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

5484 Private
William Thomas Owen

54th Battalion



2070612I

A.I.F. 54th Btn
late 2nd Btn

OWEN
Wm. Thos. 5484

"MISSING"

Killed in action 7-12-16 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 15-9-17

S

London
19-9-17

54th Australianss

Owen, Pte.W.T. 5434

(M. Dec.7/16)

"I was told by Pte. George Lee, 54th Austral. a man from Wyalong, that he heard that Pte. William Owen 54th Austral. turned up in Hospital. I had heard he was missing on the Somme on Dec. 7. after we had been doing fatigues near Flers. I knew him in civil life. but I did not know he was in the 54th Batt. until I heard he was missing."

Eye-witness: No. He was back in supports. Told by Pte. George Lee, 54th Australians.

Description: Tall, middle-aged. sandy. In civil life a miner at Wyalong.N.S.W.

Informant:- L/Cpl. William Beattie, 1317
54th Australians. late of 2/C.X. A.Co. 11.Pl.
3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford.

Home address: Elizabeth Street
Tighes Hill
Newcastle. N.S.W.

March 7. Janet M.Payne

Written Pte Lee 14.3.17

54th A. I. F. W. T. OWEN, 5484.

Missing 7.12.16.

He walked over at Flers with rations to the German lines by mistake, and was never seen again. He was tall, red haired and aged about 40.

Reference: Cpl. W. J. Wayt, 3149.

Convalescent Camp, Rouen. 14.3.17.

FS.

54th Batt.
A.I.F.,

OWEN
W.T. 5484

"Missing 7 12.16"

I had occasion to know the poor fellow above-mentioned in fact to be an intimate friend of his as he was boarding at my father's hotel in West Wyalong N.S.W. for some eighteen months prior to enlisting I would like to mention Miss Deakin for my own interest I have been trying to obtain the correct details of the poor fellow's death and had I known the address of his relatives would have communicated with them previous to this. By what one of the boys who happened to be in the same party at the time tells me, ~~that~~ Pte Owens with several other men were detaild conveying rations, to the men in the Front line. When on their way one of the enemy shells burst quite near wounding two whom I happened to know and sorry to mention the same shell being the cause of the poor boy's death. It being in the night time and as you might understand no lights of any description being allowed, the wounded had to be removed at once by the remainder of the party but one speaking to one of the lads later on he tells me they came across the unfortunate fellow on the following day.

Cert. by letter from Pte Geo Lee 5393
France. 26.3.17.

London
4.5.17.

S.

54th Battn.
A. I. F.

Owen.
W. T. 5484.

"Missing 7.12.16."

Regarding the burial of the above mentioned at the time of meeting his death there was no Registered Soldiers Cemetery in the vicinity, so was temporarily buried in the Field, but later on the body was exhumed and removed to a Soldiers Cemetery further back. The name of the place where he was buried- at Flers on the Somme Front.

Letter from:-
Pte. Geo. Lee. 5393.
B. E. F.
6.5.17.

London.
22.6.17.

S.

54th Batt. A.I.F.

Owen. Pte. W.T. 5484.
D Coy.

K/A 16. M. Dec. 7/16.

"On Dec. 7/16 at "Monson? Trench (Somme) Pte. W.T. Owen is said to have been blown to pieces while carrying rations to the first line. Part of his body was found. It was dark at the time."

Eyewitness: No. Told by Ptes. G.& V. Giles. 54 Batt. A.I.F.

Description: Tall, thin, red hair.

Informant: Pte. H.E. Mills. 5014.
D Coy. 54th Batt. A.I.F.
Home address: Kitchener's Hospital, Brighton.
Moscomya West Airiah Park,
N.S.Wales.

2/1/18.
D.Fazaekerly-Westly.

A. I. F. 54. OWEN, W.T. 5484.

K/A. 1/100. M. December 7th, 1916.

I detailed him for a ration party at Needle Trench on December 7th, 1916. A shell burst over the party and he disappeared. We sent out search parties to look for him with no result. The men in the party were sure he was ~~taken~~ blown to pieces by the shell. Pte V.Giles,5369, D.Coy, was wounded by the same shell. He is away from the Battn now. He could perhaps give some more definite information.

SA.

Reference:- Sgt.Maj. C.R.Hawke. 2422. D.Coy.
Frenq.

Identity cert. from Battn records.

Etaples
7.1.18.

9th January 1918.

Owen W.T. No.5484.

Havre.

54th A.I.F.

K/A M. 7th December 1917.

I know Private T. Owen of the 54th Battn A.Co., I think his name is Thomas. He is fair., age about 32, fair moustache about 5 ft 6.
He was all right and with the ~~x~~Battn when I left about 3 weeks ago.

Inf:- Pte J.C.Dudley No.6295.
54th Battn A.Co. IV Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

GLT.

A.I.F. 54th Btn
late 2nd

OWENS
Wm. Thomas 5484

"K/A. 7-12-16"

Notrace Germany
Cert by Capt.Hills 10-10-19.

S

London
18-10-19

Ack
F.M. 18th 17

Somewhere in France
March 26th 17.

Dear Miss Deakin

Your letter to hand yesterday requesting information regarding Pte. H. J. Owens 543th. Yes Miss Deakin I had occasion to know the poor fellow above mentioned in fact to be an intimate friend of his as he was boarding at my Fathers Hotel in West Wyalong N.S.Wales for some eighteen months prior to enlisting. I would like to inform Miss Deakin for my own interest I have been trying to obtain the correct details of the poor fellows death, and had I known the address of his relatives would have communicated with them previous to this: By whom one of the boys who happened to be in the same party at the time tells me that Pte Owens with several other men were detailed for certain duties to the enemy in the front line

Notions

5484

~~5434~~ W. T. OWEN

54 Balls.

5484

M-7 12,16

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3 7

When on their way one of the enemy shells burst quite near, wounding two whom I happened to know and sorry to mention the same shell being the cause of the poor boys death. It being in the night time and as you might understand owing to no light of any description being allowed, the wounded had to be removed at once by the remainder of the party. But on speaking to one of the lads later on to tell me they came across the unfortunate fellow on the following day during Chs Death you will find this information satisfactory also any further details you wish, would be only too pleased to inform you of same.

Sincerely Yours.

P. Geo Lee (3393)

March 15th.1917.

Pte.George Lee.
54th.Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

5434.W.T.Owen, 54th.Battn. A.I.F.

Missing 7. 12. 16.

W. T. Owen.

W. H
16.3.17.

IR.

27th April, 1917.

No. 5393.
Pte. George Lee,
54th Batt. A.I.F.,
B. E. F.

Dear Pte. Lee,

Very many thanks for your letter of March 26th in answer to our enquiry for:

5484 W. T. OWEN, 54th Battalion.

We have delayed answering same till we could obtain from A.I.F. Headquarters, Horseferry Road the address of the next-of-kin which we have just received:

Father - Thomas Owen, P.O. Cowra, N.S.Wales.

As you said you would have written to his people if you had known their address, and we know how much they will prize a letter from their son's friend.

The information you sent will be of great assistance, the only further details we could ask for being whether Pte. Owen was buried on the field or in a soldiers' Cemetery where the graves would be registered. If you could send us these particulars we shd be grateful. Yours faithfully, V.D. Lee

4th June 1917.

5393 Pte Geo. Lee,
54th Aust: Inf: Bttn,
B.E.F.

Dear Pte Lee,

Very many thanks for your letter telling us of the burial in a soldier's cemetery of -

5484 W.T. Owen, 54th Btn, A.I.F.

We shall now be able to apply for a photograph of the grave to be sent to his relatives.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary

Ack
F.M.2.6.17

Somewhere in France
May 6th 16

Dear Miss Deakin

Your letter to hand some short while since, pleased to hear you had obtained the whereabouts of Pte Owen's relatives. Regarding the burial of the above mentioned at the time of meeting his death there was no Registered Soldiers Cemetery in the vicinity so was temporarily buried "In the Field, but later on the body was exhumed, and removed to a Soldiers Cemetery further back. Trusting Miss Deakin this information will meet with your approval, and at present I do not think there is any further details that would be of any assistance to you. I might mention though the name of the place where he was buried — at Flers on the Somme Front. Well Miss Deakin as I have to go on duty now, will say Good Bye for the present.

Sincerely Yours
Geo Lee.
Pte 5393.

5484
W. TIT. OWENS.
54 Battn AIF
M 7.12.16

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