

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

**3399 Private
Ralph Victor Sanders**

52nd Battalion



2410310B

A. I. F.
22nd Btn.
B. Coy.

SANDERS
Ralph Victor 33995

Killed in action 4.9.16.

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

London.
22.10.19.

P. I. & P.

A.I.F.
22nd. BATTN. (H.Q.)
B. Coy.

SANDERS.
3599. Ralph Victor.

" Missing 1.9.16."

Now reported Killed in Action 4.9.16.
Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 15.3.17.

London.
21.3.17.

P.I.
P.

France.

A.I.P. 52.

SANDERS, R.V. 3399.
and 2 others.

M/4th. September 1916.

These three men came over in the same Reinf. with me, from Australia. They went into XIV pl. D. Co. I transferred to the 112 Howitzer Battery. After the batt. came out of action early in Sept. I went across and asked some of the men I knew how Horace Allen had got on. Pte. W. Coppin, XIV pl. D. Co. informed me that he had seen him lying wounded in a shell hole. Allen had been shot in the stomach. Coppin said Keith Randall and Ralph Sanders stayed with him. That was the last seen of them. This was at Hoquet Farm. It is possible all three are prisoners, though I fear there is little hope of that, as the ground they lay on was held by our men.

Reference: Bomb. R. Gilbert, 3368, A. sub-section.,
112 Howitzer Bty.,
No. 26 General. Staples.
3.11.16.
SA.

P

52nd A.I.F.

Sanders, Pte. R.V. 3599,

M. Sept. 4th 1916.

Informant states that on Sept. 2nd he saw the dead body of Pte. Sanders on the parapet to the left of Loquet Farm.

Reference: Mack Pte. 3711,
52nd A.I.F.
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth Common, B 5 Ward.

Nov. 6.16.

P

52nd Battn.
A.I.F.,

3399. R.V.SANDERS
3393. R.H. RANDELL.
3348. Horace.B.Allen

"Missing 4-9-16"

From the enquiries I have made at Battalion Orderly Room and amongst some of the boys who were in that push, the details are very meagre and I cannot trace them at all beyond the point when they were seen last (I am referring to E.Allen and R.Sanders) the same day as the push, when the rumour says, they were as snug as could be improving their little bit of trench. They were quite inseparable friends and I am as sure, as the sun brings morning, that they passed over together hand in hand. As far as R.H.Randell is concerned I regret to say I cannot find the slightest details.

As I knew Randell the less intimately of the three I will deal with him first. He was a splendid man - clean living and conscientious to a degree and was well liked by all who came into contact with him, and I think I can quite safely say that he had the complete trust and confidence of those over him.

In mentioning R.Sanders and E.Allen, I might state that I have been closely connected with them since we first entered camp, fifteen months ago, and you know during that time and when sharing the same tents, one is able to form an opinion as to their characters. There were not two finer and more conscientious men in the battalion. They were both clean living boys and splendid specimens of men physically, through constant gymnastic training, and they were two, the battalion could ill afford, to lose.

52nd Battn.
A.I.F.,

(2)

3399. R.V.Sanders
3393. R.H.RANDELL
3348. Horace.B.Allen

As far as I can see there is no hope at all and it would be unkind to make believe otherwise. E.Allen was medium height, very dark and well built and a picture of health. Liteness could be seen in every movement and his unassuming and quiet way of doing things was a real treat to see.

R.Sanders was the friend or chum of E.Allen (and they were quite inseparable) and I will try and say a few words about him. If anything I should say, he was slightly under medium height and looked a wee bit on the slim side - had dark hair, and keen dark brown eyes - although of slender build, he was very athletic looking, and as hard as a nail.

Cert. by letter from James Coppin,
52nd Battn, A.I.F.,
Late 14th Platoon
Now H.Q. Sig. Section
25-11-16.

London
27-12-16.

P. & P.I.

52nd Batt.
A.I.F.,

SANDERS
R.V. 3399

"Missing Sept. 4/16"

I saw him lying dead just on the parapet after we took a German trench. He was killed outright I think by a bullet. I knew him by sight only but he was in my platoon. I think he came from south Australia. He was of middle size and sandy complexion and his nickname was "Sandy"

Reference:- 3711 ^N W.L. Hack
52nd Batt. A.I.F.,
Ward 12
Harefield Hospital.
5.3.17.

London
5.3.17.
W. Alison

P.
P.I.

Anders. Pet R. V.

3399.

52nd batt.

See under

Randell 3393 52nd batt

17/11/16
20.5.11.16.
20.2.16.