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

653 Private
Allan Alexander Winks

47th Battalion



30001059

A.I.F. att: 47th Btn

late 3rd M.G.C.

WINKS
A.A. 653

"WHEREABOUTS"

Killed in action 28-3-18
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs list 26-4-18.

P.I.

London
26-4-18

47th Battn late 3.M.G.C.
A.I.F.

WINKS.
A.A. 65?.

"Killed in Action" 28-3-18.

He was a mate of mine and a signaller in B.Coy. I saw him killed instantly by what was practically a direct hit from a shell at about 10.a.m. on March 28th 1918. We were dug in in reserve trenches about 100 yards from the Albert- Armiens road and about 1 mile from Albert. I helped to bury him on the spot which in a ploughfield on the road side of a steep bank between the road and the railway embankment. The grave is not marked but I could find the place and If I ever get back to France and am near the spot I will see to it. I took his Bible and note-book and handed them to Capt Young, O.C. of B.Coy, who promised to write to his mother, Mrs E.Winks. Harlin Road. Ipswich. Queensland. and to me when he had done so but I have not heard from him. I intended to write to his Mother myself but have not liked to do so. His name was Alan and he had been in 9th A.I.F.

Informant:- Pte.A.Garner. 1256
47th A.I.F.B.Coy. H.Q.
HAREFIELD.

A.G.Campbell.
London.
1-6-18.

P I.

47th Batt: Winks, A.A. 653.

4 K. 28/3/18.

q

I saw him killed by a shell about 50 yards from the Albert Amiens Road and I saw him buried where he fell 2 nights afterwards by Sgt. Heading and party.

47th Batt: Binnie, R.C.Pte. 1969.

A 2. Dartford. 8/6/18.

R.D.B.

RDB.

P. 1

47th Battn.
A.I.F.

WINKS
A.A. 653 (att.)

"Killed 28-3-18"

He was killed outright alongside me by a shell fragment in the temple at 8 a.m. on 28-3-18, in front of Albert. I was wounded myself by the same shell. He was a Sig. in B.Coy. 6th Pltn. A young chap of medium height, who had only joined in March. He was very religious and was reading the Testament the night before. Cpl.Binnie, of B.Coy. 6th Pltn. 47th Battn., lost his eye as the result of a wound from the same shell.

Informant. Reeves. Pte.J.W. 2703
47th Battn. B.Coy. 6th Pltn.,
HARSFIELD.

A.G.Campbell
London
21-6-18

P.I.

Note:- Report by Cpl.Binnie.

1507 Pte.R.E.Winks,

4th Aust. Broad Gauge Rly Oper:Coy.

A.I.F., B. E. F.

Dear Sir, 30th April 8

In answer to your enquiry about your brother - 655 Pte.A.A. WINKS, 47th Battalion, A.I.F. - We deeply regret to inform you that he is officially reported Killed in Action on March 28th, 1918, no furth particulars have been received, and we are making enquiries, the (-er) result of which we will at once advise you of - but as yet it is very difficult to obtain information as to recent casualties.

With our sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS) F. Fry.

SECRETARY.

47th Battn.
A.I.F.

WINKS
A.A. 653 (att)

"Killed 28-3-18"

This must be the Winks who was a Sig., and had only been with us about 6 weeks, but I do not know which Battn. he came from, He was a first class Sig., with full certificates, and was a very good boy. He was with B.Coy., and I think 5th Pltn. He was buried by a shell when we were in support line on the Tarlin Road, near Albert. He was dug out, but died 10 minutes after, and was buried there in the same shell hole. There was no Cross put up that I know of. W.A.Garner, Hqts. Sig., 47th Battn., would know all about him as they were cobbers, and I think arranged to write totheir respective homes, if either was killed.

Informant. Coll. Sgt.P.J. 2793
B.Coy. Hqts. 47th Battn.,
No.1 Command Depot,
SUTTON VENY.

B.F.German
London
21-6-18

Note:- Report by Pte.Garner.

P.I.

47th Battn.
A.I.F.

WINKS
A.A. 653 (att)

"Killed 28-3-18"

Winks was a Sig., about 18, and had been attached to us about 3 days and was a M.G. Rft. He was killed by the same shell as I was wounded at Dernancourt. There were 3 of us in the shell hole and the other man was also wounded. It was a small shell hole we were in, just about the size of a grave and the remark was passed by us of this fact, and that it would so serve if we got killed. No doubt he was buried and probably where he was killed, but I do not know of this.

Informant. Binnie. Cpl.S.F. 1968
47th Battn. B.Coy.,
Hut 56,
WESTHAM.

W.A.Rand
London
22-6-18

P.I.

47th Battn. A.I.F.

WINKS.
A.A. 655 (att.)

"Killed 28.5.18."

Sgt. J.R.Smith of 4th ~~Battn.~~ Guage Railways is taking to Winks' people two letters from Sgt. Joseph Coll 2973 and Stanley Binnie (report sent in by me 6.6.18. from Binnie) addressed to Spr. R.E.Winks brother of this cancelled enquiry, and asked me to take extracts for record purposes.

From these letters I gather that A.A.Winks was killed outright by a barrage of H.E. several pieces entering his body in a dug-out or small trench 2000 yds. from Albert 50 yds. from main Albert Rd., on Dernancourt side of road.

That Jim Heading (Sgt) now 45th buried him and took his things which were being forwarded to his Mother. He was buried where he fell and geave marked with a rifle.

That, he had a premonition of his death - he read his Bible about half an hour before, did it and addressed to his Mother asking Sig.G.Garner to take it if anything happened to him. That heading is a scout and knows the position well. That ~~A.A.Winks~~ was very well liked.

The letters were of some length and referred to matters relating to the writers in addition and I am sending this at Sgt.Smith's request in the event of anything happening where he may lost the letter. Winks address Harlin Rd., Ipswich.

W.A.Rand, London, EC. 8.18.
H.G.

P.I.

Farmer. Was at Hardcastle. ? 1256
1—6—18. 7256 ✓
Author Wherenbouts. 47 Lin. Bks. ✓

Sailed Eng. 16 Aug. for D.28. 20.10.18.
for change. M.D.1. H.Q 4.11.18

Enquiries for 653, A.A. Works 47 Lin. Bks.

File under Works

Letter. Law.

pc 24.4.18.

France.
19th April 1918.

The Secy,
Australian Red Cross Society,
Dear Sir or Madam,

Having written several letters to my brother 18653, Signaller A.A. Winks, & have failed to receive a reply to any. From reliable authority I understand that his division has taken an active part in the recent heavy fighting and I am feeling very anxious on his account. When I last heard from him he was attached to B. Company, 47th Battalion A.I.F. I would deem it a great favour if you would let me know if anything has happened him, and if not, his present whereabouts. Thanking you in anticipation

Yours Sincerely,
A. E. Winks.

Remain.

My address
Pte. A.E. Winks. No 1597
4th Aus. B.G.R.O. Coy.
Aus Inf. Forces
France.

5-11-18

To Ester Winks Esq.
Harlin Rd
Ipswich
Queensland

Dear Sir - We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 21.8.18 covering 653 Pte A.A. Winks 44th Batt A.I.F. who is officially reported Killed in action on 24.3.18 & you endorsed for forwarding the letter K/2556 Pte A. Gamer 44th Batt. as he has now returned to Australia for discharge. If you will send the letter to our office in Spencer Block Lucas St Bundaberg we will obtain Pte Gamer's present address in Australia & forward it to him for you.

Again assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your loss

Yours

HOBBLEY

20th June, 1919.

1507 R.T.Winks,
4th Australian Broad Gauge Railway,
Pioneer Bn Coy.
Australian Imperial Forces,
France.

Dear Pte.Winks,

We are sending you an unofficial report we have received concerning your brother 656 Pte.A.A.Winks, 47th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. Our informant 1356 Pte.A.Garner of the same unit, who is at present in No.1. Australian Aux.Hospital Moreton, certified as follows;-

"Winks was a mate of mine and signaller in D.Coy. I saw him killed instantly by a shell at about 12.30 a.m. on March 26/18. We were dug in reserve trenches about 200 yds. from the Albert Amiens Road and about 1 mile from Albert. I helped to bury him on the spot which is a ploughed field on the road side of a fairly steep bank between the roadmand the railway embankment. The grave is not marked but I could find the place, and if I ever get back to France and am near the spot I will see to it. I took his bible and notebook and handed them to Capt.Young O/C of D.Coy, who promised to write to his Mother, Mrs.R.Winks, Harlin Rd., Ipswich, Queensland, and to me when he had done so, but I have not heard from him. I intended to write to his Mother myself but have not liked to do so. His name was Alan and he had been in 9 A.I.F.

We are glad to be able to send you a report of such a detailed and personal nature, and trust it may at least be some comfort to know your brothers death was instantaneous.

With sincere sympathy and all good wishes to you yourself.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss)

Secretary.

Encl.

No. 1504.
Sgt P. E. Winks
4th Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating Company
Australian Imperial Force
Abroad

22.6.18

Dear Spr. Winks

With further reference to your enquiry concerning your brother, No. 653. Pte A. A. Winks, 47th Battalion, A.I.F. we beg to inform you that we have received the following unofficial reports from several of his comrades.

No. 968. Cpl S. F. Bennie, 47th Battalion, Hut 56. Westham, Weymouth, states that Pte Winks was a Signaller, of about 18 years of age, & had been attached to the company for about three days, when the casualty occurred. He was killed by the same shell that wounded informant, when they were taking refuge in a shellhole at Demuncourt. Informant adds that it was a small shellhole about the size of a grave, & the remark was passed whilst they were there, that it would so serve if any of them should be killed.

No. 2973. Sgt. P. J. Coll, 47th Battalion, No. 1. Command Depot, Sutton Veny states that he knew Pte Winks, who was "a first class

57th Battalion A.I.F.—contd.

Co.		
	Lever, S. E. 2679.	M. Sept. 24/17.
	Livick, J. 1931.	K. Dec. 12/17. Det.D./B
	‡Lynch, E. 2446.	K. Feb. 27/18. Det.D./B.
	McCracken, J. N. 4146.	M. Sept. 27/17.
	McDonald, H. L. 1972.	K. Sept. 27/17. Det.D./B.
	McKay, W. 4550.	K. Sept. 27/17. Det.D./B.
	Makepeace, P. A. G. 3558.	K. Sept. 24/17. Det.D./B.
	*Mancer, E. C. 5145.	K. Dec. 12/17. Det.D./B.
	Marshall, G. H. S. 1964.	M. Sept. 27/17.
	Martin, W. E. 5409.	K. Oct. 17/17. Det.D./B.
	*Nunweek, H. 2466.	K. Oct. 27/17. Det.D./B.
	Pace, H. T. 2076.	M. Sept. 27/17.
	Prew, C. V. 3220.	M. Sept. 26/17.
	Rockett, W. C. 2248.	M. Feb. 21/18.
	Ryan, E. J. 4579.	K. Sept. 25/17. Det.D./B.
	Shrimpton, W. T. 2978.	K. Oct. 15/17. Det.D./B.
	Solomano, F. J. 2490.	K. Sept. 27/17. Det.D./B.
	‡Symons, S. T. 2258.	D/W. Mar. 9/18. Det.D./B.
	Taylor, A. 3244.	D/W. Sept. 25/17. Det.D./B.
	Taylor, T. 2990.	D/W. Oct. 28/17. Det.D./B.
	Walter, J. 2770	M. Sept. 25/17.
	Williams, W. J. 2507.	K. Dec. 6/17. Det.D./B.
	Willoughby, A. S. B. 3248.	K. Sept. 27/17. Det.D./B.
	*Wilson, B. G. 2269.	M. Mar. 5/18.

58th BATTALION A.I.F.

	Allen, A. N. 3002.	M. Sept. 29/17.
	Allen, C. A. 1614.	K. Sept. 25/17. Det.D./B.
	Cameron, H. P. 2603. (M.G.S.)	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
	Dyer, J. J. 611.	M. Sept. 29/17.
	Eyers, W. C. 5080.	K. May 3/17. Det.D./B.
	Fiddes, D. 1659.	D/W. Oct 21/17. Det.D./B.
	Goldin, R. 2657.	K. Sept. 25/17. Det.D./B.
	Gosstray, J. G. 2658.	M. Sept. 27/17.
	Grant, H. B. 3110.	D/W. Sept. 27/17. Det.D./B.
	Ianson, G. R. 3149.	K. Sept. 24/17. Det.D./B.
	*Kearney, J. 3367.	D/W. Dec. 12/17. Det.D./B.
	Larkman, F. H. A. 3076.	M. Sept. 26/17.
	Lee, A. G. 5128.	M. Sept. 25/17.
	[illegible]. 3189.	W. and M. Sept. 25/17.
		D/W. Nov. 30/17. Det.D./B.
		[illegible]. 25/17. Det.D./B.

2 Signaller, with full certificates, & a very good boy". He was buried by a shell, when the Company was in the Support Line, on the Amiens Road, near Albert, but died a few Minutes after being dug out, & was buried there, in the same shellhole, but no Cross could be erected at that time.

His report is confirmed by No. 1969 Pte R. C. Bennett, 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, who states that he witnessed the burial, & that the grave is about 50 yards from the Albert-Amiens Road.

No. 293. Pte T. W. Reeves, 47th Battalion, 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, states that he was wounded by the same Shell, & adds that Pte Weeks was deeply religious, & had been reading the Testament on the night prior to his death.

We have now concluded our enquiries, & hope that the details we have been able to obtain may be of some comfort to you.

Assuring you of our sympathy

And that Queen we Britain Section Pte ...
We have ...

Yours faithfully.

54th BATTALION A.I.F.

Co.		
	Daines, W. 398.	K. Nov. 4/17. Det.D./B.
	Doyle, E. H. 1595.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
	Dryden, O. W. 4191.	D/W. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
	Harper, A. J. 1675.	D/W. Oct. 15/17. Det.D./B.
	‡Kellett, S. V. 3218.	K. Sept. 27/17. Det.D./B.
	Medhurst, N. 3224.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
	Mulhearn, J. J. 3156.	K. Oct. 20/17. Det.D./B
	Remilton, J. J. 3107.	D/W. Oct. 20/17. Det.D./B.
	Reynolds, Sgt. A. A. 2199.	K. Sept. 24/17. Det.D./B.
	Silverman, J. 14994.	D/W. Sept. 23/17. Det.D./B.

55th BATTALION A.I.F.

Ayers, C. T. 3002.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
Burns, R. H. 2380.	M. Sept. 30/17.
Clark, H. S. 3381.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
Commeiin, A. A. C. 2603.	W. and M. Sept. 26/17.
Crane, S. 3383.	D/W. Oct. 11/17. Det.D./B.
Doughan, W. R. 3246.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
Ezzy, C. 3059.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
‡Hinson, R. S. 25530.	K. Mar. 14/18. Det.D./B.
‡Metcalfe, A. 823.	K. Mar. 16/18. Det.D./B.
O'Neill, P. W. 2551.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
Rankin, H. A. 2222.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
Smith, R. 2241.	W. and M. Mar. 3/18.

56th BATTALION A.I.F.

Barnier, A. D. 3472.	W. and M. Sept. 28/17.
Brokenshire, H. W. 3519.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
Burnett, H. 3036A.	M. Sept. 26/17.
Cahill, J. P. 1639.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
Calor, F. L. 3125.	D/W. Sept. 27/17. Det.D./B.
*Copping, F. O. 2145.	K. Oct. 20/17. Det.D./B. R/Enq.
Davidson, H. 1653.	M. Sept. 26/17.
Elwin, P. 1658.	K. Sept. 29/17. Det.D./B.
Glynn, J. M. 3804	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
Harrison, R. A. 2959.	K. Sept. 30/17. Det.D./B.
‡Hooley, G. D. 5398.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
†Ki[illegible]n, Lieut. A. D. V.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
" C. I. 4446.	K. Sept. 26/17. Det.D./B.
[illegible]20.	M. Oct. 19/17.
	D/W. Oct. 19/17. [illegible]./B.
	M. Sept. 26/17.
	[illegible]26/17. Det.D./B.

653
A A Winkes
all 47 Battn, late 3 M.G. Coy
K in A 28
28.3.18

France,
15th July 1918.

Dear Miss Deakin,

I received your letters containing the information concerning my brother's death, and am at a loss to find words that would sufficiently express my gratitude to you for your efforts in securing such information for me. It has been the one wish of my parents that I should find out as much as possible, and the whereabouts of the grave which I intend visiting before returning home. I have written to all those addresses you sent me and have received answers from several, together with some rough diagrams, which I am sure will prove invaluable to me later on. I now desire to thank you, also on behalf of my parents, for your kindness. The burden although hard to bear has been made lighter for me, for according to your letters my brother was leading a good life up to the time of his death, a great consolation indeed. Concerning my friend 187304, Pte Wm Bennett, I will not trouble you further. It is enough

+ Sht

to know he is dead, which I regret very deeply. Thanking you again for your kindness and sympathy and wishing you and your Society every success in their good work.

I remain,
Yours very sincerely,
W. E. Hughes.

1251 Pte A Garner
47th Infantry Battalion
A.I.F.

Martin Road
Ipswich
21st August 1918

Dear Miss Deacon,

We have to day received a letter from our Son Pte R.E. Pinkess France with a letter received from you in reply to his relative to the death of his brother 65-35 A.I.F. A.A. Pinkess 47th Batt F.L.S. killed 28th March last.

The deceased was our Son and our household are naturally very anxious to receive all information possible concerning his death.

The information you were good enough to obtain has apparently been from a Comrade of our boy and we desire to get a letter to him that he may write us direct. Pte Pinkess Executor a letter for him and would ask your Kind Officer in the Matter of seeing that it reaches him & would write him direct, and fear he may have left the Hospital before the letter could reach him.

It seems so strange to us that our boy should lie in a foreign land. We trained him for Head first of his own free will he went forth to do his part in the Cause of right and he wanted all that may be known of his last days. We have got the Testament his bible and letter to his Mother which his O.C. promised to send. May God soon give us Victory and an awakening to righteousness

Yours truly
G.A. & Mrs Garner