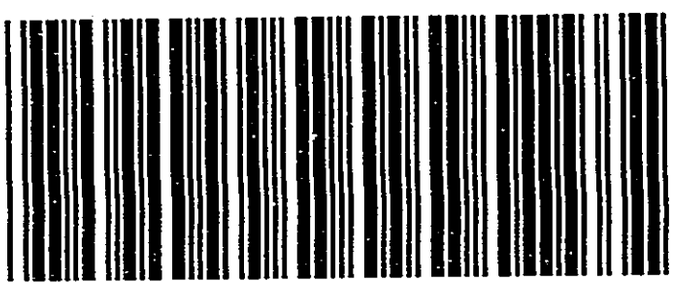
Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

28900 Gunner Francis Thomas Sweeny

5th Field Artillery Brigade



2680404O

5th F.A.Bgde.
A.F.A.

Sweeny.
Gnr. F.RJ 28900

"Died of Wounds"

The Matron has asked me to send you some particulars of the death of the above patient whom I attended during his sickness as R.C.priest attending the hospital. He was admitted here on Oct.14th suffering from a great deal of pain from gunshot wounds in the head. At first there seemed to be hope of recovery but after a few days he took a turn for the worse. I administered the last sacraments on Saturday 20th. His mind was quite clear then and I think he realised that he was not likely to recover. Afterwards he became unconscious and passed away on the Sunday monning about 3.30. We buried him on Wednesday in the Military Cemetery attached to the Hospital in the part reserved for Dominion soldiers. I think we may regard his death as a mercy. He passed away quite happily and contentedly. Had he lived he would probably have been a chronic invalid and in constant pain.

Letter from:-
The R.C.Chaplain
Queen Mary's Mil. Hospital.
Whalley. 4.12.17.

P.
S.

London.
22.12.17.

Nov 2.

The O-C's draft.

The Matron

Queen Mary's Military Hospital

Whalley

Lancashire.

Sweeny

No 28900 Pte T. Ha[illegible] Sweeney

15 Battery

A.F.A.

Died 1

Wounds 10

12

51st Battn.
A.I.F.

Morris.
J. W. Sgt. 1866

"Died of Wounds 4.4.17"

I believe that Sgt.George Calder (51.A) could give particulars about Sgt.John Murray Morris as he told me he was wounded on Monday or Tuesday April 2nd or 3rd at Noreuil. I did not hear that he died going back to the dressing station, but that was only a rumour. Ground was held.

Eye-witness: No.
Description: A Farmer. Married. Been out about 2 months. Used to be a tea planter in India. I believe a Presbyterian.

Informant: Cpl.A.A.McGregor 497
51st Battn.D.Coy.XVI Pl.
3rd Southern Gen.Hpl.Oxford.

4.9.17.
H.M.Pickard-Cambridge.
London.
12.10.17. Note Asking H.Qrs to verify 12.10.17. P.I.

In the Field,

Jan 12 11 1918

To Sec. B.R.C.S.

Dear Sir

Would you please find out any information concerning Gunner Frank Sweeny (28900) late 15th Battery A.F.A. He was wounded near Ypres between Sept 20th and beginning of Oct.

The Gun is my brother and I are anxiously awaiting news of him

Thanking you for an early reply,

(2436) Robt. E. Sweeny
14th Field Coy Engrs
A.I.F.

2436 Pte.R.C.Sweeny,
14th Field Coy Engineers,
Australian Imperial Force,
B. E. F.

January 24th, 1918.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry about your brother

28900 Pte.F.T.M.SWEENY, 15th Battery, A.I.F.

We deeply regret to inform you he died 21.10.17, in Queen Mary's Military Hospital, Whalley, Lancs, of wounds received in Action.

We have a letter received from the priest of the hospital, and will quote his words "The Matron has asked me to send you some particulars of the death of Pte.F.T.M.Sweeny, who I attended during his sickness as R.C. Priest attending the Hospital. He was admitted here on Oct.14th, suffering from a great deal of pain from gunshot wounds in the head. At first there seemed to be hope of recovery but after a few days he took a turn for the worse. I administered the last Sacraments on Saturday 20th. His mind was quite clear then and I think he realised that he was not likely to recover. Afterwards he became unconscious and passed away on the Sunday morn about 3.30. We buried him on Wednesday in the Military Cemetery attached to the hospital in the part reserved for Dominion soldiers. I think we may regard his death as a mercy. He passed away quite happily and contentedly, had he lived he would probably have been a Chronic invalid and in constant pain".

He was buried in the Military Cemetery attached to the Hospital.

Regretting we have such sad news to send you and

assuring you of our deepest sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

L'B.