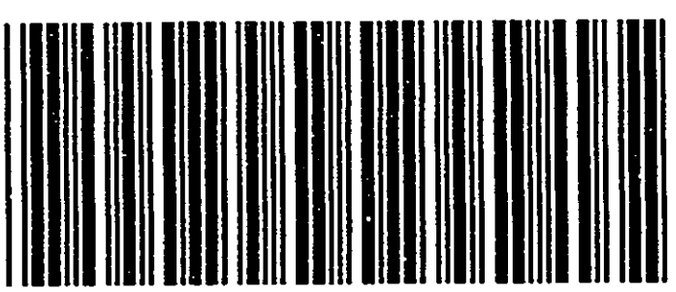
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

3987 Private Harold Stanley Shephard

20th Battalion



2480410J

A.I.F.
20th. Battalion.

SHEPHARD. 3987
Harold, Stanley.

"Killed in Action 6.10.17".

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
18.10.19.

S.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

Shepherd.
N.S. 3987

"Killed 6.10.17"

We took over from 24th on Passchendaele Ridge and on 6th were in supports and advancing by half Coys. I was in 1st half Coy. - Shepherd (Lt.Alexanders' batman and a married man) in 2nd half Coy. Latter came up through barrage and got into a sap. Lieuts.Alexander Dease & Lumm were in the sap (shell holes joined up) when a whizz bang hit the top of the trench and killed Shepherd and Sgt.J.Taylor (D.Coy) outright their tin hats being driven into their heads. I was in the trench close by, Shepherd dropping alongside and touching my leg. After the strafe was over I helped Sgt.Gilholme lift them out and they were buried alongside the sap. The grave was not marked then except by their tin hats being placed on it.

Informant:- H.Blake 6281
20th Battn. D.Coy.
Hut 11 Westham.

W.A.Rand

Note Written to Lieut.J.A.Alexander
" " " H.E.Lohan,
" " " J.W.Dease & Sgt.Gilholme. } 16.4.18
S.

London.
16.4.18. Lieut J W Dease died of wounds Dec 1917 letter returned

20 Australian I.F. Shepherd. H.S. 3987

K. Oct. 6/17 Det D/B

"I know that Pte. Sid Shepherd (20. B.) was transferred to the 2nd Aus. Pioneers. He was killed in the Town of Ypres, last October, by a shell. I saw him afterwards. He was buried in a cemetery there. Two or three others were buried at the same time. There was a Chaplain."

Eye-witness:- He was there when he was buried.

Description:- Very stout, Sydney, single, 4th reinforcements

Informant:- Pte. John Martin, 621,
20th Aust. I.F. B.Co. V Pl.,
3rd Southern General Hospital,
Cowley Section,
Oxford.

Home address:- 35, Addison Rd., Marrickville, Sydney.

27th April 1918.
H.M.Pickard-Cambridge.

S

A.I.F. 20th Battn.

SHEPHERD
H.S. 5987

KILLED in ACTION 6/10/17.

Re 3987 Pte H.S.Shepherd 20th Battn. He was killed on the night of the 5th October 1917 on a ridge just in front of and to the right of Zonnebeke. We had just got into the supports at dusk and Fritz opened up a bombardment and a 77 shell hit on theparapet he was standing in the trench and got two or three pieces in the head. We buried him in a shell hole just out of the trench. The only thing we could put up was a rifle at the head of the grave. He was buried in the same hole as another soldier that was killed with the same shell (He will not be lonely) I put the 6th October because his name went in on the casualty return the next day. I never saw him before that night so cannot give you a description of him. Lieut. Alexander could do that as Shepherd was his batman.

Letter from:- F.A.Gilhelme.
66 B. Magd. Coll.,
Oxford.
25/4/18.

NOTE:- Lt. Alexander has been written to.

London
4.5.18.

S

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

SHEPHARD
H.S. 3987

"Killed 6-10-17"

Shephard was my batman and was killed in action at De Knots Farm, Passchendaele Ridge on the night of 6th Oct. I was knocked and when I came to, he was lying across me dead, having been shot through the head, the effects of shell burst. Sgt.Taylor was killed at same time. I buried him next morning close to a German pill-box just where he fell, and marked the spot with rifle and baycnet as well as I could, and if I get back will see to it, as I could find it again. I received a letter from Aust. Red Cross but have not answered it yet. He was not buried in a Cemetery or grave-yard.

Informant. Alexander Lt. I.A.
20th Battn.,
Westham Camp.

W.A.Rand
London
13-5-18

S.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

SHEPHARD.
Harold Stanley. 3987.

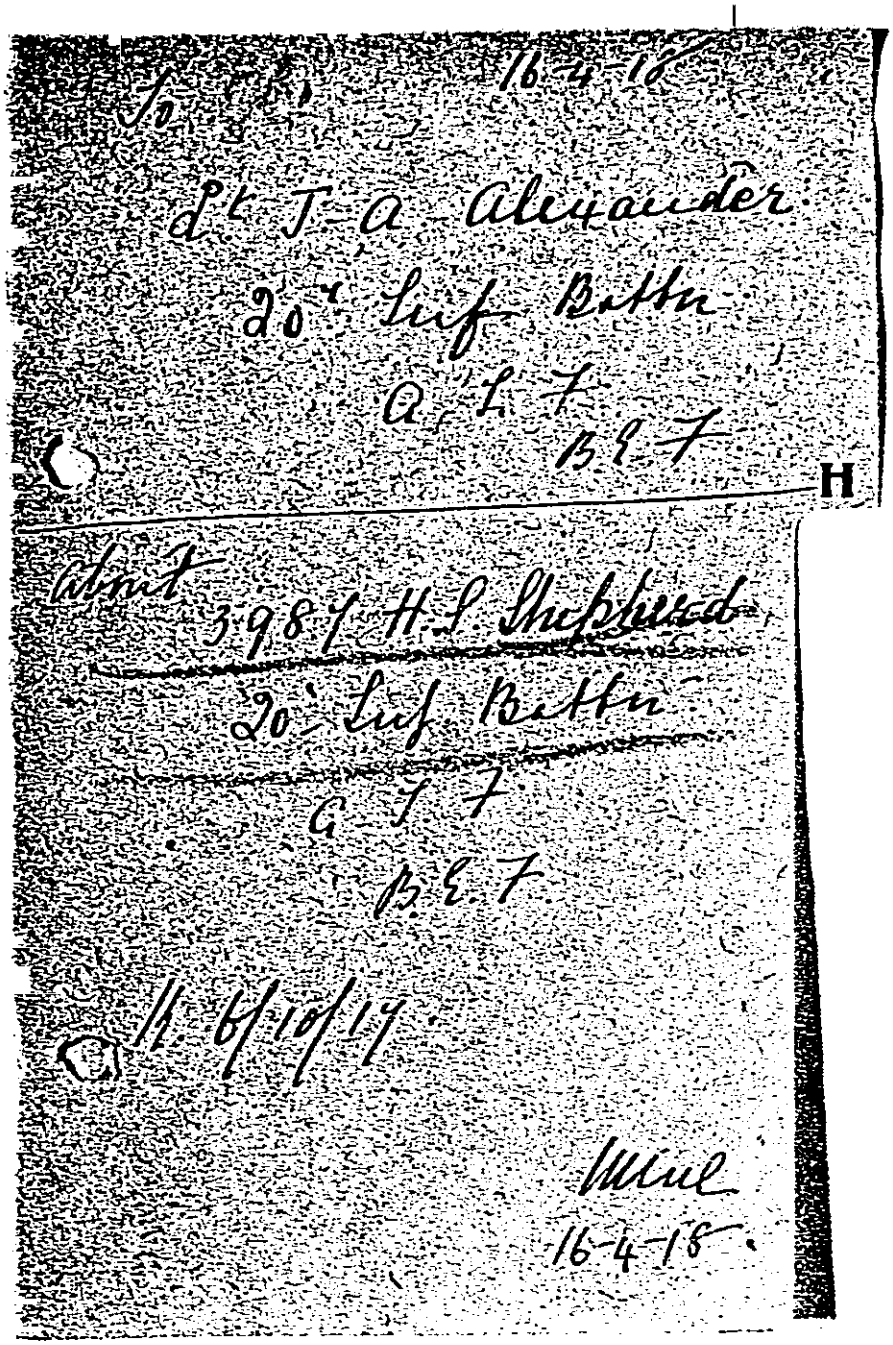
"Killed in Action" 6-10-17.

Re 3987.Pte.H.S.Shepherd.20th Battn. I found three or four who knew him well, so there is no mistaking his identity. He was with Lieut.Alexander at the time.
He was killed by shell fire just before dark on 5-10-17 He and a Sgt Taylor were buried together just near our front line trenches. A rough cross was erected over them. Our position was near Zonnebeke (Ypres Section)

Letter from:- O.C. K. L. Lohan. Lieut
A.I.F.

London.
15-5-18.

S.


16-4-16

Pte T. A. Alexander.

20th Lief Battn

A. L. F.

B. E. F.

H

about 3987 H.L. Inclusive

20th Lief Battn

A. L. F.

B. E. F.

11/6/10/17.

Killed

16-4-18.

16-4-18

Dr T. V. Sease

20th Battn

A. I. F.

3rd London General Hosp G

Woolwich

3 Q & J Pte H. S. Shepherd

20th Batt.

A. I. F.

11.6/10/17

In the C.

16/4/18

16-4-18

Lb

Sgt Gilholme

2d Battn

C 4 F

BR F

Count

398 Pte H. L. Shepherd

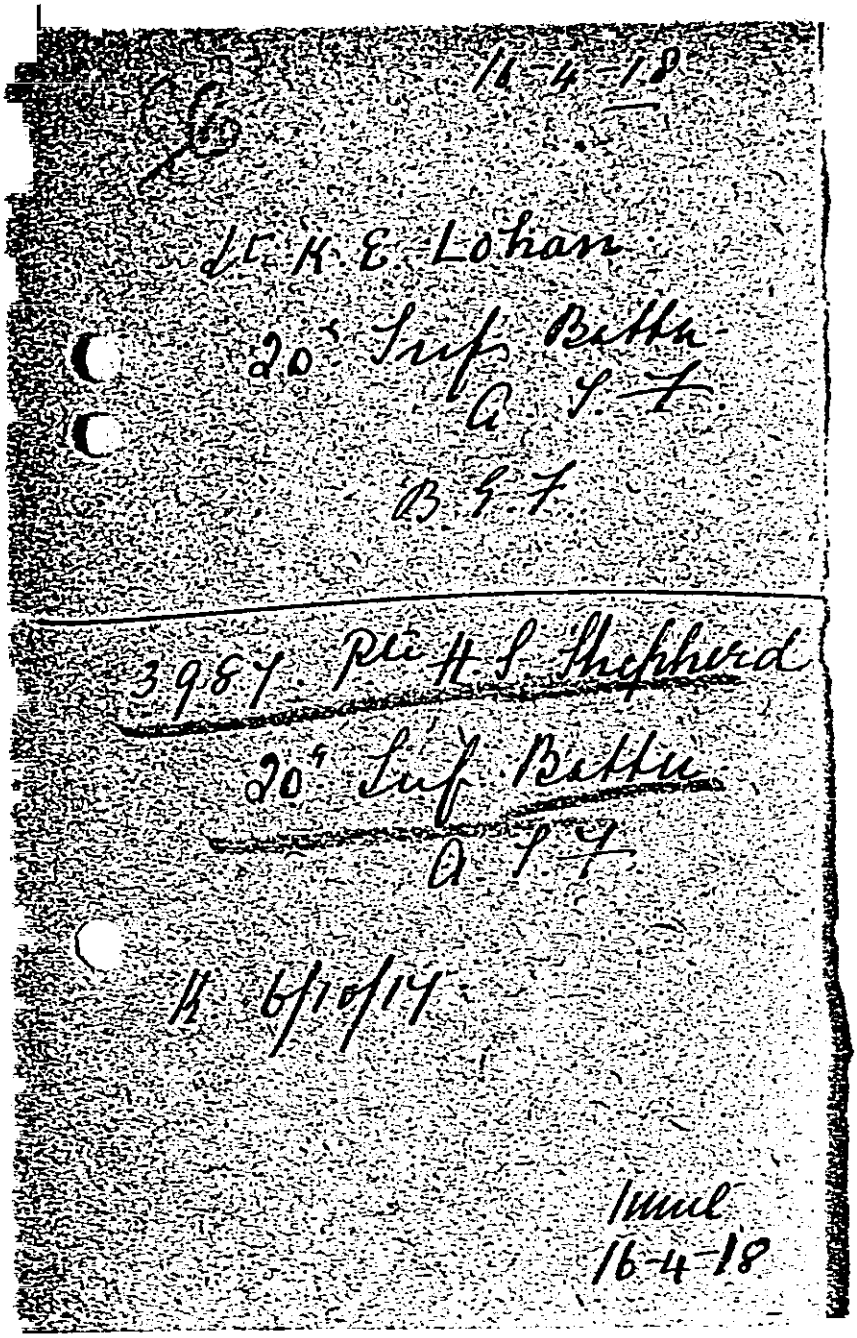
2d Lnf Battn

C F F

14 6/10/17

Lt & C

16-4-18



16-4-18

Lt. H. E. Lohan
20th Inf Battn
A. I. F.
B. E. F.

3984 Pte H. L. Shepherd
20th Inf Battn
A. I. F.

H. 6/10/14

Mail
16-4-18

3984
Harold. Stanley Shephard 4/5/18. (Cd)
20th Battn. K.i.A. 6.10.17
Dear Miss Deakin,
I have ~~been~~ made exhaustive inquiries re. 3987. Pte H. S. Shepherd 20th Bn. I found 3 or 4 who knew him well. so there is no mistaking his identity. He was with Lieut. Alexander at the time.
He was killed by shell fire just before dark. on 5/10/17. He and a Sergt Taylor were buried together just near our front trenches. A rough cross was erected over (illegible) m. Our position was near ZONNEBEKE. (Ypres Sector)
Hoping this information is of use to you.
Yours Sincerely
F. E. Loken. (Lieut)

3984
Harold Stanley Shephard
20 Battn
Can Inf 6.10.17

Canada
Oregon N.S.W.

Dear Madame

The enclosed letter informed my brother was sent out word by next mail. He died of wounds on 10th Dec. just when your letter should have reached him, and it was forwarded on time.

I am sorry not to be able to help the friends of the poor fellows you enquire for

Yours faithfully
M. Bean

Tel.: VICTORIA { 8576 6577 8578

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

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

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

Lt T. V. Dease.
20th Battn.
A.I.F.
3rd London General Hosp.
Wandsworth

16-4-16

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries about a man of your unit,

3987. Pte H. S. Shepherd. 20th Batt. Inf.
M. 6-10-17.

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 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

Secretary.

Initial.

3984
Harold Stanley Shepherd
20th Battalion
Kn A. 6.10.17

Ackd by P.C
26.4.18
9 9

6. 6. C. B.
Magd Coll
Oxford.
20/4/18
Anzac Day
Funeral celebrating it.

The Sec

Dear Miss Deakin.

. Re the inquiry into the death of 3984. Pte H. S. Shepherd. 20th Batln. He was killed on the night of the 5th Oct 1917. on a ridge just in front of and to the right Gonnehecke. We had just got into the supports at dusk and Fritz opened up a bombardment and a shell hit on the parapet he was standing in the trench and got two or three pieces in the head. We buried him in a shell hole just out of the trench. The only thing we could put up was a rifle at the head of their graves. He was buried in the same hole as another soldier that was killed with the same shell (he was a Lewis Gunner) I put the 6th Oct because a Roll Call was in on the casualty return the next day, I never saw him before that night. I cannot give you a description of him. Lieut Alexander can tell you what Shepherd was like. His batman was killed the same time I was hit. He was