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

2191 Private
Frederick Turner

39th Battalion



2790804U

A.I.F. 39th Btn

TURNER
Fredk. 2191

"Aided May-June"

Killed in action 7-6-17
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 8-8-17

M

London
8-8-17

39th Battn
A.I.F.

Turner.
F. Pte. 2191

7

"Killed 7.6.17."

He was lying in a shell hole when I went over to him he had been hit while digging a support trench. He had a bullet through the left shoulder and his jaw had been blown away. I bound up his jaw.
I do not know where he was buried.

Witness: Cadzow. L.J.
2053a
Infirmary. Southall

London.
5.9.17

P.I. M.

39th Battn
B. Coy.
A.I.F.

Turner. F
2191

"Killed 7.6.17."

I saw him wounded at GreyFarm near Messines. He was hit by a shell fragment in the mouth. I heard that he died the samenight. but I do not know place of burial. Refer to Pte. F. Telford B. Coy. 39th Battn who was with him at time of casualty and who may be able to give particulars.

Witness:- Pte. R. Banks. 411
39th Battn B. Coy.
3rd A.A. Hospital,
Dartford.

W. Oman,
London.
7.9.17.

Note written Pte, Telford. 5.9.17. M. P.I.

38th Battn
A.I.F.

Turner.
F. Pte. 2191

"Killed 7.6.17."

He was lying on a shell hole when I went over to him, he had been hit while digging a support trench. He had a bullet through the left shoulder, and his jaw had been blown away. I bound up his jaw. I do not know where he wasburied.

Witness. Cadzow.
L.A. 2053. a
Southall.

London.
8.9.17.

M

P I

A.I.F. 39. TURNER, F. 2191.

K. June 7th 1917. Dets.

I knew him, he was in B.Coy. He was killed by M.G. bullets in the face at Messines. He is buried in a shell hole near there. There is a cross with his name on.

Inf: Pte Rosewarne. 2137.
No. 7 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 13.10.17.

RAOI

P.I
M

39th Battn.
A.I.F.

Turner.
F. 2191

"Killed in Action 7.6.17"

2191 Pte.F.Turner, was killed in the battle of Messines Ridge on June 7th 1917. I have just that entry against his name. As nearly as I can remember he was killed on the way up. I had gone up an hour ahead of the battalion. I am almost certain that he was buried in the Strand Military Cemetery by one of the Chaplains in the rear at the time. After the battle I went to look for his and another body andwas told that they had been taken away by a burial party and a chaplain.

Letter from:-
Chaplain Best.
"E" Lines
Aust.Officer's Mess,
Belton Park.
Grantham½ 19.10.17.

London.
24.10.17.

M.
~~P.~~
P.I.

39 A.I.F.

Turner. Pte. F. 2191.

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

"I helped to bury Turner who was killed on June 7 by shell at Messines in an attack. His and other bodies lay out and were so far gone on the Sunday when we got at them to bury them that we buried them where they fell."

Eye-witness: Not of death but helped to bury.

Description: Fair - clean-shaven. about 25. He was in No. V Platoon.

Informant: Pte. T.H. Stevenson. 1715.
39 A.I.F. B Co: VII Pl:
Horton (County of London) War Hos: Epsom.

28.10.17. Home address: Letters to 130 Horsferry Rd.
H.C. Garsdn.

M P.1
Ed. Smith

A.I.F. 39. K. 7.6.17. TURNER F. 3191.

His full name was Wm. Fredk. Turner and he came from Exeter Street, Ballarat, North. I have seen his grave with cross name and number on, just off Ploegstreet Wood, where our 3rd.Div. made a cemetery. The Padre who officiated at his burial was Rev. J. Best, C. of E. now gone to Palestine and on his way back to Australia. He was a great mate of mine, I have been 9 months with Bn.

PHB.

Reference: Pte. J.A. Butler. 1795. (formerly C.Co. 1 Can.Gon.Hpl. now Trans.Sect.

Staples. 6.10.17.

N.B. A good informant. PHB.

Wants Chaplain Best 17-10-17

M P.1

1.9.17

pte P. TELFORD
B Co
39 Batt A IF
BEF

for

2191 F. TURNER
C. Co
39 Batt A IF

K. 7. 6. 17

R.C.
5.9.17.

74 Chapman St
Hulme
Manchester.

Dear Sir

Would you kindly let me know the whereabouts of my nephew not having heard from him. as we are feeling greatly depressed about him. I am sure that a kind reply would lighten our minds and thoughts. we would all esteem it a great favour in hearing about him. as your kindness would console us all.

Thanking you for a kind reply.

Yours Faithfully
F. Turner

Private. Fred Turner. August 10/17
No 2191
B. Company. 39. Batt
A. I. F.

ack. 24.9.17.
8 lips

K in A.

23 Blanshard St.
C. on. M
Manchester
11. 8. 17.

Dear Friends

Will you kindly try & locate the whereabouts of Pte Fred Turner. No. 2191. B. Comp. 39th Battallion A. I. F. reported in the Manchester papers as killed on the 7th of the 6th, I have a letter from his parents in Australia dated the 4th of 7th saying he is wounded & asking me to communicate with him & let them know the nature of the wounds I have sent.

several letters but unable to trace him. thanking you in anticipation

Yours Respectfully

P. A. Williams

Sept 21.

T. Turner Esq
74 Capman St
Hulme
Manchester

Dear Sir

In answer to your inquiries for details of the death of No 2191 Pte Frederick Turner 39th Bn A.I.F. we very much regret to inform you of unofficial reports given by men of his unit ~~who~~ in hospital in England –

No 411 Pte R. Danks who was in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital Dartford, stated that he saw Pte Turner wounded by a shell fragment ~~in the~~ at Grey Farm, near Messines on June 7th – and he heard later that he had died although he can give no further details. He refers us to Pte T. Telford who was with your nephew at the time of his casualty

and as soon as we receive a reply from him we shall advise you.

No 2053a Pte L. J. Cadzow who was in 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital Southall, stated that he saw your nephew lying in a shell hole badly wounded in the jaw which he had raged ~~but~~ she heard later that he had died. The casualty had occurred while he was digging a support trench ~~but~~ and he was also wounded in the left shoulder.

We deeply regret that this information contains so few details and we are pursuing our inquiries in the hope of obtaining a definite report of his death & burial and you may rest assured that as soon as we receive further news we shall advise you.

With our sincere sympathy

Yours Effy

13th Batt.
A.I.F.

Wells,
Capt. D.

"Prisoner of War"

Interned Freiburg

"Officer recovered sufficiently to be moved from hospital at Karlsruhe to the camp at Freiburg - Padded shoe not necessary. The flesh had healed over the shrapnel and the wound was festering needing careful handling. Wearing of shoe impossible. With the exception of the slight relapse Capt Wells has been getting on very well indeed."

Extract from letter from Lt Col. Impey, Secretary, Central P of W Committee dated 4.9.17

Havre
23rd. Australians

15th. Aug. 1917.
RUSSELL, Cpl. C.L. 5087

W.& M. 3.5.17.

He was in D.Co. 13th. Pltn. He came from Victoria. I knew him well. His christian name was Claude. He came with the 13th. Reinforcements to the 23rd. battalion and was Sergt. Major of the Reinforcement. I was told by Pte. McGrath of C.Co. that he had been with Russell when he was severely wounded at Bullecourt and assisted to put him into a shell hole. McGrath is with the battalion now.

Informant: Pte. E.J.Westcott, 5699
23rd. Australians, D.Co. 16th. Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

P.I.
Off M.

Written Pte. McGrath. 31.8.17

August 17th, 1917.

Mr. T.Turner,
74, Capman Street,
Hulure, Manchester.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry for

No 2191. Pte.Frederick Turner,
39th Batth,
A.I.F.

we very much regret to have to inform you that he is now officially reported "Killed in Action 7.6.17".

We are making enquiries and hope to obtain details of his death and burial and when any information comes to hand we shall advise you.

We should like to express our very sincere sympathy in your loss.

Yours faithfully,

V.D. [illegible]

Secretary.

September 25th, 1917.

Mr.P.A.Williams,
23, Blanchard Street,
C on K, Manchester.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your inquiry for

2191 Pte.F.Turner,
29th Battalion,
A.I.F.

whose death on 7.6.17 was reported in the Manchester papers, we regret to inform you that this news has been officially confirmed and was cabled by us on August 8th, to our Melbourne Bureau, who will inform his parents.

We have been making every possible enquiry as to his fate and from several unofficial reports received we learn that he was hit in the left shoulder and in the mouth whilst digging a support trench and that he died the same night. This is all the information we have been able to get up to the present, but we are continuing our enquiries and will communicate with you if we receive any further reports.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

A M for D M L.

Rec'd 23-10-17

Tel.: VICTORIA 8858.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE SECRETARY." WOUNDED AND MISSING — ENQUIRY BUREAU —

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Telegraphic Address: "QUESTMAN, LONDON."

G. C

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

Oct.18th, 1917.

Capt.Chaplain Best.
"E" Lines,
Aust: Officer's Mess,
Belton Park,
Grantham.

Dear Sir,

We are making enquiries on behalf of our Melbourne Bureau concerning -

2191 F.TURNER - 39th Battalion.A.I.F., Killed 7.6.17.

We have been told that you officiated at the burial of this soldier. If this information is correct we shall be most grateful to you if you can give us any details you may have of the death and burial of Pte.Turner.

Apologising for troubling you, and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Vera Deakin

Secretary. pro VD.

P.S. Since writing above we have had an enquiry also from Melbourne Concerning 6081 Pte A. PICKFORD.— 39 Battalion A.I.F. K.3-6-17.

If you can give us any information of death and burial of this Soldier also, we shall be very grateful.

V.D. pro VD.

Ack by letter O.S. 22-10-17

2191 F TURNER
39 Batln
KIA 7-6-17

"E" Lines,
Aust. Officers' Mess,
Belton Park,
Grantham.

(Cd)

M
Pt 4
Pl. 5

6081 Pte A. PICKFORD.
39 Batln
K. 3-6-17.

19. 10-1917

M 3 (Cd)

Dear Sir Madam

2191 Pte F. Turner 39th Battalion

was killed in the Battle of Messines Ridge on June 7th 1917. I have just that only against his name. As nearly as I can remember he was killed on the way up. I had gone up an hour ahead of the battalion. I am almost certain that he was buried in the Strand Military Cemetery by one of the chaplains in the rear of the line after the battle I went to look for him & another body & was told that they had been taken away by a burial party, and a chaplain.

6081 Pte A. Pickford 39th Battalion was killed on June 3rd 1917 while out as a member of a working party. I buried him in the Strand Military Cemetery. His grave is Block 1. Row A. No. 10. The locality was near Ploegsteert Wood. Belgium.

Yours
Yours faithfully

Joseph Beck C.F.
C of E

Captain J.Best C.F.,
"E" Lines,
Aust.Officer's Mess,
Belton Park,
Grantham.

Oct.23rd, 1917.

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank you for your reply to our enquiries concerning - 2191 Pte.F.TURNER - 39th Battalion. - & 6081 Pte.A.PICKFORD. 39th Battalion.

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

Again thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

October 31st, 1917.

P.A.Williams, Esq,
23, Blanshard Street,
C-on-M., Manchester.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to your inquiry for details of the death and burial of No 2191 Pte.F.Turner,
59th Battalion,
A.I.F.

we regret to inform you of unofficial reports given by the Chaplain and men of his unit when in hospital in France,

The Chaplain writes to this effect "No 2191 Pte.F. Turner, was killed in the battle of Messines Ridge on June 7th, 1917. I have just that entry against his name. As nearly as I can remember he was killed on the way up. I had gone up an hour ahead of the battalion. I am almost certain that he was buried in the Strand Military Cemetery by one of the Chaplains in the rear at the time. After the battle I went to look for his and another body and was told that they had been taken away by a burial party and a chaplain".

No 1795 Pte.J.A.Butler, when in the 1st Canadian General Hospital stated that he has seen Pte.Turner's grave with a cross above it at Ploegsteert Wood, where a cemetery has been made for Australian soldiers. They were great friends during the time they had been together in the Battalion.

No 2137 Pte.Rosewarne when in the 7th Convalescent Camp, B.E.F., gave similar evidence and stated that he had been killed by a machine gun bullet during the attack at Messines, and was buried in a shell hole close by.

We are continuing the inquiry for details of his death and as soon as further news is received you shall be advised.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

V D

SECRETARY.

MAW

October 31st, 1917.

T.Turner, Esq,
74, Capman Street,
Hulme, Manchester.

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A.I.F.

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V.D.

SECRETARY.

S.A.W