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

2158 Lance Corporal John Wilfrid Turner

43rd Battalion



2800205H

43rd A.I.F.

Turner. L/C.J.W. 2138.

(D/W. June 11/17.)
Det. D/B.

"Turner was wounded at Messines and died in the Dressing Station and was buried at Steinwerke."

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description:

Informant: Lt. A. Black.
43rd A.I.F.
3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

22/4/18.
C.W.Nelson Lowe.

A

43rd Battn.
A.I.F.

TURNER.

L/Cpl. J.W. 2158.

"Died of Wounds" 11-6-18.

"John Wilfrid" was in C.Coy. He came from Military Rd.Largs Bay.S.A. He was coming back from a raid at Messines, and was shot by one of our own men by mistake. (Rifle Bullet) and he died of wounds. I did not see it happen but, Cpl Dawe, C.Coy 43rd Battn, France, saw it happen and can give particulars of his death.

Turner was buried at Underhill Farm Cemetery- Row B. Grave No 10- Map Reference - Sh.28.T.18.d 4.5.. I was going up to have a look at his grave when I got knocked.

Informant. 2762.Furness.H.F.
43rd Battn. A.I.F.
HAREFIELD.

NOTE. Written Cpl. Dawe. 17.5.18
Letter answered by Lieut Berriman

W.G.J.
London.
18-5-18.

A.

Havre 21st May 1918.

A.I.F. 43. Turner L/Cpl J.W. 2158.

D/W 11th June 1917. Det D/B.

He was in C. Co. XI Pltn. Turner was killed early in June [redacted] just after Messines, and we had to dig a new trench. As a matter of fact he was shot by one of our own sentries through failing to reply to a challenge soon enough He was hit in the stomach. I saw him taken on a stretcher to the C.C.S. where he died. He was a short chap, 5 feet 7, very quiet, well liked, rather fair.

Inf:- Pte W.L.C. Horne No. 838.
A.I.F. 43. C. X.
H.S. 'Carrisbrooke Castle'.

CWS.

A

Havre. 27th. May. 1918.

43rd. Australians. Turner, L/Corporal. J. W. 2158.

D/W. June. 11/1917. Date. D/B.

He was in my Platoon & was hit in the groin or stomach while holding the front line at Messines about June 11th. 1917. Corporal Furness, 43rd. Battalion, C. [redacted] 9. got a pass to go to see Turner's Grave at Bailleul; he, Furness, was a friend of Turner's people. He got wounded when coming back & was sent to Hospital in England.

Inf:- Sergeant. J. McCoy. 1096.
43rd. Australians. C. 10.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

Note. We have Corp. Furness's evidence dated 18.5.18.

REM.

A

A.I.F. 43rd Battn. TURNER L/Cpl. John Wolfrid 2/5

"Died of Wounds 11/6/17"

Re No. 2188 L/Cpl. J. W. Turner of C Coy., 43rd Battn., A.I.F., who was reported to have died of wounds on 11/6/17, to-hand. His death occurred during the battle of Messines when our Battalion was holding the front line and he was killed by rifle fire at about 2 a.m. on the morning of 11/6/17. I believe he was buried on the field but I regret to say that I cannot state anything definite concerning his burial. The nearest cemetery was about 2½ miles west of the position we were then holding and was situated very close to Armentieres-Ypres road - about 1 mile north of village of Ploegsteert. In appearance he was about 5' 9" dark complexion and had a considerable number of freckles on his face, his hair was dark brown.

Letter from :- A. C. Dew Cadet,
B Coy.,
No. 14 O.C. B.
C Batterick,
Yorks.
31/6/18.

London
10/8/18.

A

45th Battn.
A.I.F.

TURNER.
J.W. 2158.

"Died of Wounds" 11-6-18.

I am writing with reference to a letter of yours to Cpl Dawe C.Coy, 43rd Battalion. A.I.F. with refernce to the death of 2158 L/Cpl.J.W.Turner, C.Coy. 43rd Battn. A.I.F. He forwarded the letter to me as he thought I might know something about it.

All I really can tell you is that he was hit by a bullet on the night of the 9/10th June 1917. (or possibly 10/11 and was passed back through the C.C.S. at Bailleul. He was certainly not buried on the field and would be buried in a soldier's cemetery. He was mortally wounded in a trench near the River Douve just south of Messines and a few hundred yards east of Schneitzel Farm.

Letter from:- R.H.Berriman. Lieut.
43rd. Battn. Att A.F.C.
LEIGHTERTON.
A.

London.
22-6-18.

17. 5. 18.

Cpl. Dawe
C Coy.
43rd Batln. A.I.F.
Abroad

Abt.
21-8 L/Cpl. J. W. Turner
C Coy.
43rd Batln. A.I.F.

D/W 11. 6. 17.

17. 5. 18.
A.I.B.

Ack. P.C. (hand) 20.6.18. Amt.

2158. J.W. Turner 8 SQUADRON.
AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS.
43rd Bttn
Leighterton
Glos.
D/W 11/6/17 A (a) 7-6-18

Dear Miss Deakin,

I am writing with reference to a letter of yours to Cpl Dawe C Coy 43rd B. A.I.F. with reference to the death of 2158 L/Cpl J W Turner C Coy 43rd B. He forwarded the letter on to me as he thought I might know something about it.

All I really can tell you is that he was hit by a bullet on the night of 9th/10th June 1917 (or possibly 10th/11th) and was passed back through the C.C.S. at Bailleul

He was certainly not buried on the field & would be buried in a soldiers' cemetry.

He was mortally wounded in a trench near the River Douve just south of Messines & a few hundred yards east of Schneitzel farm.

I think this is all I know which could be of any value to you.

I remain
Yrs faithfully
R H Berrima Lieut
43rd Bn. attd A.F.C.

22158 (cc) B Coy
LCpl John Wilfred Turner No 14 O.C. B
43 Battn Catterick
D of W 11-6-17 Yorks
31. 5. 18

Acknd by P.C. 5-6-18 NJ

Secretary
Y.M.C.A. Enquiry Bureau
Dear Madam

Your letter re No 2158 L/Cpl J. W. Turner of "C" Coy 43rd Battn A.I.F who was reported to have died of wounds on 11.6.17, to hand.

His death occurred during the battle of Messines when our Battn was holding the front line and he was killed by rifle fire at about 2 AM on the morning of 11.6.17. I believe he was buried on the field but I regret to say that I can not state anything definite concerning his burial. The nearest cemetery was about 2½ miles west of the position we were then holding and was situated very close to Armentieres — Ypres road about 1 mile north of village of Ploegsteert.

In appearance, he was about 5'9", dark complexion and had a considerable number of freckles on his face, his hair was dark brown.

If there are any other particulars which you require to know I'll will gladly supply them.

Yrs sincerely
A. C. Daw. Cadet