

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

6874 Private
Francis William
Roberts

21st Battalion



2310904J

A.I.F. 21.

ROBERTS, F.W. 6874.

K. Sept. 1st 1918.

Frank Roberts was in C.Co with me. He was a fruit farmer and came with 18th or 19th Reinf. He was a great friend of mine. He was in the same gun team with me during our attack at Mont St Quentin about 1.30 p.m. on Sept.1st. I saw him hit in the chest by a bullet and he died in about 2 minutes. We buried him on top of Mont St Quentin with twelve others; one big cross, with all the names on, was put on the grave, which was not in a cemetery.

Inf: J.Castle. 4385. A.I.
No. 3 Aust Gen Hosp.
ECOLOGNE. 19.10.18.

WO

M.

Havre. 30th. October. 1918.

21st. Australians. Roberts, F. W. 6874.

K. September. 1/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private Frank W. Roberts, C. 9. he came from Melbourne with me in the 19th. to the 21st. Reinforcements on the 11th. May 1917 in the 'Ascencus' His Father is Chief Accountant in the Melbourne Tramway. He is married and was a fruit grower. He was my chum. Corporal Philly Starr, A. Company, who came with us on the same ship wrote me that he was with Roberts at Mont St. Quentin when he was killed and saw his Grave. Starr is with his Unit.

Inf:- L/Corporal Alf. Fox. 6816.
21st. Australians. C. 9.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles. M

RDM.

CP.

Written Cpl. Starr 6.11.18.

Havre. 6th. November 1918.

21st. Australians. Roberts, F. W. 6874.

K. September. 1/1918. Dets. D/B.

I knew Private Frank, W. Roberts, C. Company, he came from Victoria, and was, I think, a Farmer. He came from Melbourne with me in the 19th. to the 21st. Reinforcements in the 'Ascencus' sailing on the 11th. May. 1917. I did not see him killed but I buried him in a Military Cemetery at Mont St. Quentin on September 2nd. 1918 and placed a Cross on his Grave. He was killed by concussion.

Inf:- Private. R. J. Knight 6840.
21st. Australians. D. 10.
Australian Conv. Camp.
Rouelles. M

RDM.

CP.

21st Battn.
A.I.F.

"Killed 1-9-18"

V-ROBERTS.F.W.6874.

S
THOMPSON.E.W.664.

HUNT.C.E. 6817.

On September 2nd in the evening I was with a burial party and we buried 3 men, names above, with six others in a ^{crater} ~~crater~~ - (Diagram above) at Mont St Quentin. and before I left I saw the cross for their graves.

The ground was held. Smerdon.Roy. C.Co. Kelly.A. CoCo. Blackmore."M.M" L/Cpl. Thorburn were the other bodies buried in the same crater.

Home address:-

Tallarook.

Victoria.

Australia.

Informant:- Smedley.Harold. Pte. 731A.
(Reliable)

21st Battn. A.I.F.

"Summerly" E. East Finchley.

Lt.M.Hewson.

London.

23-1-19.

M & ~~Def.~~

*Ed
Lof*

21st Btn.

ROBERTS, F.W.
Pte. No. 6874

Kld. in act. 1.9.18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5' 8", slightly built, dark complexion about 35 years of age, known as Frank. Casualty was taking a mine crater at Mont St. Quentin. I was in the same party. He was hit by a bomb in the abdomen mortally wounding him. He died 10 minutes later. He fell at my feet and he asked me would I turn him over and straighten out his legs, which I did ~~and~~. He was about 20 yards from where he fell, and I helped to bury him. A cross was erected with his name, number and unit on it."

Informant:- G.E. DOBSON
No. 1707

Private address
228 Danks Street,
Albert Park.

M. G. ...

T.G.F.
2.5.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

21st Btn.

ROBERTS, F. W.
pte. 6874.

K. in act. 1/9/18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a well built man about 5 ft. 8 ins. dark complexion, about 30 years of age, known as "Frank". Casualty was at Mont St. Quentin and was going over the top with a machine gun section and had not gone far in the advance when he was shot in the chest by a machine gun bullet mortally wounding him. He asked if he could have his legs stretched out and made comfortable. He did not say any more and died in a few moments. I was alongside him at the time of his death. He was buried at Mont St. Quentin in a grave with fifteen others and there was a cross erected over the grave."

Informant:- Sgt. V. J. Edwards,
No. 615, 21st Btn.

Private address:-
"Glan Iris"
Wellington Road,
Lancaster.

R.A.F.
30/5/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

M. G. ...

16.11.18.

Cpl. P. Starr

A Coy.
21st Batta. A.I.F.

abroad

abt.
6874

Pvt. F. W. Roberts

C Coy. IX Ptn.
21st Batta. A.I.F.

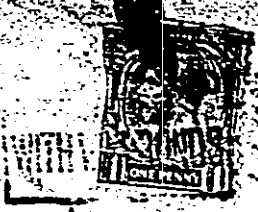
K. 1.9.18.

6.11.18.
A.I.F.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
WOUNDED & MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU

38, GROSVENOR PLACE
LONDON, S.W. 7.

2 15 PM
7 NOV 18



Cpt. Starr

UNDELIVERABLE
A. B. P. O.
RETURN TO SENDER.

UNDELIVERABLE
RETURN TO SENDER
FOR REASON STATED

21st Battalion

Australian Imperial Force

SWI abroad

*Not work
21st
17/11/18*

Tel: VICTORIA 8576
8577
8578

C. C.



6.11.18

A

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE SECRETARY."

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

WOUNDED AND MISSING
— ENQUIRY BUREAU —
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36. GROSVENOR PLACE.

LONDON S.W. 1.

Letter not to be re-addressed

*Cpl. P. Starr
A Coy. 21st Batta. C.1.7.
abroad*

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

*6874 Pte. F. W. Roberts P Coy. IX Ptn.
21st Batta. C.1.7. K. 1.9.18.*

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

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number, as without these particulars delay and confusion might be caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Wenkin

Per A. I. B.
Secretary.

Tel. VICTORIA 8576
8577
8578

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY.
WOUNDED AND MISSING
ENQUIRY BUREAU
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY



6.11.18. A

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

36, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON S.W.1.

C.P. Starr
A Coy. 21st Batta. A.I.F.
Abroad

*Cautioned
letter not to be addressed*

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

10874 - Pte. F. W. Roberts P Coy. IX Pln.
21st Batta. A.I.F. K. 1.9.18.

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

In your reply kindly quote name, initials and number,
as without these particulars delay and confusion might be
caused in identifying the soldier about whom you have
written.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin
Per A.I.B.
Secretary.