

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

881 Private
Ernest Arthur Potts

3rd Pioneer Battalion



2180809S

A.I.F. 3rd Pioneer Battn.

POTTS
E.A. 881

"DIED OF WOUNDS 22/8/18 det D/B"

Adm. 10th Aust. Fld. Amb. Gun shot wound abdomen (pen!) No further report
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs List 5/10/18.

London
7/10/18.

H

3rd Pioneer Battn.
A.I.F.

POTTS
E.A. 881

"Died of Wounds 22-8-18"

Re 881 Pte. A.E. Potts, 3rd Pioneer Battn. I regret to inform you that our records show the above mentioned soldier as having died from gunshot wounds - (hip and abdomen, penetrating) at the Loading Post, at 2-30 p.m. on 22-8-18, whilst being transmitted to this Ambulance. His body was conveyed for burial to the British Military Cemetery at Sailly Laurette the same day.

Letter from:- The O.C.,
10th Aust. Fld. Amb.
13-10-18.

London
24-10-18
J.E.A.

M.

Hayre.

31st. October. 1918.

3rd. Australian Pioneers.

Potts. E. A. 881.

D/W. August. 22/1918. Dets. D/B

I knew Private Ernest Potts, C. 9. he was an ex S/M. of C. Coy. and was reduced. Private. A. Brennan, C. 9. No. 4. Section, told me that he carried Potts out. I think he told me that he buried Potts in an old Military Cemetery at Eyenheim near Bray. Brennan is with his Unit.

Inf:- Private. J. L. Mechan. 111.
3rd. Pioneers. C. 9.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RDM.

OP.

3rd Pioneers,
A.I.F.

POTTS,
E.A. 881.

"Died of wounds - 22-8-18."

"I saw him knocked in front of Bray on 21st August. We were advancing on a wood when Machine Gun bullets got him. I think through body. As I passed him he sang out "I'M knocked" and I said "You'll be all right here comes Slater". Slater was a Stretcher Bearer and was killed later on same day. I went on and was knocked soon afterwards, so do not know anything more about him, but heard that he died afterwards. Was probably buried in a cemetery near Morcourt, just at the back of a church. He was a Pte. in C.Coy., about 5'8", fair thick set. Knew him well, came over from Melbourne with him in the Wandilla 6th June, 1916.

Home address:-
Rose Vale,
Gundagai,
N.S.W.

Informant:- L/Cpl. J.R.Lindsay, 833,
C.Coy., 3rd Pioneers,
Dartford.

H. S. Cowan,
London.
21-11-18.
J.E.A.

M.

3rd Pioneers.
A.I.F.

POTTS
E.A. 881

"DIED OF WOUNDS 22-8-18"

He was a Pte. (had been O/N/S) in C.Coy., medium height, very dark. Number would be about 881. At Bray sur Somme on 22nd August he was badly wounded by gunshot and died shortly after. I did not see him hit but saw him being taken to the Dressing Station by Stretcher Bearers. He appeared to be unconscious. It was between 7 and 8 a.m. and we were in support of 2 Coys. advancing on Bray. He came from Northern Queensland and we were on same boat coming over, "Wandilla" from Port Melbourne on 6th June /16. He was very popular in the Coy. I do not know where he was buried.

Informant - Harry Pte.R.D.
3rd Pioneers C.Coy.
3rd A.A.H.
DAVEFORD.

H.T.Cowan
15-11-18
London
21-11-18
H.G.

H.

3rd Pioneer Battn.
A.I.F.

POTTS
E.A. 881

"DIED OF WOUNDS 22-8-18"

Refer to Pte.Bale.Cyril. C.Coy., 3rd Pioneer Battalion.

Informant - James.Pte.P.B. 6828A
3rd Pioneer Battn.C.Coy.
3rd A.A.H.
DAVEFORD.

N.B.Priddle
6-11-18
London
25-11-18
J.E.A.

Note:- Written C.Bale - 18-11-18

H.

A.I.F. 3rd Pioneer Bn.

PCTTS

E.A. 881.

"Died of Wounds 22.8.18."

Re No.881 Pte. E.A.Pctts, 3rd Pioneer Battalion, A.I.F.
He was wounded on the morning of the 22nd August at the
Bray Stunt. A machine gun bullet went through his body; he
was dressed and two of us carried him out to the Dressing
Station at Etinehem, he was alive when we left him, but died
later in the day. He was buried at the Military Cemetery
at Etinehem. A cross has been erected over the grave. Fernie
was tall and thin, fairly dark with dark eyes and hair. I
might mention he was in the same Section as I was and I knew
him pretty well.

Letter from:- Cyril A. Bate,
France.

London
2.12.18.
P.W.B.

M.

G. C.

To

Mt. Cephal Bale
C. Co
3rd Pioneer Btl
A. I. F.

about

SS/Mt E. A. Potts
~~3rd Pioneer Btl~~
~~A. I. F.~~

D/W. 22. 8. 18

Written 18. 11. 18
Mrs

The O.C. Draft

8-10-18-

The O.C.

15th Australian Field Ambulance

B. G. Y.

Sgt Pte Z. G. Potts

3rd Pioneer Batt. A. G. Y.

D/W:

22-8-18

57th Battn A.I.F.

CROSSLIN, L. H. G.

"Missing 10.2.18."

Re your letter of 5th inst. enquiring re Lieuts. Croze and Dixon reported missing on 10.2.1918. Nothing has been heard about either of these officers since the raid.

German prisoners captured shortly after the raid stated that an Australian officer had been taken prisoner on 10th Inst. but there is nothing beyond the date to connect this with either of these officers. Neither bodies of these officers was recovered.

I regret exceedingly that no further information is available. We have been making enquiries and should any information be obtained will notify you immediately.

Letter from: - O. C. A/Adj.

37th Australian Battn.
Battn. Headquarters.

London.
11.7.18.

M.P.I.

31.01.8

10th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

881
E.O. Potts
3. Pioneer
D.O.W. 22.8.18.
1/2
2.

To/
The Secretary,
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Australian Red Cross Society,
36 Grosvenor Place,
LONDON S.W. 1.

re No. 881 Pte POTTS A.E. 3rd. Pioneer Bn. A.I.F.

In reply to your letter of the 8th. inst., I regret to inform you our records show the abovementioned soldier as having died from gunshot wounds (hip and abdomen, penetrating) at the Loading Post, at 2.30p.m. on the 22nd. August 1918, whilst being transmitted to this Ambulance.

His body was conveyed for burial to the British Military Cemetery at Sailly Laurette the same day.

13/10/18.

F. J. M. ...
Major.
Acting C.O. 10th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

Tel.: VICTORIA 18576
18577
18578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO

"THE SECRETARY.

WOUNDED AND MISSING

— ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.



AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

86, GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

The O.C.

10^H Australian Field Ambulance . B.E.F. S. 10. 18.

881 PG E. G. Potts. 3rd Pioneer Batt. A.F.F.

Dear Sir,

We have been asked by the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death and burial of the above, who died in your Hospital on 22. 8. 18 and would greatly appreciate any information that you may send us.

As we have been informed by various C.O.'s and Adjutants that the receipt of notes of thanks only causes them unnecessary inconvenience, unless you ask us to acknowledge your reply to the above we will not do so, and trust that you will understand that we appreciate it none the less.

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Vera Deshui

Secretary. J.B.

Recd. P.C.
29.10.18.
W.B.

881

E.A. Potts

France

3 Pion

25/11/18

Dg W. 22.8.18.

M₂ (cd)

The Secretary

Wounded & Mining Information Bureau

Australian Red Cross Society

Dear Madam,

Received your letter today as

(S) No 281 Pts E.A. Potts 3rd Pioneer Bn A.I.F.

He was wounded on the morning of the 22nd of August at the Bray Street.

A machine gun bullet went through his body, he was dressed & taken to us carried him out to the dressing station at

Strichen, he was alive when we left him but died later in the day. He was buried at the Military Cemetery at Strichen, A. I. F.

A grave has been erected over the grave. Earnie was tall & thin, fairly dark with dark eyes & hair.

I might mention he was in the same section as I was & I knew him pretty well.

Trusting this information will be of some use to you.

Yours faithfully

Cybil A. Bate