

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

**3556 Private
William Townsend**

12th Battalion



2770502N

A.I.F.

12. Bth

TOWNSEND, W. 3556.

A Coy?

late 1st Pioneer
only 12 Bth 11 Rfts

(William)

K. Feb. 27th 1917. Det. D/B.

He was one of the patrol which went out on the night of Feb 27th at Le Barque near Bapaume. Early in the morning of the 28th, Townsend was shot through the hip, and had to lie out all day in a shell hole as we could not get to him for the shelling sniping. He was brought in at dusk. I was not with the patrol myself, but I saw Townsend when he was got in. He was very weak, and only just able to speak. He died at the D/S. and was buried close to it near Fricourt Abbey. Townsend came from Tasmania, and was in C. Coy

Informant. Pte T.C. Hartland. 2612. C. Coy. XII.
Army Rest Camp.
BEULOGNE. 15. 10. 17.

HMH.

H

12th Battn. *late 1st Pioneer*
A.I.F.

orig 12 Bn 11 Pft

Townsend.

H. 3556 ✓

"Killed 27.2.17"

(William)

It was in No Man's Land between Barque and Mallencourt during the afternoon that Townsend was sniped in the groin. I helped to take him part of the way to the Dressing Station. He lived 8 or 9 hours after being hit. He was not conscious when I saw him.

Witness:-

Pte. A.S. Groom 3999

12th Battn.

Dartford.

R.D.B.

London.

1.11.17.

H.

P.I.

A.I.F.
12th Battn:

*late 1 Pioneers
orig 12 Bn 11 Rpts*

(William)
Townsend. Pte. W. 3556.
A Coy:

(K. Feb: 27/17)
Det D/B.

"I know that Townsend was wounded by a sniper and that Pte. B. Milton. 5419 was bringing him back to a dressing station and they had to hide in a shell hole from the same sniper and meanwhile Townsend died. Milton buried him near the place which was near Le Berque. It happened in Feb:/17."

Eye-witness: No. Told by Pte. B. Milton. 5419.

Description: Big, tall man of about 6ft. Very fine soldier and very popular. He was a champion axe man and came from Tasmania.

Informant: Sgt. H. Henty. 2119.
12th Battn: A.I.F. A Coy:
Napshury War Hospital. St Albans.

28.10.17. Home address: 80, Archer St. North Adelaide.
K. Mary Boys. South. Australia.

H
P.1 a
B. 2
C. 3

orig 12 ^{12th Bn late} ^{1st Pioneer}
A.I.F. ^{11th Bn.}
11th Bn.

TOWNSEND.
3556.

"Ill. 30-7-16."

W.
(William)

Admitted to 26th Gen. Hosp. 30-7-16 from 1st. Canadian Hosp.
28-7-16.

Cert. by - Hospital Index.

Discharged to Base 3-8-16.

Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters 27-9-16.

H.

London,
27-9-16.

3556

Townsend
William

12 Plt

late

orig 1st Pioneer
12 Plt 11 Plt

William Townsend

of Coppington Tas. K/A 27.2.17
See under.

17/18 father
John Townsend
Coppington
Tas.

Plt. A. Carter 5728. 21 Batt.

4/9/17.

Inquiry under
A. Carter
5728 21 Bth

3556
Townsend
William
late 12 Bth
late 1st Pioneers
late 12 Bth 11 Pfto
Mk father Townsend
Coppington
Tas.

September 19th, 1917.

Rev. Muschamp, C.F.,
3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Stn,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your inquiry for details of the
death and burial of No 3566 Pte. W. Townsend,
~~12th Battalion,~~
A.I.F.

we regret that at present we have no information to
send you.

We have added his name to our list of inquiries and
hope that very soon we shall obtain full particulars
which we shall immediately forward to you.

We are also in receipt of an inquiry from our Hobart
Bureau and any details that we receive will be sent to the
Secretary who will inform the inquirers - presumably his
father at Coppington.

Yours faithfully,

V. D
SECRETARY.
A.W.

Rev. Muschamp, C.F.

January 30th, 1918.

3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station.

B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you of further unofficial evidence about the death of *(William)*

No 3556 Pte. W. TOWNSEND, 12th Battalion, A.I.F.

for whom we have now closed our enquiries. Should we obtain further news of him we shall immediately advise you.

No 2119 Sgt. H. Henty, reported that Pte. Townsend was wounded by a sniper while he was being brought back to the dressing station they were forced to take shelter in a shell hole where he died of his wounds.

He describes him as a big man 6' in height a very fine and very popular soldier and a champion axeman.

No 3999 Pte. A. S. Groom, reported that Pte. Townsend was wounded in his groin by a sniper in No Man's Land between le Barque and Mallencourt and he helped carry him in an unconscious condition to the dressing station.

We have applied to the Graves Registration Bureau for a photograph of his grave which will be sent to his next of kin, should the grave be registered. All the information

already sent you has been forwarded to our Hobart Bureau
who will send it to his enquirers.

Yours faithfully,

AW
SECRETARY.