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

6095 Private Ernest Arthur John Stonham

1st Battalion



2640804O

Havre 21st Nov. 1917.

1st AUSTRALIANS STONHAM. 6095 E.A.J

K. 5.5.17. Det. D/B.

He lived in Orange, N.S.W. He was short, slim built, dark, aged about 22 or 23. He was killed in the trench at Bullecourt about the 3rd May to the 8th May - by shrapnel. I saw his body lying in the trench. It was not buried as far as I know. We advanced beyond this.

Informant: Pte. D. Sutherland, 6097
1st Australians, A Co., 3rd Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

GR

S

A.I.F. 1. STONHAM B.A.J. 6095.

K. 5.5.17.

He belonged to II Pl. A.Co. and was killed at Bullecourt on 5th.May, by a shell, while in the Hindenberg line, which we had taken and were holding at the time. I saw his dead body ~~lying~~ lying there. It was impossible to bury it at the time and I know nothing as to subsequent burial. He belonged to A.Co.

SA.

References: Sgt.G.E. Marks. 2394. A.Co.
Verlincthun.

Staples.
6.12.17.

N.B. Name, number and date of casualty checked from Bn. records.

1st Battalion.

19R

No. 6095. STONHAM. K.A.J. Pte.

"Killed 5-8/5/1917"

Stonham was a late Reinforcement and was in "A" Co. 11 Platoon Rifleman Section, otherwise No.2 Section, under me. He was only young, medium size, with dark hair. He was killed outright by being struck in the head by a piece of shell in the front line trench between Bullecourt and Reincourt on the 4.5.1917. I remember the date well as I was wounded the night of the same day. He was killed in the afternoon. I had, as his Lance-Corporal, put him on a post at the corner of a sap and later on went along to see how he was doing and found his dead body about 15 yards further along the trench. I collected his pay book and few personal belongings. He had no disc. I made a special search for it, and I handed in his things at Headquarters. I am certain it was Stonham and that he had been killed outright without suffering. We advanced from this position and he would be buried later.

Informant;- Lance-Corporal J. Byers,
1st Battn. A. Coy. 11 Platoon.

Home address;- 14, Little Walker Street, N. Sydney.

H.S.G.
15/2/1918.
No.4 Australian General Hospital,
Randwick.

SYDNEY BUREAU

Havre

1st A.I.F.

11th March 1918.

Stonham E.A.J. No. 6095.

K. 5th May 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Stonham for 2 years; we trained together and came in the 19th reinforcement to the 1st on the 'Wiltshire'. He was short, medium build, very dark, about 20, a bus driver in civil life at Cootamandra, on the southern line, about 240 miles from Sydney. On the 5th May the Batln was at Bullecourt and holding the line. Stonham was returning to his post when I saw the nosecap of a large shell hit him. Death was instantaneous. His head was nearly severed from his body. We were bombing all the time, and I did not see him again, and did not hear of burial. We held the ground.

Inf:- Pte J. Mellor No.6049.
1st A.I.F. A.Co. 2 Pltn.
Australian Camp. Rouelles.

PH.

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1st Battalion, A.I.F.

STONHAM.

Private E.A.J. 6095.

19R.

"KILLED. 5-8.5.17."

Informant described Stonham as about 5 feet 6 inches high, fairly stout build, fairly dark complexion, aged about 26. He left Australia With Informant per "Wiltshire" on 22.8.16.

Informant states that they both belonged to "A" Company. On the night of the 5.5.17 the Battalion was at Bullecourt holding the line. Just at dusk a shell burst right alongside Stonham, while he was in a trench and killed him outright.

Informant added that Stonham was a very well liked chap.

INFORMANT:- Private G. L. Reith, 6073,
"A" Coy, 1st Battalion, A.I.F.

Home address:- Jandra, Grenfell, N.S.W.

W.N.C.
No.4 Australian General
Hospital, RANDWICK.
3.5.18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.