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

3224 Private
Norman Medhurst

54th Battalion



1750806R

A.I.F. 8/54th Btn.

HEDHURST
Norman 3224

"K/A. 26-9-17"

No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

London
17-10-19

54th Battalion A.I.F.

8 R.

HEDHURST N, Pte.

K. 26/9/17.

3224.

Informant described Hedhurst as about 5ft 8ins. High, nuggety build aged about 22/3.

Informant states that they both belonged to 'B' Company, No.7 Platoon. On 26/9/17 the Battalion was holding the line at Polygon Wood. Informant was one of a party detailed to do odd jobs after the stunt and when so engaged he came across Hedhurst . He had evidently been killed instantly by a shell which also hit a good many others who were also lying about. The Corporal in charge of the party took Hedhurst's personal belongings from his body. Informant helped to bury Hedhurst on the spot. About nine were put in the one grave and a rough temporary cross was placed over the grave.

Informant suggests that Lance Corporal J.W.G.Manns, whose numbers he thinks was 5405, be written to for confirmation of the above story, as he was one of the burial party. He is still at the front and in B Company.

According to Informant, Hedhurst was a 'great pal amongst the boys'.

Informant:- Private H.G.King, No.2172,
B.Company, 54th Battalion.

Home address:- Cullen Bridge, Portland, N.S.W.

Note:- Written to Lance Corporal Manns.

W.E.G.
No. 21 Australian Auxiliary Hospital,
Sydney.
11/7/18.

54th Battn.
A.I.F.

Medhurst.
N. 3224

"Killed 26.9.17"

I've had a letter from a friend in Australia that Medhurst had been killed. Pte. Sweeny B.Coy. VII Pltn. with the Coy. could give information. I was with the Coy. at the time but on a different fatigue I was told when I came back.

Informant:- C.W.C.Plant 3238
54th Battn. B.Coy.
Westham.

W.A.Rand

London.
14.3.18. Note Written Pte. Sweeny 14.3.18. S.

54th Battn.
A.I.F.

MEDHURST
N. 3224

"Killed 26-9-17"

Pte. D. Beaton, 54th Battn., C.Coy., with Coy. now or was when I left Feb. last, can give particulars. I cannot give any.

Informant. Whitley S.W.C. 3178
54th Battn., A.Coy.,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
5-4-18

S.

Note:-
Written to Pte. Beaton 4-4-18

54th Battn.
A.I.F.

MEDHURST
N. 3224

"Killed in Action 26-9-17"

Re 3224 Pte.N.Medhurst. I evacuated the line the day before, but having taken your letter to my Sgt. "Jenkins", he tells me that the above named soldier was buried with 13 others behind Glencorse Wood, Ypres. The burial party erected a wooden Cross above the Grave with the names of the men killed on the 26-9-17. Sgt.Jenkins collected his identity disc and paybook so is sure of the man.

Letter from:- Sweeney Pte.J. 3249
FRANCE. 21-3-18

London
4-4-18

S.

Havre. 13th. April. 1918.

54th. Australians. Medhurst, H. No. 3224.
Doyle, E. H. No. 1595.

K. 26th. September. 1917. Dete. D/B.

Both Privates were in B. Company. Doyle was batman to Captain B. Shaw. I was with them in support at Glencourse Wood, Ypres, on the early morning of September 26th, '17, between four and five oclock, when a shell killed fourteen of our boys, and Doyle and Medhurst were amongst the number. They are all buried together where they were killed. We held the ground, and I can point out the spot.

Inf:- Corporal, J. A. Gardner. No. 45.
54th. Australians.
B. Coy. 5th. Bltn.
Australian Corps.
Rouelles.

RDM.

Havre 25th April 1918.

54th A.I.F. Medhurst H. No.3224.

K. 26th Septr 1917. Det D/B.

to Horace Jackson of A.Co. 1 Bltn. can give all particulars in this matter. He was right alongside when Medhurst was killed and has told me all about it as I was chummy with Medhurst. Jackson was with the unit when I left a fortnight ago

Inf:- Pte J. Milliken No.3258.
A.I.F. 54. A.I.
Hospital Ship.

GPO.

written Jackson
1-5-18

54 A.I.F.

Medhurst, Pte. N. 3224
B. Coy. VII Pltn.

K. 26.9.17. Dats D/B.

"Pte. N. Medhurst was killed by the same shell that killed E.H. Doyle(Previously reported) in the attack on Polygon Wood, on the 26th Sept. 1917. I did not se him killed but I have seen his grave in the trench at Polygon Wood where a cross was erected.

Eyewitness. I've seen his grave.

Description. abt.5'7", dark, medium build, stuttered a bit, and was going grey.

Infromant. Pte.L.W. Starn, 5088
54 A.I.F. B. Co. VII Pltn.
Norfolk War Hospital,
Norwich.

Home address.
Molong,
New. South Wales,
Aust.

25/4/18.
E. Reed.

54th A.I.F.

Midhurst. Pte. M. 3224.
B Coy.

(K. Sept. 2/17.)
Dets. D/E.

"I saw Midhurst's body lying dead on the ground the day of the stunt at Ypres. I can't say if the body was buried - killed by a shell."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Abt. 5'8" or 9" well built dark lad.

Informant: Pte. C. Cullfoyle. 3209.
54th A.I.F. D Coy. 15 Pl.
Norfolk War Hospital,
Norwich.

Home address:
Craven,
North Coast Line,
N.S.Wales. Australia.

1/5/18.
E. Rice.

A.I.F. 54th Battn.

MEDHURST
H. 3224.

KILLED 26/9/17.

We were in Reserve trench about ¼ mile in front of Glencourse Wood on September 26th and a shell dropped in the trench and killed 12 men and wounded 6 - I was close to and saw it and afterwards helped to bury them. Medhurst was one of the 12 killed, and was killed instantly - We buried them all in one grave just behind a row of Pill Boxes ¼ mile in front of Glencourse Wood and put a cross up with their names on - He was in B VII and so am I.

Witness Hall Cpl, A.C.
B VII, 54th Battn.
No. 1 Command Depot,
Sutton Veny.

B. F. German

London
7.6.18.

S

54th Battn. 8th Rft.
A.I.F.

MEDHURST
H. 3224

"Killed in Action 26-9-17"

Re 3224 Pte.H.Medhurst. I am sorry to say I am unable to give you any information about above soldier. He was in a different Coy. to me, and all his pals are away.

Letter from:- Jackson Pte.H.P. 3139
FRANCE. 7-5-18

London
3-6-18

S.

14-3-18

Pte Sweeny

B Coy VII Pltn

54th Batta A.I.F.

Abroad

abt.

3224

Pte N. Medhurst

54th Batta A.I.F.

K. 26-9-17.

14.3.18.
A.I.B.

4/4/18.

P.te D. Beaton
C. Coy.
54th Inf. Battn.
A.I.F.
B.I.F.

Wmt
3224. P.te N. Medhurst
54th Inf Battn.
A.I.F.
B.I.F.

K. 26/9/17.

mwl
4/4/18

Pte HORACE JACKSON

A. Coy 54 A.I.F.

B.G.7.

about

3224

N. MEDHURST

54 A.I.F.

K.R.G. 9.14.

Ew.

1.5.18

M

France
May 7th 1918

3224
N. Medhurst
54 Bdtn. 8 Riey
Ann R 26-1-17

To Secretary
Enquiry Bureau
Aust. Red Cross.

Acknd P.C. 31-6-18 N.T.

S
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Dear Sir,

In referrence to your enquiry of No. 3224 Pte N. Medhurst. I am sorry to say I am unable to give you any information about above soldier. He was in a differente company me and all his pals are away.

I am sorry I am unable to give you the required information.

I am
Yours respectfully
3137 Pte H. P. Jackson

3224
N. MEDHURST
54 Batt
K/A 26-9-17
S.
3

ackpe
France 2.4.18
21.3.1918

Miss Vera Deakin
Secretary
Australian Red Cross Society
London

Dear Miss Deakin,

Your letter of the 14th inst. to hand re the death of 3224 Pte N. Medhurst.

I may state I evacuated the line the day before, but having taken your letter to my Sergeant, Jenkins, he tells me that the above named soldier was buried with thirteen others behind Glencross Wood Ypres. The burial party erected a wooden cross above the grave with the names of the men killed, on the 26.9.1917.

Sergeant Jenkins collected his identity disc, & paybook so is sure of the man. Trusting that this information

Will meet with your requirements

Believe me

Yours Sincerely

J. Sweeney

Private

No. 3249