

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

6132 Private  
Louis Penn

22nd Battalion



2130405F

17/22nd Battn  
AIF

PENN  
L. 6132

"Wounded and Missing 3.5.17."

Killed in Action 3.5.17. prev. reported wounded and Missing  
Cert. by AIF HdQtrs 28.12.17.

S P. & P.I.

London.  
9.1.18.

22nd Battn.  
A. Coy.  
A. I. F.

Penn.  
L. 6132.

"Wounded & Missing 3.5.17"

Refer to Pte. R.M.Harrison 6095 22nd Battn. A.Coy. who should be able to give particulars. He was with him in attack at Bullecourt. Still in France. I was wounded the same day and left there the following morning.

Witness:-

Pte. T. Bailey 6037  
22nd Battn. B.Coy.  
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.  
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.  
10.8.17.

Note Written Pte. Harrison 7.8.17. P.

22nd Battn.  
A. I. F.

Penn.  
Pte. L. 6132

"Wounded & Missing 3.5.17"

Pte. Penn 6132 was tall and slight, fair hair. Native of W. Australia had a mate called Jack Page. Was wounded by shell and posted as missing. I might state that this man is a personal acquaintance having been in camp together in Australia, on boat and joined the Battalion in France about 15th March 1917.

Letter from:-

Pte. R. M. Harrison 6095  
A.Coy.  
22nd Battn.  
France. 29.8.17.

London.  
20.9.17.

P.  
S.  
P.I.

*Written Pte Page 18.10.17*

22nd A.I.F.

REHE L. No. 6132.

W/M. 3rd May 1917.

I saw him with the bottom of his face blown off at Bullecourt, on the ~~2nd~~ just before he was over. Fritz's barrage came down before it was expected. An officer called for S/Bs but he was dead before they came. He was the best of fellows in every sport and everything, such a tall young fellow, strongly built.

Inf:- W/Opl Adams No. 6026.  
Amb. T. 'Pieter de Coninck'.  
Oulais. 30.9.17. OR.

S & P

P.1

3 x the copies

Statement made by No. 6026 I/O ADAMS H. 22nd Bn

No. 6132 Pte PARR 1. 22nd Bn  
is and Missing 3.5.17

On the third May 1917 at Bullecourt, I saw  
No. 6132 Private PARR of the 22nd Battalion A.I.F. on the tape  
about 4.15 a.m. on the morning of the 3.5.17. A shell burst  
near him and I saw Private PARR killed. He was hit on the head,  
and died instantly. I do not know whether he was buried or  
not.

*la  
bel R S P  
P*

Witnessed at BATTLEWOOD this 6th day of November 1917.

(Sgd) H. ADAMS.

Statement made and signed before me

(SGD) F. WILLIAMS  
Lieut.  
O.C. Coy.  
6.11.17

*Not sent on*

22nd A.I.F.

BMM J. No. 6132.

W/M. 3rd May 1917.

I saw him mortally wounded in the head as I went past at Bullecourt. He was hit while we were waiting for Zero time (i.e. Jumping off time) I cannot say whether he was buried. He had half his head blown away. Others also saw him.

Inf:- Fto Mahoney No. 6119.  
Amb. T. 'Pieter de Coninck'.  
Calais 15.I.17. RAK.

S  
P  
P.1

3-1/2

Statement made by No. 6119 Pte MARCHET W. J. A. 22nd Btn.

re No. 6132 Pte PERK L. 22nd Btn.

and signed on 3.8.17.

While we were in No Man's Land, 20 or 40 yards in front of the trench waiting for the advance, a shell burst and killed about four men. I saw Private L. PERK lying wounded and apparently with half his head blown away, and in my opinion there was no hope of his living at all. Corporal Hayes "D" Company, 22nd Battalion A.I.F. (I do not know his number) was also there and saw him. We were only there for two minutes and then had to go on. The place was in the centre of the German barrage and no one could live there for many minutes.

*W. J. A. Marchet*

Dated at Normanhurst V.A.D. Hospital this 14th day of December 1917.

(Sgd) J. A. MARCHET

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) I. HYSHE.  
Commandant.

Written No. 5948 Pte (Late L/Cpl) Hayes W. J. 19.12.17.

*Sd  
P. B. K.*

22nd Battn.  
A. I. F.

Penn.  
L. 6132

"Wounded & Missing 8.5.17"

He was caught on the tape by the German Barrage just as we were waiting to start. He died almost ~~im~~ instantly. It was about 4.a.m. at Bullecourt. I saw this happen. There was no chance of burial as we had to go on. We came over together from Sydney and were mates. He was in my Pl.16 of D.Coy.

Witness:-

Cpl. N. Adams 6026  
22nd Battn.

L.P.J.

London.  
6.11.17.

P.  
S.  
P.I.



22nd Batn  
A.I.F. D Coy

PENH  
L. 6138

Wounded and Missing 8.5.17.

Refer to Cpl. T. Strahan 13th Pltn D. Coy., 22nd Batn who is in France and who saw him killed at Bullecourt and can give full particulars.

Witness:-

Pte. T.W Ivory 6100  
22nd Batn D. Coy., 15th Pltn.  
3rd A.A. Hospital,  
Dartford.

W. Ogan  
London.  
18.10.17.

Note written Cpl. Strahan 20.10.17.

S. P.I. P.

17th P. Inf.

HN. 3.

PRIVATE.

No. 61

"Killed. 3.5.17"

Penn whose initial was L (we called him Lew) left Australia with me as a 17th Reinforcement to 22nd Battalion in the "Argyleshire" on 31st October, 1916. He was in D. Company 16th Platoon with me. He was badly wounded by shell on 3.5.17 about 4.30 a.m. before the "hop over" at Bullecourt: we called for stretcher Bearers but he was dead before they arrived. He was unconscious the whole time, and could not have suffered. He was dead before we hopped over but when we returned in about 24 hours time his body had been removed. His Mother lives at 205, Cleveland Street, Redfern.

Informant:- Corporal H. Adams, 6026,  
22nd Battalion, D. Company, 16th Platoon

Home Address:- Penshurst,  
Rhodes Avenue,  
NORTH SYDNEY.

H.S.O., 1.3.18.  
No. 4, Australian General Hospital,  
Randwick.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Pl not sent on

S  
P  
P  
B  
K

6101 Pte. J. D. Jackson,  
22nd Bttn, A.I.F., No 2 Coy,  
No 2 Command Depot, Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth.

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1918.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that

No 6132 Pte. L. PENN, 22nd Battalion, A.I.F.

is now reported officially as Killed in Action on  
3.5.17, having been reported previously as Wounded  
and Missing on that date.

Yours faithfully,

*LAW*

SECRETARY.

22nd Battalion.  
A. I. F.

PENN.  
L. 6132.

"WOUNDED AND MISSING" 3.6.17"

Re 6132. Pte Penn. L. who was reported wounded and missing  
3.6.17. From enquiries here or rather information gathered here,  
there seems little doubt that he was killed by a shell after he  
was wounded on the tape, on early morning of 3.5.17. He has not  
officially reported killed as apparently no definite information  
could be procured. I would further refer to you to Cpl. Strahan,  
O. T. B. England.,

Letter from:- De Boer, W. K. Sgt. 165.  
Belgium. 29.10.17"

Note:- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have  
been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and  
shortage of machines.,

London.  
21.3.18.

P. I. S.  
P.

22nd Battalion A.I.F.  
17th Reinforcements.

PENN L. Private,  
No 6132.

"KIDNED 3/5/17."

Informant described Penn as about 6 ft high, slight build, fair complexion aged about 23. Left Australia with Informant per "Argylshire" on 11/10/16.

Informant states that they both belonged to "D" Company. On 3/5/17 the Battalion was in action at Bullecourt. They hopped over at 3 a.m. about 7.30 a.m. after they had taken their objects ive and were crouching in a shell burst near by Penn killing him instantly and wounding three others. He was on his knees digging in when he was hit. Informant was about 20 yards away and saw Penn after he was hit. Informant helped to bury him in a shell hole near the trench that they were digging when he was hit. They put a wooden cross on the grave with his name written on in indelible pencil to mark the grave.

Informant added that Penn was a well liked lad.

INFORMANT Private W. Mantle. No 6125.

D Company 22nd Battalion.

Home address: Hermitage Flat, Lithgow. c/o Mrs. A. Mantle.

W.R.G.

No 4 Anst. General Hospital, DANBURY.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

STRACHAN G.C. 2398

Corporal T.C. 22 Batt A.I.F

Eno in an Officers Training Batt.  
England. Address wanted & write

replied

Palais-duty. 1-10-17. H.A. 16-11-17.

in under

632

PENN

Reports Dpt 13.11.17

Plt. L. Penn. 6132

22 Bdt.

see under

Plt. R. Cobden. 6062. " "

9/18/17.

Pte. L. Penn. 6132.

22 Batt.

see under

Pte. R. Cobden. 6062. " "

5/9/17.

Pte. L. Penn. 6132.

22 Batt.

see under

Pte. R. Cobden. 6062. " "

24/9/17. ( (

(17.10.17)

pte Jack PAGE

22 Bull AF  
BEF

abt

6132

PENN

22 Bull AF

W.M. 3. 5. 17

18.10.17.  
2.1.18.



18.10.17

Cpt. STRAHAN / 13 Plat.  
D Co.

22 Ball AIF  
B EF

alt

6132 / PENN / D Co

22 Ball AIF

W+M. 3. 5. 17

19.10.17  
A. B.

No. 2. Company.  
No. 2. Command. Depot  
Moule. Vides. Camp.  
Weymouth.  
22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1917.

P.C.  
25-7-17

To/

Sir.

Australian Red Cross.

54. Victoria St.

London.

Dear Sir.

I would esteem it a great favor if  
you would furnish me with particulars (Penny)  
concerning the whereabouts of 6132. Pte. L. Penn.  
22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, A.I.F. and oblige.

Yours Respectfully,  
6101. Pte. J. O. Jackson.

6101 Pte. E.D. Jackson,  
A.I.F. No. 2 Coy.,  
No 2 Command Depot,  
Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth.

Oct. 11th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

In reference to your inquiry for -

6132 Pte. L. PENN - 22nd Battalion. A.I.F. - who is officially reported wounded and missing 3.5.17, we are forwarding the following unofficial report which has just come to hand concerning him.

6095 Pte. R.M. Harrison states "6132 Pte. Penn was tall and slight with fair hair. He was a native of Western Australia. He was wounded by a shell and afterwards posted missing"

We are doing our utmost to obtain further and more definite information concerning him and will advise you as soon as it we succeed.

With good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

R

Secretary.

October 30th, 1917.

To 6101 Pte. J. E. Jackson,  
No 2 Coy, Monte Video Camp,  
No 2 Command Depot, Weymouth.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your inquiry for

No 6132 Pte. L. Penn,  
22nd Battalion,  
A.I.F.

we deeply regret to inform you of unofficial evidence from  
which we fear that there is little hope of his being alive.

No 6026 L/Cpl. Adams, when interviewed on an Ambulance  
train at Calais reported "That he saw P e. Penn on the step of  
the trench while they were waiting for the signal to go over  
the parapet at Bullecourt on May 7rd. The Germans had put up  
an unexpected barrage and Pte. Penn was fatally wounded in the  
jaw. Stretcher-bearers were called for but he died before  
they came. He adds "He was the best of fellows in every sort  
of sport and everything".

No 5119 Pte. Mahony, interviewed in the same train gave  
similar evidence.

We are continuing the inquiry and will advise you immedi-  
ately on receipt of further information.

Trusting that it will be some consolation to know that  
he did not live long.

Yours faithfully,

V.O. LKW

5.11.17.

363. Sgt. W. K. De Bois,  
22nd Batt, A.I.F.  
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry (made to Cpl <sup>Strachan</sup> ~~Strachan~~) concerning:-

6132. L. Penn. 22nd Battalion, A.I.F. :

and for supplying the address of Cpl Strachan to whom we might write for further details. We regret the error in reading his rank; but our information was drawn from a manuscript report by one of the B.R.C.S. searchers in English Hospitals and Base Camps; and in these often very badly written reports it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish correctly as we have no means of verification of rank. With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

/SECRETARY,

V. D

J. L.

November 19th, 1917.

6101,  
Pte. J. D. Jackson, A.I.F.  
No. 2 Coy.  
No. 2. Command Depot.  
Monte Video Camp,  
Weymouth.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry for 6132 Pte. L. Penn 22nd. Battn. A.I.F. who is officially reported wounded and missing since 3.5.17, we are forwarding further unofficial evidence, which we much regret confirms the previous reports of his death given by men of his Battalion.

Informant 6026, CPL. N. Adams, states: "L. Penn was hit from the German Barrage just as we were waiting to start. He died almost instantly. It was about 4. a.m. at Bullecourt. I saw it happen. There was no chance of burial as we had to go on. We came over together from Sydney and were mates. He was in my platoon - 16 of D. Coy."

We very much fear this evidence must be correct as so many months have elapsed since his casualty, without definite news of Pte. Penn.

Should any further particulars concerning him come to hand, shall at once advise you.

Assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

*L. H. Ryan*

Secretary.

L132 L PENN

22 Brit

Belgium

To the Secretary

WM 3-5-17

29/10/17

Wounded & Missing Bureau

54 Victoria Hotel

Dear Madam

Your enquiry to Captain?

Strachan of 19/10/17. - Corpl. Strachan

is now with 6<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion  
Ireland. // There is a slight  
discrepancy in the rank. -

// He is the same who  
was reported as wounded &

missing - 3/5/17. From Enquiry

here my father's information  
furthermore here, there seems

little doubt that he was  
killed by a shell after he  
was wounded on the lake

on early morning of 3/5/17.

He has not been officially re-  
ported "killed" as a casualty

no definite information could be  
wounded would further  
refer you to Cpl Strachan  
O T B. Gurland

How's truck  
W. K. De [unclear]

22 Salt Ave

Note - wrote Cpl. Strachan  
20.10.17

No 363. C