the 28th, I remember he was sent with a written message to some outposts. I saw him start off with this message, it was about 5.0 p.m. and he was never seen again. It was supposed that he had lost his way and wandered into the German lines. He was in B.Coy. attached to Coy. Hdqrs. I knew him slightly. This happened when we were at Ligny Thilloy.

Reference: Sergt.V.Driscoll, 3745, B.Coy.

No.9 General, Rouen, 19.5.17.

WTMP.

3rd Battn.
A. I. F.

Mannell.
E. J. 3145.

"Missing 28.2.17."

He was with Pte.Digham 117.when he was taken Prisoner of War.
I believe the officer of Intelligence Staff B Coy can tell you about him. Mannell was 8th Pl.B Coy.

Witness:-
H. V. Geddes.4472.
3rd Battn.
7th Pl.B Coy.

L. P. J.

London.
25.5.17.

Note Written Pte.Digham.18.5.17.

S.

Australian Imp. Force

Miss Alice Maxwell

Phillip St.

Lakemba

Sydney

No. 3145. Private Enrolled Lakemba 3rd Batt.

Ceased 1st 1917.

C

INFO

Fill in exactly as List.	SURNAME.	Christian Name.	Regt
	Gell	7	60
	SURNAME	Christian Name.	Regt
	Shaw	Donald E	60

STATEME

(to be

NOTE. *In all cases state fully what informant says he saw or heard and give DATE AND PLACE of occurrence.*

3

" Gell belongd to A Co. I
He was killed by con
Gun fired in the morn
just after bleeding from
He must have been bur

PLEASE ALSO A

1. Was Informant Eye-Witness? — Yes. — 2.

3. Was the ground held or lost? — Held. — 4.

5. Did Informant know Christian Name, Initials or No. of man enquired about? — 6.

7. Give Informant's description of man enquired about—any nickname, marks, scars, etc. — Tall - Fair.

8. *Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy and intelligence* — Intelligent.

Australian Troops
1-10-7

July 18th 1914

Phillip St
Takemba
Sydney
N.S. Wales

Miss Cromely

Dear Madam

I am writing to you to ask you if you will try & find some trace of my brother formerly Lt John Manuel 3145. B. Company 3rd Batt. He was reported Missing on the 25th of Feb. 1914 & I received a letter from his mate stating he was taken a prisoner by the Germans, and on the 5th of this month he was reported killed in action 28/2/14 the same day as he was supposed to be missing This mate was to Albert Smith 3120 belonged to the same Company as my brother. Hoping you will try to find some trace of him

Yours faithfully
Alice Manuel

August 4th. 1917.

Mrs. Emms,
The Hospital,
Nelson Road,
Twickenham.

Dear Madam,

We have been making enquiries on behalf of our Sydney Bureau concerning :-

3145 E.J. Mannell, 3rd. Battn. A.I.F.

Missing 23.2.17. and have lately received word from a member of the 3rd. Battalion that he had sent to you the address of Pte. Dignam 3rd. Battn. A.I.F. now a Prisoner of War in Germany in order that you might write and ask for any information Pte. Dignam could supply about Pte. Mannell.

We should be grateful if you would kindly inform us whether you had written to Pte. Dignam on this subject as we had intended to write and question him ourselves, but if you have already done so, we shall not trouble him a second time in the matter as the allowance of letters and postcards to each prisoner is very limited and we do not wish to cause him to waste any of his scanty store.

Yours faithfully,

V.P. Hu.

3145
E
Genl. 16.5.17. C.L. E.J. MANNALL
3rd Batt. A.I.F
Co. M. 28.2.17. S. 4

The Secretary
The Hospital
Nelson Road
"Whitton"
Twickenham
Aug. 7th. 1917

Yours to hand of the 4th inst.
I certainly heard from L. Pearce
the Q.M. Sergt of the 3rd Batt. A.I.F.
that Pte Wigram was understood to
be a prisoner, but he referred me to
the A.R.C. Society to obtain his correct
address. which I did.
He did not mention E.J. Mannell's name
even. so, I can assure you, I showed
only have been too pleased to have
inquired about him from Pte Wigram.
I have written to Pte Wigram but have
received no answer yet. If you would
like me to write again & make inquiries
concerning Pte Mannell. I should be
delighted to do so. I feel that none of
us can do too much for the men who
have, & are doing so much for us.

Yours faithfully
L. Lomas.

E. J. MANNELL

18.8.17.

Mrs. L. Emms,
The Hospital, Nelson Rd. Whitton, Twickenham.

Dear Mrs. Emms,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry concerning the letter we had been told you had written to Pte. Dignam- We could not think of ~~accepting~~ Working for to the extent of your offer to write to Pte. Dignam as that is part of the Red Cross Work on behalf of our enquirers. We merely wished to definitely ascertain whether our Informant who told us you had written to Pte. Dignan asking for news of Pte. ~~Marshall~~ E.A. Mannall was correct in his statement; as we did not wish to cause Pte. Dignam to waste one of his very limited amount of postcards in answering a second time an enquiry for a comrade. We shall write to day to Pte. Dignam and trust to hear some news of his missing comrade in due course. With repeated thanks for your kind offer,

Yours faithfully,

V. D

Secretary.

24.5.17.

KriegsgefangenenSendung

117. Pte. D.W. Dignam
3. Battn. A.I.F.
British Pris. of War.
Gefangenenlager
Limburg an Lahn
Germany.

Dear Pte. Dignam

We have been requested by our Sydney bureau to make enquries concerning a man of your unit,

3145. E.J. Mannell

and have been told that Pte. Mannell was with you at the time when you were taken prisoner. We should be most grateful for the sake of our enquirers if you would tell us anything you know of Pte. Mannell's fate. Do not trouble to write a letter to us; if you include it on your next post card to Miss Chomley we shall receive the message at once.

We trust you receive your parcels regularly and that they contain what you desire.

With all good wishes

Yours faithfully H. D. Hlw.

Secretary

GC

117 Pte.D.W.Dignam,
3rd Batln.A.I.F.,
British Prisoner of War,
Gefangenenlager,
Munster, Germany.

Oct.12th, 1917.

Dear Pte.Dignam,

We have been requested by our Sydney bureau to make enquiries concerning a man of your unit -

3145 Pte.E.J.MANNELL - reported Missing 28.2.17, and we have been informed that if we wrote to you we might possibly be able to obtain some information concerning him. We should be most grateful for any details you could send us as we are anxious to gather all possible information for our enquirers.

Do not trouble to write a separate letter, if you mention this on the acknowledgement postcard sent to Miss Chomley, we shall receive it.

We trust you are keeping fit, and that your parcels reach you regularly and contain what you desire.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary.