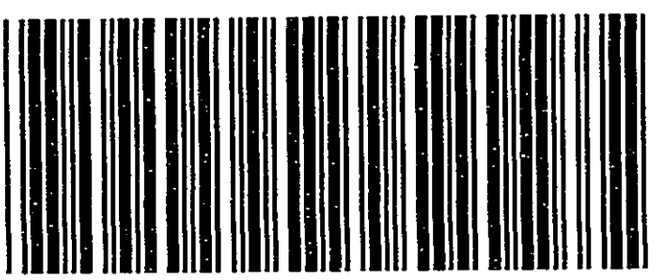
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

6797 Private William James Stenning

4th Battalion



2610805M

A.I.F.
4th Btn.

STENNING
William James 6797

Killed in Action 4.5.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

London.
8 0.10.19.

S.

Havre 17th October 1917

4th AUSTRALIANS STERNING, W.J. 6797

Missing 4th May 1917

I know a Pte Stenning. He is a tall, reddish haired man, about 26 or 27. I saw him in England in July at Perham Down Camp, Salisbury Plain. He was all right then. I have not seen him since. I do not think the number given was his, and there was another Stenning in the Battalion whom I did not know.

Yours
[illegible]

Informant: Pte. J. R. Barker, No. 6716
4th Australians D.Co. 16th Pltn
Australian Camp, Bouolles

GLT

Put out on S

4th A. I. F. W. J. STENNING, 6797.

Missing 4.5.17.

I saw his dead body within a minute of his death. It was at Bullecourt on about May 2nd. We were in supports behind a Railway Embankment waiting to go up into the front line. We were "standing to" to go up and over the top. He and his mate, Robt. Schooler, were in a dug out in the Embankment. A shell landed in a bit of a trench in front of the dug out. Stenning was badly smashed and killed instantly and Schooler was badly wounded. Schooler's No. is close to Stenning's and I heard he had got back to Australia. I helped to bury Stenning at once. There was no time to put up a memorial, it is probable no memorial was put up as when we came back that way, that part of the Embankment was smashed to pieces. Stenning was about 20., 5'7", slim, fair, curly hair, freckled, was a City man. I fancy he was a Jeweller but I am not certain.

Reference: R.W.Russell, 678.

FMP. No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 17.11.17.

Notre Dame Hospital Leidex 28.12.17

No.6797 Private W.J.Stenning, 4th Battalion, officially reported "Missing" since the 4th May 1917 and mentioned in our cable of the 1st June and our letter of the 7th June.
A letter has been received dated 26th September 1917, from Lieut. E.K.White, Adjutant of the 4th Battalion, and written from Battalion Headquarters, stating the above soldier was originally reported "Missing " on the 5th May 1917; and was later admitted to hospital wounded and died of wounds on the 15th May 1917.

Extract from letter
Sydney Red Cross 30.11.17.

London.
7.2.18.

A.I.F. is investigating this at HQs.

4th Battn.
A.I.F.

Stenning.
Pte.W.J. 6797

"Killed in Action 4.5.17"

Enquiries have been instituted regarding the above mentioned soldier, and the C.O. 4th Battalion now states "It is regretted that the information supplied to Miss Hayles was incorrectly advised, as Records with Unit shew the above named soldier to have been found "Killed in Action on 4.5.17" by a Court of Enquiry held on 15.4.17.

Letter from:- Officer i/c Records
H.Qrs.
13.3.18.

London.
16.3.18.

S.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS, AM164

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD.
WESTMINSTER LONDON. S.W. 1.

WS/2827.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON."
CABLE ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON."
TELEPHONES (10 LINES) VICTORIA 8860.

REPLY COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMANDANT.

IN REPLY QUOTE A.A.G./2874/1/30. 13th March, 1918

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
(Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau),
36, Grosvenor Place,
S.W.

Dear Madam,

No.6797, Pte. W.J. STEPHENS, 4th Battalion, A.I.F.
Killed in Action 4.3.17.

With reference to your enquiry of the 7th ultimo, you are advised that enquiries have been instituted regarding the above-mentioned soldier, and the O.C. 4th Battalion now states: "It is regretted that the information supplied to Miss Eyles was incorrectly advised, as Records with Unit show the above-named soldier to have been found "Killed in Action on 4.3.17" by a Court of Enquiry held on 16.4.17."

Yours faithfully,

for officer i/c Records.