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

668 Corporal Alexander Murray Renton

44th Battalion



2270804N

Cpl T. Rogers. Present Address place 44th Batt

Mrs J. Rodgers 517 q. 44th Bk.

to 3 Grp. Coxford. 8.4.19

file under. 4-9 13-5-19

Cpl. A M. Reuton 668.

44th Batt.

D/10. 1.10 18.

Reports Section

9. 5. 19.

668

44 Bltn

~~Rentoma~~ or Renton

A.M.

W. / ad. Beaufort War Hosp. Bristol, G.S.W Rt. Thigh. 29.6.17 H.I.

G.S.W R. Thigh. healed but leg stiff. Massage. to on list. Transf. Aust. H. soon fit. disch. to Dep. A.C. Beaufort H. Bristol 5. 8. 17

PACC. 30.7.17.

668

Dr. 31.7.17 Wd 7.8.17

44 Bln

~~Reptonia~~ or Renton

A.M.

W. / ad. Beaufort War Hosp. Bristol, G.S.W Rt. Thigh. 29.6.17 H.I.

G.S.W R. Thigh. healed. but leg stiff. Massage. to on list. Transf. Aust. H. soon fit. discharge. & Reg. A.C. Beaufort H. Bristol 5. 8. 17

R.A.C. 30.7.17.

Sgt Ingvarsen. Present B. Coy
Sgt Clark. Address 44th Batt.
phase
Ingvarsen - Finds 65-6-19 - Capt Higgs.
400 W.C. Clark Sgt - No 3 Group - Codford.

File under.
668 A.M. Poulton.
44th Batt
D/D. 1.10.18. P.

Report Sicken
9. 5. 19.

A.I.F. RENTON.
44th Bttn. A.M. 668.

"D/Wds. 1.10.18."

re 668 Cpl.A.M. Renton who died of wounds on or about the 1st Oct. I will only be too pleased to give information, as far as I know by your letter the most important part that you desire to know is about his burial, and thats what I can't say for certain, all that I can say is, that we where together in the Lewis Gun Section on the 29th Sept. when we broke through the Hindenburg line, and on the morning of the 31st while in a bombing attack Cpl.Renton was firing with his rifle at the Germans who where throwing bombs, when he was shot through the head by a sniper, the bullet entered about an inch above the right eye and came out at the back of his head, I pulled him down off the Parapet and tried to stop the bleeding but it only choked him, so I let it go, as life was vanishing fast, the stretcher bearers came, but, regarded the case as finished.

It was a few hours after that the 43rd Bttn.Stretcher bearers carried him out still alive, but still unconscious. All I heard afterwards that he lived for a few days, but as to where he was buried that's more then I could find out, although I'm certain he got a decent burial because the "CCSs" where only a few miles behind the lines and there was every possible means of getting him back quickly. Regarding his identity, I'm sure this is the man who you are inquiring about, because I have had letters from his people in Fremantle asking me the same questions as you. I also have his wallet containing photos which I'm taking back to his mother."

London. Letter from:-Jack Rodgers
31.5.19. Codford. 16.5.19. P.
A.I.F.

Havre. 10th. March 1919.

44th. Battn. A.I.F. Renton, A. M. 668.

D/W. October 1/1918 Dets. D/B.

I saw him wounded in the Hindenburg Line, before we got Borey, while attacking a strong post. He was shot just as he put his head up, and was shot through the head. He was taken to a D/Station. I cannot say where he was buried. He came from Palmara near Fremantle, W.A. I think he worked for a Grocer, there.

Inf:- L/Corporal G. F. Salter. 614.
44th. Battn. C. 10.A.I.F.
Austr. Demob. Base.

CRR.

RRB.

A.I.F. RENTON. Cpl.
44th Bttn. A.M. 668.
C.Co. Pltn 12.

"D/W. 1.10.18."

Height 5'10", dark, age 21. single. Came from Palmyra. Freemantle. W. Aust.
Cpl. J. Rogers. same Battn. Co and Pltn who is in camp a t Codford told me Renton was in charge Lewis Gun section at Hindenburg Line. I don't know the locality, and was shot in head by rifle bullet. I don't know anything of burial. Rogers was along Renton and saw him killed.

Informant:- S.C. Dungey. Cpl. 576.
Home address:- 44th Bttn. C.Co.
Prince's St. 12 Pltn. Ward 12.
Cottesloe Beach. 3rd A.A.Hpl. 29.4.19.
W. Aust.

O.3.W.
London. "Written ~~668 A.M. Renton~~ Rogers. E.
16.5.19.
EG.

A.I.F.
44th Bttn.

RENTON.
A.M. 668.

"D/W. 1.10.18."

I saw Tpr. Alec.Renton. C.Co. sniped through forehead near Bony about Midday whilst advancing in the trenches - he was sniping and got hit himself by a sniper. He was taken back by S/Bs Sgt. Ingvarsen and Sgt. Clark (both B.Co) and died about 4 hours later at 50th C.C.S. where he was buried. He was awarded a "MM" (posthumous)

Renton - heavy built, medium height, darkish, abt. 21 yrs.

Informant:- C.S.M. L.S. Dowsett. 628.
44th Bttn.C.Co.
A.I.F. Le Havre 30.4.1919.

H.R.H.
London.
17.5.19.
HS.

Written 400 Sgt.Clark and P.
661 Sgt. Ingvarsen on furlo.

A.I.F.
44th Battn.

RENTON.
A.M. 668.

Died of Wounds.1.10.18.

Re 668 A.M.Renton,who died of wounds on the 1st Oct.1918.I was not near him when he died,neither did I see the place where he was buried,but have had information through the Battalion.I will tell you what led up to him being wounded and his movements from there.

On the morning of Sept.29th,with Americans troops we attacked the Germans to break through the Hindenburg Line;towards night we were partly successful but the Hun was still in a portion of the trench on our left. The following morning,at dawn,we started to put him out by bombing down the tunnel.Renton was near the head of the party.We started at about 4 a.m. Half an hour after Renton was shot through the forehead by a sniper. I with Sgt Moorson carried him back to the Reg.Aid Post.He was taken by others back to the Cleaning Station(50th C.C.S.) at Peronne and died there the following day.It was usual to have a burial place adjacent to the C.C.S. and from reports he was buried there.

Renton was about 5'10"in height and about 13½ stone weight. He was of medium complexion.

Letter from:- 400.Sgt.W.C.Clark.
44th Battn.
No.4 Camp.
Codford. 12-6-19.

London.
30-6-19.

P.

44th Battn.

RENTON, A.M.
Pte. 668

Died of Wounds 1/10/16

"He was hit in the forehead by a bullet on the 29th September in the Hindenburg line and left for dead. Afterwards found and sent down to the Dressing Station where he died. He was a fair, stout fellow. He was awarded the M.M. for this stunt".

Informant:- Hills, Sgt.
462, 44th Battn.

R.J.Beeston,
4706, A.M.C.
H.M.A.T."Karagola"

Pbd
Book
1

A.I.F. 44th Bt n

RENTORN or RENTON
A.M. 668

"WOUNDED"

Adm. Beaufort War Hpl Bristol - 29-6-17 - G.S.W. right thigh
Cert. by Hpl Index

G.S.W. right thigh, healed, but leg stiff, massage and on list for trans: to Australian Hpl - soon fit for discharge
Cert. by letter from O.C. 5-8-17.

P.

London
8-8-17

10 400 Sgt D. L. Clark
No 3 Group
Codpod

Above

668 A. M. Penlon
44 Cal.
D/W 1:10:18.

C.

Detail
H.J.G.
15.5.19

No. 5149 Cpl M. J. Rogers
44th Batn
A.I.F.
No 3 Group
Codford

Wood.

668
Cpl A. M. Rowlands
44th Batn.
D/W. 1.10.18.

Dublin.
14.5.19.
H.S.

27-6-19
mjb

668
A. M. Renton
44 Batty
S/W. 1-10-18 No 4 Camp
Codford
P. 2. England

12 June 1919

To
Sec. Aust. Red X Society.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 16th inst for information re 668 A. M. Renton who died of wounds on the 1st Oct 1918. I was not near him when he died neither did I see the place where he was buried but have had information through the Battalion. I will tell you what led up to him being wounded and his movements from then.

On the morning of Sept 29th with American troops we attacked the Germans to break through the Hindenburg Line, towards night we were partly successful but the Hun were still in a portion of the trench on our left.

The following morning, at dawn, we started to get him out by tracking down the tunnel, Renton was near the head of the party We started at about 4 a.m. Early three after. Renton was shot through the forehead by a Sniper. I with Sgt Inverson carried him back to the Reg. Aid Post. He was taken by others back to the clearing Station (50th F.C.S) at Poperinghe and died there the following day. It was usual to have a burial plan adjacent to the C.C.S. and from reports he was buried there.

Renton was about 5 ft 10 ins in height and about 15½ stone weight He was of medium complexion.

I am sorry I can not give definite information after having our Aid post but hope it will help in trying to get through to him and.

I am Yours Sincerely
W. C. Clark. Sgt.
4th - 4th Bn

Jeff. Mss 617.2.17

50 c.es.

C 668.
A. N. Renton.
44th Batn.
D.C.M. 1.10.18

Codford.
May 16-5-19
P.2.

Dear Mr Whytlow.

668 regarding your enquiries concerning C/S A. N. Renton who died of wounds on, or about the 1st October, I will only be too pleased to give information, as far as I know. by your letter, the most important part that you desire to know is about his burial, and that's what I can't say for certain, all that I can say is, that we where together in the Lewis Gun Section, on the 29th September when we broke through the Hindenburg line, and on the morning of the 31st while in a bombing attack C/S Renton was firing with his rifle at the Germans who where throwing bombs. when he was shot through the head by a sniper, the bullet entered about an inch above the right eye and came out at the back of his head, I pulled him down off the Parapet and tryed to stop the bleeding but it only choked him, so I let it go, as life was vanishing fast, the stretcher bearers came, but I regarded the

case as finished.

It was a few hours after that the 43rd Battalion Stretcher Bearers carried him out still alive, but still unconscious.

All I heard afterwards that he lived for a few days, but as to where he was buried that is more than I could find out, although I'm certain he got a decent burial because the "C.C.S." where only a few miles behind the lines, and there was very possible means of getting him back quickly.

Regarding his identity, I'm sure this is the man who you are enquiring about, because I have had letters from his people in Fremantle asking me the same questions as you.

I also have his Wallet containing photos, which I'm taking back to his mother.

I don't think its necessary to send a photo of him along, as I'm the right person, he was a thick set, full face youth, about 19 or twenty years of age.

I trust this will help you in every possible way.

I am, yours faithfully, Jack Rodgers

F.d.