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

5889 Lance Sergeant Harold William Sweaney

18th Battalion



2680310K

7.
A.

18th ~~Canadian~~ I.F.

Sweany, Cpl. H.W. 5989

(K Feb. 25th 1917 Dets. D/B)

Informant states "I was not far off when A/Sgt. Sweany (18.A.III. was killed at the Butte de Warlencourt in February. He was probably buried at Martinpuich."

Eye witness: Yes.

Description: Stout, married, lived at a place 3 stations from Liverpool (near Sydney)

Informant: Pte. John Jas. Black 5548,
18th Aystralian I.F., A. II
3rd Southern Gen. Hos: Radcliffe
Buildings, Oxford.

P.I.

7.5.17.
J.M. Payne

Home address: 123 High St.,
Dunfries, Scotland.

18th A. I. F., Sweany, Cpl. H.W., 5889,

K. Feb. 25/17. Det: D & B.

"I saw Cpl. Sweany buried. I don't know what date, but it was before March 8th. He had been killed at the Butte de Warlencourt by a machine gun. The Germans had evacuated and we were following up. Pte. Pte was killed the same day. They buried him and stuck up his rifle and then left it for the pioneers to finish. When he landed in France he was sent up the line at once, by mistake. After 3 days he was sent back to a place near Corbie, here he had been a Sgt., but was reduced to Cpl."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description: Fair thick set, 16th Reinforcements, from Liverpool training camp, Australia.

Informant:-- Pte. Walter James Smart, 5663,
18th A. I. F., D. Coy., XVI Pl:
3rd Southern General Hosp:
Base, Oxford.

P.1.

Home address:-- Gordon Street,
Marrickville, Sydney, N.S.W.

J.W.Payne.
4.6.17.

Sweeney

A. I. F. 18. SWEANEY, Cpl. H.W. 5889.

K. February 25th, 1917.

He was one of my pals. There were some 6 of us who mated together. Two of them, Pte. Wm. Hooper of D.XIII and Pte. Maxwell of same plat, both now up line, told me they had seen his grave near Warlincourt. I understand Sweeney was shot in the stomach when on patrol at Butte de Warlincourt. I think the grave is 200 yards in front of Malt trench Warlincourt.

PHR.

References:- L/Cpl. F.D.McShane. 3643.D.XIII.
No. 22 Gen. Hosp.

Written Pte Hooper Maxwell 16.5.17

Etaples
7.5.17.

P.1.

18th A. I. F.,

Sweany, Cpl. H.W., 5889,

K. February 25th 1917. Det: D & B.

"I did not know Cpl. Sweany (18 Bn) but I heard he was killed in February when we took the Butte De Warlencourt. Sgt. Payton (18.,C) 690 would willingly find our particulars."

Eye Witness: No.

Description: Late reinforcement.

x Informant:-- Pte. Walter Potter, 4284,
18th A. I. F., C. Coy., X Pltn.,
3rd Southern General Hosp:
Radcliffe Buildings,
Oxford.

Home address:-- Binnaway,
N.S.W.

P. I.

7.5.17.
Janet M. Payne.

Written Sgt Payton 22.8.17

18. A.I.F. Sweany. H.W. Cpl. 5889. A.3.

K. Feb. 25/17.

"Cpl. Sweany was in charge of a patrol on 25/2/17 and was responsible for the ground between our Coy. and the Coy. on our right. It was just dusk, and as the party left the trench, a machine gun opened fire on them and the Cpl. was hit. I went out with a party and brought him in. He died in about two hours and was buried in front of the trench, between it and the village of Lebracque."

Eye witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Sergt. Hubert Winkworth. 4272. A.1. Staff
18th A.I.F.
Nainton Park Hospital Bristol.

Home address: Johnson Street, Annandale. Sydney. R1 Ed

J.H.Hall.
9/5/17.

Havre 14th May, 1917.

18th AUSTRALIANS SWEENY, Cpl. H.W. 5889

K. 25.2.17. Det. D/B.

He was in A Co. I believe the 2nd platoon. I saw his grave 100 yards on the Bapaume side of the Bapaume Road on the right hand side beyond the Butte de Warlencourt. A cross was put up.

Informant: Pte W. Davis, 1905
18th Australians; A Co.; 1st Pltn.
H. S. Essequibo.

LIN

P.1

Havre 15th May.1917.

18th AUSTRALIANS SWEENY, Cpl. H.W. 5889

K. Feb. 25th. 1917. Det D.B.

He was in A. Co., and was a L.Sergt. at the time of his death. I saw him in February close to Butte de Warlencourtlying in a trench mortally wounded in the stomach. I was told by L.Cpl. James Jamison that he was with Sweeny when he died. I have seen the grave - sometime in March - with a cross with his name on, close to where the railway line comes round the Butte de Warlencourt.

Informant: E.C. Brooknell 5788
18th Batt., D. Co.,
A.I.F.
H.S. "Panama"
Havre.

P.1

C.E.B.

Havre 15th May, 1917.

18th AUSTRALIANS SWEANY, Cpl. H.W. 5889

K. 25.2.17. Det. D/B.

He was in A Co. I was told by L/Cpl. Jameson of the 18th battalion, 16th Reinforcements (who I saw with the battalion about three weeks ago; I left the battalion wounded on the 3rd May) that he saw Copl. H.W. Sweany killed near Warlencourt about the 28th Feb. He had just been made a L/Sergt. We were attacking in the afternoon. About 40 yards from our trench when on the way over, Jameson saw Sweany hit by a machine gun bullet in the stomach. He was brought in by stretcher-bearers to our trench and died about five hours after. Jameson also told me that Sweany was first corrupted in a shell hole, and a few days after was reburied close to the road and a cross put up to him. Pte. Parkinson of the 18th battalion, D Co., 14th platoon, (who was wounded in the leg a few days afterwards, and I think was sent to Blighty) was a pal of Sweany's and did this. The place where he was buried was pointed out to me. Sweany was a friend

P.1

buried

him

Havre 15th May, 1917.

18th AUSTRALIANS SWEANY, Cpl. H.W. 5889

of mine. I do not know where he lived. He was manager of a butter factory: his people live at Inverell, New South Wales. Jameson was also a friend of mine, and Parkinson I knew slightly.

Informant: Pte P.D. Oliver, 5937
18th Australians, D Co., 14th Pltn.
H. S. Panama.

HPG

Havre 16th May. 1917.

18th AUSTRALIANS SWEANY. Cpl. H.W. 5889

K. 25. February 1917 Det. D/B

Sweany was in A. Company. He was severely wounded by being caught in the German ~~xxx~~ barbed wire at La Barque by machine gun bullets in the evening. He was brought in by stretcher-bearers and lived a few hours. He was buried near the railway embankment and his grave is marked. ~~xxxxxx~~

Informant: R. G. Ramsay 4227
18th Australians A. Co.
H.S. "Grantully Castle" Havre

RBS

P.1

Havre 16th May, 1917.

18th AUSTRALIANS SWEANY, Cpl. H.W. 5889

K. 25.2.17. Det. D/B.

I am not sure of his Company and platoon. I saw him buried near Butte de Warlencourt in the open on the day after he was killed. He was a sergeant at the time he was killed.

Informant: Pte J. Gibbons, 539
18th Australians, B Co., 6th Ptn
H.S. Grantully Castle.

LIK

P.1

18th A.I.F. Sweany Cpl. H.W. 5889.

(K. 25/2/'17 Det. D/B)

"Sweany was Cpl. & L/Sgt. in my Company and whilst out on patrol near Malt trench between Bapaume Rd., and Le Barque he was wounded by machine gun fire. My stretcher bearer Evans went out to render 1st Aid but was unfortunately killed, but a second stretcher bearer named Whippa succeeded in carrying him to a shell ~~fire~~ hole. I rregret to say he died the same night and was buried together with L/Cpl. Byrnes the following morning near Bapaume Rd., and in rear of Le Coupe Groule. His effects were forwarded by me to Battalion headquarters. The grave was duly marked".

Eye-witness: No

Description:

Informant: Cpl. ~~18th A.I.F.~~ H. Nobbs,
3rd London General Hospt.,
Wandsworth.

P.1

May 15th 1917,
H.J.Bordon.

18th A. I. F., Sweany, Sgt., H.W. 5889,

K. Feb. 25th. Det: D & B.

"W.Sweany (Sgt. then) had been a Sgt. Major once, came from Informant's home, Liverpool, Sydney. He came out with 16th Reinforcements, he was shot between Bird trench and Malt Trench, 5 miles this side of Bapaume, shot through the stomach and died in 4 hours, buried near. He was getting on great, well liked, put a good report about a position."

Eye Witness: Yes.

Description:

Informant:-- Pte. John R. Fielder, 5595,
18th A. I. F.,
Fulham Military Hosp:
Ward B.3.,

P.1

16.5.17.
Amy Urlin.

18th A. I. F. Corpl. H. W. SWEANY, 5889

Killed 25.2.17. Det.D/B.

We were in a trench called the "Malt Trench" on the Bapaume Road on the 25th Feb./17. After the Germans had evacuated the Butte de Warlencourt on the 25th Feb. a Sunday I think, Sweany was told to link up with a Coy. on our right, that means he had to take a Patrol out between 4 and 5.0 p.m. He was hit by a sniper a few minutes after he started out. I did not see him hit but I was told about the Casualty by Sergt.Winkworth who saw it, and also by a stretcher bearer whose name I forget. I did not know he had been hit until later as I myself was out on Patrol. Two men who went out to bring him in were themselves killed. Later, volunteers were called for to bring in the wounded and I then heard for the first time that Sweany had been hit. I volunteered and went out with others and carried him in. He lingered on for about 3 hours after we had brought him in. He was conscious right up to the end. I buried him near at hand the same night. I was alone when I did this. Our Coy. had had a very bad time, all our stretcher bearers had been killed or wounded. We only had one left so the wounded had a poor chance of getting to the Dressing Station, though I do not think Sweeny had a chance of surviving even under the best conditions as he had a

P.1

Continued.

18th A. I. F. Corpl. H. W. SWEANY, 5889

bullet through his chest and was very bad from the start. He was my greatest pal in the Battn. He was in C.Coy. No.3 Platoon.

Reference: L/Cpl.J.W.Jamieson, 5814, A.Coy. No.3 Pl.

No.9 General, Rouen, 16.5.17.

WTMR.

A.I.F. 18

~~SWEENEY~~, SWEENAY, Cpl.H.W.5889

K.February 25th 1917. Det: D & B.

This man was in A.Coy and I saw him shot by a machine gun sniper, and three were wounded at the same time. He lived about two hours and then died. He was taking a patrol out and I was in a post not far from where he was and it was daylight when he went out. I think he was shot through the stomach. He was fetched in when it was dark but he died before he got to the D/S. He is buried this side of Bapaume but not in a Cemetery and he has a cross on his grave.

Informant: Pte Grentell. 5597
No.13 Stat.
BOULOGNE. 17.5.17.

EFH

18th Batt.A.I.F.

SWEANY, Cpl.H.W. No.5889
No.3 Plat. "A" Coy. 18th Batt

Killed. Feb.25/17. Det. D./B.

"I saw Sweany killed in what was known as the "Thames" Trench near the Bapaume Road and to the right of Ligny. He was hit by a sniper's bullet which went just through the bottom of one of the breast pockets of his tunic. He was killed about 11 p.m. on the 25th of February, '17, when on ~~XXXXXX~~ patrol duty in advance of the Butte of Warlencourt. I took his personal effects from him and handed them to the company corporal. I helped to bury him just near where he was killed, and put a cross over the grave with his name and number upon it. No burial service was held. He came over with late reinforcements and joined the battalion at Haulte Mills, near Derincourt about February. He belonged to N.S.Wales."

P.1
3/11
6

Description. Middle aged, height about 5'11", well built.

Witness. Cpl Baker.F.H. No.4637, orig. No.3 Plat, "A" Coy, 18th Batt., now "D" Coy, 63rd Bat

17th May, 1917.
S S.W.

Worgret Camp, WAREHAM.

Havre 19th May.1917

18th AUSTRALIANS SWEANY, Cpl. H.F. 5869.

K. Feb. 25th. 1917. Det. D/B.

Company (?). I saw his grave on the right of Bapaume Road, just above the Butte de Warlencourt, two or three yards off the railway embankment. He was buried in a shell hole. There is a cross with particulars.

Informant: Pt. Roberts L.V. 1039
18th Batt., A.I.F.
C.Co., IX.Pltn.
H.S."Panama" Havre.

LLE.

P.1
3rd Bde

18th A. I. F. Corpl. H. W. SWEANY, 5889

Killed 25.2.17. Det.D/B.

Informant knew Corpl.Sweany in D.Coy. who was promoted Sergt. about the beginning of Feb. He did not know his initials but his No. would be round about 5889 as he was in the 16th Reinforcement. Informant saw him shot in front of the Support Trench. He was going towards a shell hole, probably for water, and was hit in several places by M.G. fire. He was brought in by some of the boys and died in the trench. He was buried near Malt Trench, but was afterwards re-buried near the Bapaume Road- Informant thinks in a Cemetery but is not sure. Reference: Sergt.H.E.Hedger, 5607, D.Coy.

VMH. No.1 Australian, Rouen, 23.5.17.

18th Battn.
A. I. F.

Sweaney.
Cpl. H. W. 5889.

"Killed in Action.25.2.17."

Was a member of a fighting patrol working along Albert. Bapaume Road. When reconnoitring a small copse he was sniped by a German, situated in one of the trees. Buried in open ground between Gird Support and Malt Trenches near the Thames. Cpl. Sweaney had up to the date of his death, been doing excellent patrol work, both before and after the advance that started on 24.2.17. It was mainly through his patrol reports that we foundthat the enemy had started to evacuate this front line trenches in front of the Butte de Warlencourt.

Witness:-
Capt. W. R. Robertsson.

London.
23,5.17.

P.I.

Havre 26th May, 1917.

18th AUSTRALIANS SWEANY, Cpl. H.W. 5889

K. 25.8.17. Det. D/B.

He was in A Co. His body was afterwards moved to a cemetery on roadside towards Bapaume. I saw the grave with a cross and his name on it, about 6 or 7 weeks ago.

Ja. Austin, 5944

Informant: Corpl. [redacted]
18th Australians, [redacted], C Co.
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

Swift
R1 b 2

GRB

Havre 26th May, 1917.

18th AUSTRALIANS SWEANY, Cpl. H.W. 5889,

K. 25.2.17. Det. D/E.

He was a Sergt. in A Co. at the time of his death. I saw him fall, shot through the back by a machine gun. He died of wounds where he fell. I afterwards saw his grave roadside nr Bapaume –

Informant: Corpl J.J. Strickland, 3945
18th Australians, A Co.,
Australian Camp, Ronelles.

GRB

Suff
RI Ed.

18th Battn.
A. I. F.

Sweany.
Cpl. H.W. 5889.

"Killed in Action 25.2.17."

re 5889 Cpl. H.W. Sweany, 18th Battn. A.I.F. Well unfortunatley I cannot give you any direct information, because I was not with him at the time, but I have made many enquiries of him, as he was a personal friend of mine, and what I tell you may be taken as almost positively correct. He was killed in action on the 25th Feb. 1917 near Warlencourt, and when being carried to the dressing station he was very cheerful and there appeared to be every hope for him, but it is thought that another bullet entered the chest while he was being carried down, and he died almost at once. He was buried on the field in the vicinity of the trouble and the Battalion has supplied a cross over his body. Before going to the trenches on this occasion he was promoted to temporary Sgt. He was well respected by all who knew him and he proved himself a man on the field in the short time that he had with the Battalion. In reference to his personal appearance, I can only say that he was a very solidly built man and had rather a deep voice. He sailed from Australia in Sept. of last year as Company Sgt. Major of reinforcements for 18th Battn. and eventually arrived in France in December of last year.

Letter from:-
Cpl. W. H. Hooper.
B. E. F. 11.6.17.

18th Battn.
A. I. F.

Sweany.
Cpl. H.W. 5889.

Cpl. Sweany was killed whilst leading a patrol following the enemy after the Hun had cleared out from near the Butte of Warlencourt. He was shot in the stomach by a bullet and died of wounds.

Letter from:-
Lieut. Lloyd Davies.
Lieut.

London.
26.6.17.

P.I.

18th.A.I.F.

Brettierton, Capt.A.R., K.Dec.26/16. Det.D/B.
Harris, Lt.W. " Mar. 7/17. "
Sweany, Corpl.H.W. ~~4380.~~ " Feb.25/17. "

" Capt Brettierton was Intelligence Officer & went out one day to an advance post by daylight & was sniped & shot instantaneously. It was in the front of the front line & he was buried somewhere near Needle Trench nr Flers. I saw him carried in.

I heard from the men who had been with him that Lt.Harris was killed when out with a fighting patrol.

Cpl.H.W.Sweany was killed by a sniper near Warlencourt & buried near there."

Eyewitness:-

Description:-

Informant:- Sgt.W.B.Carrick, 4389.
18th.A.I.F. A Co., IV Plat.
Hyde Pk.Barracks Hosp.,Plymouth.

Home address:- Shenstone,
Monomeeter St.,
Bexley, N.S.W.

Not sent on

21/5/17.
E.G.Hunt.

690

Sgt PAYTON/C, Co

18 Batt AIF

BEF

for

5889. Cpl H. W. SWEANY

18 Batt AIF

K. 25. 2. 17

FM

~~22.5.17~~

6.6.17

Pte Wm HOOPER / 13 Pl
D Co
18 Batt AIF
BEF

Cpl MAXWELL / 13 Pl.
D Co
18 Batt AIF
BEF

for.

5889 Cpl H.W. SWEANY
18 Batt AIF

K. 25. 2. 17

~~16.5.17~~
6.6.17. PR.

Rec'd FM. 19.6.17

France
11th June 1917.

5889. Cpl H. W. SWEANY
18 Batt A.I.F.

The Secretary.
Aus. Red Cross Soc.
London

KA 25.2.17. P.I. 2

Dear Madam/

Re your enquires of 5889 Cpl. H. W. Sweany 18th Batt A.I.F.

Well unfortunately I cannot give you any direct information, because I was not with him at the time, but I have made many enquiries of him, as he was a personal friend of mine, & what I tell you may be taken as almost positively correct. He was killed in action on the 25th Feb 1917. near Warlencourt, & when being carried to the dressing station he was very cheerful & there appeared to be every hope for him, but it is thought that another bullet entered the ~~chest~~ chest while he was being carried down. & he died almost at once. He was buried on the field in the vicinity of the trouble, & the Battalion has supplied a Cross over his body.

Before going to the trenches on this occasion he was promoted to temporary Sergeant, he was well respected by all who knew him, & he proved himself a man on the field. in the short time that he had with the Battalion.

In reference to his personal appearance I can only say that he was a very solidly built man. I had rather a deep voice.
He sailed from Australia in Sept of last year as Company Sgt. Major of reinforcements for 18th Batt. & eventually arrived in France in December of last year.
Trusting that what little information I have given may be of use, & regretting the fact that I cannot give a fuller detail, as I was not on the ~~scene~~ scene at the time.

I am.
Yours faithfully
C. A. Hoole
Corporal

20th June 1917.

Cpl. W H. Hooper,
18th Batt, A.I.F.
B.E.F.

Dear Cpl Hooper,

Very many thanks for your letter of June 11th in in answer to our enquiry concerning:-

5889. Cpl. H.W. Sweany. 18th Batt, A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance and of great value to our enquirers coming from his personal friend.

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your friend,

Yours faithfully,

V.D

Secretary,

All communications
to be addressed to
THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

Telegraphic Address: "ALICUJUS, WESTRAND, LONDON."
Telephone No.: GERRARD, 2337 (2 LINES)

Reference No.

Agent-General for New South Wales.
Sydney House, Cockspur Street,
Trafalgar Square, S.W. 1.

17th April, 1917.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Agent-General for New South Wales has received a cablegram from the Government in Sydney, asking him to ascertain particulars of the death of Corporal Harold Sweany (No. 5889), 16th Reinforcements, 18th Battalion, 5th Brigade, and the Agent-General would feel greatly indebted to you if you could obtain through your organisation and furnish to him any available particulars in the connection under reference, in order that the same may be cabled to Sydney, in answer to the enquiry.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

Lieut.-Col. Murdoch,
Australian Branch, British Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

All communications
to be addressed to
THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

Telegraphic Address: "ALICUJUS, WESTRAND, LONDON."
Telephone No.: GERRARD, 2337 (2 LINES)

Reference No.

Agent-General for New South Wales.
Sydney House, Cockspur Street,
Trafalgar Square, S.W.

(1)

16th May, 1917.

Dear Sir,

Adverting to the letter from this Department of the 17th April last, respecting particulars of the death of No. 5889, Corporal Harold Sweany, 16th Reinforcements, 18th Battalion, 5th Brigade, A.I.F., the Agent-General would feel greatly obliged if you would be so good as to inform him whether you are yet in possession of any information in the connection under reference which could be cabled to Sydney in answer to the State Government's enquiry in this behalf.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

The Secretary,
Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Australian Branch
British Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street, S.W., 1.

16.5.17

The Agent General for New South Wales
Sydney House
Cockspur St. S.W.1

Dear Sir,

Referring to your inquiry for details of the death and burial of No. 3889 Cpl. H.W. Sweany 18th Battn. A.I.F. we beg to forward unofficial information ~~given~~ by men of his unit.

No. 3665 Pte. W.J. Smart who was in the 3rd Southern Gen. Hospt. Oxford says that he saw ~~Capt.~~ Cpl. Sweany buried in a grave marked by his rifle. He had been killed at the ~~Battle~~ Butte de Warlencourt by a machine gun, when they were following up after the German evacuation. He had been sent up the line immediately after landing in France, but after three days was sent back again to Corbie where he was acting Sergeant. Informant describes him as fair and thick set.

No. 3645 L/Cpl. McShane reports that Cpl. Sweany was wounded in the stomach while on patrol duty at ~~Battle~~ Butte de Warlencourt and some of his friends have seen his grave 200 yards in front of Malt Trench near Warlencourt,

We are pursuing further inquiries and will advise you immediately on receipt of further information.

Yours faithfully

J.B.

Secretary.
L.A.M.

All communications
to be addressed to
THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

Telegraphic Address: "ALICUJUS, WESTRAND, LONDON."
Telephone No.: GERRARD, 2337 (2 LINES)

Reference No.

Agent-General for New South Wales.
Sydney House, Cockspur Street,
Trafalgar Square, S.W. 1.

17th May, 1917.

RECEIVED
18 MAY 1917

Dear Madam,

I am directed by the Agent-General for New South Wales to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 16th May, respecting the death and burial of No. 5889, Corporal H. W. Sweany, 18th Battalion, A.I.F., and to state that the information given therein, will be duly communicated to the Government in Sydney.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

May 25rd, 1917.

The Agent General for New South Wales,
Sydney House,
Cockspur Street, S.W. 1.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of further unofficial evidence on the death of No. 5889 Cpl. H. W. Sweany, 18th Battn., A.I.F. informant being No. 5548 Pte. J.J. Black who on May 7th was in the 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford.

He says that he was close to Acting Sergeant Sweaney, when the latter was killed at the Butte de Warren-court, and he witnessed the casualty, adding that he is probably buried at Martinpuich.

He says that Cpl. Sweany was a married man, living near Liverpool not far from Sydney.

We are continuing the enquiry, and will advise you immediately on receipt of further information.

Yours faithfully.

V.D.

Sec.

LAW.

All communications
to be addressed to
THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

Telegraphic Address: "ALICUJUS, WESTRAND, LONDON."
Telephone No.: GERRARD, 2337 (2 LINES)

Reference No.

Agent-General for New South Wales.
Sydney House, Cockspur Street,
Trafalgar Square, S.W. 1.

RECEIVED
25 MAY 1917

24th May, 1917.

Dear Madam,

I am directed by the Agent-General for New South Wales to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 23rd May, containing further unofficial evidence on the death of No. 5889, Cpl. H. W. Sweany, 18th Battalion, A.I.F., which will be communicated to the Government in Sydney by the next out-going mail, for the information of the parties interested.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. White

Secretary.

The Secretary,
Australian Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
S. W. 1.

May 30th, 1917.

The Agent General for New South Wales,
Sydney House,
Cockspur Street, S.W. 1.

Dear Sir,

Further unofficial details are to hand concerning the death of No. 5889 Cpl. H.W.Sweany, 18th Battn., A.I.F., and we beg to advise you of the same.

His great friend L/CPL.J.W.Jamieson who on May 16th was in No. 9 General Hospital, B.E.F., gives the following account of his casualty, all the other informants giving very similar evidence. He says that Cpl.Sweany was told to link up with a company on their right on Feb.25th,1917 at the Butte de Warlencourt, and this involved his taking out a patrol party at between 4 and 5 p.m. to reconnoitre a small copse on the Albert-Bapaume Road. A few minutes later he was sniped by a German situated in one of the trees, and after several attempts had been made to bring him in, informant and others volunteered for the work, and succeeded in carrying him to the front line. Although severely wounded through the chest he lived for about three hours after being wounded, remaining conscious until the end. L/Cpl.Jamieson buried in open ground between Gird support and Bolt trench, and other witnesses have seen his grave marked by a cross bearing his particulars.

Pte Oliver after giving similar evidence adds that Cpl. Sweany was previously manager of a butter factory, his people living in Inverell, New South Wales.

Capt, W.R.Robertson says, that up to the date of his death, Cpl.Sweany had been doing excellent patrol work, and that it was mainly through his patrol reports that they learned that the enemy had begun to evacuate their front line of trenches in front of the Butte de Warlencourt.

We have now ceased our enquiries, believing that our evidence is sufficiently detailed. Should further reports be received however, we shall gladly advise you of the same.

Yours faithfully,

V.D.

Secretary.
(A.A.W.)

All communications
to be addressed to
THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

Telegraphic Address: "ALICUJUS, WESTRAND, LONDON."
Telephone No.: GERRARD, 2337 (2 LINES)

Reference No.

Agent-General for New South Wales.
Sydney House, Cockspur Street.
Trafalgar Square, S.W. 1.

31st May, 1917.

Dear Madam,

I am directed by the Agent-General for New South Wales to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th May, conveying further unofficial details which have been received concerning the death of No. 5889, Cpl. H. W. Sweany, 18th Battalion, A.I.F. The Agent-General is much indebted to your Society for the trouble which it has been good enough to take in this matter and feels sure that the Society's kind services will be much appreciated by the parties in New South Wales interested in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

The Secretary,
Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau,
Australian Red Cross Society,
54, Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

4.6.17.

The Agent General for New South Wales,
Sydney House,
Cockspur Street,
S. W.

Dear Sir,

We have received another unofficial report about -

5889. Cpl.H.W.Sweany, 18th Batt, A. I. F,

the evisence contained therein only confirming what has already been sent you.

4637. Cpl F.H.Baker, when at Worgret Camp, Wareham, Dorset stated that he saw Cpl Sweany killed in Thamon Trench near Bapaume Road, to the right of Ligny, while on patrol duty in advance of the Butte de Warlencourt. He was shot by a sniper and lived for a time, after being wounded.. He was buried where he fell in a grave marked by his name and regimental particulars. -

Pte John R. Fielder, Fulham Military Hospital, gave similar evidence and adds that the Cpl was well liked, and had just made a very good report about a position.

Capt, N.H. Hebbs 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth

Contd-

reporting that Capt Sweany who was in his company was wounded by machine gun fire whilst on patrol near Halt Trench Between Bapaume Road, and Le Barque, - A stretcher bearer named Whipps carried him to a shell hole where he died a few hours later, being buried next morning near Bapaume in a grave duly marked - Capt Nebbs forwarded his effects to Battalion Headquarters,

Trusting that these further details will be of some consolation to his relatives,

Yours faithfully,

VD

Secretary,

L/RW

July 5th, 1917.

The Agent General for New South Wales
Sydney House,
Cockspur Street, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

We have received further unofficial evidence on the death of,

No 5889 Cpl. H. M. SWEANY, 18th Battalion A.I.F.

and we beg to advise you of the same.

Lieut. Lloyd Davies writing from France reported that Cpl. Sweany was killed whilst leading a patrol after the enemy had evacuated the Butte de Warlencourt, dying almost immediately as the result of gunshot wounds of the stomach.

Cpl. W. H. Hooper wrote from France on 11.6.17 to this effect, "Unfortunately I cannot give you direct information about Cpl. Sweany because I was not with him at the time, but I have made many enquiries of him, as he was a personal friend of mine, and what I tell you may be taken as almost positively correct. He was killed in action on the 25.Feb. 1917 near Warlencourt, and when being carried to the dressing station he was very cheerful and there appeared

to be every hope for him, but it is thought that another bullet entered the chest while he was being carried down, and he died almost at once. He was buried on the field in the vicinity of the trouble and the Battalion has supplied a cross over his body. Before going to the trenches on this occasion he was promoted to temporary Sgt. He was well respected by all who knew him and he proved himself a man on the field in the short time that he had with the Battalion. In reference to his personal appearance, I can only say that he was a very solidly built man and had rather a deep voice. He sailed from Australia in Sept. of last year as Company Sgt. Major of reinforcements for 18th Battn. and eventually arrived in France in December of last year".

We have now closed our inquiries for Cpl. Sweany and have made an application to the Graves Registration Bureau fora photo of his grave, which if the latter is registered by that Society will be forwarded in due course direct to his next of kin.

Yours faithfully,

K.J.

Secretary.

hAW