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

6421 Private Alexander Thompson

17th Battalion



2730102F

A.I.F. 17th Btn

THOMPSON
Alex. 6421

"K/A. 20-9-17"

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

S

London
16-10-19

A.I.F. 17th Btn
(18th Rfts Syd: letter)

THOMPSON
A.(Alex) 6421

"MISSING"

Killed in action 20-9-17 - previously reported Wded & Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 8-5-18.

S

London
10-5-18

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

Thompson.
A. 6421

"Wounded & Missing 20.9.17"

Fitzpatrick was killed by shell fire about a.30.a.m. the nights of 19-20.Sept. on Ypres front - going up for attack on 20th. A.R.B. Thompson, Flynn, McDonough and Andrews, all of C.Coy. XI Pltn.were killed at same time. Boezenberg also was wounded. Those killed were buried the next morning by Pioneers, between Ypres and Zonnebeke - not in a cemetery - but graves were marked.

Eye-witness:

Description:

Imformant:- L/Cpl.L.C.Robinson 5399
17th Battn.C.Coy.
Bethnal Green Mil.Hospital.
Home address: Daisy Bark
Bega, Sth.Coast,N.S.W.
F.M.Bathunes
14.12.17.
London.
14.1.18. Note This report was given about Fitzpatrick and we cannot be certain that the A.R.B.Thompson referred to is 6421 A.Thompson.

S.

175

17th Battn.
A.I.F.

Thompson.
Alex. 6421
(& 8 others, for full list of
names see W.Bartlett's report)

"Wounded & Missing 20.9.17"

Re your list of missing men of the 17th Battalion. I will give you this further information concerning the. On the night of 23rd Sept. I buried 5785 W.Bartlett, 6281 W.Burkett, 2173 J.L.Milthorpe, 6420 J.Smith, 6421 A.Thompson, and I buried and wrote to the next of kin of 3596 Sgt.S.Oakley. Probably the others will be men I could find nothing to identify by, but I buried them as unknown Australian soldiers. Re Sgt.Oakley. I personally knew him and he and Pte.McGinlay are in one grave together, and I have informed his next of kin by letter. The rest of the men, their names were taken from identification discs, they had no paybooks to lead me to find their next of kin. I buried 21.men belonging to the 17th Battalion on the same night. I trust this information will be of use to your society, I think it is every man's duty to help our Society to find missing soldiers, it has always been my ambition to help all I can, and I am always at the disposal of the society if I can assist in any way.

Extracts from letter from:-
4661 Pte.W.H.Back
21st Battn,
8.2.18. S.

London.
22.2.18.

Havre 2nd August 1918.

A.I.F. 17. Thompson A. No.6421.

K. 20th Septr 1917. Det D/B.

His initials and number are the same. He is in C.Coy. XII Pltn, and is a L/Cpl. He has the MM . He got wounded at Ypres on the 20th Septr 1917, and was only away for about 2 months, and is still with his unit. He comes from Melbourne., and then Sydney. single, a medium size dark, clean shaven chap of 21/22. He was an old pal of mine.

Inf:- Pte R. Purcell No. 6118.
A.I.F. 17. C.
H.S. 'Warilda'.

HBS.

S

D.A. Asst Secretary

PP.