

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

**5766 Private
Andrew Williams
Stevens**

7th Battalion



2620504J

A.I.F. 7th Btn

STEVENS

Andrew Wm. 5766(HQ)
not 5776

"D/Wds 19-11-17"

Died of wounds 19-11-17 at Cheltenham V.A.D.Hpl
Fractured skull.

Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 19-1-18.

London
21-1-18

A.I.F. 7th Battn

STEVENS
A.W. 5766

"W. Jan-Feb-March"

Admitted 1st London General Hospital 1-3-17 - Gun shot wound
thighs

Cert. by Hospital Index

Suffering from Gun shot wound right thigh - operated on yesterday
Doing very well

Cert. by 'phone 30-3-17.

London
30-3-17

M.

7th Bn.
A.I.F.

STEVENS
A.W. 5766

"Died of Wounds."

Re No. 5766 Pte. A.W. Stevens 7th Bn. A.I.F.

The above soldier was admitted to this Hospital on Novr. 3rd 1917 suffering from G.S.W. L. arm slight. The wound healed quickly and he was having massage while waiting for transfer to Australian Hospital. On Novr. 18th having been out on pass he reported punctually at 6 p.m. on the expiration of his pass, but as it afterwards transpired - having left some friends on the road promising to slip out and see them again - This he did accompanied by a fellow-patient. It was a very dark night and they went across the grounds, and in getting over a high fence into the road with a steep bank below, slipped and fell down the bank striking his head on a stone which projected from the ground. He was brought in by the Gatekeeper and his companion and was in the Ward at 6.30 and the doctor attended immediately. He was never really conscious and died about 11 next morning, Novr. 19th. A post mortem was made showing an extensive fracture of the base of the skull and haemorrhage on the brain. An inquest was held - in which a verdict of accidental death was brought in.

7th Bn.
A.I.F.

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STEVENS
A.W. 5766

It was with very great regret that this sad occurrence was reported. Pte. Stevens was buried in Cheltenham Cemetery in a single grave, in the Methodist part of the cemetery. The Cheltenham Volunteers provided an escort and firing Company also a number about 40 wounded soldiers attended - also the Commandant and Secretary of the Hospital and several nurses. Pte. Steven's cousin, Dr. Stevens, attended, also a representative of the Australian Headquarters, who made special arrangements with the Cemetery Keeper to attend to the grave. About 10 beautiful wreaths were sent - including one from the Australian patients in Hospital with streamers of the Bn. Colours, one from the British patients in the Ward, also from the Commandant and the staff.

Letter from L. Bateliff, Commandant.
Rascocourse V.A. Hospital,
Cheltenham.
24.1.18

London.
30.1.18

M.

O. C's Draft 21-1-18

THORNS

To

The Mayor
V.A.D. Hospital
Cheltenham

No. 5466.

Pls Q. Co. Stevens

7th Bn

A.I.F

Died 19-11-14

WINDSOR, ENGL. GEN

WINDSOR, ENGL.

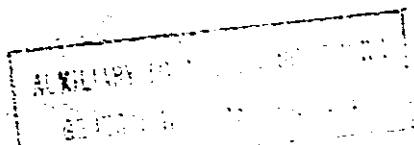
TEL. 1102 X.



MISS BATCLIFF
Commandant.

RACECOURSE V.A. HOSPITAL,
CHELTENHAM,

Jan 24th 1918



D/W

Sir

In reply to your enquiry of 21st inst -
No 5766 P^{te} A. W. Stevens 7th Bⁿ A.I.F.

The above Soldier was admitted to
this hospital on Nov. 3rd 1917 suffering
from G.S.W. C-arm. Slight - The wound
healed quickly and he was having
mange while waiting for transfer
to Australian Hospital -

On Nov. ^{18th} ~~24th~~ having been out on pass
he reported punctually at 6 p.m. on
the expiration of his pass - but as it

afterwards transpired - having left
some friends on the road promising to
slip out and see them again -

This he did accompanied by a fellow patient.

It was a very dark night - and they went
across the grounds - and in getting
over a high fence into the road with a
steep bank below - slipped and fell
down the bank striking his head
on a stone which projected from the
ground. He was brought in by the

Gatekeeper and his companion and
was in the ward at 6.20 and the doctor
attended immediately. He was ver-
y conscious and died about 11.

Next morning Nov. ^{19th} 21st a post mortem
was made showing an extensive
fracture of the base of the Skull
and hemorrhage on the brain.

RACECOURSE V.A. HOSPITAL,
CHELTENHAM,

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AUXILIARY TO THE REPORT.

GENERAL BATTAL - 1911.

An inquest was held - in which
a verdict of accidental death
was brought in -

It was with very great regret that
this sad occurrence was reported.
Pte. Stevens was buried in Cheltenham
Cemetery in a single grave in the
Methodist part of the cemetery.
The Cheltenham Volunteers provided
an escort and firing company,
also a number about 40.

wounded soldiers attended. —
also the Commandant - & Secretary
of the hospital & several nurses —
P^{te} Stevens' Cousin Doctor Stevens
attended also a representative of
the Australian Headquarters —
who made special arrangements with
the Cemetery Keeper to attend to the
grave —

About 10 beautiful wreaths were
sent - including one from the
Australian patients in hospital with
Steamer of the Bⁿ Colony —
one from the British patients in the
ward. also from the Commandant
and the Staff —

Yours faithfully
L. Ratcliff
Commandant

M.

SOLDIER'S DEATH IN CHELTENHAM

Fatal Fall.

A distressing fatality occurred in Cheltenham on Sunday evening, when a young Australian soldier named Pte. Malcolm Stevens died as the result of a fall. He had been out during the afternoon with a comrade, and returned with him to tea. Both men handed in their passes, and should not have gone out again. About 6.30, however, they left the hospital unobserved, and Pte. Stevens in attempting to negotiate a rather high bank fell on his head. He was taken back to the Hospital in an unconscious condition and died from fracture of the skull. The five years of age, he was wounded in France, sustaining gunshot wounds in the arm, and had been in the Racecourse Hospital 17 days.

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER'S DEATH. Pte. Stevens.

Further Details of the Fatality in Cheltenham.

The young Australian soldier, Pte. Andrew William Stevens, who died in the Racecourse Hospital, Cheltenham, as the result of injuries sustained in a fall, was a native of North Carlton, Melbourne. He had been in the Army about 18 months, and being wounded at Ypres last month was sent to England, arriving in Cheltenham on November 3rd.

From the fuller details of the fatality which are now available it appears that Pte. Stevens and his comrade, Pte. H. Cottell, also an Australian, left the hospital on passes on Sunday afternoon, and returned together at 6.10. They had, apparently, made arrangements to meet the same friends in the evening, and a few minutes after their return they left the hospital again, going out unobserved by way of the wash-house. To escape the attention of the gate porter they walked across the field on the Evesham side, keeping close to the hedge which abuts into the Evesham road until they came to a gap which had been repaired by a barbed-wire fence about 5ft. high. Cottell assisted his comrade on to the fence, and Stevens jumped on to a steep bank. Thinking Stevens had cleared, Cottell followed, but missed his footing and collided with Stevens, who was lying partly on the road with his head against the bank and groaning. Striking a match, Cottell discovered that Stevens had injured the back of his head. He assisted him down to the gate porter, and then to the hospital, where the man was attended by a nurse, and subsequently by Dr. Liddersdale. He was found to be suffering from concussion of the brain, due to fracture of the skull, and he died on Tuesday morning.

Deceased was 25 years of age, and had been in France about 14 months.

SILWOOD,
THE PARK,
CHELTENHAM.

Nov. 20. '17

Dear Sir,

I beg to inclose two notices,
which have appeared in the Echo,
of ^{Malcolm} Private Steam's death. The
inquest, I learn, has assigned
authority for your report or
other directions in London.

I propose to attend the
funeral on Friday and wish
that I could better express
my sympathy in the loss of-

The fine young folks who carried
in his body so many proofs of
the risks he had faced for his
mother country.

Yours sincerely

W. H. C. S.