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

2637 Private
Charles Ewen Sharpe

39th Battalion



2470108M

59th Battn
A.I.F.

SHARPE.
C.E. 2637

/Killed 7.6.17."

At Messines he got hit in the back (going up to the objective) by shrapnel. I saw him leavng objective wounded. He got to dressing station but word came back that he died. Comes from Alexandria N.S.W. we came over from Australia together, knew him before we joined up.

Witness:-
Reader. 2628
Ward 23. Harefield.

D.P. Dickson.
London.
1.9.17

S

39th Batn
A.I.F.

SHARPE
C.E. 2637.

"Killed June 7th 1917"

It was reported to Batn that he was picked up and buried by 9th Bgde.

Witness.
Rose. 2629

D.P. Dickson.
London.
2.10.17.

S

7104

SHARPE Chas. Cecil

A.I.F. 39. SHARP, C.E. 2637.

K. June 7th, 1917.

Place of burial, a spot 1/3 mile S.E. of Messines Village. (Map reading U.3d.2.4.)

SA.

Cert. by Div. Burials Officer, Fanquembergues. 30.10.17.

Burial Battleau Farm (W) Military Cemetery, 2½ Miles S.E. of Messines

Etaples 1.11.17.

28 NE 1/40,000. Sketch at H.Q. & S. 2 copies.

39th A.I.F. C. E. SHARPE, 2637.

K. 7.6.17. Det. D & B.

I had the following from Cpl. Keiler of D Co. 14 Pl. (still there.) He, Sharpe and I were chums. He said he was with Sharpe on a working party digging a new trench ahead of the front line at Messines. Fritz was shelling them heavily, and these two left the trench and got into a shell hole. After a while Keiler went back to the trench, and saw a shell fall into the shell hole. He told me that he heard later from the Co. Orderly Room that the 9th Bde. A.I.F. had reported burying Sharpe, and had sent in his disc. Sharpe's home address was 88 Buckland St., Alexandria. I knew the family well and have written to his wife.

Reference: Pte. H. A Lemon, 2587.
No.11 Con.Camp Buchy Nr.Rouen. 13.11.17.

FEP.

Written Cpl. Keiler 7-12-17.

39th Batln.
A.I.F.

Sharpe.
C. E. 2637
(& 16 others, for full list
see Anderson.F.P.)

"Killed in Action 7.6.17"

Killed in Action 7.6.17 Battle of Messines Buried in the Field. Those buried "in the field" at Messines, were buried in definite localities properly marked, but the places had no names. There is some doubt as to whether some of the lads were killed on 7th or 8th of June. It is a question whether they were killed before midnight or after. If you have the 8th down and my date is the 7th, keep to your date.

Letter from:-
Chaplain J.Best.
"E" Lines,
Aust: Officer's Mess,
Belton Park.
Grantham. 11.11.17.

London.
19.11.17.

S.

A. I. F. 39. SHARPE C.E. 2637.

K. June 7th, 1917.

His body was recovered after the action at Messines and is buried in the Bethleem Farm West Military Cemetery, 2-1/4 miles SSW of Messines.

S.A.

Cert. by Adj. 39th Battn.
Zoteux.

Etaples
28.11.17.

S.

39th Battn.,
A.I.F.

SHARPE, C.S.E.
2637. Pte.

KILLED IN ACTION. 7/6/17.

I knew Sharpe well - we were mates. He was killed at Messines. I was wounded in the same battle and did not see him killed, but another mate of Sharpe's - Pte.J. Laycock, No.2589, 39th Battalion, A. Company (still with the Battalion), can give all information, as he was next to Sharpe in the Battle of Messines.

Informant:- Pte.S. T. Rowe, 2630,
39th Battalion,
Information Bureau,
SYDNEY.

Home address:- HAWKSVILLE, HASTINGS RIVER, N.S.W.

I.S.
5/2/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

Enquiries

Q. 34th Batt. A.I.F. G. Sharpe C.E. 2634.

K. June 4/17 (Del 2/18.

In Cancellation sheet you have the above marked. Information Sufficient. Could you supply me with the Information for this mate.

Enquiries

15-12-17. G. M. Griffiths
Hurdcott

1335

14.1.18

Cpl A B KEILLER 5 C
39 Bn A.I.F
c/o Y.M.C.A.
Sandhill Camp
Longbridge Deverill
Wilts

H

abt 2637 C E SHARPE
39 Bn A.I.F

KIA 7.6.17

Enl
15.1.18

Enquiries

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of reports of information re

2634. Pte Charles Ewen Sharpe. 39th Batt. A.I.F.
6508. Pte Ernest Evans. 16th Batt "

C.M. Griffith
No 3 Command Depot.
Hurdcott.
19-12-17

7.12.17

Cpl. Keiler-
2 Coy. XIV Pln.
39th Batln. A.I.F.
B.F.F.

L

abt.
2637 Pte. C. E. Sharpe
39th Batln. A.I.F.
K. 7-6-17.

10.12.17.
O.C.B.

December 18th. 1917.

G. W. Griffiths, Esq.,
No. 3. Command Depot,
Harrogate.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry for 3637 Pte. Charles Ewen Sharp, 39th. Battalion A.I.F. who was reported killed in action 7.6.17. We have some information given by men in the same unit.

2671, Pte. C. Anderson, says: " He was killed outright by shell at the battle of Messines. The 9th. Pioneers buried him. They brought back the report to the Battalion. He was buried on the field with cross and name."

430, Pte. A.H.Delamere, 39th. Battn. says: " I was batman to Church of England Padre, Capt. J. Best of the 39th. Battalion, (now with Machine Gun Coy, Grantham, England) and accompanied him with the burial parties at Messines in May, June and July. He has a complete record of all the men buried and the location of their graves.

You ask also about 6008, Pte. Ernest Evans 16th. Battalion, A.I.F. We regret to inform you that beyond the news that he is officially reported killed in action 11.6.17. We have no further particulars. Should we get any we will send them on at once to you.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

L.B.

Driver C.F. Keiller,
Transport Section,
39th Battn A.I.F.
B.E.F.

16th Jan 1918

Dear Driver Keiller,

We have to thank you very much for the message you sent us thro Miss Llewelyn of the Y.M.C.A. Information Bureau at Victoria Station which was delivered in person by her yesterday.

We wrote to your brother to-day at the address you give- Sandhill Camp- as we are anxious to obtain first hand reports for the relatives and will no doubt hear from him in due course.

We trust you had a pleasant leave in spite of the weather.

With all good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

V.D

SECRETARY

10.12.17. GC.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).
~~54, VICTORIA STREET,~~ 36 Grosvenor Place LONDON, S.W. 1.

Cpl. Keiler
D Coy. XIV Pltn.
39th Batln. A.I.F.
B.F.F.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries for a man of your Unit:-

1637 Pte. C. E. Sharpe 39th Batln. A.I.F. K.7-6-17.

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 Pte. C. E. Sharpe but our enquirers wish especially to know whether he was buried, if so, whether it was on the field or in a Soldier's Cemetery, where the grave would be registered. We should also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance or any points that might help to prove his identity.

Yours faithfully,
Vera Deakin.
SECRETARY.

NOTE. In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number of casualty enquired for; as without these particulars delay and confusion is caused in identifying the soldier about whom you are writing.

International Y.M.C.A.

Hospitality League.

Head Offices: 18, Charing Cross Road.

Information supplied by Miss Llewelyn Y.W.C.A.

2637.

Private C. E. Sharpe

39th Batt A.S.C. Trans

killed at Messines.

June 7th 1917.

Information from

Driver T. J. Keiller

39th Batt Transport

wrote to Hants Guardian

Cpl A.E. Keiller. 12 23.

c/o Y.M.C.A. Sandhill Camp.

Bewell.

Longbridge. Wilts.

Ask us about anything. That's what we're here for.

P.T.O.

You will find our Enquiry Bureaux at—

TRAFALGAR SQUARE

LEICESTER SQUARE

WATERLOO STATION

VICTORIA STATION

EUSTON STATION
(West Lodge)

STRAND
(On Tivoli Site)

VICTORIA STREET
(Opposite Horseferry Road)

PARLIAMENT SQUARE

EAGLE HUT

Parties leave most of these Centres at 10.0 a.m. daily on sight-seeing tours.

FREE to all SAILORS & SOLDIERS

T.C. 11648