

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

**1981 Corporal
Bertie Stibbard**

34th Battalion



26308050

Havre

9th Aug. 1917.

34th AUSTRALIANS

STIBBARD, B. 1961

K. 7.6.17. Det. D/B.

He was in A Co. I knew Stibbard well. I was told by Pte. Gray of the 34th battn., A Co., (2nd Pltn) who I met at the Base at Harfleur and who went up the line about 21st July, that he saw Stibbard killed by ~~shrapnel~~ a shell explosion after we had taken Pingstreet. Gray was wounded by the same shell. He did not tell me where Stibbard was buried.

Informant: Pte. M. Gray, 77.
34th Australians, A Co., 3rd Pltn.;
(no relation of Gray mentioned in report)
Havre Hospital.

Written Pte Gray 18.8.17.

S.

HFG

34th Bttn, A.I.F.
A.Coy, 1st Pltn.

STIBBARD..
Cpl.B. 1981.

"Killed 7.6.17".

I saw him killed by one of our shells at Messines 8.6.17 which landed short. He only lived about a half-hour after he got hit. and was unconscious all the time. I knew him well, there being no other of that name in the Bttn. He was buried but I did not see his grave and I cannot refer to anyone for information. A Mate of mine named Pte.Cranne was killed by the same shell.

Witness:-

Pte.W.R.Manning 1855,
34th Bttn, A.Coy, 1st Pltn,
3rd Aust. Aux.Hosp,
Dartford.

W.Oman,
London.
16.8.17.

S.

34th Bttn, A.I.F.
A.Coy, 1st Pltn.

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W.Oman,
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16.8.17.

S.

A.I.F. 34.

STIBBARD, E. 1981.

K. June 7th 1917. Dets D/B.

On June 7th the 34th Battn was engaged at Messines when Stibbard was caught by a shell and killed instantaneously I do not know the exact spot where he was buried, but I know that Capt McCook officiated as Chaplain and that a cross was put on the grave.

Inf: S.J.Ryan. 173.
No. 54 General
BOULOGNE. 16.8.17.

HH

S.

Written Capt. McCook 28.8.17

34th A.I.F.

Stibbard Pte. B. 1981,

(K. June 7/17 Det. D/B)

"I know that Stibbard was killed on June 7th 1917. He was the man who carried Lt. Shannon's body in after the raid on June 1/17. I think perhaps he is buried at Messines. The Regt. would know".

Eye-witness: Yes

Description:

Informant: Pte. John Perks 153,
34th A.I.F.,
1st London General Hospt.,
Home address: Camberwell.

23.8.17.
F. Rcass.

S

A.I.F. 34.

STIBBARD B. 1961.

X. June 7th. 1917. Det D & B

He was killed by a shell while asleep in a Bay in the trenches at Elsegstreet on the morning of June 7th. I saw his body just afterwards. It was buried just outside the trench. Stibbard was a Lce. Opl. in A. Coy. I think his home was at Bathurst.

Informant: Pte A.R. Verdon. 2171.

34 A.I.F. A. Coy. Stretcher Bearer
2nd Army Rest Camp.
BOULOGNE. 23.8.17.

HMH

54th Battn

A. Coy.

A.I.F.

STIBBARD.

B. 1981

"Killed 7.6.17."

I saw him dead at Messines he had been hit with a shell death was instantaneous. I did not see his grave and cannot refer to anyone for further particulars. I knew him well. and there was no other of that name in the Coy.

Witness:-

Ptel I. J. Willoughby, 1651

54th Battn. A. Coy.

3rd A.A. Hospl.

Dartford.

W. Oman,

London.

27.8.17.

S.

34th A. I. F.

Stibbard, Pte. B. 1981,

K. June 7/17. Det: D. & B.

"I knew Stibbard in my Battalion he was killed by shell fire at Plug Street Wood, he lived about 20 minutes. I was unconscious all the time. Date June 7/17."

Eye Witness: told by Informant's brother, G.Sullivan, who saw him killed.

Description: Short and dark.

Informant:-- Pte, Edward Sullivan, 198,
34th A. I. F.,
1st London General Hosp:
Camberwell, S.E.

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

August 1917.

M. Everard.

J.
led.
sub.

34th Battn
C. Coy
A.I.F.

Stibbard B
1981

"Killed in Action 7.6.17."

Towards dusk on 13th July 1917 a date he fixed with certainty as he was on that day carried to the tent from Neuve Eglise on the Messines Road suffering with appendicitis he perfectly remembers seeing Pte. Stibbard who was in the same Coy as himself standing near the Hdqtrs. He does not know Stibbard's civil occupation, or where he came from but stated that he was batman to Capt. Lacey of C. Coy was about 22 and had reddish hair.

Note Myseacher. This appears improbable, but I forward it as directly informant saw Stibbard's name in the list he said "This man is not dead" and no suggestion that it might be a case of mistaken identity would shake Biggs confidence- I therefore forward it.

Description:- Pte. I regret I omitted to enquire whether Biggs remembers seeing Stibbard on any other occasions between 7th June and 13th July, I endeavoured to see him again today but found that he had been transferred to another hospital.

Informant:- Pte. Biggs Pte 1872
34th Battn A.I.F.

De Warden Eastbourne.

Home Address:- 26 Fitzroy Street
Marrickville. N.S.W.

London
7.9.17.

34TH Battn
A.I.F.

STIBBARD
B 1981

"Killed in Action 7.6.17."

Re 1981 Pte. B. Stibbard. I have to say he was killed on June 7th h
less and was buried on the field. As the Unit has since moved
from that sector I cannot say in what condition the grave is now, bu
it is expected that it will not be lost sight of. He was short of
stature, slight build, sharp features, dark complexion age 21.
His mother a widow lives at Cadia Via Orange. N.S.W.
Two cousins are still with the Battn the elder of whom Pte.
7 W.A. Stibbard of Q.M. Staff will be glad to supply any further
information about the family.

Letter from:-----

A.S.M^c Cook.

Chaplain,

34th Battn A.I.F.

France 5.9.17.

London.
18.9.17.

S

34th Battn
A.I.F.

STIBBARD
R.L/Cpl 1981

"Killed in Action 7.6.17"

Concerning 1918 Pte B. Stibbard killed in Action 7/6/17 - I happened to get hit with the same shell as Pte Stibbard got hit with. He died soon after. He was buried in the field. His grave is not registered. I enlisted in Australia the same time as Pte Stibbard. We left Australia with the 3rd Reinforcement for the 54th Battn. After we arrived in England we got drafted into the 34th Battn. I am certain he is the same man you are enquiring about. Description: Short thick set. Blue eyes; hair fair, smart appearance; age about 20 years.

Letter from Pte H. D. Gray 1925

Ack by P/C 12/9/17

S.

London

21.9.17.

34th Batt
A.Coy.
A.I.F.

Stibbard,
Bert, 1981.

"Killed 7.6.17"

Refer to Pte.G. Pawsherry, 34th Batt, A.Coy, who is now in France, and who saw him killed by a shell at Messines and can give particulars

Witness:- Clarke. Sgt.G.E.1895
34th Batt, A.Coy, 3rd Pltn
3rd A.A.Hospital
Dartford

W.Oman
31.8.17

London 6.10 17

S

34th Battalion.
late 54th Battn.

Stibbard, B.
1981 L-Cpl.

Killed in Action 7/6/17.

Stibbard was a Corporal when he was killed at Messines; he came from 54th Battn. His name was Bert and he was in A.Co. I Platoon and over me; he was muggetty build and smart little chap. He was first wounded in the trench at Messines on 7/6/17. I helped to bandage him up and gave him a drink, he was quite conscious and sensible and did not seem to suffer much. I saw him the next morning when they were taking them away for burial. I do not think he suffered much.

Informant: Mooring, H.A. Pte 133

34th Battn. A.Co.

No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

A reliable witness.

SYDNEY BUREAU.

H.S.O.
C.1/12/17.

S. Cd 20/11 ✓

17. 8. 17.

Pte GRAY,

2 Pte A. Coy.

34. Batt. A. I. 7.

B. P. 3.

For

1981

Pte B. STIBBARD

34. Batt. A. I. 7.

N. 4. 6. 17.

21. 8. 17.

K. H. M.

15.8.17
Capt. McCook

34 Balw AIF
BEF

for

1981

B. STIBBARD

34 Balw AIF

K. 7.6.17

G.C.M.
30.8.17

Dec 1951
1/20/51
1951
STIBBARD

34 BATTALIA

K-A-7-6-17

Dear Mr. Dean
I received your letter of the 12th of
if I could supply you with any
information concerning John Stibbard
John Stibbard killed in action 7/1/44
I hope to get the full
information as the Stibbard
got hit in the head soon after
He was buried in the field for
years but was found in 1944
in Australia the same time as
at the time the 1st of Australia
with the 3rd Reinforcements for
the 54th Battalion after we arrived
in England we got drafted into
the 34th Battalion. I am certain he
has the same man you are enquiring
about, description short thick set
Blue eyes, hair fair mustache
age about 20 years.

Yours faithfully

1955 J. B. J. Gray

France, 5th Sep. 1917

2-1-R
FM 10917

Mrs. Vera Beattie

Secretary

Australian Red Cross Society

34 Victoria St. London

Dear Mrs. Beattie

I am in receipt of yours of 30th ult.
making inquiry re 1981 Pte. B. Shibbard.

I have to say that he was killed in
action during the advance on June 7th last,
and was buried on the field. As the unit
has since moved from that sector I cannot
say in what condition the grave is now, but it
is expected that it will not be lost sight of.
He was short of stature, slight build, sharp
features, dark complexion, age 21.

His mother, a widow, lives at Cadix
via Orange N.C.W.

Two cousins are still with our Bn.,
the elder of whom Pte. J. A. Shibbard of
Q. Co. Staff will be glad to supply any
further information about the family.

1981. B. SHIBBARD, Yours faithfully

34 Victoria St.

A. S. La. Book

Chaplain

34th Bn.
A. S. T.

KAY. 6. 17

S (cd)

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6-C

11.9.17

Capt. Chaplain A.S. McCOOK
34 Battn. A.I.F. S.E.F.

Dear Sir,

We have to thank you very much for your letter in answer to our enquiry, concerning: 1981 B. STIBSARD 34 Battn. A.I.F.

The information you have sent will be of much assistance to us and of value to our enquirers.

As our enquiry was made by cable from our Sydney Bureau, we presume it was on behalf of his Mother: and the fact that two of his cousins were in the same Battn. leads us to expect that they had written to the relatives giving details, though naturally such letters would not have reached Australia before the cabled enquiry was made (6.7.17)

Yours faithfully,

V.D.
Secretary

Handwritten signature