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

4580 Private George Charles Stevens

9th Battalion



2620605L

2.8.17

Cpl SUTTON
+
Pte POPE

5 Platoon
B Co

9 Batt AIF
BEF

for

4580
G. C. STEVENS

9 Batt AIF

M 7.5.17

W. H.
3/8/17

2.8.17

Cpl SUTTON

Rte Po

1172A

28.8.17

Rte G. POPE / 5 Plat.
B. Co.
9 Battn AIF
BEF

Joy

4580 G. C. STEVENS
9 Battn AIF

M. 7. 5. 17

G. C. M.
28.8.17.

9th Battn
AIF

STEVENS
G.H. 4580

"Missing 7.5.17."

Killed in Action 5.5.17. prev. reported Missing
Cert. by AIF HdQtrs 28.12.17.

S & P.I.

London.
2.1.18.

A.I.F. 9th Bttn.

STEVENS.
George Charles. 4580.

Killed in Action. 5.5.17.

No trace Germany.
Cert by Captain Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
15.10.19.

B & S & P.I.

NOTE TO SYDNEY.

Kindly send all information about - 4580 Pte.G.C.Stevens 9th Battn. K. in A 5.5.17.

1755 Pte.J.G.Stevens 25th Battn. K. in A 29.7.16 - for their mother. Mrs.Stevens, Guy Street, Warwick, Queensland.

London.
11.2.18.

9th Battn
A.I.F.

Stevens.
G.C. 4580

"Missing 7.5.17."

Any later report?

Missing in France 5.5.17.
Cert. by A.I.F. HdQtrs 5.9.17.

London.
10.9.17.

S

9th A.I.F. Stevens, G.C. 4580,

M. May 7th/17.

"On or about May 7th at about 10 p.m. a fatigue party of 19 of us were carrying bombs in single file up a communication trench to the front line at Bullecourt when about 3 shells fell quite close killing or wounding 11 of us. I was about 5 or 6 men behind Stevens and was unhurt. Horn who was close to him was badly wounded and died soon afte Cpl. Sutton and Pte Pope (both of B.Coy. V Pltn) helped to dig some of the men out and Pope took Hanley who was wounded down to the dressing station. I believe that only 3 men of the party were unaccounted for at the time and two of them turned up at the dressing station afterwards suffering from shell shock. It is just possible that Stevens may have wandered away in the same way but there was a very heavy bombardment an we think he must have been buried by the shells".

Eye Witness:-- Yes.

Description:-- I knew him well, he was a machine gunner in the same team as me and a mate of mine. He came from Warwick, Queensland, was a horsebreaker. A strongly built man, fair, about 23. Had a tooth missing on the R side in front of his upper jaw.

Written Cpl Sutton Pte Pope 28.7.17

Informant:-- Pte. W.D. Duffey, A 76.
B. Coy. V Pltn. 9th A.I.F.
Richmond Military Hospital,
Grove Rd, Richmond.

18.7.17.
A.G. Campbell.

9th Australians Stevens G.C. 4580,

(M. May 7/17)

"I don' know-te. G.C. Stevens (9 B. VI & V) very well, but I know he was wounded and returned to the Battalion abt. 2 months ago".

Eye-witness:

Description: He helped the Company Cook for a time.

Informant: L/Cpl. Henry Curtis Sutton 2454,
9th Australians, B. Coy., V Plt.,
3rd Southern General Hospt.,
Oxford.

Home address:
c/o Mrs. W.K. Bynon,
Forsdale,
Grantham, Queensland.

July 30/17,
J.M. Payne.

Asking HQ to verify S. 25.8.17

9th A. I. F.

G. C. STEVENS, 4580.
A. A. HEARN, 6255.

M. 7.5.17.
M. 5.8.17.

They were with me in a carrying party to the front line with ammunition- rifle grenades- on the night of May 5th. We had about 2 miles to cover and were dodging shells all the way there and back. Twice we got the sides of the trenches we were traversing, blown in, burying the entire party. When we got back to the dump there were only 9 of us to share the rum ration for 20 which was the No. of the original party. I saw Hearn and Stevens with the party. I was told by Pte.G.Pope of B.Coy. 5 Pl. No.1172A, that he had seen Stevens in the C.C.S., wounded. We never heard again of Hearn. Hearn came over in the Clan MacGilvery leaving Brisbane in Sept.1916. Stevens is a native of Warwick and belonged to an earlier Reinforcement than me. Stevens was about 25 and Hearn about 30 and very tall. Pope is still with the Battn.

Reference: Pte.P.Doyle, 6011,
No.11 Con.Camp, Buchy nr. Rouen, 15.8.17.

Written Pte Pope S. 28.5.17 FEP.

9th Battn
A.I.F.

STEVENS.
4580 G.S.

"Missing 7.5.17."

re No, 4580 Pte. G.C. Stevens of my Battalion. I am sorry to say I cannot assist you in tracing what has become of him. I have made several enquiries from time to time, and asked several men of my Coy., who have returned from Hospital, and were wounded in the same battle that he was in, and has been missing from ever since. and I am unable to find any trace of him whatever, the only news we know is that several men were on a fatigue party, carrying bombs into the line, G.C. Stevens being one of the party, and a shell caught the party wounding several of them and on returning to their Unit, Pte. G.C. Stevens was missing, and has not been heard of since, and we fear the poor fellow was killed and we were in a position that made it impossible to search for him next day, he was about 5'9" in height, blue eyes, dark complexion, and fairly well built.

Ref. letter from F. Pope 225.
"B" Coy., 9th Battn. 10.8.17.

S

London.
29.8.17.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON. 2679/4/18

(COPY)

Statement made by No.2454 L/Cpl Sutton H.C. 9th Btn

re No.4580 Pte Stevens G.C. 9th Btn
Missing 7.5.17

I was with Pte Stevens when he was wounded in the body by a shell in a communication trench at Bullecourt on or about 7.5.17. He was removed to a dressing station in a support line trench, where I last ~~hi~~ saw him.

Dated at Weymouth this 10th day of September 1917.

(Sgd) H.C. Sutton.

Statement made and signed before me

(Sgd) H.J. Storey.

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9th Battn.
A. I. F.

Stevens.
G. C. 4580

"Missing 7.5.17"

Pte. Pope when over on leave called at the office to answer our enquiry concerning the above soldier. He said "On May 7th we were on fatigue and went up the line with a supply of bombs. Stevens was with us when we started, but when we got up the line we missed him. On the way up a shall had lobbed in the midst of the party and killed some of us, we though afterwards that Pte. Pope must have been one of those killed although nothing definite is known. His name was George and he came from Queensland. He was a Lewis Gunner.

Informant:-
1172 Pte. G..Pope
B. Coy.
9th Battn. A.I.F.

London.
20.9.17.

London.Office
14.9.17. S.

Havre 23rd September.1917.

9th AUSTRALIANS STEVENS, C.C. 4580

M. May 7th.1917.

He was a particular friend of mine in B. Company. He came from Warwick, Queensland. He was single and was a stock man in civil life. The last I heard of him was wounded and being carried on a stretcher to the Dressing Station at Bullecourt during the night under heavy shell fire. ~~Somewhere~~ I hardly think he could have been taken a prisoner of war.

Informant: H. Saunders, 4565
9th Australians, D.Co.,
H.S."Carisbrook Castle"Havre.

RBS.

Stevens.
G. C. 4580

9th Battn.
B.Coy.
A. I. F.

"Missing 7.5.17"

I saw a shell land amongst my Platoon at Bullecourt and this man was amongst them and was never seen afterwards, so am quite sure he was blown to pieces. I was only about 20 yards away at time of casualty. I knew him very well. Quite a number of the other men were wounded at the time.

Witness:-
Sgt.W.E.Paynter 2488
9th Battn.B.Coy.5th Pltn.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
1.10.17.

S.

ORIGINAL STATEMENT ECHELON. 2679/4/18

(COPY)

Statement made by No 2468 Sgt Paynter W.E. 9th Btn

re No.4580 Pte Stevens G.C. 9th Btn
Missing 7.5.17

Pte Stevens was in my platoon (No.5. Platoon B. Coy 9th Battalion) and he was one of a party of twenty detailed to carry bombs to the front line at Bullecourt 5/7th May 1917 Whilst the party was proceeding up a communication trench (About 400 yards from the front line) a shell exploded in the middle of the party causing numerous casualties. I did not actually see Stevens wounded or killed but on party reaching front line he was missing and I did not see him again.. I detailed a man to look after the wounded and this man (No.1172 G.W. Pope No.5. Platoon B.Company 9th Battalion) reported to me that he had seen nothing of Stevens.

Dated at Codford this 17th day of October, 1917

(Sgd) W.E. Paynter.

Statement made and signed before me (Sgd) J. Johnstone. Capt.

Havre 10th Dec. 1917.

9th AUSTRALIANS STEVENS, G.C. 4580

M. 5.5.17.

He was in B Co., (7th Pltn.?). I knew Stevens fairly well. He was a good runner and won races in Australia. We were waiting to go up to theline at Vaulx during the night of about the 3rd or 4th May. We went over two days after at Bullecourt. Before the attack Pte. C. Murphy, 9th Bn., B Co. Cook, (who was up the line when I left about the 6th Dec.) who I knew pretty well, and who was a pal of Stevens, told me that he saw Stevens being carried out wounded. He said he was wounded in the stomach, and was being carried to the Dressing Station.

Informant: L/Cpl. F.E. Russell, 2827
9th Australians, B Co., 8th Pltn.,
Havre Hospital.

HPG

Written Murphy
3.1.18

Acknd by P.P. 23.8.17. S.L. 4580/ G.C. STEVENS "B" Company, 9th Battalion, A. I. F.

M 7.5.17 9 Batt A IF

S 4

10/3/17

To The Secretary,

Wounded & Missing Inquiry Bureau,

Dear Secretary,

your letter to hand, dated 2nd Aug, making enquiries re for No 4580 Pte G. C. Stevens of my battalion,

I am sorry to say I cannot assist you in tracing what has become of him, I have made several inquiries from time to time, and asked several men of my company who have returned from hospital, and were wounded in the same battle, that he was in, and has been missing from ever since, and I am unable to find any trace of him whatever, the only news we know is that several men were on a fatigue party, carrying bombs into the line, ~~and a shell~~ G. C. Stevens being one of the party and a shell caught the party, wounding

2.

several of them party and on returning to their unit, Pte G. C. Stevens was missing, and has not been heard of since, and we fear the poor fellow was killed, and we were in a position that made it impossible to search for him next day, he was about 5 ft 9 ins in height, blue eyes, dark complexion, and fairly well built, // I'm sorry I cannot give you any trace of him, and several of us here would very much like to find some trace of him, and if you do hear of him in the near future, we would be very pleased if you could inform us,

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

No 225. H. Pope.

8.2.18

To Mrs Stevens
Guy St
Warwick
Queensland
Australia.

Dear madam. With reference to your enquiry of 3.12.17 re 4580 Pte G.S. Stevens 9th Batt A.I.F. and 1455 Pte J.G. Stevens 25th Batt A.I.F. we very much regret to inform you that we have never had any intimation of either of them being a prisoner of War in Germany. As you have doubtless been advised by this time Pte G.S. Stevens is now officially reported Killed in action on 5.5.17 having previously been reported missing on that date. And Pte J.G. Stevens is now reported to have been killed in action on 29.4.16.

We would suggest that the quickest way for you to obtain all possible particulars concerning them would be to apply direct to our office in Brisbane. We have already sent information concerning your sons to our Sydney office & are now sending instructions to have

it forwarded to Brisbane wherein address is
Australian Red Cross Society
Spencer Block
Queen St.

If you keep in touch with the Brisbane office you will obtain all possible information without the delay that application to England necessarily entails.

Regretting that we are unable to send you more satisfactory news & assuring you of our sincere sympathy for you in your great loss

SHAW, Cpl. A. J. 1772 — 24th Battalion.

SHEPHERD L/Cpl. Leslie Clarence 179 — 55th Battalion.
SHEPHARD — late 3rd. Battn.

SHRIVES Edward John 338 — 15th M. G. Coy.

SMEAH T. J. 1605 — 5th Battalion.

HUNSON R. 493

33rd Battalion.

NICHOLSON A.J.F. 6382

2nd Battalion.

OTTAWAY H.J. 6121

19th Battalion.

RHIND Lieut. James Morison

60th Battalion.

He has been posted as missing for some time } In the Field France

25th June 18

The Hon Sec
Inquiry Bureau
54 Victoria St. London

Dear Miss DeaRue,

Would you kindly let me know if any further information has come to hand re Private G. C. Stevens No 4580, 1st-9th Batt, (1 DGB S17, France). His Aunt is extremely anxious to know if there is any news of him and the above address is the last which he had given her. Possibly you will know to what Battalion he was allotted from the Base.

Thanking you in anticipation

I remain

Yours respectfully

V. J. Dunne

12th Field Ambulance No 13608

A. I. F. France.

G.C

P. Murphy.
B. Coy. cook
9 A. I. F.
B.S. 7.

about

G. C. STEVENS
4580.
9 A. I. F.

Missing
5-5-17.

Ew.
3.1.18

M

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

(WOUNDED AND MISSING INQUIRY BUREAU).

64, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

28.8.17.

1172 Pte C. Pope. 5-Plat- B. Co. 9th Batt. A.I.F. B.E.F.

Dear Sir,

4.5.18 We are making enquiries for a man of your Unit C. C. Stevens. 9 Batt. A.I.F. missing 7.5.17. and have been told that you may be able to help us by supplying some information.

We should be most grateful for any details you could send us concerning C. C. Stevens and would also be glad if you could add a short description of his personal appearance, or any points that would help us to prove his identity.

S

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) Vera Deakin.

SECRETARY.

3 FEB 1918

From
Mrs T Stevens
(59) Guy Street
Warwick
Dec 2 3

8.2.18

The Australian
Red Cross Prisoners of
War Department 54 Victoria Street
London

Dear Sir

Would you be kind enough to send on those letters please I think my boys must be prisoners of war one is missing since the 5 of may and the other one since July 2 29 at Roseville I cant get any word of them I heard from some of the boys that seen George wounded but I had word he was missing

Private G C Stevens
No 4580
9 Bat
W Company

Private J G Stevens
1755
25 Bat
A Company

Enl

K.H.A. 29.7.16
R. Rep. 10-

15 W
P. W. P.
No

July 5th, 1918.

13608 Pte.V.J.Dunne,
12th Field Ambulance,
Australian Imperial Force,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your enquiry of 25th inst., for

4580 Pte. G.C. STEVENS, 9th Battalion, A.I.F.

We much regret to inform you that he is now officially reported to have been Killed in Action on 5-5-17, having previously been reported Missing on that date.

Three of the unofficial reports we have received concerning him from men of his unit, state him to have been wounded in the body by a shell in a communication trench at Bullecourt and to have been last seen being carried to the Dressing Station under heavy fire

24883Sgt. W.M. Paynter made the following statement:- "G.C. Stevens was in my Platoon and he was one of a party of twenty detailed to carry bombs to the front line at Bullecourt on 5th May 1917 Whilst the party was proceeding up a communication trench a shell exploded causing numberous casualties. I did not actually see Stevens wounded or killed but on the party reaching the front line he was Missing and I did not see him again".

In spite of our efforts we have been unable to obtain more definite news of Pte.Stevens' fate and fear there is now little likelihood of further information being received concerning

him.

Regretting we should have to forward such sad news, and assuring you of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS) M2.

SECRETARY.

February 27th 7.

Corporal Hardwick,
49th Battn. A.I.F.
B.E.F.

3264 G.G. Stevens, 51st Battn. A.I.F. reported
Killed 18-7-16

G.G. Stevens P.M. for 7. M.

Pte. F.Pope, 225,
B.Coy, 9th Infantry Battn,
Australian Imperial Force, B.E.F.

January 11th, 1918.

Re 4580 C.C. STEVENS, 9th Battalion, A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the above soldier who was previously reported Missing is now reported "Killed in Action on 5.5.17.

We are making further enquiries in the hope of learning details of his death and will send you any information that we receive.

Regretting the distressing character of this news.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.