

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

4791 Private
Stanley Watson

20th Battalion



2871101K

A.I.F.
20th. Battalion.
12th. Rfts.
"C" Coy.,

WATSON, 4791.
Stanley.

"Killed in Action 12.1116".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
20.10.19.

S.

20th A. I. F.,

Watson, Pte. Stanley, 4791,
C. Coy.,

K. Nov. 12th 1916. Det: D & B.

"Pte. Watson was going out to relieve a bombing post when he was sniped and was killed. He was buried at night in front of the line on the Fiers Sector."

Eye Witness: No, Pte. Tyshurst, 47877 20th, A.C. Coy., A.I.F.

Description: Called Stan.

Informant:-- Pte. Sidney Michell, 4934,
20th A. I. F., C. Coy.,
Grovelands Hosp:
Middlesex.

Home address:-- Perreau, Hardy Ct.,
South Ashfield, Sydney. S

14.5.17.
Hamilton?

Written Pte Tyshurst 20.5.17

30.5.17

Pte J. WHEELANOF

P. Co

~~W. [unclear]~~

20 Batta AIF
BEEF

Pte RAY

P. Co
20 Batta AIF
BEEF

~~W. [unclear]~~

for

4791.

S. WATSON

~~P. Co~~

20 Batta AIF

K. 12. 11. 16

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13. 8. 11

20th Battn.
C Coy.
A. I.F.

Pte. Watson.
S. 4791.

"Killed 12.11.16."

I saw Pte. S. Watson killed. We were in the front line trench in front of Flers, it was between 10th and 14th Nov. a fine day, and about mid-day Pte. Watson went out of the trench to get some water, he was sniped, and got hit through the chest. I was about 50 yards from him at the time. Some of our fellows hoisted a white flag and went out and buried him on the spot where he was killed, they did not mark the place. Description. Height about 5 feet 8., thin, dark complexion, clean shaven, he spent a lot of his time in Lismore but I do'nt know if he lived there.

Witness:-

L.Cpl. Gillespie.4688.
20th Battn. D Coy.
A. I. F.

H. A. Penton.

Home address.
Cobargo,
South Coast,
New South Wales.

London.
22.5.17.

Accurate.

S.

A. I. F. 20.C.

WATSON, S. 4791.

K. November 12th, 1916.

At Fiers on November 12th I saw him hit in the stomach by a sniper and killed. I was 30 yards away when he was hit. He died about 3 minutes after being hit. Two stretcher bearers were with him when he died, Pte. J. Wheeler of 20.C.XII and Pte. Ray of 20.C.XII. (both now wounded). He was carrying rations along a sap parallel to the one I was in. The mud got too much for him evidently. He tried to cut across a narrow strip of open land into the sap I was in. The sniper got him as soon as he got on to the open land. His name was Stan. He was either 11th or 12th reinf. His No. would be high in the four thousands. He was in C.

FEP.

Reference: -H.L. Jennings. 4165. A.I.F.20.
No. 7 Can. Gen. Hosp.

Etaples
15.5.17. S

Written Pte Wheeler } 30.5.17
Ray }

20th Battn.
A. I. F.

S. Watson.
4791.

"Killed 12.11.16." D & B.

Called "Stan". In D. Coy. Was killed by shell - hit under the chin. It happened at "Switch" trench near Flers. He died instantly. I saw him killed. It happened in the reserve trench. His grave (which I saw) had a cross with his name, No., etc.

Witness:-

W. G. J.

F. J. Flood. 4683.

London.

20th Battn.

5.6.17.

Dartford.

S.

Havre

7th June. 1917.

20th AUSTRALIANS

WATSON, S. 4791

K. Nov. 12th. 1916. Det. D/B.

He was in D. Co., L.G. Section. He came over from Sydney in the 12th reinforcement to the 20th Battalion. His number began 79-. He was killed in Switch Trench about November 12th-1916, two miles behind the lines between Carlton Camp and the front, and buried there near our artillery front line. I saw his grave; there was a cross placed on it afterwards, made I think by his chum Pt. Peacock, who was afterwards killed. Sergt. Christian of the 20th Batt., D.Co., XIV. Pltn., was I think in charge of the burial party. He is now in England.

Informant: Pt. U. Hayes 4554
20th Batt., D.Co., XIV. Pltn.
Australians.
Australian Camp, Bouelles.

*Buff
S B d*

RDM.

20th A.I.F.

Watson, S, 4791

(K. Nov. 12/16)

Informant states that on Nov. 13/16 at Flers Watson was shot by a sniper through the stomach. His pocket book was taken off him by a machine gunner named Sutherland and it was sent to a relative. Sutherland buried him. Informant does not know where Sutherland is now. Informant is writing to a friend who was with the burying party, so further information information will be sent."

Eye-witness: No. Was told by several of his comrades.

Description: Fair and medium height, was called "Stan"

Informant:- Pte. T.C.Innes,
20th A.I.F.
Southwark Military Hospital, East Dulwich.

Home address:

734. George Street. Haymarket
Sydney

June 11th
C. Talbot

*Sub
S 10 2*

20th Battn.
C. Coy.
A. I. F.

S. Watson, 4791.

"Killed 12.11.16."

I saw this man killed by a sniper on the morning of Nov. 12th 1916. at 9.a.m. This was on Flers Front, between Flers and Bapaume. We were holding the line preparing for an attack. After being shot he only lived a few minutes. I buried him at 8.p.m. near where he fell. Not possible to put usual cross over the grave, enemy fire too strong. He was 23 years, 5 feet 9", medium complexion, was formerly a butcher at Newcastle (Eng) but joined up at Drummoyne, New South Wales with 12th Reinfts of 20th Battn.

Witness:-

L/Col. Sutherland 4284.
C.Coy. 20th Battn. (L.M.G.S.)
Perham Downs Camp.

A. R. McFhee.

London.
8.6.17.

S.

20th A. I. E.

S. WATSON, 4791
A. E. PEACOCK, 4752

Killed 12.11.16.D/B.
" 10.11.16.D/B.

These men were killed near Switch Trench at Flers on the 7th Nov./16. I made a note as to Watson in my diary (shows entry). We were in reserve trenches ~~in~~^{on} that day and some time in the afternoon a shell burst near the trench and killed them both instantaneously. I was within 25 yards off them and saw this happen. They were buried by some of our men the same day side by side just outside the trench where they fell. I knew them both.

Reference: Pte. W.H. Pearce, 4754, A. Coy.

W.T.M.R.

No. 9 General, Rouen, 20.6.17.

Suff
S. G.

20th A. I. F.,

Watson, Pte. Stanley, 4791,
C.Coy.,

Killed, Det: D. & B. 12-11-16

"Stan. Watson was sniped while putting a cross on his friends grave (A.E.Peacock). He was buried the same night behind the lines at Ypres, and a cross was erected by his friends."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Tall, dark and slim, with pointed features.

Informant:-- Pte. R.V. Pearce, 4753,
20th A. I. F., B. Coy.,
Bermondsey Military Hosp:
E.

Home address:-- Sydney.

26.6.17.
H.S.Turnbull.

*Subd
S. B*

• Havre

1st August.1917.

20th AUSTRALIANS
C.Co.

WATSON, S. 4791

K. Nov. 18th. 1916. Det. D/E.

He was in D. Company, XIII. Pltn., and attached to the the M.G. Co. He came from Sydney. I heard him speaking of Insurance Agents work. I had know him for about 16 months. He and I were mates and he was acting Corp'l till he joined the Battalion in France. He came over together with the 12th reinforcement to the 20th Battalion. 4791 is his number. I saw his grave near Fiers in front of High Wood on the rear edge of Switch Trench. There is a cross with his name, number and Battalion on it.

Informant: Lt. J.J. Carroll 4672
20th Australians, B. Co., IV. Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

CMR.

*Subd
S. B*

Hayre

3rd Aug. 1917.

20th AUSTRALIANS

WATSON, 3. 4791
O Co.

K. 12.11.16. Det. D/MB.

He was in A Co. He came from Lisbon, New South Wales, and was an insurance clerk. I was in the same company with him in Australia, and knew him well there. We always called him "Tom" in the company. 4791 is about his company. He came with the 11th or 12th Reinforcements to the 20th battalion. We were on the same ship coming over. I assisted to bury him on the rear edge of Switch Trench about a mile to the left rear of Flers. There was a cross with his name, number, and battalion on it.

Informant: Pte. T. Lakes, 4722
20th Australians, B Co., 6th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

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CMR
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20th Battalion A.I.F.

WATSON, S.
4791. Pte.

Killed in Action 12/11/16.

Watson was in the bombers with me. On the 12th November he was going to relieve a party, on outpost duty. He was late going out, should have gone before daylight. As he started to "go over" a bullet struck him in the forehead and killed him outright. I did not see this but his mate came straight back and reported it to Lieut. Dunbar with whom I was and he sent me back to Head Quarters with the news of Watson's death and that of many others, I mean the usual reports. Watson shook hands with me just before he started. He said, "Someone has to go. Goodbye." Lieut. Dunbar was killed on the 14th by the same shell as wounded me. I would like to see any of Watson's people if possible. He was a fine lad. If Lieut. Dunbar's people can be found I would like to see them. He was the Lieut. in the bombing section. He was too full of sympathy for every one of us.

Informant: Hosford, E.J. 4703.
20th Battalion, A.I.F.
No.4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

B.M.
6/8/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU. *S* *Bd*

20th Batt.
C. Coy.
A.I.F.

WATSON,
S. 4791

"Killed 12.11.16."

I saw him dead at Fleurs just behind the front lines, he was sniped by the Germans. pte. Sutherland. 20th Batt. C. Coy Machine Gunner went out to him and he died whilst he was with him. He had a Wallet and pay book and intended sending them to his people in Sydney, he is now in France. He was buried at Fleurs grave marked with a cross number and Battalion. I knew him very well.

Witness:-

Pte. G. Heywood. 4147
20th Batt. C. Coy., 9th Pltn.,
5rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. OMAN,
London,
21.8.17.

3.

20th Battalion.

WATSON, S.
4791 Pte

Killed in Action 12/11/16.

Watson was with me in D.Co. In November we were in Switch Trench near Delville Wood. A shell burst in the trench on the 8th November and killed Watson instantly. He was buried close to the trench where he was killed.

Informant: Carroll, J.J. 4672
20th Battalion.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

B.M.
7/12/17.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

S. J. J.

4/8/17

Rec TYSHURST C. Co

20 Batt A IF
BEF

for

4/9/17

Stanley WATSON

20 Batt A IF

H. 12. 11. 16.

20.5.17

F.M.