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

3421 Private William James Stephens

5th Battalion



2620212F

5th battn.
A.I.F.

Stephens
W.J. 3421

Killed Septr. 20th 1917 Det. D/B.

I received a letter from his pal who was in the same shell hole as Stephens when he was killed, he can give full details of his death, also of Lieut. Stock, 5th Batt.

Pte. E. Evans 6365
B. Coy. 5th Batt.
A.I.F. France

Informant:- Pte. O.T. Cook, 4778
5th Batt. A.I.F.
Weymouth

F.Mackay

Note:- Written Evans 1.1.18

War Chest

London.
7.1.18

5th Battn
B.Coy.,
AIF

STEPHENS
W.J. 3421

"Killed 20.9.17."

Refer to Pte. A. Randall 760 B. 5th Battn B. Coy. who is in hospital in Eng and and who can give full details of casualty.

Witness:- Pte. G. Warter 417
5th Battn B.Coy.,
3rd A.A.Hospital,
Dartford

W.Oman
London.
9.1.18.

M

Note written Randall 4.1.18.

5th Battn.
A.I.F.

Stephens.
W.J. 3421

"Killed in Action 20.9.17"

Re my friend Sig.H.Stevens 3421. He was killed on Sept.20th 1917 and was buried on the field. His description has far as I know is, hair brown, blue eyes, medium complexion, about 5'8", married and 11th Rfts. He is the one you are enquiring for No.3421 Sig.H. Stevens, B.Coy. 5th Battn. A.I.F.

Letter from:-
A.J.Randall
26.1.18. M.

London.
11.2.18.

Note Pte.Randall gives name as Pte.H.Stevens, our enquiry is for W.J.Stephens, but his No. & Date agree and it is evidently the same man.

5th Btn.

STEPHENS, W. J.
Pte. 3421

Killed in action 20/9/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a short man, about 5 ft. 5 ins. small build, brown moustache, known as Bill. Casualty was advancing at Polygon Wood on the morning of the 20th September, 1917. He was 20 yds. on the left of myself. He was our runner and signaller and was keeping in touch with our Co. A shell exploded a direct hit blowing him up about 50 ft. in the air killing him instantly. His chief wounds were about the body having nearly every bone broken. He was lying between Lone Hoe and Russellbeke Creek when we were relieved two days later. I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Sgt. G. T. Williams,
No. 5465.

Private address:-
86 Wolseley Parade,
Kensington.

S.A.F.
22/5/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

5th Battn., B. Coy.
A.I.F.

STEPHENS
W.J. 3421

"Killed 20-9-17"

Refer to Pte. Kildiay, B Coy., 5th Battn., who is now in France, he saw him killed at Passchendaele, and can give full details of casualty.

Informant. Neaves Pte. W. 3923
5th Battn., D. Coy.,
3rd A.A.H.,
DARTFORD.

W. Oman
London
27-3-18

M.

Note:-
Written Pte. Kildiay 26-3-18

Havre

27th March 1918.

5th A.I.F.

Stephens W.J. No.3421.

K. 20th Sept 1917. Det D/B.

I knew Stephens for 12 months; he was over medium height, stoutly built, fair. about 28. from Port Melbourne, Victoria. He was a signaller in the Company. On the 20th Septr the Battn was at Polygon Wood, and in action. The objective was the 2nd German line, which we had just got when I saw Stephens hit by shell. Death was instantaneous. The wound was in the chest. We had many casualties, and Stephens was not buried when we were relived2 days after. I saw the body waiting for burial just as we came out.

Inf:- Pte J. Healey No.7026.
5th A.I.F. B.Co. 6 Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

RH.

5th Btn.

STEPHENS, W.J.
Pte. No. 3421

Kld. in act. 20.9.17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5' 8", medium build, dark complexion about 28 years of age, known as Bill. Casualty was in the front line at Polygon Wood. He was sniping at the time when he was hit by H.E. shell, a direct hit which killed him instantly. I was alongside of him at the time the shell exploded, and I got severe shock from the concussion of the shell. He was most severely wounded all over, but I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- J.W. Smith
No. 6863

Private address
131 Esplanade West,
Port Melbourne.

T.C.F.
11.7.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU—MELBOURNE.

Pt 2.2.5 / 3421 W. J. STEPHENS
5 Batt
K/A 20-9-17

In the Field,

Jan 26th 1918
NJ
3

Dear Miss Deakin
yours to hand.
of the 4th inst) and note
contents.
I have much pleasure in
giving you what details
I can concerning my friend
Sig. H. Stevens 3421 "B Coy",
5th A.I.F. He was killed
on Sept 20th 1917 and was
buried on the field.
His description has far
as I know. is Hair Brown
Blue Eyes, medium complex
about 5 ft 8 inches. married

In the Field,

191

and 11th Reinforcements.
He is the one you are enquiring
for No 3421. Sig. H. Stevens.
B. Coy. 5. A.I.F.
I think this is all the news
I can give you sorry I
have kept you so long
has I have only just
recieved your letter I
am yours faithfully
A.J. Randall.

Note Pt Randall gives name as
Pte H. Stevens on enquiry is for
W.J. Stephens, but as No & date agree
we it is evidently the same man

Pte EVANS

5365

B. Coy.

5 A. I. F.

B. 9. 7.

about.

W. J. STEPHENS

3421

5 A. I. F.

Killed 20. 9. 17.

Env.
1. 1. 18

26.3.18

Pte. Kilday
D Coy.
5th Batt. a.1.7.
abroad

H

abt.
3421 Pte. W.J. Stephens
D Coy. 5th Batt.
a.1.7.
K. 20.9.17.

27.3.18.
a.1.B.

9C

Pte A. RANDALL
670 or 760.
5 A.I.F.
No. 1 Command Depot.
Sutton Veny
Wilts.

G

about

W. J. STEPHENS
3421.
5 A.I.F.
Killed 20.9.17

Ew.
4.1.18