

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

901 Private  
William Ernest  
Steadman

56th Battalion



2610406J

A.I.F.  
56th Btn.  
late 35th Btn.

STRADMAN  
William Ernest 901

Killed in Action 15.5.17.

No trace Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills 10.10.19.

Case of Certificate	Reference	Unit	Name
London. 22.10.19.			S.

A.I.F. 56 h Btn

<sup>E</sup>  
STADMAN  
Wm. Ernest 901

"K/A. 15-5-17"

Killed in action 15-5-17 - N.F.R. - no details given  
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 7-10-18.

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London  
7-10-18

56th. BATTALION.

late 35th. Btn. B. Coy. 8th. Pltn.

Private W. R. STEADMAN

No. 901a.

"Killed in Action 15/5/17."

Steadman was in B. Company with me, he was in 8th. Platoon and I in 5th. Platoon, he was about 5 feet 7 or 8, medium complexion stoutly built but not physically strong and was often on sick parade. He came from the 35th. Battalion or a Reinforcement of the 35th. Battalion.. He was with a machine gun section at Bullecourt on 15/5/17. The Jacks were on our left holding Bullecourt during a counter attack by the Germans. His platoon were about 150/200 yards away from me at the time and I remember the word coming through during the attack that Steadman had been killed. The shelling was very heavy at the time, and we were too far away for him to be killed by a bullet. Sergeant Phillips was his platoon Sergeant, but I do not know if he was with them at the time. I was wounded on the 15/5/17 soon after the word came through about Steadman.

Informant:- Private R. R. Pretty, 1719,

56th. Battalion, B. Company, 5th. Pltn.

Private address:- Fairfield Road, Fairfield.

H.S.O.

No. 4 Australian General Hospital, RANDWICK.

10/12/18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

52

56th Battalion. A.I.F.

C.Coy., (late 35th Battn).

STEADMAN (Stedman) W.R.

Private No.901a.

"Killed 15.5.17".

Informant described Steadman as about 5' 9 or 10" high, stout build, weighing about 12 stone, fair complexion, aged about 18. Came from the Newcastle District.

Informant states that they both belonged to "B" Company, No.8, Platoon. On 15.5.17 the Battalion was holding the line at Bullecourt. There was an extra heavy bombardment on, the Germans having got the exact range on our trenches. At about 6 or 7 a.m. a shell dropped in the trench right on top of Steadman and killed him outright, together with another chap named Heineckie. Informant was alongside Steadman, and saw him hit. He also saw him laid aside waiting for burial. Later on a burial party went into the trench to bury the killed, which was done alongside the trench.

Informant added that Steadman was very well liked by the boys.

Informant:- Private E.P.Griese, No.1655,

B.Company, 56th Battalion,

Home Address:- Warialda, N.S.Wales.

W.E.G.

No.4, Australian General Hospital,

Randwick.

23. 12. 18.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

V

A.I.F.  
50th BATTALION.  
C Company.  
Late 35th Battalion,

STEADMAN, Private,  
W.E. - 901. A

"KILLED 15/5/17."

Steadman was killed at Bullecourt. It was after the big fight and the Germans were shelling us heavily. A shell fell near Steadman and killed him outright. We buried him where he fell and put a cross over his grave.

INFORMANT - J. Sheerin - 1694.

Home Address - c/o Mrs. C. Hales,  
Teralba,  
NEWCASTLE.

J.V.H.  
No. 3 Australian General Hospital,  
RANDWICK.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

3/3/19.

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56th BATTALION, A.I.F.  
(late 35th Batten., C. Coy.)

STEADMAN - Pte. W.E.  
No. 901A.

"Killed 15.5.17."

Informant states that they both belonged to B. Company. On 15.5.17 the Battalion was at Bullecourt resisting an attack by the Germans, which they succeeded in beating off. About 6 or 8 a.m. while Steadman was in the front line, he was killed outright by a shell. Informant was about 5 yards away and as soon as the smoke of the explosion passed away he saw Steadman lying dead on the ground. So far as informant is aware Steadman was buried where he fell.

According to Informant Steadman was a very decent young chap.

Informant: Lance-Corporal H.G.T. Hall, No. 5393.  
B. Company, 56th Battalion.  
Home address: Macksville, N.S.W.

W.E.G.  
Victoria Barracks, Sydney.  
10.4.19.

SYDNEY BUREAU.