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

3164 Gunner
Robert Turner

2nd Field Artillery Brigade



2800211E

A.I.F. 2nd F.A.B.

TURNER
Gnr R. 3164

"WHEREABOUTS"

3164 Gnr Robert Turner - 2nd F.A.B. - died of wounds 11-8-17
adm. 44th C.C.Stn
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 3-10-17

Cannot trace another R.Turner in 2nd F.A.B.
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 3-10-17.

P.I

London
5-10-17

Havre 29th Oct. 1917.

FIELD ARTILLERY, A.I.F. TURNER, No. 3164
2nd Bgde.

D/W. 11.8.17. Det. D/B.

He was in the 4th Battery and came from N.S.W. He had been a sailor and later was working on the land, single. He was hit by a shell in front of Villebeke during the morning and died at a C.C.S. some days later.

Informant: Pte. J.A. Heywood, 913
2nd Bde., 4th Btty., A.F.A.,
No. 2 Gen. Hos. (Chal) Havre.

P.1

HBS

2nd Brigade,
4th Battery,
A. F. A.

Turner.
R. 3164

"Died of Wounds 11.8.17"

I saw him wounded at Zillebeke, he was very badly hit about the face with shell fragments and was taken away to the dressing station at Dickebusch where he died the following morning. He was quite unconscious when taken away to the dressing station. I was not at his funeral, but he was given a military burial and the military cemetery at Renninghelst and the grave was marked with a cross bearing his number, name and battery. I knew him very well, he was the only man of that name in the Battery.

Witness:-
Gnr.C.A.Wilson.12022
2nd Bgde.4th Battery.
3rd Aust.Aux.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
8.11.17.

P.I.

2nd Batt: A.F.A. Turner. Gunner. R. 3164.

(D/W Aug: 11/17)

"Gunner Turner was wounded in Sanctuary Wood whilst sleeping in a trench on the battery position; by a shell which smashed in his face. He was carried away to the C.C. Station unconscious and died some few hours afterwards. He was officers' cook and a very faithful servant. I called the doctor to bind him up, several were killed at the same time."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: "Old Bob", medium colouring, 5ft 9 in: very popular.

Informant: Lt: H.E. Roach.
6th Batt: A.F.A.
No. 3 London Gen: Hos: Wandsworth.

Home address: Miss Betty Hunter,
Glebemouht,
211, Camberwell Rd. S.E.5.

15.11.17.
W.Arnoll Davis.

P-1
Cd
Suff

2nd F.A.B.
A.I.F.

TURNER
R. 5164

"Died of wounds August 11th 1917"

Turner was wounded the same time as myself and died at the Dressing station in Zillebeke. He is probably buried there but am unable to say definitely.

Witness:-
Gnr. R.M. Doull 1695
2nd Bdge 4th Battery F.A.B.
Westham

W.A.Rand
London.
19.11.17.

P.I.

FRANCE

AUST. F.A. 2nd EDE. TURNER. R. 3164.

D/W Aug 11th.1917 Det

There was a Turner in No 4 Batty who was with the Battery for a good while on the Peninsula. Just before July 31st we were not far from Zillebeke at the railway dug-outs. A shell came over and hit Turned and carried away part of his jaw. I saw him after he was hit. He could not speak but was quite conscious as he was carried away and he seemed all right and we thought that he would recover. But we heard that he died a fortnight later; very likely the wound was poisoned. JNA

Ref ---Sig: Boyle. 5670.
No 16 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. Nov 20th.1917

4th Btty. 2nd Bde.
A.F.A. A.I.F.

TURNER
R. 3164

"Died of Wounds 11-8-17"

I saw him wounded at Ypres, near Sanctuary Wood. He was caught by a shell, fragments of which hit him about the head, rendering him unconscious. We took him to the Dressing Station at Caw Farm, in the village of Zillebeke, where I heard that he died a couple of days later. I knew him very well. I heard he was taken on to the Dickebusch Hospital, and would most likely be buried in the military cemetery there. Refer to Gnr. G. Wright, 4th Btty., 2nd Bde., who is now in France, and who was always a particular friend of his, and will, I am sure, be able to give full particulars of burial.

Informant. Cathcart. Bdr. A. 5082
4th Btty., 2nd Bde.,
3rd A.A.H. R.I.
DARTFORD.

W. Oman
London
7-3-18

Note:-
We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.

8. 10. 17.

O C's Draft.

The O C 44 Casualty Clearing Station B E F

3164

About Gnr R Turner.

2nd F. A. B.

Deed 11. 8. 17.

RECEIVED
25 SEP 1917
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Postcard
29/9/17

Miss B Russell
C/o Mrs J Andrews
No 6 Upper Norfolk St
North Shields

Sept 23/9/17.

Dear Sir

Am writing to ask you if you can kindly give me any information regarding Gunner R Turner 2nd F A B R G F. last heard of in France. My letters have been returned to me stating that he is wounded & in hospital the returned letter was dated 3/9/17. He is an Australian. I am engaged to be married to him. Anxiously awaiting your reply. hoping you will know something of his whereabouts. or where I can write. I remain

Yours Miss B Russell

October 8th, 1917.

Miss B. Russell,
c/o Mrs. J. Andrews,
6, Upper Norfolk St.,
North Shields.

Dear Madam,

In reference to your inquiry for -

Gunner R. TURNER - 2nd F. A. B. A. I. F. - we very much regret to inform you that a 3164 Gunner Robert Turner 2nd F.A.B. is officially reported as having died of wounds at 44th Casualty Clearing Station on 11.8.17 and we fear this must be the man for whom you are inquiring, as there is no other of that name in the Brigade. We are doing our utmost to obtain further particulars and will advise you when we succeed, if you should wish us to do so.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

B M for W R

November 22nd, 1917.

Miss B.Russell,
C/o Mrs.J.Andrews,
6, Upper Norfolk St,
North Shields.

Dear Madam,

In further answer to your inquiry for

No 3164 Gnr. R.Turner,
2nd L[illegible] Artillery Brigade,
A.I.F.

we regret to inform you of unofficial details of his death given by men of his unit, when in camp and hospital.

No 93 Pte.J.A.Haywood, when in No 2 General Hospital B.E.F., reported that Gnr.Turner, who had formerly been a sailor, and later had worked on the land, was wounded by a shell in front of Zillebeke, and died a few days later at a Casualty Clearing Station.

No 12022 Gnr.C.A.Wilson, when in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, gave a more detailed report.

He saw Gnr.Turner badly wounded by shell fragments at Zillebeke and removed unconscious to the dressing station at Dickebusch where he died next day. He was accorded a military funeral in the Cemetery at Reninghelst where his grave is marked by a cross bearing his number, and regimental particulars.

Should we obtain further details of his casualty we shall immediately advise you as we realise how anxious you must be.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your great loss.

Yours faithfully,

L.D.W

SECRETARY.

Ack. 28.11.17

Miss B. Russell.
c/o Mrs Young
No 6 Upper Norfolk St
North Shields

Nove 23/11/17.

Dear Madam or Sir

Thanking you so very much for so kindly enquiring after Gunner. R Turner. No 3164 (2nd F.A.B. France. I am deeply hurt @ the news. but one must be prepard. for such things now. adays. how often I think of him. Bye the way. if it is

not asking to much of you. I should like to know if I may have any little artical which might have been in his possession also. if it is possible that my Photos could be returned.
Is it any use my writting to either of those Gallant Lads. whome you have mentioned saw him Wounded.
Can you let me have No 2022 Gr. C. A Wilson's Latest address

who was in the 3rd Third Auxiliary
Hospital Dartford
shall be pleased to hear any
further Information as I feel this
a terrible Loss of which I deeply
regret again thanking you
for your kindness

I remain
Sincerly
D Russell

November 29th, 1917.

Miss B.Russell,
C/o Mrs.Young,
No 6 Upper Norfolk St,
North Shields.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your letter of the 23rd inst., about

No 3164 Gnr.R.TURNER,
2nd Field Artillery,
Brigade, A.I.F.

we regret that we are unable to help you to recover some of his personal effects but we suggest that you apply to the O.C., A.I.F. Kit Stores, 110, Greyhound Road, Fulham, S.W., for information on this subject.

No 12022 Gnr.C.A.Wilson, has not yet been discharged from the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent; so we advise you to write to him there.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy in your great loss.

Yours faithfully,

LAW.

SECRETARY.

22nd January 1918.

Miss B.Russell,
c/o Mrs.J.Andrews,
6 Upper Norfolk Street,
North Shields.

Dear Madam,

We have received two more unofficial reports of the death of Pte R.Turner, 3164 2nd F.A.B., (Sgt Boyle 5670 - said that your fiance had been with the battery for a good while in Gallipoli not far from Zillebeke just before July 31st. He was quite conscious when he was carried away, but he heard he died about a fortnight later. Lieut H.E.Roach, 6th Bty, A.F.A, stated:- that Gunner Turner, while asleep in a trench in the battery position in Sanctuary Wood, was wounded by a shell - He said he was the Officers' cook, a very faithful servant and very popular. In contradiction to Sig: Boyle, Lt. Roach told us that Pte Turner was carried away quite unconscious to the Casualty Clearing Station.

We are continuing our enquiries and hope these reports may be of some slight comfort to you,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

20th March, 1918.

Miss B. Russell,
c/o Mrs J. Andrews,
6, Upper Norfolk Street,
North Shields.

Dear Madam,

We have received a still further unofficial report concerning the death of your fiance'

3164 Gnr. R. Turner. 2nd F.A.B. A.I.F.

which we think you may like to have, although it only confirms what we have already told.

5002 Bdr. A. Cathcart, 4th Btty., 2nd Bde., 3rd A.A.H, Dartford, stated;

"I saw him Wounded at Ypres, near Sanctuary Wood. He was caught by a shell, fragments of which hit him about the head, rendering him unconscious. We took him to the dressing station at Cow Farm, in the village of Zonnebeke, where I heard that he died a couple of days later. I knew him very well. I heard he was taken on to the Dickebusch Hospital, and would most likely be buried in the Military Cemetery there."

So many of these reports agree that his wounds rendered him unconscious that we think this must be true, and we hope therefore that hte knowledge that he did not suffer will be of somecomfort to you.

This enquiry is now closed, but we will still continue to send you any further information which we may receive.

With a renewal of our sympathy.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

J. H. C.

July 7th.1919.

Miss B. Russell
c/o Mrs J. Andrews.
6, Upper Norfolk Street
North Shields.

Dear Madam,

With further reference to your enquiry for 3164 Gnr. R. Turner, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade, A.I.F. who died of wounds on 11.8.17 we beg to inform you that we have now received an official report which states him to have been buried in Brandhock New Military Cemetery, which is situated 1¼ miles west of Vlamertinghe close to Ypres, Belgium.

Trusting this information may be of some value to you.

Yours faithfully,

L.S. (Miss)

SECRETARY.