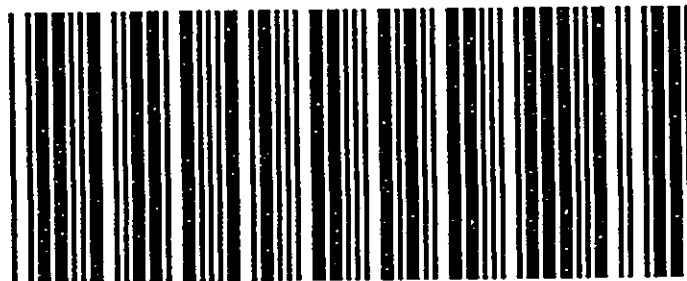


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

**5218 Private  
Charles Spencer**

**14th Battalion**



2590407R

14th Battn  
A.I.F.

SPENCER.  
C. 5218.

"Killed (in Action) 31-1-18."

I was in England on leave at the time when it happened but it was generally known in the Battn that Spencer had his head blown off by a gas shell which killed four or five others in the dug out. It was the end of Jan 1918 - beginning Feb 1918. at Spoil Bank Ypres. I think Sgt. Tinkler, (14th Battn. Pioneers) A.I.F. B.E.F. might give full information.

Eye-witness: - No.

Description: - 5ft. 8 ins. rather thin, features, a long nose. Home I think, in Victoria.

Home Address: -  
Battn Address.

London.  
28-5-18.

( reliable - intelligent )  
Informant: - Hcn<sup>m</sup> Hewccd. Chas.  
Pte 2935  
14th Battn.  
A.I.F.  
Graylingwell Hcs  
CHICHESTER.

M

A.I.F. 14th Battn.

SPENCER  
C. 5218.  
late 6524.

KILLED 31/1/18.

Spencer was killed outright - portion of his head being blown off by a gas shell while in a dug out just the other side of Kemmel and in the support lines. A Sergt. was wounded in the leg with him. I was in the cookhouse and was told at the time but I cannot say who told me nor the name of the Sergt. There is a cemetery just close and he was sure to have been buried.

Informant:- 6305 J. Lloyd,  
14th Battn., A Coy.,  
Hut 54, Westham.

W. A. Rand.

London  
1/6/18

M

14th Battn. B. Coy.  
A.I.F.

SPENCER.  
C. 5218.

"Killed in Action" 31-1-18.

Refer to Sgt Tinckler. 14th Battn. (late 6524.) Pioneers now in France. He saw him killed in action, by a gas shell which struck him in the head killing him instantaneously. This was at Ypres.

I knew him well and he came from Ivanhoe, Victoria. There is no other man of same name in the company. I saw his grave at Spcil Bank in a small cemetery just behind the line. This grave was marked by a cross and particulars shown thereon.

Informant:- 2985 Pte. Homewood. C.  
C. Co. 14th Battn.

Note: Written Sgt Tinckler. 6-6-18.

No 3. A. A. H. DARTFORD

W. Oman.  
London.  
12-6-18.

M.

A. I. F. 14th Bn.

SPENCER, C. 5218.

Killed Jan.31/18. Det.D/B.

I had the following from Pte.L.C.Ross of 14.H.Q. (now returned to forward area after being gassed, but not with the same Unit). He said he saw Spencer killed instantly at Spoilbank, Ypres, on about Feb.3rd. It could not have been Jan.31st - it might have been Feb.1. He said he saw him get hit on the head by a gas shell. Spencer was in H.Q.Coy. he was a Pioneer. He came from a suburb of Melbourne, aged about 24, not married, about 5'7", rather slim. He had joined while Ross was away and Ross would not know him very well, but he would know whom he was talking about.

Reference: W.Edgar, 2374.

No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 12.6.18.

Note. Witness wavered later in his statement that it could not have been Jan.31st.

FEP.

M

I4th. Battn. A. I. F.

Spencer. C. Pte. No. 5218.

Battn. Pioneers.

Killed Jan. 31st. 1918. Det. D/B.

I saw him killed by a shell whilst we were in the support line at Fusillier Wood, near Hollebeke. I could not give any particulars of burial, but saw his grave in Spoilbank Military Cemetery as I was coming out of the line. A cross was erected bearing full particulars written on with indellible pencil. I knew him well in pioneers. He came from Melbourne.

Description. Age. 20. Height. 5-8. Complexion. Fair. Slim Built.

Witness. Pte. Thomas. H. J. No. 5780. C. Company. I4th. Battalion.

Taken at  
No. 4. C. D. Hurdcott.  
12. 6. 18.  
S. W.

S. Whitmee.  
No. 4. Command Depot.  
Hurdcott.

M

FRANCE.

14th BATT. A.I.F.

SPENCER. C. 5218.

K. Jan 31st. 1918. Det.

He was Headquarters Pioneer and he was killed in supports by a gas shell which burst inside his dug-out. His body was carried out and buried in Spoil Bank Cemetery. I saw his grave with the cross erected above it afterwards. We moved up into the line the day after he was killed.

WSI.

Ref ---L/Cpl G. Wells. 276.  
No 3 Gen. Hospital.

Le Troport. June 20th. 1918

*M. J. 2nd*

14th Battn.  
A.I.F.

C. SPENCER.  
5218. (late 6524.)

"Killed in Action" 31-1-18.

Re No 5218 Pte. Spencer. C. 14th Battalio. A.I.F. Your enquiry of the 10-6-18 addressed to Sgt Tinckler has been handed in to this office, and in reply thereto we submit information in regard to the above mentioned soldier, as under:-

Age 19 years. Height 5 ft 7 ins, thin build, fair complexion. Killed in Action on 31-1-18 by shell fire, buried at S. Bank extension, Zillebeke, 1½ miles South of Ypres. The usual regimental cross was erected over the grave.

Letter from:- C.C.  
14th Battn. A.I.F.

London.  
25-6-18.

M.

14th Battn. A.Coy.  
A.I.F.

SPENCER  
C. 5218

"Killed 31-1-18"

Pte. W. J. Kennedy 4527 A.Coy. 14th Battn., 4th Command Depot, Hurdcott, told me a month ago that Spencer had been killed, blown to pieces by shell. Kennedy is still at Hurdcott. Spencer came over with me in 10th Rfts., he came from Ivanhoe, near Caulfield, Victoria.

Informant. Fleiner. Pte. F. J. 5096  
31st Battn.  
C.Coy. late 14th Battn. Band,  
WYMOUTH.

A.D.G.  
London  
25-6-18  
H.G.

M.

14th Btn.

SPENCER, C.  
Pte. 5218.

"Killed in action 31/1/18."

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 6 ins. slightly built, fair complexion, about 20 years of age. Casualty was in his dug-out at railway dug-out Ypres. A gas shell passed straight through the dug-out hitting Casualty on its way through killing him instantly. He was severely wounded about the head. He was buried at Spoil Bank Cemetery and I attended the funeral. A cross was erected with his name and number on it."

Informant:- Sgt. M. R. Johnson,  
No. 5126, 14th Btn.

Private address:-  
Woolsthorpe.

T.C.F.  
20/9/18.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE



14th Btn.

SPENCER, G.  
Pte. No. 5218

Kld. in act. 31.1.18.

"I knew Casualty. He was a tall man, slightly built, fair complexion about 19 years of age. Casualty was playing cards on the support lines at Zonnebeks. I was playing in the same party. A gas shell exploded in the dugout where we were killing Casualty instantly. He was most severely wounded in the head, and I was gassed by the same shell. He was buried near "Spoil Bank", but I did not see his grave."

Informant :- F.C. Smith  
No. 3181

Private address  
42 Mary Street,  
Richmond.

T.C.F.  
23.5.19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

M  
Case-W

A.I.F. 14th Btn  
late

SPENCER  
Chas. 5218  
late 6524

"Wed-July"

Wed 11-7-17  
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 29-9-17

Rejoined unit from Spl 15-7-17  
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqs 10-10-17 & Rouen letter 6-10-17

London  
11-10-17

K

14th Battalion A.I.F.

19th June 1918.

5218 C. SPENCER (late 6514)

14<sup>th</sup> Bttn

R/A 31.1.18

M 3 (ca)

The Secretary,  
Wounded & Missing Enquiry Bureau,  
Australian Red Cross Society  
36 Grosvenor Place, LONDON S.W.1.

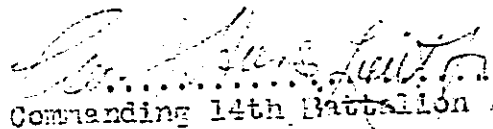
Dear Madam,

No. 5218 Pte. Spencer C. 14th Battalion A.I.F.

Your enquiry of 10/6/18 addressed to Sgt. Tinckler has been handed in to this office, and in reply thereto we submit information in regard to the abovenamed soldier, as under:-

Age; 19 years. Height, 5'7"; thin build; fair complexion.  
Killed in Action on 31/1/18 by shell-fire; buried at SPOIL BANK extension, ZILLEBENE, 1½ miles SOUTH of YPRES. The usual regimental cross was erected over the grave.

Yours sincerely,

  
Lieut-Col.  
Commanding 14th Battalion A.I.F.

(6.6.18)

Sgt. Tinkler

B Coy

14<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.F.

abroad

AM 5-2-18 (at 6524)

Pt. C Spencer

B Coy

14<sup>th</sup> Battalion P.O. No.

A. 27

T

R. 31.1.18

10.6.18  
A.I.F.