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

695 Private
Ernest John Thacker

41st Battalion



2720108K

A.I.F. 41st Battn.

THACKER
E. 695A

Killed in action 8.8.18

Buried Villers Bretonneux Cem. 1,40,000 Sh. 62D 35.C.28.
Cert. by Capt. Speddings List.

London
10.6.19

B

A.I.F. 41st Battn.

THACKER
SHACKER
E.J. 695A

"KILLED IN ACTION 26.6.18"

No further report
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs List 25.11.18

London
26.11.18

B

A.I.F. 41st Battn. (Hq)
not 4th Bioneer Battn.

THACKER
E.695A

"KILLED IN ACTION"

Killed in Action 26.6.18
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs List 11.9.18 No further report

London
12.9.18

B

41st Battn.
A.I.F.

THACKER.
E. 695.A

"Killed in Action 26-6-18"

He was in C.Company. I knew him fairly well. There was no other man of the same name in that Company. We were on the way up to supports near Villers Bretonneux at 3.30.p.m. on 26th June 1918. Thacker stopped to render assistance to someone who was hit when a piece of another shell got him in the neck and killed him instantly. I did not see his grave, but he was sure to have been buried. Refer to SgtL.Richards. 41st Battn.C.Company. now in France. He will be able to supply details of burial.

Informant:- 19561Cpl.W.Mc Cartney.
41st Battn. C.12.
Ward A.13.DARTFORD.

J.V.M.Kennedy.
London.
11-10-18.
M.I.S.

B.

Note:- Written Richards 7-10-18.

41st Battn.
A.I.F.

THACKER.
E. 695.A

"Killed in Action 26-6-18"

Villers Bretonneux insupports. He was a stretcher bearer, and was binding up my neck. A shell came over. We both ducked but it killed him and wounded me the second time. I was taken away and did not see his grave.

Informant:- Richards.C/S/M. 3593.
W.33.HEREFIELD.

D.P.Dickson.
London.
11-10-18.
J.E.A.

B.

41st Battn.
A.I.F.

THACKER.
E. 695. A

"Killed in Action 26-6-18"

He was in C.Company. I knew him fairly well. There was no other of the same name in that Company. At about 3.30.p.m on the 26th August 1918 we were in a sunken road near Villers Bretonneux and Thacker who was acting temporarily as a stretcher bearer was attending to a wounded in Sgt Richard's neck when a shell burst close to me and killed Thacker instantly. He was buried by the wayside. I did not. seethe grave but I helped to make a cross to marke it. Phil Ray. 41st Battn. (number unknown) wrote to Thacker's mother and gave her full particulars. Thacker was a most unselfish chap.

Informant:- Pte.S.Train.5131.
J.V.M.Kennedy. 41st Battn.C.Coy. 11th Bn.
London. Ward B.19.DARTFORD.
12-10-18.
M.I.S. B.
Note:- Already written Sgt Richards.

AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY 41st Bn. THACKER, E. 695

Killed June 26th, 1918. Det.D/B,

Thacker was a Stretcher Bearer and was dressing Sgt. Richards in the support line at Villers Brettoneux when a shell lobbed about 20 yards from him. Pieces of the shell caught him in the shoulder and in the side of the neck. He was carried to the Regimental Aid Post, and died there the same evening. I was close by at the time he was hit. He was buried next day by the R.A.P. people. He was buried behind the line. He was in the same Coy. as me.

Pte. W. Dawson, 7352, "C" Coy. 41st Bn. AIF.
Cyclist Base Depot, Rouen, 12.10.18.

GHO.

41st Battn.
A.I.F.

THACKER
Pte. E. 695A

"Killed 26-6-18"

It is known to me that Thacker was killed, with others, during a sing song behind the lines at Villers-Bretonneux, by shell fire, on the date named. The men were in the support line just behind us, and I was about 200 yds. away at the time. He died about 5 minutes after being hit. I am not certain where he was buried. Ground was held.

Eye-witness:- No.
Description:-

Informant. Wiles. Lt.H.J. 41st Battn.
3rd London Gen.Hpl.,
WANDSWORTH.

J.H.Clark Hall
15-10-18
London
23-10-18

B. C. Smith

41st Battn.
A.I.F.

THACKER.
E.J. 695A.

"Killed in Action 26-6-18"

His right name in Thacker. He was killed by shell fire whilst dressing wounded man near Villers Bretonneux. I know nothing of burial as I was gassed 2 weeks previously. His number 695A.

Informant:- Major. A.A.Mills.
41st Battn. Chaplain.
RED CROSS.

A.D.G.
London.
22-1-19.
HJ.E.A.

B.

To

Sgt. L. Richards
"C" Coy
41st Battn.
A. I. F.

About

695 Pte E. Thacker
41st Battn.
A. I. F.

K 26th June 1918

Written 7.10.18
I. F. D.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU

88, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 1.

UNDELIVERABLE
A. B. P. O.
RETURN TO SENDER

Sgt. L. Richards,
"C" Coy.,
~~4th~~ 5th Infantry Battalion,
1st Australian Imperial Force,
B. E. F.

Tel.: VICTORIA 8576 8577 8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY." WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU — AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

9C

A

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36. GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

7th October 1915

Sgt L. Richards,
"C" Coy,
41st Bn,
A. I. F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

696 Pte E. Thacker, 41st Batt, A. I. F.
who is reported killed 26th June 1918

and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you can send us concerning him, but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field, or in a soldiers' cenetery where the grave would be registered. We would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin

Secretary.

per I.E.D.

Letter not to be re-addressed if Casualty is Cancelled