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

4281 Private Gilbert Kirkwood Strong

20th Battalion



2650705P

20th Battn.
A. I. F.

Strong.
G. H. 4281.

"Killed 16.2.17."

I have passed his grave many times betwe-en Le Sars and Butte of Warlencourt on Bapaume Road. We were both B. Coy. Lt. Timmons B. Coy. will confirm this and tell you he was sniped at an advanced post. Lt. T. was wounded about 5th May and is now in England. Pte Ham just left here on furlough - of Battn. Pioneers helped to bury him.

Witness:-
A. Harvey. 3923.
20th Battn.
Dartford.

L. P. J.

London.
11.6.17.

Note Written Lt. Timmons.
" Pte. Ham. 8.6.17. S.

20th Battn
A.I.F.

Strong
G.H. 4281

"Killed 16.2.17."

Re G.H. Strong ~~dated 8.6.17. re this above~~

The only information I can give you is:- He was killed on 16.2.17. and was buried in the village of Le Sars at M6C7.9 (Map reference) I regret the delay in answering yours but I was away from my Units and consequently have only just received your letter.

Letter from:- P.J. Simmins.
B. Coy
20th Batt
France 10.8.17.

London.
12.9.17.

20th A. I. F. G. H. STRONG, 4281

Killed ~~26~~ 16.2.17. Det.D/B.

Informant said Strong was in B.Coy., a Machine Gunner, and in No.8 Platoon, he came in the 10th Reinforcement and had a number in the 4,000's. Informant was with him on a fatigue party near Switch Trench carrying to the front line when he was killed right out by a piece of shell which struck him in the head.

Reference: Sergt.Shepherd, 3878, B.Coy. No.5 Platoon.

Convalescent Camp, Rouen, 26.5.17.

DLF.

Havre 2nd June, 1917.

20th AUSTRALIANS STRONG, G.H. 4281

K. 16.2.17. Det. D/B.

He was in B Co., M.G.S. His name was Gilbert K. Strong, and he came from Lithgow, New South Wales. I saw his grave at Le Sars about 200 yards to the left of Bapaume Road, on the outskirt of Le Sars. There is a wooden cross on the grave with his number:-

4281, Pte. Strong, G.K.,
Killed in Action, 16.2.17.
Australian Imperial Force,
R.I.P.

There has been a mistake made in the initials. I could point out the spot. Strong's people live in Lithgow.

Informant: Pte G. Morton, 4209
20th Australians, C Co., 11th Ptn.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

Informant's Home Address:
Coalbrook Street,
LITHGOW.

RDM

20th A.I.F. Strong, Pte. G.H. 4281
B.Co

(K. Feb. 16/17)

"I was told by Pte. Chas. Wilson, 574. A. who was with Pte. Strong, that he was shot by a sniper through the head at No. 22 Post in front of Le Sars and is buried there. I was in that Post and was relieved by Pte. Strong."

Eye-witness:

Description:

Informant:- Pte. J.W.Hollingworth, 4438
20th A.I.F. B.Co. 8.Pl.
Queens Hospital, Birmingham

Home address:
38. Keppell Street
Bathurst. N.S.W.

June 7. 17
F. Jervis

A. I. F. 20. STRONG, C.H. 4281.

K. February 16th, 1917.

About middle of February I saw him killed at Le Sars standing at his post when he was shot by M.G. right through temple. He died instantly. I helped to carry him out. He was buried ½ mile behind our line and a cross erected - not in a cemetery - just by village of Le Sars. C. Clifford, 4386 of B. Coy. LGS. now up line, told me he had seen his grave and cross. I have not seen them myself.

PHE.

Reference:- L/Cpl. M. Chauncy. 5461. B. LGS.
L. Gun School.

Etaples
11.6.17.

Havre 21st June 1917

20th AUSTRALIANS STRONG, G.H. 4281

K. 16th Feb. 1917 Det. D/B

Strong was in B. Co., and in the M.G.Section of I think the 6th Platoon. I know him well; he came from Lithgow, N.S.W. I helped to bury him at Le Sars on the 16th February in an open kx bit of ground; no others were buried there - They Grave was marked and an order was given to the Pioneers to put up a cross. I heard that Strong was sniped, hit in the head at Le Sars and killed instantly.

Informant: Pte. T Lukes 4722
20th Australians B.Co. 6th Pltn
Havre Hospital

HPG

20th A. I. F. Infantry Strong, Pte. G.H., 4281,

K. Feb. 16th 1917. Det: D/B.

"At La Barque we were holding the line. Strong was looking over the firestep, when a bullet got him. He was hit through the forehead, and instantly killed. I saw him lying dead. He would be buried in the Vicinity. Strong belonged to B.Coy. VIII Pltn., and came from Lithgam, N.S.W. "Fine and game."

Eye witness: Of death.

Description: Short, stout, fair, about 19, worked in a Small Arms Factory at Lithgow.

Informant:-- L/Cpl. Arthur Harvey, 3116,
20th A.I.F., Infantry, B.Coy. VIII Pl:
5th Southern General Hosp:
Milton, Portsmouth.

Home address:-- Bakery , Cromilla, N. S. W.

5.7.17.
W.C.Hughes.

Havre 11th July 1917

21th AUSTRALIANS STRONG, C.H. 4281

90 K. 16th Feb. 1917 Det. D/H

Strong was in B. Co., M.G.Section. He was killed at Le Sars. I saw a party carrying him out to bury him. Sergeant Hore of the 20th Btn. B. Co., M.G.Section, was in charge at the time and will be able to give location of grave.

Informant: Corporal J. Golsby 558
20th Australians
B.Co. 7th Pltn.
Australian Camp, Rouellen

RDM

Smith
Ed.

20th Battn.
A.I.F.

STRONG,
G.H. 4281

"Killed 16.2.17."

I was an eye-witness of this casualty. Strong was killed instantly by a sniper during attack at Butte-De- Wellencourt on Feb. 16th/17. I was near him when he fell. I saw his grave near the "Butte" at Le Sais, just behind the ruins of the village. A cross with his name and number was placed by his comrades at head of the grave. Ground was held. He was 5'4" to 5'6" fair, well built, 19-20years. Was an ironworker at Lithgow, N.S.W. came per s.s. "Orsova" with 10th Reinforcements of 20th.

Witness:-
[illegible]an, T.H. 4194,
D. Coy. 20th Battn.
Perham Down Camp.

A.R. Mc Phee,
London.
21.8.17.

S.

20th Battn.,
A. I. F.

STRONG,
G.H. 4281.

Wounded.

"23rd. Gen. Hosp."

Admitted to 23rd. Gen. Hosp. 6-8-16.
Cert. by - Hospital Index.

Transferred to No.6. Conval. Camp 21-8-16.
Cert. by - Letter from Etaples 6-10-16.

London,
9-10-16.

S.

Lieut TIMMONS B.Co 9.6.17

20 Batt AIF

BEF

Cpl HAM Batt Pioneers

AIF

BEF

for

4281 G. H. STRONG

20 Batt AIF

K 16.2.17

N.B. Though no details are given of death and burial, the report is sent in case the information that is given may be of use.

Any Nickname? _____ *Christian Name?* _____

Any Tattoo Marks? _____ *Scars?* _____

When last seen, and where? In dug-out near Vouquet Farm. *Date* _____

Was it light or dark at the time? Dusk, about 9 p.m.

If killed, was body buried, and where? _____

Engagement or Circumstance? ~~Digging new trench.~~ *Place?* _____

Was the ground held or not? _____

Were you an eye-witness? Yes.

If not, who told you, and when? _____
Give man's No. and Rank, if possible

Any other man of same name in Battln.? Not that I now of.

Searcher's opinion of Informant _____

Searcher's Name F. Rich. 25/5/17

Dated _____

RECEIVED
MAY 1917
CARLTON ... TERRACE

Pack of 45 P.C. 28.8.17 2.2.

G. H. STRONG H 281 France
2o Bat. A.I.F. 10. 8. 17

K. 16. 2. 17 S. 6d. Sqd.
3

The Secretary.
Command & Missing Enquiry

Dear Madam, Re. G. H. Strong.

Referring to your enquiry dated 8-6-17. re the above Soldier. The only information I can give you is: He was killed on 16.2.17 and was buried in the village of Le Sars at Mb c 7. 9. (Map reference).

I regret the delay in answering yours, but I was away from my Unit and consequently have only just received your letter.

Yours faithfully
H. J. Timmins.
B. Co
20 m.g. Bn.