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

4258 Private
Sydney John Turney

19th Battalion



2800409N

19th Battn.,
A.I.F.

TURNEY,
not Tuiney
Sydney Jno. 4258

"Missing".

Missing 14-11-16.
Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters on 22-12-16.

Killed in Action on 14-11-16.
Cert. by - A.I.F. Headquarters' List I.B. of 22-2-17.164.

S.
P.I.

London,
27-2-17.

A.I.F. 19 TURNEY, S.J. 4258

K. Nov. 14th 1916.

I knew Turney, he was called Jack Turney in the pltn, and he was in A.Company, No.1 platoon. I saw Turney lying in an old sap. His body was buried in mud and his head was exposed. I touched him and spoke to him but he never moved and I am sure he was dead. I was afterwards told by one of the men in A.Company, that Turney had been shot through the stomach, and that he had evidently crawled into the sap. This happened on the 14th November at Flers.

Informant: Pte P.F.Cohen. 2500. A.I.
No 3 Can.Gen.Hospital.
BOULOGNE. 3.3.17.

S P 1 AGL

Havre 24th Sept. 1917.

19th AUSTRALIANS TURNEY, S.J. 4258

K. 14.11.16. Det. D/B.

I knew Pte. (he had been Acting Sergeant) S.J. Turney (Jack). He has a brother in the 19th battalion, B Co. Turney was in A Co. He was an Englishman but joined up in N.S.W. He was about 25 years of age, tall, medium build, medium complexion, cleanshaven. He was killed at Flers on the 14th Nov. 1916. I saw him being buried about 6 weeks after in a Military Cemetery near the village. There is a cross on the grave.

Informant: Corpl. S. Murphy, 4185
19th Australians, C Co., 10th Pltn.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

Written Pte Turney
28-9-17

RDM

P.1

19th Battalion
"A" Co.

TURNEY, S.J. Pte. No. 4258.

"Killed in Action 14/11/1916"

I knew Turney well: I saw him at Flers after the great charge, where he was killed. I was wounded there myself. He had evidently been placed in a disused trench. He had been a runner to the Battalion. There was no quieter or more popular man. He never argued the point or went on the 'rantan'. He had been a Sergeant in ~~France~~ Camp. but dropped his rank in France.

Informant;- GRAHAM, A.M. 4420, 19th Battalion
Confirmed by- HALL, A. No. 4130 19th ".

No.4 Australian General Hospital,
RANDWICK.

3/10/1917.

Sydney Bureau.

H.S.M.

Time Cancel 1917.

S. ✓

1 Extra Copy

P.K.

A.I.F. 19. TURNEY, S.J. 4258.

M. Nov.14. 1916.

He took prisoners back at Flers, on Nov.14. soon after we took the German line. He wanted me to go back with him but I could not. I did not see him again. A man, whose name I do not know gave sworn information at the Battalion enquiry that he found Turney's dead body in a sap in No Man's Land on the 14th. Evidently Turney had been sniped on the way back.

Reference: Pte.A.N.Ellis, 4108, A.Co.
Lewis Gun School,
Staples. 22.1.17.

3A.

19th Battn.,
A. Coy.,
A.I.F.

TURNEY,
Pte.S.J. 4258.

Killed Novr-14-16.

"We went over the top on Novr.14th at Flers in front of Bapaume. I was wounded and got bandaged up, and was making my way back when I struck a disused trench, about 20 yards from the Northumberland Fus. Fld.Dress.Stn; there I found Turney.He seemed delirious and dazed, and kept saying "I want the bearers." There were no bearers and heavy sniping was going on. I left him there and eventually reached our lines. Turney had been employed as a runner. Previously we were guarding German prisoners together near Méault-Albert. I don't know his christian name or number."

Informant:- Pte. A.M. Graham, No.4020,
19th Battn. A. Coy. A.I.F.
Dartford Hospital. 5-3-17.

S.
P.I.

London,
8-3-17.
P.C.

4258
Sgt. S. J. Turney
19th Bttn

10. 10. 19.
The Bank
Marlow.

Further details required

Dear Sir
In Reply to Your
Letter of the 9th Inst. I
Beg that You Will
Do Your Best to
get the Matter Re Mr. Son
Investigated as soon as
Possible I am Fully
aware that it Will
take time But as long
as We Know that You

are doing. Yours Best
For Us. We shall be
Consented. again thanks
You for Your Kindness
I am Sir Yours truly
P. S. Mrs Turney
My Sons Number and
Rank. 4258. Pte S. J.
Turney. 19 Batt. A. I. F.

Information obtained locally (if any) or from letters.	
Enquiry included in W.S.M. Cable	No. of
Enquiry included in Deferred Cable	No. of
Name and Address of Enquirer	Miss F. M. Garlick, Yarloop. W.A.
Relation of Enquirer to Enquiree.	Sister
State if Next-of-Kin.	Records Mc

Henry Greig *Secretary.*

Final Draft. 8.10.19

To.

Mrs J. Turney

C/o The Bank of England
Queens Rd
Marlow
Bucks

Re. 4258 S.J. Turney.
19th Bltn

C/

RECEIVED
12 JAN 1916
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

"The Bank of England"
Dean Street
Marlow

Dear Sirs

Would you kindly send me information of my Son No 4258 Act Sergt S J Gurney 10th Reinforcements, 19th Battalion Australian Imperial Force, British Expeditionary Force, France, who is reported missing on November 14th last, your kind attention to this matter

will greatly oblige

Yours most gratefully

James Gurney

British Red Cross Society

The Bank
Lewins Rd
Marlow
Bucks

Dear Madam

I am writing to thank you for your kind enquiries concerning my Son the late Lt. L. J. Turney. We now fully understand he was killed on Nov 14th as a young man who is now back in australia came from Scotland to tell us he buried my Son at Flers on March the 8th 1917. we wish you Good Success with your good work

Yours Faithfully
L. Turney

10/3/18

RECEIVED
19 DEC 1916
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

The Bank of England
Marlow. Bucks
Dec 18th 1916.

Dear Sir

I am writing to ask you if you can make enquiries for me concerning my Son Pte. S. J. Surney 1258. 19th Batt, Australian Imperial Forces whom we have heard no news from since Nov 2nd Since then we have received a letter from a chum of my Sons saying he was wounded and asking us if we had heard any news concerning his wounds

We have written to the C. O. in France, but have received no reply

We have also written to the Commonwealth in the Horseferry Road, and they write us as follows "your Son was last heard of Acting Sigt to the 19th Batt, and his name have not appeared in any of the casualty lists, so we think he must be alive & well

An answer will oblidge as soon as possible as it is causing us great anxiety.

From his Mother.

Mrs J. Surney. The Bank of England
Queens Road Marlow. Bucks

Ans ack Etc

The Bank.
Queens Road.
Marlow
Bucks.

Dec. 26th 1916.

RECEIVED
28 DEC. 1916
CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

Dear Sir.

Having received a Communication from the Australian Military Authorities Dated Dec. 23rd. Notifying me that my Son ~~he~~ is among the Missing, but not stating the Circumstances in which he is Missing, Killed ~~etc~~ wounded etc. I beg to ask if you have any News of him

S. J. Turney Pte
4258.
19th Batt. Inf.
Aus. Imp. Forces.

as only receiving the bare Communication of his being missing, is Causing rather an Anxious time. any Further News would relieve us Greatly.

Yours faithfully
James Turney

January 1st.1917. ---

James Turney Esq.,
The Bank
Queen's Road.
Marlow, Bucks.

Dear Sir;

Your enquiry re No.4253.Pte.S.J.Turney 19th.Battn.A.I.F. has been forwarded to us from the British Red Cross Society, as we deal with all Australian enquiries. We regret to inform you that so far we have no information about your son, but we are making every effort to obtain some, which we shall forward to you immediately it comes to hand.

His name has not come through on the lists of prisoners yet, but these lists come very slowly. Hopping soon to be able to ease your great anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

VD

Secretary

(Kitty

15th January - 7.

Mr James Turney.
The Bank of England.
Dean St.
Marlow Bucks.

Dear Sir,

Your enquiry of January 12th re your son No. 4258. A.Sgt. S. J. Turney, 19th, Battn. A.I.F. has been forwarded to us by the British Red Cross Society, as we deal with all Australian enquiries.

We regret to say that we still have no news of your son, but would point out that if he has been made prisoner, it is rather soon yet for us to have got his name, as the Germans send the lists very slowly. Please rest assured that we are doing all in our power to obtain news to relieve your great anxiety, which we fully appreciate and directly any information comes to hand we will forward it to you.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary. V D.
(P.M.) E N.

March 2nd 7.

Mrs. J. Turney,
The Bank of England,
Queen's Road,
Marlow, Bucks.

No. 4258 Pte. Sydney John Turney -
19th Battalion - A.I.F.
Missing - 14-11-16.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry for the above soldier, who was previously reported Wounded & Missing, we very much regret to inform you that he is now reported officially as Killed in Action on the above date.

We shall at once forward to you any further information that we receive, as we fully realise your anxiety for details.

May we express our sincere sympathy in your sorrow and loss.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.
LAW.

31st January -7

ames Turney Esq.,
The Bank of England.
Queen's Road.
Marlow.
Bucks.

ear Sir,

We regret to inform you that the following unofficial eport has come to hand about your son. No. 4258. Pte. S.J. Turney 9th Battn. A.I.F. from No. 4108. Pte. A. N. Ellis, who on Jan. 2nd. was in a Lewis Gun School in France.

He says that your son took prisoners back at Flers on Nov. 14th. soon after our men captured the German line. He anted Pte. Ellis to go back with him but he could not go and he did not see your son again. A man whose name Pte. Ellis does not know, gave evidence at the Battalion inquiry that he found your son's dead body in a sap in No Man's Land. He had evidently been shot by a sniper on the way back.

We are very sorry to have only this sad report to send you and we must emphasise its purely unofficial character. We send it just as given to our searcher by Pte. Ellis and cannot answer for its reliability.

We are contimming our inquiries in the hope of learning something of a less distressing character and we shall at once advise you of the result.

With sincere sympathy in your anxiety.

Yours faithfully,

P.M for L.G.W

Secretary.

14th March 1917.

Mrs J. Turney.
The Bank of England.
Queen's Road.
Marlow.
Bucks.

Dear Madam,

We regret to inform you that another unofficial report has been received about your son No. 4258. Pte. S. J. Turney, 19th Battn. A.I.F. from No. 4020. Pte. A. M. Graham, who was in the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital. Dartford, when he gave it. While making his way back in a wounded condition he found Pte. Turney in a disused trench about 20 yards from the Northumberland Fusiliers Field Dressing Station. There was heavy sniping at the time and Pte. Turney seemed in a dazed condition. He had been employed as a runner and had previously guarded German prisoners with informant at Heault, Albert. Pte. Graham, left your son there and eventually reached our lines.

We are still making all possible inquiries and will advise you on receipt of further information about him, as we fully realise your great desire for news.

With sincere sympathy in your loss.

PT. Yours faithfully, V.D.
Secretary.

Since typing a further unofficial report has been given by No 2500 Pte P.F. Cohen who was in the 3rd Canadian General Hospital B.E.F on March 3rd He saw Pte Turney lying in an old sap at Fleurs on Nov. 14th and touched him and spoke to him but ~~the~~ from son did not move. He was afterward told that Pte Turney had been wounded and crawled into the sap. Informant, who called him "Jack" Turney, is certain that he was dead.

[illegible]

28-9-17

Pte TURNEY
B Coy
19th Batt
A I F
B27 IJ

(brother)
about 4258
S J TURNEY
A Coy 19th Batt
A I F
K. 14-11-16
A.C.
1.10.17

Mrs. J.Turney,
The Bank of England,
Queen's Rd, Harlow, Bucks.

6th March, 1918.

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry concerning :-

4256 Pte. SYDNEY JOHN TURNEY, 19th Battalion, A.I.F.

We have received the following unofficial report from No 4420 Pte. A.H.Graham, 19th Battn, who is now in Hospital in Sydney New South Wales. He states that he knew Pte. Turney, who had been a Sergeant but reverted to the rank of Private, when he joined the Battalion in France. Informant last saw him after the great charge at Flers, where he had been killed, and evidently placed in a disused trench. Pte. Graham adds that "There was no quieter or more popular man" and that your son had been a runner for the Battalion.

We have now concluded our enquiries and hope that the information we have been able to obtain may have been of some comfort to you.

Yours faithfully,

K.C.

SECRETARY.

Oct.12th, 1917.

Mr. J. Turney,
The Bank of England,
Queen's Road,
Marlow, Bucks.

Dear Sir,

We regret to inform you of a further unofficial report about - No.4258 Pte.S.J.TURNEY - 19th Battalion.A.I.F. - and trust that it will be some consolation to know that his he was buried.

No.4185 Cpl.S.Murphy of the same unit who was in an Australian Camp in France reported that your son was killed at Flers on Nov.14th and he saw him being buried some time afterwards in a Military Cemetery near the village of Flers. He describes your son as tall, of medium build, and complexion, and about 25 years of age and he says that he was an Englishman but had enlisted in New South Wales.

Should we obtain further news of him we shall advise you immediately as we realise how anxious you must be to obtain details.

Assuring you of our sincere sympathy,

Yours faithfully,

V.O.
Secretary.
MAw.