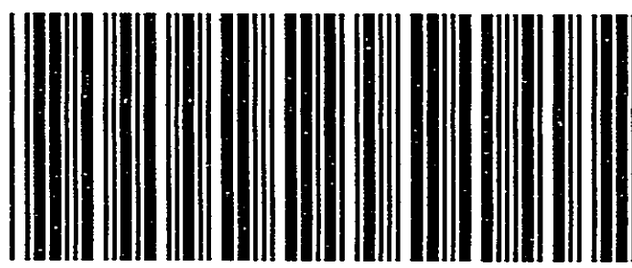
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

335 Private Henry James Vivian Priestley

11th Battalion



2200806I

NOTE FOR FILE

Red Cross file for Pte H J V Priestly 11 Bn AIF

This file was originally held in the Red Cross Prisoner of War series, but as Pte Priestly was never a prisoner of war it has been transferred to the Red Cross Missing and Wounded series. A cross reference to this effect has been placed in the POW series.

Michael O'Sullivan
Private Records
18 May 1994

A.I.F. 11th Battn.

PRIESTLEY
H.J.V. 335.
Henry James Vivian

"Prisoner of War in Turkey"

Court of Enquiry which sat 25/7/18 found, 335 Priestley H. previously reported Prisoner of War in Turkey, now killed in Action 25/4/15.

Cert. by Message from A.I.F. Hqrs 26/7/18.

London
26/7/18.

P

A.I.F. 11th Bttn.

PRIESTLEY.
Henry James Vivian. 335.

Killed in Action., 25.4.15.

K. in A. 25.4.15.
Cert by A.I.F. Hdqrs L^d^st. 25.8.19.

Name.	Unit.	Cause of Casualty.
London. 13.10.19.		

P.
H.

NOTE TO PERTH

11th Battn. A.I.F.

"Missing 9-6-15"

"Killed in Action 25-4-18"

PRIESTLEY H.J.V. 335
Henry James Vivian
JOY Ivo B. 919

In reference to your letter 9-5-18, when any of our men are exchanged from either Turkey or Germany, we make a point of interviewing them on any case they might know about.

London
27-6-18

P.

NOTE TO PERTH.

Priestley.
H. J. V. 335.
Henry James Vivian

11th Battn.
A. I. F.

"Believed Prisoner of War".

We regret to state we have not received an answer to our letter to the Ottoman Red Crescent in regard to the above man. No correspondence has been received from Pte. Priestley by us nor by his sister at Harefield. We fear the American Ambassador's report must have been incorrect.

London.
17.7.17.

11th Batt,
A.I.F.

Priestly,
H.I.V. 335.
Henry James Vivian

"Prisoner of War"

Cert. by information from Turkish Red Crescent Society
"This man is not on the list of Prisoners of War in Turkey -
Letter dated 28.6.17

London,
7.8.17

No Inq,

11 A.I.F.

PRIESTLEY
H.T.V. 335.

M. 7/6/15. Henry James Vivian

Reported Prisoner of War at Constantinople by the U.S.A. Ambassador.

Cert. by:-

3rd Echn. G.H.Q. M.E.F.

CAIRO.
6/3/16.

P. & L.

11 A.I.F.

PRIESTLEY
H.J.V. 335.

9-6
(M.&S.15.)

Henry James Vivian

Reported Prisoner of War in Turkey by the American Ambassador.

Cert. by:-

Australian Interm. Base, Cairo.

Red Cross,
Cairo,
24:11:15.

(L. & P.)

11 A.I.F. B.

PRIESTLEY
Pte.H.J.V. 838.

Henry James Vivian

(M.)

Informant was a personal friend of Priestley's and in the same section. Priestly was last in the first day, and informant was confident that no one knew anything more, or ever would, unless he was a prisoner.

Pte. H.J. Vivian, 838,
11 A.I.F. B.,
Australian Hospital,
Heliopolis, Cairo.

W.H.V.Read,
Cairo,
12:11:15.

Pte.

M E D

11th Australian Regiment,
Priestley H.J.V., 335,
Henry James Vivian B. Co.

Informant states that the last time he saw H.J.V. Priestly was at Pope's Hill, in the charge on Sunday morning, April 25th. The report was that he had been buried by the Turks.

Reference: Frank Doig, 298,
11th Australian Regiment,
5th Southern General Hospital,
Portsmouth.

Home address:
Keane Street,
Midland Junction,
West Australia.

London,
Nov. 19th 1915,
M. Fortescue.

Moore's Modern Methods, Ltd. London, England. Binder and holes in leaves. Pat'd No. 6778, 1906.

M. A. D.

II A.I.F. H. H.J.V.Priestly
Henry James Vivian
335

Priestly went away sick in Aug. from Anzac and returned about Sept. 5 when he was well and unwounded. Witness sure of his facts. Cannot swear to the initials but feels sure this man identical so there was no other Priestly in the battalion and his number corresponds with that of the Priestly to whom witness refers.

W.D.le Fort. 69 D co. II A.I.F.

Malta Ghain Tuffieha. 28.II.15.

H.S.O.

Moore's Modern Methods, Ltd., London, England. Binder and holes in leaves. Pat'd No. 6778, 1906.

TURKISH

presumed Dead

Priestley

Pte H.J.V.

$3.5-

11th Battn

Turkey (H.Q. Bs list 14.3.17)

Constantinople (Statement American Ambassador per Hun Deakin)

Letter 28.6.17 from Ottoman Red Crescent stating the above is not a prisoner on their lists.

H.Q. T. Posts list

Prev rept Posn. Turkey now Killed in action (Court of Enq) HQ/62675

335. Bank Pte Name Pinkerton Hq. 9 Folio

Dr. Particulars.	Expenditure.	Particulars.	Receipts. Special Donations.	Pay Office.	General.	Cr. Adopters. Donations.
19/4 To Cash	3/32 3 13 4	19/7 By Capt & Lieut 11th Battn	B/70		3 13 4	

.COPY

SOCIETY DU CROISSANT ROUGE OTTOMAN.

Commission des Prisonniers de Guerre.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

13 28 juin 1917.

Priere de rappeler.
le No. A.3261.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.
54 Victoria Street.
LONDON S.W.

Messieurs,

En reponse a votre lettre du 22 mai 1917, nous avons le regret de vous informer que le nom du militaire Priestley H.I.V. ne figure pas sur nos liste de prisonniers de guerre internes en Turquie.

Veuillez agreer, Messieurs, l'assurance de notre consideration tres distinguee.

(Sgd) Belidget.

BRITISH PRISONER OF WAR
C/o G.P.O.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY,
80, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

335. Pte. H. J. V. Priestly,
11th. Batt. Australian Infantry,
British Prisoner
C/o Ottoman
Constan

عثمانی ملال احمر جمعیتی
اسرا لوبیورو
INCONNU
RETOUR
عودت اداره

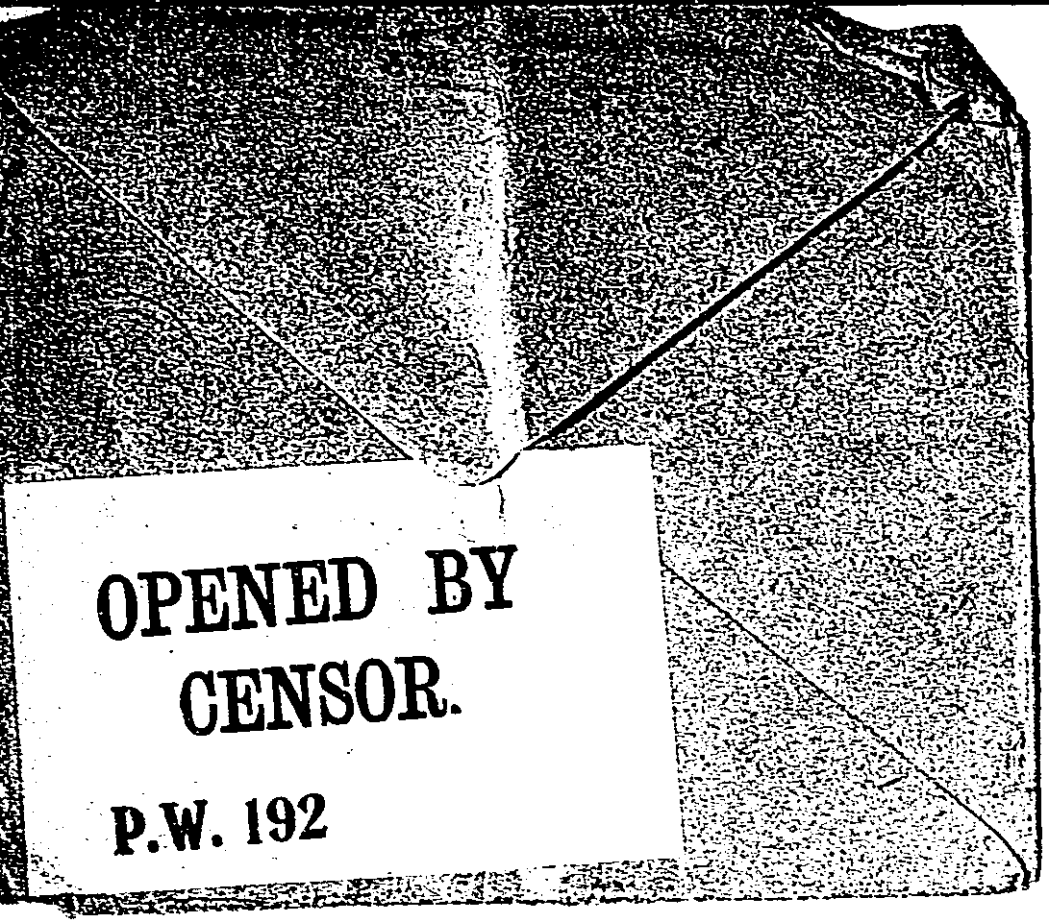
BRITISH PRISONER OF WAR
OHMS

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY,
66, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

5385, Pte. H. J. V. Priestly,
11th. Batt. Australian Infantry,
British Prisoner
c/o Ottoman
Constan

PRC

عثمانلی هلال احمر جمعیتی
اسرا تومیسیونی
INCONNU
RETOUR
مرجعه اعاده


OPENED BY
CENSOR.
P.W. 192

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

PRISONER OF WAR CARE COMMITTEE.

TELEPHONES: 8576
8577
8578
VICTORIA.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE,

MISS M. E. CHOMLEY,
Hon. Secretary.

LONDON, S.W.1

May 28th. 1918

Dear Pte. Priestly,

On examining the records of our Australian Prisoners of War in Turkey, we find we have never received any report as to your health. Will you, therefore, let us know as soon as possible whether you have been wounded or not, and if you have had any illness since being captured, and how you are at present.

I hope you are well, but if you are not, please give full particulars as to what you are suffering from.

With good wishes,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) M. E. Chomley

Hon. Secretary.

Name Prewett *No.* 335

Batln. 11th

Kriegsgefangenenlager

Date	Received from	For	£	s.	d.
19.2.17	Capt. K. McLennan	s/fe.	3	13	4

Parcels sent weeks ending:

Total number of parcels:

Total value of parcels:

Total received

Value of parcels

Balance in hand

To repeat order quote No. 72018 (Under and holes in leaves, Pat'd No. 6775, 1906.

SOCIÉTÉ DU CROISSANT ROUGE OTTOMAN

Commission des Prisonniers de Guerre

CONSTANTINOPLE

le 28 juin 1917

Prière de rappeler
le N° A. 3261

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

54, Victoria Street.

L O N D O N S.W.

Messieurs,

En réponse à votre lettre du 22 mai 1917, nous avons le regret de vous informer que le nom du militaire Priestley H.J.V. ne figure pas sur nos liste de prisonniers de guerre internés en Turquie.

Veuillez agréer, Messieurs, l'assurance de notre considération très distinguée.

Behaget

Dre

HRO.

October 18th, 1917.

Mrs. Priestley,
Connaughtville,
Westbury, Tasmania.

Dear Madam,

We have received your letter of 8.6.17, in which you ask us to find out for you where your son

No 335 Pte. H.J.V. Priestley,
11th Battalion,
A.I.F.

was detained as a Turkish Prisoner of War.

We regret to say we think the American Ambassador in Turkey either made a mistake in reporting him a prisoner or else the poor boy must have been so severely wounded that he died, as when we wrote to the Ottoman Red Crescent Society asking about your son they answered that his name was not on the list of prisoners in Turkey. We have never been able to get into touch with him or anyone knwoing anything of him since his reported capture.

We have received unoffiddal information from one or two of your son's comrades, who last saw him at Pope's Hill, in a charge on a Sunday morning, after which they never saw or heard anything more of him. He was reported missing since 9.6.15; and

We fear that there can now be no doubt as to his fate.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your disappointment, and in the sad loss of your brave son who has so nobly sacrificed his life for his country.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

M. F. W.

May 22nd, 1917.

Sister B. Priestley,
A.A.M.C.,
Royal Victoria Hospital,
Netley.

Dear Madam,

We are in receipt of your letter of 16th inst. about your brother No. 358 Pte. H.J.V. Priestley, 11th Bn. A.I.F., and very much regret that we have been unable to trace him as a prisoner, this information having originated from the American Embassy.

We are however writing to the Ottoman Red Crescent hoping that they will be able to advise us as to the correctness of this report. We have certainly never heard of him as a prisoner, directly or indirectly, from Turkey.

As soon as we receive a reply from Turkey, we shall gladly communicate with you, as we fully appreciate the natural anxiety of yourself and his relatives.

With sincere sympathy -

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

I Am

May 28nd, 1917.

The Secretary,
Ottoman Red Crescent,
Constantinople, Turkey.

Dear Sir,

Will you of your kindness help us to trace an Australian soldier, No. 385 Pte. H.J.V. Priestley, 11th Battr., A.I.F., who has been missing since April 25th, 1915. His relatives have received persistent reports of his being a prisoner in Turkey, and we should therefore be most grateful if you will advise us as to the truth of these reports, as his people in Australia are naturally very anxious about him.

With apologies for troubling you -

Yours faithfully,

W.D.

See.
[illegible]

15.5.17

Sister Priestley
Australian Nursing Service
Royal Victoria Hospital
Netley

Dear Madam,

We have not been hearing from 355 Pte, H.J.V. Priestley 11th Battn. A.I.F. who is a prisoner of war, and would be glad if you would advise us when you last had news of him.

We have received a cable of enquiry for him from Western Australia stating that the enquirer also has had no letters for some time.

Thanking you in anticipation

Yours faithfully,

pp.

Secretary.

D/-

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

PRESIDENT:
LADY ELLISON-MACARTNEY.

HON. TREASURERS:
RANKIN MORRISON & CO.
EMANUEL BUILDINGS,
ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE,
PERTH.

TELEPHONE A 2545.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO
THE GENERAL SECRETARY,
P.O. BOX 182,
PERTH.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE AND DEPOT:
NATIONAL MUTUAL BUILDINGS,
81 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE,

PERTH, 9th May 1918

The Hon. Secretary,
Australian Branch B.R.C.S.,
Enquiry Bureau,
36 - Grosvenor Place,
LONDON S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

No. 335 - Pte. H.J.V. Priestly - 11th Battan.

The above named soldier was officially reported "missing" ~~since~~ at the landing at Gallipoli and was later reported to be a Prisoner of War in Turkey. This was afterwards contradicted as his name could not be found on the lists of Prisoners of War.

In view of the fact that 1000 men are being exchanged from that country, the relatives have asked us if it would be possible to get into touch with any of these men and if possible get any information regarding Pte. Priestly.

We know this is beyond the scope of your work, but under the exceptional circumstances, we know you will do what you can .

FOR THE RED CROSS SOCIETY
[illegible]

Yours faithfully,
Henry Craig
Chairman.

P.S. Although Pte. Priestly was afterwards reported "Killed in action" no information concerning his real fate has yet been known.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH).

PRESIDENT:
LADY BARRON,

HON. TREASURERS:
RANKIN MORRISON & CO.,
EMANUEL BUILDINGS,
ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE,
PERTH.

TELEPHONE, A2545.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO
THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE AND DEPOT:
NATIONAL MUTUAL BUILDINGS,
ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE,

File No. 56. PERTH, 12th January 1916

Adrian Knox Esq. K.C.
Australian Red Cross Commissioner,
c/o British Red Cross Society, Enquiry Branch,
Shepheard's Hotel
C A I R O .

Dear Sir:-

We shall be obliged if you will endeavour to obtain information regarding the condition and whereabouts of the soldier particulars concerning whom are stated hereunder:-

Priestley, Henry James Vivian.
Private.
No. 535,
11th Battalion.

A direct enquiry was made by his mother before this Bureau was established and Lady Katherine Buxton, British Red Cross Society, Gresham Buildings, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo, has sent us reports as follows:-

Cairo
12/11/15. Priestley was lost on the first day, and informant, Private J.J. Jones, 11th Battalion, Atelier Hospital, Heliopolis, was confident that no-one knew anything more, or ever would, unless he was a prisoner.

Red Cross Cairo. 24/11/15. "Reported prisoner-of-war in Turkey by the American Ambassador. Cert. by:Aust.Interm.Base, Cairo. "

In the "West Australian", the chief local paper published

in this City, dated 10th instant, Priestley is reported to be "in hospital, nature of casualty unknown, previously reported missing".

The only information which the Defence Department here can furnish is that Priestley has been wounded.

Yours faithfully,

FOR THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.
INFORMATION BUREAU,
W.A. BRANCH.

M Donaldson
Secretary.

Oct 1

RECEIVED
15 MAR 1917

Royal Victoria Hospital

Netley

18/5/17

To the Secretary Australian Red Cross Society

Dear Madam

I received your note of Enquiry about my brother. No 335 Pte H.J. V Priestley 11th Bn A.I.F. I have never heard - nor have any knowledge, has my mother, or his wife, or any of the family, since the landing at Gallipoli & since he was reported missing & a prisoner of War, the cards & letters written to him in the usual way to Turkey have been returned. Through the Geneva Red Cross I would be so obliged if you could tell us anything, or if anyone has heard from him, or of him. Hoping to

Can tell me nothing but that he is
Still missing each time I enquire

Yours faithfully
B Priestley - Sister A.A.N.S

Royal Victoria Hospital

Netley.

16/6/17.

Dear Madam

I have just had a letter from Mrs Mottus in Tasmania and in it she says she has received the following message from the Defence Department Melbourne regarding my brother Base Records Office Victoria Barracks 14/4/17 I now beg to advise you that information has been received by post - dated 23/1/17 to the effect that No 335 Pte H.J.V Priestley 11th Battalion who was previously reported missing is now officially reported prisoner of war in Turkey - P.P.C.

So it looks as if the authorities know he is a prisoner otherwise

Surely they would never write an official report like that which I would so like to know if the report is correct - my brother also mentioned that most (not all) of our letters which also his wife's had been returned to them at the beginning of the year - by the International Committee of the Red Cross Geneva who wrote, when sending the last letter they feared it was useless to send it on as correspondence for him had already been returned - since receiving the report from Melbourne I have again written my brother & also to the Red Cross Geneva telling them of the favoured assurance that he is a prisoner somewhere in Turkey I am telling you know all that at present So long Kindly said you would let me know anything you could find out Yours very truly

B Priestley-Sister A.A.N.S

Rec'd
16 OCT 17

Comaneghtille
Westbury. Tasmania.
8th June 1914

The Secretary
Australian Branch of the
British Red Cross Society
London

Dear Sir

I would be most grateful if you could give me some information regarding my son No 335 Pte H.J. V. Priestley, 11th Battalion who is officially reported a prisoner of war in Turkey since December 1915, and who had been reported missing since April previously. All letters addressed to him C/o International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, Switzerland have been returned and I was at last told by them, it was useless forwarding them on, as previous letters addressed to him had been returned to them. Last April I got a notification from the Base Records Office, - of which I send a copy, - that information had been

received by post, dated 23rd Jan. 17. to the effect that Pt Priestley was a prisoner of war in Turkey. The fact, that you are continually sending parcels etc to the Australian prisoners there, has made me hope you might be able to tell or find out for me the place of his detention.

Yours faithfully
Catherine Priestley

P.S. My Son enlisted from Perth. West Australia

Copy of letter received

Z.W.

Australian Imperial Force
Base Records Office
Victoria Barracks
Melbourne
14th April, 1917

Dear Madam,

I now beg to advise you that information has been received by post, dated 29.1.17. to the effect that No 335 Pte A. J. V. Priestley, 11th Battalion, who was previously reported Missing, is now officially reported Prisoner of War! Turkey.

In the event of any further reports being received you will be promptly notified.

Yours faithfully
J. M. Lean. Major.
Officer i/c Base Records

Mrs C. Priestley
Westbury!
Tas.

9th March, 1916.

The Secretary,

Red Cross Enquiry Bureau,

Western AustralianBranch,

P E R T H. W.A.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of 12th January, we beg to state we are informed by the 3rd Echelon,General Headquarters, M.E.F., that No. 335,Pte.H.J.V.Priestley, of 11th Battalion, A.I.F. has been reported a prisoner of war at Constantinople by the American Embassy. We are advised by A.I.F.Head Quarters that the ~~proper~~ correct way to communicate with prisoners of war is to address letters C/o The High Commissioner, London, writing "Prisoner of War" across the corner. We are unable to obtain any more particulars.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,
Australian Branch,
B.R.C.W. & M. Enquiry Bureau.